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Cutting out COVID

EXPRESS PHOTO BY LORALIE HENRY

Tracey Bjornson-Collins cuts Josh Henry's hair at Riverton's Sandy Bar Salon on May 4. Starting this past Monday, hair salons in Manitoba were allowed to open if they followed strict COVID-19 guidelines created by the province.

> everything you need to know in your locally owned and operated community newspaper

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Premier unveils Manitoba's roadmap to expanding services safely

By Evan Matthews

Some Interlake businesses have begun opening back up after the province announced easing of COVID-19-related restrictions on businesses last week.

As of May 4, a variety of non-essential health-care and retail businesses had the option to reopen under strict guidelines. All businesses and venues will be required to continue following social distancing and stringent cleaning practices to protect both employees and customers.

Size restrictions of public and private gatherings of no more than 10 people will remain in place. Everyone is expected to continue to follow social distancing rules at all times and to stay home if they are sick. Travel restrictions will remain in place such as avoiding all non-essential travel outside of Manitoba, and requirements for self-isolation for 14 days following travel will continue.

Based on the evolving global public health recommendations and modelling, Manitoba is in a position to begin a methodical, phased-in approach to reopening businesses, said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer.

"Our public health measures to date have helped us reduce case numbers

and flatten the curve, but it is not practical to maintain these measures indefinitely," said Roussin. "That is why we will gradually reduce these measures including balancing the need to protect vulnerable Manitobans from COVID-19 with the need to protect Manitobans from the unintended impacts of strict public health measures, which include health and social impacts."

Restoring Services (Phase One) – beginning May 4

Critical public health measures and travel restrictions remain. Priority elective surgeries have been restarted, diagnostics screening will resume and some non-essential businesses will reopen but must limit occupancy to 50 per cent of normal business levels or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is lower. Services, businesses and venues include:

- non-urgent surgery and diagnostic procedures;
- therapeutic and medical services;
- retail businesses;
- restaurants – patio/walk-up services;
- hair salons;
- museums, galleries and libraries;
- seasonal day camps; and
- outdoor recreation and camp-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PAT DOYLE

Golfers opened up the season at the Sandy Hook Golf Course this past Monday.

grounds.

The province will continually re-evaluate and adjust plans for further easing of secondary public health measures and may reintroduce others.

Restoring Services (Phase Two) – No Earlier Than June 1

Critical public health measures and travel restrictions may remain in place. Public gathering sizes may be increased and more non-essential businesses will be considered for reopening including:

- additional personal services, such as nail salons;
- restaurants – dine-in services;
- non-contact children's sports; and
- film production.

Future Phases

Public health measures may be eased further. Additional guidelines will be developed, public gathering sizes will be increased and some non-essential

business will fully open. Others may begin to reopen, such as bars, pools and spas, movie theatres and indoor recreational facilities. Travel restrictions may be eased.


Specific considerations for other businesses and sectors may be made including:

- performing arts venues;
- other non-essential businesses;
- tattoo parlours, estheticians, cosmetologists and tanning studios; and
- large gatherings/events.

Mass gatherings such as concerts, summer festivals and major sporting events will not be considered before September 2020, Roussin noted.

Child care plays an important role in restoring services by enabling parents to return to the workplace, and it remains a priority. The Department of Families will continue to work with the child-care community to expand the temporary child-care services available, including a grant available

Continued on page 7

 The Manitoba Teachers' Society

THANK YOU FRONTLINE

FROM MANITOBA PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Have a Safe and Happy Mother's Day

Derek Johnson
MLA for Interlake-Gimli
interlakegimlimla@gmail.com

B&C community newspapers still rolling off the press despite Postmedia closures

By Patricia Barrett

Since the mid-2000s, the circulation of print newspapers has been in freefall thanks to platforms such as Facebook and Google with their seductive ability to capture readers' and advertisers' eyeballs but which don't pay publishers for news content. Then COVID-19 came.

That lethal combination may have been partly responsible for the demise last week of 15 Postmedia community newspapers, but it has so far left Big and Colourful's (B&C) newspapers — *The Express Weekly News*, *The Selkirk Record*, *The Stonewall Teulon Tribune* and *The Winkler-Morden Voice* — still rolling off the press.

As COVID decimates the economy, the survival of B&C's newspapers has come down to strong, loyal advertising support and a great staff who are willing to do everything.

But that doesn't mean the locally owned company has escaped COVID unscathed: 80 per cent of its advertising revenue from flyers and in paper ads — the fuel that drives print newspapers — has evaporated since the end of March.

Lana Meier, who co-owns and operates the four weeklies with business partners Brett Mitchell (*Selkirk Record*) and Rick Reimer (*Winkler-Morden Voice*), said the company has had to furlough six of its 22 staff, whittle down edition size and find other cost-cutting measures in order to keep operating while paying remaining staff and its bills.

"Fortunately, we are the newspapers left standing at the end of the day," said Meier after she heard Postmedia's bad news. "I'm getting emails, phone calls and messages on social media from people worried about the future of their newspapers. The most important message I share with everybody is this: buy locally, support local businesses."

Businesses such as grocery and hardware stores that pay to put fly-

ers in the papers and others who buy ads are the people who bring you the paper. Support their business and in return thank them for their support to the paper," said Meier, whose headquarters are in Stonewall where she grew up.

Last week corporate behemoth Postmedia announced the shut-down of the *Interlake Spectator*, *Selkirk Journal*, *Stonewall Argus & Teulon Times*, *Morden Times*, *Altona Red River Valley Echo*, *Carman Valley Leader* and *Prairie Farmer* (Winkler), as well as several papers in Ontario's Windsor-Essex region. The company is laying off 80 people.

Postmedia CEO Andrew MacLeod, who earned a base salary of \$900,000 in 2019, plus a \$500,000 cash incentive reward contingent upon his continuing role as CEO, said in an April 29 news release that these are "unprecedented times" and "we made the difficult decision to implement temporary salary reductions, temporary layoffs and some permanent closures."

The irony of Postmedia pulling the plug on community newspapers is not lost on Meier. Her dad, Merv Farmer, bought the *Argus* in 1967 and started up the *Selkirk Journal* and *Spectator* in the 1980s, all of them eventually falling under Postmedia's banner.

But the death knell of those papers is not "my dad's legacy," said Meier, because his vision was fundamentally different from the way corporate news outlets run.

Farmer worked from a nondescript office in Stonewall, hiring locals, focusing on local events and politics and even resorting to Dickensian-like child labour (his own kids) to make the papers the success they had become before they were acquired by Quebecor and then by SunMedia/Postmedia.

"Every Tuesday at 5 a.m., dad would take all of us kids to the office to help with collating," said Meier. "He had big industrial shelving units where he kept all the papers. We could hardly



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Lana Meier successfully launched a rural Manitoba newspaper chain in 2010. Last week she was reminiscing on her life in the newspaper world.

reach the top so we would have to stack papers up under our feet so that we could collate flyers until we had to leave at 8:15 for school."

Of her six siblings, Meier was the

only one to catch the news bug and she never recovered. She jacked in the

Continued on page 8

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Medical staff receive COVID caps in Ashern, Eriksdale, and Lundar

By Evan Matthews

Two separate groups have been working to provide Highway 6 medical staff with COVID caps.

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild has been sewing and distributing COVID caps for medical staff in the Ashern community, while a group known as the Bobbin' Buddies are responsible for the sewing and distribution to the medical centres in Eriksdale and Lundar.

"The guild has always been there for the hospital whenever they've needed it, and any time we can step up and help, we're happy to do that," said Shelley Bjornson, president of Lakeshore Hospital Guild.

The guild is in its 42nd year of existence and serves the RMs of West Interlake and Grahamdale, in this instance specifically providing to the Lakeshore Health Centre's Dialysis Unit, Personal Care Home and the Medical Centre in Ashern.

"We want to step up and keep front-line workers while they keep us safe," she said.

The guild, as well as the Bobbin' Buddies, sews buttons on the top of the caps for medical staff to attach their masks to, which helps alleviate stress on their ears.

Every single medical staffer had been wearing a mask, Bjornson said, indicative of how many frontline workers could be in need of the relief that the masks provide.

"My daughter — who is a nurse at



The Lakeshore Hospital Guild and the Bobbin' Buddies have been sewing masks and caps for health care providers.

Eriksdale Hospital — asked me to make her a couple of caps, and her co-workers saw them and I started receiving some requests," said Colleen Hogue, a member of the Bobbin' Buddies, who are based in Eriksdale.

Hogue said she and her Bobbin' Buddies have been following YouTube tutorials on how to make the caps.

The idea to mass-produce the caps, with a target of 600 in total, came from registered nurse Marcos "Macky" Bordeos, who is now CEO of McCare Global Healthcare Services and who donated all the supplies.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY SHELLEY BJORNSON

Shelley Bjornson, left, delivered 150 caps to the Lakeshore Health Centre's acute care manager Micheal Ellis, who subsequently delivered the caps to the various departments within the health centre.

"(Macky) and I worked together when I was the manager in Ashern and he was there too. We know each other very well. He said, 'Would you and your quilting friends sew these caps?' and then he offered to donate all the supplies," she said.

"He's a very generous man."

The group's goal is to also send a number of caps to Fisher Branch.

McCare Global Healthcare Services is a Winnipeg-based nursing placement agency that sends nurses (registered nurses and licensed practical

nurses) to different health-care agencies in Canada, while also catering to the different regional health-care authorities in Manitoba — including the IERHA.

Bordeos said giving back is a big part of his values, so donating to this cause was a no-brainer, especially given his ties to the community.

"I've been blessed to have this business. Even a small act gives joy to people," said Bordeos.

"I've always felt whatever I have, I should be sharing."

Gimli parade lifts spirits of frontline health-care staff



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Gimli showed its appreciation for frontline health-care staff fighting the COVID-19 outbreak by holding a parade April 22. Cars and trucks decorated with flowers and messages made their way down neighbourhood streets accompanied by RCMP, ambulance and fire department staff to spread a message of support.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Not a bad day for journalism

Not a bad day for journalism.

Like you, I've been following the slow change in the once vibrant *Selkirk Journal* over the last couple of years as I spread it and the *Selkirk Record* out on my kitchen table and flip through them side-by-side over a cup of tea.

With every passing issue it was becoming more and more apparent that the *Selkirk Journal's* owner Postmedia, a Canadian conglomerate that owns about 130 media brands across Canada and some of our nation's biggest newspapers, had the mistaken idea that rural newspapers were cash cows.

Postmedia filled the *Selkirk Journal* with national ads — contracts it had secured because it could effortlessly promise their national advertisers that it could place ads in dozens and dozens of media platforms, all at once, for a deep discount.

Simultaneously Postmedia started to fire reporters, editors and photographers and slowly, ever so slowly, the content in its *Selkirk Journal* was indistinguishable from the content in its papers in Stonewall or Winkler — as it filled the pages with poor syndicated columns and that had nothing to do with life in Selkirk. And forcing its skeleton staff to work even harder to keep up.

What Postmedia seemed to have forgotten is that functioning and healthy newspapers are a delicate balance between advertising and

locally generated editorial. And in most communities local news rules.

So when it closed its Manitoba papers this week, it actually let go of about 30 people — very few were still journalists. So this was not a bad week for journalism — as some would have you believe.

Actually, entire generations of journalists working in major newsrooms across Canada today owe their careers to a start in weekly newspapers, that as recently as 10 years ago were hiring journalists and doing a good job. So what happened?

Convergence happened.

In the 1990s owners of TV stations thought it would be a grand idea to also own newspapers.

Newspaper owners thought it would be smart to own TV stations.

And in a short time Hollinger, Southam, Sun Media, Quebecor, TorStar, CanWest, BellMedia and others were buying and selling, slicing and dicing their media properties until media outlets in Canada today are owned by a very few media giants — Postmedia being one of them.

All of this was made possible by toothless federal government anti-competition and weak foreign ownership laws.

The 1990s media convergence was not only going to take advantage of technology convergence but economic efficiency. The promise was that bigger was better, at least for the owners who were going to make

more money. But ask Postmedia — which dances around bankruptcy every year — how national convergence worked out.

What some owners may not realize is that the news business is more of a social enterprise than a for-profit business. Owning and operating a newspaper to make high profits is like opening a daycare, nursing home or a women's shelter to cash in. It ain't happening.

The smart newspaper owners are part social entrepreneurs. They recognize that good journalism, whether it's about our town's sports team or big-city corporate fraud, is about keeping us connected and accountable. When done right, good newspapers keep us on the right track.

Postmedia would have you believe that closing its Manitoba papers this week is Google's fault or COVID-19's fault, but really it's a failure to understand that local content and good journalism continues to be the foundation of newspapers big and small. When you own a media outlet you're not making widgets; you're making a difference.

So journalism didn't suffer a blow this week as some might think; rather, a misplaced faith that bigger is better caught up with a media conglomerate.

Shirley Muir

Muir is a former print and broadcast journalist, current president of The PRHouse, a volunteer and proud champion of Selkirk and the district.

Respect to your neighbours

A couple weeks back I read an article in the *Express Weekly News* about a lady who was seated on a leather couch beside the computer terminals in the Gimli library reading a book. A person came into the library to use the computer. The person was coughing and hacking all over the keyboard. When that person's cell phone rang, they walked directly past her coughing. I don't understand why did that person have to be in the library in the first place. Couldn't that person access the internet at home from their cell phone?

Approximately three years back I got sick and had to drive to town to the pharmacy to pick up medications. At that time my dad was still living at Betel Personal Care Home in Gimli. I wanted to visit him so badly but I knew I couldn't. It hurt me so bad not being able to visit him, yet I knew that God forgave me because I was too sick. I would visit him at least three times a week for four years. I would spend so much time with him. Betel was almost my second home. I did not go to the library that day but I did use wi-fi on my tab.

- Respectfully yours,
Peter Pilatyk

Province expands access to summer school programming for Grade 9 to 12 students

By the Manitoba government

The province is expanding its partnership with InformNet to increase access to summer school programming for Grade 9 to 12 students in Manitoba, Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this past Monday.

"The expansion of InformNet summer school will provide additional supports for students across Manitoba during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Goertzen. "This will help students to be as prepared as possible for the next school year."

InformNet is an online high school learning management system operated by the Pembina Trails and St. James-Assiniboia school divisions.

Student fees for summer school courses will be waived for 2020 and there will be no cap on enrolment. InformNet summer school is avail-

able for Grade 9 to 12 students who have not successfully completed a course(s) during the regular academic year or wish to improve their grade(s). Summer courses follow the provincial guideline of 45 hours of curriculum content. A certified teacher with experience and expertise in the subject area facilitates all online courses. In addition, French language and print-based strategies are under development.

InformNet summer school runs from July 3 to 29. Registration begins today. Students can register for summer school courses at www.informnet.mb.ca/.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has

changed the way we do many things in Manitoba, including suspension of classroom-based education, but learning must continue," said Goertzen. "Earlier this month we announced the web portal, My Learning at Home/Mon Apprentissage Chez Moi, a comprehensive online resource to supplement learning and help teachers, families and caregivers support students. Expanding access to InformNet sum-

mer school is one more way we are helping our students succeed."

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

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Liberals jump the gun with legislation?

By Evan Matthews

Last week, the minority Liberal government of Canada banned roughly 1,500 makes and models of “military grade assault-style” weapons in this country.

Good decision or bad decision? Let the debate begin.

This conversation seems delicate, as even people who are not gun owners have taken issue not with the legislation itself but how the government chose to pass it.

But there is also a large concentration of people expressing support for the ban.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the Liberal government used an order in council (OIC) to ban an array of semi-automatic rifles, all the while the Canadian judiciary system and parliament are effectively shut down.

Many people — even people who do not own guns — have been vocal about how undemocratic it is to use an OIC during a public health emergency to pass legislation.

The reality is, likely, that a topic this delicate should be debated among our elected leaders.

But with the recent massacre in Nova Scotia, many on the left view this as the perfect time to ban these weapons.

“Canadians need more than thoughts and prayers,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

What isn’t being mentioned, at least not very much, is that the east coast shooter didn’t have a firearms licence

when he carried out his massacre.

Nova Scotia RCMP said the gunman used semi-automatic pistols and semi-automatic rifles, all of which are now on the banned list.

Interestingly, though, Nova Scotia RCMP have been exploring whether or not the weapons used were illegally smuggled from the U.S.A. Regardless, those weapons were not purchased through legal means but through the black market.

The majority of registered gun owners in Canada are law abiding, though. So then the question then comes in: does taking firearms away from those people do anything to stop criminals who obtain their guns illegally?

But people can get many things on the black market, including drugs, rhino horns and elephant tusks, child pornography and so on. Does that mean our society should not have laws in place to prevent people from acquiring those items?

Then there are the case studies.

In 1996, in Port Arthur, Australia, a man killed 35 people and wounded another 28 with a semi-automatic rifle. Legislation changed within a month, restricting legal ownership of guns in the country, banning automatic, semi-automatic and shotguns all together.

According to stats in 2011, firearm-related suicides and homicides decreased.

In the 18 years before Port Arthur, reports suggest there were 13 total

mass shootings in Australia, compared to the one incident in the 22 years since legislation changed.

Prior to Canada, New Zealand was the most recent country to reform its gun laws, which has banned most semi-automatic weapons. Buyback programs, similar to what we are about to see in Canada, started in July.

It is too early to analyze New Zealand’s situation, but Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern cited Australia’s gun control success as inspiration for the change.

There are aspects to this conversation (in Canada) that, politically, are troubling: the way the Liberals have seemingly used a public health crisis and a recent act of terror to quickly pass legislation.

But there are also aspects to this that seem positive: cut and dry, assault-style weapons are no longer permitted in this country. It is illegal.

The analysis shows Canadians are likely safer as a result of this law, but at what cost? Does government continue to erode citizens’ rights for the “greater good?”

Ultimately, it depends on your value set.

Only one thing is for certain: it seems more and more that these are complex and polarizing times we live in.

Disclaimer: The view in this article is the view of the writer Evan Matthews and may or may not be the view of the newspaper.

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New temporary orders under The Emergency Measures Act implemented

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is implementing four new temporary orders under The Emergency Measures Act to protect vulnerable Manitobans, to help the economy, and to ensure the flow of goods and supplies into and out of Manitoba, Premier Brian Pallister announced recently.

"The health and safety of all Manitobans, especially those most vulnerable, is our No. 1 priority as we fight COVID-19 and navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic," said Pallister. "Our government is listening and acting on the concerns brought forward by our partners in various areas, such as social services, post-secondary education and the transportation industry. We are suspending

certain statutory requirements and extending deadlines with the well-being of Manitobans in mind."

The province is implementing four orders, retroactive to the beginning of the state of emergency March 20:

- Youth in Care Provisions Order,
- Student Aid Provisions Order,
- International Fuel Tax Agreement Credential Provisions Order, and
- Trucking and Transportation Provisions Order.

"We're making responsible, common sense adjustments because it's the right thing to do in this time of crisis," said Pallister. "Youth in the care of Manitoba Child and Family Services (CFS) will continue to be supported, even if they age out of the system during this state of emergency. Post-sec-

ondary students and graduates won't have to stress about losing eligibility for student aid or repaying loans during this time.

"We're also taking steps to extend permits and to safely reduce some regulatory requirements for truck drivers and commercial vehicle operators to ensure they can stay on the road and continue the movement of essential goods and supplies."

Under the Youth in Care Provisions Order, youth in the CFS system who turn 18 during this period must continue to be offered ongoing supports. This extension also applies to young adults who have chosen to sign a voluntary agreement to continue to receive assistance as they transition to independence, which would allow them to remain eligible beyond age

21.

The Student Aid Provisions Order allows post-secondary students to remain eligible for aid, even if they temporarily stop qualifying during the state of emergency period. The provision lowers the minimum monthly repayment to \$0 from \$25, suspends the obligation for a student to start paying back their loan eight months after they end their studies, prevents borrowers from going into default during the state of emergency period and extends the maximum term for repayment. Those with existing loans are not obligated to pay back their loan for six months beginning March 30.

The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) Credential Provisions

Continued on page 9

"WE'RE MAKING RESPONSIBLE, COMMON SENSE ADJUSTMENTS."

> ROADMAP, FROM PG. 2

to child-care providers seeking to open a new, home-based child-care service.

Tracey Bjornson-Collins, owner of the Sandy Bar Salon in Riverton, said confusion remains.

Bjornson-Collins said no one has told her how to operate a hair salon while adhering to physical distancing rules, who is to supply masks, and also expressed concerns about what could happen if she were to get sick.

"It doesn't say in the rules that we have to wear a mask; it says we may. As in, it is recommended. But for the first time in 40 years of hairstyling, I will be wearing a mask," said Bjornson-Collins, who said since the announcement, the phone has been ringing off the hook for appointments. She is booked through the week of May 4.

"I've never been so in demand, but the province has left things kind of open. We're business people, not part of the medical community (or its unions). Business people don't have sick leave, for example, if I get sick, nobody pays me.

"We still have rent and expenses, but if I get sick, I'm out of luck. What happens then?" she asked.

While Bjornson-Collins said all-in-all the announcement is good news, as her business will be making money again.

"I'm not really that concerned, and I am excited to open," said Bjornson-Collins. "But I definitely have mixed feelings. Nobody knows for sure what to expect. I guess we'll find out."

Pat Doyle, co-owner of the Sandy Hook Golf Course said the Provincial announcement is good news, but because it is unclear in some respects, the course will alter operations tem-

porarily just to be safe.

While golfers will be able to pay green fees and golf, Doyle said the patio will not open up for the time being, despite the province giving the green-light to patios as well.

"It was a bit of a panic situation when the announcement came, in trying to get ready. But we've been moving around trying to get everything ready and meet all the requirements," said Doyle, adding the government has been more than fair to golf courses.

"We expect to be busy because everybody has cabin fever... But I've got to clarify what we can do in regards to the patio, it hasn't been totally clear to us, so we're not going to open it at all," he said.

Golfers will enter the pro-shop one at a time to pay, with the line-up being outside if it gets that big, Doyle said, though he doesn't have any fear relating to COVID-19 on the course.

Doyle added there will be no tournaments in 2020, as tournaments are group bookings of more than 10.

Darlene Springer, manager of Steep Rock Beach Park, said the announcement came quickly, and the management team has a lot of work to do in order to welcome campers for May 4.

"We've got a pile of work to be done for the re-opening," said Springer. "I want to welcome my campers back with open arms, but I can't (literally), I can't give them those hugs."

The management team is working to ensure appropriate signage is up, and campgrounds are clean. The campground experienced a spring storm that caused a number of trees to come down, and Springer said in order to accommodate all the seasonal campers, the management team has a lot of clean-up to do.


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Part of the Manitoba Protection Plan

Province announces staggered campground bookings to resume May 4

Submitted by government

Reservations for Manitoba campgrounds open next week and staggered dates will be offered to make it easier for outdoor enthusiasts to book a site at their favourite campground, Conservation and Climate Minister Sarah Guillemard announced today.

"We thank Manitobans for their commitment in acting on the advice our health-care experts to stay home for the benefits of themselves, their loved ones and their community," said Guillemard. "It is through their dedication and actions that we are able to allow Manitobans to continue to visit our provincial parks, and we are pleased to open up our campgrounds for the season, with additional safety measures in place. I believe this is welcome news for many Manitobans and their families.

"I encourage everyone to keep practicing the fundamentals of good hygiene and social distancing while at home, and especially while enjoying some quality time outside with their loved ones, whether camping, at the cottage and throughout our beautiful parks."

Manitobans are reminded to take advantage of the new opportunity to buy a park vehicle pass online as part of the province's new e-licensing program that launched earlier this year.

To accommodate the expected high demand on the opening day of the parks reservation system, online and call centre services will begin at 7 a.m. at <http://prs.gov.mb.ca>, 204-948-3333 (in Winnipeg) or 1 888-482-2267 (toll free). Check the website for call centre hours on other days. Customers making online reservations are advised to check their user IDs and passwords prior to May 4. For more information, visit www.manitobaparks.com.

The Manitoba Parks Reservation Service will accept bookings in two phases:

- May 4 at 7 a.m. campsites reservations open for Winnipeg Beach, Betula Lake, Big Whiteshell, Brereton Lake, Caddy Lake, Falcon Beach, Falcon Lakeshore, Nutimik Lake, Opapiskaw, Otter Falls, West Hawk Lake and White Lake campgrounds; and
- May 6 at 7 a.m. campsites reservations open for all remaining provincial park campgrounds.

As part of Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery, additional measures will be in place and enforceable under the public health order, the minister noted. Campers are reminded that current public health orders limit gatherings to 10 people or less and people must continue to practice good hygiene and social distancing protocols. Provincial parks will implement enhanced cleaning procedures and sanitization of public washrooms and shower facilities in the campgrounds. Staff will be monitoring to ensure social distancing is adhered to, especially in public areas like beaches and recreation areas. For more information, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-one.html#parks.

In addition, campers are reminded there is currently a travel ban north of the 53rd parallel, with certain exceptions for essential travel. While the ban is in effect, anyone from southern Manitoba should not be travelling to a campground in the north. If making a booking for a northern campground (anywhere north of Lake Winnipeg),

confirm the travel ban has been lifted prior to the planned camping trip. Out-of-province campers and visitors must follow the public health orders related to travel including a requirement to self-isolate for 14 days when entering the province.

Walk-in reservations and in-person payment arrangements can be made at 200 Saulteaux Cres. in Winnipeg and will be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning May 4 for the parks and facilities described above. Be aware that public access to the building is limited due to COVID-19 protocols and may require queuing outside. Online or call centre reservations are preferred.

For more information on the e-licensing program or to purchase a park vehicle pass when the program, visit www.manitobaecensing.ca.

Manitobans can also stay up to date with provincial park news, activities and events by following Manitoba Parks on Facebook or Twitter at www.twitter.com/MBGovParks.

> POSTMEDIA, FROM PG. 3

idea of going to university in favour of working side-by-side with her dad in the news business.

After Farmer sold the papers to Quebecor, Meier stayed on, working as a senior group publisher for Manitoba and northwest Ontario for 17 years. She left SunMedia in 2010 after watching the lens shift towards a "cookie-cutter model" that was

heavy on syndicated news while still seeking rural advertising dollars.

She returned to her and her dad's roots — community-focused news — starting up the *Record*, *Voice* and *Tribune* before launching the *Express* in 2014. She also runs Interlake Graphics, a sheet-fed, quick-print operation that produces posters, brochures, office stationery and just about anything else that requires ink. (The newspapers are printed in Winnipeg.)

"We provide newspapers with strong readership value because of up-to-date and relevant news, balanced stories and a strong distribution network, including Canada Post's mailbox delivery, door-to-door carriers and newspaper pickup boxes located across our coverage areas," she said.

Each week the four free papers reach 119,500 readers (based on a standard metric of 2.5 readers per household), and advertisers are placed strategically on a page containing stories germane to their respective local areas, she said.

"We have reporters on the ground — except during this unprecedented pandemic — we've built relationships with our readership and we are a trusted news source," Meier added.

B&C is eligible for the federal government's 75 per cent wage subsidy

program, a definite help as the pandemic guts revenues, but it's only a short-term measure.

"We're very fortunate we've been able to continue publishing a paper every week and printing the same number of copies we did at the start of the year with the incredible local advertising support we've received," she said. "There are advertisers who absolutely value the paper and know it's important."

Advertisers aren't the only ones. Doreen Pendgracs, a public speaker best known for her expertise on high quality chocolate and author of the *Chocolatour* travelogue, said she's sad to see the loss of "local voices" and local jobs.

Pendgracs lives in Matlock, about halfway between Gimli and Selkirk, and said she gets B&C's *Express* and *Selkirk Record* and Postmedia's *Spectator*. She had to pick up Postmedia's *Journal* in Clandeboye, 22 kilometres down the road.

"It's wonderful having all these different papers because you get a slightly different perspective on the same issue from reading more than one writer's story," said Pendgracs, who's president of the Professional Writers Association of Canada and is currently helping amalgamate the organization with the Canadian Freelance Guild.

Advertising revenues are vital to both small and large publications, she

said. And she should know, having worked as a freelance journalist for rural newspapers such as Steinbach's *Carillon* and Pine Falls' *Clipper*, as well as for numerous magazines, some of which folded after advertising dollars dried up.

She said she hopes B&C can withstand COVID's impacts as the *Express* is a "trusted" community newspaper that has "earned its reputation."

"We frequently discuss *Express* stories at our Toastmasters' meetings," said Pendgracs, who founded the Gimli-based Toastmasters in the Arts club seven years ago. "I hope [Meier] finds a solution because I think the *Express* is one of the best written newspapers in Manitoba, as far as I've seen, and for local coverage. You don't miss any [community] issues and reporters cover things in a very balanced way."

As for the road ahead, Meier said it's business as usual. But if readers or local organizations are concerned about the future of newspapers, they can help by purchasing ad space, whether it's a block ad, classified or announcement.

"If every household that receives our paper takes out a small ad such as a congratulations, a thank you, a birth/death announcement or a for sale ad every couple of years, then the community newspaper will survive," she said.



The Westshore Community Foundation invites students within the Westshore catchment area to apply for postsecondary **Scholarships** and Bursary Funds.

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"Building a Lasting Legacy"

Buddy, you really need to do something about your hair

By Patricia Barrett

With COVID-19 having suspended pet grooming services, some pooches are starting to revert back to their pre-domesticated rough-and-tumble look. Case in point is Buddy, Brian Jonasson's dog. "I can't wait for the groomer to start up again," said Jonasson, who lives in Valhalla Beach.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRIAN JONASSON
Buddy looks a little frazzled, as though he's enjoyed too many late-night parties.

> EMERGENCY MEASURES ACT, FROM PG. 7

Order suspends the requirement that a carrier licensed under the agreement must have and display credentials, and the province will not fine licensed carriers if their licensing authority was unable to distribute their credentials.

The province previously provided relief to carriers who do not have an IFTA licence in The Fuel Tax Amendment and Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act. The requirement to obtain a single-trip permit for each truck entering Manitoba was suspended for the duration of the state of emergency.

The Trucking and Transportation Provisions Order is extending the expiry dates on certain permits, certificates or registrations until July 31. This includes qualifying vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP), the vehicle registration system for trucks and buses operating inter-jurisdictionally between Manitoba and other provinces or states throughout North America. Deadlines to pay IRP registration renewal charges are also extended. The order also extends the period

between required inspections on vehicles such as buses and commercial carriers, extends annual overweight or over-dimensional vehicle permits, and extends safety fitness certificates for commercial carriers. The order will also provide a temporary exemption from the need for single-trip permits for increased vehicle weights and for commercial vehicles from other jurisdictions.

The regular three-month deadline for new residents and non-residents to replace their out-of-province driving permits with a Manitoba driver's licence, vehicle registration or insurance is also extended to July 31 (or three months after they enter the province, whichever time period is longer).

The province has the ability to revoke any of the above orders sooner than stated above if it deems necessary.

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

**Even Apart,
We're In This Together**
**Have a Safe and Happy
Manitoba Day**

Derek Johnson
MLA for Interlake-Gimli
interlakegimlimla@gmail.com



Home & yard

How to support tomato plants

Without support, tomato plants will collapse under their own weight. To keep yours upright, use one of these three devices.

1. Stakes. Insert a sturdy stick made of wood, bamboo or metal in the ground next to the plant. As it grows, tie the stem loosely to the stake using gardening twine.

2. Cages. Designed to surround and support plants as they grow, store-bought tomato cages are often not strong enough to keep heavy plants upright. Instead, make your own using wire fencing and strong stakes.

3. Tripods. Fashion a tripod out of three tall stakes and tie them together where they meet. As the plant grows, wrap the branches and tripod in twine to keep the plant contained and off the ground.

These devices can also be used to prop up pepper, cucumber and other types of plants that need extra support.



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Home & yard

Extend the lifespan of your garden tools

Shears, rakes, weeders, hoes, hedge trimmers, shovels, trowels — taking care of your landscaping requires quite a bit of equipment. Read on to find out how you can keep your garden tools in prime condition for as long as possible.

Clean

Soil, water, resin and sap can all damage your garden tools, especially those with metal blades. Get rid of any residue with soapy water or an alcohol-soaked cloth. To get rid of rust, rub the surface with fine-grain sandpaper.

Sharpen

Keep your blades nice and sharp by regularly honing them with a metal file. Be careful to follow the angle of the blade. Don't use a grinder; it removes an unnecessary amount of metal.

Repair

If the screws, nails or springs in your tools are unstable (or have fallen out), tighten them or replace them without delay. Gently sand your tools' wooden handles from time to time to avoid getting splinters.

Protect

Use a protective oil (such as flaxseed oil) on the metallic components of your tools. Make sure the surfaces are perfectly clean before applying the oil. This will keep your blades sharp and prevent rust.

Store

Finally, keep in mind that it's important to store your garden tools in a dry, well ventilated area. Place them blade-side up to avoid moisture accumulation.

Happy gardening season!



Should I reseed or re-sod?

If your lawn is looking a little worse for wear, you may be wondering if it's best to reseed or re-sod. Here's what you should know.

Lawn quality

If your grass is sparse and there aren't many weeds, it's best to reseed. But if there are large patches of dead grass, or if more than half of the living plants are weeds, opt for new sod.

About planting seeds

Reseeding is easier and more affordable. However, you'll have to wait until the grass sprouts before you see results.

About unrolling sod

Laying down fresh sod guarantees immediate results and almost no weeds. Unfortunately, it's a more expensive, labour-intensive solution.

Timing

The best time to reseed or re-sod your lawn depends on the local climate and the type of grass you're growing. Cold-weather grasses fare best when planted in the fall, whereas warm-weather grasses do better when planted in the spring.

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REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2019

We're giving back.

We are **financial solutioneers**, focused on the needs of our members and our community.

2019 was another year of change for Noventis. All year (and for most of 2018), we had been in preparation for the banking system conversion we went through in September. There were some bumps in the road, and our team **worked together** to smooth them out.

Since the conversion, our team has **adapted** to the new banking system, as have our members. In the near future, this new system will allow Noventis to grow and upgrade our services, especially in the field of **innovation and technology**.

We also opened our twelfth location in 2019 - our Solutions Centre in Lundar. This efficient new location features an ATM and iTM, and is focused on serving the community for years to come.

2019 saw us contributing to our community through a variety of projects and sponsorships, and also **giving back** to our members via surplus share redemptions and service fee rebates. In fact, more than \$1,025,516 were returned to our members and our communities via these programs during 2019!

We want to see our community **thrive and prosper**, and to join in the celebrations when they do. We will be here for our members again this year; supporting them, giving back to them and **finding solutions** with them.

Striving, as always, to be **North of Ordinary**.

Overview of giving.





Get to know your Noventis Contact Centre.

Noventis is incredibly proud to feature a full-time local Contact Centre, staffed with live representatives.

The Contact Centre staff work out of our Gimli branch, and are available from **7am until 7pm, Monday through Saturday**. So, when you call Noventis, you are speaking to someone from your credit union community - maybe even a neighbour.

These folks are a big part of Noventis' commitment to provide our members with **friendly and knowledgeable** personal service. They work as one big team to ensure that our members get all of the answers they need; if one team member can't answer a question, they will find someone who can.

The Contact Centre team also serves our members via our **interactive Teller Machines (iTM)**. They are trained just like our in-branch Member Services Representatives, and can give you all sorts of information about the products and services we have to offer.

So, the next time you run into an issue and need a helping hand, give our Contact Centre team a call! They are here to help, and they are committed to service which is **North of Ordinary**.



Noventis gives back. Fisher Branch Recreation Centre

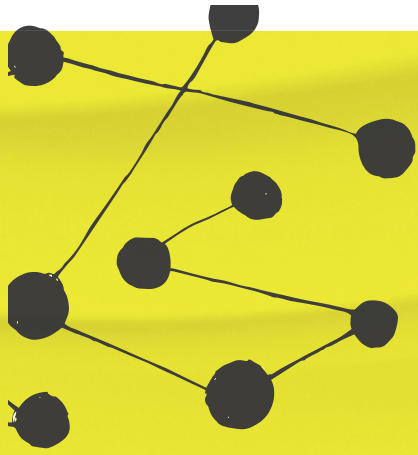
Here at Noventis, we know how important the local rec centre is to each of our communities. It is the place we gather to be entertained, to socialize, to exercise, to celebrate and to catch up with our friends and neighbours.

So, when we were approached by the Fisher Branch Rec Centre's board with a request for funding, we were proud to be able to help.

The work to be done was extensive; they needed a couple upgrades made to their ice plants, some major sewer system repair and one part of the building needed to be torn down.

The Noventis vision of building **strong community** inspires us to help get these projects completed. And, now that the work has been finished, the folks in and around Fisher Branch will be able to stay **connected** to their friends and neighbours for years to come.





Do you *really* know our iTMs?



Use our iTMs and speak with a live teller via a video call.

Here at Noventis, we like to think of ourselves as innovation leaders. After all, we are the first - and only - financial institution in Manitoba to feature interactive Teller Machines (iTMs).

At the iTM, members can make deposits and withdrawals, bill payments (utilities, credit cards, CRA, etc.), transfer funds to yourself or other members and even get quotes on travel insurance!

We have iTMs at nine of our locations, including: Ashern, Fisher Branch, Gimli, Headingley, Lundar, Moosehorn, Riverton,

Selkirk, Starbuck. And, they are open from **7am - 7pm Monday through Saturday.**

When you use one of our iTMs, you don't need a debit card. Just touch the button on the screen which says 'speak with a representative' and you will be connected to one of our Video Services Representatives (VSRs) via a video call.

So, come out and give one of our iTMs a whirl today... we assure you they are simple to use, and our VSRs will guide you through the process!

Noventis gives back.

Lakeshore Hospital Guild

We really have some amazing groups of people in our communities.

The **Lakeshore Hospital Guild (LHG)** is one of these groups. They have been around for more than 40 years, and they are constantly striving to make their community stronger - starting with their hospital.

To commemorate their 40 years in existence, the guild members decided to undertake a major fundraising project in order to purchase a portable ultrasound machine for their ER, as well as two powerlift stretchers for the Ashern Ambulance facility.

The group applied for funding via our **Community Connections** program, and we were excited to get on board with their mission!



Dwight Sander, AVP, Business Solutions, members of the Lakeshore Hospital Guild

Now, the project is complete. The hospital and ambulance service have their new equipment, and the community in and around Ashern is all the better for it.

We thank all of the **North of Ordinary** volunteers on the LHG for their time and commitment, and we hope they continue their great work for another 40 years and beyond!



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Icelandic River Community Foundation and Arborg rec centre putting the bloom in Manitoba 150

By Patricia Barrett

The Icelandic River Community Foundation is really putting the bloom in Manitoba's 150th anniversary by helping fund the purchase of 150 trees for Arborg and the RM of Bifrost-Riverton.

The foundation vetted a number of submissions to help celebrate the province's milestone and chose the Arborg-Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission's environmentally friendly pitch for trees.

Rec commission director Tom Chwaliboga came up with the idea and asked Arborg's Friendly Flowers Garden Centre whether it would supply hardy trees such as the paper birch, Celtic hackberry, sundance poplar, baby blue spruce and ming cherry.

"The rec centre looks after a lot of the parks and the Communities in Bloom program for the Town of Arborg, and we thought this would be one way of generating a lot of inter-

est in Manitoba's 150th anniversary, which unfortunately is not going to happen across the province because of COVID-19," said Chwaliboga.

In addition to having new trees planted around town, residents of Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton can also buy a tree at a discounted price from Friendly Flowers and plant them on their own properties.

"Right now, we're not exactly sure how many trees residents can buy. We're thinking maybe 50 trees and limiting them to one per household," said Chwaliboga. "We want to offer this to as many people as possible."

Volunteers will be rounded up in June to help plant the trees designated for public spaces, he said. They'll likely hold a tree-planting day or weekend so that they can have "more of a celebration" of Manitoba's 150th. But they'll abide by physical distancing measures to keep people safe.

"The community will benefit for the next 30-40 years or for the life of these

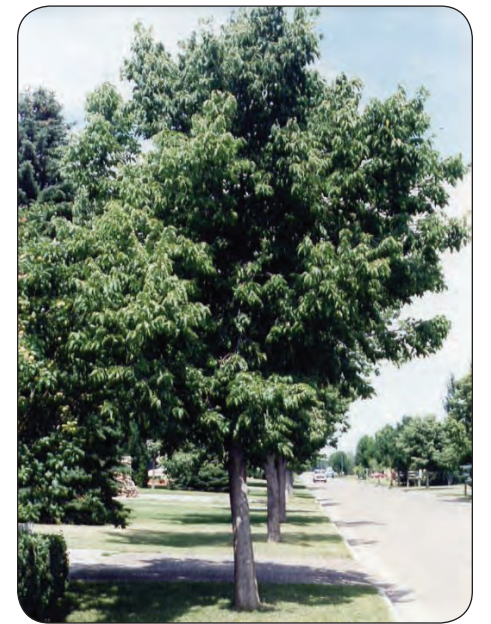
trees," said Chwaliboga. "Kids that are 10 years old now will enjoy these trees when they're 50."

Icelandic River Community Foundation chair Donna Gislason said the tree proposal ticked all the right boxes with the organization.

"We liked the fact that this can have an impact on a large number of people. That was a key factor," said Gislason. "It's good for general well-being because a lot of people will see and get to enjoy these trees. And that we liked the fact that future generations will be able to enjoy them and that this is great for the environment."

Half the money for the project came from the foundation and the other half came from the province's Build 150 grant fund that's run through Endow Manitoba, she said.

Residents can place an order for trees, obtain more information about other tree varieties and dates when they can be picked up at Friendly Flowers by contacting Tom at the rec-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHARLIE LOEWEN
A hackberry tree.

recreation centre. One tree per household. For info, email tom.abprc@mymts.net or call 204-376-5576.

Makeshift manufacturing classes amidst COVID

By Evan Matthews

As the COVID situation continues to evolve, so too does remote learning.

Teachers responsible for delivering hands-on courses like shops, manufacturing or woods face challenges different from those of teachers delivering core-subjects like math or language studies.

Brandon Bamford, the manufacturing teacher at Eriksdale School, said his class has moved away from a hands-on woods approach and moved more toward what he calls "Tech Ed."

Basically, Bamford said tech ed teaches students about simple machines — any of the basic mechanical devices for applying a force, such as an inclined plane, wedge or lever — and has the students create devices that involve concepts like buoyancy and aerodynamics.

"The first project the students did was bottle rockets, which had parachute capsules attached to them," said Bamford, adding that practical concepts and safety is discussed in great detail prior to the project.

"The challenge was to maximize the bottle's trajectory and then have the parachute deploy to have it land softly."

With such projects, Bamford said the students don't need access to a shop, but it keeps them engaged. Engagement has become more important than assessment, according to Bamford.

Students submit videos of their fin-



Juerg Bieri, a Grade 8 student at Eriksdale School, explains how his bottle rocket works in a video to his teacher Brandon Bamford.

ished projects, which Bamford called "solutions" to the challenges.

Grant Harrison, the woods and metals teacher at Fisher Branch Collegiate, said he has largely shifted the emphasis of his high school class to safety.

Students will often watch a video



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BRANDON BAMFORD
Grant Harrison holds up one of his middle school student's basic projects that he prepared and they assembled.

online, and Harrison delivers a quiz to follow.

"Plus, I have them create project plans and describe some of the projects they're building at home with their families," said Harrison.

"Then we can focus on step by step building instructions, cost of materials, what equipment should be used, etc. I would like my students' project plans to be well thought out and designed to the point where anyone could pick up the plans and build the design."

Students in metals still have the opportunity to create designs at home, submit the file to Harrison, and have him run the plasma cutter at the school to complete the project, he

said.

Middle years students, however, are still doing hands-on work. Harrison said he created a step-by-step instruction project for them to do at home. Assembly can include sanding, nailing, screwing pieces together and painting.

"Whatever is basic and safe," said Harrison, who has created YouTube videos demonstrating the steps and then the assembly of the project. He has plans to create more videos involving a wood lathe project and cutting board next.

"I try not to overwhelm them. The biggest challenge is keeping connected with the students and creating new content to keep students engaged."

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*Prices are after delivery allowance and now stackable cash, plus taxes. **Payments are plus taxes. Edge - COB - \$2222.37, Escape - COB - \$3692.73. See dealer for details. OAC.

Dealer #5358

Interlake receives flood mitigation funding

By Evan Matthews

Though the provincial funding was originally earmarked in March, 10 Interlake communities have started purchasing flood preparation and protection equipment.

Announced March 26, the province said it would invest nearly \$8 million to support more than 80 Manitoba municipalities with enhancing spring flood preparation and protection.

“Manitobans always rally together in challenging times, and while we are facing unprecedented global circumstances, our government is helping municipalities take important steps to enhance flood protection,” Municipal Relations Minister Rochelle Squires said at the time.

“Municipalities know best what will work for them, and this program is designed to help ensure protection put in place this year will benefit communities for many years to come,” she said.

In the Interlake, the RMs of Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton, Coldwell, Fisher, Gimli, Grahamdale, St. Laurent, West Interlake, Winnipeg Beach and Woodlands all received funding that collectively totalled roughly \$1 million.

The funding covers a range of items including generators, pumps, steaming equipment to unclog frozen culverts, utility trailers, equipment for emergency operations centres, sandbags and other small equipment that will assist municipalities in protecting vital infrastructure and reducing

flood damage, according to the province.

In Woodlands, Reeve Lori Schellekens said the RM received \$150,000 and has assessed what equipment will work best. The RM is investing in a mobile (flood) light tower, a mobile six-inch pump, a mobile generator, hip-waders and a harness for municipal workers, as well as additional sandbags and signage.

“Hopefully we never have to use this stuff, but we’ve experienced firsthand that we might have to,” said Schellekens.

While the equipment is now available in case of a flood, it is now part of the RM’s equipment repertoire and can be used in other instances too.

“If the power goes out in Woodlands during any emergency and ... we need access to our computers to run a command centre (for example), now we have a generator to run power,” she said.

Under the 2020 Flood Protection Program, the province offered one-time funding support to municipalities to enhance municipal capacity for flood preparedness, equipment costs and building resiliency for future floods.

Funding will bring added resources for projects and equipment for the crews who will be working on flood protection in areas all across Manitoba, according to the province, while boosting economic activity during extraordinary global challenges.

Proposals were reviewed by a panel made up of representatives from the

Municipality	Eligible Funding
RM of Armstrong - Culvert steaming equipment, pumps, Emergency Operations Centre equipment, generators, traffic barricades and signs, water rescue equipment, tow ropes, tarps and gas cans	\$69,933.99
RM of Bifrost-Riverton - Generators, pumps, lights and sandbag machine	\$125,928.23
RM of Coldwell - Pumps, generators, power saws and safety equipment	\$145,741.00
RM of Fisher - Pumps, generator with trailer, transfer switches, utility trailer, hoses and saws	\$100,180.00
RM of Gimli - Generator	\$66,960.00
RM of Grahamdale - Pumps, trailer, generator, lights, sandbag filling machine and sandbags	\$150,000.00
RM of St. Laurent - Pumps, sandbags and transfer tank	\$120,424.48
RM of West Interlake - Culvert steaming equipment and trailer, pumps, generator, traffic barricades and signs, emergency plan development and sand bags	\$85,000.00
RM of Woodlands - Generator, sandbagging equipment and sandbags, traffic signs, lights, trailer-mounted pump, personal protective equipment and heater	\$150,000.00
Town of Winnipeg Beach - Trailer-mounted pump with hose and attachments	\$45,000.00
Total	\$1,059,167.70

EXPRESS INFORGRAPH SUBMITTED

Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and the Manitoba Government, according to the press release.

Evaluation of proposals considered factors including flood risk, ability of the proposal to enhance emergency preparedness or resiliency for future flood events, as well as potential regional benefits.

“The Association of Manitoba Mu-

nicipalities commends the provincial government for more than doubling its initial commitment to support the Spring Flood Preparedness program,” said Ralph Groening, AMM president.

“As municipalities cannot fight floods alone, these additional dollars further help underscore the importance of the provincial-municipal partnership.”

IERHA, provincial public health officials maintain restrictions on PCHs

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority will be maintaining its no-visiting rules that were put in place weeks ago in personal care homes in keeping with provincial health recommendations.

COVID-19 is circulating in the community and PCH residents are still vulnerable.

With Mother’s Day coming up, the IERHA said in a May 4 news release that it has been receiving requests from community and family members who want to visit loved ones in the hospital and in PCHs.

No visits are permitted nor are deliveries (including flowers) allowed to PCHs. The IERHA has also not allowed “physically distanced visitations” outside or through open windows with residents.

“In addition, for their own safety and

that of others, residents in personal care homes are still unable to go on walks or other community outings,” said communications associate Lita Savage-Murray in the release.

Families can contact a PCH’s recreation department to discuss communication options, including emails, phone calls and virtual visits.

“Recreation staff are working hard to create a sense of normalcy for residents in our long-term care facilities to make Mother’s Day special for residents across the region,” said IERHA recreation manager Lori Martin in the release. “We are setting up calls from family and friends, printing and delivering emails for residents and organizing activities that align with physical distancing requirements.”

For patients in hospital, the RHA has a “Thinking of You” online central messaging centre where messages

can be sent online. Visit <https://is.gd/ThinkingofYou>

Other COVID updates:

- The province’s chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin announced last Friday that health-care staff will no longer be able to work in more than one long-term care facility, effective May 1. The measure will provide “additional protection” against the spread of COVID.

- Dr. Roussin said the province’s loosening of restrictions, beginning May 4, doesn’t mean we’re “returning to normal.” People shouldn’t abandon hygienic precautions such as frequently and thoroughly washing their hands and maintaining a two-metre (over six feet) physical distance from others in public. He also encouraged people to continue to avoid gatherings and stay home where possible.

“We have to keep our guard up,” he

said.

With regard to people holding garage sales as the weather begins to warm, Roussin said: “Not now. We’re still dealing with this virus.”

The province announced last week it will be allowing some businesses to re-open and the restoration of select services starting May 4 as the number of new cases of the highly infectious virus began to level off. Those include non-urgent surgeries and diagnostic procedures, the re-opening of restaurant patio and walk-up services, hair salons, museums, libraries and campgrounds.

Schools remain closed but the province will allow playgrounds to open. The Manitoba School Boards Association, however, advised against the opening of school playgrounds as

Gimli property owners get a break on taxes; 2020 budget released

By Patricia Barrett

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic that's closed businesses and kept most people housebound, the last thing taxpayers would want to see is an increase to their property taxes.

And Gimli council did just that, delivering a tax decrease during its 2020 budget presentation April 29 that was held on the second floor of the recreation centre to allow for physical distancing.

The RM's acting CAO Kelly Cosgrove said with all the uncertainty around COVID, it was a "really tough" budget to prepare.

"We maintained a similar mill rate to last year's and, in fact, dropped it somewhat. We recognize our revenues will be down because we lost out on programming," said Cosgrove by phone a few days after the meeting, which attracted few attendees and allowed for an extended question period. "We were able to cut some things — not services — but make some changes to what we're budgeting for 2020."

Although the provincial levy increased from 11.050 to 11.137, up by .087 of a mill, the RM's general mill rate decreased from 13.279 to 13.216, a drop of .063 of a mill. The Evergreen School Division mill rate also decreased from 9.770 to 8.828.

Owners with a property worth \$200,000 in the rural area of the municipality will see taxes drop from \$1,370.16 to \$1,360.44, a saving of \$9.72. Owners with a similarly valued property in the RM's urban area will also see taxes decrease from \$1,435.68 to \$1,396.26, a saving of \$39.42.

Both decreases reflect the lower mill rate and the maturity of loans.

Some of the challenges facing the RM are managing existing debt, minimizing taxation impacts, balancing a "large number" of community requests for project funding, minimizing borrowing, finding new ways to deliver RM services in the most cost-efficient manner and maintaining reserves. The RM will transfer \$577,640 this year to reserves to manage project spending.

"We've got a really robust capital plan that's incorporating a lot of much-needed pieces of equipment and taking into consideration planning that we've got on the horizon," said Cosgrove. "We've got a big list and all that money is coming out of reserves."

Purchase priorities (all costs estimated) include airport security fencing (\$50,000), Dnister Road improvement (\$15,000), drainage along Goldfield Drive (\$500,000), a grader (\$440,000), dog park development (\$10,000), sidewalks (\$300,000), electric car charging station (\$40,000), service truck (\$30,000) and the Gimli recreation centre expansion (\$50,000), all of which will be borne by reserves.

The second installment for Viking Park (\$150,000) due this year will come out of the RM's general fund.

In 2019 the RM made a number of expenditures, including a ramp for the New Horizons seniors' centre (\$27,379), road bases for Mercury and Aurora Way in Pelican Beach (\$769,492), the re-location of a lawn bowling green and a sewer hookup near New Horizons (\$8,400), the installation of water meters (\$165,165), the design of sidewalks on Solvin Road and Autumnwood Drive (\$10,000), bleachers for the recreation

centre (\$11,086), plus a number of equipment purchases such as a service truck, frost ripper and pallet fork. The first installment of \$150,000 was allocated to the Viking Park development.

Cosgrove said the RM is uncertain at this point about whether the outdoor pool will open this year or will have a delayed opening. It depends on how COVID plays out and provincial health orders.

"It's so uncertain right now. We just don't know," she said. "When we did our budgeting, we had anticipated maybe mid-July for opening the pool. But the province could say June 1 everything's back to normal or it could be delayed into the fall."

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said COVID made this year's budget a real challenge, but he's pleased there'll be no tax increases.

"There's enough of a burden on people without adding a tax higher tax bill on them so that's why we — councilors, Kelly and RM staff — worked so hard to cut it down," said Greenberg. "That's always my intent anyway. I don't believe in raising taxes. We've got to work within our means. Municipal governments can't run deficits so it's best to work with what we've got."

The RM will have to scale back some projects this year, he said, including upgrades to the recreation centre.

"It doesn't seem we're going to be able to do anything on the rec centre, and that's been going on for years whether it would be expanded, adding new dressing rooms and a fitness centre," he said.

But the RM will maintain essential services such as gravelling, dust control, grading and drainage within its



FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT Kelly Cosgrove, seen here at a March 11 council meeting, provided an overview of the 2020 Gimli budget last week.

22 subdivisions that stretch from Sandy Hook to Arnes, he said.

One of the biggest challenges he sees as a result of the pandemic is local business being able to pick up again and create jobs.

"I'm hoping our business community can survive. Obviously, this summer there's a lot of events that won't be happening. But every community in Manitoba is going to be in the same position. We're going to do our best to weather this storm," he said. "It's uncharted territory for people all around the world. This virus has taken everybody by surprise."

The RM posts an overview of its budget and an accompanying financial statement on its website. Visit rmgimli.com.

Province implementing wildfire prevention measures

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Climate and Conservation advises the current risk of wildfire is generally low across the province, with a significant amount of snow still

on the ground in northern Manitoba.

Human-caused wildfires, primarily grass fires, have been reported in the south. In order to reduce the risk of fire and the risk of exposure to CO-

VID-19 for front-line firefighters, the province is asking the public to be particularly cautious when outdoors to prevent human-caused wildfires.

Protecting front-line firefighters and

support staff during the COVID-19 pandemic is a top priority to ensure they remain healthy and available to respond to wildfires during the upcoming season.

> PCHs, FROM PG. 18

they won't be disinfected.

Despite the province lifting some restrictions, COVID continues to spread. On Friday there were four new cases (Dr. Roussin said information on those cases is pending). On Saturday there was one new case, as well as one on Sunday. Monday saw no new cases as of 9:30 a.m. The total number of cases is 281, with 238 recovered, 37 active and six dead.

Worldwide, COVID has infected over 3.5 million people and killed almost 250,000 (Johns Hopkins University data as of May 4 at 3 p.m.)

- Dr. Roussin said so far nine cases of COVID in the province cannot be linked to known contacts or to travel, which means community transmission is occurring.

- There is no routine serological testing being done in Canada right now to determine what percentage of the population has been infected by CO-

VID, he said.

"It's very likely in the near futures we'll get [those] studies to give us an idea of the true infection rate in the population," said Dr. Roussin.

And as far as antibody protection goes, he added: "We don't know whether antibodies are neutralizing COVID and we don't know how long that protection — if there is any protection — lasts."

- Provincial conservation officers will be helping with enforcement at

campgrounds and if there's a need to "expand things that could occur," said Roussin.

- Shared Health's chief nursing officer Lanette Siragusa provided data on the numbers of health-care workers who have been infected with COVID during the media briefing May 1.

She said 601 health-care workers have been tested for COVID, so far, with 22 confirmed cases. Two of those are IERHA staff with one from Prairie Mountain RHA.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Serves: 6
Orange Hollandaise:
 2 egg yolks
 1 orange, juice only
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
 water
 1 tablespoon white vinegar
 6 eggs
 1/2 cup butter, softened
 6 French baguette slices, 3/4-inch thick
 each
 6 thick slices ham
 1/2 cup orange marmalade
 orange zest, for garnish
 To make Orange Hollandaise: In small

Orange Eggs Benedict

bowl, add egg yolks, orange juice and salt. Blend until combined. Gradually add melted butter into egg mixture while blending. Set aside. In skillet, add water halfway up sides. Add vinegar. Bring to simmer. Break eggs into water to poach. Cook 3-4 minutes until whites are cooked through and yolks are still runny. Using slotted spoon, remove eggs and drain on paper towels. Spread butter on one side of bread slices. Place bread in skillet and cook until golden brown. Add ham to same skillet and cook until browned on both sides.. To assemble, spread bread slices with orange marmalade. Top each with one slice cooked ham and one poached egg. Pour hollandaise over eggs and garnish with orange zest.



Chive and Orange Blossom Honey Waffles and Spicy Garlic Honey Chicken Recipe courtesy of chef Jenny Dorsey on behalf of the National Honey Board
 Servings: 4
Chicken:
 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
 2 cups buttermilk
 2 tablespoons kosher salt, divided
 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper, divided
 1/4 teaspoon rosemary, chopped
 2 tablespoons orange blossom honey
 2 cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
 1 teaspoon garlic powder
 1 teaspoon onion powder
 2 teaspoons paprika
 1/2 teaspoon ancho chile powder
 vegetable oil, as needed
Waffles:
 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons orange blossom honey
 1 teaspoon orange zest
 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1 1/4 cups whole milk

Orange Eggs Benedict

2 large eggs
 1/4 cup fresh chives, chopped
 3/4 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
 honey
 To make chicken: Rinse chicken thighs and pat dry with paper towels; place in large bowl. In separate bowl, combine buttermilk, 1 tablespoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, rosemary and honey. Pour buttermilk mixture over chicken; cover and let marinate 8 hours or overnight. In separate mixing bowl, combine flour, remaining salt, remaining pepper, cayenne, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and ancho chile powder; stir. Remove each piece of chicken from buttermilk, shake to remove excess liquid and dredge in flour mixture. Shake off excess. In deep fryer, heat oil to 375 F. Fry chicken until internal temperature reaches 175 F or juices run clear, approximately 5 minutes per thigh. Drain on paper towels. To make waffles: In large mixing bowl, mix flour, honey, orange zest, salt, baking powder, milk, eggs, chives and cheese until combined. Use waffle maker to cook four waffles in batches. Place chicken on waffles and drizzle with honey.

Dear Money Lady, Just read your article "Give the Market Time." The major issue for us being seniors is time and how much we have left. It was not an issue twelve years ago during the last stock market crash but we are now in our 70's and it is now a major issue. Do you have any different advice for seniors with no time to wait for a recovery?



AsktheMoneyLady.ca

Victor
 Dear Victor,
 There's no denying that we would have never anticipated the duration and the depth of pain that we have seen in the market and at this point I think seeing another drop of 10-20% is not out of the question. For seniors, nervously watching a decline in their retirement savings, I know this is not what you want to hear. But there is hope since a long arduous recovery, I believe, is not in the cards.

Many economists anticipate that another bull market is just around the corner and the decline in your portfolio will not be long lasting. This crisis is not like any other we have witnessed in the past and I would caution new investors against using traditional stock market measures to try and time a market entry. When we first experienced the effects of the coronavirus on the stock market, together with the oil crisis, we witnessed an explosive downturn that was unprecedented, and in some respects, unexplainable. We all know that the market is very aggressively reacting one way or the other, but most economists believe we will see it go up just as fast as it declined when the market turns.

The recovery will need to go through a few clearly defined stages. Initially we should see a defensive market reaction to change for approximately four to six months followed by a market recovery of 40% to 50% that will take twelve to eighteen months. Only after this stage will we begin to see the beginning of our next bull market that is predicted to last three to five years.

There is no doubt that we will see the market reach higher highs than we ever anticipated a few months ago when the market was calm and just ticking along before the coronavirus pandemic.

I know it is devastating to see your retirement savings take a hit right now and the thought of "just waiting it out" is agonizing. However, this is indeed what we must all do now. There are a few government benefits that you can take advantage of if you are feeling the "financial pinch." The Canadian Emergency Care Benefit provides up to \$900 bi-weekly for up to 15 weeks and the Goods and Services Tax credit (GSTC) coming out this month will also provide some relief with \$400 for single individuals and \$600 for couples. The government has also reduced the minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020 and will also allow all taxpayers to defer any personal taxes owing without interest or penalties until August 31, 2020.

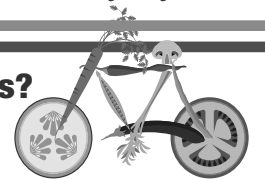
Unfortunately, "you only know what you know," as they say, and "you can only control what you can control." The impact of this virus will be what it is, and we will come through it. If history has shown us anything it is that this crisis, like all others will pass and we will come out of it stronger and more resilient than before.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" and a new book *Don't Panic - How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus* available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: www.askthemoneylady.ca

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Basarab to play hockey for the U of M Bisons

By Brian Bowman

Noah Basarab went far from home to play his final season of Junior hockey.

His university career, though, will be much, much closer to home.

The Gimli product has committed to play hockey and attend school at the University of Manitoba this fall.

"I'm really excited to go," said Basarab last week. "It just seems like a good fit for me. It's close to home and they have a good program. It checks off all of my boxes."

The Bisons struggled to a 9-20-0-1 record this past season and will lose three players due to graduation.

Still, it will be a tough lineup to crack as Manitoba's roster includes many former Western Hockey League and Manitoba Junior Hockey League players.

Basarab wrapped up his junior career with the North American Hockey League's Johnstown Tomahawks. Johnstown is about an hour's drive south of Pittsburgh.

"It was a really good experience," Basarab said. "We played in front of 2,000 fans every night. It was a really good hockey community."

The level of play, said Basarab, was a step up from the MJHL.

"It was an older league and a lot faster," he said. "Every day you were in a competition."

Johnstown was in second place in the East Division, just five points back of the New Jersey Titans, when the league was shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Basarab was drafted by Johnstown and he is glad they selected him.

"There was way better exposure down there," he said.

Personally, Basarab had a very good season with the Tomahawks. He scored 16 goals and had 28 points in 46 regular-season games.

"I definitely felt I had a good year," he said. "We had a really good team so I always played with good players. I had two real good linemates at the start of the year and we gelled all year."

Basarab was selected as a North American East Division star of the week and also had an opportunity to play in the NAHL Top Prospects Series in Boston.

"It was a really good experience," Basarab said. "The stands were packed with scouts from (NCAA) Division I and III. There were more scouts there that you could imagine."

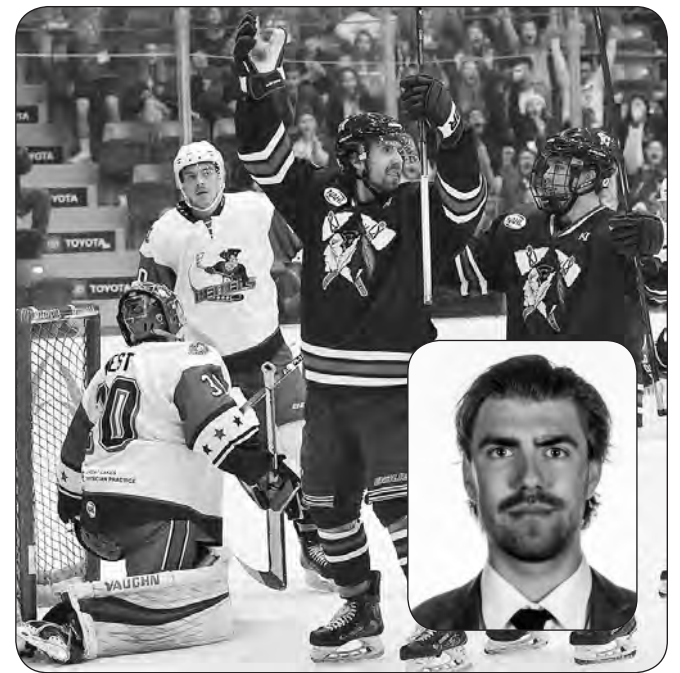
Basarab, a very good two-way player, grew up playing in Gimli and then later with the Interlake Lightning's Bantam and Midget programs.

"You definitely develop a lot playing there," Basarab said of the Lightning program. "Jumping from house league to there is a big step up."

Basarab started his Junior career in the MJHL with the Swan Valley Stampeders. He played two full seasons there and parts of two others before suiting up for the Selkirk Steelers in 2018-19.

In 49 games with Selkirk, Basarab scored 20 goals and collected 43 points.

"(The MJHL) is definitely a good league and it actually develops you a lot, too," he said. "It's pretty much like the North American Hockey League."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PHIL ANDRAYCHAK/
JOHNSTON TOMAHAWKS

Gimli's Noah Basarab, a former Selkirk Steelers forward, celebrated a goal this past season with the NAHL's Jamestown Tomahawks. Basarab recently committed to play hockey and attend school at the University of Manitoba.

It was nice playing close to home (in Selkirk) because my grandparents and my family had a chance to come watch. We also had a really good group of guys there, too, so it made it easy to adjust."

Basketball Manitoba makes an announcement regarding its future plans

From the Basketball Manitoba website

Basketball Manitoba put out a release on its website last Wednesday outlining its plans regarding resuming basketball in the province.

It read as follows:

The health and safety of all participants in sport, including players, coaches, staff, officials, fans, family, volunteers and the general public, is of the utmost importance to Basketball Manitoba.

In light of ongoing concerns result-

ing from the coronavirus (COVID-19), and in support of suggested recommendations from Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and Manitoba Education and Training, effective April 29, Basketball Manitoba is extending the blanket stoppage of all basketball activities in Manitoba which falls under its governance until at least June 30. A point of clarity that needs to be made tied to the Province of Manitoba's "Pandemic and Economic Road for Recovery" announce-

ment on April 29 referenced a return of "non-contact children's sports" as early as June 1.

This does not include the sport of basketball.

The term "contact" references if a sport or activity involves any physical contact (i.e. being able to maintain "social distancing" while playing the sport).

So long as there are social distancing stipulations in any Manitoba health directives, the sport of basketball will

remain on pause.

The basketball impacts of the health concerns after June 30 will be made at a later date as time passes that may impact the sport for July and beyond.

Additional basketball programs and events have been updated on the Basketball Manitoba website, including the recently cancelled or postponed Manitoba Provincial Team Program, Manitoba Summer Games and the Manitoba 3x3 Basketball Championships, among others.

MHSAA athlete of the year awards will not be presented for the 2019-20 school year

Staff

MHSAA athlete of the year awards will not be presented for the 2019-20 school year.

As well, Certificates of Recognition, Male and Female Coaches of the Year, the Frank L. McKinnon Award and Nick Laping Leadership Award will also not be presented for the 2019-20 school year.

Meanwhile, as per the Province of

Manitoba's Restoring Safe Services Together announcement last Wednesday, the MHSAA reminds all of its member schools that the provincial championships for baseball, fast-pitch, soccer and track and field have been cancelled.

In addition, all school sport activities involving spring football, lacrosse, rugby and ultimate are also cancelled. This includes all training and prac-

tices.

"The MHSAA is committed to protecting the health and safety of our student-athletes, staff, coaches, member schools and the health of all of our fellow Manitobans," read a statement.

In other news, the call for MHSAA board of directors nominations is due June 1. Please send your nomination, including a brief bio of the nominee, to Chad Falk at chad@mhsaa.ca.

Board member elections will occur at the MHSAA annual general meeting on June 15.

Positions up for election include urban administrator representative, urban representative, rural representative (two positions) and phys-ed representative (female).

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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APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

For rent - available immediately, 2 bedroom house. Single car garage. Located 10 miles East of Fisher Branch or 20 miles North of Arborg. Call Ivan 204-642-2252.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trailers, truckbeds & tires. Full repair & safeties. Vehicle parts, tires & wheels. Vehicle & trailer parts & batteries. Sales, financing & leasing. Kaldeck Truck & Trailer Inc. Hwy #1, MacGregor, MB. 1-888-685-3127. www.kaldecktrailers.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Is your business opening up again? Getting ready to re-open? Let people know!!! It pays to advertise. Use this window of opportunity to get your message out quickly. The blanket classifieds reach over 400,000 Manitoba readers weekly. For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Business changes, the need for staff, items for sale in a hurry, cancellations. People are relying on this information even more to stay

informed in your area and across the province during COVID-19. Keep the people of Manitoba in the loop. The 48 weekly community newspapers can help. Call us at 204-467-5836 to book or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

LIVESTOCK

KLCC Charolais has purebred registered yearling bulls for sale. For more information call Ken at 204-376-2418.

LIVESTOCK

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Hereford bulls for sale. Semen tested and delivered. Also cow/calf pairs. Will keep until June 1, 2020. Call Bob 204-372-6515.

For sale - purebred yearling Charolais bulls & purebred yearling Black Angus bulls. Also - one 24' Sokol 5th wheel cattle trailer for sale. Ph 1-204-280-0122.

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HEALTH

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



DJI MAVIC PRO
with 2 batteries, micro SD card, extra propellers and pelican hard case.
Phone or text for more details 204-513-5611

Arborg Community Cemetery
Tenders are being taken for the lawn care and general maintenance of cemetery grounds for the 2020 cutting season. Tenders should include cost per cut. Fuel and machinery to be provided by successful tender. **Apply to: Kris Gudmundson**
Box 713 Arborg, Manitoba, R0C 0A0
By May 14th, 2020
For more information call 376-2248



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If you are interested in joining a growing company and be part of the Production team we encourage you to please forward your resume to jobs@ecb.ca, or please call us at 204-378-2142.

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- NE 21-26-3W - Approx. 159A, incl. approx. 132 Arable Acres and approx. 27 Non-arable Acres

CONDITIONS OF SALE: Interested parties shall submit a signed Offer to Purchase to "Lucky Davidow, as Executor of the Estate of Josephine Davidow", c/o Duncan Geisler Law Office, 24 Main Street, P.O. Box 200, Ashern, MB, R0C 0E0, ATTN: Paul D. Geisler, J.D. The highest or any offer will not necessarily be accepted. Property sold "as is."
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TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH INVITATION TO TENDER

The Town of Winnipeg Beach is accepting tenders for the following items:

- 1. Supply & Delivery of Limestone Aggregates**
The Town of Winnipeg Beach is accepting quotations for the supply and delivery of 1/4" and 3/4" limestone aggregates, to be deposited on Municipal roads throughout the Town, or hauled to stockpile at the Public Works shop yards, as directed by the Town.
- 2. 2020 Equipment Rates**
The Town of Winnipeg Beach is accepting proposals for hourly rates from qualified bidders who can provide a rental service for the provision of a grader with an operator, on demand as requested within a 24-hour time period.
Please contact the Town Administration Office at 204-389-2698 should additional information be required.
Sealed submissions clearly marked "2020 Limestone Tender" or "2020 Equipment Rates" or both are to be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, May 13th, 2020, to:
Town of Winnipeg Beach
Attn: Doreen Steg, CAO
29 Robinson Avenue
P.O. Box 160, Winnipeg Beach, MB, R0C 3G0
The Town of Winnipeg Beach 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 town. Lowest bid may not be accepted. Contractors must comply with the town's requirements for liability insurance, WCB coverage and business licensing to be eligible to be awarded the contract.



Town of Arborg PUBLIC NOTICE 2020 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of the *Municipal Act* that the Council of the Town of Arborg shall hold a Public Hearing to present the Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2020 on:

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.
Town of Arborg Municipal Office
337 River Road Arborg, MB

PLEASE NOTE ADHERANCE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE REQUIRED

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection in respect to the Town of Arborg's 2020 Financial Plan.
Copies of the 2020 Financial Plan are available for review and may be examined by any person on the Town of Arborg's website at www.townofarborg.com on May 14th, 2020.
Dated this 1st day of May, 2020.
Cindy Stansell, CMMMA, CMMML
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Arborg

McSherry Auction Service Ltd
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CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank our family, friends and neighbours for all of your love and support. Thank you to the Gimli Fire Department for your hard work and compassion. Our guardian angel was with us.

-Sincerely,
Lawrence and Terill Adamik

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Firman

We have a bright light in these crazy times we are currently experiencing around the world! Jessa Laine (nee Johnson) and Lyndon are pleased to welcome their beautiful baby boy, Conway Lyndon Darwin, who entered this world at 4:20 a.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre. Conway weighed in at 9lbs. 8oz. and 21" long. Big sister Lynnley already loves her baby brother! Thank you and much appreciation to Dr. Czajka-Fedirchuk and staff for taking care of us in these tough times. We are lucky enough that Daddy was able to be with us.

Also thrilled with the arrival are Grandma and Afi, Vickie and Raymond Johnson (Riverton), Grandma and Grandpa, Wanda and Darwin Firman (Arborg), Lang Amma Joan Johnson (Hnausa) and Great Grandma Helen Muzyka (Riverton) along with many aunts, uncles and cousins! Welcome to Shorncliffe! xox

IN MEMORIAM



Pauline Hrehoruk
Happy Birthday and Happy Mother's Day
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you are always there.

-Don, Diane, Pat, Michael

BIRTHDAY



**Happy Birthday to
Mary Kowalchuk
who celebrates her 98th birthday
on May 7th**

If we had to choose our Mother
There's no doubt in our minds,
That we would choose a Mother
Who is gentle and very kind.
A woman who loves to laugh
And sees the good in all,
This would be our choice
If we could make that call.
Thank you God for giving us
That Mother!

-With love from your whole family

IN MEMORIAM



**In Memory of
Viola Swanson
May 5, 1940 - May 6 1981
Happy 80th Birthday**

Grief is like the ocean
It comes in waves.
Sometimes the water is calm
And sometimes it is overwhelming.
All we can do is learn to swim.

-Blair and Lizette

OBITUARY



**Edward Frank Trachuk
October 4, 1951- April 29, 2020**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Eddie on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, with the love of his family by his side.

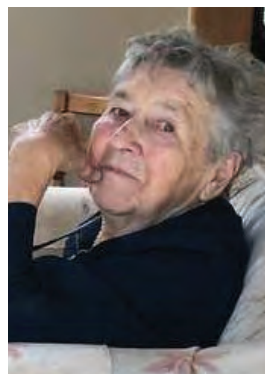
He will be deeply missed and remembered by his loving wife Linda; daughters Dawn (Joe) and Heather (Russell); grandchildren Rylan, Abby and Aiden; and his siblings and extended family.

As per his wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

FISHER FUNERAL HOME INC.
In care of arrangements.
204-372-6271 or 204-372-6803

OBITUARY



**Elizabeth Kowalchuk
Nee Kaprawy
July 29, 1931 – April 30, 2020**

Family is saddened by Elizabeth's sudden passing at home.

Left to cherish her memory: son Joseph (Deborah); daughter Patricia; grandchildren Ashley (Adriana), Dustin (Michelle) and Duane. Adoptive grandson Boyd. Many special acquaintances especially Elma, Toni, Gloria, Louise, Peter, Don, Jerry and David. Her special rescue cat Patches.

Her accomplishments were many but her struggles were greater. She always seen only the positive in people. Her journey through life was the Great Depression, her brother's at World War II, (proudly remembering the regiment # by memory) now a new direction with economic recession and pandemic. Her love was mother nature, her farm, gardening and cooking. Spoken fondly and often by Mom was her recent trip to Estevan, grandson just planted 200 heads of garlic and all her grandson's beating their challenges for success.

Mom
Vichnaya Pamyat



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Road Rehabilitation

The Municipality invites tender for the following:
15.00 Miles throughout the Municipality.

-Preparing, Loading and Hauling, Windrowing, Equalizing, Watering, Spreading and Packing to achieve an additional 2" of packed aggregate to the road surface for 4 sections of various lengths from 3 Miles to 6 Mile lengths.

Tender packages are available at the Main Office or through email. Sealed bids marked with project name and clearly displaying the bidder's name will be received by the undersigned until 12:00pm on May 26, 2020.

Jason Comeau
Public Works Manager
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

NOTICE TO CONTROL WEEDS

ATTENTION: all Pelican Beach Property owners in Blocks 1, 2, and 3, Plan 29103 and Block 1, Plan 27513

Under the terms of the Noxious Weeds Act of Manitoba and the Development Agreement for the Pelican Beach property owners, notice is hereby given by the Interlake Weed Control Board and the RM of Gimli, that it is the property owner, agent, or occupant's responsibility to control or destroy all noxious weeds growing on the land and control the growth of long grass as often as necessary to prevent the growth, ripening, and scattering of weeds or weed seeds and maintain the property in accordance with the standards set out in the Development Agreement.

In order to control the weeds and grass, the property owner must perform regular mowing. A representative of the Weed Control Board will make an inspection of these properties on the following dates:

**MAY 25, 2020
JUNE 15, 2020
JULY 6, 2020
AUGUST 10, 2020**

LOTS MUST BE MOWED PRIOR TO THESE INSPECTION DATES. It is recommended that cutting occur as close to the inspection date as possible to ensure a favourable inspection report. A representative of the Weed Board will begin mowing offending lots immediately after each inspection. The cost of mowing, in addition to a \$40 administration fee, will be charged to the landowner. The administration fee will only be charged to offending lots once per season, regardless of how many mowing operations are performed by the Weed District. Failure to pay the bill will result in the costs being added to the owner's tax bill.

For more information contact the Weed Supervisor, Fred Paulson, at 204 376 3313.

TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL & STUDENT POSITIONS



General Skills & Qualifications for all positions:

Excellent communication and organizational skills, and a demonstrated ability to work independently and/or in a team environment are required. Wage in accordance with current collective agreement.

SEASONAL POSITIONS

Seasonal Equipment Operator – (May to October) Duties will focus on road maintenance and drainage. Other duties may include minor carpentry and general labour. A valid class 3 license with air endorsement driver's license is preferred. Preference would be for an individual with a minimum 5 years' experience as an equipment operator.

General Labourers/Grass Cutting – (May to September/October) Duties include grass cutting, trimming, landscaping, tree-trimming, etc. Must be physically fit. Typical work shift 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday but may include some weekends. Valid class 5 driver's license required.

Criminal Background Check and Drivers Abstract to be provided.

STUDENT POSITIONS (Late June and July & August)

Applicants must be aged 15 to 29, living in Manitoba (have a valid Social Insurance Number) and have a valid Child Employment Permit if 15 years of age. Driver's licence is an asset. Shifts are Monday to Friday; 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Duties include; but are not limited to:

- Maintenance/beautification of town parks, green spaces, town yards and streets
- Cutting/Trimming of grass/hedges
- Collection of some recyclables throughout the community

Completed applications to be submitted to the undersigned, stating the position(s) applied for, with resume and references, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2020.

Doreen Steg, CAO
Town of Winnipeg Beach, PO Box 160, Winnipeg Beach, MB R0C 3G0
Email: cao@winnipegbeach.ca Fax: (204) 389-2019

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

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