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Enjoying the outdoors

EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Loni Beach resident Greg Carlson was out enjoying the Camp Morton Provincial Park cross-country ski trails last Sunday. The trails were pristine and the temperatures were perfect for some outdoor exercise.

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Ashern's Railway Park to get outdoor covered stage

Survey outlines ideal scenario

By Evan Matthews

Exactly how Ashern's Railway Park will look after its re-development is uncertain, but one way or another, the LUD knows it will look quite a bit different.

Trevor Emilson, chairperson for the Ashern LUD, said the idea to re-develop the park originally came about two years ago.

"It's been an under-utilized space, as it's right in the centre of town," said Emilson.

"We wanted to see something going up there that the whole town could use. The first thing we proposed was to put a pavilion in," he said, adding that entertainment in the form of outdoor events was always a priority but even more so now with COVID-19 and social distancing.

Emilson said the LUD is aiming to have a pavilion constructed by late-spring in order to have residents enjoy the space over the summer. Though the blueprints have been drawn up,

Emilson said the LUD does not have a final cost from contractors just yet.

Ultimately, Emilson said the building's cost will fall somewhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

"It's going to be like an open concept bandstand. It'll be a covered stage, like you'd see in most towns," said Emilson, emphasizing accessibility, as the facility will be 100 per cent wheelchair accessible.

"The building is step one. We're in the process of hiring a design engineer right now for the whole park."

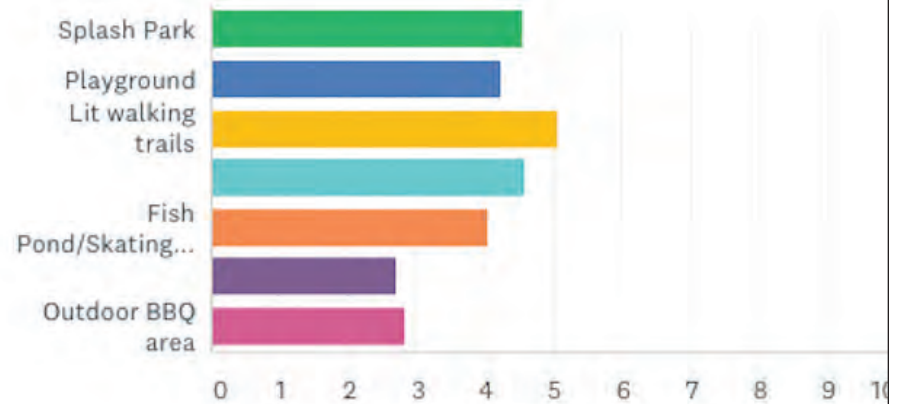
By hiring a design engineer, Emilson said the LUD wants to create a 10-year development plan for the park. In addition to hiring a design engineer, he said the LUD surveyed the community to gauge what residents wanted to see happen with Railway Park.

The survey, which had 40 participants respond, asked residents if they could build Railway Park "your way,"

"IT'S IMPORTANT TO INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY, OUR RATEPAYERS AND OUR SPACES."

If you could build Railway Park your way, ho...

Answered: 37 Skipped: 3



Railway Park

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ashern LUD surveyed residents as part of a 10-year development plan for Railway Park.

what they'd like to see. In the order of most popular to least, residents said they wanted to see a splash pad, winter skating pond, lit walking trails, seating areas, a playground, outdoor fitness stations, a fish pond and an outdoor barbecue area.

"We'd like to have an immersive plan and have everything tie in together

rather than doing a little bit here, a little bit there, and hoping things look good together," said Emilson.

"It's important to invest in our community, our ratepayers and our spaces. This is a long-term investment in the community itself."

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Ice jam mitigation program underway on Red River

By Nicole Buffie

Twenty-eight kilometres of icy tundra will soon turn into a flowing river of jagged chunks in the coming weeks as the province prepares to unleash the Amphibex machines for their annual ice jam mitigation program.

For the last 15 years in February and March, North Red Waterway Maintenance Corporation has hauled the fleet of lime green machines down the Red River to assist in flood prevention by breaking up the frozen water as to not cause jams during the spring melt.

The corporation was formed by the RMs of St. Andrews and St. Clements as well as the City of Selkirk in an effort to address increasing concerns of spring flooding along the river, where Darrell Kupchik and his team “wrote the book” on the ice-breaking program.

“We’ve all seen what happens when you do have an ice jam like we had in 1996. There was a major ice jam along the Red River and it caused millions of dollars of damage along the Red River, and lots of beautiful homes were flooded. It was really a disaster,” Kupchik said. “And that’s really what kind of got this program started was looking for a way to make sure this never happens again.”

In September 2019, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler issued a request for information as the province sought to lease out or outright sell the Amphibex machines, citing the government’s desire to seek a better deal in the open market than the \$1M annual contract carried out by North Red to operate the machines.

“As the ice jam mitigation program is only active for a portion of the year and the equipment may be used for other purposes, such as dredging, there is an opportunity for an entity to pursue other activities — when the ice-jam mitigation program is inactive — under a revenue-sharing agree-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY NICOLE BUFFIE
Ice fishers must begin to move their shacks off the Red River to make way for the Amphibex machines.

ment between the entity and Manitoba,” said the document.
The original intended use for the machines was to prevent flooding by dredging waterways in springtime to prevent build up of soil and plant material. The province realized the Amphibexes could be used for the same thing at the end of winter to prevent spring flooding and retrofitted them to break up ice along the Red River.

In December, Schuler announced a five-year contract of operations for the contraptions was awarded to Winnipeg Environmental Remediations Incorporated, a Manitoba-based company that provides comprehensive environmental services, general contracting and civil earthworks to a variety of industries in both the private and public sectors throughout Canada and the United States’ according to a Dec. 30 press release.

With the new company overtaking responsibility of the program, Kupchik said the company hired 15 of his staff to continue operations.

“We want to make sure that the program itself does not suffer in any way. We’ve put a lot of effort into building this corporation and developing these



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

The Amphibex ice-breaking crew will cut and break approximately 28 kilometres of ice on the Red River from Selkirk to Netley Creek starting this week.

techniques and researching the correct equipment and finding staff and training them,” he said. “You can’t just walk away from something like this. You have to ensure that you’ve done everything you can to make sure it’s successful.”

To carry out the program in a timely manner and ensure the least amount of damage is done to properties on the Red River by spring flooding, Kupchik said the Amphibex began their tour

de Red at the mouth of Netley Creek working towards Netley Lake on Feb. 22 and will turn back and run down the river towards Selkirk.

As for North Red Waterway Maintenance, they will be dissolving as a corporation in the nearer future.

“We’re just pleased that the ice jam mitigation program is continuing, and the residents along the Red River, the municipalities, you know, greatly appreciate this program,” Kupchik said.



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Arborg farmers concerned about veterinarian shortage

By Evan Matthews

As farms head into calving season, concern is growing among Arborg residents, as its local veterinary hospital will be without staff by the end of February.

Chad Johnson, Ward 2 councillor for the RM of Bifrost-Riverton and member of the Interlake Veterinary Services board, said the Arborg Veterinary Hospital will soon lose three of its doctors.

"It's hard to know why this happens once in a while, but you know, it could be some of these vets graduate from medical school and look for a position," said Johnson.

"At some point, maybe they find positions a little closer to home, I don't really know. It was very abrupt, receiving these resignations. ... But it's out of our control.

"They weren't our employees; they were Dr. Taylor's employees," he said, adding that the Interlake Veterinary Services board was caught off guard.

Johnson said Dr. Lisa Taylor has worked as a vet at the Arborg Veterinary Hospital for roughly 25 years. The hospital is operated by the Interlake Veterinary Services board.

When the *Express* asked for comment from the Arborg Veterinary Hospital's veterinarians, the office manager referred all questions back to the Interlake Services board.

Dr. Taylor also runs her own private practice in Gimli.

"Our understanding is Dr. Taylor is moving on from the Arborg location to focus on her private practice," said Johnson, adding doctors Tara Vielfaure and Avril Sinclair will also be moving on.

"We're definitely going to be short-staffed, but we've been making calls," he said, adding the board has put out job advertisements with the Manitoba Veterinary Association.

While no one has applied yet, Johnson said the board has made calls to other veterinarians who aren't far away, and the response has been positive. In a pinch, he said it sounds like there will be some help available to Arborg area residents.

But there have been no firm commitments, he said.

"We've got to be optimistic. We've never gone without veterinarians in our area," said Johnson, pointing to other areas that have.

"Fisher Branch, Ashern, Lundar, etc., they've all lost vets at various points and have had to have outside vets come in to help."

In regards to access and availability, whether or not operations such as the Arborg hospital's hours will be subject to change, Johnson said everything is up in the air.

As the board works to secure staff, he said it's not just farmers with animals going into calving season who have legitimate reason to be concerned but families with pets as well.

"We can't give anyone answers until next week, at least, when we have information from some of the vets we've spoken with in the area," said Johnson, emphasizing people can access the Arborg Veterinary Hospital until the end of February.

"Call the Arborg Vet Hospital until the end of the month, if need be. We're hoping by that time, we've secured another vet and will ensure the operation of the clinic and hospital."

Few details about COVID-19 vaccination super site in Selkirk

By Patricia Barrett

The province released few details last week about a super site it will establish for COVID-19 vaccinations in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) other than that it will be in Selkirk and launch in March depending on vaccine supply.

The Selkirk site, along with a site in the "Morden-Winkler area," is scheduled for "launch" on March 5, according to a Feb. 17 vaccine bulletin.

"These sites will deliver vaccine to eligible Manitobans and also serve as a distribution hub for Focused Im-

munization Teams (FITs) and pop-up clinics. Further details will be released in the coming days," states the bulletin.

The province released no details about where in Selkirk the site will be located, who will be administering the vaccine, what COVID vaccine will be used and how and when people can start booking an appointment.

An IERHA spokesperson didn't say where the site will be located when asked, only that it's "scheduled to open on March 5 and the site will be vaccinating anyone who is eligible for

vaccination based on provincial eligibility criteria. These criteria don't yet include members of the general public."

The province is still working on inoculating healthcare staff. It expanded its eligibility criteria to include people who work in congregate living facilities, including licensed personal care homes, and who were born on or before Dec. 31, 1955. It also clarified that family physicians and nurse practitioners in primary care clinics born on or before Dec. 31, 1960, are also eligible for immunization.

Criteria for super sites include their ability to serve as a "distribution hub" for a health region, population density, ability to hold fridges/freezers to store vaccines, separate exits and entrances and parking or public transit, according to a provincial vaccine update document titled COVID-19 Vaccination in Manitoba, Technical Briefing, which is current as of Feb. 17.

Focused immunization teams (FITs) were scheduled to visit 49 personal care homes last week to administer about 3,600 second doses to residents, according to the briefing. Second doses are to be delivered to all PCHs before the end of February.

The next step will see FITs starting on "high priority congregate living settings which includes hospitals, supportive housing and assisted living sites," states the briefing.

The province is offering projections as to when the general population could be inoculated.

In the low range inoculation scenario, which is based on Health Canada's two approved COVID vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna), the gen-

eral population could be inoculated by December.

The high range inoculation scenario is based on Pfizer, Moderna and "other vaccines that have not yet been approved" by Health Canada. It shows the general population could be vaccinated by September.

There is no vaccine for those aged 17 and under.

The province also launched a Vaccine Queue Calculator on its COVID-19 website. It doesn't provide a date as to when people (based on their age) could receive their jab, only an estimate of how many people are waiting in line ahead of them.

An 85-year-old person, for instance, who is not a personal care home resident, a congregate living resident, members of a First Nations or a health-care worker, has 70,511 people ahead of him/her in line if 70 per cent get vaccinated.

A 35-year-old person, who falls into none of the above categories, has 501,597 people ahead of him/her if 70 percent get vaccinated.

The province has experienced delays in vaccine shipments from manufacturers. It has had to procure more than vaccines: specialized equipment such as shipping containers to transport different vaccines, specialized freezers (the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires temperatures around -80) and syringes are also part of the vaccine rollout program.

To help with the vaccination effort, the province is planning to ship vaccine "to as many as 1,200 physician and pharmacist sites once a suitable vaccine is approved for this mode," states the briefing.

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Andrea Smith

Andrea Smith is a nurse practitioner who brings to the clinic 13 years of nursing experience that includes hospital, emergency and primary care. She has lived in the community with her husband and two children for 14 years.

Kelsy Griffin is a primary care nurse who started her nursing career in 2011 on the surgical ward in Selkirk. She has worked across the Interlake including in Gypsumville and Seymourville with the Mobile Clinic, Riverton Community Health Clinic, Selkirk Quick Care Clinic, as well as with home care and in hospital.



Kelsy Griffin

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Interlake-Eastern
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Historic vote on universal pharmacare Bill C-213; drug coverage for all with a \$4-billion saving

By Patricia Barrett

Canada is the only developed country in the world that lacks a true universal healthcare system, one which publicly funds dental care and the cost of prescription medication.

That's why a British Columbia member of parliament has sponsored a bill to put prescription drug coverage on par with the country's publicly funded health-care system.

Peter Julian, NDP MP for New Westminster-Burnaby, introduced Bill C-213 (Act to enact the Canada Pharmacare Act) to establish a publicly funded, inclusive pharmacare system that will ensure all Canadians have access to the medications they need.

If enacted the bill would provide a number of important economic spinoffs as well, including reducing the financial burden small businesses incur through drug coverage plans for employees and saving the federal government over \$4 billion a year.

Julian's bill passed first reading last year, and Canada's MPs will be undertaking a crucial vote on Feb. 24 (second reading) that will either move the bill forward or defeat it.

"This is an historic vote because it's the first time in our history that Canada's Parliament, the House of Commons, will vote on public universal pharmacare," said Julian by phone. "There have been a lot of promises and election campaigns that have gone on for decades, and symbolic motions supporting the concept of public universal pharmacare, but this is the first bill that actually brings it into being."

Part of the reason Canada has remained an "outlier" on universal pharmacare is that pharmaceutical companies with "so much power" have pushed back against legislation, said Julian. MPs have to think about their constituents' needs.

"It doesn't matter how much money you earn or if you're very poor, you should have access to medication. We have close to 10 million people without access to medication right now. And over one million are really struggling to pay for their medication," said Julian, who has served as MP since 2004.

"On any given month, we know we've got people having to skimp on heating in the wintertime in Manitoba. We know how hard the choice can be between heating their home or paying for medication that can often be \$1,000 a month. People have to skimp on food because they have to choose between eating or getting medication that will keep them alive. This is a choice Canadians shouldn't have to make, that people in Manitoba and the Interlake shouldn't have

to make."

Gimli resident Bill Buckels is among the millions of Canadians struggling each year to pay for medication he says he can't do without.

He thoroughly investigated a number of private health benefit plans and found them unaffordable, he said. Most plans won't cover pre-existing conditions and if they do, they'll provide only a few hundred dollars a year of coverage when a few thousand is needed.

"To get a benefit plan that even gives partial drug coverage would cost \$4,000 a year. I can't afford that," said Buckels, who's self-employed. "You can't buy 'just a prescription drug plan'; you have to buy a plan that includes add-ons even if you don't need them. It's a racket."

Buckels, a Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher and retired computer engineer/analyst, said he supports the pharmacare bill as it aims to "put a single standard in place" and provide an equitable medication system for all.

He shared with the *Express* receipts showing a year's worth of his medication costs, which include pharmacy dispensing fees. In 2020 he paid \$2,475.76 in out-of-pocket expenses that "do not get reimbursed."

He pays over \$110 each month for just one of his medications, which is provided on a one-month prescription and includes pharmacy dispensing fees.

If he could get the same medication at double the strength and on a three-month prescription, he could cut the pills in half to make them last for six months, he said. That would reduce his annual bill by about \$500. That's what many people try to do to reduce expenses.

"I'm not alone. Many average Canadians cannot afford to pay prescription medication costs. People with chronic or serious conditions are really impacted by the cost of drugs and they have to make hard choices between food or meds," said Buckels.

"Their conditions typically worsen over time because they can't earn enough money to cover the cost of the drugs they need. And then there are people who choose to die rather than live in poverty and squalor because they can't afford medication."

Drug costs are inflated by pharmacy dispensing fees, manufacturing fees, patents that keep cheap-

er versions in abeyance and pharmacies without enough clout to get the "best price" for drugs when negotiating with big pharmaceutical companies that rake in billions a year, he said. But a national government and the bargaining power it would bring to the table could eliminate middlemen, commissions and other costs.

"There's just no excuse for the high cost of medication. This is a corrupt system weighted in favour of big business," said Buckels. "A public health system should include coverage for vision and dental care and for other every other medical condition under the sun. It shouldn't be an elitist plan that's only available to some citizens and not to others."

After forming government in 2015, the Liberals voiced support for universal pharmacare and set up an advisory council to produce a report on how to implement it. Chaired by Dr. Eric Hoskins, the council's 2019 report titled *A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All* acknowledges millions of Canadians having either no coverage or gaps in coverage.

A national drug plan should be available to "all Canadians and that coverage should be the same for everyone, regardless of their employment status, age, ability to pay or where they live," the council wrote after hearing from political leaders, Indigenous communities, healthcare providers, industry stakeholders and patients.

Despite evidence of overwhelming support for national pharmacare, the Liberals failed to introduce a bill. Canadians have been waiting a half-century since former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas, who initiated universal healthcare, recommended medication costs be covered, said Julian. The Liberals had also promised it 30 years ago, but took no action.

"I think Canadians are tired of waiting," said Julian, explaining why he went ahead and introduced the bill.

In addition to setting up a national formulary (a list of medications) and an oversight mechanism to ensure provinces and territories adhere to the program, C-213 has five fundamental conditions for universal pharmacare — all of which were set out in



Peter Julian

Dr. Hoskin's report, said Julian.

The first condition is a publicly administered not-for-profit system, he said. A formulary would be "negotiated nationally" and the federal government would commit to providing money to the provinces and territories. Second, it must be universal, meaning it will cover everyone. Third, it must be accessible, meaning there'll be no financial barriers thrown in anyone's way to access the plan.

Fourth, it must be comprehensive, covering all the medications fundamental to people's health and well-being. And fifth, it must be portable so if someone from the Interlake, for instance, moves to British Columbia, they'd still have access to the system.

"One in four people in the Interlake region have no coverage for medication," said Julian, "which means some of them will be struggling to pay and others are just a sickness away from having to struggle even if they're not taking enormous amounts of medication right now."

In addition to individuals and families no longer having to worry about medication costs destroying them fi-

Continued on page 10

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Tech giants to pay media outlets?

By Evan Matthews

Should tech and social media giants of the world be forced to pay smaller media outlets when articles are shared?

Should Facebook pay the *Winnipeg Free Press* when one of their articles circulate?

It's a conversation with growing momentum.

With stock prices being what they are — Facebook is evaluated as having a net worth of \$527 billion — the simple answer should be, yes, share the media wealth.

The debate starts in Australia, where as of Feb. 18, Facebook outlawed viewing or posting of news stories on the platform in the country. Facebook is also preventing Australian media outlets to post content via Facebook to users outside the country.

Why?

It's the corporate response to the Australian government's proposal of a new law.

The new legislation demands social media and tech giants to fork over cash to publishers for articles seen on their platform.

The government rationale is that these same social media and tech giants have sucked the advertising revenues out of news outlets, which in turn limits job availability and resources within a newsgroup.

In other words, social media and tech giants are killing unbiased journalism.

Maybe most interestingly in all of this, as of last week, Canada had committed to become the next country to do the exact same thing: make Facebook (and other tech giants) pay for news.

At this point, it is likely safe to assume Facebook would impose the same technological sanctions on users in Canada as it did in Australia.

But regardless, the debate remains.

Bob Cox, publisher of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and chair of News Media Canada, told CBC last week that social media and tech giants control most advertising and have made it "difficult for other media to make a living."

He's right. While revenue and net worth for social media and tech companies soar, newspapers continue

to cease printing more so with each passing day.

The Canadian federal government doubled down, saying Facebook's handling of the situation won't stop the government from taking its stand.

Regardless of what that stand looks like, it's important to take any stand and push back against these companies.

The reality is, whether it be financially or even simply through human behaviour, it's become increasingly clear that we — the population — are at the mercy of these tech and social media giants.

While it's likely only to ensure they get their piece of the pie, in a roundabout way, it's encouraging to see our government and other governments around the world trying to advocate for independent media and citizens.

No website or platform should have as much power or value associated with it, as any of the big platforms — Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat — do.

The time to take a stand against these companies is now.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

What we should know about the COVID vaccine

Dear editor,

I had been planning on writing your newspaper a couple thousand word essay about the important issues surrounding the COVID vaccine but I decided to break my essay

up. Of course, as the editor, it is your right to reject a letter for any reason whatsoever, or even no reason. But as this issue is not only extremely relevant but also of the utmost importance to our community. I'm hoping that my letter won't be censored.

I have a degree in engineering science from University of Toronto. Although my specialty was aerospace, my course program had a wide curriculum and touched on multiple fields including biomaterials and

biomechanical engineering. These two last named courses were, without doubt, my favourites. Had my finances been different, I might have gone on to become a brain surgeon.

Since graduation, I have consistently read about 30 to 40 books each year, of which about 10 are textbooks. I have read multiple chemistry, biology and medical books.

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Local fishermen could be seen on the ice just east of Silver Harbour on Lake Winnipeg enjoying the -5 degrees C. temperatures last Sunday. Help us record the weather of the week and send in your photos of snow blizzards, rainbows, lightning storms, beach photos and more — email to weather@expressweeklynews.ca.

> LETTER, FROM PG. 6

About a decade ago, I essentially audited a three-year course in surgical medical nursing. And for the past year, I have been researching COVID issues by reading published papers in science journals, reports by medical doctors and articles by universities professors.

I am certainly not a medical doctor. Rather, I consider myself a generalist — the very type of people desperately needed in this COVID crisis — someone that can understand the experts in multiple fields, think outside the box of each discipline, and then combine the relevant information to come to sound conclusions. Not everyone, of course, will agree with my conclusions. But that is part of science: people discussing ideas, comparing notes and debating conclusions. Sadly, the entire COVID story has been predominantly one of impulsive decisions with no room for discussion. Worse yet, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have been censoring medical doctors and researchers if their work contradicted what the mainstream media is saying.

As for the vaccine issue, I have never been an “anti-vaxxer.” However, the COVID vaccine is a serious game changer, and that for several key reasons, such as:

1. The vaccines have been approved on an experimental basis only.
2. They have not been properly test-

ed. No animal tests were done. And there is no study on the potential for long-term consequences of the vaccine.

3. The mRNA vaccines use a technology that is new and has never before been tested on humans.

4. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials both found that between five and 10 per cent of the volunteers developed Class 3 severe side effects. This makes the vaccine between 50 and 100 times worse than COVID for the vast majority of the population.

5. The vaccines appear to work as a pharmaceutical drug more than a vaccine: they reduce symptoms but do not claim to prevent transmission of COVID.

6. There is talk of the vaccine being effective for only a few months (as drugs normally are), meaning that people will need to get vaccinated once or twice per year for the rest of their life (do I sense a financial benefit to the vaccine industry?).

7. All the evidence is pointing to the fact that COVID is about to finish its course and die off.

To vaccinate the entire world population with an untested and experimental vaccine that does not stop transmission for a disease that 99.8 per cent of people recover from and after that disease has almost finished its course is irrational in the extreme. Multiple doctors and researchers are

calling it immoral. I fully concur.

My suspicion is that most Canadians are going to succumb to the pressure to get vaccinated solely to escape the lockdown. But there is plenty of evidence that lockdown will not go away even after everyone is vaccinated. For instance, President Biden recently spoke of mask use being necessary for all of 2021. Likewise, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said lockdowns will continue until case numbers in the U.K. drop below 1,000 per day — something that is technically impossible even if no one in the U.K. has COVID any more (PCR tests have a false positive rate of 0.6 per cent. Since they plan to test two million school children per day, they will always have at least 12,000 false positives per day).

Further, since COVID is not the problem (it is a relatively minor disease that rarely bothers anyone beside the very old and sick), the vaccine will not be the solution.

I leave you with two articles, the first is written by a professor at the John Hopkins school of Medicine. The second is written by two dentists and simply confirms much of what I have written.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/well-have-herd-immunity-by-april-11613669731>

<https://lockdownsceptics.org/complaint-to-gmc-about-mandatory-vaccines/>

- Thomas Verduyn
Roland

AMM tours the Interlake

By Evan Matthews

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) visited the Interlake District last week, identifying a few common issues among Interlake municipalities.

AMM president Kam Blight said visiting 10 different Interlake municipalities is critical in the organization’s advocacy efforts. So whether in-person or virtual due to COVID-19, ensuring the meetings go ahead is of high importance.

“All municipalities in Manitoba are experiencing significant financial pressures in 2021 due to COVID-19 and code red restrictions,” said Blight, adding the Interlake District is no exception.

Blight cited recreation centres as one of the best examples in which RMs are taking financial hits. Hockey arenas, curling rinks, community halls, etc., the cost associated with operations comparatively with revenue simply isn’t working out.

He said the AMM will continue to advocate for municipalities in need of financial relief.

“Our members have also said they want to see better broadband connectivity across all of Manitoba, especially due to the push for e-services as it relates to the pandemic. The Interlake is also greatly affected by this. Manitoba has the second slowest Internet speeds in Canada.

“We need to call on the provincial government to expedite the provincial broadband strategy,” he said.

Lack of approval from the provincial and federal governments on infrastructure projects was another common theme, according to Blight.

Municipalities are in the best position to determine local infrastructure priorities, Blight said, and the municipalities should be empowered to take control of those priorities and ensure economic growth takes place.

“Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s absolutely vital municipalities are able to take advantage of our short construction season without further delays,” said Blight.

“We’ve already missed one construction season; it’s imperative we don’t miss another.”

The AMM delegation met with the RMs of Woodlands, Gimli, Grahamdale, Rockwood, St. Andrews, West St. Paul, West Interlake, and the Towns of Arborg, Stonewall and Teulon.

Members of the AMM’s delegation included Blight, vice-presidents Brad Saluk and Chris Ewen, Interlake District directors Cheryl Smith and Kelly Cook, and executive director Denys Volkov.

The AMM represents all 137 municipalities.

Manitoba 150 recognizes Honour 150 awardees

Submitted

Honour 150, presented by Canada Life, recognizes 150 people from across the province who stand out for their role in making Manitoba such an amazing province.

Nominated by people in their own communities in 2020, these 150 individuals range from teenagers to centenarians and represent the diversity of our province. With volunteer engagements ranging from the arts to environment, from health to education, these 150 Manitobans make our province exceptional.

Honourees receive a commemorative medal designed and created by Manitoba artist Takashi Iwasaki.

In addition, Canada Life will make a \$500 donation to the charity of each honouree's organization of choice.

Students from Red River College's creative communications program conducted interviews in early 2020 and wrote short biographies of each recipient, with a little help from volunteer mentors.

We invite you to "meet" our incredible 150 honourees:



Timothy Arnason
Gimli

Tim Arnason is a volunteer, advocate, mentor and leader and is currently the president of the Westshore Community foundation. Arnason is heavily involved in the Viking Park Campaign Cabinet.

This campaign centres around the famous Viking statue that is visited by thousands. Arnason was involved in developing a beautiful

and appropriate park setting for the statue and connecting the park to the harbor-front by revitalizing public areas and creating tree-lined pathways. He has helped reshape the area to include safe walking and biking trails and enhanced signage, while highlighting Gimli's unique culture and heritage.

He has been involved with Icelandic Festival of Manitoba for over 40 years, serving as the festival's president and now sitting on the board and mentoring other members. Arnason has been the Fjallkona escort for over 25 years. The escort is not a nominated role, but by silent majority the committee expects Arnason to fill this prestigious role each year.

Arnason has had a major impact on the Interlake region but also on those around him. He has the ability to foster a sense of community and inspire those around him. He continuously steps up to play key leadership roles in initiatives, dedicates countless hours, and never expects anything in return.

John D. Douglas, an old co-worker of Arnason's said, "I am prouder to be a Manitoban because it's a group that includes Tim. It's a community he has overwhelmingly improved."

Arnason believes that there is a lot to be thankful for and "if you enjoy your quality of life, don't take it for granted. It's your responsibility to continue improving and giving back to your community."

He recently set up a scholarship fund with his wife for



Donald Halldorson
Oak Point

students pursuing music in post-secondary education.

Donald Halldorson volunteers his time and carpentry knowledge to neighbours.

His donation will be made to The Oak Point Community Club.

In the community of Oak Point, Donald Halldorson is always the first to extend a helping hand and the first person called when something needs fixed. Morning or night, Halldorson is there sharing over 50 years of his carpentry experience.

"With working together, you can accomplish a lot of things to make a better place to live," says Halldorson.

On Oct. 5, 2019, the Oak Point Community Centre burned down, leaving a devastating hole in the community. It wasn't long after that Halldorson received a call from the community board asking if he'd be willing to help raise money and rebuild the hall.

"It was heartbreaking to see all the work [...go] up in smoke," says Halldorson.

Since retiring, Halldorson is busier than before. At the age of 73, Halldorson took a food handling course to help out in the kitchens and canteens in Oak Point and surrounding towns including St. Laurent and Lundar Manitoba.

"I always enjoyed cooking. The opportunity came along, so I took it through Red River College. I didn't think age mattered. I was only 73 years old. No matter what community function, food is always involved," said Halldorson.

His daughter, Pamela Leost, says that her dad's willingness to help in the community came from his parents, who also made an impact in the town. And now, he continues to pass down the same outlook onto his kids and grandchildren.



Maxine Ingalls
Hecla Island

For over 20 years, Maxine Ingalls has embodied Icelandic spirit in Manitoba.

Along with re-opening the largely unused community church, Maxine Ingalls has made a name for herself preserving the Icelandic spirit in Hecla.

She served as president and is acting director-at-large of Descendants and Friends of Hecla Heritage, a non-profit which operates the Hecla Heritage Museum.

"When you have a museum, it maintains the culture and maintains the history of the community you're in," says Ingalls. "It's also an effort to keep a community together: it's a gathering place, a community place and a connection to your relatives."

Ingalls has organized and directed dinner theatre to raise funds for the museum's maintenance. She's also acted as a tour guide for the island, sharing the history of the heritage buildings and how Icelandic immigrants settled the area.

Ingalls ancestors settled in Hecla Island in the 1880s. "For me, it's vitally important that we keep those memories alive and that people are aware of what the history is attached to the island."

"Maxine is a driving force behind the preservation of the Icelandic culture and heritage on Hecla Island and beyond," says Dean Amundson, chair of the Hecla Historic Village Association, who nominated Ingalls.

"She is recognized throughout the Icelandic commu-

nity for her knowledge," says Amundson. "She is continually sought after for information and advice."

Ingalls was Gimli Icelandic Festival's Maid of the Mountain ("Fjallkona" in Icelandic) in 2013, an honour given to a woman who exemplifies Ice-



Dilla Narfason
Gimli

landic heritage and culture.

Dilla Narfason is Gimli's resident encyclopedia

The people of Gimli often refer to Dilla Narfason for her encyclopedic knowledge of the town's history and genealogy. Narfason, with the help of Mary Shebski, researched and compiled a book called *Gimli Memories*. The book is now used as a historical reference for the town and people of Gimli.

As a member of the volunteer committee that looks after the Gimli Community Cemetery, Narfason has shown a commitment to the care and improvements therein. A different activity occurring on an evening in September, has been an invitation to Gimli community residents for a candlelight vigil. There a candle is placed on a grave of a family member or friend during a moment of reflection.

"It's truly moving to see the candlelight in the dark," said Narfason from her home in Gimli.

Narfason's impact goes beyond *Gimli Memories* and the candlelight vigils. She frequently visits with residents in the Betel Home and joins others for a weekly sing along with the residents. For a num-

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

ber of years on Christmas eve, Narfason made and served the Icelandic hot chocolate called "súkkulað," which was an old-time tradition.

Lorna Tergesen of the Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society (GICS) says Narfason's positive attitude is always welcomed by those she visits. Narfason has been an active member of the GICS for more than 30 years.

Gimli council chambers and municipal office visitors will see some of the results of Narfason's work in the town. The Gimli Public Art collection displays curated selections of art year-round.

Tergesen says she is grateful for all Narfason has done and continues to do for the community in Gimli. Narfason still tours the town with the municipality's public works department despite no longer serving officially on town council.



Oli Narfason
Gimli

Oli Narfason is known for helping other and sharing his song. Narfason is committed to supporting the local music scene in Gimli, namely by providing musical opportunities for teenagers.

Narfason, 95, has been heavily involved in music all his life and hopes to give as much back to the community. His particular love is singing. "I think I was born singing. I even went through two surgeries, and both times, I woke up singing," said Narfason, laughing at the memory. "That was a first for both of the nurses in recovery."

He helped establish the Evergreen Festival of the Arts in the Interlake region, the band program at Gimli High School and participated with

the Westshore Community Foundation.

"It won't be long before we will have put over a million dollars back into the community," said Narfason.

He attributes all his work to the incredible support of his family, friends and community.

"Growing up, there was always room at the table for someone who had come by or had very little. My dad used to go into town, and he took along a couple dozen eggs, and a jug of milk to drop off somewhere in need," said Narfason. "We have wonderful people in our community so willing to sacrifice their time."

His love for music and his community passes on through his family, with his daughter and granddaughter both working as teachers and surrounding themselves with music.



Helga G.J. Sigurdson
Lundar

At 100 years old, it's just the beginning for Helga G.J. Sigurdson.

Sigurdson's donation will be made to Coldwell Community Foundation Inc.

Sigurdson, 100, has volunteered setting up groundwork for organizations and community boards in Lundar and Manitoba for over 50 years.

She has been a member of the Icelandic National League of North America for over 70 years, the Agricultural Society, the Lundar Museum, the Care Home Guild, the Manitoba Ceramic Association and so much more.

Sigurdson turned 100 years old in July 2020 but says it's just the beginning.

"I feel like I'm getting younger," she said. "I have so much left to finish."

She is a mother of four, grandmother of eight, and

great-grandmother of 13, which she believes is her greatest accomplishment.

"My family is the best part of my life," she said. "I was fortunate enough to be able to raise my children in Lundar where they were close to their grandparents."

Helga Sigurdson gave birth to her daughter Linda Sigurdson-Collette, 75, during the Second World War.

"She's still a dynamite," Sigurdson-Collette said. "There's so much that she's survived in her life, but she still carries on."

As a member of the Lundar Historical Society, Sigurdson, along with two other women, edited the Lundar history book, *Wagons to Wings*. The book documents 108 years of settlement history in the Lundar District from 1872-1980.

Sigurdson helped research, design and organize the book, which is still in popular demand today, but out of print.

Sigurdson lives in her own home in Lundar and has always been proud of her Icelandic ancestry. She still participates in celebrations and get-togethers to acknowledge traditions.



Philip Thorkelson
Arborg

Philip Thorkelson is dedicated to improving the town's local heritage village museum. His donation will be made to the Arborg and District Multicultural Heritage Village.

The Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village museum has grown from a modest collection of antique buildings to a near full-scale township, thanks largely in part to the efforts of Philip Thorkelson.

The Arborg Heritage Village offers an insight into the history of rural life and farm

communities in the Interlake region before the Great Depression. As a member of the board of directors, Thorkelson has helped acquire buildings like a church, a school and several houses for the village, working alongside local tradespersons to assist in their restoration.

"When you have a village like that, it's not only bringing the buildings in, it's bringing them up to par," said Thorkelson.

"It's a village, it's ongoing. The work never ends," said Thorkelson, explaining why the Heritage Village largely relies on the work of volunteers.

A helper at heart, Thorkel-

son's first volunteer experience was in Riverton during Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations. Three decades later, he stepped up to volunteer at the Arborg Heritage Village.

Thorkelson speaks Icelandic and has provided touring visitors with an Icelandic narration of the village. He recalls once giving the former prime minister of Iceland an impromptu tour.

"I got a phone call [that a dignitary wanted to visit the village] while I was cutting grass so I got down there and greeted the prime minister."

Thorkelson continues to pitch in at the village whenever he can.

Bezan rejects liberal new firearms bill



Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman
MP James Bezan

Submitted by James Bezan

James Bezan, Shadow Minister for National Defence and Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman issued the following statement regarding the Liberal's firearms buy back program:

"As a licensed, responsible firearms owners, I am extremely disappointed by Justin Trudeau's misguided approach to gun control. Conservatives have, and will always, support common-sense firearms policies that keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals.

"Recently, the Trudeau Liberals' along with NDP and Green MPs, voted against a Conservative firearms bill and defeated it! Bill C-238 would have imposed tougher sentences for criminals smuggling or who are found in possession of illegal firearms. The Liberals' rejection of this bill shows they are not serious about stopping dangerous criminals from getting their hands on illegal guns.

"The fact is the vast majority of gun crimes are committed with illegally obtained firearms. A future Conservative government would invest in the Canada Border Services Agency, and increase support to police anti-gang and gun units, to provide law enforcement and CBSA with the resources needed to stop illegal smuggling operations and get dangerous criminals and gangs off the streets.

"Instead, Justin Trudeau is following the tradition of lazy Liberal anti-firearms policy that's easy for government, but completely ineffective. Conservatives will continue to stand up for law-abiding firearms owners and legislation based on evidence, not on ideology."

Three international students dead in fatal crash

By Evan Matthews

Three international students are dead following a car accident south of Arborg last week.

Aranoor Azad Chowdhury, Risul Badhon and Al Numan Aditta died at the scene. The trio had been returning to Winnipeg from their trip in which the young men were taking in the northern lights, according to the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA).

RCMP said a 53-year-old woman from the RM of Armstrong driving the other vehicle was seriously injured, but her injuries were non-life-threatening and she was taken to a Winnipeg hospital.

RCMP identified two of the men as being 23 years old, but did not state the age of the third man. Alcohol was not a factor, according to RCMP.

All three of the men were from Bangladesh, studying at the University of Manitoba as exchange students. Aditta was a business student; Badhon

studied accounting and business; and Chowdhury was taking stats.

RCMP said a vehicle travelling north on Highway 7 collided with a south-bound car near Arborg, roughly 10 kilometres south, around 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Media reported the three men had driven north in a convoy, with three cars outside of their own. On the way back, two cars drove ahead, the three men followed, and the fourth car stopped behind them to re-fuel.

By the time the fourth car had started heading back to Winnipeg, media reported the car's occupants drove past a head-on collision, which they would later find out involved their friends.

The MIA said in a statement to the *Express* its community has been greatly affected and is in contact with the families and communities of the men, as they make decisions about whether the bodies are to be sent home or if a funeral will be held in Canada.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

University of Manitoba exchange students from Bangladesh, left to right, Aranoor Azad Chowdhury, Al Numan Aditta and Risul Badhon were all killed in a head-on collision south of Arborg on Feb. 18.

Once the MIA has an idea of the family's intentions, fundraising ef-

orts will begin to help the families cope.

> BILL C-213, FROM PG. 5

nancially, there would be favourable economic spinoffs to adopting a universal drug program, he said. Publicly administered programs are "cheaper,

more effective and cover everybody." Number crunching at the national level has demonstrated substantial cost savings.

"We would as a country, according to the Parliamentary Budgetary Of-

fice, save \$4 billion a year by moving to universal pharmacare," said Julian.

Cost savings would also trickle down to small businesses across the country, including in the Interlake.

"The PBO also said all the small businesses that have a drug plan for their employees are paying on average about \$600 a year," said Julian. "With universal pharmacare, they'll no longer have to provide that support ... and businesses can invest in other things or job creation. There'd be more economic development in places like the Interlake."

A groundswell of organizations such as CARP, Canada's largest advocacy group for older adults, the Heart & Stroke Foundation and the College of Family Physicians of Canada have issued statements in support of universal pharmacare and are encouraging Parliament to enact the bill.

The United Food and Commercial Workers union wrote last November that prior to the arrival of COVID-19, over 7.5 million Canadians lacked adequate drug coverage or had none at all. With millions of jobs lost to pandemic, "even more Canadians lack drug coverage."

Julian said there has been some "pushback" to his bill from pharmaceutical companies that feel their profits will be diminished. But there has also been "enormous support" from across the country.

In the last few weeks alone, he said they've had "100,000 Canadians contact their MPs to tell them to vote yes on Bill C-213," as well as hundreds of municipalities, cities, towns and villages formally endorsing the bill. Two

out of the Interlake's 20 municipalities — Rockwood and West Interlake — with their "very progressive councils" have come out in favour of universal pharmacare.

Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin, reached late last Friday, said he and council threw their support behind the bill because "what's good for one person should be good for everyone." Council provided a letter last December in support of the bill.

"It should be equal across the country; that's the way I look at it," said Reeve Taplin. "This is all about how we can work together for the same goal."

Julian said should the pharmacare bill pass second reading — which requires between 165 and 170 MPs casting votes in favour — it will be referred to the Common's health committee before third and final reading. Should it pass the House, the bill will go to the Senate for three readings.

"This is the big test of our parliamentary democracy," said Julian, referring to the Feb. 24 vote. "If there was a referendum on [universal pharmacare], it would win by 90 per cent. So the question is, are MPs listening to their constituents?"

A petition in favour of universal pharmacare is available on Julian's website, and he has been encouraging the public to send messages to their MPs and the prime minister. He's also organizing an "e-rally watch party," which he said people can join by sending an RSVP to his office. The public can also watch the vote on TV on the parliamentary channel, CPAC.

If you see this guy this month, congratulate him on 25 years of employment at Smitty's Furniture in Arborg.

Thank you to Rene Sutyla for being an essential part of our business's success.
Your contributions to this company are greatly appreciated!
Thank you for your positive attitude and hard work.
- Larry and Darlene Kornelsen and staff

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Package #4
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Package #5
Bask in luxury at some of Winnipeg's hottest and most indulgent spas and culinary hotspots.

Package #6
Traverse the shores of Lake Winnipeg and take in the sites along the way, including stays at lakefront resorts.

Package #7
Put a check on your bucket list as you kayak with belugas, take in the northern lights and spy polar bears with a flight credit that will get you to Churchill.



Enter now at manito.ba/sweepstakes

CONTEST CLOSING FEBRUARY 28, 2021. Full contest rules and prize details are available online at manito.ba/sweepstakes. Please remember to practise safe travel and physical distancing throughout the province.

Manitoba

CANADA'S HEART BEATS

Gimli resident and local ski club have a heart for the Heart & Stroke Foundation

By Patricia Barrett

A Gimli business owner who suffered a cardiac arrest last year and lived to tell the tale has teamed up with the Gimli Cross-country Ski Club to help the Heart & Stroke Foundation with its annual fundraiser.

Stefan Tergesen of H.P. Tergesen & Sons general store has stepped up to help raise funds for research that will stay in Manitoba.

"Because Heart & Stroke can't go door to door, we've created a campaign that will get people out on the trails, whether they want to ski or snowshoe, and will help them care of their hearts and their health," said Tergesen by phone last week. "Part of the fundraiser is to get people doing some activities."

The fundraiser hits close to home as Tergesen had suffered a cardiac arrest at Toronto's Pearson Airport in January 2020 while en route to India for a family event.

He said he had run across the airport to catch a connecting flight to Dubai. While in line at the departure gate, he felt dizzy and the next thing he knew he was being loaded in an ambulance.

"My heart just stopped and I dropped dead. Luckily for me, there were people nearby who knew what to do with the AED machine (defibrillator). Fast-acting people and great technology brought me back," said Tergesen. "I can thank the Heart & Stroke Foundation, too, because they fund the research, the knowledge and the training, and the technology."

He received a stent — a piece of metal inserted up a vein to his heart to hold open a blockage — at a Toronto hospital, he said. Having a cardiac arrest came as a complete surprise to him as he has always been mindful of his health.

"I live a healthy lifestyle so I'm not what you would call a target for a heart attack," said Tergesen. "I think the fact that I was strong and healthy helped me make a quick recovery. It was bizarre for me."

He said he's not living his life any differently as a result of the experience as he has always lived a "go-for-it lifestyle," getting out in the world and enjoying life because "you never know."



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF STEFAN TERGESEN
Stefan Tergesen helped decorate trails in Camp Morton and around Gimli with hearts in support of the Heart & Stroke Foundation's fundraiser.

Shortly after his cardiac arrest came COVID-19 with a whole new set of challenges for business owners. When provincial public health orders kept non-essential businesses closed, Tergesen had to focus on online merchandising and curbside pickup in his turn-of-the-century store, which carries clothing, footwear, kitchen gadgets, giftware, books and unique items, including Viking helmets.

"I've been forced to work so much and I haven't been able to focus on my health as much as I'd like to. My next plan to get my business running a little smoother," he said. "It has been such a strange but interesting year; when it looked like I would have an opportunity to take a break,

everything would change again and I'd have to reinvent my business."

Tergesen is encouraging everyone to enjoy the trails around Gimli and other parts of the province.

The Gimli Cross-country Ski Club maintains 15 kilometres of groomed trails (maps are available on the club's website) that wind through Camp Morton Provincial Park, on both sides of PR 222. Some are multi-use and others designated for skiing, snowshoeing and hiking.

"We're taking the money that's raised or donated in Manitoba and specifying that it be used on research here in Manitoba," said Tergesen. "And CP [Canadian Pacific] is tripling donations up to \$100,000 during February."

CP has invested \$3.5 million since 2015 to fund Heart Health Research, according to the Heart & Stroke's webpage.

Volunteers have decorated trails across Manitoba with hearts that they've hung from trees to remind people of the benefits of taking care of their heart. Tergesen helped decorate the trails at Camp Morton and around the town of Gimli.

"To encourage people to get out on the trails, I also put hearts along the boardwalk in Gimli," said Tergesen. "They're little reminders while you're on a trail about the fundraising event."

People don't necessarily have to get out on the trails in order to make a donation to Heart & Stroke.

The current fundraiser is open until March 10. Visit Tergesen's Facebook page to learn more about donating to Manitoba research or search for the "Manitoba team" on Heart & Stroke's website.



The Westshore Community Foundation

is accepting applications for grants from eligible registered charities.

Application forms at

Westshorefoundation.ca

Mail completed applications to:

Box 395, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Monday March 15th, 2021

NO LATE APPLICATIONS TAKEN

For more information email

westshorefdn@hotmail.ca

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Ben Grocholski Scholarship Fund



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Created in Memory of

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(cheques payable RM of Fisher,
Memo Ben Grocholski Scholarship Fund)

- Noventis Credit Union

(cheques payable Ben Grocholski Scholarship Fund)

RECYCLING NOTICE

Riverdale Place workshop will not be picking up recycling on the below mentioned dates due to the small group of workers available.

Mon. Mar 1, 2021 at Riverton Business places
Tues. Mar 2, 2021 at Arborg Curbside pickup
Wed. Mar 3, at Arborg Business places
Thurs. Mar 4, at Riverton Curbside pickup

Mon. Mar 15 at Riverton Business places
Tues. Mar 16 at Arborg Curbside pickup
Wed. Mar 17 at Arborg Business places
Thurs. Mar 18 at Riverton Curbside pickup

Mon. Mar 29 at Riverton Business places
Tues. Mar 30 at Arborg Curbside pickup
Wed. Mar 31 at Arborg Business places
Thurs. April 1 at Riverton Curbside pickup

Thank you for Recycling

Fishermen warning of carbon monoxide danger



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Ice fishers are reminded to keep a carbon monoxide detector handy after a couple was found dead in their ice fishing tent on Jan. 30. RCMP believe CO poisoning was a factor.

Gas-powered heater thought to be cause of death of couple

By Nicole Buffie

Fishers on the Red River and Lake Winnipeg are urging caution while keeping warm with portable heaters after an accident that left a Manitoban couple dead while ice fishing.

A man and woman were found unresponsive in an ice fishing tent on the Red River on Jan. 30 and were later pronounced deceased in hospital. RCMP believe carbon monoxide, dubbed “the silent killer,” played a role in the accident.

Rick Gergatz, a member of the Lake Winnipeg Ice Report and 20-year ice fishing veteran, said harm and poisoning can happen quickly.

“In the air you breathe, there’s carbon dioxide, and there’s about 400 parts per million and you can probably take 5,000 parts per million before it has any kind of effect to you,” said Gergatz. “But when it’s carbon monoxide, it can be as low as 50 parts per million [to] affect you, and 100 could kill you.”

Fumes generated from portable heaters, which keep ice fishing tents and shacks warm, can quickly build up in an enclosure causing dizziness, headaches, shortness of breath and death in extreme cases.

Gergatz said with the influx of new fishers looking for outdoor activities amid COVID-19 restrictions, it’s important to highlight the dangers of the undetectable gas.

Rick Wur, the fire prevention officer for the Selkirk Fire Department, said while the fatality is the first he’s seen of this nature, he urges fishers to stray

on the side of caution.

“If it’s an enclosed area with no air movement, you don’t need very many emissions to cause problems,” he said. “If you have some kind of a fuel-burning device that you’re bringing inside, you need to have it adequately vented or you’re gonna have problems.”

Gergatz said even with ventilation in place, if there’s not enough air circulation or air flaps on tents freeze it can make for a dangerous situation.

He noted that most portable and gas-powered heaters, while meant for outdoor use, are being sold to fishermen without knowledge of the potential dangers they pose.

“When they sell these propane heaters, it says right on the box ‘not for internal use, only for external use,’” Gergatz said. “Well, who would use one outside? Everyone uses them inside because it’s an easy heat source.”

He said it’s up to both businesses to educate new fishers on carbon monoxide poisoning when purchasing heaters, as well as manufacturers to have warning labels on packaging.

In an effort to bring awareness to the issue, Gergatz gave away carbon monoxide detectors to fishermen on his Facebook page and encourages all fishers to have one in their tackleboxes for the next time they head out on to the ice.

“Even if you’re just out for the day or fishing in an enclosure for the day: have the flaps open, get some fresh air into the place, and have a carbon monoxide detector with you,” he said.

GIMLI Ice festival



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See Details & Register For These Activities On The Festival Website Starting Feb 27!

New primary care clinic now open in Winnipeg Beach

Submitted by IERHA

People living in and around Winnipeg Beach now have more opportunity to access health care close to home, as today Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, with support from the Town of Winnipeg Beach, officially opened a new primary care clinic that can help with every day health-care needs.

It is the fifth primary care clinic Interlake-Eastern RHA has opened in the past year. At the new clinic, located at Winnipeg Beach Plaza (Unit J at 54-60 Main St.), a nurse practitioner and primary care nurse will be available for non-urgent care by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Having a new clinic close to home is more than a matter of convenience for people in the community," said Connie Nixon, clinical team manager for primary health care within Interlake-Eastern RHA. "Easily accessible and regular, ongoing care from the same care providers can prevent more serious health problems and reduce the need for hospital and emergency department visits. It's better for the patient, and it's better for the health-

care system, too, which is why we've made primary care initiatives a priority in Interlake-Eastern RHA."

Andrea Smith is a nurse practitioner on the care team who brings 13 years of nursing experience that includes hospital, emergency and primary care. She has lived in the community with her husband and two children for 14 years.

"We all have a great affection for the beach and the many family activities that happen throughout the year around here," said Smith. "I'm excited to offer my expertise at the new clinic because I feel like I can make a difference in people's health and in their lives."

Also providing care at the new clinic is Kelsy Griffin, a primary care nurse who started her nursing career in 2011 on the surgical ward at Selkirk and District General Hospital (now Selkirk Regional Health Centre). She has worked in areas and communities across the Interlake including Gypsumville and Seymourville in the Mobile Clinic, Riverton Community Health Clinic, Selkirk Quick Care Clinic, as well as with home care and in hospital.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left: receptionist Lynn Hoplock, primary care nurse Kelsy Griffin, and nurse practitioner Andrea Smith.

"I'm grateful to live with my husband and two children in this beautiful area and love what rural life has to offer. We all enjoy activities that let us spend time outdoors together," said Griffin. "This is also a great place to work, and I look forward to providing care for people in the community at the new clinic."

Nurses at the clinic will be able to

help people with most of their everyday health matters. When necessary, they can also consult with specialists and community partners. It's a team approach that ultimately means better and more co-ordinated care for patients in the region.

To book an appointment at Winnipeg Beach Primary Care Clinic, call 204-389-3649.

Grahamdale invests in search and rescue 'Snowbulance'

By Evan Matthews

The RM of Grahamdale has upgraded a piece of its search and rescue equipment.

Dollard Gould, fire chief and Ward 6 councillor for the RM, said the RM has invested \$8,400 for a new Snowbulance Equinox Deluxe, a major upgrade from the municipality's current set up.

"We've been using an open sleigh for search and rescue

since the mid-1980s, which we've shared with the snowmobile club," said Gould, adding the new model will also be shared and cost-shared 50/50.

"That's all we had for rescue. ... We've had the RCMP borrow it for rescues on Lake Winnipeg. We've had multiple rescues off Lake St. Martin, so it gets used," he said, adding the investment is more about having access to the equipment when it's needed, as opposed to the how often it's actually used.

The new addition, the Snowbulance Equinox Deluxe, is a closed sleigh with room for an injured occupant as well as a paramedic, according to Gould. The order has been placed, Gould said, and will arrive sometime this year.

It boasts a black powder-coated steel frame, a fold-up attendant's seat, adjustable tie-down belts, a limited rotation shock-absorbing hitch with safety chain, reflectors and tail lights, running lights, gas shock suspension, restraint belts, EMS decals, an emergency strobe-light, as well as one rear and two side searchlights.

"It can be pulled by a snowmobile or four-wheeler. It's a great machine, and I'm really excited about it for our fire department and our northern Interlake community," said Gould.

"There is an attachment, too, which allows us to add wheels in the summer. It'll be used year-round."

Whether or not outdoor recreation has increased due to COVID, Gould said there is a higher number of people participating in winter



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Grahamdale recently ordered a Snowbulance Equinox Deluxe to upgrade some of their search and rescue equipment. recreation on or near the lakes.

With the Grahamdale RM Fire Department's coverage zone largely being the northern Interlake between Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba, the need for adequate search and rescue equipment has increased.

"A lot of people who are choosing to go out there, they aren't very experienced on the lakes. If you ever end up on the lake in a white-out, you can find yourself in trouble pretty fast," said Gould.

"This is going to benefit the entire northern Interlake, its RMs and communities, its First Nations, everyone," he said, adding the Grahamdale RM Fire Department attends calls for four First Nations including Lake St. Martin, Little Saskatchewan, Fairford and Dauphin River.

An advertisement for Noventis Credit Union. It features a woman with long red hair and glasses, wearing a yellow sweater, holding a yellow piggy bank. The text reads: "Are you invested in your financial future? We can help. Ask us now." At the bottom, it says "noventis.ca" and "Noventis CREDIT UNION".

Virtual Ice Festival 9.5 offers outdoor challenges, prize draws and memorable moments

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Ice Festival will be celebrating by half this year because of COVID-19 provincial public health restrictions that have banned large groups of people from gathering.

Instead of in-person events that would have in pre-COVID times drawn thousands of people to Gimli each year in March, festival co-chairs Susan and Peter Holfeuer are offering a smorgasbord of fun that includes virtual activities, outdoor activities that individuals and families can do on their own and some memorable moments from festivals past to “remind us of better times.”

“We’re calling this Stay Safe festival year the 9.5 edition ... because 2021 would have been the 10th year of the festival and we don’t want that celebratory occasion for the countless volunteers, sponsors and loyal festival attendees to be forgotten,” said the co-chairs in a statement posted on the festival’s website.

Between Feb. 27 and March 7, festival-goers will have an opportunity to earn some prizes or kick back with hot chocolate and marshmallows and enjoy an online show.

Kids can get colourful and creative with festival mascot Cooley’s colouring contest, which comes with three prizes of \$50 each (random draws).

The contest is free and open to kids 12 years of age and under. PDF templates that kids can colour will be available for downloading from the festival’s website. Photos of the finished artwork must be submitted by March 8 in order to be included in the prize draws.

Although there will be no group gatherings this year, some festival events will get people into the great outdoors.

The snow sculpting contest (for Gimli residents only) invites participants to create a snow sculpture that represents a particular culture. Creators can make their sculpture any size and use props to help identify the culture they’re depicting. There is no fee, but people must register. Each participant will receive a Gimli Ice Festival medal.

People can also take part in a five- or 10-kilometre physical challenge through activities such as walking, running, snowshoeing, skating, biking and cross-country skiing. A record of the distance completed must be submitted by March 8 through the festival’s website. The event is free, but registration is required.

For every participant that registers, the festival will donate \$5 to the Gimli Chamber of Commerce.



Gimli Ice Festival co-chairs Susan and Peter Holfeuer.

“During this very difficult time many local businesses in Gimli are being adversely affected,” wrote the co-chairs. “The Gimli Ice Festival has greatly benefited from the support of local businesses since its conception, and as such is committed to give back by donating \$5 (up to a maximum of \$1,000) to the Gimli Chamber of Commerce for every participant that registers and reports having achieved their 5K or 10K distance goal.”

Other initiatives for the 9.5 festival include:

- Igloo building at Gimli harbour (Riverton & District Friendship Centre)
- Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers (online video)
- Celebrating Indigenous culture and heritage (online video)
- Celebrating winter and community (online video)
- Cook like a Viking (three online videos)
- NexGen garage band (online video)
- Photo images by Glen Martin. Gimli by the lake (over 60 images online)
- The freeze outdoor art exhibit (by Gimli high school)
- Several other videos of past festival experiences and memories
- Skating trail on Lake Winnipeg (a Gimli Community Development Corporation initiative)

Visit www.gimliicefestival.com for a schedule of 2021 activities.

The Holfeuers noted they’re planning the 10th edition of the Gimli Ice Festival for March 2022 and that it will be a celebration “you won’t want to miss.”



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The 2021 Stay Safe festival will be celebrated virtually and with activities families can do on their own.



Co-op Community Spaces is investing \$1M to fund local community projects

February 2021 – For years, Co-op has been creating places for Western Canadians. This year as we have been staying safe by staying apart, Co-ops continue to invest in spaces for when we can safely come back together.

Co-op Community Spaces was launched in 2015 to help protect, beautify, and improve spaces across Western Canada. Since then, it has provided \$9.5 million to 132 projects that improve the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

Entering its seventh year, the program is dedicating \$1 million in funding and is accepting applications for capital projects that will improve spaces across Western Canada.

“Locally, Moosehorn Co-op is proud to support organizations and projects that make a difference to our members and our community,” said GM/CEO Gavin Walls of Moosehorn Co-op. “Finding ways to support our community is even more important as we’ve been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We’re looking forward to a time when we’ll all be able to gather as a community again and we encourage all of our community organizations who could benefit from capital funding to apply.”

Capital funding between \$25,000 and \$150,000 per project is available. Co-op invites registered non-profit organizations, registered charities, or community service co-operatives to apply online between February 1 and March 1, 2021. Program funding categories include recreation, environmental conservation, and urban agriculture.

Federated Co-operatives Limited administers the giving program on behalf of more than 160 independent local co-ops across Western Canada that form the Co-operative Retailing System.

To learn more about Co-op Community Spaces or apply for funding, visit communityspaces.ca.

About Moosehorn Co-op

For more than 6 decades, Moosehorn Co-op has proudly served its members and communities. Today, Moosehorn Co-op has more than 50 employees that serve 5,800 members in approximately in Ashern, Moosehorn, and providing services in other surrounding communities.

Giving back to our communities is a proud tradition at Moosehorn Co-op. Since 2015, Moosehorn Co-op has donated substantial amounts to various organizations, teams, events, and supported its members with annual patronage refunds.

For more information, contact:

Gavin Walls, General Manager
Moosehorn Co-op
Phone: (204) 768-2770 Email: gm@moosehorncoop.ca

Coldwell council strips LUD of responsibilities

By Evan Matthews

Citing lack of communication and unwillingness to work collaboratively, the majority of the RM of Coldwell council has voted to strip the Lunder LUD of its responsibilities.

The Lunder LUD committee was previously responsible for anything within its boundaries, according to Coldwell chief administrative officer Nicole Christensen, adding the LUD organized and executed the necessary maintenance of the town, minus Main Street, all “under council discretion.”

Now, according to the resolution passed on Feb. 15, the Coldwell RM council has removed any powers previously delegated, written or verbal.

“There was no written policy, just an understanding that evolved with time and different councils and LUD committees as elections happened,” said Christensen in an email to the *Express*.

“The RM and LUD worked together to manage certain (governance) aspects like snow removal, which has been in discussion almost every year since as far back as 2005, and the LUD solely looked after other items like sidewalk clearing and grass cutting,” she said.

“Even though the LUD was given power to govern themselves in a certain way does not mean it was necessarily correct, and that is why coun-

cil made a democratic decision at an open meeting to make the change.”

As per the Municipal Act, Christensen said the LUD will continue to be responsible for creating a budget and service plan for the LUD district and providing that plan to council prior to council adopting its 2021 budget.

The LUD will still plan for “the way they want services to go,” according to Christensen, and create their budget “to have those services,” but it will be up to the RM to execute the plan.

“If the LUD requires something to be done, they will communicate to their council rep and he will bring it to council,” said Christensen.

She added that there is no documentation as to previous powers the RM had delegated to the LUD or for how long such an understanding would have been in place.

Councillors Kent Kostyshyn, Jim Scharf and Virgil Johnson all voted in favour of scaling back the LUD’s responsibilities. Coun. Greg Brown and Reeve Brian Sigfusson voted against the decision.

Kostyshyn, who has been sitting on council for the last six years, said the biggest reason for scaling back the LUD’s responsibilities, outside of the current lack of communication and increasing conflict, is to re-build the relationship between the RM and the LUD from the ground up.

“We want to refine our processes and streamline things so they work better than they have been,” said Kostyshyn.

He said the public response based on phone calls he’s received and on social media posts has been mostly positive.

“We were getting a ton of negative feedback regarding the LUD’s snow clearing practices, and we relayed that feedback, and it was falling on deaf ears,” he said.

“Ratepayers and business owners and residents in town were complaining, and I felt if I didn’t speak up, I wasn’t doing my job.”

But not all of council agrees with the decision, according to Reeve Sigfusson.

Sigfusson said the LUD has always been willing to work collaboratively, and in this instance, it is the three councillors who have lacked a willingness to co-operate and collaborate with the LUD.

“It has nothing to do with how things were going, or the way things were working,” said Sigfusson.

“It all has to do with hiring Paul Scharf as a casual employee in spring 2020. It all went off the tracks there. With this decision to scale back the LUD, it’s no coincidence they’ve also fired Paul as well.”

Despite council’s decision, Sigfusson said he’s placed a request with MLA Derek Johnson, who is also the minister of Municipal Relations, to look into the situation.

Sigfusson said it’s his belief that over the last two years, the RM of Coldwell has taken steps backward because of

the three councillors’ unwillingness to collaborate. He said with council’s decision to scale back the Lunder LUD, this will now become an election issue.

Comment from LUD

Though the Lunder LUD was displeased with the RM of Coldwell leading up to the recent decision, and while the LUD was aware of dissent within council, LUD member Irene Runolfson said she never expected things to get to this point.

The main concern, she said, is that the residents of Lunder are provided adequate service, and she’s not convinced they’re going to get it.

“They have one person cleaning streets and sidewalks after snow falls, picking up garbage, sanding intersections, taking care of everything public works related,” said Runolfson.

“While he’s on the grader after a snow storm, who will do those jobs in town?” she asked.

Runolfson cited the minutes from a meeting in January 2017, which clearly state the LUD asked and was then told by the RM that the LUD is responsible for its snow clearing.

She said it’s been the three councillors who aren’t willing to listen or collaborate and, for that reason, have opted to change the way things are done.

“This comes down to a personal conflict between the councillors and one staff member,” said Runolfson. “Because we’re going to bat for the employee, we’re being reprimanded also.”

“IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW THINGS WERE GOING, OR THE WAY THINGS WERE WORKING,”

Province tightens contact, self-isolation guidelines

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba’s confirmed cases of the B117 COVID-19 variant remained at four on Monday as public health officials announced 97 new cases of the virus.

Chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin said variants are to be expected. Some of these may be more contagious or cause more severe illness.

“Our goal is to slow the introduction of the variants of concern into Manitoba,” he said, explaining that as the province rolls back some public health restrictions, it needs to amp up its contact tracing and management efforts to try and stay ahead of the spread of the virus.

To that end, they’re introducing new guidelines for determining who is a close contact of known COVID-19 cases, including lowering the threshold of prolonged contact from 15 minutes to 10 minutes.

“This is a guide. If there is high-risk contacts where we feel somebody was absolutely exposed to droplets, then that could be as low as just a few seconds or minutes,” Roussin noted.

“By that way we’ll have more people identified as close contacts, so more people being required to self-isolate,” he said, adding that if someone in a household tests positive for COVID-19, all members of that household will be considered close contacts and must self-isolate.

As well, if a close contact of a confirmed case lives in a different household, all members of their household must self-isolate as well until the contact has received a negative test result.

“Close contacts will be required to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days, and that’s regardless of testing results,” Roussin said. “That’s because the incubation period of this virus is 14 days.”

The 97 new cases of the virus announced on Monday brought Manitoba’s tally to 31,483.

At press time, there were 1,219 active cases and 29,378 recoveries, 886 deaths and 206 people hospitalized with COVID-19 (78 still infectious),

32 in ICU (14 infectious).

Interlake-Eastern had a total of 163 active cases as of Monday, 10 total hospitalization (five still considered contagious), five patients in ICU (two contagious) and 35 deaths.

In the Interlake-Eastern region, there were 10 active cases in Fisher river/Peguis, 122 in Northern Remote, nine in Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet, nine in Powerview/Pine Falls and five in Springfield.

The other districts — Arborg/Riverton, Beausejour, Eriksdale/Ashern, Gimli, Selkirk, St. Clements, St. Laurent, Stonewall/Teulon, Unknown, Whiteshell and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews — were all at zero active cases at the start of the week.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Gimli's Einarson starts off 4-0 at Scotties



EXPRESS PHOTO CREDIT THE CANADIAN PRESS/JEFF MCINTOSH
Team Canada skip Kerri Einarson delivers a shot at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Calgary last Friday.

Staff

Kerri Einarson is on a roll at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Calgary.

Einarson, representing Team Canada as defending national champion, improved her record to a perfect 4-0 after an 8-4 win over Northwest Territories' Kerry Galusha on Monday.

Einarson led 4-1 after three ends before Galusha closed to within 4-3 after six. But Einarson iced the win with two in the seventh and ninth ends sandwiched around a single by Galusha in the eighth.

The game was originally scheduled for Saturday but was postponed when a member of the Northwest Territories' team fell ill due to what is believed to be food poisoning.

No one else had similar symptoms and all had tested negative on previous COVID-19 tests.

As of Monday evening's press deadline, Einarson's Gimli rink led the nine-team Pool A ahead of Ontario's Rachel Homan (3-0). Homan was scheduled to play in Monday's late

draw.

Einarson started off the nationals very strong with a solid 7-3 victory over Altona's Mackenzie Zacharias (Wild Card 2) in the opening draw last Friday.

Leading 2-1 after three ends, the Gimli crew broke the game open with three in the fourth end.

Einarson then defeated Winnipeg's Beth Peterson (Team Wild Card 3) by a 6-4 score before trouncing Northern Ontario's Krista Burns 12-4 in eight ends.

Einarson's rink includes third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur.

Five Manitoba-based teams are among a Scotties field expanded to 18 this year. The others feature provincial representative Jennifer Jones and East St. Paul's Tracy Fleury (Wild Card 2). Chelsea Carey is filling in for Fleury at this year's Scotties.

Action continued throughout the week and the Scotties will wrap up on Sunday.

Manitoba teams soaring at 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts

By Ty Di Lello

Curling is back! After COVID-19 shut down the majority of the 2020-21 season, the Scotties Tournament of Hearts is underway at the Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alberta.

The event is being played inside of a "bubble" similar to what the NHL had done for the playoffs in the summer. There are no fans in the building, but all of the games are being broadcast on TSN throughout the week for viewers across the country to watch.

This year's edition of the Scotties boasts a record five teams from Manitoba.

Leading off the Manitoba rinks is defending champ Kerri Einarson of Gimli and her team of Val Sweeting, Shannon Birchard and Briane Meilleur. They have shown no signs of rust so far and lead their pool with an undefeated 4-0 record.

Einarson works on the front lines at a personal care home in Gimli and knows all about the pandemic's challenges.

"It's been very challenging. We had a

scare back in April. But I'm so grateful to be working where I am," said Einarson. "To all those health-care workers, front-line workers — it's tough. I see it in our residents' faces every day, when they can't see their families. It's extremely hard. I try to be there for them as much as possible and give them the hugs that they can't get from their families."

"I actually had a resident ask me before I left if she could have my phone number. She phoned me the first day here, and she was excited to see curling back on TV. I am so grateful for all their support. My coworkers — if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here today. I really appreciate everything they do."

Team Wild Card #3 features Katherine Doerksen of Morden that is throwing second stones for the Beth Peterson rink out of the Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club in Winnipeg.

After starting the week 1-3, Peterson defeated one of the top seeds in Laura Walker (Team Alberta) on Monday night to keep themselves in contention.

"We're the ones with very little pressure on us right now," said Doerksen. "We can go into the next few games, and although we have three losses, we have nothing to lose at this point. So we can give it our all and try to get some wins and see where it gets us."

East St. Paul's Tracy Fleury that is being skipped at the Scotties by Chelsea Carey currently has a 3-1 record, with their only blemish coming on Monday afternoon to a feisty Quebec team.

This edition of Team Fleury/Carey features Stonewall's Kristin MacCuish throwing the lead rocks.

"Everything has been going really well so far," said MacCuish. "Chelsea has come onto our team in Tracy's absence and has filled in great. I'm really excited to see how far this team can go this week."

St. Vital's Jennifer Jones and Altona's Mackenzie Zacharias round out the five Manitoba teams competing. Jones currently has a 2-2 record, while Zacharias is at 1-3.

The 2021 edition of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts features 18 teams that have been split into two pools of nine. After a single round robin, the top four teams from each pool advance to the championship pool, where they in turn play against the teams from the other pool that also advanced.

After the final eight teams in the championship pool play against the other teams that advanced, the top three overall records will advance to the playoffs. The event will conclude with the championship final on Sunday night.

"TO ALL THOSE HEALTH-CARE WORKERS, FRONT-LINE WORKERS — IT'S TOUGH."

Einarson's MJHL career comes to an end

By Brian Bowman

When the Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced the cancellation of the remainder of the 2020-21 season earlier this month, a lot of players were obviously disappointed.

But the 20 year old players in their final year of Junior "A" hockey were the most disappointed.

Gimli's Jack Einarson falls into that category.

"It was tough news for everyone, especially the 20-year-olds in their last year," said Einarson last Sunday afternoon. "But, in the bigger picture, it was the right thing to do for the safety of everyone."

Einarson was off to a terrific start with four goals and 11 points in nine games.

"I was feeling good about my game," he said.

Team-wise, Virden burst out of the gate with an impressive 8-0-1-0 record. The Oil Capitals' lone loss was a 2-1 overtime decision to the Portage Terriers

"We were rolling from the start," Einarson said. "We were looking good. It's just unfortunate for it to end like that. We had a lot of vets, our top six,

we had five 20-year-olds so we had a lot of scoring from there and we had good defencemen and one of the best goalies in the league (Kyle Kozma).

"We had a pretty deep team, overall."

Last season was a breakout year for Einarson as he sniped 20 goals and had 52 points.

"I got some confidence over the last year," said the former Interlake Lightning.

Einarson really enjoyed his time in the two-plus years he spent in Virden.

"It was awesome, they have one of the best fan bases in the league," he said. "My billets were awesome to me and when you see people in the community, they are always nice to you."

Einarson plans to go to school at the University of Manitoba in the fall and try out for the Bisons. If he doesn't make the Bisons, he has the option of playing for the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's Stonewall Jets or senior hockey.

Wherever he ends up next year, that team will be getting a great hockey player.

Oil Capitals' head coach Tyson Ramsey had high praise for Einarson, who was one of Virden's two co-cap-

"WE WERE LOOKING GOOD. IT'S JUST UNFORTUNATE FOR IT TO END LIKE THAT."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Virden Oil Capitals' forward Jack Einarson had four goals and 11 points in nine games this season.

tains this season.

"Over the last couple of years, Jack has developed into one of the best players in the league," Ramsey said. "Over the last two years, he really gained some confidence and matured, both off the ice and in his game."

Einarson was an easy choice to wear

the "C" on his sweater this season.

"I can't say enough good things about Jack as a player and a person," Ramsey said. "Jack's a quiet guy, he's pretty reserved, but his leadership was what he did on the ice. We're certainly going to miss him."

MJHL announces changes to annual draft

From the MJHL website

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced last week that the annual MJHL Draft will move from a U16 Draft (formerly Bantam Draft) to a U17 Draft highlighting players who are going into their 16-year-old season.

As a result, there will be no 2021 MJHL Draft with the current 2006-born draft eligible age-group carrying forward into the inaugural U17 MJHL Draft to be held in the spring of 2022.

Players who will be eligible for the MJHL Draft are Manitoba players who are registered to play hockey in Manitoba according to Hockey Manitoba regulations and are in their 16th year.

"Moving the draft eligible age group to a year older will give MJHL organizations the ability to watch players develop for an additional season to allow for a better understanding of that players continued

development and potential to play elite junior hockey," said MJHL commissioner, Kevin Saurette.

The MJHL has conducted virtual MJHL Prospect Presentations over the past several months with the 2006 age-group. These presentations have provided players and families with important information on what it takes to get to junior hockey and the significance of the MJHL being a strong pathway to the WHL, NCAA, U Sports and eventually professional hockey at the highest levels.

The MJHL is also currently in the planning process of including additional development and exposure events for the draft eligible age-group each season. These events will complement local league play in showcasing and educating players prior to each annual MJHL Draft.

Please stay tuned for further announcements in the coming weeks.

Reimer picks up eighth win on the season

Staff

Carolina Hurricanes' goaltender James Reimer stopped 26 shots in last Friday's 5-3 win over the Chicago Blackhawks.

The 32-year-old Reimer, a Morweena product, is now 8-1-0 on the season with wins in four straight starts. He has a 3.08 goals-against average and an .896 save percentage.

Reimer became the Hurricanes' starter when Peter Mrazek was injured early in the Hurricanes shootout win over the Dallas Stars late last month.

Mrazek recently had surgery on his injured thumb. No timeline has been announced regarding his return to the crease.

As of Sunday evening, Carolina (12-3-1) was in first place in the Discover Central Division, a point ahead of the Florida Panthers.

The Hurricanes hosted the Tampa Bay Lightning on Monday but no score was available at press time. It was Carolina's first of three games against Tampa Bay this week.



CAROLINA HURRICANES PHOTO Morweena's James Reimer is now 8-1-0 on the season after the Hurricanes defeated Chicago 5-3 last Friday.

Classifieds



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 204-467-5836
or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

SCRAP METAL

Buying scrap metal, cars, tractors, combines, farm scrap, any metal material, any farm machinery. Ph Lonnie at 204-886-3407 lve. message or cell at 204-861-2031.

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. NO ITEM TOO LARGE! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Do you own rental property in Winnipeg? Are you tired of dealing with long term renters and the mess they can leave? We can provide you with a different option to earn a rental income. Pawluk Realty 204-890-8141.

LAND FOR SALE

For sale in the Steep Rock area - 2 adjoining quarters, mostly hayland & pasture, some bush. Fenced & cross fenced. All weather road access, hydro & telephone and road along one side. 2 dugouts & well, close to Lake Manitoba. Good hunting with a large area of crown leases close by. Also has potentially good yardsite for future development. Would sell separate or together. For more info. and price call 1-204-449-2383 or text 204-768-0121.

LAND FOR SALE

Red Rose/Dallas, MB. NE 22-29-1W. 160 acres of bush. Asking \$40,000 obo. Excellent for hunting. Contact Leona Hancox at 1-306-693-1060, Saskatchewan.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Property for sale - Gimli, RM (near Silver Harbour, dry dock, Snowman trails) - 2 bdrm. 1 bath home on 1/3 acre, septic, well, det. garage, Sold as is. \$105,000 obo. Thompson - double-wide lot for sale on town sewer and water, \$30,000 obo. Phone or text 204-307-7625.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak Place has 1 & 2 bedroom suites, located at 40 Eveline Street. Spacious suites, with F/S, A/C, storage areas and large balconies; utilities are included, parking is extra. Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg., river view apts. with central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

HELP WANTED

The Window Factory located in Selkirk requires a full-time labourer for production/manufacturing position. Please bring resume into the office located at 605 Mercy St, Selkirk.

HELP WANTED

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.

NOTICES

Urgent press releases or media advisories service. Have something to announce? A cancellation? A change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information, or email classified@mcna.com for details. www.mcna.com.

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We're Hiring!

2 Positions available
Starting ASAP

Lumber Sales - Full time position

Must be a team player and able to work in a fast-paced environment.

Truck Driver - Full time temporary position

(Spring and Summer 2021)

Must hold a valid class 1 or 3 driver's license.

For more information contact

Matt Steiner at 204-372-8501

or Email Resume to

matt.steiner@homehardware.ca



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

FARMERS & RANCHERS

Plan to attend the Complete Herd Dispersal for T.S. Johnson & Sons LTD. Wednesday, March 10, 2021 Following the Feeder sale

Sale consists of
150 Bred Cows
50% Black, 40% Red & 10% Mixed (Approximate age of cows - 5 to 10 yrs)
Bred Charolais or Angus (Blacks and Reds)
Calving April 20th
Full herd health program

For more info contact:

Halmar Johnson - (204) 642-2572

Buddy Bergner - (204) 768-0018

Kirk Kiesman - (204) 768-0019

Ashern Auction Mart - (204) 768-2360 (License #1128)



FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

HEAVY TRUCK & TRAILER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Duties will include assisting customers, answering sales calls & emails and following up with leads. Strong verbal and written communication skills are necessary. Past sales experience and knowledge of heavy trucks & trailers is an asset. The successful candidate will receive competitive wages & benefits package.

Sales@jbrandtent.com

Call 204-364-2775 for more information



EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION Invites applications for the following regular position, effective ASAP:

20.SU.23 - Winnipeg Beach School - Caretaker (6.0 hr/day)

See website for details and application procedures:
[http://www.esd.ca/Employment under Support Staff](http://www.esd.ca/Employment%20under%20Support%20Staff).

CLOSING DATE: March 1, 2021 (3:30 p.m.)

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



Rural Municipality of Armstrong

INVITATION TO QUOTE 2021 HOURLY EQUIPMENT RATES

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

Quotation packages including submission documents are available at the Municipal Office or the municipal website www.rmofarmstrong.com.

Quotations may be submitted to the Rural Municipality of Armstrong, Box 69, Inwood, Manitoba ROC 1P0.

Deadline for Quotation Packages is 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021. Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

Corlie Larsen, CAO
RM of Armstrong
Lot 55 Highway 17
Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1P0
Phone: 204-278-3377 Fax: 204-278-3437
Email: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Interlake Weed Control District (comprised of the Rural Municipalities of Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton, Fisher, and Gimli, the Town of Arborg, and the LUD of Fisher) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2021.

1. To control noxious weeds and brush, as well as vegetation causing a safety hazard, on rights-of-way, school grounds, and public areas within the Interlake Weed Control District, the Rural Municipalities of Grahamdale, Coldwell, St. Laurent, and West Interlake, and the LUD of Lunder. School grounds include all Evergreen and Lakeshore School Division properties. The projected dates of application will be from April 12, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The herbicides to be used in the program may include:

- 2,4-D Amine	- Diuron	- Picloram
- 2,4-D Ester	- Diflufenzopyr	- Saflufenacil
- 2,4-D choline salt	- Diquat	- Simazine
- Aminocyclopyrachlor	- Flumioxazin	- Triclopyr
- Aminopyralid	- Fluroxypyr	- Gateway adjuvant
- Bromacil	- Glyphosate	- Hasten NT adjuvant
- Chlorsulfuron	- Imazapyr	- Excel 70 surfactant
- Clopyralid	- Indaziflam	- LI700 surfactant
- Dicamba	- Mecoprop	- nonionic surfactant
- Dichlorprop	- Metsulfuron methyl	
- as well as products in the allowable list as per MB Regulation 286/2014		

2. To control insect pests including mosquitoes, forest tent caterpillars, cankerworms, elm bark beetles, spruce bud worm, etc. in public areas within the Interlake Weed Control District. The projected dates of application will be from April 12, 2021 to October 31, 2021. The insecticides to be used may include:

- Bti	- Btk	- Chlorpyrifos	- Deltamethrin	- Dimethoate	- Malathion
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The public may, within 15 days of the publication of this notice, send a written submission to the department below, regarding the advertised control programs, or to register with the department their written objection to the SPECIFIC control program(s) next to their properties for the 2021 season.

Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Climate
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W4

Fred Paulson, Weed Supervisor
Interlake Weed Control District

Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 204-467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca



Spare Caretakers Wanted in Arborg, Gimli, Riverton and Winnipeg Beach

Evergreen School Division is looking for Spare Caretakers that:

- Are available day time and evenings
 - Have a strong work ethic
 - Can do physical labor
 - Can contribute positively to a team
 - Are reliable and punctual
 - Can take direction and communicate effectively
 - Possess Grade 12 or equivalency
 - Possess a clear Child Abuse Registry Check and Criminal Record Check
- Pay is \$15.86 per hour; hours are variable.

If you would like to express your interest in a spare caretaker position, please contact Morris Finnbogason, Building Supervisor: morris.finnbogason@esd.ca



Privately Owned Equipment Rates

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton is seeking quotations from qualified bidders for hourly rates for Privately Owned Equipment for the 2021 / 2022 season.

Request for Quotation packages, including specifications and submission documents are available at the Municipal Office, 329 River Road, Arborg or from the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton website, www.rmbifrost.com

Sealed submissions clearly marked "Privately Owned Equipment Rates" will be received at the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton office, located at 329 River Road, Arborg, MB, up until 12:00pm, local time on March 9, 2021

All inquiries related to the Request for Quotation should be directed to Jason Comeau at 204.641.2167.

The lowest or any hourly rate bid not necessarily accepted.



Second Notice of Tax Sale Auction Rural Municipality of Grahamdale

Pursuant to subsection 367(2) of *The Municipal Act (MA)*, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs shown below in respect of the hereinafter described property are paid in full or an agreement under Section 369(1)(b) MA to pay the arrears and costs has been made prior to the commencement of the auction, the said property will be sold by public auction at following date, time and place:

Date and Time: **April 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**
Where: Rural Municipality of Grahamdale
23 Government Road, Moosehorn, MB

Registered Owner: **ROBERT PERSHING THOMAS AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARY THOMAS**

Roll #	Civic Address	2018 Arrears	Costs	Total
472200	SW 9-33-9 W	\$539.06	\$2,996.00	\$3,535.06

Legal Description: SW 1/4 9-33-9 WPM

- The tax arrears amount shown above includes penalties calculated to the day of the sale.
- **Costs will continue** to be incurred to the tax sale date and added to the amount required to redeem.
- The property may be sold at the auction for less than the amount of the tax arrears and if this is the case, the balance of the arrears and costs owing is deemed to be cancelled.
- Contact the number below for verification of costs. Any overpayment will be applied to payment of subsequent tax arrears. Payment must be made by **cash, certified cheque, debit card (where available)** or any other form of guaranteed payment.
- For any inquiries regarding the tax sale process or auction, contact TAXservice at 204-734-6381.
- **IF THE PROPERTY IS SOLD, THE SALE IS FINAL AND ANY INTEREST YOU HAD IN THE PROPERTY BEFORE THE SALE WILL BE EXTINGUISHED.**
- There will **not** be an opportunity to redeem this property from tax sale and a property transfer application will proceed immediately after the auction.

Dated this 26th day of February, 2021

Shelly Schwitek
Chief Administrative Officer
(204) 768-2858



This Notice is published for the purpose of effecting substitutional service thereof upon ROBERT PERSHING THOMAS AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MARY THOMAS, as set out in the Notice pursuant to Order of the District Registrar dated December 24, 2020.



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

INVITATION TO TENDER

CLOSING DATE:

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at Noon

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is accepting tenders for the following:

- SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LIMESTONE AGGREGATE:** for the supply and delivery of limestone aggregates; to be deposited on municipal roads throughout the RM of Gimli, or hauled to stockpile at the Public Works Shop yards, as directed by the Municipality. The material to be applied in one main haul approximately during the period of June 1, 2021, until completed. Additionally, there may be spot hauling continuing until December 31, 2021.
- GRAVEL HAULING & LOADING:** for the hauling of gravel to be deposited on municipal roads throughout the RM of Gimli from the pit located in SW25-20-3E. The material to be applied in one main haul during the period of June 1, 2021, until completed. Additionally, there may be spot hauling continuing until December 31, 2021, approximately 12,000 cubic yards. While the Municipality would normally be responsible for loading, contractors are asked for the option of supplying a loader.
- GRAVEL CRUSHING:** for the gravel crushing and stockpiling at the pit located in SW25-20-3E. Traffic Gravel to Department of Highways Specifications, approximately 14,000 cubic yards.
- 2021 EQUIPMENT RATES:** the RM of Gimli is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for hourly rates on various types of privately owned equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates and hiring order of private equipment for the 2021 works season ending March 31, 2022. Contractors who do not submit pricing and/or do not hold a valid business licence or business tax will not be considered for municipal projects.
- DUST CONTROL:** Application of Magnesium Chloride or Calcium Chloride dust control product. Product must be Magnesium Chloride Liquid or Calcium Chloride Liquid with a 30% to 35% Brine Solution and an Anti-Corrosive Inhibitor to meet Corrosion Rate of less than 4.0 mils per ASTM G 4-84. Bidders may provide a quote for one or both. The product shall be available for delivery to various locations in the Municipality from June 1, 2021 to October 31, 2021, as required by the Municipality.
- GRAVEL SCREENING FOR WINTER SAND:** for the screening of gravel for winter sand from the pit located in SW25-20-3E. Screened Gravel for winter sand must be to Department of Highways Specifications. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards required. Gravel Screening is to be 25% complete by June 30th, 2021 and 100% complete on or before August 31, 2021 weather permitting.
- FUEL:** for the supply of fuel for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, for municipal equipment. The tenders are for approximately 40,000 litres of gasoline, approximately 50,000 litres of clear diesel fuel, approximately 80,000 litres of purple diesel (at pumps, card lock system). To be delivered to the Public Works Yard in the Gimli Industrial Park.

Detailed tender packages complete with specifications are available to interested bidders on the RM of Gimli website, www.gimli.com or contact the Municipal Office at 204-642-6650 between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Any questions or concerns related to the tenders can be directed to:

Karl Bergman
Public Works Foreman
Rural Municipality of Gimli
Phone: (204) 642-6688
publicworks@rmgimli.com

The RM of Gimli reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the tender in the best interest of the RM of Gimli in its sole discretion. Lowest bid may not be accepted. Council may consider a 10% price variance for local bidders. Contractors must comply with Municipal requirements for liability insurance, WCB coverage and business licensing to be eligible to be awarded the contract.

The Express Weekly News Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication Please Call 204-467-5836

MISCELLANEOUS

Need to make the most of the partial re-opening? Advertise it in the 37 MB weekly newspapers and get noticed! Each week our blanket classifieds could be helping your organization get noticed in over 340,000 homes! It's AFFORDABLE and it's a great way to increase and connect with our 37 weekly member newspapers. For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Call us at 204-467-5836 or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

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Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

LIVESTOCK

Two year old angus bulls reds and blacks, good heifer bulls as well as some bigger framed bulls. Low maintenance fed for longevity guaranteed breeders, will be semen tested and delivered when you need them. Ph. 204-278-3372 Inwood.

204 PALLET AND PACKAGING

HELP WANTED

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.



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

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RM of West Interlake By-Election 2021 Results

By acclamation I hereby declare:

Edith Peterson

- Councillor Ward 3

Karen Carmichael

- LUD committee member

The term for these positions is 2021 to 2022. The election originally announced for March 29th, 2021 is no longer required.

Myrna Little
Senior Election Official
RM of West Interlake
dated February 22, 2021

HELP WANTED

Direct Support Workers To provide Assistance To Adults living with a Developmental Disability In the Community

We currently have openings for part-time and casual Direct Support Workers at our group homes in Arborg. If you are a people person with a compassionate heart and a desire to be of service at this critical time, then this might be just the rewarding work experience you are looking for. Training will be provided on the job, no formal education necessary. Experience providing care to others in a variety of settings is an asset, but not a requirement.

This position is about relationship building, and providing support to our individuals. Working as a team member, your tasks will be varied, including personal care, community outings and assisting with all activities of daily living, as needed. Other duties include household upkeep, daily cooking, and record keeping tasks.

We offer 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: March 9, 2021

For more info contact: Kathy Finnson, Exec. Director 204-376-2940, ext. 1



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ASSISTANT UTILITY OPERATOR

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites applications for the position of Assistant Utility Operator. This will be a **training position**, with the possibility of transitioning to a permanent position as the Utility Operator in the Summer of 2021. This position demands a high level of accuracy and dependability.

The normal hours of work are four (4) hours per day, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Candidates must be willing and available to be on-call for emergent situations.

Applicants:

- **MUST** obtain certification in Small systems water works operator certificate and Small systems wastewater works operator certificate. (can be done during training period).
- Must be 18 years of age or older, hold a valid driver's licence and have a vehicle, minimum grade 10 education.
- Strong mechanical skills a definite asset.
- Willing to work as part of a team and may be called upon to help out in other duties within the municipality.
- Friendly, team player, responsible and a strong work ethic is expected.

The Assistant Utility Operator will report to the Chief Administrative Officer. For copies of job description and pay as per CUPE Collective agreement please contact The Rural Municipality of Fisher at 204-372-6393.

Position remains open until suitable candidate is found.

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA
Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280 Fisher Branch, MB, R0C 0Z0
fishercao@mymts.net
Phone: (204) 372-6393



Riverton Coop – EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RETAIL CLERKS – CASUAL/PART TIME

The Riverton COOP is seeking store clerks to work in various departments that can work a variety of shifts. The potential candidate must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and be dependable. Providing outstanding customer service skills and attention to detail are important traits that one must possess. Training is provided.

Benefits: Competitive Wage
Employee Purchase Incentive
CSS Pension Contribution as per policy
Dental, Vision and Extended Health to those who qualify

If you are interested or require additional information, please contact Kris or Darlene:

Ph: 204-378-2251

Fax: 204 378-2749

Email: rivertoncoop@mymts.net

Riverton Coop, Box 160, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE RIVERTON COOP or forward your application/resume to Kris or Darlene

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Is seeking additional staff for the following positions:

- **Officer/Administration**
- **Service Technician**
- **Parts/Counter Person**

Experience not necessary but a definite asset. Benefit plan available.

Apply in person, fax, mail or e-mail resume to:

276 Ardal St., Box 190,
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0

shachtays@hotmail.com

Ph: (204) 376-5233

Fax: (204) 376-5234

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Classifieds Announcements



CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to our family, friends and neighbours for all your kindness during this difficult time, for your calls, flowers, food and donations. Thank you to the staff at Arborg Hospital and the Home Care workers. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and thank you most sincerely.

-Thank you from the family of
Edwin Kowalsky

BIRTHDAY



Happy 100th Birthday
Drew Lambert
March 1, 2021

Wishing you the happiest of birthdays to the most amazing Mom, Grandma Drew, Gran Drew, Great Gran Drew, Aunt and friend
May the day be filled with sunshine and smiles.
You are our inspiration.

-Love from your family

ANNIVERSARY



Happy 70th Anniversary
February 25, 2021
Dzidra and Elmars Chulka
-With gratitude and much love
from your family!

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory
of
Walter William Korbutiak
May 5, 1941 – February 16, 2013

Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same;
We have to hide our heartache,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent are the tears that fall;
Living here without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was kind and true;
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together;
But with the love in our hearts,
You walk with us forever.

-In loving memory
wife Myrna, Charlene, Cheryl, Angie,
Darryl and Warren



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OBITUARY



Anne Zaboroski (Nee Weresuik)
7 July 1929 - 17 February 2021

Peacefully, in her sleep, Anne passed at the age of 91, in Betel Home in Gimli, Mb.

Mom was born and raised in Shorncliff, Mb, the second of six children. She was predeceased by her parents, Michael and Eva (nee Shoclas); her brother, John; her sisters, Florence, Jean and Stella; and her husband, John.

Anne and John met in school and married on May 7, 1949. They lived awhile in Shorncliff, then Riverton, and eventually settled in Winnipeg Beach in 1967. During this time, they raised three children: Dennis, Lenny and Debbie. Mom was a wonderful farm wife and mother - always busy cooking, cleaning, gardening, mowing - and also worked outside the home as a Hostess and trainer at the Beach Tower Restaurant. But her real skill and true nature was in Loving! She adored her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and was adored by all who knew her!

Anne is survived by her sister, Olga; her children, Dennis (Dawn), Lenny (Anne), and Debbie (Dennis); grandchildren, Alex (Trish), David (Danielle), Gillian (Shawn), Paul, Jeanna, Aaron (Taylor), Austin, Madison, and Soren; great-grandchildren, Easton, Nevin, Koldan, Brooklyn, Zennon, and Layla; and numerous extended family and friends who will all miss her greatly.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Betel Home for making Mom's last two years comfortable and safe. We have been blessed to be able to spend the last week at her side, after a year of restricted visitation.

In light of current COVID restrictions, a private funeral will be held and a recording of the Mass will be available to be viewed via her obituary at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com.



In lieu of flowers, if friends so desire, donations may be made to: CancerCare Manitoba Foundation.

Condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Walter James Charney

Peacefully, on February 16, 2021, at the age of 98, at the Arborg Personal Care Home, Walter James Charney passed away.

Walter was born May 17, 1922 in a log home in Ledwyn, MB to Gregor and Helena Charney. He was predeceased by his wife Louise (Eyjolfson). Walter was the last surviving of his siblings Francis, Mike, Kenneth, Luke, Olga, Sally, Joe, Louis, and Rosie. He will be dearly missed by his nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors, especially the Tymoshchuks and Lupkys.

Uncle Walter was a quiet, gentle, hardworking man. He was one of the founding board members of the Riverton Co-op, served on the Riverton Credit Union Board as well as numerous local committees.

In his early years he cut pulp, fished, freighted, and worked on threshing crews. Teaming up with his brother Louis, "The Boys" as they were known as, successfully built a mixed farming operation. After Louis's passing Walter continued farming until he was in his early 90s.

A few years ago, health challenges necessitated his moving to the Arborg Personal Care home. Our family is grateful for the kindness and gentle care provided to Walter there.

Walter was a lifelong member of the St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Ledwyn. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the St. John the Baptist Cemetery Fund, Box 1218 Arborg MB, ROC 0A0.

Due to current COVID restrictions a family graveside service has taken place and there will be no formal celebration.

Rest in peace, dear Walter.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME ARBORG
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OBITUARY



Leona Elsie Yankie

On February 14, 2021 (the day of Love), our Mom left to be with Dad (William) whom she so dearly missed since his passing last April.

Mom, who was born in the Bayton District west of Moosehorn, MB on March 11, 1939, was for us, an extraordinary woman. She was not a scholar but possessed wisdom that one could not find in books. She was not a nurse but she could soften many of the hurts we collected from scraped knees to broken hearts. She was not a seamstress but her impressive output of slippers, quilts, tea towels and such would disprove that, nor was she a chef, but she could cook up a meal - when she didn't, it was because she was cooking up a feast! And let's not forget her home-made bread, it was legendary! Mom was the Matriarch of our family but always prioritized our needs over her own. It was when the tears were dry, the bellies full, fears vanquished and the smiles returned, that she took the opportunity to tend to her flower beds, garden and other hobbies like ceramics that she enjoyed through the years.

Mom was many things to many people - a cook, a friend, an Aunt, a healer, a cousin, a sister and a wife. But she was first and always our Mom, and we could not love her more for that.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children; son Rodney, daughters and sons-in-law, Iris (Darrell) Grant, Gwen (Randy) Broustal and Annette (Tony) Usipiuk; her grandchildren Daniel (Christine), Damien, Samantha (Richard), Shara-Lyn, Nikita (Paul), Tamara (Colin), Noah, Teffra, Steven, Nicole (Glen), Belinda (Carey) and her great-grandchildren Scotia, Jewel, Alexis, Sikorah, Damien, Carson and Tobias, Gabriel, Roonie, and Liam; as well as her sister Helen Jaehrlich and sister-in-law Beverly Gall.

Besides Dad, she will be greeted by her parents Robert and Elsie Gall, her sisters and brothers-in-law: Hilda (Walter) Bittner, Hertha (Russell) Campbell and brothers, Harold (in infancy), Arnold, Herman and Reinhold (Roy), and brother-in-law Wilhelm (Bill) Jaehrlich.

This journey she has undertaken is at the same time sad and joyous for us - sad that we no longer have her presence to comfort us, but happy because she is with Dad in the Lords domain where there is no pain, where she can walk and see - free from mortal frailties. Our desire, and wish at this time is not to say "Good-Bye" but perhaps "Bon Voyage" would be more apt. We will always love and miss you Mom, and we truly wish you and Dad eternal happiness.

There will be a private interment at a future date.

In lieu of flowers or donations, find those who are near and dear to you - give them a hug and let them know they're important to you. Mom would have liked that.

In our hearts we'll see you.
In our hearts we'll hear you.
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