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**WEEKLY NEWS**

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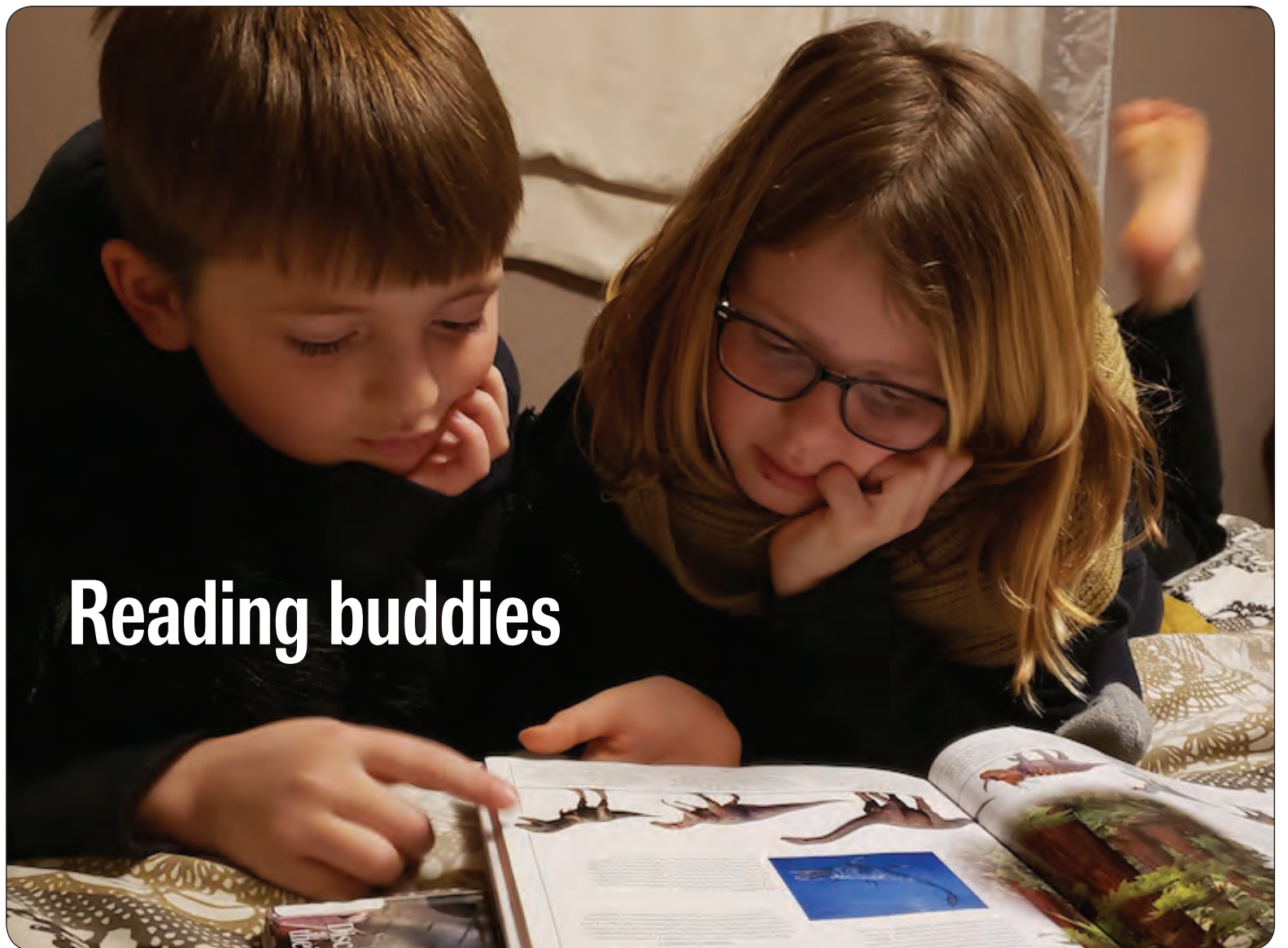
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## Reading buddies

EXPRESS PHOTO BY KATHERINE ZAHARIUK

Brother and sister reading team Brayden and Mackenzie from Winnipeg Beach School enjoyed reading at home last week to celebrate I Love to Read month. See story on page 2.

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# D.E.A.R. days, mystery readers and literacy superpowers at Winnipeg Beach

By Patricia Barrett

Teachers at Winnipeg Beach School know no bounds when it comes to scheduling activities for I Love to Read, an annual celebration of literacy that takes place in February.

Reading practise, reading games and guest readers bearing books will take centre stage over the course of the entire month at the kindergarten to Grade 8 school.

And it appears the students are loving it, even going so far as to read outside in snow forts in bone-chilling temperatures and getting together with siblings at home to share a good book.

Teacher Michelle Hainsworth and her colleagues have packed a lot of fun into each day in order to supercharge their students' reading and listening skills.

"We have multiple classrooms involved because we can all log onto TEAMS [videoconferencing software]," said Hainsworth, who teaches grades 1 and 2. "We're being COVID-safe by having virtual guest readers."

The school chose a superheroes theme for I Love to Read because the "world is full of real-life superheroes right now" and students are "working so hard to use their brave superpower every day to adapt to a very different world," states a school news re-



Jennifer Harmon shared a photo of a student reading a book by her favourite author, Robert Munsch.

lease with reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted educational schedules and expectations around the world.

The school kicked off the month with a virtual assembly on Feb. 1 and has pencilled in special literacy-related events and dedicated reading times each week.

Tuesday has trivia. Mystery readers via TEAMS go live every Wednesday. Tuesdays and Thursdays are dedicated D.E.A.R. days (Drop Everything And Read). And Fridays are reserved for dressing up as storybook characters or favourite superheroes.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Grade 1 student Halle shared a read-aloud to her class using a document camera

"Our mystery readers are staff members who read a book to the kids," said Hainsworth. "The kids can't see their face and have to figure out who the reader is. They can earn a prize such as a poster or a book."

To keep students and their families engaged in reading at home, the school has created an I Love to Read BINGO game. There's a different reading activity for almost every day of the month, including reading a book with a flashlight, reading a book about love or kindness, reading a recipe and trying it out, reading in a cozy spot, reading a book by an unfamiliar author, and reading with family.

Students and their families are encouraged to share photos of the reading activities they're doing at home either by posting online using the school's Twitter hashtag (#WBSlovestoread) or by sending photos directly to their child's classroom teacher. They'll be entered into a weekly prize draw.

In addition to posting on the school's Twitter account, Hainsworth has a classroom Twitter account called Wonderful Wonders. Kindergarten teacher Shannon Torcia has also set up a class Twitter account called Designers of Learning. They're both sharing highlights of superpowered student reading.



Now that's a cool way to read. Candace Reykdal shared a photo of a student reading in his snow fort.



Jessica Heminger, Evergreen School Division's student services consultant, was the first virtual guest reader.



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# Verna Kirkness named one of Manitoba's Women Trailblazers



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Now retired, 85-year-old Verna Kirkness lives in Vancouver, pictured here in 2018. She is an associate professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia.

By Evan Matthews

Fisher River's Verna Kirkness has been named as one of Manitoba's 150 Women Trailblazers.

Kirkness, 85, is now a Vancouver resident. While originally unaware that the Nellie McClung Foundation named her a Manitoba trailblazer in early January, Kirkness said to be named as such is an honour she had never set out to achieve.

"Someone phoned me and had told me they saw my name on the list. That was the first I had heard or been told," said Kirkness, who is a scholar, a pioneer and a lifelong proponent of Indigenous language, culture and education.



A photo of Verna Kirkness teaching at Norway House Residential and Day School in 1962, after her experience at Birtle. Kirkness said Norway House wasn't without its problems but was a vastly different experience.

"It's definitely a surprise and an honour to be named among all of these distinguished women. There are a number of whom I know and an abundance of others who I know of. I'm very happy and honoured," she said.

According to the Nellie McClung Foundation's website, the awards, presented by the foundation in partnership with the Winnipeg Free Press, honour Nellie McClung's vision by recognizing the spirit of her life's work being advanced by women leaders of today or throughout Manitoba's history. The 150 Manitoba trailblazers were officially announced on Jan. 28, 2021, the 105th anniversary of most

Manitoba women being the first in Canada to receive the right to vote.

Kirkness, who was born in Fisher River Cree Nation in 1935, says rural Manitoba was a very different place than it is today.

Her father was a true fisherman, trapper and hunter.

Today's amenities — including running water — were simply not available. Kirkness said kids and their mothers would hang their clothes on the line to dry in the summer, people hauled their water, and winters were brutally cold.

"I lived that life. We lived so much off the land. We would have rabbit and other things. Home life was good for me, but my fondest memories are from when I was in school," said Kirkness, noting her love and commitment to education started at a very young age.

Having lived next to the school at an early age, Kirkness would see the students playing outside at recess. On more than one occasion, without her parents' permission, she would wander over to the school and ask if she could go to school. Then a teacher would bring her home.

"I loved it so much. I tried to go before I was eligible. It didn't matter who my

teacher was through the years, I don't have memories of a teacher I disliked in any way. I know people have other

Continued on page 4

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## > TRAILBLAZERS, FROM PG. 3

experiences," she said.

Being the eldest sibling, Kirkness found herself in the role of "teacher" very early on.

During her own education, due to a unique set of circumstances Kirkness elected not to disclose, she did not attend a residential school as society has come to understand, though Kirkness did end up eventually teaching in the residential school system.

But for her own education, Kirkness went to school in Teulon. Kirkness said there was no high schools available for individual communities at that time, so many kids from farming families would travel to the school and stay in either the boys' or girls' residence, respectively, though not a "residential school."

"It was pretty much all non-native students. ... Farm kids. Poplarfield, Fisher Branch, Chatfield, you know, all the way along," said Kirkness, adding the Women's Missionary Society paid for her room and board. "There were no high schools, so many came to Teulon."

Once students graduated, Kirkness said there were fewer career paths to choose from at the time, with many women choosing to focus on either nursing or teaching.

Kirkness was pleased to find many women choosing to attend "The Normal School," as it was called at the time, before eventually being renamed "Manitoba Teachers College" in 1958.

Kirkness graduated in 1959.

Though she had never planned on returning home to stay, Kirkness said she always wanted to give back to her home community, so her first legitimate teaching job was in Fisher River for two years. By her second year, she was the principal.

"But I started to think I wanted to teach in a residential school. I wanted to know and experience what it was like, based on what I had heard from my friends," said Kirkness.

Her first experience at a residential school came at Birtle Indian Residential School, which is southwest of what is now Riding Mountain National Park.

"Students were well fed. There was a

farm and the meals were fine and all that, but the treatment of the students was not. I saw it, and I could tell you about instances, and I did go to bat for students at one time," she said.

"A member of the missionary society had someone come out and look at what was going on. Well, of course at that point, everything was perfect. Nothing came of that."

The students in the situation Kirkness referenced "survived" and profited from their academic education, she said, but acknowledged it was a bad situation.

The staff actively worked against her efforts to have a relationship with students outside of class time, she said, which was indicative of the negative behaviours staff was trying to keep under wraps.

"They didn't want me to have anything to do with students after school, many of whom would try to come after school ended to visit with me," said Kirkness.

"I didn't have the time with them I would have liked."

From Birtle, Kirkness moved on to Norway House — a combined day school as well as a residential school.

Though not without problems of its own, Kirkness noted Norway House School was very different from Birtle and a prime example of the differences between one residential school to another.

Bernard Lee was the principal of the Norway House School at the time, and Kirkness described him and his wife as genuinely good people who were working to better the lives of all students. Lee's own children attended the school, she said.

"It was a really good experience, with a great staff who were making a difference," said Kirkness, adding she worked to encourage Lee to hire more Indigenous staff, too.

"Eventually four of 12 staff members were of Indigenous background,"

She added that all the staff got along and spent time together.

But while there were differences between residential schools, Kirkness said the intergenerational and socioeconomic effects of residential schools are "definitely" still present in



COURTESY OF MB HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An undated photo of the Birtle Indian Residential School, in which Kirkness got her first glimpse of what residential schools were like. She described it as a very bad situation.

today's society.

The bottom line, according to Kirkness, is every single Indigenous student who ever attended a residential school was taken from their parents and their culture.

"They were separated. That's why everybody is affected," said Kirkness, noting she speaks Cree. While there aren't many Cree-speaking people in Vancouver, Kirkness said she still, to this day, thinks to herself in Cree. When she goes for walks, she talks to the birds in Cree.

"I love my language. To think these kids were separated from their language, their culture; they were separated from everything who makes them who they are."

Throughout her career, Kirkness was obviously well aware of Indigenous culture given her upbringing, while also having become aware of the condition and treatment of students in residential schools by teaching in them.

Kids were discouraged from speaking their native languages at the residential schools, which Kirkness said was asinine because so many of the Indigenous students coming in spoke their native languages exclusively.

It became evident to those around her that Kirkness was the perfect fit for her eventual role as the first cross-cultural consultant for the Manitoba Department of Education Curriculum Branch, where between 1967 and 1970, she launched the first language immersion programs in Cree and Ojibwa in many Manitoba schools.

At the same time as she was working to implement language immersion programs, Kirkness was also named the first education director for the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (MIB),

which is now known as the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The leader at the time was Dave Courchene, who Kirkness said was a diligent, hard-working, strong and articulate man who had the ability to work with government, and someone she learned a lot from in her career.

Instrumental in developing and implanting the MIB's position paper — and its education component — titled *Wahbung: Our Tomorrows*, Kirkness said she worked in direct opposition to then-Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau and his then-Minister of Indian Affairs Jean Chrétien, who would also later become prime minister.

Kirkness and the rest of her MIB colleagues, in opposition, defeated the Trudeau-led government's attempt. Afterward, she moved on to the National Indian Brotherhood and participated in the 1972 national policy on Indian education called Indian Control of Indian Education.

In 1981, Kirkness returned to her roots as an educator, at the University of British Columbia faculty, where she was appointed director of the Native Teacher Education Program. Though now retired, Kirkness is still an associate professor emeritus at UBC.

Having too many accolades to mention specifically — including being awarded the Order of Canada — Kirkness' resume is well-decorated. In her career, Kirkness has written and edited eight books and is published in a wide array of academic journals.

She published her autobiography in 2013, titled *Creating Space: My Life and Work in Indigenous Education*.

In her book, Kirkness suggests: "Aboriginal history, values and knowledge are not just for Natives."

Stonewall Teulon

# Tribune EXPRESS

WEEKLY NEWS

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# Commodity groups upset with provincial ag minister

By Evan Matthews

With proposed changes to the AgriStability Program on the table, Manitoba commodity groups say if the province does not embrace those changes, the future of the local agricultural industry is in peril.

Twenty commodity groups — including Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP), Manitoba Beef Producers, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Keystone Potato Producers, among 16 others — are displeased with the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen.

The 20 commodity groups sent a letter to the Manitoba Government asking to ratify changes to the AgriStability program. The federal government proposed the changes at its agriculture ministers' meeting on Nov. 27.

"Producers and farm groups have sent a unanimous message of support for the proposal and need to know what Manitoba has decided. The reference margin limit (RML) has a large impact on (producers') eligibility for AgriStability," said KAP president Campbell, suggesting AgriStability would be improved by eliminating the RML.

"With time running out, it remains unclear if Manitoba will support these enhancements or walk away, and leave millions of dollars on the table."

He further emphasized that to ignore the suggested changes would be an abject failure to protect Manitoba producers and would jeopardize the provincial agricultural industry into the future.

## What is the RML?

The most significant change the federal government suggested was to remove the RML from the AgriStability program.

According to Campbell, the RML is an equation factoring in revenues and expenditures, and whether or not a producer has experienced revenue losses significant enough to "hit the trigger," on the AgriStability — insurance — program.

By removing the RML, commodity groups suggest the program will be simplified and have a more accessible trigger for lower-cost operations.

Although commodity groups have stated publicly that the proposed changes are still less than ideal, the proposed changes are a step in the right direction and an acceptable compromise.

The groups also stated a proposed increase in coverage from 70 per cent to 80 per cent would make the program more effective for those who suffer a significant loss.

## Minister's response

But the minister disagreed with commodity groups in his response on Jan. 26. He said the proposed changes do not address many of the outstanding

issues associated with the program.

Referencing the elimination of the RML, Pedersen said while payments to some sectors would increase, it would not address concerns related to "predictability, competitiveness and timeliness."

"The increase of compensation rate will largely benefit program participants who already trigger payments most frequently, but does not address equity, complexity, timeliness or predictability," said Pedersen.

"Although development of these long-term options is ongoing, industry supported the continued development of these potential alternatives, including more insurance options to cover risk."

"It is vital that government and industry partners focus their concerted efforts and resources to create real and long-lasting improvements to the Business Risk Management (BRM) that work for our producers."

But the minister's response is vague and insufficient in the eyes of many, including KAP.

Campbell said KAP has continually called on both the provincial and federal governments to strengthen BRM programming for producers. Through the existing Canadian Agricultural Partnership framework, BRM

programs can, with some adjustment, provide effective industry support, according to Campbell.

But the time to adjust is now.

"As we look at business models and risk producers take these days, if the government is not willing to ensure they do their job with regards to protecting our export markets and insuring we have sound and reasonable means to get our product to export; if they are not willing to stand up for trade deals that have been developed; why as a producer should I bear the brunt of their inability to look after what I have built my business model around?" asked Campbell, speaking to evolution of the canola market in Manitoba is one of the most exported crops in the province. China put sanctions on two Manitoba-based companies in 2020 as a result of federal trade negotiations, which resulted in a significant market drop.

"Now I, as a producer, without changes to the program, am bearing the brunt of that. We need more stability," he said, describing another circumstance last summer in which the rail companies could not get enough product to the point of export.

In that situation, Campbell said the producers lived up to their end of the bargain in producing crops, but the transportation sector of the industry couldn't live up to its end. Campbell said, again, it was producers who bore the brunt.

"To disregard this issue, and ignore suggested changes, suggests the minister will not stand up for Manitoba's agriculture industry."

**"TO DISREGARD THIS ... SUGGESTS THE MINISTER WILL NOT STAND UP FOR MANITOBA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY."**

# Peguis pushes back on provincial flood outlet channel

By Evan Matthews

Peguis First Nation is calling for a halt to conversations between the federal and provincial governments regarding the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels Project.

The First Nation said in a public statement that Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister's announcement regarding the joint Canada/Manitoba funding agreement is symbolic of a willingness to sign a deal "behind the backs of First Nations."

"It's an insult. Premier Pallister didn't even have the courtesy to pick up the phone and let us know about his announcement that has a direct impact on our community. That should tell you all you need to know about the state of relations," said Peguis Chief Glenn Hudson in the press release.

"The short- and long-term effects of this project ... has not been adequately assessed or understood."

"We are aware of models directly contradicting the Environmental Impact Study, and we want that information considered before proceeding," he said, with no direct reference of which models he was referring to. Chief Hudson could not be reached by press time.

The province has said publicly that the outlet channels project — which is estimated to cost a total of \$540 million, cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments — is the largest and most significant flood mitigation project undertaken in Manitoba since the Red River Floodway expansion.

The project is said to improve drainage and mitigate floods, according to the province, by diverting high water levels from Lake Manitoba to Lake St. Martin, and then ultimately to Lake Winnipeg, through two respective man-made channels.

"Since 2016, our government has been fighting to get this needed outlet built, to protect Manitobans and prevent future flooding disasters from happening," said Pallister.

"It has been a decade since ... the

Continued on page 8



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## Reading offers an unrivalled escape

By Evan Matthews

Do you remember *The Pagemaster*?

It's a 1994 animated film with a star-studded cast featuring Macaulay Culkin, Christopher Lloyd, Sir Patrick Stewart and Whoopi Goldberg.

The premise, as listed on Rotten Tomatoes, is a young boy seeks shelter from a terrible storm inside a nearby — and very creepy — library.

In the library, he is transformed into an animated illustration and has to overcome an array of challenges taken from classic books — *Moby-Dick* and *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, as a couple examples — to return to the real world.

For adults it's not the most engaging watch necessarily. But for a young child, what a ride.

It perfectly encapsulates what reading can provide a person, aside from the often-discussed benefits such as mental stimulation and brain strengthening, improved vocabulary and sleep aid.

The film is topical given that February is I Love to Read Month in our

province.

Reading offers an escape from the real world; actually, it offers many.

How many of us enjoy television, video games, sports, over consumption of food and drink, drugs and/or alcohol?

Not to say any of these things are negative (in moderation and with balance), but why is reading looked at so differently, like a chore? For so many of us, re-discovering our love for reading is re-defining our relationship with books.

From the fictional fantasy realm of medieval dungeons and dragons or the sci-fi realm of aliens and time travel to the non-fictional realm of historical biographies and/or event-based reading — these are just a few examples.

But the examples illustrate the point: there truly is something for everyone, if a person is willing to work to find a book that appeals to them.

Reading offers any person an opportunity sometimes unavailable even in the real world: instantaneous change

of scenery to a different place, time or perspective.

Maybe the most beautiful aspect to reading is the vastness of what's available to you.

In the reading community, a common saying is, "never read a book you don't like." There are just too many out there. If you don't like one, don't waste your time. Put it down and pick up another.

An Interlake educator said this week, "If a person says they don't like to read, it's more likely they just haven't found the right book."

To build on that statement, we now live in a time that you can also take in a book in different ways: e-books or audio books, or social networking websites like goodreads.com.

But to say "I don't like to read," is a lazy perspective. What you're saying is "I don't (know what I) like to read," and it's worth exploring.

You won't regret it, and you might just find yourself saying, "I Love to Read."

## Province increases funding to public school divisions

### Increases special needs funding while reducing burden on property ratepayers

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba's public schools system will see another increase in the Funding of Schools Program for the 2021-22 school year of \$20.8 million, or 1.56 per cent, for a total \$1.35 billion, the highest total investment in Manitoba's history, Education Minister Cliff Cullen announced Friday.

The increase includes \$6.7 million, or a 0.5 per cent increase to base fund-

ing for public schools, and this year's commitment includes an additional \$5.5 million for special needs funding for school divisions, along with other grants. This special needs funding supports students with disabilities and with exceptional needs, providing student specific supports determined by school teams such as educational assistants or assistive technology.

"This announcement continues

our commitment to the success of students by making record levels of annual investment in our student's education while also keeping our students, teachers and staff safe," said Cullen. "Our education system is one of the best funded in Canada, and parents need to know that our government will continue to support their children's futures."

Manitoba has the third-highest spending per student in Canada at \$14,815, after Saskatchewan and New Brunswick.

Continued on page 7

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## > FUNDING, FROM PG. 6

The province committed that school divisions would not see their funding reduced due to enrolment variations because of COVID-19. The province will also continue to ensure all school divisions receive no less than 98 per cent of the operating funding they received a year earlier.

School divisions also raise revenue through local education property taxes. The Manitoba government will continue to support Manitobans by reducing the local property tax burden for ratepayers. School divisions will freeze their education property taxes and the province will provide a Property Tax Offset Grant equivalent to a two per cent property tax increase or \$22.8 million. This is over and above the \$20.8-million commitment for the Funding of Schools Program.

"The province remains committed to modernizing Manitoba's education system to ensure our students are well prepared for whatever path they choose, whether it is post-secondary education, joining the workforce or starting their own business," said Cullen. "Our students, parents and education staff need to know that regardless of the challenges we are facing, we will be there to support their educational needs and to ensure their children have the best opportunity for success."

This annual funding commitment builds upon the previous announcement to support schools with the \$185-million Safe Schools Funding for COVID-related expenses.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JUDY PLETT

Alec Plett made an ice-pectacular halo after throwing a cup of boiling water into the -43 windchill last Saturday. The hot water instantly froze and turned into ice crystals as it was thrown into mid air.

## Province to take a cautious approach to reopening: Roussin

By Lorne Stelmach

The province was poised to further ease restrictions this week, but the chief public health officer continued to stress a cautious approach while COVID-19 case numbers continue to improve in Manitoba.

Dr. Brent Roussin acknowledged the increasing pressure to more widely reopen the economy at the Monday update, but he reminded Manitobans about our recent history when the second wave of the virus hit in the fall.

"We can't undo all of this hard work by simply opening everything up again," said Roussin. "We know there's hope on the horizon with the vaccine. We know there's hope because our numbers have been coming down as well, but we have to continue to be cautious."

"We can see that the restrictions that we have in place are quite tough. They affect Manitobans to different degrees, but they are working," he

continued. "In a lot of circumstances, people have stepped up and done a great job, but we've been here before."

"We continually hear about how safe everything is to open up and operate, but our numbers don't describe that; our numbers in October show it's not safe to open everything up all at once, and our restrictions show that they work."

"Our numbers today are again trending in the right direction. These numbers are the lowest we've seen since early in the fall. ... This is all a result of the work of Manitobans."

On Monday, public health officials reported a third consecutive day of the lowest case counts since the fall.

The Interlake-Eastern total case breakdown by district as of Monday, was as follows: A total of 232 cases, up 89 cases from Feb. 1 with 240 active cases, 2,057 recovered, 18 currently in the hospital with one of those in ICU and 35 deaths.

Arborg/Riverton 69 recovered cases; Beausejour 136 recovered; Eriksdale/Ashern 17 active cases, 140 recovered and 7 deaths; Fisher/Peguis 26 active cases and 325 recovered, 3 deaths; Gimli 29 recovered; Northern Remote 177 active cases, 289 recovered and 4 deaths; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 53 recovered; Powerview/Pine Falls 10 active case and 142 recovered and one death; Selkirk 93 recovered and 2 deaths; Springfield 161 recovered and 11 deaths; St. Clements 90 recovered and 1 death; St. Laurent 17 recovered; Stonewall/Teulon 145 recovered and 4 deaths; Unknown District 199 recovered and 1 death; Whiteshell 25 recovered and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 4 active cases and 14 recovered and 1 death.

### State of emergency extended another month

The Manitoba government has extended the state of emergency once

again in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The extension began last Tuesday and runs for another 30 days.

Manitoba first declared a state of emergency last March. It has been extended every month since.

"This extension marks the one-year implementation of Manitoba's state of emergency and has been the longest period in a state of emergency in the province's history," said Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler, minister responsible for the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization.

"Our government recognizes that there is still a lot of work to be done against the fight of COVID-19 and will continue to take the necessary precautions for the health and safety of all Manitobans."



# letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:  
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

## Lake Winnipeg nutrient target misses the mark article hits the target

Dear Editor,

A big Thank You to Patricia Barrett for her article in last week's *Express*: "Province's proposed regulation on nutrient targets for Lake Winnipeg misses the mark".

Also a big Thank You to Bill Buckels, who provided a lot of the information, and to Robert T. Kristjanson, who raised the issue of blue green algal blooms earlier in Letters to the Editor.

The article is a timely reminder that Lake Winnipeg is sick.

The first step to restore the health of the lake is to set realistic targets for nutrients such as phosphorus.

A proposed concentration of 0.05 milligrams phosphorus per litre is too high. A more realistic concentration of 0.02 mg/litre is much to be preferred.

There are many individuals, associations and organizations, including the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg, that are deeply concerned about the lake.

Now is the time to visit the "Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal at <https://reg.gov.mb.ca> to indicate that phosphorus concentrations for Lake Winnipeg be no higher than 0.02mg/l.

In addition, everybody should contact Premier Brian Pallister at [premier@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:premier@leg.gov.mb.ca) and/or your local

MLA.

For Gimli it is the recently appointed Minister of Municipal Relations, Derek Johnson, at [minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca)

You may also want to contact the Minister of Conservation and Climate, Sarah Guillemard, at [mincc@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:mincc@leg.gov.mb.ca) and the Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development, Blaine Pedersen at [minagr@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minagr@leg.gov.mb.ca) and insist that the government establish low nutrient concentration levels for Lake Winnipeg such as 0.02mg/l for phosphorus.

- Fred Veldink

Environment Committee of the Silver Harbour Property Owners Association

## Feisty Tkachuks of the NHL

What a relief from the COVID-19 pandemic it is to be able to watch NHL hockey games on television. And what a change in scenery the games are now that the Trump era is finally over. With the reorganization of the NHL where the seven Canadian teams are now playing against each other in the same division, competition has intensified and new rivalries are becoming evident. Few players show more intensity and desire to play hockey than the Tkachuk brothers — Matthew, who plays for the Calgary Flames, and Brady with the Ottawa Senators. And it runs in the family. Their dad, Keith Tkachuk, played for the first version of the Winnipeg Jets for many years.

We, Interlakers should be very proud of these two boys because of their family ties to this region of Manitoba. Their grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents — the Osters, the Trakalos, the Petrachecks and the Philipchuks — were pioneers and residents of Shorncliffe, Melele and Skylake, communities in the Interlake.

Congratulations to Matthew and Brady for making it into the NHL and thank you for providing our nation with wonderful entertainment.

Sincerely,  
Tony Sorokowski,  
an Arborg relative

## Funding falls short for fifth year

The provincial government's failure to adequately fund public education, for five years in a row, will have dire and long-lasting effects on the delivery of education and student outcomes for Manitoba students.

"The government boasts that this is the most funding public education has ever received, but that's only half the story," said Manitoba Teachers Society (MTS) president James Bedford. "What is missing from this narrative is the fact that this funding is not enough to meet the increasing needs of Manitoba's K-12 student population."

Bedford also said that increased resources will be required to meet students' recovery learning needs following the pandemic.

Today's investment of 1.56 per cent continues the government's trend of

funding public education below the rate of inflation. When capital funding is deducted from the total, the amount of funding going into Manitoba classrooms is barely 1 per cent.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the important role of public education in our society. It has also highlighted the significant inequities in the system," Bedford said. "With everything that has happened in the past year, the government's continued refusal to invest in public education is incomprehensible."

The government has continued to tighten the purse strings on education funding, and with the impending release of the recommendations from the K-12 education review, there is concern that schools will have to make tough choices about staffing and programming, Bedford said.

"We have said from day one, that any additional costs to implementing the K-12 recommendations must come with adequate funding. There

is simply no room for extras," he said. "At the end of the day, when the government does not fulfill its funding responsibility, it's the students that suffer and quite frankly that is unacceptable."

The government also announced a \$5.5 million increase to special needs funding.

"We are pleased to see that government is responding to concerns we have been raising around special needs funding," Bedford said. "We look forward to hearing the details on how these funds will be used in the classrooms to meet these diverse student needs."

In a recent poll conducted by Viewpoints Research, on behalf of The Manitoba Teachers' Society, the majority of Manitobans (64 per cent) said that the province should spend more on education.

- Raman Job

MTS Public Relations Facilitator

## > OUTLET, FROM PG. 5

flood of 2011. The physical, social and financial impacts of that flood are still impacting Manitobans.

"Far too many Indigenous and non-Indigenous people lost their homes, their community and their way of life. It's time to put all that right," he said, adding the project is the "single-most important infrastructure project in recent Manitoba history."

Premier Pallister noted in his statements that the project is predicted to contribute roughly \$335 million to Manitoba's GDP, with an additional \$165 million in GDP to other parts of Canada, as construction material is sourced out-of-province.

The project workforce is estimated to average 300 people per year over five years of construction, which the premier added is crucial for Manitoba's economic recovery through the COVID pandemic.

Though the province alleges participating in 174 meetings with Indigenous communities and impacted groups to consult about the project, formal agreements with eight First Nations, and nearly \$5 million in environmental impact assessments, the provincial perspective is not shared by all First Nations.

Hudson, and his council, said the government is hiding the fact that the

premier and his ministers have refused meaningful consultation. Peguis council said the province is ignoring science and refusing to consider more effective options.

"The project does not protect our future because our government's thinking is stuck in the past, when water was plentiful, clean, reliable and stable, when the main priority was draining wetlands and previous water resources to increase the agricultural land base.

"A time before change began to create devastating cycles of flood and drought," said Hudson.

"There must be a fundamental shift in the thinking behind government policy and this project. One way to do that in engaging in meaningful

partnership with First Nations, and to consider measures such as wetland restoration and water storage facilities to stem some of the water flow, instead of simply digging another ditch and moving the problem downstream."

The province has also made expropriation offers to 23 affected property owners in the RM of Grahamdale relating to the project. Most of the property owners feel their land has been undervalued and will fight the province on the project.

In July 2020, Grahamdale Reeve Randy Sigurdson said the RM of Grahamdale is ready to support and advocate for its land owners.



# Bringing the Chautauqua Tour into the classroom

## In-person program goes digital for 2021

By Nicole Buffie

While Theatre Projects Manitoba cannot offer their usual in-person programming due to the novel coronavirus, they have adapted operations to continue to provide free programming to the Interlake community.

The company brought arts, culture and workshops to the Interlake area in 2018 in the form of a Chautauqua tour.

"We have a big focus on Manitoba stories and homegrown stories," Emily Solstice Tate, associate producer of Theatre Projects Manitoba. "So it was about leaving the city and going out into the land and finding a connection with all Manitobans, and including rural stories and perspectives into the work of theatre projects."

The idea for the project came from an early 20th-century group of entertainers who travelled through Canada and the U.S. performing shows and offering lectures, including the Interlake area of Manitoba. The theatre company revived the concept in 2018.

During the last Interlake Chautauqua tour, the artists visited communities including Arborg, Eriksdale, Teulon and Steep Rock. This year, the digital programming will premiere their projects in Arborg, Eriksdale, Riverton and Selkirk in June if public health orders allow it.

As the COVID-19 pandemic halted many in-person events, Theatre Projects Manitoba pivoted the Chautauqua tour to offer it in a digital medium, rebranding it as the Micro Digital Arts Exchange.

"We were totally caught in the planning stage of like, trying to understand what's going on in the world," Solstice Tate said. "How do we keep moving forward with plans? How do we keep people safe? How do we keep people feeling safe, not just doing it, but actually ensuring that people felt comfortable?"

She said the company had two goals after that: offer some sort of programming free of charge and continue to stay in contact with the communities they planned to visit.

"Since 2018 this has been about creating genuine connections and dialogue with the communities and seeing what they're interested in art-wise," said Solstice Tate. "And the other thing is the continued desire to engage artists during the pandemic and engaging with communities and trying to create a hub of resources for both artists and community mem-

bers."

Instead of taking their talents on the road for week-long stints at community centres and backyards, the team of artists will instead pair with teachers and classrooms in the region to provide workshops for students based on their needs and skills. Artists work with students virtually over one week to create art projects and premiere in the summer months.

The dedicated team of artists include painters, actors, playwrights, among others, to create a diverse roster of options for those looking to sign up.

Tanner Manson, administrative and outreach associate for Theatre Projects Manitoba, said after the theatre company pivoted to the online platform, the outreach from artists wanting to participate was overwhelming.

"Everyone's been very happy and excited to have something ongoing and to know that people are reaching out and thinking of us," he said.

In addition to the arts exchange program, the theatre company is providing online workshops featuring the same artists called Winter Warm-up Workshops at no cost. They include sign painting, creative writing and music production.

Solstice Tate said with the digital offerings it gives those who wouldn't usually have access to these programs



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Associate producer for Theatre Projects Manitoba and performer Emily Solstice Tate will be offering her artistic expertise to classes in the Interlake region for the 2021 Chautauqua Tour, now dubbed the Micro Digital Arts Exchange.

the chance to explore their creative sides, while also giving space to artists that wouldn't normally get recognition.

"I think that's a strength for us just to learn in general, can you give access to everyone to the arts? And that's really important to us," she said.

Teachers or individuals interested in the programs or looking for more information can email [tanner@theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca](mailto:tanner@theatreprojectsmanitoba.ca) or call 204-989-2400.



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# Details about COVID vaccination super site for Interlake-Eastern RHA not yet available

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government announced the implementation of a COVID-19 vaccination super site in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) last week but hasn't yet released any details about it.

The *Express* reached out to the province about the inoculation facility; questions were acknowledged, but no information was provided.

Geographically, the Interlake-Eastern region is vast with 61,000 square kilometres and 10 per cent of Manitoba's population. The province was asked whether there will be two sites established for each half of the region and whether physician offices and pharmacies will be helping inoculate residents.

In its COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force Update document released Jan. 27 — and viewed Monday for updates — the province said it would be launching "immunization hubs" and "pop-up sites" to reach smaller population centres in rural and northern areas. The document states a "limited launch" is to start this week.

The IERHA has 10 hospitals, 17 community health offices, one QuickCare clinic and a mobile clinic (2019 data). Whether these facilities will be utilized in the inoculation effort is yet to be seen.

Lauralou Cicierski, communications lead for the IERHA, said last Thurs-

day that the health authority is "in the process of working with the province to finalize the location" of the vaccination super site.

The province currently has three super sites, one in Winnipeg at the RBC Convention Centre, a second in Brandon at the Keystone Centre and the third in Thompson at the Thompson Regional Community Centre. Pop-up sites are scheduled to begin this week in The Pas and Flin Flon.

Both super sites and pop-up sites are inoculating people who meet the current eligibility criteria, which includes health-care workers, long-term care workers and home care workers.

As of Monday, over 106 million people worldwide have been infected with COVID-19 and 2.3 million have died. Canada has had 809,000 infections and 20,760 deaths. Manitoba has had over 30,000 infections and 846 people have died (data: Johns Hopkins University, Feb. 8).

The province had been experiencing a delay in the roll-out of vaccines, but the situation changed Monday when it was informed that it can expect to receive 3,510 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine this week and 15,210 doses next week.

According to the task force update, the government plans to execute "large-scale deliveries once vaccine scarcity is addressed."

The task force also noted that there are three vaccines (unnamed) "in de-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Selkirk Regional Health Centre Emergency Entrance

velopment" that could be suitable "if approved for use" for doctors and pharmacies to administer to the public.

Questions from the *Express* about the names of those vaccines weren't answered. The province has already inoculated Manitobans with COVID vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and from Moderna.

Recent research on vaccines already on the market has found some lacking protective effects against mutations of

the COVID-19 virus.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, for instance, was found to have 10 per cent efficacy against the South African variant. Pfizer-BioNTech said its vaccine is "likely to be effective" against the United Kingdom strain of COVID, which is currently the most common strain circulating in Canada. Cases of the South African and Brazilian COVID strains have also been identified in Canada.

# Tax reduction and COVID relief promised in budget

## Rural residents provide input for 2021 provincial budget

By Nicole Buffie

Education taxes on property, health-care and senior care were at the top of the list for the 2021 budget for Manitobans living in rural areas as they made their voices heard during a Feb. 3 telephone town hall.

A series of virtual forums were held

throughout January and the beginning of February to get input from residents on what they would like to see prioritized from the provincial government on their spending.

For the last virtual meeting residents took to the phone lines to ask Finance Minister Scott Fielding questions regarding the upcoming budget for the fiscal year.

During his opening remarks, Fielding highlighted areas in which the provincial government spent extra money, including mental health and addictions initiatives such as RAAM clinics and programming for adults and children. He also noted that while the government entered the fiscal year in a \$5-million surplus, they will end it in a \$2-billion deficit due to COVID-19.

"What is important, though, and

distinguishes ourselves as the government, is we have a plan to get ourselves back into balance once the pandemic is over," Fielding said.

The health minister said the cash went towards responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fielding also noted the province issued \$1.2 million in fines related to residents flouting public health orders. The province hopes the money collected will help offset the projected deficit, which is projected to be balanced once again in eight years.

While the projected numbers weren't a point of focus for callers, many inquired about the plan to eliminate education taxes on property. One caller asked how the province plans to continue funding education without the revenue from the taxes, which will be phased out in the coming years.

"We think we can do it through growth," Fielding answered. "When you have a situation where you're

leading the country in things like private sector capital investments, businesses are coming to Manitoba and it's growing, so there's going to be growth that will happen, so obviously we're going to allocate some of that growth dollars to making life a little bit more affordable for you as a Manitoban."

Manitobans also inquired about how seniors programs and health-care will be funded and how much of the budget will be allocated to it.

The province said they have increased spending on seniors by \$594 million every year since 2016 when the conservative party took office. Fielding said they will continue to do so to provide more cataract, hip and knee surgeries.

The province will also continue to reference the VIRGO report, a study commissioned by the province to look at programming and facilities to ad-

Continued on page 13

### What's *Your* story?

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THE **EXPRESS** WEEKLY NEWS



# Former LWSB chair/Gimli mayor, biologist weigh in on nutrient targets for Lake Winnipeg

By Patricia Barrett

Fifteen years ago, the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board gave the provincial government a set of recommendations on how to reduce frequent and extensive algal blooms and arrest deteriorating water quality in the lake.

Back then the board insisted that a reduction of nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen) from sources such as wastewater treatment plants and agricultural operations was a matter of “urgency” and recommended the government set nutrient targets as one means of addressing the serious ecological issue.

With the current government’s recent proposal to set nutrient targets that will (if achieved) be a throw-back to the 1990s, a time of plentiful, long-lasting algal blooms, the LWSB’s overall recommendation to reduce nutrients to “pre-1970 levels” has seemingly been shelved.

Bill Barlow, former of chair of the LWSB, said there was a feeling of hope back in 2006 when the LWSB’s report and its 135 recommendations hit the desk of the provincial government, as well as in 2009 when the LWSB gave the province a “satisfactory” grade on a majority (79 targets or 59 per cent) of the recommendations it carried out.

Despite small signs of progress, the LWSB gave the government a “marginal” grade on the setting of nutrient targets and recommended it “accelerate” the process.

While he continued to teach English at Gimli High School and serve as mayor of Gimli, Barlow devoted seven years of his life to chairing the LWSB. He said last week he’s aware of the nutrient targets the current government has proposed [a new regulation under the Water Protection Act] and that they “go back to 1990s levels.” Why is his big question.

“What I don’t have a good feel for is the province’s rationale for setting 1990s [nutrient levels] as opposed to the 1970s levels we recommended,” said Barlow by phone.

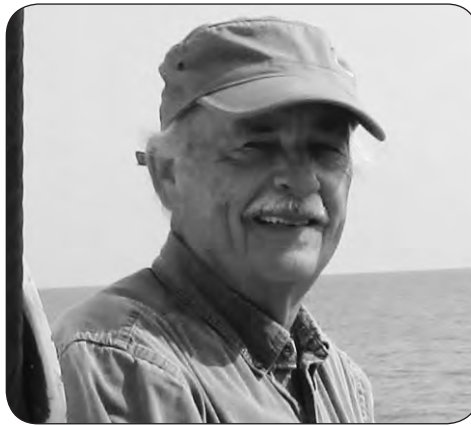
Formed in 2003, the LWSB’s purpose was to assist the provincial government in implementing an action plan and identifying actions necessary to “reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading to Lake Winnipeg to pre-1970 levels.”

In 2006 it presented the province with a report, titled, “Reducing Nutrient Loading to Lake Winnipeg and its Watershed: Our Collective Responsibility and Commitment to Action,” which included recommendations based on information obtained from the public, scientists, governments and agencies.

The board stressed it was imperative to take action: “There is an urgency surrounding the recommendations contained in this report. Algal blooms on Lake Winnipeg continue to increase in frequency, duration, and intensity, an ominous sign that the lake is not well,” wrote Barlow in the introduction.

The LWSB’s 135 recommendations included addressing transboundary (United States) and inter-jurisdictional (Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta) nutrient polluters, minimizing nutrient loss from agricultural operations, preserving wetlands, developing nutrient abatement plans for large and small wastewater treatment facilities, and setting “ecologically relevant” nutrient objectives for the lake.

The LWSB’s follow-up report in 2009, titled, “Manitoba’s Progress Towards Implementing Recommendations of the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Former Gimli mayor Bill Barlow chaired the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board for seven years.

Board,” evaluated the province’s progress. Of the 135 recommendations, the board noted that progress on nine (6.5 per cent) of them was rated excellent, 79 (59 per cent) rated satisfactory, 38 (28 per cent) rated marginal and nine (6.5 per cent) rated unsatisfactory.

Barlow acknowledged then that changing the behaviour of watershed polluters would be a “difficult long-term process.” And he still feels some of the major recommendations, “to be fair,” needed several years to be completed.

At present, though, he said an overview is overdue.

“We need a study that says these recommendations were made over a decade ago. What’s been accomplished at this point?” said Barlow. “We have a number of different groups and agencies and government departments involved in this, and I have a sense there’s not been a strong overview of where we’re at.”

Barlow said the urgency in the 2000s to clean up the lake hasn’t abated; algal blooms continue to blight the lake today, affecting commercial and sport fishers, tourism and the economy. The adage “better late than never” with regard to the province’s recent setting of nutrient targets just doesn’t apply.

“I highlighted back then the fact that this wasn’t something [the government] could have a look at and put on the shelf for a while. We said it’s urgent to take action. The fact is it’s [over a decade] later that these particular targets are being set,” said Barlow. “You can’t really say with an issue like this that it’s better late than never.”

University of Winnipeg emeritus professor of biology Eva Pip, who has published over 100 scientific papers on water quality, algal toxins and environmental impacts of intensive livestock operations, to mention a few, recently provided feedback to the provincial government on its proposed nutrient targets.

Pip shared her 18-page analysis — footnoted with her own and other’s research — with the *Express*.

Pip underscores the deleterious impacts of algae, which remove oxygen from the lake that then creates “unsustainable” demands for it and kills fish and organisms such as threatened unionid mussels.

The nutrient pool in the lake is already “heavily and increasingly weighted towards algae,” which includes cyanobacteria or toxic blue-green algal blooms. Those are “highly visible” at or near the water’s surface unlike diatom blooms that proliferate deeper in the water column.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Algae mixed with excrement was snagged in a Lake Winnipeg fisher’s net in October 2018.

“Cyanobacteria and some eucaryotic algae produce diverse toxins which can threaten human and animal health; a number of lake communities and individual waterfront residents draw their domestic water supply from the lake,” wrote Pip. “Bloom conditions pose direct hazards to swimmers and beach-goers through ingestion, contact absorption and inhalation of volatile toxins.”

She commended the province for setting proposed targets for phosphorus and for nitrogen as both nutrients contribute to the development of algal blooms

“Regulating phosphorus alone is insufficient to control blooms and toxin production in this lake,” she wrote.

But she was critical of the province’s nutrient targets for total phosphorus (.05 mg/L) and total nitrogen (.75 mg/L) for the lake. Those correspond to a “eutrophic” state [defined as excessive amounts of nutrients and algal blooms] when historical data suggests the lake was “naturally mesotrophic (.015 -.020 mg/L phosphorus).”

“I can personally recall even in the early 1950s the comparative clarity of the water and the absence of visible periphyton,” she wrote. “How magnificent this lake once was.”

Pip said she considers the province’s proposed targets as too high. Not only will they “support eutrophic conditions,” but they’ll also raise nutrient concentrations in the north basin of the lake.

“This is substantiated by the fact that, while phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations have largely been below these target levels in the north basin ..., satellite pictures indicate that algal blooms nonetheless occur there: it follows that the targets are much too high, and will not alleviate the blooms that already occur at lower nutrient levels,” she wrote. “Thus in effect these target levels propose raising the ‘allowable’ nutrient concentrations above their existing levels in the north basin.”

Pip said nutrient loading occurs year-round, yet the province’s proposed temporal regime will sample nutrients only during open water season (May 1 to Oct. 31).

“Only half of the year will be covered by nutrient targets, yet loading occurs year-round provided the contributing stream has not frozen to the bottom” she wrote. “Does ‘open water season’ apply to the lake, or to the rivers, which are not the same? Ice breakup on the latter may commence in April or early March, depending on the season.”

Continued on page 15



# Eriksdale students learning the love of reading

By Evan Matthews

As society continues to change, educators say a person's love for reading is one thing that shouldn't.

For many students at Eriksdale School who maybe aren't so keen on reading, principal Jen Cameron said she can relate.

"I wasn't the type of student who enjoyed reading, but I found a lot of the reading I was doing was forced reading. You'd have to read something as a class and answer questions about it," said Cameron, adding every single day, year-round, students in kindergarten through Grade 8 practise in the form of "independent reading" and "read alouds."

"I often tell not just kids but everyone if you're the type of person who doesn't like to read, you just haven't found the right book," she said.

To celebrate February's I Love to Read Month, the Manitoba Reading Association's month-long celebration of all things reading, Cameron said the school planned both in-school and at-home activities for students.

Due to COVID-19, guest readers will join Eriksdale School's classes virtually. Cameron said the school will welcome in Winnipeg author and school

teacher Colleen Nelson, who will also host a workshop.

"It should be really interesting to have an author talk about their own books and writing process, while then leading us through a writing workshop," said Cameron.

"We'll focus on making the connection between reading and writing, and we're looking forward to that," she said, adding the school will also put on a poetry challenge for the early and middle years.

Students will read a set of poems daily, and Cameron said the class will vote on which one they like best. Each week will have a winning poem, and at the end of the month, students will re-read all the winning poems and vote for the month's most popular.

A bulletin board has gone up in the school, too, Cameron said. Students send in book suggestions and why they liked them, and staff approve the books and put them up on the bulletin board for other students to consider reading.

Staff is also encouraging parents to send in photos of their kids reading. Cameron said the staff will feature those photos on the bulletin board as well.



**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEN CAMERON**  
Eriksdale School Grade 3 student Freya reads her book about foxes, while Grade 4 student Kylee is logging some reading time as well.

At home, Cameron said teachers sent students home with bingo cards, all of which have activities students can complete related to reading, of course, with a parent's signature.

Classes are also encouraging students to track their home reading, so the teachers can track how many minutes and hours their classes have

logged, respectively.

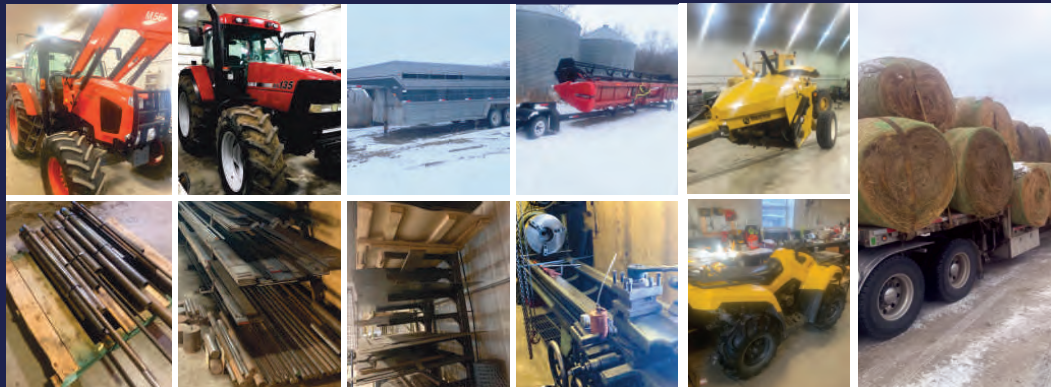
Cameron said each week, staff will update the average number of home reading minutes logged per student per class, and at the end of the month the winning class will be awarded an I Love to Read prize.



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# Work up a sweat in private with free Arborg-Bifrost recreation programs

By Patricia Barrett

If you've missed working up a healthy sweat during COVID-19 lockdowns, the Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission will get your heart pumping with free, virtual exercise programs.

Some of the programs started this week, but participants can register at any time.

Recreation commission director Tom Chwaliboga said the virtual programs will provide people with an option of getting active at home while public health restrictions keep recreation and sports facilities closed.

"We're trying to get people moving again. A lot of people now have free time in the evenings because they can't go to arenas or curling rinks," said Chwaliboga. "This is a great opportunity to try an activity that you might not have felt comfortable about doing. With virtual classes, you're in your basement or bedroom at home and nobody can see you. This way you can figure out if you like it and can do it."

The commission has already had "well over 100 people" register for the programs, he said, and hopes it can offer them as in-person classes later this year.

The commission is offering Drums Alive, an exercise program for all ages, HIIT Fitness, which will have you sweating with strength and cardio workouts, yoga to build stamina

and flexibility, and Zumba that will get you moving with some energetic music.

The classes are free thanks to a grant from the province's Safe at Home Manitoba program.

The commission also teamed up with Save On Foods and will be offering three online nutrition courses. They'll be led by a registered dietitian, who will show people how to get the best out of their supermarket.

"A dietitian will be walking you through the aisles of a supermarket in the first course (starting Feb. 8) to show you how to shop smart," said Chwaliboga. "The second course (on Feb. 22) will focus on nutrition and heart health. And the third one (on March 1) will be on shopping and nutrition for seniors."

Those interested in learning about emergency first aid can sign up for a one-day, in-person course that's scheduled for Feb. 17.

Without knowing whether the province will ease gathering restrictions, Chwaliboga said it's hard to say how many people will be allowed to attend the first aid course. It will likely be restricted to a maximum of eight people to allow for social distancing and other public health protocols. An instructor from Winnipeg will be teaching the course.

The province is expected to review lockdown restrictions at the end of this week.

Depending on what public health recommends for indoor recreation, Chwaliboga said the commission may have to continue to offer courses online.

Last week the province indicated it



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission is offering a number of different courses.

## > COVID RELIEF, FROM PG. 10

dress mental health and addictions issues, a point of concern for one caller.

"I will say it'll be a priority in this budget coming up," Fielding said. "During this pandemic, it's been very stressful for a lot of people in every walk of life because it's had such an impact on us. And you can tell that people are struggling with mental health issues and stress. And I think that's going to be a big part of our recovery, not just on an economic basis once we're through the pandemic, like making sure that people are supported from a mental health standpoint and so that's why we really tried to make it a priority, and we're going to continue to do more of that in this budget."

The 2021 budget is expected to be released by the end of February, although no date has been set as the province is still awaiting further information on money allocation from the federal government.

was thinking about allowing outdoor facilities to open, he said, but there weren't any hints about indoor arenas/recreation centres.

"I didn't see [an indication] of any indoor facilities opening in the next phase. So that's why we're offering online classes for now," said Chwaliboga. "Most of these classes last six to

eight weeks, and people can register and start at any time. The classes are free. Just join and see if you like it."

To register for the programs, visit the Town of Arborg online. There is an online registration form that participants have to fill out. People can also call the recreation commission at 204-376-5576 for more information.

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# Incredible Creatures: New Species Identified in 2020

By John Gavloski

There are still a lot of undiscovered and unnamed animals and plants in the world. Each year hundreds of new species are still being identified. These include not just small creatures, but larger animals and even primates. At least 170 new species of beetles and three species of bees were identified in 2020.

In this month's Incredible Creatures, we will explore some of the new species that have been described by scientists in 2020. Although there have been hundreds of new species identified from all corners of the earth over the past year, I will focus on three continents and some of the cool new animals discovered there.

**South America: Small Frogs and Behaviour Altering Wasps**  
An expedition into the cloud forests of the Zongo Valley in the Bolivian Andes uncovered 20 species new to science. These include the lilliputian frog, which is among the tiniest in the world, measuring around 10 mil-

limetres, about the size of an aspirin tablet. These small amphibians live in tunnels beneath the moss and humus. Despite their frequent calls the researchers said they are very difficult to track. Also discovered were four new butterflies and four orchid species.

Another research expedition found 15 new wasp species in the Andean cloud forests and Amazon rainforest of Brazil. All of the wasps are in a group (genus) called *Acrotaphus*, and all have a unique way of parasitizing spiders. Females of these wasps use venom to temporarily paralyze a spider in its web. The wasp then lays a single egg on the spider. While the spider is hosting the wasp egg, it no longer weaves its normal web but builds a web that will later protect the wasp pupa. When the wasp egg hatches, the larva of the wasp eats the spider and then lives in the specially built web while it pupates.

**North America: New Salamander**

Although previously collected, a new species of salamander was identified by examining its DNA. The Carolina sandhills salamander (*Eurycea arenicola*) is found in the springs and small streams in the sandhills region of North Carolina. The state has 64 named salamanders, more than any other state in the country.

**Africa: From Little Lemurs to Giant Frogs**

In many towns in Madagascar, giant frogs are bred in ponds or easily caught in the countryside and eaten as dishes such as frog fritters or frogs legs. One of these giant frog species, which can be more than 10 centimetres, was well-known to locals but unknown to science. It was named *Mantidactylus radaka*. There are now 362 recognized frog species in Madagascar.

Mouse lemurs are a group of shy nocturnal primates found on the island of Madagascar and considered the smallest group of primates in the world. They are about the size of a human fist. Scientists documented a



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DOMINIK SCHUSSLER.

new species called the Jonah's mouse lemur (*Microcebus jonahi*), which is a bit bigger than the average mouse lemur. As far as researchers know, it occurs only in a small area of lowland rainforest in Mananara Nord National Park in northeast Madagascar. Here, it faces threats from deforestation, which is a real concern in Madagascar. There are 108 species of lemurs and 25 species of mouse lemurs. All are threatened with extinction.

Such discoveries of new species are important as they enrich our understanding of Earth's complex web of life and strengthen our ability to make informed conservation decisions. It's exciting to think about what is still out there waiting to be discovered.

## RCMP execute search warrant and seize drugs, cash and gang paraphernalia



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

RCMP officers seized two firearms, approximately 16 grams of cocaine, Canadian currency and gang paraphernalia at a residence on Peguis First Nation.

Submitted by RCMP

On Jan. 31, at approximately 7:55 a.m., Fisher Branch RCMP executed a search warrant at a residence on Peguis First Nation.

Officers seized two firearms, approximately 16 grams of cocaine, Canadian currency and gang paraphernalia.

A 36-year-old male has been arrested and is facing drug and weapon charges. He is scheduled to appear in court on April 20, 2021.

Fisher Branch RCMP continue to investigate.

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## > NUTRIENT TARGETS, FROM PG. 11

A large component of phosphorus and nitrogen loading to waterways can also occur in late fall after manure and chemical fertilizers have been applied to harvested fields, she said. They can escape if there are late season rains, bare soil and an absence of crops to absorb them. The proposed timeline will miss these events.

Citing studies that have linked increases in livestock and crop production in the Lake Winnipeg watershed to eutrophication of the lake, Pip said "limiting attention only to six months of the year is inadequate and may miss a significant component of annual nutrient loading."

Wastewater from municipalities and agricultural colonies — allowed to discharge into the lake between June 16 and Oct. 31, may also evade "surveillance" with such a proposed timeline, said Pip, as discharging near or at the end of October wouldn't allow effluents to travel very far downstream and thus escape detection.

She recommends that the province monitor nutrient during the winter by collecting samples under the ice at river outfalls.

Nutrient targets the province set for four rivers — the Red, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg and Dauphin — which all flow into lake Winnipeg assume nothing will change in future,

when in fact Pip says climate change is expected to alter precipitation and intense livestock production and hog farms "will continue to proliferate under permissive regulations and the constant seeking out of new global markets."

Although the government has acknowledged the algal bloom problem, Pip said its proposal lacks measures to address the effects the pollutants have on other organisms in the lake such as unionid mussels.

Zebra mussels can affect the dynamics of nitrogen and phosphorus and the nutrient management of the lake should take that into consideration, she said.

Pip is especially critical of the province's lack of target enforcement for the lake and the four rivers.

"This undertaking is optimistically called a 'regulatory project,' indeed we encounter the phrase 'regulatory solution,' and the word 'regulatory' throughout without actual regulation," she wrote. "These questions arise: what is the purpose of presenting specific numbers for nutrient targets, when there [is] no enforcement, no obligatory compliance [and] no incentives?"

The public can provide feedback on the targets until Feb. 26. Visit the Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal at <https://reg.gov.mb.ca>.

## Arborg defies bone-chilling weather



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RON JOHNSTON

Mother Nature may have tempted many people to hibernate last weekend with temperatures and wind chills in the minus 40s in some areas. But folks in Arborg didn't seem to mind. They laced up and took to the skating trail on the scenic Icelandic River that flows through town. A cross-country ski trail and snowmobile trail runs alongside the river rink. The town created the river trail with help from volunteers.

## PICTURE 2020, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

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# Greatest love story of all time



Melissa Markusson and Miles Lepine

I was going through a separation and I was also seven months pregnant. My long-time family friend came to visit me because my mom mentioned to him that I was in a bad place. Before long, he was coming over every day. He visited every day for a year. He

was there to greet me at home when I brought my daughter home from the hospital. He didn't talk very much, but that was OK; I am shy too. As time went on, I realized he was more than my good friend. He and I went away with the baby for the weekend and decided we should be a couple. A couple years later we were engaged. He has always been a father figure to my first daughter and now we have another daughter. We recently got married during the pandemic when we were still allowed groups of 10 indoors. I had to endure a very painful time in my life to find the man I am meant to be with. I am so happy and have the family I have always wanted. I just had to take a few sharp turns and jump over great hurdles to get there. I am grateful to have a partner who loved me unconditionally and helped me move forward with my life. I wouldn't change a thing.



Brian Anderson and Jude McCudden

Distance and Time — A bright, sunny winter's day on Lake Manitoba with a

commercial ice fisherman was all it took. In 2012, a gal from an Australian seaside town and a local Icelandic guy gutted and filleted pickerel and jackfish together. Six thousand kilometres from each other and four years of phone calls and letter writing later, they sing and dance through another Manitoba winter, listening to anyone from Bobby Darrin to Stan Rogers.

Health scares, a pandemic and families far away in another province or hemisphere has only made them hold on to their love and friendship even more. In the quiet of their forest property, self-isolation is not a problem, when they have each other. Distance and time fall away when there is love.

*Valentine's Day is a time to tell the people that mean the most in your life just how special they are to you.*

*This year, with the community having lost the ability to connect in person as we would before the pandemic, we asked our readers to submit their love stories to bring a little extra Valentine's Day joy in what we're calling the "Greatest Love Story of All Time Contest"*

## First Place



Jodi and Albert Sutyla

My/our story began innocently enough. One August, maybe 1983, I was working for a home builder clearing a new Arborg property of scrap building materials and waste. I had my truck loaded and was on my way to the dump, which was west of Arborg. I went down River Road and as I crossed the tracks saw there was a parade going on, Summerfest weekend. Being second car from the stop sign I had two choices: sit in a hot truck or go see the parade. Well, while standing watching the parade, I noticed a couple of girls a bit north beside the old Robinsons store, and they were looking at me, smiling and waving. I guessed they were looking at this tall, skinny, sweaty guy and thought he was out of place, but any notice by a cute girl is appreciated. By this time the parade was ending and I made my way to my truck to finish my work. Aside from seeing her two buildings away, I never went closer to meet her. A missed opportunity?

Go forward a few years. I had met Jodi, and after dating for a year set a fall wedding nine months later for '87. Her parents, getting used to the thought of me as a son-in-law, began opening up with family stories and showing photos of their family outings. As the photo albums flipped page by page, I recognized parade floats and people from that parade. I asked questions about these photos because you could see where they

were taken from, and it was the proper location of where these girls who were waving at me were. It's about then we all realized they were waving at me and laughing. They had noticed this tall "cute" skinny guy. Cute was good. Then her mom laid a good one on. She remembered saying the old cliché: "Don't laugh because someday you'll marry him."

Well, we've been married since October of '87. Since then a lot of people have passed, our families grown up, times have changed, but I still see the girl I married when I look in her eyes. And she still says she finds me cute, go figure.



Bobbie and Tod Turchinski

I had met the woman who eventually would become my fiancée' back in the mid 1990's, however, at that time, our lives ended up going in separate directions. After many years had passed, we reconnected through a mutual friend in May of 2015. Even though we both lived in Winnipeg, I had decided that for our first date we would take a drive to Gimli to go out for a late-lunch/ early supper. After eating, we drove around Gimli and Winnipeg Beach, and I told her my plans to one day, move to the area. If she was interested in making the move with me one day (I thought), this may just work out. I asked her, and she loved the area just as much as I did.

Fast forward to December of that year. Still living in Winnipeg, we drove downtown to attend the Santa Claus parade.

She had told me how much she enjoyed going and I was only too happy to take her. As we stood on Portage Avenue, and watched as the floats went by, I couldn't help but stare at her as she jumped up and down waving at all the people in the parade. But most of all was the smile on her face. It was as bright as the sun. I knew right then and there, it was meant to be. We finally bought a place in Winnipeg Beach and got engaged. We had a 2020 Wedding planned, but with COVID restrictions, it was put on hold. We are holding out hope and have now planned it for spring 2021.

## LOOKING FOR CUPID

We have hidden 3 Cupids in this week's edition.  
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# Armstrong council votes to not clean out debris from a municipal drain

By Patricia Barrett

Kathee Aitken's cows can easily cross a municipal drainage ditch that runs through her property because a swathe of woody debris left behind from work carried out a few years earlier by the municipality of Armstrong has filled up the channel and rendered it useless for carrying water.

In drought years, Aitken said her family wouldn't require the drain. But in relatively wet years, water heading west towards Lake Winnipeg flows through that municipal drain and could potentially flood their land.

"We had asked [the RM] to clean out its drain because it was full of trees," said Aitken, who has owned the property (SE and SW 22-20-2E) for about four years. "We were told they would brush it so there'd be little chips of wood. But the first guy that came out didn't do a very good job. He left behind big chunks of trees in the ground that were like spikes and could have hurt our cattle."

Aitken, who spoke with the *Express* last week, said the RM had sent out a second guy to fix the problem, but he failed to cart away the debris, leaving it piled by the side of the drain. Because it had snowed, the Aitkens couldn't judge what had been done. The following year it rained and the water flowed down the channel, sucking all the debris into the drain.

"The drain is absolutely full of wood now. When the water came through, it filled the drain with wood and it also moved silt so now there's silt sitting on top of the buried material," said Aitken. "You can walk right across it. I don't have a drain anymore."

In September 2020 Aitken formed a delegation with James Aitken and presented their case to council. At council's Oct. 13 meeting, they got the RM to agree to remove the wood debris clogging the drain. Council passed resolution No. 290-2020. All councillors voted in favour except Coun. Ted Sumka (Ward 3), who abstained from voting. Sumka is the Aitkens' council representative.

In addition to the debris, the resolution (all resolutions are printed in council minutes and posted online) had a provision to survey the drain running through the Aitkens' land as well as through land upstream and downstream of them (from SE 21-20-2E to NE 15-20-2E) in order to determine how the entire drain functions.

But a month later, Aitken said Coun. Sumka presented council with an order to rescind that resolution and stop the project from moving forward after he became "angry" with her.

In addition to concerns about the infill of the drain, Aitken said she had

raised concerns with Sumka about rodent poison (not in receptacles) being left on open piles of trash at the Meleb landfill. The Aitkens had caught one of their cows chewing a piece of poison that had made its way to their property likely via ravens, which also carry pieces of garbage from the dump and strew it around the cows' water trough.

She said she also began regularly attending council meetings as ratepayers are allowed to do, raising questions about failing to adhere to RM policies and failing to abstain from voting on matters that might benefit certain councillors. "So, of course, I got them angry" by asking uncomfortable questions.

Aitken said she also discovered that four property owners near Meleb had sent letters to the RM office (letters are public documents available by request from the RM office), stating they opposed her request because they believed excess water would come down the municipal drain and flood them.

"I actually have one letter that says, 'Thank goodness Ted Sumka let us know about this new drain system. We don't want it,'" said Aitken. "Another said that I'm an 'entitled person.'"

Aitken said she considers Coun. Sumka's behaviour incompatible with his role as a local government official, and had told the whole of council at last October's meeting that she would not permit him to come on her property again; she had two other councillors appointed to work with her on the drain issue.

The RM declined to comment when contacted by the *Express* last week.

At its Dec. 8, 2020, meeting, council discussed the issue of the debris and the survey again, reviewed the objection letters from Meleb property owners and voted. The majority of council — except Reeve Susan Smerchanski and Coun. Allen Evanchyshin — voted in favour of rescinding the original resolution.

Minutes from that meeting state that "notice was provided by Councillor Sumka at the November 10, 2020 regular council meeting to rescind resolution #290-2020 regarding the RM of Armstrong approving drainage works in drainage ditch on SE & SW 22-20-2E [the Aitkens' land]."

As it's written, Sumka's notice makes specific reference to only the Aitkens' property and drainage work; it does not indicate whether surveying work on portions of the drain that run through properties upstream and downstream of the Aitkens will move forward. It's also unclear whether brushing (the clearing of scrub/vegetation) is being classed as drainage



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KATHEE AITKEN

The Aitkens' cows stand on what was once a municipal drainage ditch. Work performed by contractors hired by the RM to remove trees resulted in piles of debris left by the side of the drain. The piles were then swept into the drain during a wet period. The drain can now potentially cause flooding on the property.

work (surveying, digging) and if the remainder of the brushing project (i.e., removal of the cut vegetation) will move ahead on the Aitkens' portion of the drain.

Aitken said she had met with a provincial water management representative and reached out to Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson, as well as to provincial departments such as water stewardship and municipal relations to help her get the drain cleaned out, but they've referred the matter back to the municipality.

"We keep saying we don't want the drain deeper, we just want it to work," said Aitken. "This drain starts to the west of us and comes through our property and the water has nowhere to go but outwards."

Armstrong Reeve Susan Smerchanski, who voted against rescinding the resolution that authorized the work, said by email that under the Municipal Act any member of council can introduce a notice to rescind a resolution that had originally passed. The process entails further discussion, reconsideration and another vote on the matter at a subsequent meeting.

Smerchanski said it was Coun. Sumka who had originally brought the Aitkens' request for brushing work to council in November 2018 (resolution No. 258-2018), and a contract had been awarded. Because the project hadn't been completed, Coun. Sumka asked for an extension in January 2019.

Smerchanski said Kathee Aitken then brought forward concerns last

year about the clean-up of the wood debris left behind from the brushing contract as it was "clogging the drain, the culverts were plugged and the drain was not flowing properly and [there was] an issue with a beaver dam." Aitken had also requested a survey of the drain.

When asked who is responsible for municipal drains running through privately owned land, Smerchanski said municipalities and the province under the Water Rights Act.

"This includes regulations, licensing, enforcement and maintenance. Although regular drain maintenance/brushing does not require a survey or license, a drain needs to be clear in order to do the survey," said the reeve. "At the end of the day, project approvals/licensing are based on the regulation requirements including surveys, engineered plans/drawings and any identified recommendations, public notifications or specific requirements including possible impacts on the downstream environment, landowners or drainage system."

Although the majority of council voted against the work being carried out on the Aitkens' property, Smerchanski said it's not over yet. At the next meeting of council, it will be discussed again.

"The drainage issues and the brushing debris clean-up at SE & SW 22-20-2E have been included on the RM of Armstrong's Feb. 9 ... regular council meeting agenda under [item] 18, unfinished business," she said.



# Loaf and Honey expands cheese production

By Jennifer McFee

Cheese, please!

If you're looking to quench your craving, the duo behind Loaf and Honey has persevered in their cheese-making quest.

Owners Dustin Peltier and Rachel Isaak have just finished an expansion that will allow them to age more wheels of cheese than their previous smaller set-up.

"A big problem that we had before was meeting demand and being able to produce enough to make it a viable business. Our old aging room could only fit 60 wheels, which meant we could only make once a week to have 12 wheels ready every week," Peltier explained.

"Now, in the new aging room we can squeeze 450 or 500 wheels in there, so it means we could be producing five days per week. There's definitely some weight off our shoulders. It's a little bit of breathing room. We're feeling a lot more optimistic and a lot more hopeful with how things are going."

The new aging room is located in a 53-foot trailer located at Peltier's parents' property in Woodlands. His mom, Silver, helps with the day-to-day washing of the cheese wheels.

His dad, Gary, helps with transportation of milk and keeps the building in good shape.

Due to COVID, the couple's catering efforts have taken a backseat to the cheese production side of the business.

"Now we have to rebuild the business and get it out to people more. At least now, we can make enough cheese to get going. We're going to start working on getting into more distribution now," Peltier said.

"Before we couldn't really focus on a lot of retail because we couldn't meet demand of getting on store shelves. Now we can meet demand a little bit more, as long as everything is going good and people are getting back to spending like before COVID."

"Our next goal is looking for retail stores to carry our cheese and go from there."

Currently, Loaf and Honey's cheese is available in Manitoba at Black Market Provisions, Crampton's Market, Preserve Store, Cheesemongers, Miller Meats and the Bothwell store in St. Boniface. Anyone interested in purchasing cheese can also contact Loaf and Honey directly. Currently, Golden Prairie cheese is available as well as four flavours of fresh ricotta.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Loaf and Honey now has more room to age cheese in its new 53-foot trailer.

Looking ahead, the future plan is to personalize the production process even further.

"We're going to try to do a little bit more on the farm and hopefully try to get some of our own animals for milk. That's always been the plan," Peltier said.

"We want to get our own goat to be making our own cheese. We're always going to have our cow's milk cheese, but we want to do some other fun things as well. That's the plan going forward. It may not be this year, but

we're getting things ready."

And if you're still looking for a last-minute Valentine's Day gift, Loaf and Honey has got you covered. A limited quantity of gift packages are available that include delectable items such as Golden Prairie monastic-style cheese, ricotta, chutney, mustard, quinoa and nut brittle, desserts, jerky, massage oils and a heart-shaped beeswax candle for \$75.

For more information or to place an order, email [loafandhoneycatering@gmail.com](mailto:loafandhoneycatering@gmail.com).

## Trails in Petersfield longer than ever before

By Katelyn Boulanger

This year the walking, skiing and skating trails on Netley Creek in Petersfield are better than ever before with residents coming together to clear over six kilometres of pathways to enjoy.

"We've been plowing some trails on the creek there for a few years but it was always, you know, a piece here and a piece there. But this year, I guess with everybody being home and around, people kind of picked up a chunk of it [to keep up] and it actually stretches for about two miles on the north side and then there's some on the south side as well," said Stan Grocholski, one of the members of the Petersfield community who plow portions of the trails.

He says that though the surface of the trail this year is very smooth, he hasn't flooded the trail for skaters.

"It's just the ice itself and it just seemed like everything fell in line this year. With the warm weather and then the ice, the creek actually froze very smoothly. Some years when it freezes, it's pretty rough but this year it's pretty smooth and then we had the

beautiful warm weather and not that much snow. So, yeah, it's nice to see everybody out there walking and enjoying it and a lot of the people on the creek. They built skating rink for the kids as well," said Grocholski.

He wanted to ensure residents knew that many people in the community contribute to the creation and maintenance of the trails; however, he personally does his part because he enjoys seeing people use them.

"You know, you don't have to worry about traffic or anything like that. So it's a nice walk," said Grocholski.

One resident who appreciates the work that members of the community do to keep the trails in tip-top shape is Muriel Pow, who wanted to thank everyone who is involved in the maintenance of the trail.

"We would just like to thank them very much. We appreciate the fact that they're doing it," said Pow.

She appreciates having a place to be able to get out and be healthy and active but also wants residents to be mindful of the weather when they head out and make sure to dress up according to outside conditions.

Facebook contest

Send a

# #I LOVE selfie

for Valentine's Day

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS

Post a selfie of you and your Valentine on our Facebook page and together you could

## WIN A 1 NIGHT STAY

at Victoria Inn & Hotel & Convention Centre

Locations in Brandon, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg & Flin Flon

**CONTEST RULES:** Go to the Express Weekly News Facebook page and post a picture of you and your partner on our page before midnight on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021. Following the deadline, all the pictures received will be placed in our "Love Selfie" album in order to give the general public the chance to "like" the selfie of their choice. On Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, the couple whose picture got the most likes will win a 1 night stay at one of the Victoria Inn & Hotel & Convention Centre locations in Brandon, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg or Flin Flon. The name of the winner will be announced on our Facebook page and in the Express Weekly News on Thursday, Feb. 25.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Stewart signs with Winkler Flyers

By Brian Bowman

The Winkler Flyers have had a lot of very good hockey players sign with them over the years.

The latest one lives right here in the Interlake.

Interlake Lightning defenceman Kaden Stewart recently signed with the MJHL's Flyers.

"I'm real excited, it's pretty cool," said Stewart, who lives in Warren. "They asked me to sign January 11 and I thought about it with mom and dad. I knew I would but we just had to talk it over and figure out what I would be doing with university next year. I went down there, signed the papers, and took a picture."

Stewart is pleased that Winkler selected him in the MJHL's Bantam draft. The Flyers have always been known as a solid organization that treats its players well.

"They have such a great organization over there and it's a great city," Stewart said. "There's lots of opportunity there and they have been in the MJ for over 40 years."

Winkler will be losing just one defenceman, Kaeden Tenkoppel, next season due to graduation, meaning

they have seven guys on the back end eligible to return.

It's going to be a tough lineup for Stewart to crack, for what he hopes, is his rookie season in the MJHL.

"As it stands now, I was talking to the head coach Kelvin (Cech) and he said they'll have two returning left-hand defencemen and three returning right-hand defencemen," Stewart noted. "I'm a left-hand defenceman so work ethic will come down to whether I make that team."

With all hockey seasons on pause, Stewart has been working out in his home gym and hitting the outdoor rinks with his cousin, Dawson Cowan, a goalie with the U18 Lightning.

"It's awesome to have a goalie to shoot on," Stewart said.

Stewart is in final season of U18 "AAA" hockey with the Lightning. He scored a goal in four games before the league was shut down due to COVID-19.

More importantly, Interlake was off to a great 3-1 start.

"We got off to a good start playing Central Plains and it was good to get those three wins," Stewart said. "Then we played Pembina Valley and they're

a better team than Central Plains so they kind of gave us a reality check and humbled us a little bit."

Last season, Stewart scored four goals and had 27 points to go along with 91 penalty minutes in 45 regular-season games.

"Last year was a step in the right direction," Stewart said. "I got some more confidence from the first year, (put in some good work in the off-season), and I felt going into the season that I was well prepared. It was exciting to see all of the hard work pay off."

Stewart already has some junior hockey experience, playing three games with the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's Stonewall Jets last season.

"It was so much fun," Stewart said. "It was such a great time and Brock (Couch) is a great coach and Dale McClintock is a great GM. They're great guys to play for."

Stewart's current coach, Scott Wong, believes Stewart has all of the tools to be a very good junior hockey player.

"I have three really good (defence-men) but Kaden is one of my top ones," said Wong on Sunday afternoon. "He's big and strong and he



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake Lightning defenceman Kaden Stewart recently signed with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Winkler Flyers.

wins a lot of battles. That's why we were successful so far this season."

Besides his physical presence, Wong loves Stewart's ability to produce offence from the back end and his leadership.

"He can shoot the puck," Wong said of his alternate captain. "He has a very heavy shot and moves the puck well. He's a tremendous asset to the team."

## Canada Basketball cancels 2021 U15 championships

From Basketball Manitoba's website

Canada Basketball announced last Thursday the cancellation of the 2021 15U Men's and Women's National Championships due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Canada Basketball, in consultation with the National Championships Committee, which is made up of PTSO members, local hosts and partners, reached the decision to cancel this summer's championships.

Despite the cancellation, Canada Basketball will continue to work with the National Championships Committee on alternative options for 15U and 17U identified provincial team athletes. Canada Basketball will share additional details on these options, as well as announce the hosts for the 2022 Canada Basketball

15U Men's & Women's Nation-

al Championships at a later date.

"As we continue to work together in the fight against COVID-19, in consultation with basketball and medical leaders from across Canada, we've arrived at the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Canada Basketball National Championships," said Glen Grunwald, president and CEO of Canada Basketball.

"We will be exploring options to bring the basketball community together safely this summer and are already looking forward to resuming nationals in its traditional format in 2022."

Basketball PEI was to host the 2021 Canada Basketball 15U Men's & Women's National Championships from Aug. 1 to 8, 2021, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, while the 17U age group was originally sched-

uled to compete at the Canada Summer Games.

However, last fall, the Canada Games Council and Niagara Host Society announced that the Canada Summer Games in Niagara had been rescheduled for Aug. 6 to 21, 2022.

"While we're disappointed to not be able to host a marquee event like the 2021 Canada Basketball National Championships, we understand that the pandemic has significantly altered the sport landscape and event schedules across the world," said Joshua Whitty, executive/technical director, Basketball PEI.

"We look forward to being back in a position to safely host nationals in the future and welcome players from across the country to Prince Edward Island."

Basketball Manitoba executive di-

rector Adam Wedlake added, "It's been a tough year for basketball and the community as a whole and we are empathetic to the athletes and coaches that will be impacted by this. We will work closely with the Manitoba public health authorities to provide as many basketball opportunities in the coming year while still respecting and following the guidance in place to ensure a safe return to the court."

The health and safety of all athletes, coaches, officials, support staff, volunteers and spectators is of primary importance and was a driving factor behind making this difficult decision. Additionally, significant disruptions to athlete training and preparation over the last year, along with uncertainty surrounding travel and event hosting logistics were also considered.



# Sigurdson leading Beavers to strong season

By Brian Bowman

Denali Sigurdson experienced the heartbreak of having her hockey nationals cancelled last year due to COVID-19.

She really hopes that doesn't happen again this year as her very talented Minot State Beavers' team will be hosting the 2021 ACHA Women's National Tournament from April 15 to 19.

Minot State has a really great fan base that supports all of their athletic programs.

"We have a really good support of fans," Sigurdson said last Friday. "We're hosting the national championship tournament this year and I think that will be really good for the community. It's a really good environment to play in. I was really upset (that nationals) got cancelled last year because of COVID. This will be my first (national) tournament and playing at home will be really exciting. I'm hoping that my family can come across the border to watch."

Minot State has gotten off to a great start this season, posting a 7-1 record heading into last weekend's two road games against Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska.

"We have a really good team and a lot of good players," said Sigurdson, a Riverton product and former Interlake Lightning. "We all have different aspects that we bring to the team and we keep on working on the little things in practice."

Minot State has been outstanding defensively this season, allowing just 11 goals in the first eight games. Five of those goals allowed came in a 5-1 loss to Adrian College on Jan. 15.

Sigurdson found her way to Minot through her

former Lightning U18 "AAA" head coach Dean Rebeck.

"The (Minot State coach Ryan Miner) was really good friends with my 'AAA' coach and he got me talking to Miner and it just went from there," explained Sigurdson, who is studying radiologic technology.

Miner is from Winnipeg and is a former goalie at Minot State. The Beavers' lineup this season is loaded with Canadians, including 10 from Manitoba.

"It was nice because I knew a lot of the girls and played against a bunch of them," said Sigurdson, who describes herself as an offensive defenceman who enjoys joining the rush. "It definitely helped ease the transition from playing in Canada to the States."

Sigurdson, now in her second year with the Beavers, enjoys playing for Minot State. She only played 11 games last season because she had to sit out the first semester because she was only 17. Players have to be at least 18 years of age to play U.S. college sports.

"It was a bit difficult (at first) being away from family," said the 19-year-old. "It was kind of hard to leave but the girls are super nice and they welcomed me. It's been really fun and I'm glad I made the decision of going."



Denali Sigurdson



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Riverton's Denali Sigurdson, a former Interlake Lightning, is in her second season with the Minot State Beavers' women's hockey program.

Minot State is back in action this weekend with a pair of home games against Lindenwood University. Saturday's game is set for 4:30 p.m. while puck drop for Sunday's contest is 1 p.m.

## Hockey Canada cancels 2021 national championships

Submitted by Hockey Canada

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel all spring 2021 national championships, including the Esso Cup, TELUS Cup, Centennial Cup, presented by Tim Hortons and Allan Cup.

The announcement was made last Friday.

The following is a statement on behalf of Hockey Canada from Tom Renney, chief executive officer, and Scott Smith, president and chief operating officer:

"Despite a strong desire to work with four great communities to host the top players at various levels across the country this season, the health and safety of all participants and the communities at large continues to be of the utmost importance to Hockey Canada. The ongoing pandemic, coupled with the fact that many regions in the country are not currently playing organized hockey, left us with no other option. We believe the decision to cancel our spring 2021 national championships is the safest decision

given the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic at a local level, as well as the uncertainty around each region being able to compete for a national championship.

"Hockey Canada is grateful for the continued support of local host committees and event partners, including B.C. Hockey, Hockey Alberta, the Saskatchewan Hockey Association, the Ontario Hockey Federation and the Canadian Junior Hockey League, as well as the communities of Penticton, B.C.; Prince Albert, Sask.; Calgary,

Alta.; and Dundas, Ont.; and all local and provincial funding partners. Our organization is appreciative of the commitment and support of all stakeholders and we look forward to showcasing our national championships and all participants to fans next year."

Hockey Canada will continue to work with event stakeholders to host the spring 2022 national championships with a confirmation of all 2022 host communities to be announced in the coming months.

## World women's curling championship cancelled

Staff

The LGT World Women's Curling Championship, scheduled to take place March 19-28 in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, has been cancelled following a decision by the Swiss Local Health Authority not to support the event.

The announcement was made this

past Monday.

"Our staff and the local organisers had worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of all our athletes, officials, staff and volunteers working at the event," said World Curling Federation President Kate Caithness.

"We are extremely disappointed that the athletes who have worked so

hard to compete for a World Championship title will not have that opportunity for the second year in a row due to the cancellation of the event.

"We will be evaluating all the options available to us in order to complete the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games women's team qualification process and do everything we can to

ensure that it's carried out on the ice in competition."

Canada's national Scotties tournament is set to take place later this month in a bubble format in Calgary.

Camp Morton's Kerri Einarson is the defending Canadian women's champion.



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2 acre lot for your new home just 2 miles east of Arborg on River Rd. Trees on north side of lot. \$65,000. Ph 204-941-9124.

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## HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bdrm. country house for rent. Available March 1st. Ledwin area. \$500/mo. plus utilities. Phone evenings 204-641-3615.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of **LOUIS MARIE CONAN**, late of the Postal District of Fisher Branch, Manitoba, Deceased. All Claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at his office at P.O. Box 200, Ashern, Manitoba, ROC OEO, on or before the 11th day of March, 2021.

DATED at Ashern, Manitoba, this 4th day of February, 2021.

**PAUL D. GEISLER J.D.**  
**DUNCAN E. GEISLER**  
LAW OFFICE  
Solicitor  
of the Executor

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**Please call 204-941-9124**



Rural Municipality of  
**FISHER**

## INVITATION TO QUOTE HOURLY EQUIPMENT RATES

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting quotes for hourly rental rates for various equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates for the 2021 construction and maintenance season.

Quotation forms may be obtained at the Rural Municipality of Fisher Office, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, Manitoba.

Deadline for proposals is **12:00 p.m. on March 1st, 2021.**

Rural Municipality of Fisher  
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0  
Phone: (204) 372-6393  
Fax: (204) 372-8470  
Email: [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)

## ASHERN



## We Are Hiring! Positions available:

- **3 Full-time Summer Student Salesperson positions**, May 3 - September 4. Hours and dates flexible, must be able to lift 50 lbs unassisted and available to work Saturdays.

**Application deadline: April 17, 2021.**

- **Permanent part-time salesperson and/or lumber yard worker.** Must be able to lift 50 lbs. unassisted. Class 5 Drivers licence holder is preferred.

**Please submit resume at #28 Railway Avenue, Ashern, or by e-mail to [jason.carpenter@homehardware.ca](mailto:jason.carpenter@homehardware.ca)**

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### Conditions of tender:

1. Interested parties must rely on their own inspections and knowledge of the property
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### Terms and conditions:

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering the terms and conditions of the sale.

### Submit tender to:

Wes Huston, Box 78,  
Stephenfield, MB, R0G 2R0

**Call 204-828-3633 for more information.**



Rural Municipality of  
**FISHER**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AUDIT SERVICES

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites proposals for the service of an auditor, and for the preparation of the municipality's annual reports for the fiscal years 2021, 2022 and 2023, all inclusive, in accordance with the qualifications and duties prescribed by *The Municipal Act* respecting the financial affairs, books, accounts, records and transactions to the municipality.

The Rural Municipality of Fisher has a Utility Fund, an L.U.D. of Fisher Branch, and Handi-Van Services.

Proposal to include an amount for one (1) year and an amount for three (3) years.

Sealed envelope to be marked "AUDIT SERVICES"

Proposals must be received by 9:00 a.m. Tuesday March 2, 2021.

For Further Information, please contact the undersigned.

The Council has the sole authority to make the appointment of auditor and reserves the right without prejudice to reject any and/or all proposals.

Kelly Marykuca, CMMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Fisher  
Box 280, Fisher Branch, Manitoba R0C 0Z0  
Phone: (204) 372-6393  
Email: [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY



## MUNICIPAL CLERK TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH

Due to an upcoming retirement, we are currently seeking a self-motivated, responsible and well-organized Municipal Clerk. This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity.

Being the front desk Reception, the primary responsibilities include but not limited to, greeting the public, providing information, processing tax payments, Utility Bills, miscellaneous payments, deposits, issuing certificates, answering/directing calls, customer service, general office administration. The successful applicant will perform a variety of clerical work requiring the ability to work independently, while also supporting the needs of a busy department. Days and hours of work are Monday to Friday 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Qualified candidates will have a minimum 5 years' experience in an office atmosphere and completed a minimum of Grade 12. Administrative Assistant Certificate is considered an asset.

### The ideal applicant will have:

Experience in general accounting, be excellent in interpersonal, time management, organizational, analytical, research, communication, presentation, problem-solving skills and proficiency with Microsoft programs. Experience with Municipal MuniWare Program is considered an asset. Municipal experience and thorough knowledge of local government and municipal administration and records keeping is also considered an asset.

Wage will be determined by qualifications and experience.

The Town of Winnipeg Beach provides an attractive benefit package, including Health, Dental & Vision, Pension Plan, Long Term Disability, Life Insurance and AD&D.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit a detailed resume marked "Municipal Clerk" to the undersigned by the end of business day; Friday, February 26, 2021. Please list previous experience and at least 3 references.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Please submit resume to:

Roger A. Bouvier, Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Winnipeg Beach  
Box 160, Winnipeg Beach, MB R0C 3G0  
Email: [cao@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:cao@winnipegbeach.ca)  
204-389-2698

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CONT. ON NEXT COL.

fer full benefits and pension and a flexible schedule with options for day, evening, night or weekend shifts. If hired you will be asked to pass criminal record and child/abuse registry checks. Please apply in writing to: Executive Director, Riverdale Place Homes Inc., Box 968, Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0 or email: kfinnson\_rph@outlook.com  
Application deadline: Feb.26, 2021. For more info contact: Kathy Finnson, Exec. Director 204-376-2940, ext. 1

Like working with wood and working close to home? 204 Pallet & Packaging in Stony Mountain is looking for full time production workers. Please call 204-344-5404 for details.

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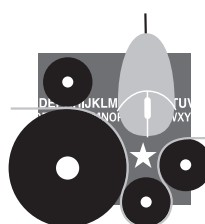
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McMunn & Yates Building Supplies Ltd., a COR certified leading supplier of building materials and construction products, is currently accepting applications for the positions of Delivery Driver/Yard Associate in our Eriksdale location.

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Get ready to build your career as we continue to build our company. We are currently recruiting for an individual to add to our team. As a valuable member of our team your duties will include customer service, packaging orders, delivering building materials, loading and unloading trucks as well as general yard maintenance. Knowledge of building materials is an asset but not required.

The successful candidate will show a commitment to delivering outstanding customer service, must be dependable, detail orientated, be able to lift/carry a minimum of 50 lbs. and be in possession of a valid class 5 driving license.

We offer a competitive salary & benefit package. If you would like to build your career with our company, please forward your resume with cover letter, in confidence to:

**McMunn & Yates Building Supplies**  
Eriksdale Branch | Box 8 Eriksdale, MB R0C 0W0  
Attn: Brian Smith | Email: bsmith@mcmunnandyates.com

We thank all candidates in advance; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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## MORTGAGE SALE

The buildings and land known as 19160 Arnes Road, Arnes, MB Manitoba, and as described in Certificate of Title No. 2063442/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 3rd day of March, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. by a licensed auctioneer, by way of video or teleconference. Attendees are required to pre-register with Taylor McCaffrey LLP at least 24 hours prior to the auction by submitting the following information: 1. your full legal name; 2. your email address; 3. your telephone number; 4. the address of the subject property; and 5. the date and time of the auction by telephone to 204-988-0443 or by e-mail to [dransom@tmlawyers.com](mailto:dransom@tmlawyers.com). On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions.

The property is also known as Jad's General Mart and is located approximately 11 miles north of Gimli along Provincial Road No. 222.

TO THE BEST of the vendor's knowledge, there is situated on the property a one story frame convenience store and gas bar, offering groceries, movies, post office boxes, restaurant and gas, built in 1970, approximately 2465 square feet, with 7 rooms consisting of sales area, kitchen, storage, post office, dining room and 1-three piece bathroom, located on a lot with 208.71 foot frontage and 104.72 depth, private well and septic field. The property also contains an older detached single garage.

**PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES:** nil

**REALTY TAXES** (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2018.

**TERMS OF SALE:** a deposit of \$6,700.00 by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to conditions which will be available for public view at the Auctioneer's address above prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$48,750.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 1st day of February, 2021 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca).

GST will be payable on the purchase price at the time of closing unless the purchaser is a registrant under the Excise Tax Act for GST and, on or before the closing date, provides a Declaration and Indemnity to that effect, satisfactory to the vendor's solicitor.

FURTHER information may be obtained from: Taylor McCaffrey LLP  
2200 – 201 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3L3  
**Attention:** Daniel Ransom  
Phone: 204-988-0443  
File No.: 86693-100



## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER JOB POSTING TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH

The Town of Winnipeg Beach, located 45 minutes north of Winnipeg, is searching for a highly motivated, efficient, experienced municipal leader to fill their Chief Administrative Officer position. As the administrative head of the municipality, the successful candidate will lead our senior management team and staff through effective human resource management and will develop and implement services, programs, projects, and objectives that further Council's collective vision.

This position is also responsible for overseeing all municipal services, including infrastructure maintenance and development, engineering, public works, utilities, fire services and recreation. The CAO will also liaise with stakeholders and other municipalities and levels of government on significant projects affecting the municipality. The position will include multi-tasking to organize, plan, coordinate and direct all operations to ensuring that the Municipal Act, our municipal by-laws, and policies are adhered to.

We are seeking a graduate of the University of Manitoba Continuing Education Division Certificate Program for Municipal Administrators, or equivalent education, with a minimum of 5 years experience in municipal administration. Incumbent will be a strong team builder and have demonstrated leadership, supervisory, and conflict resolution skills and will be able to deal effectively with the public. Working knowledge of Municipal and Provincial legislation is required along with experience in municipal software programs and Microsoft products.

Salary will be set in accordance with the successful applicant's qualification and abilities.

For additional information, please contact Roger A. Bouvier, Chief Administrative Officer at [cao@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:cao@winnipegbeach.ca) or by calling the Chief Administrative Officer at 1-204-389-2698. Position will remain open until filled. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

The following parcels of farmland are hereby offered for sale by tender:

- The SE ¼ of Section 32-22-3 EPM (approx. 150.90 Acres)
- The SW ¼ of Section 32-22-3 EPM (approx. 153.91 Acres)

The parcels include approx. 270 acres of cultivated land in the RM of Bifrost-Riverton 2 miles N and 2 miles E of Arborg.

Sealed written tenders for any or all of the property described above will be received by:

**D'Arcy & Deacon LLP**  
2200 – One Lombard Place  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0X7  
Attn: Tomas Masi

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER

1. Bidders may tender on all or any of the above parcels and must rely on their own inspection/knowledge of said property.
2. Tenders must be delivered to D'Arcy & Deacon LLP by 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2021. Please mark package "Attn: T. Masi".
3. Tenders must be accompanied by a \$20,000.00 deposit by way of a certified cheque payable to "D'Arcy & Deacon LLP in Trust". Deposit cheques accompanying unaccepted bids will be returned.
4. Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to enter into an agreement covering the terms/conditions of the sale.
2. The closing of the sale and transfer of possession of the property shall be on April 1, 2021 or earlier by mutual agreement. In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender shall be paid by April 1, 2021, or evidence that said funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the Vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid in accordance with said terms, the deposit paid shall be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
3. The successful bidder will be responsible for payment of GST and all realty taxes following December 31, 2020.

For further information contact Tomas Masi at:  
PH: (204) 977-0321 Email: [tmasi@darcydeacon.com](mailto:tmasi@darcydeacon.com)



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 17th day of March, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at 329 River Road, Arborg, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
177630	THE SLY 95 FEET OF PARCEL 'E' AND THE NLY 105 FEET OF PARCEL 'F' PLAN 10410 WLTO IN LOT 6, EAST OF THE ICELANDIC RIVER IN SECTION 17-23-4 EPM - 134094 ROAD 20E	L -\$11,300 B -\$14,600	\$3,958.50
405500	LOTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 BLOCK 2 PLAN 2389 WLTO IN RL 5 WEST IN SECTION 20-23-4 EPM 49 THORVALDSON STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$5,000 B -\$29,600	\$5,680.32
410800	S 1/2 OF LOT 3 PLAN 2799 WLTO EXC, GREENWOOD AVE. PLAN 15218 WLTO IN LOT 5 WEST, OF 20-23-4 EPM - 87 REGGIE LEACH DRIVE, RIVERTON	L -\$7,000 B -\$102,100	\$7,531.84
431200	LOTS 9 AND 10 RANGE 2 PLAN 13740 WLTO (L DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SECS 20 AND 21-23-4 EPM - 73 QUEEN STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$6,100 B -\$38,200	\$3,113.67
434100	LOT 48 RANGE 2 PLAN 13740 WLTO (L DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN, IN SECTIONS 20 AND 21-23-4 EPM - 160 KING STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$6,100 B -\$1,100	\$2,051.27

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton as follows:
  - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - iii) A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2021.

Managed by:



Jordan Willner  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton  
Phone: (204) 376-2391  
Fax: (204) 376-2742

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

Level: Intermediate

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



**Rural Municipality of FISHER**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FISHER

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 1st day of March, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 PM, at Rural Municipality of Fisher, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
378600	NW 1/4 36-24-3 WPM SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE CROWN LANDS ACT	L -\$210,900	\$11,771.63
414400	ALL THAT PORTION OF NE 1/4 7-25-2 WPM WHICH LIES SE OF PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 16574 WLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 701672 WLTO	L -\$149,100	\$8,737.82
414600	SE 1/4 OF 7-25-2 WPM SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISOS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L -\$175,200	\$9,808.06
427200	SE 1/4 1-25-3 WPM EXC THE SLY 165 FEET PERP OF THE ELY 264 FEET PERP SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISOS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L -\$68,200 B -\$6,600	\$5,666.93
457000	SW 1/4 35-26-3 WPM SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISOS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L -\$127,100	\$6,906.20

#### The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Rural Municipality of Fisher as follows:
  - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.

Managed by:



Kelly Marykuca  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Fisher  
Phone: (204) 372-6393  
Fax: (204) 372-8470

### Rural Municipality of Woodlands EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Rural Municipality of Woodlands invites applications for the position of Office Clerk. As a member of our team, you will perform a variety of tasks, including processing payments, greeting customers, typing council meeting minutes, filing, updating website, assisting with municipal elections.

As the successful candidate, you will possess the following:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills, computer skills, organization skills, customer service.
- Attention to accuracy and detail.
- Ability to deal with people in a tactful and diplomatic manner.
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License.

This is a full-time position, non-unionized position, consisting of 37.5 hours per week, and offers a comprehensive benefits package.

A full job description is available by contacting the RM Office at (204)383-5679 or on our website at [www.rmwoodlands.info](http://www.rmwoodlands.info)

Please send resume with references by 2:00 P.M. on February 17, 2021 to the following:

R.M. of Woodlands  
Box 10, Woodlands, MB, R0C 3H0  
Attention: CAO  
or to [finance@rmwoodlands.ca](mailto:finance@rmwoodlands.ca)



### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Public Utilities Board has approved the following Order No. 5/21, varied by Order No. 6/21.

**RE: Rural Municipality of Gimli – Gimli Urban Centre, Gimli Business Park, Aspen Park and Pelican Beach Water Utilities – Amalgamation of Water Utilities and Surcharge to Recover Debenture Servicing Costs Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System Upgrade**

**Surcharge to Recover Debenture Servicing Costs for the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System Upgrade**

The board grants approval of utility debenture surcharges to recover debenture servicing costs for the Gimli Amalgamated Water Utility water treatment plant and distribution system upgrades at a rate of \$0.43 per cubic meter, to be charged on actual consumption on metered customers and based on estimated consumption of 118.15 cubic meters per year for unmetered customers.

The debenture surcharge is effective January 1, 2021.

**Gimli Urban Centre, Gimli Business Park, Aspen Park and Pelican Beach Water Utilities – Amalgamation of Water Utilities**

The board grants approval of the application for the amalgamation of the Rural Municipality of Gimli (RM), Gimli Urban Centre, Gimli Business Park, Aspen Park and Pelican Beach Water Utilities, to be known as the Gimli Amalgamated Water Utility. The amalgamation and revised rates are effective April 1, 2021. (Amalgamation varied by Order No. 6/21 to be effective January 1, 2021)

The Board varies the RM's application for revised rates for all customers of the Gimli Amalgamated Water Utility and grants approval of the rates as follows:

Amalgamated Water Utility	
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 25.07
Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 1.85
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 50.05
Flat Rate per REU**	\$ 100.36
Minimum Quarterly Charge - Flat Rate	\$ 125.43
Bulk Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 2.64
Bulk Water (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 12.02

\*Based on 13.5 cubic meters

\*\*One Residential Equivalency Unit (REU) based on 217 cubic meters per year

Please visit [www.gimli.ca](http://www.gimli.ca) for a full copy of Board Orders 5/21 & 6/21.

## MORTGAGE SALE

The buildings and land known as 121150 PR 222 Hwy, RM of Gimli Manitoba, and as described in Certificate of Title No. 2166555/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 3rd day of March, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. by a licensed auctioneer, by way of video or teleconference. Attendees are required to pre-register with Taylor McCaffrey LLP at least 24 hours prior to the auction by submitting the following information: 1. your full legal name; 2. your email address; 3. your telephone number; 4. the address of the subject property; and 5. the date and time of the auction by telephone to 204-988-0443 or by e-mail to [dransom@tmlawyers.com](mailto:dransom@tmlawyers.com). On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions.

The property is also known as Bobby Jo's Ice Cream and Amusements located on the SW Corner of Arnes Rd. & Highway #9, Arnes (Gimli), Manitoba.

TO THE BEST of the vendor's knowledge, there is situated on the property a single story wood frame commercial structure built in 1962, approximately 1458 square feet, located on a 2 acre lot, concrete foundation with crawl space, 580 square foot wood deck along the front of the building, private well with 2 holding tanks. The interior is subdivided into 2 sections, one being the counter area and seating area. There are 2 washrooms containing a water closet and sink off the counter area with a small utility room behind the main counter space. The second section is a larger eating area which houses approximately 16 people with small booths.

**PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES:** Caveat No. 1655687/1

**REALTY TAXES** (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2018.

**TERMS OF SALE:** a deposit of \$2,800.00 by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to conditions which will be available for public view at the Auctioneer's address above prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$21,750.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 1st day of February, 2021 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca).

GST will be payable on the purchase price at the time of closing unless the purchaser is a registrant under the Excise Tax Act for GST and, on or before the closing date, provides a Declaration and Indemnity to that effect, satisfactory to the vendor's solicitor.

FURTHER information may be obtained from: Taylor McCaffrey LLP Lawyers  
2200 – 201 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3L3  
**Attention:** Daniel Ransom  
Phone: 204-988-0443  
File No.: 86693-101



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BIRTHDAY



Happy 60th birthday to  
Lorna Thomas  
February 11th  
-Love from your family

BIRTHDAY



Greg Stevens  
Happy 70th Birthday February 14th  
and Happy 2nd Retirement!  
You are my Valentine (and my Santa) and  
everything to me! Happy Birthday and  
retirement (again)! Looking forward to having  
more time to travel and spoil the grandkids  
(when allowed)!  
-Love Mary,  
your children and grandchildren

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of  
Margaret Smith  
September 27, 1937 – February 10, 2019  
The Day You Went Away  
They say that times a healer  
But as the time goes on,  
I seem to find it just as hard  
To face the fact you've gone.  
And today it's the anniversary  
Of the day that you went away  
And I'm standing here at your graveside  
And believe me when I say.  
You'll never be forgotten  
And every year I'll shed a tear  
But it's only because I love you  
And wish you were still here.  
-From your children  
Nadine (Ed) and Shawn;  
Grandchildren Chris, Caryl, Isabella,  
Meadow and Paige

OBITUARY



**Edwin Peter Kowalsky**  
March 12, 1934 – January 31, 2021  
It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our Husband, Dad, and Grandpa. On January 31, 2021, at the age of 86, Edwin peacefully passed away surrounded by his beloved family at home as he wished.  
Edwin will be forever missed by his wife Lillian (Chyzzy), his best friend for over 62 years. His children Donna, Shirley, Peter, Carol (Dave), Linda (Greg), Wanda (Gordon), David (Soo). Grandchildren Lindsey (Ty), Kyle, Rachel (Alex), Logan (Shanelle), Dylan (Amandine), Lexi. Great-grandson Caden. His sister Florence Hallson; his sisters-in-law Vicki, Valerie, Cecilia, Minnie; and brothers-in-law Eddie and Robert. Dad also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews along with their families and many dear friends too numerous to name.  
Edwin is predeceased by his parents Peter and Bronislawa Kowalsky, two infant brothers, brother Walter, many brother and sisters-in-law, his nephew Richard and great-nephew Riley.  
Edwin was born on March 12, 1934 in Morweena, MB to Peter and Bronislawa who immigrated from Austria and Poland. Dad was the youngest of five children. He attended school in Morweena until the age of 13, he then helped on the farm with his father. As a young boy he had a love for animals and that carried on throughout his life. Edwin met Lillian as a young man and they were married on October 4, 1958. Together they built their home beside his parents. Over the next 10 years they welcomed seven children. Dad worked away at numerous jobs during the winter, and always came back to farming. Dad and Mom took lots of pride in their yard and spent many hours planting large gardens and countless trees. They enjoyed raising pigs and chickens to help provide for their growing family.  
In his early 70s he retired from farming, but always stayed busy. Dad was proud to live in Morweena his entire life, an area that his Mother and Grandfather helped name. He had the greatest sense of humour, was a great listener and was always more than welcome to open the doors of their home, even to complete strangers. Dad loved anything to do with building and innovating. As we all know he would always be the first one there to lend a hand to anyone who needed. Our Dad wore many hats from being a carpenter, welder, mechanic, road builder, pulp cutter, and his biggest pride of all was being a farmer. He also had many hobbies including hunting, ice fishing, playing crib with good friends, watching Jeopardy, wood working, and any chance to spend time in the meat shop with family and friends. He enjoyed sharing many of his hobbies with his grandchildren. Dad has left us with the gift of taking pride in all that we do, and to work hard and take care of each other.  
Dad was very proud to have his parents house moved to the Arborg Heritage Village. When the home arrived, Dad enlisted the help of his family and friends to restore Baba's house so that it could be enjoyed by visitors for years to come.  
A private family ceremony took place on February 5, 2021 and Edwin was laid to rest next to his parents at the Morweena Community Cemetery.  
In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Arborg Heritage Village or the Morweena Community Cemetery.  
"Dad,  
your guiding hand on my shoulder will remain with me forever."

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## OBITUARY



### James Joseph Leslie Mikula

With heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of James Joseph Leslie Mikula on February 1, 2021; born September 7, 1962 in Eriksdale MB.

He leaves to mourn his partner Sherry; children Andrea and Jordan; grandchildren Leeland, Chiara, Blake, Aubrey and Kourtney; brothers and sisters, Andy (Janet), John (Darlene), Myrna (Randy), Dolly (Ken), and Carol (Grant); nieces and nephews Charlotte, Wanda, Candida, Adam, Bryce, Tammy, Tannis, Daniel, Crystal, Erica, Lynnette, Megan and Ashley.

He was predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Connie, and his wife Carol Mikula.

Jim was a great outdoorsman. He loved his snowmobiling, quadding and was so proud of his campsite in Mulvihill. He was a superb craftsman, and his work will be one of his lasting legacies.

Jim was a staunch community supporter and always ready to lend a hand. His grandchildren were a light in his life.

Jim will be sadly missed by his family and so many friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

'til we meet again.



204-886-0404

## OBITUARY

### Baillie John Davies

Peacefully, on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at his residence, with family by his side, Baillie Davies, aged 70 years of Gimli, Manitoba, beloved husband of Kathy passed away.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held.

If so desired, donations in Baillie's memory can be made to the Gimli Humane Society or Manitoba Mutts.

Condolences may be left on his tribute wall at [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

## OBITUARY



### Wilf Edward Ansell

April 13, 1950 – February 5, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Wilf on February 5, 2021, at the age of 70.

He was predeceased by his parents Edward and Frances Ansell. Wilf leaves behind son Aaron (Jody); grandchildren Desiree (Reuben), Darren (Brittany); brother James; sisters Connie and Colleen; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A special thank you to his nephew Dwayne McArthur.

Wilf was born in Arcola, Saskatchewan. He moved to Inwood in 1959 with his family who owned and operated the Lantern Café. In 1966 his family moved from the area, but Wilf later returned to Inwood in 2002.

His hobbies included his love of model airplanes and fishing. You could find him at the Gimli Airfield most weekends. He worked for the R.M. of Armstrong for nine years before retiring in 2020.

There will be no funeral at this time, however a celebration of life will be held for family and friends at a later date.

Special thank you to the doctors and nurses at the Stonewall Hospital.

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Love is patient, love is kind; it is not jealous, conceited or proud; love is not rude or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

1 Corinthians 13:4 TEV

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