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EXPRESS PHOTO BY MICHELLE JOHNSON

Spring is in the air, and so were the cheerful giggles of little ones on the hunt for Easter treats. Interlake Co-op hosted its annual Kids Club Easter Hunt at its food stores in Arborg and Eriksdale last week, drawing more than 120 excited participants.

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**Here's How.**



# Kicked to the curb: animal rescues ask province for funding

By Patricia Barrett

Animal welfare organizations (AWOs) across Manitoba declared a state of emergency earlier this month and asked the provincial government to consider providing funding assistance to help with an overpopulation of dogs and cats.

At least 37 Manitoba AWOs signed a letter to the provincial government, asking premier Wab Kinew, agriculture minister Ron Kostyshyn and Indigenous economic development and municipal and northern relations minister Ian Bushie for annual funding assistance of \$2.5 million for what they're calling a public health emergency stemming from a lack of access to veterinary care and subsequent risk from diseases such as rabies.

"Despite repetitive pleas for help, animal welfare organizations are not receiving adequate government support. Their help is desperately needed. Volunteers cannot solve this crisis that our government has allowed to escalate to this breaking point. AWOs are out of resources; there is no more space or funds to help rehome animals or support pet owners," states a March 11 letter drafted by Winnipeg-based Feed the Furbabies Canada and signed by 45 organizations across Manitoba, Ontario, B.C. and Alberta.

"Animals have been transferred from Manitoba coast to coast across Canada and we have now filled those animal rescues in other provinces as well."

The \$2.5 million would go towards spay and neuter programs for urban, rural and isolated communities and for food and supplies for isolated communities, states the letter. The AWOs also want the government to commit to restricting puppy mills and backyard breeding.

Manitoba Animal Alliance is one of the animal welfare organizations that signed the letter. Although the alliance is based in Sandy Hook, it operates throughout the Interlake, including in First Nations communities such as Peguis and Fisher River, and other a

The registered charity was established in 2013 and is volunteer-run. It helps communities deal with homeless, injured and abandoned pets, operates a foster program and organizes mobile veterinary clinics that travel around the region to spay, neuter and vaccinate animals.

Alliance founder and director Debra Vandekerkhove said they've organized clinics north of Arborg, including in Peguis and Fisher River, as well as across the province. The alliance pays a veterinarian to perform



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A hot stock dog cools down in a wading pool.

spay and neuter operations. It's also equipped with three of its own surgical stations and is working on buying a fourth. Those were made possible from donations the alliance received over several years.

Vandekerkhove said not only does the AWOs' state of emergency pertain to animal overpopulation, but it also speaks to inequities in provincial funding. Under a three-year outreach program called One Health that was announced in 2022, the province is providing funding to the Winnipeg Humane Society, which in turn teams up with AWOs in various parts of the

province to deliver vaccination and spay and neuter clinics.

That subsidy only goes so far, leaving coverage gaps in many areas, said Vandekerkhove.

"The volunteer animal welfare organizations are the ones that prepare these outreach clinics, set them up and tear them down. And it's fine that the province wants to help fund these clinics, but the funding should be split up equitably so that clinics that are greatly needed in rural mu-

Continued on page 5



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# Commercial fisher concerned about fishery stability with sale of FFMC

By Patricia Barrett

After 55 years of protecting commercial fishers in western and northern Canada from instability in the fish market, the federal government announced its intention this year to sell the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC), which will become a privately owned enterprise.

FFMC is a Crown corporation established in 1969 to provide commercial fishers with fair prices for their fish and to market that fish domestically and abroad. The federal department of fisheries and oceans (DFO) initiated a process in 2017 to engage commercial fishers and other stakeholders on the future of FFMC after the Conservative government in Manitoba opted out of the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Act to create an open market. DFO established a panel to examine new governance and ownership models for FFMC and promote reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Robert T. Kristjanson, who is 90 years old and has been fishing for over 75 years, said he's concerned that the overall stability the marketing board brings to the fishery could fall by the wayside through the sale and privatization of the corporation.

Fishers might see the return of erratic pricing, an inability among private companies to store large volumes of fish while markets are in flux, an inability to create new products for market, the loss of supports such as the processing and packing of fish, infrastructure support such as docks and transport vessels around lakes and the upholding of labour standards. It could also jeopardize a well-

known reputation for Canadian fresh water fish, he said.

"The sale of FFMC will very much affect my and my family's fishing operations," said Kristjanson, who sells fish to FFMC. "We can, absolutely, go back to the days before the marketing board when fishers didn't know whether they'd get a fair price for their fish from all the fish companies we had."

Before the marketing board was established, Kristjanson said there were around a dozen fish companies — including Chicago-based Booth Fisheries — that would haggle with local fishers over price. Kristjanson's dad, who had his own fish station, would have to go around to each company to see what they were paying or whether they'd even buy his catch.

It was the fishers themselves who had called for the establishment of a government-led marketing board to help them deal with market volatility.

"I'm going back to my time before the marketing board when there were about 10 to 12 fish companies dealing here. We saw fishers running from one company to another, dragging down the price of fish, and that's why often there wasn't a good price. The fish companies were also subsidizing the unsuccessful fishers," said Kristjanson. "You're seeing that instability now with companies that came in 2017 with the privatization of Manitoba's fish market. You see some fish companies not releasing their price lists until the marketing board releases its price list."

FFMC's mandate is to purchase fish that is lawfully harvested, create an orderly market, promote international markets, increase fish trade and

increase returns to fishers. Provinces that were signatories to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act began to withdraw and return to an open market. Ontario withdrew in 2011, Saskatchewan in 2012 [some fishers there still sell to FFMC] and Manitoba in 2017 [some Manitoba fishers still sell their catches to FFMC]. Alberta closed its inland fishery but did not withdraw from the act. The Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction participating under the act, according to the federal government's website.

"The departure of Manitoba has put Freshwater at a critical juncture," states the executive summary of a November 2017 Engagement Report posted on DFO's website. "The corporation will need to evolve to ensure it can continue to support the fishery and livelihoods of fishers, especially those living in northern and remote communities."

The federal government engaged

Continued on page 13



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Without the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation as a government entity, Robert T. Kristjanson said the stability of the fishing industry could be undermined.

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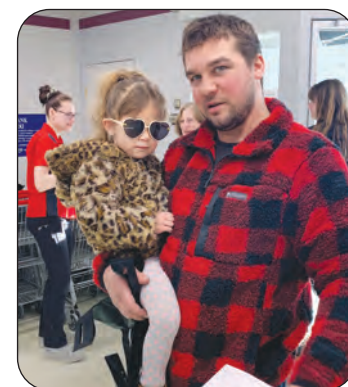
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# Egg-ceptional turnout at annual Co-op Easter Hunt



By Lana Meier

At the heart of community spirit, Interlake Co-op recently hosted its annual Kids Club Easter Hunt at its food stores in Arborg on March 20 and Eriksdale on March 21.

More than 120 children embarked on an exciting Easter Hunt adventure equipped with a Co-op reusable bag and a clever clue list to guide them through the store's aisles in search of hidden treats.

Following the completion of their Easter hunt, kids were given a cookie and drink for the ride home. Adding to the egg-citement, Cooper, the beloved Co-op mascot, made a special appearance at both locations, spreading joy wherever he went.

General manager Jordan Cook expressed gratitude towards the dedicated Co-op team

and committee, whose hard work brought this event to life. Their commitment reflects how Interlake Co-op invests in local communities, creating positive experiences for its members. As another successful event concluded with beaming smiles all around, Cook extended heartfelt thanks to parents and guardians for joining in on the fun-filled evenings.

"It made for two enjoyable evenings for friends and family," said Cook.

Youngsters aged 12 and under are invited to join the Kids Club for more memorable events throughout the year. To become a member or learn more about upcoming activities, simply reach out to any friendly team member at your nearest location or contact the administration team directly at 204-376-5245.

EXPRESS PHOTOS BY MICHELLE JOHNSON AND TORI GOODMAN



## > KICKED TO THE CURB, FROM PG. 2

nicipalities or in First Nations or in remote communities can have them," she said.

Volunteer animal welfare organizations deserve recognition for their dedication to reducing animal suffering and protecting their health and preventing diseases such as rabies — which, by extension, protects human health. The statistics released pertaining to the number of One Health clinics performed is "based on our sweat equity," she said. And it's the AWOs themselves footing the bill for their volunteers' travel costs to rural and remote areas and for food and other costs.

"What we're asking for is that the province recognize volunteer rescue groups and offer some equitable funding. Groups who are able to operate independently, such as ourselves, have been alleviating this [animal overpopulation and health] burden for the province," said Vandekerkhove. "Or the province can provide funding directly to municipalities, which can redirect that money towards spay and neuter and vaccination clinics."

The need for such services in rural municipalities is apparent. Vandekerkhove said they're seeing residents in municipalities such as the RM of Fisher bringing their animals to the clinics set up in First Nations such as Peguis because there are little to no services in their own municipalities.

"Municipal residents are bringing dogs and cats to reserves during our clinics. People in municipalities have such an issue with animal overpopulation. There's a lot of animals suffering out there and people don't have that outreach service," said Vandekerkhove. "A lot of veterinarian offices in the Interlake are only offering one day a week, and they have really big areas to cover. We're seeing vets coming from other regions, doing a very long drive to places like Arborg or Fisher Branch."

The highest number of vaccinations Manitoba Animal Alliance has delivered (so far) on one day was 185. That was with one veterinarian and a group of MAA volunteers. The highest number of spay and neuter operations they've delivered on one day was 63. Those are "big numbers," said Vandekerkhove. And the organization is getting calls from communities across Manitoba such as Clear Lake, Grand Rapids, Easterville, Waywayseecappo, Poplar River, St. Theresa Point, Norway House and Garden Hill because people "want a solution" to animal overpopulation and the risk of rabies.

"We don't want to just go in and do a vaccine clinic. We want to be able to go in and empower and teach people, and get team leaders in communities to manage vaccines and do a follow-up," she said.

Because volunteer organizations can only do so much based on the funding they receive from donors, Vandekerkhove said they've reached out to some rural mu-

nicipalities to ask for help with combatting animal overpopulation and to ask if the RM will subsidize and host low-cost spay and neuter and vaccination clinics for their own constituents. Organizations like the Manitoba Animal Alliance could help set up and operate those clinics using local veterinarians.

"One of the biggest issues we have is animal overpopulation, and municipalities are pushing them down to Winnipeg. We see that north of Winnipeg and from areas south of Winnipeg. That's happening because municipalities don't have their own animal welfare programs or low-cost spay and neuter clinics for their own communities," she said. "For a lot of abandoned animals, municipalities have no capacity, no shelters and no way of managing this. Some municipalities do have animal control to pick up and deal with animals, but they don't have capacity for dogs. Sending animals to Winnipeg just overwhelms city shelters."

**"ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES WE HAVE IS ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION, AND MUNICIPALITIES ARE PUSHING THEM DOWN TO WINNIPEG."**

Vandekerkhove said the highest numbers of positive rabies cases in wildlife in Manitoba occur in the Interlake, and the provincial government should be "stepping up its game" to provide subsidized vaccine clinics as many people living in the Interlake struggle to pay for veterinarian services.

"During World Rabies Day [September 2023], the province helped fund no-cost rabies vaccines and other pet vaccines for people on budgets living in Winnipeg. Why not offer that to municipalities where there's a higher risk of rabies? We asked for vaccines and were declined. We asked for tapeworm medication for dogs — tapeworms can be passed on to humans — and were declined. It shouldn't just be the city that's getting these free rabies vaccines

They should include municipalities where rabies is more prevalent," she said.

Manitoba Animal Alliance and other AWOs just want to be part of the solution, she said, offering subsidized low-cost clinics to their own communities. The RM of Gimli — as well as other RMs — has an emergency measures organization (EMO) officer who can deliver rabies vaccines to the community along with an AWO.

"We could be offering no-cost or low-cost vaccines, say \$10, to our own constituents. Let's work in a partnership to get these vaccines into the rural municipalities where there's a public health risk," she said. "I think the RMs have to start putting money into this."

The RM of Gimli, which provides an animal control service, was asked whether it would consider providing funding for no- or low-cost spay and neuter and vaccination clinics.

Coun. Thora Palson said the municipality contributes to the welfare of animals and would consider a funding request from any local group.

"The RM of Gimli has an annual grant funding process in which all local organizations can submit an application for consideration," she said.

She added that animal welfare is important and that other jurisdictions, such as New York (starting in December 2024), have gone so far as to ban pet stores from selling dogs, cats and rabbits in a bid to crack down on puppy and kitten mills and prevent animals from being raised in inhumane conditions or suffer abuse.

Palson said the people who work in our local animal welfare sector deserve recognition.

"I want to recognize all the people in our community who work in animal welfare and who give their time to the care of animals in need," she said.

A communications spokesperson for the provincial department of municipal and northern relations declined to say whether funding could be granted to Manitoba's animal welfare organizations, asking the Express to instead contact cabinet communications.

Visit [www.manitobaanimalalliance.com](http://www.manitobaanimalalliance.com) for more information about the Manitoba Animal Alliance and its services.

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## In honour of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

The National Flag of Canada was lowered all over Canada for the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, the 18th prime minister of Canada, who died on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at the age of 84. Mr. Mulroney served the citizens of Canada as prime minister from 1984 to 1993. The flags remained at half-mast until sunset on the day of his funeral, March 23.

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# getinformed

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY ADELE DONALDSON

Sisters Carina and Milana enjoyed outdoor skating on the farm last week. The ice and snow melted and froze into ice again, as temperatures ranged from -5 to -10 degrees C in Malonton on Sunday. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca

## Conservation officers outfit cougar with GPS tracking collar

By Lana Meier

Manitoba Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources is committed to preserving and protecting the province's valuable natural resources and wildlife.

The Manitoba Conservation Officer Service, with its dedicated team of officers, works tirelessly to ensure the safety of Manitobans in various ways.

Earlier this month, Brandon conservation officers were called to a local landfill due to an unusual situation involving two white-tailed deer. The animals had gotten their antlers entangled in rope, causing them to be exhausted but still mobile. Working

together, the officers successfully removed the antlers and a tangled ball of twine, ultimately setting the deer free. Subsequently, animal control officers verified that the deer had made a full recovery and departed the scene.

On Feb. 20, a trapper in the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest called conservation officers in Swan River to report accidentally trapping a cougar in a foothold trap south of Minitonas. The officers and biologists quickly responded to the call and were able to safely immobilize the sub-adult female cougar. After outfitting her with a GPS tracking collar, they released

her on site since she only had minor foot injuries that will not have lasting effects. Now, wildlife staff will regularly monitor her movements through data collected by the GPS collar. This is the first time a cougar has been collared in Manitoba, providing valuable information about their behaviours and territories in western Manitoba.

These are two examples of the ways the Manitoba conservation officer service protects, conserves, enhances and manages more than 35,000 species of wild plants and animals every day. Through education and enforcement, conservation officers spend a lot of time in communities protecting

public safety and Manitoba's natural resources.

Conservation officers also respond to a variety of calls for service across Manitoba and always appreciate public support in efforts to reduce illegal activities that harm wildlife or the environment.

Anyone with information on illegal hunting activities is encouraged to contact a local conservation office or the TIP hotline at 1-800-782-0076. For more information, visit <https://gov.mb.ca/nrnd/co/index.html>.

## Access CU named top employer for 10th year

By Ashleigh Viverois

Access Credit Union has made the cut once again for Manitoba's Top Employer list.

The list is compiled annually by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers to recognize Manitoba employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work. Access CU has been on the list for 10 years now.

"At Access Credit Union we have a passion for what we do and want to make a positive difference," Access president and CEO Larry Davey said in a statement announcing the honour. "Our success is tied to the strength of our organizational values and leveraging the talent of our employees. We are delighted to be a top employer for the 10th year in a row."

The company says it prides itself

on creating a culture to maintain a healthy work-life balance and offering benefits that include paid training and continuing education subsidies, flexible hours and work locations, matched pension plans, competitive salaries, robust health plans and the opportunity to give back to the community.

Access has also been selected by as one of Canada's best employers for

recent grads by The Career Directory, Canada's longest-running employment guide for new graduates.

Highlights in Access Credit Union's winning submission, the company shared, include the development and engagement of staff as well as a continued focus on member service and innovative technologies.



# Busy winter for Manitoba bear rehab centre

## Black Bear Rescue Manitoba looking for volunteers

By Jennifer McFee

Manitoba's only bear rehabilitation centre experienced a busy winter with more cubs than usual at the Rockwood-area facility.

Judy and Roger Stearns run Black Bear Rescue Manitoba, which cares for orphaned bear cubs before returning them to the wild.

Normally, cubs arrive in the spring and stay with them until the fall when they're released. However, this year five cubs overwintered with them.

"This is not the norm for us. We rarely have bears over the winter," Judy Stearns said.

"We had five bears arrive late in the season and they couldn't be released, so they spent the winter with us. They're yearlings now — they're no longer cubs."

They'll likely be released in late June to early July, and the reason for that timing is threefold.

"There is more abundant natural food for bears by then, and we want to make sure that any backcountry areas or trails that we're going down are dry. Sometimes it's very remote rugged terrain and we have to go by quad," Stearns said.

"Also, we always have to wait until the spring bear hunt is over because we don't think it's fair to let them go during hunting season."

They name the cubs alphabetically, and they were at "Z" when two eight-month-old sister cubs arrived in the early fall. Named Zayla and Zsa Zsa, the duo was brought down from a tree by a conservation officer in the Gypsumville area. The fate of their mother is unknown, but they were unlikely to make it through the winter on their own.

Soon after, another cub arrived from the Falcon Lake area, where he was seen hiding in cottage yards with his mother nowhere in sight. He received the name Ace in honour of radio personality Ace Burpee, who is a volunteer and team member at the animal rescue.

The little cub had a fractured leg and underwent surgery at Transcona Vet Hospital. He also had a deep wound near the break that required ongoing monitoring and attention by the experts from Woodlands Vet Clinic.

In mid-October, a cub arrived from the Oakbank area where Natural Resources staff retrieved her from a cul-

vert. The cub was named Blueberry in recognition of one of her favourite foods. At first, Blueberry was shaking and unable to stand.

"She was very weak and thin and she struggled even to eat," Stearns said. "We weren't sure if she was going to recover or not, but she's very slowly getting better all the time."

A fifth cub known as Chester arrived near the end of October from Minitonas, where he had probably been on his own for a while. Again, the fate of his mother is unknown, although human activity is the main cause of cubs being orphaned.

In early December, Zayla and Zsa Zsa began hibernating for the winter in a wooden den house filled with straw. Soon after, Chester began hibernating in early January. The sisters are together in one den house while Chester is in his own den house, all within the same enclosure on the Stearns' property.

"They haven't budged. They're completely, fully hibernating. It's amazing. They don't eat or drink or poop. Their body just slows right down," Stearns said.

"In Manitoba, bears in the wild generally emerge from their dens in April, although it could be late March if it's warm or it could even be early May, especially if it's colder with more snow. It all depends every year on weather and the snow."

Meanwhile, Ace and Blueberry are neighbours who have been awake for the winter. Until January, they stayed in an indoor enclosure, which Stearns cleaned daily. Now that they've moved outside, their upkeep is less labour-intensive since they only need cleaning and to have their food and water refilled every three or four days. Every enclosure is monitored via security cameras.

In early summer, the five cubs will be released in a remote location far away from humans and busy roads.

"We take them as remote as we can," Stearns said. "We are licensed by and work in conjunction with the Province of Manitoba so they approve all the release locations. We keep it a very hidden secret where these bears are going."

At the same time, more young bear cubs could arrive at the facility in coming weeks.

"The norm for bear rehab starts in April after the mothers come out of the den with her cubs and she confronts some sort of danger and is killed. However, we're finding very often that den disturbances frighten the mother and she abandons her cubs, so we get them when they're



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Zsa Zsa and Zayla headed into hibernation on Dec. 9 where they remain.



Chester arrived on Oct. 24 weighing 21 pounds and was 73 pounds before he denned on Jan. 2 for the remainder of the winter.



still in the den prior to April," Stearns said.

"We could get a phone call today saying that very young orphaned cubs are coming in. We never know. It's a very hard thing to plan for."

It's also difficult to determine how many cubs will arrive, since the numbers aren't consistent year after year, ranging from three to 32 cubs annually since they opened in 2018.

"It's very unpredictable," she said. "We're the only bear rehab facility in Manitoba and we cover the entire province for any orphaned black bear cubs so they can come from anywhere."

Black Bear Rescue Manitoba is a registered charity that runs entirely on donations without government funding.

They gratefully accept monetary contributions, as well as donations of much-needed supplies such as paper towels, straw brooms, wheelbarrows, Beco brand pet bowls and plush non-knit baby blankets. They could also use plain oat or rice baby cereal as well as gift cards to buy perishables like yogurt for the cubs.

Also, if anyone has a reliable second-hand quad, Stearns said it would be useful for transporting the cubs on

rough terrain.

The bear rescue is also in need of a few dedicated volunteers who live nearby.

"We would like to create a list of nearby volunteers who could be on standby if we get in some little ones that need to be bottle-fed around the clock. Animal-handling experience would be preferred but we would always train. You just have to have a steady hand and a good eye to do milk measurements," Stearns said.

"It would be a daily thing from now until early May if we get cubs in. They need to be fed every few hours around the clock, so it's a lot of work. If someone lives nearby, they could just pop in every day for an hour or two and help with the bottle-feeding of little wee bears. They've got to be committed to come five or six days a week. It's a totally unique fun experience."

For more information about volunteering or making a donation, email Black Bear Rescue Manitoba at emailus@mts.net.

To keep up to date on the bear cubs, and to view adorable photos, follow the organization on Facebook and Instagram.



# Minds in Motion is returning with a new spring session

Program for those with dementia and their care person to get out and have fun

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Alzheimer Society of Manitoba's Minds in Motion program is starting up again for its spring session and the usually packed program has a few spots left for people with dementia and their care partners.

"The Minds in Motion program is an eight-week program for individuals with mild to moderate dementia, and a partner. It could be a spouse, an adult child, another family member, or a friend and it is a time where we can come together and connect with others who just get it and who are on the same path," said Samantha Holland, first link regional team lead for the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

The program varies from week to week but starts with a chair fitness class to get everyone warmed up. Then there is a coffee break and time to chat together. After socializing for a bit, the larger group breaks into smaller groups to do an activity. Sometimes the activities are things like word puzzles or memory games and sometimes there are more traditional games like bocce and Jenga.

Holland says that all components of the program help people with dementia and their care partners continue to live well and be involved in the community. She emphasized that the program isn't just for the people with dementia but creates space for both individuals.

"We've had people participate, really, until they transition to personal care. For example, I've had participants who have been in the program since I started five years ago, and they're still coming back time after time. Why they come back is the connections that they form with others and the time that they just get to come and have fun in their community without thinking about dementia. We're all here to connect, reminisce, and chat, and just feel that sense of normalcy," said Holland.

This program is a space that is designed to be dementia friendly.

"People that might not quite understand what the individual or the couple is going through. And there may be a little bit of judgment or perceived judgment. So, we want to create that

space where people can come and interact with those who understand what they're going through. We have volunteers in the program who, when your person is having a hard day, can step in and give you that time to just hang out with other care partners. You don't have to worry about what's going on with your [person. We're just that] safe space to get away for a couple of hours every week and really let your hair down," said Holland.

The program is going to start on April 3 and run until May 22 at the Gordon Howard Centre. Participants

will be able to enjoy the two-hour sessions from 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday.

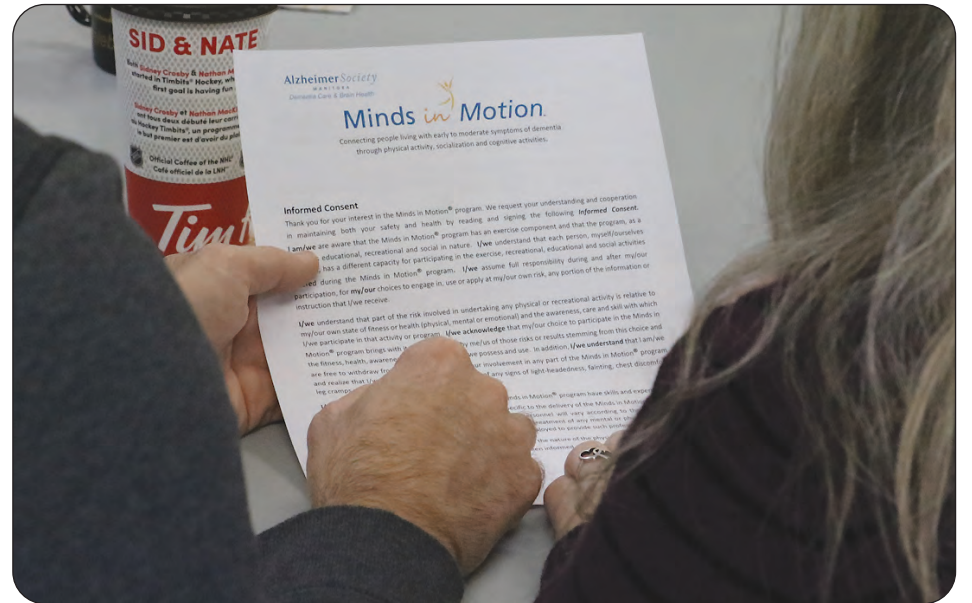
Holland says even if you don't know if it's for you and your partner it's worth giving a shot.

"We've had many couples that have been hesitant or maybe don't know what to expect. We would always encourage people to register, and see what they think of it the first week.

If it's not for them, that's fair. But I think they'll see that once they walk into the door, it's a safe space with friendly faces. There's no judgment and there's always laughter to be had. So really, regardless of whether you like the activities or not, it is just a fun afternoon out of the house," she said.

To sign up, residents can call the Gordon Howard Centre at 204-785-2092 or stop by during their open hours to sign up with the front desk staff. The program is \$65 for both people.

Volunteers to help with the program are also needed.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

There are still spots left to join the spring Minds in Motion session.

"If there are individuals that have a general understanding of dementia, and who are passionate about helping participants enjoy a quality program, I would encourage them to reach out to me directly," said Holland.

Holland can be reached at 204-268-4752 or by email at sholland@alzheimer.mb.ca. You can learn more about programs hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba online at <https://alzheimer.mb.ca/>.



## Public hearing scheduled for April 4

**By Patricia Barrett**

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton will be holding a public hearing next Thursday to redesignate a parcel of land near the western edge of Arborg for a future multi-lot residential subdivision.

The municipality will hold a public hearing on April 4 at 5 p.m. to consider the re-designation of Roll No. 53600 (170 Philips Dr.) from commercial general area to urban residential area to “accommodate a multi-lot residential subdivision.”

Eastern Interlake Planning District CAO and development officer Nancy Thom said the redesignation is necessary to correct a mapping error in the EIPD’s development plan.

In the 2011 zoning bylaw, the land is already designated as residential, but the EIPD’s development plan shows it as a commercial zone, which is incorrect.

“The hearing is to bring the [development] plan into compliance with the zoning bylaw so that both documents are compatible,” said Thom. “In order to apply to subdivide, they

have to have the correct designation. Once the designation is fixed, they can go ahead and apply for the subdivision.”

According to the EIPD’s circulation package, the proposed residential subdivision will consist of approximately 24 lots with a single road leading to and from St. Phillips Drive. The proposed subdivision is located on the western outskirts of Arborg, close to the junction of highways 68 and 7. There’s no information in the package pertaining to the developer or a timeline for the building of the proposed subdivision.

The municipality was asked if it could share details on the proposed subdivision, including the owner or developer’s name; whether the residential housing will consist of single dwellings on individual lots or be row housing, condos or rentals; whether the units will include garages; and whether the developer will be required to build sidewalks along the proposed road.

“The municipality has not yet received a planning report for Roll 53600 from the Community Planning Branch of Manitoba Municipal & Northern Relations in Selkirk, which receives subdivision applications for our region,” said Bifrost-Riverton



**EASTERN INTERLAKE PLANNING DISTRICT**  
The illustration shows a proposed 24-lot residential subdivision in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton on the western outskirts of Arborg.

chief administrative officer Larissa Love.

Regarding the number of new housing units the municipality needs, Love said they’re not sure of exact numbers, but “the demand for housing exceeds what is available in our municipality and throughout much of the Interlake region.”

The public hearing takes place in council chambers at 329 River Rd. in Arborg.


# Berens River RCMP lay charges in shooting



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**PLEASE BRING A TIN FOR THE BIN TO HELP SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED!!**

**By Lana Meier**  
Berens River RCMP were alerted to a shooting involving a male on the evening of March 10, at around 11:15 p.m. They quickly responded and arrived at the Nursing Station, where they discovered a 37-year-old man who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. The male was transported to Winnipeg hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.  
Upon investigation, it was found that the victim had been in a car with a 32-year-old female and a 30-year-old male when an altercation occurred. The man got out of the vehicle and shot the victim. The victim then exited the vehicle and was left on the road while the suspect and female driver fled the scene.  
The victim was found and taken for medical treatment. Shortly after, officers received a report that the same suspect had attended a residence in the community. He caused

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a disturbance and then left and shot at the house. Three people were in the house and were uninjured, but the shots hit the walls in several rooms in the house.

Mario Semple, a resident of Berens River, was arrested and charged for 16 weapons and assault charges on March 19. He remains in custody. The investigation continues.



**PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
A resident of Berens River was arrested and charged for 16 weapons and assault charges on March 19.



# Westshore Community Foundation celebrates 25 years

By Becca Myskiw

The Westshore Community Foundation (WCF) is celebrating 25 years in 2024.

Created in 1998, when the provincial government introduced the regional health authority model, WCF stewarded the Johnson Memorial Hospital's fund for health-care improvement projects. The Thomas Sill Foundation and Winnipeg Foundation acted as major supporters of the new foundation, offering immediate benefits to the region.

A community foundation is an enduring charitable organization created to build a permanent capital fund that supports registered charities and individuals. When funds are donated, the capital amount is invested and never spent, and the community foundation uses the interest made each year to provide grants, scholarships and disbursements, as described by Krista Narfason, administrative coordinator for WCF.

That first year, WCF had \$225,000 in the community fund. They granted \$10,500 to nine different community groups in 1999 and \$24,000 to six groups in 2000. Today, WCF has \$5.5 million in assets and has distributed over \$2.1 million in grants, scholarships and disbursements to the catchment area.

"As Manitobans continue to move through this post-pandemic era, at Westshore Community Foundation, we continue to see that the needs of not-for-profit organizations within our catchment area has only increased," said David Douglas, WCF president.

He noted that in 2023, WCF granted \$59,100 to organizations and projects focusing on the environment, heritage and culture, sports and recreation, youth, community services, health, and education and more than \$32,100 in scholarships to 16 different students in the area. He said this year, the foundation will continue to offer two new scholarships, the Westshore Skilled Trades & Technologies Scholarship Fund and the Sigurlin Roed (Danielson) Memorial Scholarship Fund.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Westshore Community Foundation is celebrating 25 years in 2024. Pictured here is the 2023 board of directors.

This year, Tim Arnason, Darcy Jacobs, Rosanna Cuthbert and Nicole Chapnick are leaving the board of directors, and taking their places are Darin Lemieux, Doug Anderson, Patti McIntyre, Donna Roed and Romanna Klymkiw. Douglas said that, as they did for the last 24 years, the WCF is committed to building a lasting legacy. He thanks the community for their support over the years, which has allowed them to grant funds and award scholarships, ultimately bettering the lives of everyone along the west shores of Lake Winnipeg.

There are little more

than 200 community foundations across Canada, and 57 of them are in Manitoba, giving the province the largest concentration per capita of foundations in North America.

Follow the WCF on social media to stay up to date with their plans to celebrate this milestone.

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# Carlo's Cucina wins Interlake-Eastern region for Stone Soup Fundraiser

By Becca Myskiw

A Winnipeg Beach restaurant has another food competition win under its belt, this time for making the best bowl of soup.

Carlo's Cucina was recently named the Interlake-Eastern region's winner for the 2024 Stone Soup fundraiser with their Big Windy Chowder.

The Stone Soup fundraiser is put on by the Child Nutrition Council

of Manitoba every March to raise money for school meal programs in Manitoba. Restaurants from across the province create a signature soup to be sold, with \$1 from each bowl going towards the cause and with each soup being voted on by those who tasted them.

Once the week is over, restaurants with the most votes in each region are awarded the winning title and more

## How to save extra money this tax season

Personal income tax season is coming and with a more complex system every year, it makes good sense to have an expert prepare your taxes to ensure you're receiving the best return possible. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has put out a lot of new legislation this year, with what seems to be a record number of changes. Erica Minarik, owner of ELM Chartered Professional Accountant Inc. (ELM CPA), is here to walk you through some of those changes that could affect the way you file this year.

One of the bigger changes is how remote employees can claim expenses while working from home. Since 2020, remote employees have been able to claim the temporary flat rate method of \$2 per day as working-from-home expenses. As of this year, employees now need to meet certain criteria and obtain a signed T2200 form from their employer before being able to claim expenses.

Minarik says if you recently renovated your home, consider if you are eligible to claim the existing Home Accessibility Tax Credit or the new Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit. The CRA has also added to the list of eligible medical expenses this year, including the additional cost of an aspher-

ic lens over a basic lens during cataract surgery.

If you are looking to maximize your return, Minarik recommends seeking out professional tax preparation services and advice. "Find someone you trust, someone that is staying on top of these changes, and takes time to analyze your tax return, not just prepare it."

Before starting her firm, ELM CPA, in October 2023, Minarik worked as an accountant for the last 16 years in Winnipeg. Staying rooted in the values of accessibility is important to Minarik, so this tax season she is bringing her personal tax preparation services to the Interlake region by offering a Gimli pick-up and drop-off service. For those who prefer to submit their documents electronically, she also offers a secure portal on her website.

Gimli holds a special place in Minarik's heart as her happy place and home of her late Amma and Afi, Benna and Don Martin. "I've only ever missed one Islendingadagurinn and was especially proud to be one of my Amma's attendants when she was Fjallkona."

Minarik would love to be of service to you in this upcoming tax season and beyond. You can reach her by phone at (204) 272-7946 or email at info@elmcpa.ca.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Carlo's Cucina sold more than 120 soups to be named the Interlake-Eastern region winner in the 2024 Stone Soup fundraiser.

meals are available to Manitoban students. Last year, the annual fundraiser brought in \$25,000 thanks to individual donors, corporate donors and soup sales.

Big Windy Chowder was thought up by Carlo's Cucina owner Carlo Guzzi. The soup, made with pickerel cheeks, is something Guzzi dabbled in before. Working off the success of that previous soup, he created the region winner for the Stone Soup fundraiser 2024. Big Windy Chowder includes pickerel cheeks, baby white potatoes, corn, shallots, celery, garlic and more, with everything blended to silky smooth perfection.

"I just can't explain that taste together," he said. "I wish I could eat that soup every day for 365 days straight."

Guzzi sold more than 120 of the soups from March 11 to 17, twice as many as he expected. He said he went through six pots of the pickerel chowder that week and heard from customers it was the best soup they've

ever had.

"There were people from Winnipeg and all over the province coming just to have a bowl of that soup," said Guzzi. "It was really, really nice to see."

Guzzi expects the Stone Soup fundraiser to grow and thrive, raising more and more money and awareness for school meal programs as the years go on.

"It's a great thing [the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba] does for children's nutrition," he said. "I did it for the cause, not the title. I know Carlo's Cucina puts out phenomenal food. I want to jump aboard and help in any way I can."

The Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba announced the winners of the 2024 Stone Soup fundraiser on March 19, two days after the contest ended. This year's contest marked 12 years of it helping the council to achieve their vision — every child, every day, well nourished.

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## > FPMC, FROM PG. 3

with fishers, First Nations and Métis stakeholders from July to September 2017 to understand the challenges faced by fishers, the importance of the fishery and the services FPMC offers that are most helpful and valued by them, states the executive summary. Some fishers expressed concern about “a future without Freshwater” and wanted to see the role of the corporation continue as it evolves to a “more sustainable business model.” Others said FPMC prices have remained stagnant and the corporation has not kept pace with rising costs and inflationary pressures. Others asked that fishers be allowed to sit at the FPMC decision-making table. There was little support at that time for the dissolution or privatization of Freshwater.

The federal government is currently soliciting expressions of interest from parties that are interested in buying FPMC.

Kristjansson said that although we don’t know exactly what the dissolution of FPMC could bring, it’s possible it might result in a model that won’t have the wherewithal to support the fishers it currently deals with or the means to attract new fishers.

Lake Winnipeg competes with On-

tario’s Great Lakes’ fisheries. An overabundance of fish such as pickerel or whitefish can affect supply and demand and the prices of fish in global markets. Canada’s fluctuating dollar can also affect returns.

“There are always wannabe fish buyers out there, but some haven’t got deep enough pockets to carry fish [store it in large quantities] for maybe six months or longer, which often does happen at FPMC when the market is oversupplied and fish prices come down,” said Kristjansson. “Where is the money going to come from in a private company to withstand fluctuations in the market? Private companies at times just won’t buy fish from Manitoba fishers if the market is oversaturated. And we fishers must sell the fish we catch. It’s not wheat: it’s perishable and it must be sold within days.”

FPMC has established markets for pickerel, sauger and whitefish, as well as for whitefish and tullibee roe. It also buys lesser valued fish such as jackfish, mullet and carp, which have smaller markets. It supplies the U.S. gefilte fish market with kosher-certified fish that’s processed at FPMC’s plant in Winnipeg.

Kristjansson said some private companies may be interested only in “big

money fish” such as pickerel and whitefish, and won’t buy other fish species.

“Some private companies are doing one or two fish. First it was pickerel, pickerel, pickerel and then it was whitefish. Every wannabe fish dealer that comes here will not want carp. So where does that go? It will shut down this resource. We can’t become a province that sells only a few species of fish yet have tens of thousands of anglers targeting a single species (pickerel) and affecting supply,” said Kristjansson. “There are so many other fish species that FPMC buys from fishers. And there’s the roe market. The expertise FPMC built up over time and the market for other fish could be disrupted under privatization.”

Kristjansson said there were an awful lot of fishers that suffered in the years before the marketing board was established in 1969. Returning to the days of private fish buyers could see some fishers left on the dock.

“We’re going through another change because the government themselves decided that something should be done. We understood at the time there were too many fishermen chasing too few fish. If you go anywhere in the world right now that’s the first thing you’ll hear. And

we were not getting paid enough by the companies — I have heard that from B.C. to Newfoundland and even in Iceland, too, where companies are taking all the money,” said Kristjansson. “We have in Winnipeg our own company that’s doing everything they can to sell our fish. And we’re lucky to have them working for us. They’ve got no pockets they’re filling up; they’re trying to sell our fish at the best price they can. And if we can’t understand that, we’re going to lose our only fish manufacturing operation in Manitoba.”

The Express reached out to DFO with questions, including what percentage of fish the marketing board currently receives from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and territorial fishers and why the government extended the expression of interest application deadline to April 4. The department said it might respond after the paper’s deadline.

The federal government is currently soliciting expressions of interest from organizations or groups that wish to take over the ownership and governance of FPMC. A template is available on DFO’s website through which interested parties can forward an expression of interest. Submissions can be emailed to DFO.freshwater-eau-douce.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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# Long-established group helping Gimli's health

By Emma McGill

The Gimli District Health Auxiliary is made up of a group of ladies dedicated to giving back to the community and its people.

The group has been running for 56 years with an expansive history of giving back and a continuously growing membership. Having begun back in 1968 with 12 founding members, the auxiliary now has more than 40 members.

Through the use of a wish list, the group raises funds each year to give back to departments of the Gimli hospital and various other health programs in the area. Since 2008, they have donated more than \$240,000 to the health centre. Their donations have gone towards acute care, pal-

liative care, dialysis, chemotherapy, EMS, physiotherapy/occupational therapy, diagnostic services, public health, home care, mental health, Families First, Camp Stepping Stones, healing garden, Seniors Resource Council and adult day program.

A large portion of the funds that the auxiliary raises comes from the gift shop they run at the Gimli Community Health Centre, where they sell both commercial products and hand-made specialties including products by talented knitters, crocheters, sewers and quilters within the group. The shop currently operates from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, and is staffed by volunteers.

Last year, the auxiliary also raised funds through a quilt raffle, 50/50 draw, a raffle for a Heather Lair quilted tapestry, and a Sisters of the Holy Rock concert hosted at Gimli High School. The members also volunteer for Meals on Wheels twice annually, keep the drink machines at the hospital stocked and award two \$500 bursaries for qualifying Grade 12 students from Gimli High School who are entering post-secondary education programs in a health-related field.

"Some of the ladies have lived in the Gimli area all their lives, while some of us are new to the community and found new friendships through the auxiliary," said Elaine Thompson, a resident of Gimli since 2013 and president of the auxiliary. "I love being part of the health auxiliary. The other ladies gave me such a wonderful welcome that I instantly felt at home. I tried desperately to keep a low profile as I attended meetings, but like my past life as a teacher, I was unable to control my hand as it shot up at meet-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Gimli District Health Auxiliary has been supporting the community for 56 years and is always looking for new volunteers.

ings and made suggestions and offered input. Here I am, into my third year as president, and I'm finally feeling comfortable with the tasks that are expected of me. All the members are great ladies who are easy to work with. I love their volunteer mentality, their kindness to everyone and their welcoming personalities. Through the auxiliary, I've found some new friends who make me laugh and make the job worthwhile."

Membership in Gimli District Health Auxiliary is open to anyone who has a concern for the health centre and those it serves.

"If you have time or talent and wish to meet

some hard-working, caring women, then consider joining us at our next meeting. They are held the first Tuesday of the month from March until December. Some women like to work in the background and some of us take on executive and convenor positions, which might replicate the past work experience that we were involved in," she said. "The mission of the auxiliary is to assist and add to the comfort and well-being of patients at Gimli Community Health Centre and area."

Public updates are made pertaining to gift shop operating hours, products for sale and funding initiatives on the Gimli District Health Auxiliary Facebook page.

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# Province has infrared eye on moose populations in Manitoba

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government's Wildlife Branch has been conducting aerial surveys over the course of February and March to determine moose population trends across the province, including in the Interlake where hunting in some areas is prohibited.

The branch's population assessment manager Kirsten Solmundson, who was hired by the province last May, said that in general moose populations are declining in many parts of the province.

"Aerial surveys conducted in 2010 and 2011 revealed declining trends in several game hunting areas, which prompted conservation closures to restrict moose hunting in those areas," said Solmundson.

Closed areas include the Duck Mountain Game Hunting Area (GHA), numbered 18, 18A, 18B and 18C, and the Porcupine Mountain GHA, numbered 13 and 13A, according to the branch's webpage and moose hunting closure map. Moose hunting is also closed in the Hecla-Grindstone region and regions in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, as well as along the east shore of Lake Winnipeg and up



Infrared aerial images of moose in Manitoba.

past Berens River. The west side of Lake Winnipeg, along Fisher Bay, west to Lake St. Martin, as well as northwards almost to Grand Rapids is also closed to moose hunting.

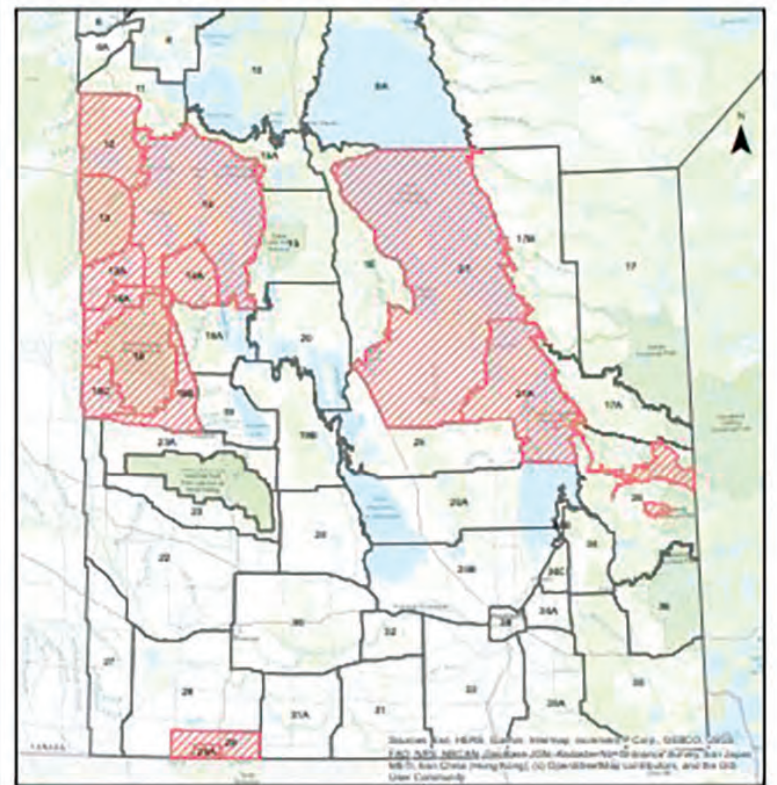
Solmundson said moose populations face a variety of environmental and human-related threats that can affect their numbers.

"Moose are facing a number of threats, including parasites and disease such as winter tick and brainworm [a parasitic roundworm causing weakness, lack of co-ordination, circling behaviour deafness and other symptoms], climate change, over-hunting, loss of suitable habitat due to development and fire suppression, and other landscape changes," said Solmundson. "As an example, human development can increase the success of predators (wolves and black

Continued on page 16

## Moose Conservation Closures

Full and Partial Game Hunting Areas Closed to Moose Hunting



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

Wide swathes of the northern part of the Interlake and areas northwest of Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis are closed to all moose hunters.

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# Four Koostatak co-workers share \$100,000 EXTRA prize

By Lana Meier

A lucky bunch of colleagues from Koostatak are rejoicing over their recent win of \$100,003 from the Feb. 28 LOTTO 6/49 and EXTRA draw.

Aaron Mason and colleagues Cynthia Anderson, Douglas Murdock and John Garson have been purchasing lottery tickets together every week for as long as they can recall.

The winners said it's a routine that brings them time together and now has brought each of them a whole lot more.

"I had no idea we had won until the cashier checked the ticket," said Mason while claiming the group's prize. "I just fell kind of quiet for a second then immediately called [the other group members]. It was such a surprise."

Each winner will take home a \$25,000.75 share of the total LOTTO 6/49 and EXTRA prize.

According to Mason, his colleagues are currently brainstorming ways to use their unexpected abundance, while he has already determined his course of action: "My portion of the prize will go towards paying off my truck."

The group purchased its winning ticket at Fisher River Cree Nation Gas and Convenience Store located in Koostatak. They won their prize by matching two out of six of the numbers drawn in the LOTTO 6/49 classic draw, as well as the last six numbers of the EXTRA draw on Feb. 28 — 3 8 2 6 9 0 4.



**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
Co-workers Douglas Murdock, Aaron Mason, Cynthia Anderson and John Garson of Koostatak recently won \$100,003 from the LOTTO 6/49 and EXTRA draw.

## > MOOSE, FROM PG. 15

bears) by creating sightlines through the forest (i.e., linear features such as roads or ATV trails). Human development and climate change have also resulted in increasing white-tailed deer populations in areas that were historically primarily moose habitat, which can increase overall predator abundance and put additional pressures on moose."

The province is currently conducting aerial surveys (by plane or drone) using infrared and RGB (red, green and blue wavelengths) imaging technology, which is an effective way to detect mammals in a variety of habitats. The technology doesn't rely on snow cover, which increases the department's capacity to undertake surveys, said Solmundson. The method also provides georeferenced video data for all the observations, which increases the reliability and transparency of the surveys.

Over the course of February and March, the province is surveying moose in five game hunting areas: 17A, 21, 21A, 26 and 27. Researchers are also collecting data on other big

game species such as elk and caribou if present.

Specialist aerial researchers are using aerial infrared technology on a fixed-wing plane for the two Interlake areas (21 and 21A). The plane is equipped with a military-grade infrared sensor, an RGB camera with an optical zoom, laser distance meter and an on-board augmented reality system, said Solmundson. The technology enables the surveyors to quickly and accurately detect and count large mammals such as moose, elk, caribou and deer.

For moose in particular, infrared technology can detect them in heavily forested areas where they could be difficult to spot.

"The infrared sensor is so powerful that it can detect the heat difference of the pedicles on a bull moose after the antlers have been shed, allowing us to collect accurate sex ID data throughout the winter. Obtaining high quality data allows the Wildlife Branch to produce accurate results when calculating population sizes and sex ratios," said Solmundson. "The infrared technology is an effective method to detect any large mammal and the surveys can also provide insights on other species such as wolves, lynx

and invasive pigs without the need to invest in additional survey efforts."

The survey's results will be able to tell the department what the general trends are across Manitoba and to determine how many moose can be hunted.

"The Wildlife Branch considers the estimated abundance, sex ratios, calf ratios and long-term trends of wildlife populations as a metric of population health and to determine sustainable harvest rates," said Solmundson.

Typically, the province carries out aerial moose surveys in three to five GHAs each winter, although past surveys have had to be cancelled because of insufficient snow cover, she said. Updated technology, however, allow surveys to be conducted regardless of snow cover.

Solmundson previously studied caribou populations on islands in Lake Superior for her PhD thesis. She used DNA sequencing to compare the isolated herds to caribou in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. The herds found on the islands were a "unique genetic group."

"My findings indicate that these genetic differences are caused by multiple factors including local adaptation, inbreeding and other island dynamics. My research was conducted collaboratively with biologists from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Climate Change Canada," she said. "The findings from my research are being used to guide future conservation and management decisions for caribou in the Lake Superior Range."

For more information on threats to Manitoba's moose population, visit [https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish\\_wildlife/hard-to-be-a-moose.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/nrnd/fish-wildlife/pubs/fish_wildlife/hard-to-be-a-moose.pdf)

Annual big game survey reports and a survey method FAQ guide are also posted on the Wildlife Branch's website.

**Community Support Service**

**AA Meetings in Ashern**  
Open Meeting  
**Time: 6-7pm Fridays**  
**Starting Friday March 3rd.**  
Location: #11 2nd Ave North  
-Pioneer Manor  
( beside the main door entrance  
of Pioneer Manor)  
Contact AAMBCO@mts.net

**AA Eriksdale**  
Eriksdale United Church building  
#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)  
**Meetings are Mondays**  
**at 6:30 p.m.**

**AA Winnipeg Beach**  
Lady of the Lake RC Church  
Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,  
Winnipeg Beach  
**Meetings are Saturdays**  
**between 7 and 8 p.m.**  
Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

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**AA Riverton Group**  
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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Gimli's Kadriana and Colton Lott win 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship

By Curl Canada

When two undefeated teams meet in a championship final and that game is decided by a measurement following the last shot in the eighth end — and even that measurement was close enough to do twice — it's obvious that there wasn't much separating gold from silver.

Such was the case at the 2024 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship in Fredericton, N.B., where Gimli's Kadriana and Colton Lott defeated Edmonton's Laura Walker and Kirk Muyres 7-5 to claim the national title for the first time.

After Walker's last shot, an attempt at a triple takeout, just missed the mark, the remaining stones were measured twice, giving the Lotts the win, if only by a millimetre.

"Before he put the stick to it, I was pretty confident," said Colton Lott. "But then he put the stick to it, and it was really close. I thought it was us, but just barely ... by less than a tick. I looked at Kadriana and gave her the 'I think it's us' look — and then he went around again."

"I couldn't even look," said Kadriana. "I was standing back trying to keep myself busy. I didn't even want to look at his expression. You're either playing another end or you're winning."

As it turned out, they were winning. Walker and Muyres opened the game with two steals, jumping to a 3-0 lead. The Manitoba champs came back with a three-point end in the third and then put together a great chance to steal in the fourth.

"Being down three is OK in mixed doubles," said Kadriana. "It's mixed doubles; anything can happen. You're always still in it. You can steal. You can score a bundle. You can tally up five. I knew we just had to stay in it and focus on making the shots."

After looking at what could have been a steal of two in the fourth end, Walker made an incredible runback double takeout to score a single. After trading singles in the fifth and sixth, Team Manitoba put the power play to good use in the seventh end and scored two, giving them a 6-5 lead.

After Walker's last triple attempt just missed in the eighth end, the measurement confirmed the victory for the Lotts, a well-deserved national championship.

The Lotts, who play out of Winnipeg Beach, have been one of the best mixed doubles teams in the country for the last six years and were finally rewarded after settling for two silvers and a bronze medal in three previous appearances at the national championship.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Husband and wife duo Colton and Kadriana Lott of Gimli defeated Edmonton's Laura Walker and Kirk Muyres 7-5 to claim the national title.

"This is an unbelievable feeling," said Colton. "To do it with Kadriana is just really special. Having falling short a couple times in the finals ... it's just special."

The win comes with a \$35,000 payday and a trip to the World Championship in Ostersund, Sweden, next month as Team Canada. The last time the Lott duo wore the Maple Leaf, they won the World Cup of Curling event, which was also held in Swe-

den.

Walker and Muyres, who beat the Lotts in the final of the 2018 championship, took home \$20,000 for their silver medal finish. Both teams, and bronze medalists Jocelyn Peterman and Brett Gallant, will qualify for the Canadian Mixed Doubles Trials, which will crown Canada's 2026 Olympic team.

## Eriksdale Curling Club volunteer opening new doors for the club

By Becca Myskiw

An Eriksdale Curling Club volunteer is putting the curling club on the map.

Donna Pool is back on the curling board as treasurer, sitting in the position for two years so far this time. Since returning to the board, Pool has helped get lots off the ground at the curling club, the biggest being the new ice plant. She searches for and applies for grants for new projects, which she says is long and arduous.

The Eriksdale Curling Club also started sponsoring school curlers on Fridays this year, seeing them arrive around 11 a.m. and stay until 3:15 p.m. Pool is one of the mentors for the young curlers and said they're quick learners and fun for her to teach.

"It is very gratifying seeing youth

curlers, school curlers, high school curlers who have competed in provincial playdowns, seniors and persons with limited physical capabilities enjoying the sport in a safe and welcoming environment," she said.

Pool also noted the club's stick curling program expanded this year, seeing its senior curlers compete provincially.

"The sport of curling offers an alternative to the more obvious sports," said Pool. "Rural youth have difficulty experiencing opportunities because of travel and financial constraints. Curling contributes to the well-being of our residents through exercise and socialization."

Pool also applied for funding from the Healthy Together Now initiative for floor curling equipment on behalf

of the curling club. Now the community plays every Friday afternoon, seeing a big turnout each time. The club is hoping to host a wind-up spiel with everyone soon. This equipment is also available to the high school to use with students in their phys-ed classes.

The Eriksdale Curling Club also received funding from the Doc Seaman Foundation and the Calgary Foundation to run a youth curling clinic. Kerri and Kyle Einarson instructed Grade 5 to 8 students.

Pool said the entire board behind the curling rink is dedicated to it and its success. She referred to the group as a "small but mighty community" that has volunteered through many adverse conditions.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Donna Pool, volunteer with the Eriksdale Curling Club, has been helping get lots of projects off the ground.



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- 1 box cake mix
- 1 can frosting
- 1 bunny chocolate mold
- 1 cakesicle mold
- ice pop sticks
- 1 bag white chocolate chips or melting chips
- cake pop sticks
- 1 bag orange melting chips
- 2 tablespoons canola or coconut oil, divided
- 1 bag green melting chips
- pastel sprinkles
- 1 piece hard foam (optional)
- edible markers

Bake cake according to package instructions and let cool completely.

Crumble cake and mix with 1/2 can frosting until dough forms. Add more frosting, if needed. Using small cookie scoop, form dough into balls and set aside. Place dough in bunny molds then pop out and set aside with balls. Place dough in cakesicle mold, insert ice pop stick in each slot and freeze 5-10 minutes.

Melt handful of white melting chips. Stick tip of each cake pop stick in choc-

## Kids Krafty Easter Cake Pops

olate then insert into every cake ball and bunny until each has one stick. Set aside to dry.

Remove cakesicles from freezer and pop out of molds. In bowl, melt orange melts then mix in 1 tablespoon oil and transfer to cup. Dip cakesicles and scrape off excess using rim of cup. Place on parchment paper to dry.

In bowl, melt green melts then place in zip-top or piping bag. Cut tip off bag, pipe carrot leaves onto piece of parchment paper and let dry.

Melt remaining white melts and mix in remaining oil. Transfer to cup and dip ball-shaped cake pops and bunnies then tap stick on edge of cup to remove excess.

Over separate bowl, sprinkle ball-shaped pops with pastel sprinkles. To keep ball shape, let dry by sticking in piece of hard foam. Bunnies can dry face side up on parchment paper. After bunnies are dry, use edible markers to make face and color in ears.

When carrots and leaves are dry, remelt orange melts and place in piping or zip-top bag. Cut off tip and drizzle orange over carrots. Add small line of orange on each ice pop stick and place leaves on each stick. Let dry.



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

- Icing:
- 1/3 cup meringue powder
- 1/2 cup warm water, plus additional for thinning (optional), divided
- 3 tablespoons vanilla
- 1 bag (2 pounds) powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup
- assorted food coloring
- Cookies:
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 dash salt

## Easter Sugar Cookies

3 cups all-purpose flour

To make icing: Mix meringue powder, 1/2 cup warm water, vanilla, powdered sugar and corn syrup. Separate into bowls and add food coloring; mix with water, as needed, to thin for piping.

To make cookies: Heat oven to 350 F.

Cream butter and sugar. Mix in egg, vanilla, baking powder and salt. Mix in flour 1 cup at a time to form dough. Roll dough out to 1/4-1/2-inch thickness.

Cut into shapes, place on baking sheet and freeze 10 minutes. Bake 8-12 minutes. Cool completely before icing.

Place icing in zip-top or piping bags and cut off tips. Put cookies on parchment paper. Trace outline first then fill in middle. Use toothpicks to smooth out.

Let dry 6 hours and finish decorating with different icing colors or edible markers.

## Expert Patient Here to Help!

By Susie Schwartz

Here's a top tip: celebrate the small (and big) stuff.

In April, I'll be turning fifty. Fifty! Wowza. I'm too young to be this old. (Although my body tells me I'm too old to be this young, ha.)

Here's the thing. The doctors were telling me at about age seventeen that, based on my diabetes control, I could be dead by the age of twenty-five. Guess what? I didn't die. I'll do the math for you (you're welcome); I've doubled that projected lifespan.

I could get all, 'boohoo I'm getting older' or, and this is what I'm choosing to do - I can see these 'extra(?)' years as a gift - a realization of a longer, more full life. What does this mean? I am going to celebrate the snot out of this birthday. I've given myself the year of 2024 to celebrate 50 days. On the list? A coffee date with Carlos the wonder Chihuahua; a spa day; a party on the night before my actual birthday to ring in the big day (yes, my guests must stay until after midnight); having a friend from Stonewall come over to England for a week. (I just got the tingles from excitement!)

I've actually started my celebratory activities. I headed to a large, new Salvation Army charity shop. Oh, how I love the hunt of finding a treasure that has already been loved by someone else. I also found a little wooden sign that said, 'I just want to read my book and ignore my adult problems,' which I regret not buying. I found a delightful T-shirt. It reads, "I do not like the cone of shame - Dug" and sports a picture



Susie Schwartz

of a dog in a vet-issued head cone. My next dog shall be named 'Dug,' (But spelled right, maybe?), and I shall rock this T-shirt with pleather trousers and funky boots often. It cost me £3. See? Treasure.

Those of us who can't say, 'At least I have my health,' can often find gratitude and honour in each breath we take and all the beautiful things that fill those moments we still have. It needn't be skydiving or sunbathing in Hawaii. We need to be intentional and present. Carpe Diem and all that.

I do hope you are healthy, but whether you do or not, celebrate some small (and big) stuff with me?

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @medicalm-iss\_stress, and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com) If you like her writing, find more on her Substack page: The Quest For Less Health Stress



- Yield: 1 roast
- Salt
- pepper
- garlic powder
- 1 roast (3 pounds)
- 1 bag (1 pound) baby carrots
- 1 bag (1 1/2 pounds) trio potatoes or potato of choice
- 3 cups beef broth
- 1 can (10 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 tablespoon garlic pepper
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 1 bundle asparagus



## Easter Roast

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Sprinkle salt, pepper and garlic powder over roast and rub into front, back and sides. Place seasoned roast in middle of large roasting pan.

Place carrots on one side of roasting pan and potatoes on other side.

In large bowl, mix beef broth and cream of mushroom soup with garlic pepper. Pour mixture over roast, potatoes and carrots. Sprinkle brown sugar over carrots and add chopped onion. Cover and cook 2 1/2 hours then remove from oven, add asparagus and cook uncovered 30 minutes.

Serve from pan or place on platter for more formal presentation.



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## ARBORG BIFROST RECREATION

### Summer Employment Opportunities

#### Summer Program Leaders

Program Leader will help organize and plan activities for children between 6-11 years of age that will be attending the Summer Camp in July & August. Work Shift will be Monday to Friday from 8:00am - 5:00pm

#### Summer GreenTeam

This position will be responsible for maintaining community greenspaces, recreation fields, and assist with the Communities in Bloom program (watering/weeding). Work shift will be Monday - Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm, with some weekend and evenings shifts as required.

### ACCESS AQUATIC CENTRE Lifeguards & Swim Instructors

Arborg Bifrost Recreation is looking for lifeguards and swim instructors for the 2024 Summer (July - August). Please send resume with certifications to tom.abprc@mymts.net

Resumes can be sent to:  
Arborg Bifrost Recreation  
Box 555 Arborg, MB R0C 0A0  
Email: tom.abprc@mymts.net

**56th Annual LUNDAR BULL SALE**  
"Where the good bulls come"

April 6, 2024 1:00 P.M. Lundar Agri-Ed Centre - Auctioneer - Tyler Slawinski

9 - 1 year Herefords	2 - 2 year Shorthorn
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2 - 1 year Angus	2 - 1 year Limousin
4 - 2 year Angus	2 - 1 year Speckle Park
15 - 1 year Simmental	2 - Hereford Heifers
2 - 2 year Simmental	2 - Speckle Park Heifers

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## Destination Winnipeg Beach Committee Establishment

### Committee Purpose

Develop, enhance and oversee all events and products that are aimed to increase and strengthen the overall tourism visitor experience of the Town of Winnipeg Beach year round.

Ensure that the arts, culture and historical heritage of Winnipeg Beach are properly represented and included whenever possible in tourism events.

Seek and secure grant funding from potential sources to help support tourism development.

Liaise, collaborate, and/or partner with local organizations, businesses, and neighboring towns to further enhance the visitor experience of tourism events and products.

Create a collaborative year round tourism development and sustainability plan that's based on achieving realistic objectives, timelines, and budget expectations.

**Are You Interested And Qualified To Become A Committee Member**  
Committee members will be selected based on their experience and interest related to tourism. This will be a working committee whereby members will be asked to take on specific responsibilities and tasks, including volunteering for tourism events at times.

Should this opportunity to support Winnipeg Beach's tourism initiatives be of interest to you, please submit a brief summary of your background and the reasons why becoming a member of this committee is of interest to you. **Submission deadline is April 5, 2024.**

Email Your Letter Of Interest To:  
Peter Holfeuer

Tourism, Development & Community Engagement Manager  
[tourism@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:tourism@winnipegbeach.ca)

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

### INVITES REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR 2024 Class A Quarried Limestone Hauling and Spreading

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong (RM) is seeking quotations from qualified bidders for Hauling and Spreading of Limestone; to be deposited on municipal roads throughout the RM, as directed by the RM.

Quotation packages including submission documents are available at the RM Office at 1094 Highway 17, Inwood Manitoba, and MERX

Sealed submission clearly marked "2024 Class A Quarried Limestone Hauling and Spreading" will be received at the RM Office up until 12:00 p.m., local time on Friday April 5, 2024. Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Quotes will be opened Friday April 5, 2024, at 3:00pm at the RM office, members of the public may attend.

All inquiries related to the Request for Quotation should be directed to:  
Ken McMahon at 204-390-6175

Quotations may be submitted to:  
RM of Armstrong  
1094 Highway 17  
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0  
Phone: 204-278-3377  
Or dropped off at the RM office.

The lowest quote may not necessarily be accepted.



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## FARMLAND SALE BY TENDER

### SE 16 25 3 WPM

We invite offers in person or by mail to Pitblado Law, 349 Main Street (Box 4045), Arborg, MB R0C 0A0 by no later than April 30, 2024. Offers must be made out to Pitblado Law (Attn: Leith Robertson), have no conditions, and include a deposit of not less than 5% of the tendered amount (to be returned if not accepted). The highest or any offer may not be accepted. The successful offeror will be notified when accepted. Enquiries may be directed to 204-376-5156.

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#### Engineering and Project Management Services

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong (RM) is soliciting bids for Engineering and Project Management Services for Restoration of Approximately 1.6 km length of road embankment and ditch on the west side of Meridian Road between Road Mile Road 125 N and 126 N. The location is approximately 16.6 km west of PTH 7 and approximately 6.5 km east of PTH 17.

Please contact the office at [clerk@rmofarmstrong.com](mailto:clerk@rmofarmstrong.com) or Merx.com to obtain details of the services required.

Ken McMahon  
Public Works Coordinator  
RM of Armstrong  
Lot 55 Highway 17  
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0  
Phone: 204-278-3377

## WESTERN INTERLAKE PLANNING DISTRICT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

### THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF COLDWELL BY-LAW NO. 02/24

Being an amendment to the Rural Municipality of Coldwell Zoning By-law No. 5/05, as amended.

**HEARING LOCATION:** RM of Coldwell Council Chambers  
#35 Main St, Lundar, MB

**DATE & TIME:** April 12th, 2024 @ 11:00 am

**GENERAL INTENT:**

- To add "Secondary Suites" as a use in all Rural Agricultural, Residential, Seasonal Recreation & Seasonal Recreation - Cottage zones.
- To add "Guest houses" as a use in all Rural Agricultural, Residential General and Rural Residential zones.

**AREA AFFECTED:** All Rural Agricultural, Residential General, Rural Residential, Seasonal Recreation and Seasonal Recreation-cottage zones in the RM of Coldwell

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cherie Millar, Office Administrator,  
Western Interlake Planning District  
Box 269, St. Laurent, MB R0C 2S0,  
(204) 646-2615, Fax: (204) 646-4150,  
Email: [wipd@mymts.net](mailto:wipd@mymts.net)

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- Must be physically capable of assisting with loading and unloading larger items.
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- Experience helpful, but will to train the right person.

Apply in person or email  
321 Main Street, Arborg, MB  
[smittysfurniture@mymts.net](mailto:smittysfurniture@mymts.net)

204-376-5242

*We thank all those who apply, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted*



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## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring compliance to by-laws within the Municipality; must possess effective public relations and communication skills; ability to deal effectively with complaint investigations and resolution, perform duties effectively with minimal supervision, and maintain accurate work records. This position is under contract with the RM of Gimli.

The successful candidate must be available to respond to calls during the day time, evening and weekends, on an on-call / complaint basis. They must use their own personal vehicle and have a valid Manitoba Driver's License. They must be familiar with Microsoft Office products as the position requires tracking and follow-up of by-law complaints and concerns, including issuing letters and fines, as required.

Preference will be given to applicants with past experience in by-law enforcement.

The successful applicant must be able to obtain RCMP security clearance before commencing work. Medical information pertaining to job responsibilities may be requested.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a written application, including 3 references, by 4:30 pm, Friday, April 12, 2024.

Kelly Cosgrove, CAO  
Rural Municipality of Gimli  
62 - 2nd Avenue, PO Box 1246  
Gimli, MB R0C 1B0  
Email: [gimli@rmgimli.com](mailto:gimli@rmgimli.com)  
Fax: (204) 642-6660

*We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **THOMAS FRANK MOZDZEN**, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 1st day of May, 2024.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 28th day of March, 2024.

BAKER LAW CORPORATION  
SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS  
Attention: Grant D. Baker

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Guntun, MB  
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### Estate & Moving

Closes April 3 @ 7:00 PM

### Man Cave Auction

Featuring Vintage Signs, Toys, Gas Pumps, plus more  
Closes April 6, 2024

### Estate & Moving

Closes April 10 @ 7:00 PM

### Stonewall, MB

204-467-1858

[McSherryAuction.com](http://McSherryAuction.com)

### Meyers Online Gun Auction

### Estate Of Ron Serbin

Late Of Winnipeg, Mb

Antique Long Arms:

Sharps 1874 Hunters rifle \* P. Bond

10ga fowler \* Paget flintlock carbine \*

Mark II Snider Carbine \*

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Bradley Meyers, Auctioneer

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[www.meyersauctions.com](http://www.meyersauctions.com)

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **KENNETH VICTOR PALMI HJORLEIFSON**, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 1st day of May, 2024.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 28th day of March, 2024.

BAKER LAW CORPORATION  
SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS  
Attention: Grant D. Baker

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **CATHERINE JUNE CHATTERLEY**, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 1st day of May, 2024.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 28th day of March, 2024.

BAKER LAW CORPORATION  
SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS  
Attention: Grant D. Baker

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **WILLIAM GEORGE CHATTERLEY**, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 1st day of May, 2024.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 28th day of March, 2024.

BAKER LAW CORPORATION  
SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS  
Attention: Grant D. Baker



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## MANITOBA FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION

### SUMMER RESEARCH ASSISTANT

MFSA is seeking one highly motivated agronomy student to be part of its research program for the summer of 2024. Term will be from May 1 - August 30, 2024. Compensation will be competitive based upon experience.

Position will be based out of Arborg, MB.  
Closing date April 12, 2024.

#### Responsibilities:

Agronomy Students are responsible for supporting all research programs at MFSA and will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Assist in the planting, spraying, maintaining, evaluating, and harvesting of small plot and field scale research trials
- Accurately enter and manage research data
- Maintain, transport and operate research equipment in Manitoba
- Assist with summer tours and other research meetings

#### Qualifications:

- Highly motivated with the ability to work independently
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Strong communication skills
- Willingness to accept responsibility
- Good understanding of agronomic practices in Canada
- Basic mechanical skills; ability to operate farm machinery
- Farm background is an asset
- Agriculture Degree or Diploma student
- Valid Class 5 Driver's License
- Satisfactory driver's abstract

Please send resume and cover letter to:  
Manitoba Forage Seed Association  
Roger Burak, Research Manager  
Box 970, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0  
email: [rburak@forageseed.net](mailto:rburak@forageseed.net)

## RENTAL SUITES

2 bed/1 bath suite available April 1,  
rent is \$898/month plus cable,  
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1 bed/1 bath suite available June 1,  
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restaurants, banks, seniors council

Contact Andrea at 204 886-2760 or  
[farview@mymts.net](mailto:farview@mymts.net) for more info

## RECYCLING NOTICE FOR APRIL / 2024

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc.  
Will not be picking up recycling  
On the below mentioned dates.

Tue. April 9

at Arborg curbside pickup

Thurs. April 11

at Riverton curbside pickup

Tues. April 23

at Arborg curbside pickup

Thurs. April 25

at Riverton curbside pickup

Please rinse your containers

**Thank you  
for recycling**

Please support our advertisers

**SHOP LOCAL**

### CARD OF THANKS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable individuals and organizations within our community who rallied around us during the challenging time of preparing and planning for Colin's funeral.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Reggie and Dawn Leach, Donald and Peggy Vigfusson, Lloyd and Jeanette Roche, and Mona Josephson for their kind words at the service. A special thank you is also owed to the dedicated ladies who selflessly worked in the kitchen, and to those who graciously donated toward the luncheon. Your thoughtful gestures touched our hearts and eased our burdens during a time of immense sorrow.

Additionally, we are profoundly grateful to the various organizations in our community that Colin was proud to be involved with, for their generosity.

Finally, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Riverton Memorial Arena for the special tribute of Colin's Corner at the rink. This meaningful gesture honors Colin's memory in a truly touching way, and we are deeply moved by your thoughtfulness.

Once again, we are immensely grateful to be part of a community that comes together to support each other during difficult times. Your kindness has left a lasting mark on our hearts, and we will forever cherish the memories of your generosity.

### CARD OF THANKS

The family of Janice Smith would like to thank everyone who supported us through this difficult time with cards, texts, calls, visits, food and flowers. We are forever appreciative of all the support.

-Love, her family

### IN MEMORIAM

Anne Skibinski

August 4, 1933 - April 2, 2017

In Loving Memory

Not a day passes

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To love, to cherish,

To never forget beautiful memories

She left behind.

-Husband Frank  
and all the family

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### OBITUARY

Roland P. (Cubby) Barrett

November 30, 1931 - March 3, 2024



It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to a man we were blessed to call my husband, our Dad and Pa (grandfather). Cubby was born in Fisher Branch and spent his lifetime there raising his family, working for his community, and running a variety of businesses. He was proud to call Fisher Branch his home and worked hard to make the community a stronger place to live and raise a family.

Dad was predeceased by his parents Percy and Ida Barrett, and two older sisters Gladys Hjordleifson and Joyce Nevakshonoff.

He is survived by his "Darling" Rosie, of almost 70 years, and his sister Bernice Enstrom. He leaves a strong legacy of love, dedication and happy memories to his children Debra, Doug (Donna), Karl (Pauline) and Kris (Kelly) and his grandchildren who

were the lights in his eyes: Brian, Kurt, Riley, Kalen, Scott, Devin and Keara. He also leaves many nieces, nephews and cousins to remember his zest for life.

Cubby's compassionate view on life created a man who believed in helping those who needed a helping hand. He was a true believer in the "pay it forward" attitude, meaning he always put his energy, time and resources into strengthening his community, and those who entered his life.

The people who worked with Dad were never just employees, they were his friends. He cared about them and their families, wanting everyone to succeed.

Although many people knew Cubby as an outspoken successful businessman, we knew him as a caring husband, father and grandfather. Someone who was always there to encourage you to do your best, provide constructive criticism when you came up a little short, and solve our problems.

We are grateful his unhealthy days are behind him, and he is onto his next adventure, as he always loved an adventure. Some of Dad's last comments were, "I have lived 90 good healthy years of doing as I wanted and going where I wanted so if I have a couple not so good ones then so be it."

He will be missed beyond belief, but we know he will be with us whispering in our ears when he is proud of us, reminding us to work hard, and be grateful for life's gifts and challenges.

Rest in Peace! We love you!

To the Staff of Percy Moore Hospital, Thank You All, for the care, compassion, respect and dignity you provided Cubby during his times in hospital. We will forever be grateful for your kindness. A huge thank you to Krystal Johnson for being there throughout the past year when Mom needed advice.

Following Cubby's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 6th, 2024 at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Church, Fisher Branch with Archdeacon Rev. G. Mawejje officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fisher PCH Foundation Inc., PO Box 548, Fisher Branch, MB. R0C 0Z0 (of which Dad was a founding member) or to the Siloam Mission, 300 Princess St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1M3 (a charity close to his heart).

Fisher Funeral Home Inc.

in care of arrangements

Fisher Branch, MB

Ph: 204-372-6271 or 204-372-6803

## Certified Health Care Aide Course

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## OBITUARY



**Sophie Felbel (nee Usipiuk)**  
May 22, 1935 - March 20, 2024

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Sophie, on March 20, 2024 at her residence in Lundar, MB.

Sophie is survived by her daughter Kelly; grandchildren Melisa, Jennifer (Jason), Stephen (Alyssa), and Paul (Ruth); great-grandchildren Kaylie (Chad), Kyle (Julie), and Andrew; sons-in-law Herman (and his daughter Jennifer) and Skip.

Sophie is predeceased by her husband Emil, daughter Holly, and son-in-law Kenneth.

Sophie was born in Wadena, SK on May 22, 1935 and raised in Wynyard, SK. She was the youngest of eight children. At a young age, Sophie took on many responsibilities with helping her mother due to her mother's illness. She often told stories of making

lunches for the thrashers, washing clothing, taking care of the household chores and helping care for her mother.

At around age 16, Sophie moved to Winnipeg and stayed with her sister Vicky and her brother-in-law Jack. Jack brought Sophie to a band practice for the band "Slim Martin" and that is where she met Emil Felbel. They were married on May 3, 1952.

Shortly after getting married, Sophie contracted tuberculosis and was hospitalized in a sanatorium. Sophie told many stories about her experience there. Emil quickly took on the role of being her caregiver while she was bedridden, and he continued to be a loving and devoted husband right until his death.

Sophie and Emil had two daughters, Kelly and Holly. Sophie was always very family oriented and was always involved in all family occasions.

Sophie worked many years at Zellers where she started clerking and quickly advanced to personal manager. No matter what she did she gave 100% or more and took all commitments very seriously. Sophie retired from Zellers, and they moved to Grahamsdale, MB in 1985. She took on the role as a postal carrier and put on the miles on the Dodge Shadow driving down Highway 6! Sophie also became involved with the church and community club and continued being even more active and involved in community programs when they moved to Ashern, MB in 1998.

Sophie enjoyed the times when Emil had band practices and playing at events. She took on the responsibility of making food and helping set up for entertainment! Sophie also became a grandmother and great-grandmother and was very devoted to her family. She could always be counted on to help with moving, organizing, entertaining (playing cards, hosting suppers), and loved to visit and have company.

Sophie and Emil wanted to keep close family connections so they moved to Lundar in 2013 into the senior housing to be closer to Ken and Kelly who were planning to retire to Lundar.

Sophie continued to be an active member of the community and also took on several roles in the Lundar community.

It was very important for Sophie to keep in close contact with her family, including her nieces and nephews. They were also involved in phoning and visiting her as well.

Sophie will be dearly missed. She touched the lives of so many people. Her family will keep her memories dear to their hearts.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024 in the Ashern Legion Hall with Dawn Tober officiating. A luncheon will follow. Interment will be held in the Grace Lutheran Cemetery, Ashern, MB.

Palbearers will be Kyle King, Chad Godfrey, Andrew Leschyshyn, Cory Usipiuk, Calvin Usipiuk, and Tony Usipiuk.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements by:  
**ARNASON FUNERAL HOME**  
Ashern - Lundar  
1.204.768.2072  
1.866.323.3593

## OBITUARY



**Gisli Johannes Jonasson**

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Gisli Johannes Jonasson, on March 15, 2024 at the age of 81 years.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Shirley Diane and their two children Erinn (Blossom) and Carmen (Billy), granddaughter Gina (Pavlo), grandson Brady (Savannah) precious great-granddaughter Nova Rae and grandson Jesse, his brothers Halli, Valdi (Erla), Jerry (Elva) and Ken (Sharon). As well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his parents Leo and Dyrann Jonasson, sister Leona and brother-in-law Don Morrow, brother Keith, nieces Nadine and Melissa and sister-in-law Leola.

You were a gentle and patient husband, Dad, Afi, uncle, brother, son and friend and will be dearly missed by all.

A private family remembrance gathering will be held at a later date.

...Take off your gloves and put them down, no more sweat and worry for you now.  
Your labor is done, your home now is heaven, no more must you wait,  
Your legacy lives on, your love of the land, and we will close the gate...  
Goddad nött, elskan.



## OBITUARY



**Joas D. Plett**

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21NIV)

Joas D. Plett of Arborg, MB, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully at the home of his son in Selkirk, with family by his side, and family joining over video call, on March 20, 2024 at the age of 92 years and 10 months.

He was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Mathilda, his parents John R and Sara Plett, stepfather, Jacob U. Kornelsen, one grandson, Kenneth Plett, one daughter-in-law, Regina Plett, one great-grandson, Eli Kroeker, six brothers and three sisters.

Dad was born on May 14, 1931 near Blumenort, the fifth of nine children. Dad went to public schools nearby and completed eighth grade. When he was 11, his dad passed away suddenly. This loss had a formative impact on his life, particularly with managing

finances. His mom remarried Jacob U. Kornelsen, a widower with two children, five years later, bringing lots of change to the family. When Dad was 18, he moved with the family to Quellen Colony, Mexico. In 1952 Dad returned to Manitoba for almost a year where he worked and joined a bush hockey league. Playing hockey remained a significant part of his life until the age of 60, although his love for the game continued much longer.

In 1953, Dad and his brothers built a mechanic garage in Mexico to fix cars and hosted wrestling matches for the young men, where Dad proved his strength again and again as reigning champion. His young adult life was filled with worldly living, only attending church to please his mom. However, when he noticed Mathilda Kornelsen, he realized his life would need to change if he wanted a future with her. On January 1st, 1956, he gave his life over to his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was baptized in the Kleine Gemeinde Church, March of 1956, upon confession of his faith. The next month, on April 29th, he married his sweetheart, and they started a family.

Dad farmed in Mexico, but found the dry land made it very challenging to successfully grow crops. In 1964, Dad and Mom packed up their four children, and moved to Morweena, Manitoba. They bought a farm that fall, and Dad worked hard to provide for his growing family. He started with turkeys but progressed to farming laying hens, along with grain and cattle.

Family was important to Dad. He ensured his nine children attended the private school. Each morning, he faithfully led family devotions, which often included singing. His personal relationship with God was evident and Dad took his children to church on a weekly basis. Although he worked hard, he also valued time spent as a family, enjoying little trips to Riding Mountain National Park every summer. As the family grew, these trips became less frequent and included in-laws and grandchildren. Dad appreciated his family, and Christmas family gatherings always included sharing from each family member and singing.

Dad was a man of integrity, known in the community for his honesty, both in the church and in farming. His bookkeeping was very detailed, and he chose to embrace technology as it was introduced over the years.

In 2001, Dad moved off the farm, beginning the transition of handing the farm over to his youngest son. He continued to do the bookkeeping for the farm until 2018. These years of transition involved helping on the farm, gardening, and hosting many family gatherings, which usually included playing games of crokinole. Dad was hard to beat! In 2017 Dad and Mom moved to House of Hope in Arborg. As his health declined following Mom's passing in 2022, he eventually moved in with his second oldest son, where he remained until his passing.

He will be lovingly remembered by his nine children and spouses, Leanna (Gilbert) Gueret of Steinbach, Delmer (Janice) of Arborg, Ernie of Selkirk, Reynold (Janice) of Arborg, Sara (Henry) Reimer of Arborg, Milton (Valerie) of Arborg, Violet (Lyndon) Reimer of Arborg, Myrna (Marlin) Huber of Brownfield, AB, and Eleanor (Abe) Neufeld of Seminole, TX; 46 grandchildren and spouses; 35 great-grandchildren; and one sister.

The family wishes to thank staff at House of Hope, Home Care workers in Selkirk and Pastor Eric Isaac for their excellent care shown to Dad. They would also like to thank the Morweena Church for their support through this time. The family is grateful to Ernie for his dedicated care of Dad over the past year. Donations may be made to Canadian Bible Society.

Arrangements were entrusted to Birchwood Funeral Chapel with viewings in Steinbach and Morweena. Funeral service will be held at Morweena EMC on March 31, 2024, at 3 p.m. with interment in the Morweena church cemetery.

-The Family

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WEEKLY NEWS

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**Local Urban District of  
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**The Town of Fisher Branch is seeking a  
Town Gardener for the 2024 Summer Season!**

We are looking for a highly motivated and mature individual to help beautify our town for homecoming. Responsibilities will include planting flowers, watering, fertilizing, grass cutting and tree trimming. Maintain the beauty of plants, outdoor grounds, and trees in Fisher Branch. Additional help on projects will be supplied via the Town Green Team, Liaison with other community groups to beautify town spaces.

Wages will be based on experience and individuals will be able to work hours suitable to their lifestyle. A vast knowledge of plants and landscaping is ideal. Start date will be dependent on spring thaw and winter freeze up. Deadline for applications will be April 2, 2024, at 12:00 pm.



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