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Remote learning

Fisher Branch Early Years teacher Amber Semenek has been teaching her class through videos on the classroom website. Her four-year-old daughter, Nataliya, has been helping her.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY AMBER SEMENEK

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Home schooled: how are teachers and students coping?

By Evan Matthews

As classrooms across the country adapt to remote learning, Interlake schools are providing insight as to how things have changed.

Remote learning started on March 23, and in Fisher Branch things have changed for both the early years students as well as the high school students.

Fisher Branch Early Years

"We continue to deliver language arts, math, social studies, science and art lessons every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in keeping with our regular kindergarten schedule," said Fisher Branch Early Years teacher Amber Semenek.

"Teachers collaborate daily via email, text and video chat to plan engaging lessons for the week that meet our targeted outcomes."

Semenek said the school had launched a website designed to be similar to a classroom, with the structure resembling that of what students would experience in school.

"We want students to maintain a connection with their teachers, so most lessons begin with a lesson that I have recorded at home in my make-shift classroom. I upload these videos to YouTube and then link them to our website for our students to watch," she said, adding her four-year-old daughter,

Nataliya, often takes part in many of the lessons and learning activities. Students have found additional interest in getting to know Semenek's daughter, she said.

Lessons are typically supplemented with clips from YouTube, Scholastic online books and/or worksheets created by teachers. Students are being encouraged to take photos of their work and submit them to teachers via email.

"This allows us to check in on our students and assess their understanding of the lesson material," said Semenek. "Many of the photos we receive get posted to our website for their peers to see, which is quite exciting when you are five or six years old."

Contact with parents has been maintained via phone and email, according to Semenek, but video chat has been pushed back to provide more time for families to "settle into online learning."

While the website has been received well by both the division and parents, Semenek said remote learning hasn't come without challenges.

"It's not ideal to teach the children without face-to-face contact," said Semenek, adding that planning lessons from a distance via email, text and video chat creates challenges of its own.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY AMBER SEMENEK

Fisher Branch Early Years kindergarten teacher Amber Semenek and four-year-old daughter Nataliya.

"We miss seeing our students in person and we struggle with not receiving instant feedback from them.

The social aspect of teaching kindergarten is impossible to replicate, she said.

"It is odd to have lessons without spontaneous outburst and conversation going on around you," she said, adding that she has been recording kindergarten classes in a silent room.

The hope, according to Semenek, is that the changes to learning are temporary.

Peer interaction, social skill development and immediate feedback are irreplaceable, said Semenek, who has solidified a belief that in-class learning is typically the best method.

"For now, it is very important to keep the children engaged and learning while we are physical distancing. We need to try to make things as normal as we can to alleviate fears and anxiety and keep their minds busy with positive activities," said Semenek.

"Our website is a way to keep connected with the students and for our students to stay connected to each other. As teachers, we are trying as much as possible to bring their kindergarten classroom to them as authentically as possible."

Fisher Branch Collegiate

Collegiate students started remote learning a week earlier on March 16, according to teacher Leanne Kochan.

Students and teachers have been on their computers far more than normal, she said, and learning through methods such as videos, Microsoft Teams.

Kochan says learning has become far less personal.

"When I host a video chat for games, then everybody is very chatty and

excited, of course," said Kochan, emphasizing the need to keep students engaged.

"Giving projects they find fun and engaging is important. ... Also having class every one or two days via video chat — using Microsoft Teams and with videos in Snapchat — helps with keeping them involved and thinking in school terms."

Though students are generally technologically savvy, Kochan said there are other challenges related to remote learning.

With school closures and the world seemingly on hold, she said maintaining positive mental health is of the utmost importance.

"Part of that is routine," said Kochan. "Students need routine, and they actually miss it. It helps with (maintaining one's) mental health."

Not every student is taking to the new routine so well and there are still kinds to be worked out.

"There is a small number of students who are looking at this as a holiday, and, in fact, it is not. Some are not doing any work," she said.

"Then there are other students who have no internet access at home."

But what is obvious to all educators, according to Kochan, is that the personal touches — conversations, interactions with staff and students, the community — lacks through remote learning.

Most everybody is looking forward to a return to some level of normalcy, she said.

"We need social interaction as humans," said Kochan. "I'm looking forward to seeing my students. I really miss them. This is really a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

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Arborg to host licensed practical nursing program in 2021

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg has been chosen to host Assiniboine Community College's (ACC) licensed practical nursing program next year after successfully vying for the program.

Since 1999 ACC has been offering the diploma program on a rotational basis in various communities across the province — including Selkirk, Ashern and Peguis First Nation — and also offers it at its campuses in Brandon, Dauphin and Winnipeg.

Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce president Susan Bauernhuber, who worked on bringing the program to Arborg, said she was "ecstatic" when she found out last week her town was chosen.

"The benefits of getting this course are huge," said Bauernhuber. "People from the area will be able to come here and take the classes whereas they'd normally have to drive to Brandon or even move to Brandon as I did when I took my nursing training."

The chamber worked with Ashern-based Fieldstone Ventures to bring the program to town, competing against seven other applicants from different communities and regional health authorities.

Fieldstone is a continuing education centre that offers career planning, computer and business courses, a mature high school diploma course and skills upgrading for adults.

Bauernhuber said the program will have beneficial spinoff effects such as increased business traffic as students will likely shop at local stores while they train. It may also nudge the prov-

ince to approve the Town of Arborg and the RM of Bifrost-Riverton's joint proposal to build a new personal care home in Arborg.

"We don't for sure know yet whether we'll be approved, but this program is a feather in our bonnet. We can say we have the facilities here to be able to teach the LPN program," said Bauernhuber. "Having that personal care home here would just be a bonus."

Arborg has already hosted a health-care aide program in its Age Friendly building near the recreation centre.

Bauernhuber said the chamber will be renovating Age Friendly as well as the Kinsmen building just across the road, and the town and RM have pledged to provide financial support for the buildings.

"We've got the diagrams from Assiniboine as to what they want for renovations. We've got the quotes already from everybody and I've applied for a couple of grants," said Bauernhuber. "And Julie [Bergner] from Fieldstone is applying for grants also. I'm so grateful to Julie for pushing for this and getting it done for us."

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority will be providing students opportunities to practise at RHA health facilities.

"We'll be offering graduates of Assiniboine's rotating practical nursing program in Arborg opportunities to apply their training in our health region," said IERHA CEO Ron Van Denakker in an April 7 news release from ACC. "Nurses are an important part of the teams, delivering respectful, collaborative, people-centred care



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Age Friendly building.

to regional residents."

The demand for ACC nursing graduates is high, states the release, as 100 per cent of graduates surveyed from the 2018-19 academic year said they had found jobs and make on average over \$47,000 a year.

ACC's School of Nursing dean said there is a need for nurses in the Interlake-Eastern region.

"We are pleased to work with Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority and the community to deliver this program," said Suzanne Nicolas in the press release. "The demand for nurses

continues to be strong across Manitoba, and we know this program will help to address the need for skilled graduates in this region."

The licensed practical nursing program is scheduled to start in January 2021 and will have room for 25 people. Students can apply for the Arborg-based program between Sept. 8 and 15. Applicants living within a 100-kilometre radius of Arborg will be given preference

For more information about the program, visit assiniboine.net/nursing.



The Kinsmen building.

Manitoba RCMP investigating shooting

Submitted by RCMP

On April 11, at approximately 7 p.m., Manitoba First Nations Police Service responded to a report of a shot fired at a residence located on the Waywayseecappo First Nation.

Officers attended and located a 15-year-old female suffering from a

gunshot wound. She was transported to hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries.

A 25-year-old male has been arrested and is currently in police custody.

RCMP Major Crime Services along with the Manitoba First Nations Police Service continue to investigate.

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Eriksdale and Ashern students delivering food hampers

By Evan Matthews

Two Lakeshore schools are putting their efforts together to ensure people in their respective communities are well fed.

Eriksdale School principal Alison Marttila and Ashern Early Years School principal Karen Carmichael came up with the idea after COVID-19 closed Manitoba schools and prioritized public health ahead of most people's jobs.

"We care about all of our students, and we believe that learning cannot be done if basic needs are not being met," said Carmichael.

The hampers at AEYS are being put together by two of the school's educational assistants, its librarian and herself.

"We have our own family, but this is our school family and we love and look out for each other, take care of one another, as best we can," she said.

The food bank in Ashern was cancelled this month. Eriksdale does not have a food bank, according to Marttila.

Eriksdale School's hamper team is set up similarly, according to Marttila, with two educational assistants helping her out in putting everything together. It is designed to help anyone who has children attending Eriksdale School, with AEYS hampers following suit.

The hampers contain healthy, essen-

tial foods, but Marttila said there are sure to be some treats too.

"One of our EAs does some home cooking to include," said Marttila.

"We include a recipe or two, and include the ingredients needed so that the families put it all together."

Ashern Early Years School's hampers are aimed to ensure there is fresh fruit and/or vegetables included, according to Carmichael. This week also includes perogies, frozen vegetables, bread, soups, jam, peanut butter, Cheez Whiz, pasta, and hotdogs and buns.

Eriksdale School's first hampers went out on April 9, said Marttila.

The first hampers at Ashern Early Years will be ready for pick up starting on Monday, April 20. Arrangements can be made for people who do not have transportation.

Ashern Early Years has rural students from as far as Vogar, she said.

"We will be adhering to the social distancing rules as a hamper is picked up or delivered," said Carmichael.

The staff is following food handling safety protocol, too.

"We'll either be phoning the home to inform them the hamper will be dropped off on their front step at a pre-arranged time or when they come to the school for pick up," she said.

"They will be able to call the school ahead of time and we will leave the hamper outside of the school."



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ALISON MARTTILA

Mrs. Johnson, along with a number of volunteers, has been putting together food hampers for students and their families in need who attend Eriksdale School and Ashern Early Years School.

Funding for the hampers is coming from the schools' breakfast program, said Carmichael, and groceries are purchased locally. However, both schools are accepting donations of food and/or money from the community.

With the schools' respective hamper programs just underway, the principals said they're unsure of how many families will access the program, but there are hampers available.

For those interested, both principals

encouraged families to contact the respective schools.

"With employment changing and extra stresses on families, we hoped helping with food stability would lessen one worry," said Marttila, noting there is no end in sight to the program.

"We love our students and want them to be well during this time. Healthy and available food is part of that well-being."

letter to the editor

Stay home, stay home, stay home

You know who you are. You came into the library with a terrible cough several weeks ago and sat at a computer. I was seated on a leather couch beside the computer terminals reading a book. You sat at the computer coughing and hacking all over the keyboard. At one point your cell phone rang and you stood up and walked directly past me coughing without covering your face. You stood so close that I heard your conversation. You were to meet someone for coffee but were too ill and decided to go home instead. My question to you is this: If you knew you were that sick ... what were you doing there in the first place?

You acknowledged yourself that you were too ill to meet them and there you were sitting within a mere few feet from the next person. You coughed as you walked past me making no attempt to cover your face.

I have underlying health issues and it is not surprising that your stupidity

caused me to get your illness that triggered my illness. How many others did you infect due to your callous disregard for your fellow man? Shortly after that call, you left the building. Within five minutes another person walked in and sat down at the exact same computer and started to type, oblivious to the fact that you had coughed all over it. Shame on you! You are in an older age bracket and should know better.

This is how viruses are spread. You are living proof of why self-quarantine is so critical in these times. The library is now closed, as are all non-essential facilities in Gimli until further notice. Thank heaven these measure have been taken to protect our citizens from people like you. I am not saying that you had COVID, but it was a nasty virus that you spread. To say I am irritated is an understatement. Shape up.

- Sincerely,
Kathryn Malcolm

A Gimli star is born: Amazon's Tales from the Loop features local actor

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli actor Danny-Jo Luprypa has officially hit the big time as the TV series he stars in was released a few weeks ago.

Tales from the Loop is an American sci-fi television drama based on an art book by Swedish painter Simon Stalenhag. It tells the story of a town living above "The Loop," an underground facility with a machine that unlocks and explores the mysteries of the universe.

Luprypa auditioned for the series last year and filmed his scenes in Selkirk.

"Danny-Jo appears at the beginning of Episode 7," said Danny-Jo's dad, Danny Luprypa. "It sure is awesome that he was able to participate in this series. A Gimli movie star is born!"

The show's eight episodes premiered on Amazon Prime on April 3.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY LUPRYPA

Gimli actor Danny-Jo Luprypa stars in *Tales from the Loop*.

Egg-ceptional Easter Bunny ride through Riverton

By Evan Matthews

In an effort to bring some seasonal joy to residents adhering to social distancing, the Easter Bunny rode into Riverton, accompanied by local fire departments.

The Riverton and District Friendship Centre's youth program co-ordinator Tanya Grimolfson planned the Easter Bunny's appearance. Both the Arborg-Bifrost Fire & Emergency Services and Riverton-Bifrost Fire Department went along for the ride.

"We wanted to bring some Easter spirit to the children and families, something that would spread Easter cheer while practising social distancing and following precautions," said Desarae Bilinski, another youth co-ordinator at RDFC.

Bilinski doubled as the Easter Bunny on Thursday, April 9.

"As we all know, with all that is going on, there will be no Easter egg hunts, no parties and no family get-togethers," she said.

"We wanted to bring something special to our community and surrounding areas. ... What is more special than a guest appearance from the Easter Bunny himself?"

Children who lined the streets gave reactions ranging from ear-to-ear



In an effort to spread Easter cheer, the Easter Bunny — Desarae Bilinski — reminded youth around the community to continue smiling and laughing.

smiles to screaming and jumping to dancing, said Bilinski, who labelled the parade as nothing short of a success.

She added that many of the parents



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY DESARAE BILINSKI

Both the Arborg-Bifrost Fire and Emergency Services as well as the Riverton-Bifrost Fire Department accompanied the Easter Bunny through Riverton.

could also be seen dancing, jumping and enjoying themselves, while seniors were waving and blowing kisses.

"This is what it's all about," said Bilinski. "Bringing people happiness and fun in these rough times of uncertainty."

With no definitive timelines as to when society will return to its "norm," Bilinski said the RDFC will continue to come up creative and fun ideas to support families.

While the current times are challenging, she said Interlake communi-

ties should rely on one another to get through it.

"It's so important to keep doing these types of events in our communities because we are all feeling this. We are all going through this rough time, and we all need to be reminded to smile, to laugh," said Bilinski.

"Just because we have to remain at a physical distance doesn't mean we cannot find ways to be together when apart. We are all in this together, one day at a time."

New measures to enforce public health orders in response to COVID-19 pandemic

By the Manitoba government

The Manitoba government and the City of Winnipeg are working in collaboration for an Operation Safe Apart pandemic public health enforcement strategy, including new pre-set fines for individuals or business owners who disregard public health orders, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister and Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman announced last Thursday.

"Everyone has a role to play in reducing the spread of COVID-19, and the majority of Manitobans are adhering to good social distancing practices and changing how they operate at home, in their community and within their business," said Pallister. "Unfortunately, there is still a need to have additional measures in place to address situations where people are ignoring the advice of our health experts. These changes will give enforcement officers more tools to help curb the spread of the virus."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the province declared a state of emergency on March 20, which included orders under The Public Health Act to help reduce the spread of the virus including:

- restrictions on public gatherings to 10 or fewer people,
- require the closure of non-essential businesses, and
- enforcement of social distancing measures by businesses and services that remain open, including ensuring a two-metre distance is kept between people in the facility or premises.

Effective immediately, fine amounts for breaching these emergency orders will be set at \$486 for individuals and \$2,542 for businesses.

Manitoba will be implementing a multi-tiered enforcement approach to enforcing orders, which will include public education, written warning or ultimately, enforcement actions such as ticketing or arrest if necessary, the premier said.

Measures involving public health officers working in conjunction with local police services, First Nation police services and the RCMP are also in place for municipalities outside of Winnipeg. Plans are underway to expand these. These include engaging municipal bylaw officers, community and First Nation safety officers, community volunteer groups such as Citizens on Patrol, and Manitoba Conservation officers who will work with respective police services.

Outside of Winnipeg, reports of non-compliance can be made to the Manitoba Government Inquiry (MGI) inquiry line at 204-945-3744 or by email at mgi@gov.mb.ca.

"We must do everything we can to protect our most valuable service — our health-care system — and our most vulnerable citizens," said Pallister. "These orders will help save lives and changing how we ensure compliance will help us flatten the COVID curve."

More information about Manitoba's response to COVID-19 is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html.

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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



St. Laurent keeping an eye on Lake Manitoba as spring melt underway

By Patricia Barrett

Lake Manitoba is lying low for now as spring melt causes flooding in other areas of the province, but the RM of St. Laurent is keeping its eye on the weather and the flood forecast.

The RM's Deputy Reeve Frank Bruce said Saturday that as far as current lake levels go, the municipality is on safe ground.

"If it continues the way it does, I don't think we'll have an issue because the lake is pretty low," said Bruce.

Overall, the risk of major spring flooding is low for the Interlake, according to Manitoba Infrastructure's Flood Outlook Report of March 31, and its regions have "near normal" soil moisture. Rivers that can spell trouble for Lake Manitoba are currently considered low risk.

"The risk of major flooding is low for the Assiniboine, Souris, Qu'Appelle and Saskatchewan rivers," states the report.

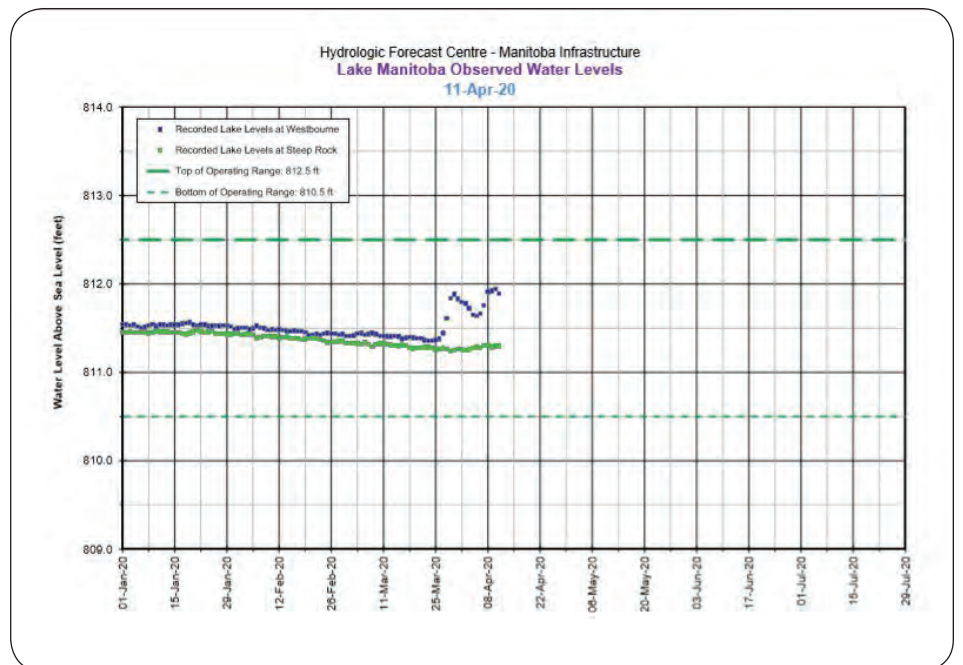
The provincial Hydrologic Forecast Centre's April 11 reading of water levels along the southern shore of Lake Manitoba near Westbourne showed 811.9 feet. At Steep Rock, northwest of Moosehorn, it was 811.3 feet.

The lake's top and bottom operating ranges are 812.5 and 810.5 feet respectively.

High water carried by the Red River in the eastern half of the Interlake is becoming problematic. The RM of St. Andrews issues daily flood updates indicating what roads have been closed and what areas are at risk of flooding. Ice jams south of Selkirk last week closed the Red River Bridge. The province opened the Red River Floodway last Friday as the RM of Montcalm along the southern border of the U.S. began to see water creeping up to roads.

The province usually warns the RM of St. Laurent a few weeks ahead of time if there's a potential for flooding, said Bruce.

In 2011 hundreds of properties were damaged or destroyed, and trees and bluffs along the shoreline were taken



EXPRESS PHOTO MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE

Water level taken at Westbourne shows average lake levels as of April 11.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Lake Manitoba shoreline near St. Laurent where bluffs, trees and dwellings were destroyed by the flood of 2011.

out by severe flooding when more water than the lake could handle was sent north from the Assiniboine River through the 29-kilometre long Portage Diversion water control structure in order to save the city of Winnipeg.

Bruce said there are a few spots in the municipality that regularly get a little waterlogged, but the RM is on

top of the situation.

"There are low spots we deal with every year, but they're under control. We have to make sure the culverts are open," said Bruce. "But there's nothing serious."

Things could change, however, if the RM gets two inches of rain, he said.

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Student loan repayments suspended to lessen cost burden during pandemic

By the Manitoba government

The province is suspending repayment of Manitoba Student Aid loans for six months to reduce the financial burden on post-secondary students during the COVID-19 pandemic, Premier Brian Pallister and Economic Development and Training Minister Ralph Eichler announced last week.

"During these uncertain times, Manitobans need to pull together to help each other," said Pallister. "While people, businesses and organizations across our province co-operate to try to flatten the curve on COVID-19 and reduce its spread, it's important that our government also do its part to assist those carrying a heavier financial burden during this public health emergency. With this suspension of loan repayments, we are giving a helping hand to Manitobans who have invested in post-secondary education."

Effective April 1, the Department of Economic Development and Training has suspended all repayments of loans under the Manitoba Student Aid Program through Sept. 30. The temporary stoppage of repayments parallels a similar suspension put in place by the federal government under the Canada Student Loan Program, also through Sept. 30.

Manitoba Economic Development and Training had been scheduled to receive a total of about \$1 million in repayments on April 1 from Manitoba Student Aid borrowers. The suspension of repayments from April 1 through Sept. 30 will defer the collection of up to \$7 million for 2020-21.

"Manitobans carrying student loan debt have become vulnerable to programming and labour market changes resulting from COVID-19," said Eichler. "This deferral of loan repayments is going to significantly lessen the hardship for them, at a time when they really need it."

Manitoba Student Aid loan disbursements, including tuition and grant payments, will continue to be made to students as scheduled while repayments are suspended. During the deferral period, the program will accept payments from borrowers who choose to repay loans through cheque or electronic fund transfers.

The overall impact of COVID-19 on Manitoba Student Aid will be assessed as the situation evolves.

Meanwhile, the province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer during the pandemic and encourages all Manitobans to engage in social distancing protocols and the three Ps — protect yourself, protect your loved ones and protect your community. For more information visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

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Potential erosion of rights?

By Evan Matthews

The Prime Minister's remarks last week made it clear.

Any return to "normality" is contingent on a COVID-19 vaccine, which most experts estimate being 12 to 18 months from now.

Optimists view right now as an opportunity to re-evaluate our societal priorities, while others don't feel so great about waiting another year and a half. Especially factoring in Manitoba's response to people not following public health orders.

The Province has implemented fines. Jail time could be a possibility for extreme and rare circumstances. Many other provinces have implemented similar measures.

Things are changing, which will always cause worry, but some fear the erosion of our democratic rights.

For context, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms states, "Everyone has the fundamental freedom to peaceful assembly; and the free-

dom of association."

That said, most people with any sense are choosing adherence to social distancing measures for the good of public health.

However, the government's enforcement of who may gather and in how many numbers is an erosion of society's fundamental right to assemble and associate freely.

All the while, Apple and Google are building a COVID-19 tracking system in iOS and Android. Called "contact tracing," the concept involves deciphering who an infected person has been in contact with through a cellphone's location services.

Yet, technological and intelligence experts like Edward Snowden say contact tracing doesn't work during a large-scale pandemic, but moreover, it creates massive privacy concerns.

Snowden warned this Coronavirus crisis will be used for the massive and permanent expansion of global surveillance; further erosion of people's rights.

"We have stopped thinking about what tomorrow will look like as a result of the decisions we are making today," said Snowden to Vice News.

"When I think about the future... We need to think about where we've been. Sadly, these kinds of emergency powers born out of crises have a perfect history of abuse.

"As we sacrifice our rights, we also sacrifice our capability to arrest this slide into a less liberal and less free world... What is being built, is an architecture of oppression," he said.

We need to be vigilant and aware of the virus, but also of our democratic rights, which any erosion of, could be a reason to worry.

History shows extreme circumstance often results in extreme government response.

"This virus will pass," said Snowden. "But the decisions we make today in this atmosphere will last."

Web portal created to supplement home learning resources

By the Manitoba government

The province is providing a supplemental online resource for Manitoba families whose children are learning at home during the suspension of in-school classes because of COVID-19, Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced last Thursday.

"This web portal, My Learning at Home/Mon Apprentissage Chez Moi, is a comprehensive resource that will be continually updated for families and caregivers as they support students who are carrying on with their school year and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Goertzen.

"This is a tool to supplement learning but not to replace the impressive, quality work that teachers are continuing to do remotely for students across the province during this public health emergency."

The My Learning at Home portal went live online last Thursday, providing a resource designed to assist families in supporting the work of teachers as they continue

to educate students. Available in English and French as well as for families in French immersion, My Learning at Home will grow over time as more resources are developed for kindergarten through Grade 12. In addition, supporting materials for adult learners and for early childhood years will be updated regularly.

"Learning can be done at home using computers and tablets, allowing parents and caregivers to enhance the education of students with family-centred resources," said Goertzen. "However, teachers remain the primary guide in helping students learn and meet curriculum expectations. This online portal is another important tool for teaching and learning."

Goertzen noted that parents, caregivers and students are encouraged to be curious and to continue seeking out learning resources.

The My Learning at Home/Mon Apprentissage Chez Moi portal can be found at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mylearning/index.html.

html.

The provincial Department of Education appreciates the continued assistance and collaboration of school division administrators and trustees, principals, teachers and support staff as they all work with families for the benefit of students across Manitoba during the suspension of in-school classes. Together, they are helping develop ways for Manitoba students to learn at home to complete the 2019-20 school year.

Meanwhile, the province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer during the pandemic and encourages all Manitobans to engage in social distancing protocols and the three Ps — protect yourself, protect your loved ones and protect your community. For more information, visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

A comprehensive list of Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>.

Canada's premiers support provincial borrowing

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government's recent proposal the federal government borrow on behalf of provincial governments and loan that money to provinces as part of a collective financial response to COVID-19 has received the support of all premiers in a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Pallister announced this past Monday

"I am gratified that all my colleagues support this Provincial Borrowing Initiative being placed immediately before the federal government," said Pallister. "All provinces are going to be on the hook for billions and billions of dollars in new debt to pay for health care and economic recovery programs. This is a sensible and available way Ottawa can make it cheaper for all of us to do so now."

Pallister has proposed the federal

government create a standing credit mechanism on an urgent basis that would borrow on provinces' behalf and then lend the money back to provinces on the same terms. Through the Bank of Canada, Ottawa can borrow in international financial markets at a lower interest rate than individual provinces can, saving hundreds of millions of dollars that can be redirected to health care and economic recovery actions. Section 18(c) of The Bank of Canada Act states: "The Bank may buy and sell securities issued or guaranteed by Canada or any province."

As outlined in the March 26, 2020, letter from Manitoba, the COVID-19 pandemic is undermining essential provincial borrowing capacity in many areas of the country. The limited credits that can be accessed by provinces and territories is gener-

ally at rates much higher than those available to the federal government. This means billions of dollars will be spent on debt servicing rather than on health care and other essential front-line services, the premier noted.

Manitoba and other provinces are going to hit a financial wall requiring borrowing well beyond anything in the past, the premier said. With every government competing for the same dollars, federal borrowing on behalf of provinces can give us access to greater financial liquidity in the bond markets at a cheaper cost than provinces doing it solely on their own, he added.

This year alone, Manitoba expects borrowing needs of up to \$10 billion, Pallister said. This is necessary to support front-line COVID health-care and family expenses, fill the holes created by revenue and bill deferrals

with the current fall in economic activity, and pay for ongoing expenses of government, he added. If Manitoba could save 1.5 per cent on these borrowing costs, that translates to \$150 million a year that could be redirected to health care. Over the 30-year term of those bonds, that translates to over \$4 billion of savings for Manitobans for this year's borrowings alone, the premier stated. Across all Canadian provinces and territories, this could easily translate into over \$100 billion of savings.

"The federal government has been innovative and responsive in dealing with the fallout from COVID-19 on behalf of Canadians," said Pallister.

"This is another increasingly urgent way we can adopt a 'Team Canada' approach to fight this pandemic together."

Petersfield Farmer's Market set to open for mid-May

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Peterfield Farmer's Market is still aiming to be open in May, weather dependant, and is accepting vendors

who would like to sell their wares at the event.

"I'm hoping that this all subsides by then and tentatively am hoping to

be open by then. I'm tentatively hoping to be open by May 15," said Holly Olafson, the Petersfield Farmer's Market event co-ordinator and owner of Envisioned Events by Holly.

Olafson also co-ordinates farmer's market events in Gimli at the Minerva Hall every Friday starting in May; Stonewall at the Red Barn, which will run on Thursdays starting in May; and in Stony Mountain at the Recreation Complex, which runs every second weekend starting June 7.

"My vendors are really, really hurting because of this. I've had other markets that I've had to postpone because of the virus. Everybody's hurting so everybody's hoping that things can go ahead for May 15," said Olafson.

This will be Olafson's first year co-ordinating this event in Petersfield though the farmer's market itself has run in the town for many years.

While residents are social distancing in response to COVID-19, Olafson has created some online resources for farmers market vendors.

"Right now for my vendors I'm setting up groups online that they can join and sell their products. I'm just trying to help them as much as I can," said Olafson.

This digital farmer's market group is located on Facebook and called Mini Mall Sale.

"What I did was I invited vendors to post on there and actually it's good. They're getting orders. You've got Sunset Gourmet, you've got Epicure,

and you've got the bakers that are willing to drop off [baked goods] on your doorstep," said Olafson.

Vendors at the physical Petersfield Farmer's Market vary in what they sell from Tupperware to baking to fresh vegetables, honey, jams and crafts.

"It's a little bit of everything. It's awesome actually," said Olafson.

She feels that the benefit of having farmer's markets in our communities is that they allow residents to get access to products that might not be available in their communities and brings more people into communities in order to shop at all local businesses.

"It's a benefit for the community and a benefit for the vendors," said Olafson.

She also says that vendors benefit by being out in the community.

"You're there. You aren't online. You aren't sitting at home trying to sell online. You're there and [customers] see you product. [Vendors] can give [customers] the spiel about their product. They tell [customers] what they need to know and they sell," said Olafson.

Vendors have the option to pre-pay for the season or pay a one-time fee of \$25 for a table.

The Mini Mall Sale Facebook page can be located at facebook.com/groups/858896487910307/ and more information about all the area farmer's markets can be found on the Envisioned Events by Holly Facebook page at facebook.com/envisionedeventsbyholly/.

Overland flooding



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Spring is notorious for bringing changeable weather and this year is no exception. Manitobans were teased by the taste of early spring after a mild winter that lacked consistently cold weather. While early spring will continue to bring periods of mild weather, the season will also bring a heightened risk for periods of colder than normal weather. This sunset reflection could be seen on a field of overland flooding on April 12.

Province to increase capacity of Fish Lake Drain to improve flow

By Patricia Barrett

The province plans to improve water flow in a major drain that runs through two Interlake municipalities and empties into Lake Winnipeg.

The Fish Lake Drain is a provincial drainage canal that flows west from the RM of Armstrong into the RM of Gimli. Its outflow to the lake is about 2.5 kilometres south of Camp Morton.

Manitoba Infrastructure employees Shaho Arjomandi, Bernie Lussier, Paul Dhaliwal and an unidentified employee provided an overview of the project to Gimli council during its regular meeting March 11.

They said the drain operates well on the Gimli side but causes flooding and erosion on the Armstrong side because of reduced channel capacity and under-sized culverts. The proposal is to modify the drain where it runs through Armstrong.

There will be no negative effects on the RM of Gimli based on modelling and surveys undertaken in previous years, said Arjomandi.

"In the RM of Gimli, the downstream part of the drain, we can't see any changes after [reconstruction] so

it stays the same," said Arjomandi. "It shows no negative impact on the downstream part."

A preliminary design was completed about 10 years ago, he said, and a decision was made then to reconstruct the drain.

"What we've done recently is to validate if that reconstruction project upstream would have any negative impact on the downstream, which is in the RM of Gimli," said Arjomandi.

The project will entail the rehabilitation of about 9.7 miles (15.6 kilometres) of drain, the replacement of 10 culvert crossings and the installation of nine drop structures to reduce erosion.

A notice on the website of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (now known as the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada) states that in 2011 reconstruction was proposed on 15 kilometres of the drain, the replacement of 19 culvert crossings, installation of nine gradient control structures and excavation of the channel in the RM of Armstrong.

It was determined in April of that year that an environmental assess-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

ment was required because "Fisheries and Oceans considered taking action in relation to subsection 35(2) of the Fisheries Act."

Section 35(2) refers to work in ecologically significant areas.

The environmental assessment,

however, was terminated in June 2011 because a decision had been made to "not exercise any power," in relation to the project, states the CEAA notice.

After the reconstruction is completed, the "velocity is going to be higher than what we have right now," said Arjomandi, but the velocity won't increase in the RM of Gimli. The only hitch will be the portion of the drain east of Highway 8.

"Downstream of PTH 8 shows velocity is higher than standard, so this is something we have to take into consideration in the future to reduce the erosion," he said.

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said the RM can't stop water coming from the west, and acknowledged flooding issues in the RM of Armstrong, but asked the representatives to ensure properties won't be negatively affected.

"We have to ask you people to make sure when you're widening ... and as more water comes, to make sure the culvert system in through the RM of Gimli is [OK]," he said, "and maybe dykes have to be raised so that we're looked after on this side."

The province may have to first acquire land from property owners before it can start enlarging the drain, which is scheduled to start in 2023.

"Part of that [delay] is land acquisition, to buy strips of land," said Lussier. "If people are OK with it, we can purchase land. And if they aren't, it takes more time to buy out landowners."

Council was asked to pass a resolution in favour of the proposed project.

Coun. Thora Palson suggested council introduce a resolution at a future meeting and after the RM's drainage manager reviews the province's project. Council agreed.

Uplifting message for Interlakers



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Interlake Recreation Practitioners Association members meet once a month to share ideas. Last week they wanted to show that they are still connected and really care about the well-being of our communities. Clockwise from top left: Tyne Mills (East St. Paul), Brenna Philip (Gimli), Sonny Albert (Fisher River Cree Nation), Damara Geddes (West St. Paul), Breanna Rae (Coldwell), Shelly Leonard (City of Selkirk), Kelly Kimball (Rosser Woodlands), Paul Emmer (Stonewall Youth for Christ), Laine Wilson (Town of Stonewall/RM of Rockwood), Allan Sulyma (Winnipeg Beach).

Interlake chambers of commerce team up to support business community

By Patricia Barrett

Two Interlake chambers of commerce have teamed up to offer vital support to businesses weathering a drastic economic downturn wrought by COVID-19.

The Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce and the Gimli Chamber of Commerce started providing virtual meetings last week to area businesses, covering a number of important topics including federal funding support.

"We're getting government speakers to inform chamber members as to what's happening, how you can go about doing things for your business and how you can jump on board for the funding that's available," said Central Interlake chamber president Susan Bauernhuber.

As the highly infectious and deadly coronavirus spreads through communities, businesses have reduced their hours or closed down. The need for physical distancing and, preferably, staying home are paramount to halt the contagion. As a result, many businesses have taken an economic hit.

Central Interlake chamber member Mark Myrowich, CEO of Erosion Control Blanket in Riverton, is hosting the informational meetings, said Bauernhuber. The two chambers are also working with Riverton-based economic development agency Community Futures East Interlake to coordinate the sessions.

The chambers are connecting business owners through GoToMeeting, real-time video conferencing software. In addition to federal government employees, guest speakers include representatives from local insurance agencies, banks and credit unions.

"A big thanks to Mark, Cheryl [Buhler of the Gimli chamber] and Community Futures," said Bauernhuber. "I'm very appreciative they were able to do this."

Myrowich conducted and shared with the *Express* a poll he took during the chambers' April 9 meeting to determine how business sales are faring during the crisis.

Over the past two weeks, 59 per cent of businesses said they've either closed or have had no sales. A further 12 per cent said they've seen a 50 per cent or higher drop in sales. Twenty-nine per cent said their sales haven't changed.

Bauernhuber, who co-owns and runs the Watering Whole beer, wine and water shop in Arborg, said feeling-wise, it's "rough" in town.

"So many places are laying people off. I feel very bad about that. And places are closing. Are these businesses going to be able to re-open?" she said. "I'm thankful to the [federal] government for putting forward the plans they

have. I hope every business takes advantage of them, and we don't have businesses ending up being closed for good here in Arborg and the surrounding area."

In Gimli, chamber co-president Cheryl Buhler said there's a lot of uncertainty about the future within the business community.

She herself is a business owner and understands the anxiety. She owns Robin's Donuts and decided to close (temporarily) a few weeks ago to ensure the safety of her staff and the public.

"People in the business community are thinking, 'When is this going to end? When can things go back to normal — or a new normal?'" she said. "Some businesses are open and some are closed."

The chamber has invited businesses that aren't chamber members to take part in the virtual meetings so that everyone can stay abreast of the latest developments.

"It's not just for our chamber members," said Buhler. "We want everyone to get the information they need."

As of early Sunday evening, Manitoba had 242 confirmed COVID-19 infections, 17 of which are in the Interlake-Eastern health region. Four people have died and 96 have recovered. Worldwide infections (Johns Hopkins University data) stand at 1,844,410 with 114,090 dead. The virus has killed people across all age groups, including a 13-year-old boy in London, England.

There's one thing Bauernhuber said will help businesses get back on their feet, and that's for the public to abide by the government and health authorities' repeated exhor-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce president Susan Bauernhuber with Arborg Hotel owner Owen Eyolfson at the chamber's 2019 gala dinner.

tations to stay home. The sooner we stop the spread of the virus, the sooner the economy can recover.

"Please, everybody stay home. Don't go out if you don't have to. It's very important we all follow those rules. It's tough for everybody. But if we follow the rules, it won't be as long a time as it could be if we don't," said Bauernhuber.

"I'm from Nova Scotia originally and I like what the premier [Stephen McNeil] said, that everyone has to 'stay the blazes home.' We use that terminology down home so I knew what he was getting at — if everyone would just listen."

Artsy projects online for children

By Evan Matthews

If there has been anything positive to come from the COVID-19 pandemic, it has to be the number of the newly formed artistic groups and endeavours.

Gail Spencer-Lamm—a mother, grandmother, Zumba and YogaFit instructor, as well as artist—is working to share her passion from her Balmoral home with her community.

"I've always posted and shared my work, starting about five years ago. In the last couple of weeks, though, my page has changed completely.

"It's become a place where I can share what I love to do and hopefully help to give some fun activities to youth who are at (safe) home," said Spencer-Lamm, the creator of the Facebook page Artsy Farting with Gail Spencer-Lamm, who is also a frequent contributor on the newly created Teulon Facebook Page titled GAAC Outlet - Together While We're Apart.

"When I was a child, my mother always called me artsy fartsy... I guess I was always drawing and dancing, so the name came pretty naturally," she said, when asked about the group's name and paying homage to her mother.

The Facebook page is designed to teach step-by-step painting and art projects through free

video lessons all under half an hour. Currently, her videos are aimed for children who are being home schooled.

Spencer-Lamm's favourite things to paint often include flowers, animals, and nature, she said, which provides her with tranquility.

"I love painting the light. Happy themes that turn your mind toward happy times. Nature does that for me, and I hope it does for others, too," said Spencer-Lamm.

"I usually have a thought in mind, like, 'Today, let's learn about shading.' Or, 'Let's learn about mixing colours.' I usually have a theme," she said.

Spencer-Lamm's biggest hesitation was being on camera, calling herself "frumpy," but she said being a self-taught artist, she felt compelled to share and connect with others, hoping to inspire artistic creation.

Going in front of the camera may be relatively new, but Spencer-Lamm said leading an art class is not.

"I've taught recreational programs—not just art, but dance and fitness—for over 40 years," said Spencer-Lamm.

"I'm kind of used to leading. I'm used to explaining, and speaking to people, so sharing my passion for art is something I'm excited about."

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- *commercial replacement quality in 2021*

JOIN THE FIGHT TO DEFEAT COVID-19

PROTECT yourself, PROTECT your loved ones, PROTECT your community

COVID-19 IS HERE, MANITOBA. WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR PART TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD.

It only takes one person to infect many.

DON'T BE THAT ONE PERSON



To defeat COVID-19, we all need to take social (physical) distancing seriously, right now. Those who don't are not only risking their health, but the health of others as well.

DO THIS:



Stay home as much as possible

Things you can do at home like reading, watching TV, playing games, sitting on your deck, spring cleaning, yard work, and cooking are all good! Staying home whenever it is possible makes us all safer right now.



Use technology to keep in touch with your friends and loved ones

We all need to keep in touch with our friends and loved ones, especially when keeping physical distance. Phone calls, texting, and video chats are all great options.



Get outside

Take a walk, go for a run or bike ride or hike in open spaces away from crowds, on your own or with members of your household only.



Keep at least 2 arms lengths away (2 metres or 6 feet)

For those times when you must be out in public, always use caution by keeping at least 2 metres or six feet distance from others as much as possible. Also remember to wash your hands well and often, avoid touching your face and cough and sneeze into the bend of your arm.



Shop wisely

There are things we need like groceries, fuel, prescriptions and the like. Use caution when out by washing your hands well and often, avoid touching your face, and cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm. Whenever possible, try to use online shopping and home delivery. Please remember that panic buying is not needed.

DON'T DO THIS:



Play dates, sleepovers & in-person visits

We must not have non-essential visitors in our homes, be in a car, or spend time outside with anyone not from our household. It's important to keep in contact with those we care about in non-physical ways, like phone calls, texting or video chats.



Crowds or groups

It doesn't matter if we know the people or not, things like birthdays, dinner parties, weddings, funerals, religious services and team sports must be avoided.



Physical greetings

Handshakes and hugs are out. We need to get good at non-physical greetings like waving or nodding. Limiting unnecessary touching makes us all safer right now.



Touching surfaces people touch often

Walking or exercising outside is great, but keep your distance from others, and avoid whenever possible things like hand rails, public play structures and public phones.



Contact with people at higher risk of COVID-19 (older adults or those in poor health)

We all have a responsibility to protect those in our community who are most at risk from COVID-19. This includes members of our family. We can use non-physical ways to stay in touch, and where possible we can maybe even help these people with getting groceries and other essential errands.

REMEMBER THIS:

- Wash your hands well and often, and avoid touching your face.
- Always cough or sneeze into the bend of your arm.
- Disinfect frequently used surfaces (like countertops and door handles).
- Be kind to one another. We're all trying our best to cope with these changes, and a little kindness will go a long way these days. We're in this together, Manitoba.



YOU MUST:



STAY HOME: If you feel sick, or suspect you may be sick, you must self-isolate by staying at home for 14 days, even if your symptoms clear before then.

SELF-ISOLATE: For 14 days if you return from travel anywhere outside Manitoba.

Spread the word!
covid19manitoba.ca

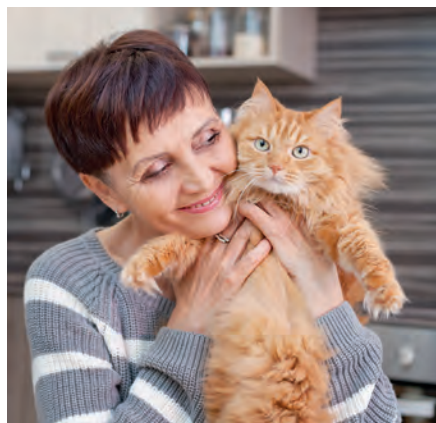
STAY SAFE, STAY STRONG.
WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, MANITOBA.

For health emergencies, always call 911. En cas d'urgence, composez toujours le 911.

Manitoba 



Why having a pet is good for your health



Did you know that sharing your home with a pet is good for your health? Here's why.

They reduce stress

Spending time with a pet can decrease stress and slow your heart rate. In addition, some studies indicate that pet owners with Alzheimer's are less likely to suffer from fear and anxiety than those who don't have animals.

They ease symptoms of depression

Studies indicate that animal therapy can mitigate symptoms of depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In general, owning a pet has been shown to elevate levels of oxytocin and other feel-good chemicals in the brain.

They keep you active

Dog owners who walk their canine companions regularly are more likely to be physically fit than people who don't have dogs. Furthermore, seniors who walk their dogs walk quicker than those who don't.

They may prevent allergies

Some studies indicate that children who share their home with a dog or cat in the first year of life have a decreased risk of developing allergies or asthma.

In addition to these health benefits, owning a pet can also help lessen feelings of loneliness. In particular, owning a dog can help foster social interactions and be an effective way to combat social isolation.

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Gimli Film Festival launches Manitoba Home Movie Archive project

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Film Festival has launched an initiative to turn home movies shot in Manitoba into a publicly accessible digital archive to celebrate its 20th anniversary and Manitoba's 150th birthday this year.

The festival is inviting Manitobans to send in their dusty old film reels, outdated 1980s video cassettes and forgotten 8mm film reels, all which will be transferred to digital files free of charge and become part of the public archive.

Anyone with historically relevant "people or places" footage can participate. They'll receive a free copy of the digital file in return.

"In these incredible and challenging times, GFF is excited to be able to offer this free service to Manitobans," said festival director Aaron Zeghers in a media release. "We hope the Manitoba Home Movie Archive will inspire families and friends in isolation together to look through their old home movie archives and find some materials to send to us to transfer to digital and preserve for future generations."

People who wish to participate in the project must agree to add their material to the public domain, "making them copyright free and publicly accessible online via Archive.org and the Gimli Film Festival website," states the release. "There are a number of other rules and restrictions as outlined on the GFF website."

In addition to the home movie project, the festival has commissioned 11 new films by Manitoba filmmakers with financial support from Manitoba 150, the Canada Council for the Arts,



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL

The Gimli Film Festival (GFF) is launching a Manitoba Home Movie Archive, a special project in celebration of the Gimli Film Festival's 20th anniversary and Manitoba 150.

the Thomas Sill Foundation, the Winnipeg Foundation and the Manitoba Arts Council.

The GFF's community partners — the Winnipeg Film Group, Video Pool Media Arts Centre, ACTRA Manitoba and IATSE 856 — are providing additional support.

"The Winnipeg Foundation is happy to support Gimli Film Festival," says CEO Rick Frost in the release. "The

Manitoba Home Movie Project not only allows people to convert their old home movies to digital files, but also to contribute to our province's shared history. It's an intriguing activity to celebrate Gimli Film Fest's 20th Anniversary and Manitoba 150."

Visit gimlifilm.com for home movie guidelines, registration form and copyright release form.

Canadian cattlemen advocate for AgriRecovery Program

By Evan Matthews

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is optimistic about future beef markets, but the organization is advocating for relief due to COVID-19.

During a Canadian Beef Industry town hall meeting on March 26, CCA executive vice-president Dennis Laycraft said the association has asked the federal government to deem COVID-19 a natural disaster under the Agri-Recovery Program.

"That would open up some (financial) options to us that aren't normally

available," said Laycraft.

"This has reached every size and structure of operation within our industry. We've also asked them to remove the \$3-million cap on agriculture stability."

Other CCA requests to the feds include invoking the late participation clause, as well as working with Live-stock Price Insurance due to extreme volatility in the beef market. Premiums have risen considerably, according to Laycraft, who added they'd like those premiums to be more affordable.

Laycraft said the CCA is ensuring the industry is doing all it can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and said at the moment, retail demand for beef is strong.

Laycraft addressed the fact that, as far as Manitoba producers are concerned, beef prices have been down over the last number of years due to floods, droughts, feed shortages and now the uncertainty related to COVID-19.

"We've made a number of recom-

Rainbow trout fingerlings coming to Watersong Farms

By Jennifer McFee

It was music to their ears when Watersong Farms was named Manitoba's approved supplier of rainbow trout fingerlings for private ponds.

Located 11 kilometres west of Stonewall on Highway 67, Watersong Farms offers farm-fresh steelhead trout and roasting chicken for purchase.

Now customers will also have the chance to purchase rainbow trout fingerlings for their own ponds — marking the first such opportunity in Manitoba for many years.

A Manitoba-based non-profit group used to bring in up to 100,000 fingerlings from South Dakota every spring to distribute to farmers or landowners that had a pond or a dugout, explained Rudy Reimer, who runs the business with his wife Leslie.

"That went on for quite a few years until several years ago when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency put a stop to that because they no longer wanted the fingerlings to cross the border. So that was halted," he said.

"After that, you couldn't bring them in across provincial lines unless you

had a live animal transfer permit from CFIA. Also, the Wildlife and Fisheries branch here in Manitoba has to approve them coming in."

Meanwhile, Watersong Farms had been receiving about 100 phone calls per year from people wanting to buy fingerlings from them.

"They assume we're a hatchery but we're not. We're actually a grow-out. We raise fish for food and we have to buy the fingerlings ourselves, but we don't have a problem bringing them in," he said.

"In our case, the fish are going into our system so they can't escape. They don't mix with other fish, so that's never been an issue."

Over time, the Manitoba government realized there was a demand for the fingerlings and expressed a willingness to work with Watersong Farms as a distributor.

"We already know the rules and regulations. We've been talking with them for the past couple of years and now they finally decided that we would be a good fit, so they gave us

"WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT IT CAN BE AN ISSUE."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Watersong Farms is Manitoba's approved supplier of rainbow trout fingerlings for private ponds.

the distributorship here in Manitoba southern Ontario and we will be dis- bring them in," he said.

"The fingerlings will be coming from

Continued on page 14

New scam involving Interlake pharmacies and customers

By Evan Matthews

A new scam is targeting Interlake patients who may need prescriptions delivered.

The scam comes in the form of a call with a man's voice on the other end saying pharmaceutical patients — so far in Stonewall, Teulon and Arborg — have a prescription ready to be delivered but a credit card number is needed before delivery.

"We're pretty sure it's at random. A man is calling people within our community, suggesting he has a prescription for delivery from (Stonewall I.D.A. Pharmacy)," said Vern Appleyard, owner and pharmacist.

The scammer asks for some personal health information, he added.

"Then they ask if the patient will be paying by credit card. In the instance we experienced in Stonewall, they got lucky and actually called a patient of ours. But we had already delivered a prescription to her last week, so she wasn't expecting anything," he said.

"She was told another prescription had come in. ... Because she wasn't expecting anything, she was on the

ball, and she hung up and phoned us."

The problem, according to Appleyard, is that patients might be more inclined to give the information out than they would normally, given the COVID-19 pandemic.

Appleyard said his pharmacy has printed posters to hang around the community, as well as posting online via social media, advising patients the pharmacy will not be calling and asking for credit card information at random.

All prescriptions would have been discussed previously with patients, he said.

"Our regular customers know us and we know them, so they would know if it was us," said Appleyard.

"But a less regular customer who wants something delivered could fall prey to this."

After surveying locals, a minimum of two reports surfaced in Teulon detailing the same scam. At Arborg's Guardian Pharmacy, manager Tammy Ciemny noted another two patients there have also reported the same scam to pharmacists.

In one report out of Teulon, the scammer targeted a person who was not a patient at the pharmacy they were allegedly calling from, which is why pharmacists around the region believe calls to be random.

Teulon's Shoppers Drug Mart owner and pharmacist Michael Olynik declined comment.

In every instance — including Stonewall, Teulon and Arborg — the patients had the presence of mind to call the pharmacy with which they have dealings. No one (to date) has fallen for the scam, according to Appleyard and Ciemny.

Both pharmacists encouraged locals to hang up and call the pharmacy directly if they have any questions about a phone call they've received or a potential delivery.

"It makes me sick to my stomach that somebody would try to take advantage of this situation," said Appleyard.

"To try and take advantage of vulnerable populations in an extremely stressful and chaotic time ... it's sickening."

Typically, the process for the pharmacies surveyed throughout the Interlake is quite standard.

A patient calls to request a prescription. The pharmacy then notifies the patient when it is ready for either store pickup, curbside pickup, or delivery. If delivery or curbside pickup is chosen, the pharmacy will then take credit card information over the phone. The patient is then notified and aware of the pickup or delivery date and time.

"We don't want to see patients — whether ours or somebody else's — get taken advantage of," said Appleyard.

"We want to ensure people don't give personal information over the phone without being 100 per cent confident in knowing who they're talking to. Most people are pretty wise to that."

Pharmacies in Selkirk, Gimli and Lundar had not been notified of any scams affecting their patients by press time.

Federal health officials reverse course on homemade cloth masks

By Patricia Barrett

As COVID-19 spread across the country, Canadian health officials told the public face masks were ineffective against the highly contagious virus and that they might give wearers a false sense of security.

But at the beginning of April when the virus had infected over 9,500 Canadians and more than 922,000 worldwide, Canada's top doctor and federal health minister told Canadians to use homemade masks if they so wish when they have to go out in public.

"The effectiveness of the use of non-medical masks hasn't really been well demonstrated, but I think that there may not be any harm in wearing [one], as the minister [federal health minister Patty Hajdu] said, if one uses it properly," said Canada's chief public health officer Theresa Tam during a briefing on April 1.

There's no ironclad guarantee that a homemade cloth mask will prevent someone from catching the virus, but there is enough evidence to suggest they can help reduce the risk of spreading it.

Hadju said the public should not wear medical masks as they are critical for health-care workers caring for COVID-infected patients.

Wearing a homemade mask may prevent people from habitually touching their nose and mouth, said Tam. The mask must fit snugly without gaping and not require any adjustment when out in public. And people

cannot let their hygienic guard down when wearing a mask. In other words, the same don't-touch-your-face rule applies to masks: don't touch your mask. Wash your hands.

And physical distancing — staying at least two metres (just over six feet) or more away from other people in public — is still a must even when wearing a mask. Droplets loaded with the virus can travel from others' coughs and sneezes.

"I would say absolutely no matter what you do with that kind of covering of your nose and mouth, you have to practise what we know works, which is physical distancing and hand-washing and not touching your face," said Tam.

Wearing a mask is going to require some effort. People must wash their hands before putting on a clean cloth mask. And before removing it, they must wash their hands, then peel the mask away from their face (rather than pulling it down over the mouth and chin). They must then wash their hands again and also wash the mask right away with soap and water or toss it in the washing machine.

Tam said the change in advice comes after reviewing the science on the use of masks.

As of late Sunday evening, the virus had infected 1,850,220 million people worldwide and killed 114,215. Canada's tally stands at 24,380 infected with 717 dead (Johns Hopkins University data). Manitoba had 242 cases of



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Masks may help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

which 17 are in the Interlake-Eastern health region, according to the province's website.

"The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) ... and to slow the spread of virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others," it states on its website.

The World Health Organization is neither recommending nor deterring the use of cloth masks until such time evidence is available on which to

make a recommendation.

"The use of masks made of other materials (e.g., cotton fabric), also known as non-medical masks, in the community setting has not been well evaluated," the WHO said in an April 6 interim guidance report. "There is no current evidence to make a recommendation for or against their use in this setting."

In a notice on the wearing of masks and gloves in public, the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority says [homemade] masks have not been proven to protect the wearer, but there is evidence that shows they "can protect others around you."

Like Tam, the IERHA says those who wear a mask must wash their hands before putting it on and wash their hands before and after removing it as contamination can occur during the improper use of and/or removal of masks.

The best way to avoid being exposed to COVID-19 is to stay home, says the IERHA.

Guidelines on how to make homemade masks abound on the web, on YouTube and on the CDC's website. A double layer of cotton (so that the mask is breathable) is recommended with elastics secured behind the ears. Those who don't have a sewing machine or don't know how to stitch by hand can use a bandana or scarf wrapped around the mouth and nose and tied at the back of the head or secured with elastics behind the ears.

Gypsumville RCMP seize firearms and drugs

Submitted by RCMP

On April 5 at approximately 6 p.m., Gypsumville RCMP were called to a residence on Lake St. Martin First Nation.

Officers attended the residence and located several loaded firearms and drugs. RCMP seized four firearms, ammunition, 60 grams of

cocaine, 210 grams of prescription medication, and a machete.

A 16-year-old male was arrested and is facing charges of:

Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking x 2

Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose

Careless Use of a Firearm x 2

Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm x 4

Possession of a Loaded Prohibited/Restricted Firearm x 2

Possession of a Firearm with a tampered serial number

RCMP continue to investigate.



> FISH, FROM PG. 13

tributing them this year."

In addition, Watersong Farms plans to open its own hatchery to serve its business as well as private pond customers.

"It's something that we had thought of doing previously just for our own use, but it was a matter of numbers. We were bringing in about 75,000 fish every year but it was borderline whether we were better off to put

the investment in ourselves or just continue to purchase them from an experienced hatchery. The transportation was quite expensive, but the risk-versus-reward was on the margin," he said.

"Now if there's the potential to sell 75,000 to 80,000 fingerlings to this pond market, then it actually starts making more sense for us to invest in starting our own hatchery. We would be able to grow for ourselves and decrease our dependence while

also servicing this other market at the same time."

Looking ahead, they could even help other entrepreneurs to set up similar ventures.

"We would be already set up to supply them," he said. "We know from experience that it can be an issue to find a reliable source."

The rainbow trout fingerlings will be available in May for private ponds, and the Reimers are ready to start taking advance orders.

"They can phone or email us and then we'll send them all the information they need," Reimer said.

"There are some specific stipulations that are imposed by the government, so we send them all those details plus the price list so they can order from us."

For more information, visit the Watersong Farms website at www.watersongfarms.com, email info@watersongfarms.com or call 204-322-5558.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Cvar completes freshman season at St. Cloud State

By Brian Bowman

Most freshmen players don't make a significant impact with their team at the Division I level.

But Olivia Cvar isn't like most players.

Cvar recently finished her freshman season for the St. Cloud State University women's hockey team.

The talented forward played in all 35 games for the Huskies during her rookie season, scoring an impressive 10 goals while adding four assists. She finished second on her team in goals scored, just two behind Hallie Theodosopoulos.

"I was kind of surprised by (my season) because it was my first year playing Division I hockey and you don't expect too much," said Cvar from her home in Stonewall last week. "I was pretty impressed with myself that I could have such a big impact and help lead my team to victories."

Cvar earned WCHA Rookie of the Week honours three times (Jan. 21, Jan. 28, and Feb. 18) and earned WCHA Rookie of the Month in Janu-

ary.

"It's a nice honour, especially if you get it more than once," said Cvar, the daughter of Mladen and Kara. "It makes you want to keep working hard and keep helping your team."

Cvar ended her rookie season by leading all WCHA freshmen in goals this season.

As for the Huskies, they struggled to a 6-25-4 record. St. Cloud's season ended after losing 2-0 to the Minnesota Golden Gophers in a best-of-three playoff series. Minnesota skated to a 4-2 victory in Game 1 on Feb. 28 and then clinched the series sweep with a 7-3 victory the following afternoon.

"It's always tough (when you lose) but you just have to gather what we learned from this past playoffs and hopefully we'll carry it on to next year," Cvar said. "(Game 1) was a close game and then at the end it sort of trickled away."

Cvar expects to be even better next season in her sophomore year. She also expects the Huskies to be much improved.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Cloud State Huskies' freshman forward Olivia Cvar led all WCHA rookies with 10 goals this past season.

"Just with training in the summer and totally preparing yourself to come into next year, I know a lot of the girls will be getting to work while they're at home now," Cvar said. "We have a

group chat and everyone is sharing what they're doing to get better. It's awesome to see and I'm excited about next year."

Manitoba Junior Hockey League to hold Bantam draft April 26

Staff

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League and its 11 member clubs have announced that the 2020 Bantam draft will be held April 26 at 9 a.m.

The draft will be held online utilizing RinkNet Live Draft Centre technology provided by HockeyTech.

Traditionally, the MJHL draft has been held the first week of June.

"With the abruptness of season's end and the subsequent cancellation of all hockey activities for the foreseeable future across the province and nation, we felt it was important to pro-

vide some much-needed excitement and positivity during what has been a disappointing and difficult time for everyone," said MJHL commissioner Kim Davis.

The Neepawa Natives will hold the first overall selection in the 2020 MJHL draft followed by the OCN Blizzard and Selkirk Steelers rounding out the top three picks.

Barring a trade, the Steelers have one first-round pick, two in the second, one in each of the third and fourth rounds, and two more in the fifth.

Selkirk does not have a pick in the

sixth round of the draft.

Prior to the MJHL draft, teams will submit up to two Auto-Protect selections from the designated home zone.

New to this year's draft procedures, teams will have the option to decline an Auto-Protect selection and defer that pick to rounds seven or eight of the draft.

Full details of procedure updates along with Auto-Protect selections will be released on April 20.

"The MJHL draft is a very important event for the league and its member teams," said Kevin Saurette, MJHL

Director of Operations. "We are very excited about the talent level across the province in what should be a very thrilling month for the 2005 draft class with both the WHL and MJHL Drafts taking place in April."

All selections will be available online to the public in real-time for the benefit of all teams, players, and fans to engage with this live event.

Keep posted to @mjhlhockey and #MJHLDraft20 on social media for round-by-round draft summaries or follow live at www.mjhlhockey.ca/draft.

Curling Canada cancels remaining national championships for the season

Staff

Curling Canada announced last Thursday that the remaining national curling championships on its 2019-20 schedule have been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement affects this year's national mixed doubles, seniors, under-18 and wheelchair championships.

The national mixed doubles and

seniors curling championships were scheduled for March in Portage la Prairie while the national wheelchair championship in Boucherville, Que., and under-18 event in Sudbury, Ont., were scheduled to take place in April.

All four events were postponed indefinitely last month.

Curling Canada's announcement comes on the same day the World Curling Federation confirmed that

the cancelled 2020 women's, men's, senior's and mixed doubles championships will not be rescheduled at any point this year.

The world women's championship - which would have featured Kerri Einarson's Manitoba rink - had been scheduled to start March 14 in Prince George, B.C. "We didn't make this decision lightly, but keeping our athletes, volunteers and staff safe was the

primary motivation," said Katherine Henderson, chief executive officer of Curling Canada, in a statement. "We know this has been difficult on athletes who were pursuing their athletic dreams this season. We also know they share our concerns that everyone stays safe in this time of uncertainty, and we thank them for their understanding and dedication to our sport and curling fans across Canada."

Pawluk commits to Minot State University hockey program

From the Dauphin Kings' website

The Dauphin Kings announced that defenceman Brayden Pawluk has committed to the Minot State Beavers (ACHA DIV I) hockey club for the 2020-21 season.

The Teulon product was one of the leaders for the Kings in the 2019-20 season both on and off the ice.

In his 20-year-old season with Dauphin, Pawluk scored six goals and had 31 assists in 54 contests. He was second on the team in defenceman scoring.

Pawluk, who spent a handful of seasons in the MJHL with Virten and then Dauphin, joins former Kings' blueliner Wayne Johannesson. Johan-

nesson, an Arnes product, was added to Minot's lineup last year.

"It feels great to finally have made a decision and to have definitive plans for this fall," said Pawluk. "The decision process was a long one over the past four months with many institutions trying to recruit me."

The final decision to choose Minot State came down to a few things, but to sum it up would be to say that it was the best fit. "Minot has a wide variety of courses. Their campus is amazing and just around four hours from home so my family could still watch me play," said Pawluk. "The hockey program is very successful in a lot of

aspects so I hope to contribute to that and look to defend their national title next season. The head coach and I had several phone calls before my final decision and he and I are on the same page. He believes that I can bring a lot to the organization and knowing that he has high expectations for me motivates me to work harder than ever this off-season."

The 6-foot-1, 200-pounder will always cherish his time spent in the Sunshine City.

"I will definitely miss the city of Dauphin and the community support for the team," Pawluk said. "I'm going to miss the guys in the locker

room and the road trips together. I'm thankful for all the friendships I made there. I'm going to miss the mentorship from the coaches as well. Coach Hedley and coach Topinka believed in me from day one and were really important in my development in the past season and a half as a King.

"The Kings' organization as a whole is world class and has to be one of the best places to play junior hockey. Playing in Dauphin brings more than just on-ice development, it teaches character in all aspects.

"I will always be grateful for the opportunities I had as a Dauphin King," he added.

Thoughts still entrenched with those affected by the Humboldt Broncos' tragedy

Courtesy of the Canadian Junior Hockey League

The early evening of Friday, April 6, 2018 was a time that changed all of us forever.

It has now been two years since the devastating tragedy shocked the Humboldt Broncos, their families, loved ones, the community of Humboldt, Sask., the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, the Canadian Junior Hockey League, Hockey Canada and the entire world-wide hockey family.

In this current time of uncertainty,

involving everyone as present events grip the nation and beyond; on this solemn day, the CJHL, its member leagues and clubs, respectively pause to reflect, reminisce and cherish each and everyone involved on that horrendous day.

"It's been two years since the accident, but it seems like yesterday, as we approach this anniversary," said CJHL president Brent Ladds. "There is not a day that goes by, that we don't think of the impact that this tragedy had, on

so many."

The thoughts, reflections and sentiments remain strong to this day.

"To everyone, please pause to remember and acknowledge, in your own way, the families who continue to live through the memories, the front-line workers who were so invaluable throughout, and the millions of supporters who made their feelings known during those heart-rending days."

The Humboldt Broncos remain for-

ever firmly planted in our hearts and their memories live on, never to be forgotten.

The CJHL offers our sincere continued support and admiration to all the first responders, emergency services personnel as well as to anyone who went far and above in answering the call that fateful evening and who continue to do so daily as events unfold across the globe.

We Play for Them.

> CATTLEMEN ADVOCATE, FROM PG. 10

mentations on the business risk management side of things. Increasing the margin coverage and removing some of the limits can provide more meaningful support for producers in Manitoba," said Laycraft.

Laycraft added that he disagreed with the idea that future markets are unlikely to improve, suggesting there has already been some improvement since COVID-19 was first reported.

"We're doing our best to create as much market efficiency as we can, and minimize market impact. ... We're bringing all the provinces in on meetings to discuss these things," he said.

CCA president Bob Lowe offered a comment on Manitoba's market too.

"There is a silver lining in every cloud. Coming out of this pandemic ... people will have a whole new appreciation for food. If you're in this business, that's probably a good thing," said Lowe.

"I don't see a big downside to the cattle markets or anything else. If anything, I see stronger cattle markets in the future."

Every part of the country faces its own challenges. Lowe referenced Quebec as an example, which has struggled with a shortage of capacity and has resulted in depressed prices.

Manitoba Beef Producers perspective

In a statement to the *Express Weekly News* and the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune*, MBP acknowledged the CCA has put together a series of recommendations to the federal government to provide immediate financial measures for producers to keep their operations financially sustainable.

Those recommendations are based on input from provincial and national industry associations like MBP.

A number of the recommendations, as stated previously, focus on making business risk management tools more responsive.

"Measures like these will help to ensure the health and welfare of producers, their cattle and the Canadian cattle industry as we navigate through this global crisis," the statement reads.

"We understand there are a lot of concerns about the impact of COVID 19 on the beef sector. MBP is collaborating with industry stakeholders and working with governments to ensure stable beef production and trade during and following the COVID-19 pandemic."

The industry is also implementing strategies to reduce the possibility of the spread of the virus at different stages of the supply and production chains, according to MBP, which is in line with what CCA had stated.

MBP clarified its role, which is to advocate with governments for policies, programs and services to help ensure producers have the tools in place to deal with challenging circumstances like these, according to its statement.

"The beef industry has also been in constant contact with government about the need to keep live cattle moving into the U.S., as well as trucks hauling supplies throughout North America," the MBP statement reads.

"There have been no disruptions, which is very important to the agriculture sector."

MBP is also strongly encouraging producers to speak to their lending institutions as soon as possible if they are experiencing financial challenges to determine what types of strategies can be implemented to help address the challenges.

As well, the provincial government — through the Manitoba Farm Industry Board — offers mediation services for farmers and creditors under The Family Farm Protection Act. As long as both parties are willing to co-operate, the board works with the producer and the lender to look at a producer's financial situation and options to resolve issues, according to MBP, and the board can also provide farm financial counselling services for producers.

"These types of approaches by organizations like MBP will continue in the weeks ahead as the situation continues to evolve," MBP statement reads.

"We want to ensure the least disruptions possible to Manitoba's cattle industry."

MBP said, moving forward, markets are expected to be extremely volatile.

Classifieds



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

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who attended my retirement reception on March 11th. I am truly touched by all the kind words and well wishes. For the lovely cards, flowers and gifts, thank you. Last, but not least, thank you to Arborg Mayor, Council and staff for hosting this memorable afternoon in my honour.

-Lorraine Bardarson

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI INVITATION TO TENDER GRASS CUTTING

CLOSING DATE: Thursday April 30, 2020 at Noon

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is accepting tenders for grass cutting in various public reserves and parks throughout the municipality for a minimum 1-year term, with an option to renew for additional 1-2 year term at Council's discretion.

The contracts will require the provision of suitable equipment, operator, fuel, etc. for the cutting and trimming of grass beginning approximately the week of May 12th. The Contracts will be awarded on an area-by-area basis. Bid prices are based on a per cut basis, and include trimming and removal of grass. The Contractor should expect 12 to 14 cuts per year. Contractor's experience and past performance will be a consideration of this tender. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Detailed tender packages complete with specifications are available to interested bidders on the RM of Gimli website, www.gimli.ca.

Sealed submissions clearly marked "2020 Grass Cutting, submitted by _____" will be received by the undersigned at the address below until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submit Sealed Tenders to:

Rural Municipality of Gimli
PO Box 1246, 62 2nd Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
Attention: Kelly Cosgrove, Assistant CAO

Questions or concerns in respect to the tender can be directed to:

Darcy Hjelmeland Phone: (204) 642-6688
Email: publicworks@rmgimli.com

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

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Park Activities Coordinator

Seasonal Departmental, Approximately 23 weeks
Manitoba Conservation and Climate, Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park
Advertisement Number: 36117
Closing Date: April 24, 2020
Salary Range: \$1,468.00 - \$1,673.60 bi-weekly

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary public service reflective of the citizens it serves, where diverse abilities, backgrounds, cultures, identities, languages and perspectives drives a high standard of service and innovation.

The Manitoba government supports equitable employment practices and promotes representation of designated groups (women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities). Employment Equity is a factor in selection for this competition. Consideration will be given to women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities.

Qualifications:

Essential:

- Supervisory experience
- Experience collecting data, maintaining records and preparing reports
- Ability to organize and prioritize work to meet strict deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to maintain good working relationships with colleagues, stakeholders and the public
- Experience using Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office, and ArcGIS or comparable software applications

Desired:

- Experience conducting inspections
- Experience collecting revenue, keeping a balance, and preparing deposits
- Experience in the administration and coordination of events

Conditions of Employment:

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Must possess and maintain a valid Manitoba full stage class 5 driver's license
- Must be physically capable of performing all the duties of the position, including lifting up to 50lbs and working outdoors for extended periods of time under various weather conditions
- Must be able to work weekends and statutory holidays on occasion

Duties:

Under the direction of the Park District Manager, the Park Activities Coordinator is responsible for the supervision of campground attendants in Hecla/Grindstone and Lake St. George Provincial Parks. The incumbent will assist with the Riverton Park District Cottage lot program by conducting inspections for lease renewals, development, issuing Park Permits, and providing guidance to cottagers in the Riverton Park District. The incumbent will be responsible for the management and co-ordination of geocaching and special events in the Riverton District and will assist the Park District Manager with recruitment and selection. The incumbent will also assist the Park District Manager on projects or assignments as required.

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 36117
Manitoba Civil Service Commission
Manitoba Conservation and Climate
Box 70, Riverton MB, R0C 2C0
Attn: Jim Fisher, District Park Supervisor
Phone: 204-378-2261; Fax 204-378-5274
Email jim.fisher@gov.mb.ca

Applicants may request reasonable accommodation related to the materials or activities used throughout the selection process.

When applying to this position, please indicate the advertisement number and position title in the subject line and/or body of your email. Your cover letter, resumé and/or application must clearly indicate how you meet the qualifications.

Please be advised that job competitions may be grieved and appealed. Should a selection grievance be filed, information from the competition file will be provided to the grievor's representative or the grievor, if unrepresented. Personal information irrelevant to the grievance and other information protected under legislation will be redacted.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Find out about other current job opportunities — click on the Jobs button at manitoba.ca.

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Any personal information provided including employment equity declarations will be used for employment and/or statistical purposes and is protected by The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Alternate formats available upon request

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Park Works Supervisor

52 week, Non-seasonal departmental
Manitoba Conservation and Climate, Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park
Advertisement Number: 36150
Closing Date: April 24, 2020
Salary Range: \$44,807.00 - \$52,988.00 per year

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary public service reflective of the citizens it serves, where diverse abilities, backgrounds, cultures, identities, languages and perspectives drives a high standard of service and innovation.

The Manitoba government supports equitable employment practices and promotes representation of designated groups (women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities). Employment Equity is a factor in selection for this competition. Consideration will be given to women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities.

Qualifications:

- Supervisory experience.
- Experience working in the construction industry.
- Experience with cost estimates, purchasing and inventory control.

For a complete listing of qualifications, conditions of employment and duties for this position, please see ad No. 36150 at <http://gov.mb.ca/govjobs>

Duties:

Under the direction of the Park District Manager, the Park Works Supervisor 3 (PK3) is responsible for the supervision and organization of park operations and maintenance. Operations and maintenance staff consists of Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical Trades along with Labourers, Operators and Janitors. The PK3 will supervise construction operations and participate in the planning and development of minor and major capital projects in the District. The PK3 plays a key role in monitoring and reporting of shop expenditures and capital programs. The incumbent assists the Park District Manager in identifying, recording and mitigating risk and liability issues associated with Riverton Park District.

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 36150
Manitoba Civil Service Commission
Service Centre 2
Human Resource Services
360-1395 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, R3G 3P2
Phone: 204-945-3001
Fax: 204-948-2841
Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

To be considered for this competition you must submit an application form. Contact Human Resource Services under "Apply to" to request a copy of the application form. The selection board will rely only on information provided in this form to determine whether a candidate will be invited for further assessment. Note: You are not required to submit a cover letter, but may be asked to submit a resume, references, or other documentation at a later point if invited for further consideration.

Applicants may request reasonable accommodation related to the materials or activities used throughout the selection process.

When applying to this position, please indicate the advertisement number and position title in the subject line and/or body of your email.

Please be advised that job competitions may be grieved and appealed. Should a selection grievance be filed, information from the competition file will be provided to the grievor's representative or the grievor, if unrepresented. Personal information irrelevant to the grievance and other information protected under legislation will be redacted.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Any personal information provided including employment equity declarations will be used for employment and/or statistical purposes and is protected by The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

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Classifieds Announcements

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Call 467-5836

OBITUARY



Valdine Deanne Thorbjorg Bjornsson (nee Geirholm)
November 23, 1938 – April 4, 2020

Peacefully on Saturday morning April 4, 2020, with her family by her side, Mom (Amma, Langamma) passed away at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

Mom leaves to mourn and cherish her memory, her children, Kent (Jonsi), Shawn (Sherry), Blair (Catherine), Dean; as well as her precious grandchildren Ashleigh (Calvin), Svein (Shannon), Morgan and Xander (Sidney) and her great-grand daughters, Fallyn and Freya. Mom is also survived by her brother Les (Sheryl) Geirholm, her sister Francine (Douglas) Albertson; sisters-in-law Olivia Stanley and Elizabeth Corkal; cousins, nieces, nephews; as well as her extended granddaughters Heather, Tayler and Madison Durward. She was predeceased by her parents, Kjartan and Gudny Geirholm; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Larus and Margaret

Bjornsson; her sisters-in-law Aldis Bjornsson and Laura Schappert; her brothers-in-law, Ervin Stanley, Grant Schappert, Mercil Corkal and Vincent Palsen; as well as numerous aunts and uncles and her special four-legged daughter Munchkin.

Valdine Bjornsson was born in Selkirk and raised in Gimli, where she attended school. Mom and Dad resided and raised their family in Fraserwood. Once her boys were of school age, Mom began her career with the Province of Manitoba, Department of Agriculture in Arborg. After many years of working with the Province, Mom retired to enjoy her family, especially her grandchildren.

Mom loved family. She was often organizing family reunions and documenting the various family trees on all sides of our family. Mom would treat our friends and anyone that came by as family. She always made sure that everyone was fed and had a place to stay. Mom even adopted a family from Cuba and took them under her wing. She was lovingly referred to as their Manager. She will be sadly missed by Hamri, Dismey, Leidys, Jennifer, Liz Laura and Daniela.

Mom was active with the Order of the Eastern Star, Selkirk Chapter No. 35 and was a member of the Fraserwood Hall Committee. Mom was extremely proud of her Icelandic heritage. She and Dad travelled to Iceland numerous times and always enjoyed their visits and adventures with family and friends while travelling around the country. Mom was also very active in the Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society and the Icelandic National League of North America, attending many conferences and often volunteering at the New Iceland Heritage Museum. Mom and Dad enjoyed their many vacations which included travelling around in their motor home and relaxing at Hnausa Campground.

After Dad's passing - Mom returned to her hometown of Gimli to live, first to her condo in Aspen Park and then to Waterfront Centre. Mom enjoyed her time at Waterfront, especially her Kaffitimi family.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life is being planned for Saturday July 18, 2020 at Johnson Hall, Gimli MB.

All family and friends may consider themselves her honorary pallbearers.

A special family thank you is extended to all the staff at the Gimli Community Health Center for taking such great care of Mom (Valdine), especially during these uncertain and difficult times we are in. We thank you for allowing us to be with mom until the end. Thank you also to Vanessa Goodbrandt and her homecare staff for their thoughtfulness and helping with Mom's care.

Við munum aldrei gleyma þér
Við elskum þig, hvíl í friði
Góða nótt elsku mamma

In lieu of flowers, remembrances in Valines' memory may be made to Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society Box 1979 Gimli, MB R0C 1B0, or a charity of your choice



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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING THE 2020 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Gimli intends to present its Financial Plan for the Fiscal Year 2020 at a Public Hearing to be held at the Recreation Centre at 45 Centennial Road on the 29th day of April, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

To accommodate physical distancing recommendations, we are kindly asking for individuals who wish to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan, to please register by email gimli@rmgimli.com or phone 204-642-6650.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review on the 28th day of April, 2020 and may be accessed on the Rural Municipality of Gimli website at www.gimli.ca

Dated this 7th day of April, 2020

Kelly Cosgrove, CMMA
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli

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

Classifieds Announcements

OBITUARY



Elizabeth Nora Larusson

Peacefully at the age of 81 years, Elizabeth passed away at the Gimli Hospital on April 8, 2020 after a short but courageous battle with cancer, with her family by her side.

Elizabeth was born on February 9, 1939 in South Norfolk Municipal, MB. She was raised and educated in Rathwell, MB. After leaving home she went to work in Winnipeg at Ray-o-Vac with her sister Orish. In 1960 she married Stephan Wirgau and moved to the family farm in Narcisse MB, where their four children were born.

Elizabeth was a horse and dog lover. She taught her horse Rambler many of tricks and always enjoyed going out for a horseback ride with her friends. After the passing of Stephan, Elizabeth moved to Gimli where she married Harold Larusson. Mom was involved in 4-H as a leader, and had a passion for all outdoor activities.

Her hobbies were varied from knitting, oil and water painting, sewing, ceramics and Bingo. She was family orientated, a hard worker, and renowned gardener with a green thumb - who shared her bounty with all. She loved hunting, fishing and walks. When she could she would lend a hand to one and all. Elizabeth also volunteered at the local support center when she wasn't busy with the upkeep of her park - like property or spending time with family members.

Elizabeth was predeceased by her first husband Stephan; second husband Harold; son Guy; parents Niykyfor and Sophia Kucharski; siblings: Mary, Anna Syganiec, Lena Okapiec, Polly Kohut, Joe, Martin, Johnny, Alex, twin sister Ellen Toews and Nellie Lyal.

She will be sadly and deeply missed by daughter Terry Spack (Rudy), daughter Kelly DePaulo (Gary), son Candy Wirgau (Jan). Grandchildren: Cheryl DePaulo, Patrick Cory DePaulo (Rachel), and Olivia Wirgau and step-grandchild Nathan DePaulo (Jen), great-grandchildren Jory and Zachary DePaulo, and grand dog Chewie. Her sisters: Cassie Sinclair, Alice Fiebelkorn, Jenny Morden, and Orish Whittier, plus numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank all the doctors and staff, for their care in her final days. Honouring Elizabeth's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's choice. The family requests that condolences and memories can be left by visiting Elizabeth's memorial page at seasonsfunerals.ca

Seasons Funeral Chapel
In care of arrangements
1-204-444-5444



Scot Sveinie Valgardson
July 5th 1960 – March 18th 2020

Scot will be forever remembered by his parents Norm and Dodie; sisters Michelle (Tyler), Mandi (Dave); brothers Jeff (Marilyn), Shane and Quinn. Also remembering Scot are his nephews Andrew (Kerry), Luke (Shannon), Colby (Janine), Nik (Amey), Tyson, Theo and Johannes; nieces Recene (Jason), Raven, Cassandra (Eri), Sadie and Destiny along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Scot was predeceased by his mother Gloria; brother Brad; grandparents Rose and Jack Dixon, Katherine and Joe Syczylo and Gordon Stark.

Scot was a very private person but stayed well connected to family. He was always looking for a new challenge and was happiest when he was outdoors. He used his natural woodworking talents to make treasure chests for his nieces, wood carvings for his siblings and even building a 25,000 sq. ft. warehouse with roof top parking for Summerhill Winery.

In his youth he learned to fly a glider, raced his Chevy Nova and rail car at the Gimli racetrack and helped his Dad race horses at the Assiniboia Downs winning a stakes race with his beloved horse Viking Debut. Scot loved to ski and in his 20's moved to Kelowna to be closer to the mountains and fell in love with the city and lived there until his passing.

Scot's most recent employment was working for Steven at the Summerhill Winery which hoped to have a memorial for Scot but Covid-19 has interfered.

Don't forget to send your special wishes to your friends and family.



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