

VOLUME 3 EDITION 48 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016

WEEKLY NEWS

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

A registered miniature pony dressed like a reindeer pulling a little dog in a cart dressed like Santa was definitely at hit amongst the children at the Arborg Parade of Lights last Friday. Walter Mychasiw of the Arborg Ag Society led the pony down Main Street while Monique Smith enjoyed the ride. See pg. 12 for more photos.

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Gimli's Rediscover Christmas event a feast of sight and taste



The Evergreen School Division's mini-bus helped herald Santa's arrival in Gimli.

By Patricia Barrett

The Sugar Me Cookie Bakery & Boutique on Centre Street was choca-bloc with kids decorating sugar cookies that baker and owner Carrie Arsenault made Nov. 25 to help the town celebrate its official launch of the Christmas season.

Arsenault baked about 80 sugar cookies in various shapes (angels, Vi-



Santa rode into Gimli Friday night

kings and animals) and then let the kids go wild with icing and multi-coloured decorative sweets.

"I'm amazed by some of their artistry," said Arsenault, as she offered complimentary cookies to the youngsters.

Rayna, who stopped by the bakery with her grandmother, made a beautiful owl using Smarties, jelly beans,



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Former Gimli resident Alexa Fleury sold hand-made polymer clay figurines at the craft market.



Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton, left, and Coun. Danny Luprypa helped light the tree at Gimli Harbour.

sprinkles and coloured icing, a work of art better suited for framing rather than for eating.

Rayna disagreed: "I'm going to eat it."

Sisters Adley and Taryn put their superb creative talents to work, using jelly beans and Smarties for their angels' hands, feet and heart.

Tammy Axelsson, director of the New Iceland Heritage Museum, allocated space in the museum for a

Continued on page 5



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT Carrie Arsenault, owner of the Sugar Me Cookie Bakery & Boutique, gave Rayna the required cookie-decorating supplies for her owl.



Kiwanis president Gord Anderson and Kiwanian member Susan Holfeuer decorated the Christmas tree at Gimli Harbour.



Riding into town for the Gimli Santa Claus parade.



New physician arrives in Eriksdale

Submitted

Dr. Khazen joined Dr. Soliman at the Eriksdale Medical Clinic clinic last month and will be taking calls in the local emergency department.

Dr. Khazen received her MD degree from Tabriz University of Medical Sciences (Tabriz, Iran) in 2002. She worked as a family physician for six years in Iran before moving to Canada in 2008. In addition to Iran and Canada, she has the experience of living in Germany, France and Korea.

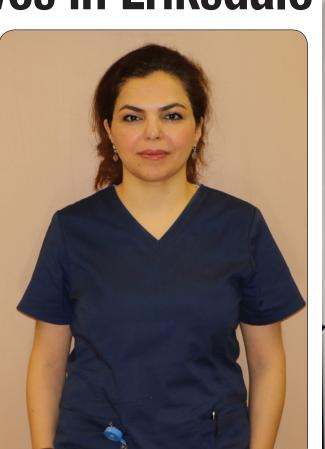
In Canada, she took many volunteer positions including medical library advisor at Baycrest Hospital in Toronto and public advisor and awareness speaker for Canadian Diabetes Association, medical research assistant at Princess Margaret Hospital (Bone Marrow Transplant Department) and at St. Michael's Hospitals (Division of Cardiology) in Toronto.

She successfully completed her training in Family Medicine from the University of Manitoba in July 2016.

In her point of view, "Family physicians play a key role in the Canadian health-care system as they provide the first contact access to appropriate primary care," says Dr. Khazen. "My experience of growing up and working in two multicultural countries (Iran and Canada) and living in five different countries has helped me to have a good understanding and appreciation of diversity and a passion for working in multicultural communities."

She is happily married and raising her young daughter, Ayla. In her leisure time, she enjoys jogging, listening to folk and classical music, watching independent movies, and cooking.

Patients can make an appointment with Dr. Khazen by phoning the Eriksdale Medical Clinic at 204-739-2672. Please be sure to have your Manitoba Health card available when calling to make an appointment.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRANDEN MEIER Dr. Khazen is accepting patients at the Eriksdale Medical Clinic as of last month.





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EBN toy and food drive underway in Gimli

By Marlene Ness

Christmas hampers will be distributed to approximately 90 families on Dec. 15. Last year, the number of families receiving hampers in Gimli rose by 30 families. Evergreen Basic Needs executive director Rhonda Powers stressed that the highest category of families receiving Christmas hampers this year is working families who are struggling to pay rent, utilities and groceries.

"Cost of food has risen significantly," said Powers."For families whose salaries have been stagnating for a long time, the dollar just doesn't pay for as much as it once did."

Powers explains that EBN has worked hard in recent years to minimize the embarrassment or shame families may experience when accepting help from a food bank, using terms like "food insecurity" to describe reliance on food banks.

According to the recent 2016 Hunger Count released on Nov. 15, Manitoba's food bank usage is described as "distressing" with 61,914 Manitobans using a food bank in March 2016. Of

that number, 42.9 per cent were children.

"People shouldn't feel shame when they're asking for help," Powers stated simply."We don't ask too many questions — if you're here to get help, we give you help. EBN is non-judgmental. All we care about is that a family or individual have enough food to get by. We're a little different than other food banks, and we take pride in that."

"We don't ever talk about 'ending the need' because we don't expect that to happen," Powers said bluntly. "We never talk about closing our doors; we know we'll always serve a role in Gimli. And once people get used to that idea, they become a part of us. EBN is like a community within a community."

Powers noted that although fall donations were exceptionally generous this year, a great need still exists for many Christmas items and money to cover food hampers. Toys may be donated to the Toy Drive before Dec. 12, and monetary donations are welcome up until Dec. 31.

"We had to purchase a lot of food





EXPRESS PHOTO BY MARLENE NESS

EBN administrative officer Karen Bowman, left, and EBN executive director Rhonda Powers hold up one of the Toy Drive boxes that are located throughout Gimli. Toy donations are accepted until Dec. 12.

was quite the challenge. Now we'll wait and see how much comes in before the end of the year ... hopefully

this year," said Powers on Nov. 24. "It it covers the costs of our Christmas hampers. We rely on donations and people purchasing from our store, so we always walk that fine line."

Eriksdale E-waste recycling depot open

By Jeff Ward

All of your old electronics can now be safely recycled with the new ewaste recycling drop off depot at the Coldwell Eriksdale Waste Disposal Grounds.

The Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) has now opened up a new drop-off centre that can handle all old electronics including televisions, cell phones and laptops.

EPRA program director Dennis Neufeld said that he believes Eriksdale to be a prime location for a new drop-off point. He knows from speaking with the council that there is a large presence of environmentally conscious residents and that their drop-off point has already seen a big influx of visitors.

"The reality is that e-waste is the largest form of waste in the world and it's also the fastest growing," said Neufeld.

"Eriksdale is an area that I've been looking at for a long time. I've been in contact with council and made a presentation and they thought it was a great idea. We want to make recycling convenient for people and having locations that are within a certain range is important."

E-waste is very different from traditional garbage and recycling. There is a process in breaking down items that have harmful chemicals and other hazardous pieces to make sure they don't effect the environment.

For instance, old tube TVs and projection-style computer monitors have lead glass that are taken to a lead acid smelter to be properly broken down and recycled into the lead acid found in many car batteries.

Neufeld said that in 2015, the EPRA recycled 3,600 metric tonnes of electronic in Manitoba. That is more than 8,000 pounds and it is a staggering number. Neufeld said that number is likely to decrease, but that doesn't mean less recycling being done; in fact, it will probably mean more.

"Electronics are becoming cheaper and lighter every day. A 24-inch television tube you bought years ago weighs less than the 55-inch flat screen you buy today. So we might recycle less weight in 2016, but the number of items we recycle will be much more," said Neufeld.

With electronics being so prevalent in our daily lives having a place to safely and responsibly recycle those items when they die is a good thing. The Eriksdale drop-off point is now the 69th location in Manitoba for EPRA, who began the program in 2012.

Gimli students helping kids and adults stay warm this winter

By Patricia Barrett

Members of Gimli High School's Key Club have launched a winter coat collection drive for children and adults in the Gimli area and got several businesses on board to help them.

Club member Alexis Bahuaud came up with the Koats for Kids (and adults) idea about a week ago after seeing a similar initiative on the news. She brought the idea to the club, which meets every two weeks.

"Poverty goes on everywhere," said Bahuaud, who's in Grade 12. "It's not like it just happens in the city. And EBN [Evergreen Basic Needs] has definitely expressed ... a need for coats."

The Key Club is a division of Kiwanis and its mandate is to help those in the community and globally, said Frances Petrowski, administrative assistant and club member.

Club members set up about 10 collection boxes at all the local schools (including Winnipeg Beach) and at several businesses.

And it's not only coats that are needed, but also other winter apparel such as toques, scarves, mitts and ski pants.

People can drop off new or gently used items at EBN, Noventis Credit Union, Pharmasave, Super A, Sobeys, Curves, the Waterfront Centre and

> REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS, FROM PG. 2

craft market, which offered a range of homemade items.

Gunton residents lake and Esther Maendel of Destiny Road Apiaries and Enjoyorgano sold honey and herb-rich coffees, along with mitts, slippers and pot scrubbers.

Jocelyn Barlow and Linda Einarson (formerly of Jocelyn and Co.) displayed a number of uniquely patterned quilts, some with scenic French patterns, and shared a few laughs with Fairtrade advocate Zack Gross, who was helping workers in the Global South earn a decent wage through the sale of chocolate.

Artisan Alexa Fleury, who grew up in Gimli, displayed her hand-moulded polymer clay figurines.

"You bake them in the oven at 275 degrees," said Fleury, who owns Lexa Laine Designs.

The Rediscover Christmas event coincided with sales at local shops, such as Tergesen's, which offered substantial discounts on clothing and other gift items.

While the kids decorated cookies and had their faces painted at Kaffe Haus by Nicole from Epic Face Art, draught horses Gunner and Ice, along with their masters from Equine Elegance, trotted along Centre Street and First Avenue with dozens of people in the back of their wagon.

the Gimli Recreation Centre.

Grade 12 student Brina Erenberg said the price of winter clothes is prohibitive to many people.

"People need warm stuff and lots of people can't afford it."

Once the boxes are full, students will deliver the items to EBN, which will be distributing them free of charge to those most in need.

"The kids actually asked the question, 'Will they be able to get the coats for free?' "said Petrowski.

Cameron Lozinski, the club's vicepresident, said he's going to check at home for clothes he can donate. Other students said they will also be donating items.

"If we didn't have a poverty issue," said Bahuaud, "we wouldn't have EBN and this drive."

Collection boxes will be available all winter because "winter doesn't stop in December," she said.

Student members of the Key Club include Alexis Bahuaud, Brina Erenberg, Carley Matkowski, Sigrid Bélanger, Cameron Lozinski, Amber MacAulay, Isabelle Stevens, Matthew Lake-Jeanes, Taniel Conley, Samantha Babcock, Lexie Kopp, Connor Spulnick, Ariel Palendat, Deborah Ruzic and Kelly Reed.

Robin's Donuts sponsored the rides Friday night and Noventis Credit Union sponsored them on Saturday.

The festivities caught the attention of Santa, who joined the parade down Centre Street later that evening. He had negotiated with a local ATV owner to pull his sleigh through the street because there wasn't enough snow for his reindeer.

Hundreds of people lined the streets to watch floats sponsored by local businesses, clubs and town-famous festivals such as the Ice Festival. A replica Polar Express train was pulled by a tractor, and the Evergreen School Division weaved through the streets in a mini-school bus.

Santa found out if kids were naughty or nice in the lobby of the Lakeview Resort while photographer Anders Kuusselka took their photo.

The tree lighting ceremony got underway at 7 p.m. near Gimli Harbour.

The Gimli and District Kiwanis Club sponsored the lights and the decorations.

"We have 750 lights," said Kiwanis president Gord Anderson, who was on hand a few days before the event while the RM's Public Works department erected the 50-foot tree in front of the Lakeview Resort.

The municipality donated the tree, which it brought in from a crash road



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Members of Gimli High School's Key Club launched a Koats for Kids (and adults) drive last week. Left to right: Frances Petrowski (administrative assistant), Kadriana Sahaidak, Brina Erenberg, Alexis Bahuaud, Sigrid Belanger, Cameron Lozinski and Jasmine Schumack (teaching assistant).

beside Gimli Airport.

"Without volunteers, this is simply not possible," said Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton moments before he flicked on the lights. "It's fantastic to see how the community comes together for events like this."

Coun. Danny Luprypa brought greetings from the mayor, council members and RM staff.

"I'm honoured to kick off the Rediscover Christmas event and the Christmas season in Gimli," said Luprypa. "... I'd like to thank all the sponsors and businesses involved with this weekend's events."

He singled out Alex Christiansen of the RM's Community Development

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event. Sponsors included the Lakeview Resort, Noventis Credit Union, Robin's

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Donuts, Kris's Fish and Chips, the Adult Day Program and the Gimli Health Centre, the Viking Inn, Kaffe Haus, Lifa Home, New Alycia's, New Iceland Heritage Museum, Sugar Me Cookie Bakery, Up a Stump Used Books and ManCave and the Kiwanis Club.







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our buddies have been kind enough to share. Time and again lately, I have stopped by the Ponds north of Lac du Bonnet hoping to meet some anglers. Finally,

last week I found two chaps there, local boy Dan Dooly and Tyler Booner of Birds Hill, who had caught a couple of Tiger Trout. I probably should have talked about the "Tigers" before because they are so unique to the Ponds and a few other places; however, let me make amends now.

Hi. Thanks for stopping for a mo-

ment to enjoy a few fishing stories

> ARNIE WEIDL

Tiger Trout are a spectacular fish with their yellow sides overlaid by brown worm-like patterns. These ferocious eaters are created in hatcheries by crossing brown trout eggs with brook trout milt, which results in the breed being sterile — but, boy, can they ever give a fight when hooked! If you get a chance, go over to the Ponds and try for them sometime.

I was visiting folks at the Betel retirement home a couple of weeks ago and met a gal by the name of Jennifer Sweetland from Fraserwood who fondly recalled a childhood fishing experience when her grandmother took her riverbank fishing on Lee River north of Pinawa. They were setting when up grandma pulled out a jar of Noxzema and insisted that Jennifer put some on her Red Devil lure. Jennifer was a little hesitant but did what grandma asked and then cast out her line. In minutes, jackfish were taking her lure time after time."

It's worked for me for years," grandma uttered through her teeth as she reeled in another one.

Tribune



Dan Dooly, left, and Tyler Booner with two Tiger Trout caught at the Ponds north of Lac du Bonnet.

I guess we can add this unusual bait story to the others, including wieners and kubasa!

RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

Fishing in the Ponds proves to be rewarding

Last Saturday, in the cloudy, calm cool afternoon, I roamed up and down the Red riverbank listening to the stories of so many interesting anglers. I ran into one chap, Frank Guzzi, who stood out because he had a clear idea of how he should live his life. He declared that he was a man who took care of his job and family but other than that he was gone fishing. We've all heard the jokes about golfers who live on the golf course and horribly neglect their wives. Frank freely admitted that when it comes to fishing, he's just as guilty.

ing chair as we talked. According to him, he, the chair and his favourite rod had been to just about every lake and river in Manitoba. As he went on about his love of fishing and being alone in the outdoors, I that he was a commanding figure. His personality, however, was the exact opposite. He was a light-hearted joker.

"I've been married to three women and lost them all to fishing," he quipped as he scratched his beard reflecting, "The last one hit me so hard as she left, she knocked me tooth out!"

"See," he cried as he pulled back his top lip to expose a dark gap where a tooth should be!

He was sitting in his favourite fold-

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Fire at Camp Rusalka destroys one trailer, damages two more

By Patricia Barrett

A fire at the Camp Rusalka trailer park completely destroyed a trailer, damaged two others and set trees alight the evening of Oct. 30, and it's unlikely that the cause of the blaze will be determined.

No one was injured during the fire, which occurred in Parcel B of the camp.

Dave Garrity, the camp's new volunteer manager, alerted Gimli Fire and Rescue when he discovered the fire.

"They have no idea what it was at this time," said Garrity, who has a trailer at the camp and was there taking care of routine maintenance. "... One trailer got burnt and two got damaged."

Garrity, who has spent every summer at the camp since he was a boy, said there was nothing left of the trailer.

"Just a pile of ashes ... the trailer and the cabana [burned] right down to the ground."

Garrity said he doesn't know how the fire started.

"They [fire department] thought it was electrical, but I had turned off all the power in the camp the day before, so it would be hard for it to be electrical." Garrity has been no stranger to Gimli council over the course of the past year as he worked with the municipality, neighbouring property owners and the provincial department of Sustainable Development to rectify issues around drainage and camp rules that had arisen when the trailer park was under previous management.

Garrity also put in a call to the fire department the morning of Oct. 31 when he discovered a smouldering tree near the ash pile.

Gimli fire chief Gary MacGregor said the severity of the fire makes it difficult to pinpoint its origin.

"I phoned the fire commissioner and we talked about it," said MacGregor. "And it was damaged so badly that we decided we wouldn't be able to investigate anything — there was nothing left to investigate."

All that remained of the trailer was the steel part of the fifth wheel, said the chief.

"It had been burning so long before anyone had seen it."

The camp, located about 10 minutes north of Gimli, shuts down over the winter, and neighbouring property owners along the lake take leave for the season.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

All that's left of a Camp Rusalka trailer that caught fire the night of Oct. 30 is a patch of scorched earth. The cause of the fire can't be determined at this time.

That leaves the area somewhat isolated.

"In the wintertime, I drive around and watch those places," said Mac-Gregor, referring to the RM's seasonal campgrounds and trailer parks, "because we've had fires at Camp Rusalka [before]."

MacGregor said there was an inci-

RED RIVER COLLEGE dent a few years ago in which people came out and lit piles of brush — not an attempt at arson but an attempt to bring a little bit of warmth to their Christmas holiday.

Garrity said the trailer's owner has insurance.

Lundar Daycare hosts annual Breakfast with Santa this weekend

By Jeff Ward

Every December, Lundar Daycare hosts one of the most popular fundraisers of the holiday season with their Breakfast with Santa.

The annual tradition is an opportunity to bring the community together for breakfast, fun activities and great family pictures with the one and only Kris Kringle. The event takes place Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Lundar Community Hall.

The family event has been the daycare's largest fundraiser for the past 26 years. In 2015, it raised approximately \$3,000, according to Lundar Daycare director Bonnie Rae.

Admission at the door is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and under, and free for children under two years old. All money raised goes towards the purchase of educational toys for the daycare.

Rae explained that year after year, residents flock from all over Lundar and the surrounding area to have their photos taken with Santa by Anders Kuusselka. Kuusselka is one of the many reasons that families continue to come out and support the event because his photography and his great ability to work with young



kids really makes the experience fun. "And that's what we want — families to get together and have fun while they're here," said Rae. "We've been preparing for this since September, but it's an event that is always on our agenda throughout the year. We always get great support from the community each year for this event, and it's not uncommon to see 300 or more people in here having a good time."

Rae said that this year, there is a special musical guest performing Christmas music for the event. Loa Thorkelson will bring her guitar and vocal talents to entertain with great music to set the atmosphere.



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Diageo shows support with \$4K donation to EBN

By Marlene Ness

Christmas is a time when food banks and community programs feel the greatest strain in a community.

On Nov. 24, Diageo employees and bargaining committee members of UFCW Local 832 presented a \$4,000 cheque to Evergreen Basic Needs executive director Rhonda Powers. Diageo employees wanted to thank EBN for their support to the picket line workers during their company strike earlier this year.

During the work interruption at the Gimli plant, EBN made the decision to bring workers out hot soups, sandwiches and coffee in a show of support for the same community members who demonstrated deep generosity to EBN in the past.

"The workers greatly appreciated the support during the strike and they wanted to give back to Evergreen Basic Needs so they can continue to do the great work they do," said UFCW Local 832 president Jeff Traeger.

The \$4,000 donation is a combined collection of \$1,400 coming from the

employees of Diageo in Gimli and the remaining \$2,600 from CUPE Local 3902, UNIFOR Local 3005 and the employees of Diageo Amhurstburg, Ont., who collected for their fellow union members in Manitoba.

In past years, the Diageo Corporation has matched the employees' contribution.

"The employees of Diageo helping us is a great example of the giving spirit that fuels EBN," said Powers.

"They've been in a partnership with EBN for quite some time, always supporting us at Christmas time, helping with the Food and Toy Drive. They physically deliver food hampers for us ... they give us a great deal."

Powers discussed a year of challenges at EBN, noting a decline in EBN Respun Threads store revenues in 2016 and the dilemma of rising food costs.

"It's never enough," admitted Powers, "but at the same time, a donation like today's is helping us give Christmas to so many in our community. Our Christmas spirit really starts building at this time of year."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MARLENE NESS

Diageo presented \$4,000 to Evergreen Basic Needs last Thursday. Pictured left to right: United Food and Commercial Workers Canada representative Sharon Grehen, Diageo employees Matt Johnson and Steve Lebel, EBN executive director Rhonda Powers and Corey Kowalski of Diageo.

Freshwater fishers could face challenges with an open market

By Jeff Ward

Interim president and CEO of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) John Wood is dealing with the single largest change in the commercial fishing industry here in Manitoba — and he is not backing down from the challenge.

Come August 2017, Manitoba will no longer have a single desk commercial fishery and will transition into an open market, allowing fishers to sell fish to any buyer they choose. The FFMC is in the middle of a very large change and is in a period of ambiguity as they work to figure out who they will sell to and who they will buy from.

Wood said there are some significant challenges ahead for the Crown corporation, but they are in the process of putting together a strategy to deal with them. Wood said that one of the positives of the eventual change, which could happen sooner than August, is that when FFMC is no longer obligated to buy all commercially caught fish in the province, they are in a stronger position to be competitive in the market.

"For one thing, we no longer have to buy lower value fish that are difficult to sell for profit," said Wood.

"However, finding those profitable markets for low value fish is something we've often been pretty good at. But with the coming changes it remains to be seen how much of that strength we hang on to."

Wood explained that for the 2015-16 fiscal year, FFMC made a final payment of \$3 million distributed to over 2,000 fishers in the province. The corporation realized a profit of \$1.54 million on sales of \$73.2 million. Depending on how the market settles after the transition, those numbers might be a thing of the past. Wood is unable to say who among commercial fishers will choose to sign agreements with FFMC and who will decide to move on.

Those that do sign agreements the terms of which are yet to be determined — will be given priority as preferred sellers to FFMC. Wood said that FFMC would try to buy all fish it can but will prioritize those who sign agreements.

"We probably won't continue to buy all fish that is offered to us. And if we do, we may not buy it at the same price as if it was on contract," said Wood.

Wood is aware of the meetings that are happening all over the province that deal with other potential buyers. He said they paint a very idyllic picture of the future once the market opens up. Prices that are twice what FFMC is currently offering are commonplace during these meetings, and the huge market of China is constantly mentioned.

"No one has seen anything in writing, no contracts or any hard numbers. And you have to go from words to making things happen. They all talk about the huge market in China, and to the best of my knowledge, in all of Western Canada, only one truckload of fish has reached the Chinese market that wasn't ours. This year, we'll do \$1 million with China," said Wood.

Whether or not prices will be drastically different is only a small fraction of the equation for fishers to consider. Many fishers are very confident that a future free of the FFMC shackles will be a bright one, but Wood isn't so

> GET FISHING, FROM PG. 8

I just stood there not knowing what, if anything, to say as he told this tragic yet humorous tale. What else could I do?

Later, a little further upstream, I saw a gal in the process of landing a nice pickerel. Tall and thin, Carol Jackson of Winnipeg had a rugged outdoor attractiveness about her with her long light red hair and throaty mellow voice. We talked quietly in the misty afternoon as she gave an odd story. A month ago while fishing, her dog splashed into the water, grab-

sure.

"One of the things that fishers need to keep in mind is that the food business is very competitive. We don't compete in lake fish; we compete with all forms of protein. Beef, chicken and pork are all our competitors, and people often switch their preferred proteins all the time. We've been very good at competing in that market, and now we'll have to compete for supply as well," said Wood.

It will be a learning experience for everyone involved, but Wood believes that the Crown corporation won't be weakened by the changes. He said they will adapt and continue to be competitive and work to provide the best price for fishers in the future.

bing one of the fish on her string and dragged the whole catch onto dry land. The dog was very proud of herself! In the following month, the dog came to believe that was her job and now Carol can't break her of the habit!

Well, it's starting to get cold now, I mean, I saw anglers boat fishing on the Winnipeg River in their snowmobile suits, so bundle up!

Till next week. Bye for now.

Music video featuring Journey of Hope premieres

By Natasha Tersigni

While it was 15 months ago that Tracie Léost completed her 115-kilometre Journey of Hope, her efforts to advocate for missing and murdered indigenous women lives on.

Last week, the music video premiered for "Run Sister Run" featuring Léost and her Journey of Hope.

When then-16-year-old Léost completed her run in August 2015, her story began gaining international attention. One person who was particularly moved by Léost's gruelling journey was photographer and director Rachael Cassells.

Cassells often creates music videos for American singer-songwriter Cass McCombs. After learning about Léost's story, Cassells knew she found her inspiration for McCombs' newest song, "Run Sister Run."

"After hearing the song, I thought it would be great to cast Tracie as the central character, the hero of the video — playing herself and referencing her Journey of Hope last year, and we discussed via email filming her along the same route as her Journey of Hope," said Cassells, who added that the song highlights the importance of women.

"For this video, Cass felt it was important to have a woman take over and direct it and was very open to me doing whatever inspired me after listening to the song,"

In June, Cassells traveled to Manitoba to film Léost running along Highway 6 where the Journey of Hope took place. After a few delays, the "Run Sister Run" music video was released by Los Angeles-based music label ANTI Record on Nov. 22.

The release of the video has once again thrust Léost into the spotlight and has even led to an article about Léost in the popular American fashion and lifestyle magazine *Vogue*.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

A music video for American singer-songwriter Cass McCombs' song "Run Sister Run" was released Nov. 22. The video features Tracie Léost and her 115-kilometre Journey of Hope that advocates for missing and murdered indigenous women.



Felling in Winnipeg Beach

A tree in Winnipeg Beach along Prospect Street has been crudely vandalized.

By Patricia Barrett

A nighttime drive along Prospect Street in Winnipeg Beach a few weeks ago resulted in the discovery of a crudely de-limbed tree near the junction of Oak Avenue.

Somebody took what appears to be an axe to a healthy tree along the shore. The whereabouts of its limbs are not known.

"We have been trying to determine who cut the tree down," said Mayor Tony Pimentel by email. "So far, we know that the Town, Parks [Sustainable Development] and Hydro did not cut the tree."

The mayor said that until the town can determine who destroyed the tree, there is nothing it can do.

"However, if anything does [come up] and we can prove it," said Pimentel, "we can have the RCMP involved because this was destruction of public property."

Trees along the shore of Lake Winnipeg help mitigate shoreline erosion.



Alf Cuthbert students get inspired during WE Day

By Jeff Ward

Surrounded by a sea of students from all over the province, the Grade 7/8 class from Alf Cuthbert School in Moosehorn was inspired by the incredible stories of perseverance, personal sacrifice and triumphs during WE Day held at the MTS Centre on Nov. 18.

WE Day is an unparalleled event that brings together world-renowned speakers, A-list performers and thousands of youth to celebrate a year of action that transformed communities and changed lives.

The WE movement challenges students to make a difference in their local and global communities and requires schools and their students to meet certain goals to gain highly sought-after tickets for the annual We Day event.

Several high-profile celebrities spoke about their struggles and successes during their careers. Speakers included astronaut, author, professor, musician, first Canadian to walk in space/command a spaceship Col. Chris Hadfield; American singersongwriter, dancer, choreographer, actress and television personality Paula Abdul; and the Honourable Brian Pallister, premier of Manitoba government.

Of the entire Alf Cuthbert class, six students were first-time attendees for WE Day, and all of the hype had them very excited.

"The night before, I could hardly go to sleep because I was so excited," said Justine White, who added that WE Day was a fantastic experience.

The students' teacher Lanyth Tober



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DAVE BAXTER Singer-songwriter Jully Black performs during WE Day at MTS Centre on Nov. 18.

said that WE Day provides an extremely unique experience for students because of how focused the whole show is. Students are very excited to see the celebrities, but because of that star power, the students are also paying very good attention to the message.

"Where else can you go to see a real-life astronaut, famous singers, authors and athletes all under one roof?" asked Tober.

"I really try to talk it up in class and it gets the students excited. As a teacher, I'm able to enjoy the lessons the students get from the show, but I get inspired just like they do."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students from Alf Cuthbert School left WE Day feeling inspired by incredible stories from celebrity speakers.

Both Faith Nickel and Casey Keeley have been to WE Day before and said that this year really lived up to the expectation that last year's event created. Both felt that this year was even better than 2015 and that they got a lot out of the speeches.

Nickel said that Paula Abdul was her favourite speaker because she also has a dream of being a dancer. Her goal of moving to New York City and performing on Broadway seemed far out of reach, but after listening to Abdul talk, that dream seems much more attainable. She knows that with a lot of hard work and a little bit of luck, she could be living out her dream and plans to keep going towards that goal. Keeley said that Col. Hadfield was her favourite and that she was very excited to see him speak because she's been a fan for a long time. After reading his biography, Keeley said that she became even more fascinated by Hadfield and that seeing him on stage just a few weeks ago was a lifechanging experience.

The WE Day experience will be a subject of conversation in their class for weeks to come. And with students already accomplishing their local initiative by donating nearly 300 winter wear items to the Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre, they're already well on their way to earning tickets to next year's show.

Judgment pending for Teulon Residential School court case

By Natasha Tersigni

The decision of whether or not the Teulon Residential School will be added the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) now rests in the hands of three Manitoba appeal court judges.

For a number of years, several students who were sent to Teulon from Northern reserves to attend Teulon Collegiate and were housed in special residences have been fighting the Government of Canada to have the Teulon school added to the IRSSA.

After being absent from the IRSSA by Justice Perry Schulman in 2012, the students had to overcome several legal obstacles to be able to present their case in the Appeal Court of

Manitoba.

On Nov. 23, lawyers for the students presented their case in front of three appeal court judges. Representing the federal government, who is opposing the students, is federal justice lawyer Leona Tessier.

The crux of the students' case relies on properly proving that the Government of Canada had participation in setting up and running the school, something that Judge Schulman said was not proven. The institution in Teulon was operated as a residence for Aboriginal youth from 1958 to 1996. During that time, hundreds of Aboriginal teens were sent to Teulon to attend public school and were housed in residences. "The basic question that needs to be asked is who paid for all of this? The Government of Canada paid for the students' transportation to and from Teulon and return trips to their home at Christmas and summer holidays," said lawyer Charles Huband, who is representing the former students.

In the court decision released April 2, 2012, the Teulon Residence was denied being added to the settlement agreement, citing it as being operated by a religious organization, the United Church of Canada.

The students are arguing that while the daily operations of the residence were by the church, the residence was set up and regulated by the federal government and students were sent to Teulon by the Indian Affairs Department, a branch of the federal government.

With both sides presenting to the appeal court last week, the three judges now have until the end of the year to make a ruling.

The students behind the court case are cautiously optimistic about the outcome.

"Our lawyers say our case looks good, but you never know," said former Teulon Residential School student Gabby Munroe, who has been leading the court case.

"What is going well is that the case is before a panel of three judges. When we lost the first court case, it was before a single judge."

Arborg Ag Society fundraiser

By Staff

The Arborg Ag Society held a fundraising raffle for a toolbox donated by Norman Penner of SWIVEL.

Ron Gladue of Portage la Prairie was the lucky winner on Nov. 4.

The proceeds of the draw will be used in part to construct a new concession stand at the east end of the fairgrounds in Silver to better accommodate the people attending the tractor pull. The tractor pull is becoming more popular and growing in size every year.

Norman Penner, owner of SWIVEL, donated \$3,400 towards the purchase of the toolbox. His company SWIVEL will be recognized as a major sponsor by the Ag Society and will have signage placed on the SKID used in the tractor pull competitions commencing in 2017.



SWIVEL owner Norman Penner, right, presented the Ron Gladue with a SWIVEL tool box. Gladue was the lucky winner of the Ag Society draw.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ROZANNE NEVAKSHONOFF Pictured with the state-of-the-art SWIVEL toolbox are Norman and Jessie Penner (back left) and Arborg Ag Society members Daryl Hoeppner (tractor pull), Debbie Geisler (fundraising) and Andy Platt (president).



Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Government needs to control hog production and protect our water sources

Dear Premier Pallister:

I have concerns and am speaking out for the despair of Lake Winnipeg and our precious water sources in Manitoba.

On the website of *Canadian Dimension* magazine, of June 30, 2007, author Cy Gonick wrote about hog politics.

He tells us, "This kind of intensive hog production causes air pollutionnoxious odours, toxic gases and drug pollution. As well, antibiotics, growthpromoting chemicals and other veterinary drugs end up in the animals themselves and enter the environment through their manure and urine, contaminating the water, the soil and our food. And also with this, more evidence has emerged connecting mega hog barns to increased damage to Lake Winnipeg."

I will remind you, Premier, that when the NDP were in opposition, and prior to becoming government in 1999, they, too, expressed grave concerns of the factory hog industry attaining a foothold in Manitoba. They also voiced concerns about the vast quantities of manure, the water contamination, the environment and implications of social sustainability. Yet, basically nothing has evolved for the better in the past years of the NDP banner. They became government and those concerns apparently disappeared as they exchanged seating positions in the Manitoba Legislature, ... for the swine herd continued to steadily increase by several million animals.

Those same concerns are prominent and with us, even today!

Sixteen-plus years have gone by, and, yes, there have been some minor changes and promises to improve.

Recently, however, there has been a resurgence in Manitoba's factory hog industry, and plans to further increase hog production are presently being undertaken. Hog feces stored in more of the cheaper structures promises more nutrient leaching and increases the danger and probability of contamination. Pig waste is appropriately categorized and recognized as a hazardous waste. What odour control measures are being put in place and how is that going to be addressed? ... for this is also a health issue.

A questionable and threatening undertaking, Premier, for research has determined that hog manure is the biggest single risk to Lake Winnipeg.

And furthermore, studies carried out in Manitoba over the past several years, and reported by Manitoba Conservation, have concluded that earthen storages seep and are a threat to ground and surface water. This is not the advanced technical protection that is required and needed to protect the environment and our water sources from pollution. The Red Tape Reduction Task Force being conceived needs to be reminded that the enactment of Save Lake Winnipeg Act"was totally supported in the Manitoba Legislative in June of 2011."The NDP government passed the Save Lake Winnipeg Act to keep phosphorus out of Lake Winnipeg, cracking down on hog manure entering our waterways and protecting wetlands.

Lake Winnipeg has recently been declared as the most polluted fresh water lake in the world. What a shameful example and cost we bear to conduct ourselves in the name of opportunistic development, that pollutes our most vital and life resource ... Water.

It is time for all governments to deal with water issues and address the sources of contaminates and pollution, otherwise Canada and particularly Manitoba, will be known as the land of Dying Lakes and Rivers. Governments can no longer be in denial about water problems and simply turn their backs on the situation.

It is also time to recognize that there is a better way of raising hogs for meat export and to implement the necessary changes to have this accomplished.

> Yours truly, John Fefchak

Send your letters to us by e-mail at news@expressweeklynews.ca, or via mail to: Editor Express Weekly News 74 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0



For more information visit our website at www.stonewallmanor.ca or call our office at (204)467-2198.

Arborg Parade of Lights draws large crowd

Staff

The streets were lined with people of all ages Friday night in anticipation of seeing Santa and brightly lit floats at Arborg's Parade of Lights.

Children quickly scooped up candy and treats that were thrown along the street while the floats made their way down Main Street.

The firefighters not only brought Sparky out for the evening but they shot off fireworks from their float, which brought lots of excitement and cheers from the crowd.

The Riverton & District Friendship Centre handed out advent calendars to all the children along the route. Many floats had carols playing, while others had people singing and dancing.

While the above-normal temperatures were welcoming for those watching the parade, some floats like the ski club had to make a few minor adjustments to their displays, such as wheels on the toboggans.



Riverton & District Friendship Centre was handing out advent calendars along the parade route.



Arborg enjoyed hot chocolate at Rudolph the Reindeer. the Arborg Legion.





Santa made his debut on the Mazer Group float at Arborg's Parade of Lights.



Four-year-old Madison Grant of A little pony disguised himself as Noventis was one of the many beautifully decorated floats.



The above normal temperatures were a welcome treat for many who watched the parade from the sidewalk in rubber boots and shoes.



These young zumba dancers from Riverton were definitely in the Christmas spirit singing and dancing the entire parade route.

Moonlight madness kicks off the festive season

By Rozanne Nevakshonoff

Unseasonably warm weather heralded the annual Moonlight Madness in Fisher Branch last Friday.

The craft sale, held in the old furniture building, was bustling with vendors selling their wares. Silent auctions, shotgun shell-decorated garlands and wreaths, hand-painted boxes and a variety of baking covered the tables.

To get everyone in the mood, the Chamber of Commerce held a hightech scavenger hunt for shoppers with a chance to win one of five draws of \$100. To enter, shoppers had to locate a sign with a code written on it, take a picture using their smartphone (at a minimum of three participating locations throughout town) and post on the Fisher Branch Community website. For those still using low-tech, printed ballots were also accepted at the participating businesses. Entries were posted, emailed and dropped off by the end of business on Saturday to be eligible to win.

At Mr. Greenbuck\$, Santa's elves were busy helping shoppers find just the right present for stockings and aiding with entries. Across the road at the Health Centre, Mrs. Claus was handing out cookies to all the good little boys and girls (some adults too).

The community came out in full force to watch the Parade of Lights with a variety of entries lighting up the night. Volunteers walked along the parade route handing out candy to the children while carols played in the background.

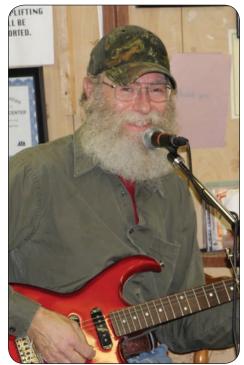
The above-normal temperatures brought out a few unconventional floats including a motorcycle and a hopped-up lawn mower.

As the parade continued, the children got more excited — when what to our wondering eyes did appear but the big man himself. Santa waved and shouted "Ho Ho Ho" to the clamour of the excited children.

I'm sure we heard him say as he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight."



Mrs. Claus was busy handing out cookies at the Health Centre.



^a Mr. Al Wiebe singing carols.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ROZANNE NEVAKSHONOFF Santa's elves Faye Syrota, Lisa Tate and Alexis Vieira were in the Christmas spirit at Fisher Branch's moonlight madness.



Even the jolly elf himself, Santa Claus, made a stop in Fisher Branch last Friday.





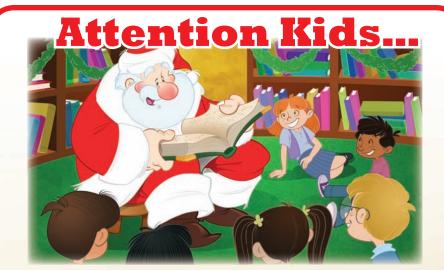
Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre organizing Christmas hampers

Deadline to apply for a hamper is Dec. 6

By Jeff Ward

The town of Ashern and the RM of Grahamdale will be well fed this holiday season as the Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre organizes the annual Christmas hamper program to benefit the less fortunate families.

The deadline of Dec. 6 for families to apply is quickly approaching, and anyone in need of receiving a ham-



What's You'r Christmas Eve story?

Choose any of the topics and create your unique story.

1. It was Christmas Eve and everyone was tucked into bed. The clock ticked towards midnight but I couldn't sleep.

- 2. This is the story of the best Christmas ever. It started when Jack ran downstairs and found an empty space under the tree where he expected his presents to be.
- 3. I felt sorry for the young couple who knocked at my door. The man looked very tired and the woman was about to have a baby. "I have no more room in the inn," I told them, "but you can stay in my stable."
- 4. I woke with a start. What had woken me? I listened hard. Yes, there it was again! Bells! I could hear jingling bells.
- 5. Everyone loved Granny coming for Christmas but she could be terribly forgetful.
- 6. As Olivia closed her bedroom curtains she looked out at the snowman she had built. It looked like he was smiling. CONTEST FOR KIDS 8-12 YEARS OLD.

Cash Prizes awarded to the top three stories First place (\$50), Second place (\$30) and Third place (\$20) Maxiumum 400 words.

Send in your poem or short story to: christmasstories@expressweeklynews.ca or mail to: Box 39, Stonewall, MB ROC 2Z0 DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 7, 2016



Mail or email you letter to us by Wednesday, December 7th, and we'll make sure it appears in our special section on December 15th.

Please remember to include your first name and age on your letter!

Email: santa@expressweeklynews.ca or mail to Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0 per is asked to contact Janice Postlethwaite of the Resource Centre at 204-768-3016 to do so. Hampers will be delivered on Dec. 20.

The deadline for monetary donations or non-perishable food items is Dec. 19. The hampers will include ham or turkey along with items such as bread, canned vegetables, peanut butter, soup and pasta. Postlethwaite said that it is hard to know exactly what will go into each hamper as the donations are never the same.

"We've gotten donations from a few schools who are participating and we will likely get some support from local businesses as well," said Postlethwaite.

"Depending on what we have in stock here from Winnipeg Harvest, we might also be able to put in some hygiene items. We do put in our large grocery order ahead of time, which is why the deadline is so soon. We need time to be able to get our groceries to fill the hampers."

Monetary donations can be made at the Noventis Credit Union in Ashern or Moosehorn, and a tax receipt will be given upon request.

Postlethwaite said that organizing the hampers is a personal point of pride for her and the other volunteers. She said that during the flood of 2011, the hamper program sent out more than 100 hampers. Even when she isn't organizing, she's been a volunteer.

"I think it's incredibly important to be able to support your community like this. I do really enjoy packing them and delivering them because it brings so much joy to the person getting one," said Postlethwaite.

She said that she anticipates giving out approximately 20 to 30 hampers, so all donations are welcomed and needed.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ALLANA SAWATZKY Jolly Old St. Nicholas stopped in Arborg for breakfast last Saturday for youngsters to tell him what they would like for Christmas. Three-yearold Jase Sawatzky of Stonewall asked for a cement truck and a tow truck after he assured the jolly elf that he had been a good boy.

nuwhe

Destination(

Shop at the local businesses below for your chance TO Winnesses below a ticket to travel!

With every purchase made from Dec 1-31, shoppers will receive a ballot for a chance to WIN a \$2,000 travel voucher.

Interlake Coop 253 Main St. Arborg

Interlake Coop 21 Railway Ave, Eriksdale

Arborg Home Hardware 451 Main St. Arborg

The Wave Electronics 66 1 Ave, Gimli

Moosehorn Coop 1 Main St., Moosehorn **Moosehorn Coop** 25 Main St., Ashern

Brennivins Pizza Hus, Gimli 70 1 Ave Suit B, Gimli

Ukrainian Farmers Coop 22 Tache St. Fisher Branch

Gimli Snowmobile Centre 109097 HWY 9, Gimli

> McMunn & Yates 16 Main St. Eriksdale

Tergesen's 82 1 Ave, Gimli

Healing In Style 5 Station Lane, Eriksdale

One Stop Gas & Grocery Corner of HWY 17 & Tache St. Fisher Branch

KC Enterprises 19156 Gimli Park Rd., Gimli Interlake Auto & Tractor Parts 161 Sunset Blvd, Arborg

Arborg Pharmacy 275 Main St, Arborg

Riverton Coop 39 Riverton Ave, Riverton

> Lifa Home 35 Centre St., Gimli

The more you shop, the more chances of WINNING!



1 Ballot per purchase unless otherwise specified. *Receive minimum of one ballot per purchase and/or one ballot per \$100 spent at specific businesses. Must be 18 years old to enter. Express employees and spouses are ineligible. Draw to take place Wednesday, January 11th, 2017. Winner will be contacted by phone.

Brought to you by: Your Local Participating Businesses and





Westshore Singers Christmas concert series

Submitted

Come and celebrate the Christmas season with the Westshore Singers.

The theme for this year's concert series is "Around the World at Christmas." The audience is invited to travel through time and around the world, stopping in a variety of countries experiencing diverse customs and musical styles. The repertoire spans the centuries, from 12th century Irish liturgical music to the jazz sound of Louis Armstrong and even further afield — landing, if only for a moment, in Whoville to meet the Grinch. Guest artists include sopranos Ar-

line Collins, Victoria Stiglmayr, and the duo of Dave Smith and Dennis Carlson. Also performing is multi-instrumentalist Rob Chrol in a supporting role.

The Arborg concert will include soprano Arline Collins and pianist Brenda Gulay.

Come and have fun as audience participation will be key. **Concert dates:**

Friday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. - Arborg Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church.

Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2:30 p.m. - Gimli Lutheran Church.

Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. - Gimli Lutheran Church.

Tickets will be available at the door

or in advance at Tergesen's in Gimli for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Children under 12 are free.

Ringing in the Christmas season with beautiful music by the Westshore Singers helps the choir to continue funding the variety of community programs that are near and dear to the hearts of the choristers.



New rock garden at Winnipeg Beach School more than a showpiece

By Patricia Barrett

Grade 6 students at Winnipeg Beach School have almost completed the reconstruction of a rock garden that will serve as a showpiece and a playspace.

Over the summer, some not-so-welcome weeds began to choke the former rock garden behind the school, and teacher Justin Charrier and his students decided to rip it up and start from scratch.

"Before it was something kids couldn't go on," said Charrier, who oversaw the labour-intensive project, "so we thought, 'Let's put stepping stones so they can actually walk through it."

In addition to hours of manual labour, the project entailed in-class environmental and garden-building research, the completion of architectural drawings and an infusion of artistic flare.

"One thing they had to research was how could we make this more of a permanent garden with the least amount of effort to upkeep," said Charrier, who teaches grades 6 and 7.

The endeavour taught students a number of useful skills.

"This ties into quite a few different aspects like budgeting, environmental sustainability, biology and math (to figure out area)," said Charrier.

Emily, one of the students who took part in the reconstruction, said math is her favourite subject.

"I did a little bit of math for the garden," said Emily, who plays volleyball and hockey and shovels her aunt's walkway. "The whole class ... contributed. We took everything out [of the garden] and put everything back in."

Armed with spades, spoons, newspapers and tarp, not to mention plenty of energy, students got down to some serious gardening.

Their first task was to make trenches along the main border and along sections of woodchips so that they could secure the tarp before cutting it to size.

Students flung themselves on the tarp to keep the wind from lifting it while others did the cutting. They jammed one edge of the tarp into the ground using

spoons from the science room and then folded back the other edge.

Alexis, who dances with a club in Selkirk and helps babysit her cousins,



One of the stepping stones in its mould.



Emily dug up a few worms while working on the garden. She reburied them.

distributed newspapers to students, who placed them under the tarp.

"Plastic is an extra reinforcement," said Charrier, helping students secure the tarp. "Black is extra resistant to weeds. We had a cloth barrier before

and needed another solution."

As students worked, they discussed some serious subjects. Alexis noted Donald Trump's photo in the newspapers, which gave rise to political debate, and Jack and Wyatt discussed astronomical theory. Some couldn't resist a bit of celebratory gymnastics and dancing on the green near the garden.

The last step consisted of placing pea gravel over the tarp. Ten hand-made stepping stones will eventually be placed in the gravel. Students worked



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT Alexis, right, helps lay newspapers under the tarp to prevent future weed growth.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JUSTIN CHARRIER

Teacher Justin Charrier and his Grade 6 students laid four stepping stones in the new rock garden they built behind Winnipeg Beach School before the snow fell.

in the classroom on the stepping stones, pouring concrete into moulds the size of an extra-large pizza before performing some artistic magic.

Using pieces of patterned and clear broken tile, ceramic dishware, glass beads and coloured stones, each student came up with a unique design.

"We draw it out first," said Wyatt, "and put the designs in the middle to make sure it fits."

A limited budget gave rise to resourcefulness.

"We bought dishes at the Dollar Store, wrapped them in fabric and hit them with a hammer," said Charrier. "The cost of each stepping stone probably worked out to about \$10."

Charrier himself worked on the garden after school many times to beat the snow.

On the day the garden bed was completed, he lay Zac and Sare's megapound stepping stones on a trolley and wheeled them out to the garden for a placement test.

Next year, shrubbery will be added to the garden and perhaps a mural on the school's wall.

The students who took part in the project were Abby, Alex, Alexis, Emily, Jack, Nicole, Sare, Wyatt and Zac.

"THE WHOLE CLASS ... CONTRIBUTED. WE TOOK EVERYTHING OUT IOF THE GARDEN] AND PUT EVERYTHING BACK IN."

Operation Christmas Child makes shoeboxes for underprivileged children

Submitted

To ensure that underprivileged children in third world countries will have some holiday cheer, members of the Fisher Branch community once again collected for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign. The community-donated shoeboxes filled with hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, facecloth) socks, underwear, small clothing items such as t-shirts, shorts and home sewn dresses as well as a variety of school supplies. For their pleasure the boxes also included hair accessories, jewellery, stuffies and sewing kits for the girls and for the boys, small tools, flashlights, etc. and for both boys and girls - sunglasses, caps or hats, small games and toys, and Christmas notes made and signed by elementary school students and by other people. Through the Canadian-based humanitarian aid organization, shoeboxes are then sent to children who live in countries that are impoverished by war, natural disasters, such as hurricanes, flooding and areas naturally and normally destitute at Christmas time.

storage of donated items and ultimately the space for the volunteers to fill the shoeboxes in October and November.

These shoeboxes will provide much needed peace and joy to the hearts of homeless, hopeless and injured children. For many, this will be their only gift! Volunteers meet one day a week (more if necessary) for six weeks to pack the boxes and send them off.

A lady from Paraguay who lived in Fisher Branch for two years while her husband worked locally devoted much of her time to sewing and donating many dresses, boys shorts, skirts (she bought t-shirts to match the skirts) in a variety of sizes and a stack of doll blankets which she embellished by hand. Many local ladies have sewn many lovely dresses using their own sewing supplies and notions. Several high school home ec. students sewed dresses for the 2016 shoeboxes and will do more for 2017.

Completely filled shoeboxes were also donated by Marble Ridge Colony, local schools and individuals. This year 431 shoeboxes were shipped away. We have come a long way since 2011 when we shipped 53, 2012 – 131;



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of Fisher Branch and the surrounding communities collected donations and filled 431 shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign.

2013 – 224; 2014 – 256 and 2015 – 340.

Thank you to the individuals who have donated cash, which is required to pay for shipping charges.

Thank you to Fisher Branch Hodg-

son Transport for delivering the shoeboxes to Winnipeg free of charge.

Items are graciously accepted throughout the year and may be left at One Stop in Fisher Branch.

Each year a generous family offers their basement for the year round

Ashern and Moosehorn businesses encourage shopping local

By Jeff Ward

Businesses from Ashern and Moosehorn are banding together to provide a shopping promotion with \$1,600 in gift cards and merchandise to be won.

This is the second year the Live Small Town, Shop Small Town promotion has taken place. This year, 13 local businesses have signed on to participate — more than double from last year.

The promotion, organized by the Ashern Chamber of Commerce, is designed to encourage local shopping. Chamber president Glen Noordenbos said that there would be eight \$200 prizes to be won for those who fill out a ballot at participating businesses.

Noordenbos said that while the chamber organized the promotion, it is up to the businesses to decide how they want to promote it in store. Many of the participating businesses are also holding exclusive in-store draws along with the shop local raffle.

The promotion started Nov. 11 and will run until Dec. 10 when the Santa Claus is Coming to Town event in Ashern takes place.

"What we wanted to do was promote our local businesses and roll the investment they make in this promotion back into the community," said Noordenbos.

"The prizes will be in the form of gift cards or merchandise from the business. Some of our participating businesses aren't retailers, though, so their contribution would be services. Things are already off to a good start, and the community has really responded to the promotion so far," said Noordenbos.

The chamber wanted to drive more excitement and foot traffic, so the

Biz Get The Gob Done! Caruls Call 467-5836 promotion was changed this year to include eight prizes of \$200 each from one grand prize. Hopefully more chances will encourage more shoppers to take part.

The chamber is always exploring new ways to entice shoppers to spend their money locally. Promotions like this help push people in that direction.

Noordenbos said there are plenty of good businesses in the area. Even

though many have been here for years, there still are some residents who don't know they exist.

"One of the goals of this promotion is to expose people to businesses they've never seen before and give them a reason to walk through the door," said Noordenbos.

The contest ends Dec. 10, so Noordenbos is encouraging shoppers to stop in to fill out a ballot.

Peguis RCMP respond to fatal collision

Submitted

Peguis RCMP responded to a single-vehicle rollover on Highway 17 in Hodgson on Nov. 23 at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The initial investigation shows a car was travelling eastbound on Highway 17 when it entered the south ditch and rolled multiple times.

Two 19-year-old females from Fisher River were inside the vehicle. Both were pronounced deceased at the scene.

Speed is considered to be a contributing factor in the collision. Alcohol is not involved. Both females were wearing their seatbelts.

A RCMP forensic collision reconstructionist and the RCMP Criminal Crash Investigative Team are assisting with the ongoing investigation.

Facebook page crowdsources highway safety

By Jeff Ward

The goal for the Highway #6 Facebook page was simple when it started three years ago. It was to be a resource to help keep people safe on the road. The page has done that and more and continues to expand as the need for reliable and fast information becomes greater.

The page crowdsources information on current highway conditions and funnels that into your daily Facebook feed. It's a good idea turned daily resource for many drivers who frequent the highway, and the success has expanded to other areas of Manitoba and to other provinces as well.

Shawn Cote is the gatekeeper of the group and commits six hours a day, outside of normal working hours, to making sure the page is unencumbered — no gossip, drama or useless information. Cote wants the page to be a way for drivers to take a quick scan of the page, post a question and find out what the conditions are before heading out.

"It's all about safety of the drivers," said Cote, who is a self proclaimed "highway chicken."

"Even in good conditions, it can be dangerous driving on the highway, and I just wanted a place where people could do a quick check and decide whether or not it was worth heading out. Maybe you won't realize how bad the snow really is until you're already in the middle of it, and by then, it's too late."

The power of the Facebook groups is the ability to give drivers very current — sometimes updated a few times an hour - conditions are specific stretches of road. Anyone who's done any driving along the highway knows that just because the conditions are bad in Eriksdale, it doesn't mean they are



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Highway #6 Facebook page has become a valuable source of information for people travelling along the provincial highway.

bad in Ashern. The users, who now total more than 7,000 on the Hwy. 6 Facebook page, are accurate and quick with the information. Many post photos and videos of what it's like, which can help drivers make safer decisions before heading out.

So far, 2016 has been a particularly deadly year for Manitoba highways with the RCMP reporting that there have been 100 deaths to date. Cote believes that the highway network she's created can be a good way to bring that number down.

"When weather is rough we easily see hundreds of messages a day, and we average about 100 on a normal day. Our peak was over 600 posts in one day during a massive snowstorm, and we added 1,700 members that day. And these are all people that become an integral part of the network and help keep it going," said Cote.

Cote said that she knew from the start that creating this group was going to be successful but added that she never thought it would be something to go nation wide. She said that she even gets messages from people south of the border asking for pages to be created for them.

During times of construction, some of the workers who are also members of the group use it to update drivers on what the delays will be like and if the highway will be worked on during the weekend. In some instances, the group can save you time, and in other instances, the group can save your life.

"I hear from people all the time who tell me that they were so glad the page was there because they decided not to head out at all. The goal has been the same since we started this and that's to keep people safe, and I think we're doing that," said Cote.

Community Futures acting as EDO through maternity leave transition

By Jeff Ward

An interesting partnership between the RM of Grahamdale, the Grahamdale Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Community Futures West Interlake will enable economic development in the municipality to continue while EDO Sandahl Bauch is on maternity leave.

The partnership between the municipality and Community Futures began on Nov. 1 and involves Lana Cowling-Mason of Community Futures West Interlake facilitating the communication from the Grahamdale CDC to the municipality.

With Bauch now on maternity leave, the RM had a difficult task at hand in finding a suitable replacement. As CAO for the RM, Shelly Schwitek explained that the position is a part-time one and in this case would only be a one-year term. With those stipulations, finding a qualified candidate would be difficult. When they add to that the necessary time to get up to speed and the transition back to Bauch a year from now, it could result in a lot of time lost.

Schwitek said that council was concerned that hiring someone to fill in for the position would stall the progress the CDC had been making over the last several months. Council really liked the direction the CDC was headed and wanted that to continue, so when Cowling-Mason approached the RM and

to provide the services an EDO would do, council jumped at the opportunity. During the regular council meeting on Oct. 27, council passed a resolution without any objection to officially use Community Futures services.

"With [Cowling-Mason], we get someone who is very qualified to do the job and fill in while [Bauch] is on leave. We're all very excited to see how things turn out because [Cowling-Mason] is a fantastic asset for our community," said Schwitek.

Schwitek explained that filling the shoes of Bauch would have been difficult but that Cowling-Mason, through her work at Community Futures, was already sitting in on the CDC meet-

ings as a ex-officio, so her knowledge of the direction the CDC is going is already quite extensive.

The RM is paying \$8,000 for a 14-month term, but there will be some differences to the way things

worked before. Cowling-Mason will be available for meetings but not through the RM office in Moosesaid that Community Futures could be contracted horn. Residents looking to speak with her directly

will need to visit the Community Futures office in Ashern.

Schwitek said that the arrangement is all very new to everyone involved, so there will likely be adjustments to be made as everyone gets comfortable with the process.

"I think this is a good arrangement, though, for everyone because we don't want to see the CDC lose that momentum they have right now," said Cowling-Mason.

"I'll be a liaison between the CDC and council to make sure everyone stays in the loop, and Community Futures will help provide the services that [Bauch] would have done as part of her duties. So the CDC will be able

to continue to carry forward their plan into 2017 without needing to get acquainted with a new EDO who will only be there a short time."

WEALL THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT **IDEA AND** SOMETHING WE CONSIDERED AND ULTIMATELY WENT WITH."

Gimli approves proposed condo development near Camp Morton

By Patricia Barrett

Misty Lake Lodge Ltd. plans to build a condominium complex about three kilometres south of Camp Morton between PR 222 and Lake Winnipeg.

The RM of Gimli council approved Misty Lake's proposal to subdivide a 14-acre lot from a 26.84-acre holding at its regular meeting on Nov. 24.

The company plans to build eight six-storey residential buildings (30 units each) that will be serviced by an individual well and the municipality's sewer system.

According to council, the Misty Lake owner made a successful application to council in 2007 and was approved again in 2011. The 2011 approval, however, was not filed with the land titles office and it expired after a year.

"He called it the Golden Circle because there were six condos in a horseshoe," said deputy mayor Peter Peiluck. "That was the name back in the day ... the last ... two times it [the proposal] came to council."

Peiluck said there had been a height restriction in the past, and the owner would have to apply for a variation if the height of the buildings were to change.

As part of the approval process, Misty Lake will have to pay the capital lot drainage levies in full, the current taxes for the subdivided lot in full, as well as any possible outstanding taxes.

The owner will also have to enter into a development agreement with the RM, abiding by a number of conditions. Those include the construction of shoreline protection and the establishment and maintenance of an area of native vegetation near the shore to help mitigate erosion.

The property lies just north of the Aurora Recovery Centre at Road 114 N and PR 222.

Other council briefs:

- Council passed first reading of Bylaw 16-0018 to authorize the expenditure and borrowing of funds for the construction of the new Gimli Fire Hall.

If the bylaw passes second and third reading, the RM will borrow \$1,670,430 at an annual interest rate of 3.84 per cent over a period of 20 years starting Dec. 31, 2016. Total interest will be \$752,885.06.

- Council passed first reading of Bylaw 16-0014 to revise and update the fees and charges payable to the municipality for its services but will review the changes before adopting



New residential housing is proposed for a lot just north of the Aurora Recovery Centre on PR 222.

the bylaw.

Some revisions include charges for municipal surveys and application fees for culverts.

"Some of the fees that really ... increased, I recall, are culvert permits. [They] used to be \$30," said Coun. Danny Luprypa."... now they're \$150."

The fees and charges take into account wages paid to municipal employees and expenditures on gas to attend various sites.

Coun. Thora Palson said there are also cost recovery factors such as the numbers of times a location is visited and administration costs for the processing of paperwork.

"We should review it to make sure they're justified," she said.

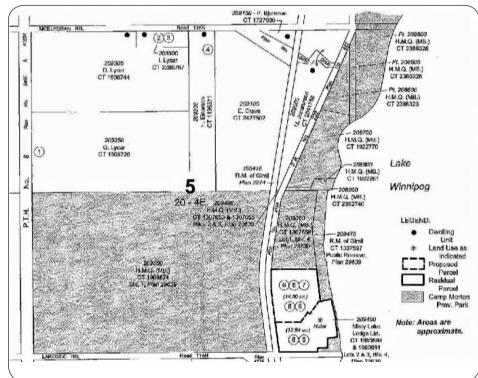
- Council passed first reading of Bylaw 16-0016 to revise and update trailer licence fees payable to the municipality.

The new charge for a trailer remaining at a site between 14 and 59 days will be \$45. Trailers that remain on site for 60 or more days will be charged \$70.

Currently, the charge for trailers remaining at a site between 14 and 59 days is \$30 for trailers less than 25 feet (\$35 for over 25 feet), and for 60 or more days, it's \$50 for trailers less than 25 feet (\$60 for trailers more than 25 feet).

And starting Jan. 1, 2018, licence fees will see an increase of 2.5 per cent each year.

"It's an increase of about \$10," said



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Misty Lake Lodge Ltd. plans to construct condominiums about three kilometres south of Camp Morton. The property is just north of the Aurora Recovery Centre.

assistant CAO Kristin Strachan. The last increase was in 2009.

- Council approved the terms and conditions set out in a provincial agreement for municipal snow plowing and removal of provincially owned streets.

"We do it ourselves and they pay us a very small fee," said Coun. Richard Petrowski.

The province does not plow Centre, First and Fifth, which fall under its jurisdiction. The municipality plows them and receives about \$14 per centimetre of snow in compensation.

"It adds up to almost nothing during the winter," said Petrowski.

The terms of the agreement haven't changed from previous years.

"This hasn't increased for years, has it," said Luprypa, referring to compensation.

"We've tried," said Strachan.

If the municipality did not plow, provincially owned streets would remain bogged down for days or a windrow would be left, according to council. The issue of compensation for municipal snow removal was broached at the recent Association of Manitoba Municipalities' annual convention.

"Their priority is to get the highways done," said Petrowski. "The roads in town are just a second priority to them."

- Council approved bronzelevel sponsorship for the 7th Annual Kiwanis Club of Gimli Cabaret on May 27, 2017, at the Fraserwood Hall. A bronze table costs \$650 and includes eight beverage tickets. The Kiwanis raised \$19,900 last year for various community projects.

- RM staff and council members will be donating their own money to Evergreen Basic Needs for Christmas hampers.

"We've gone on our own and donated to EBN," said Strachan.

The RM provides a grant to EBN through its budget.

- Council approved the following payments and other financial matters:

\$54,568.87 for payroll ending the period Nov. 5

\$396,072.32 for bills for general operating expenses.

\$15,750 final payment to EF Moon Construction for the completion of the north regional sewer system force main.

- Council awarded the RM's banking services to Noventis Credit Union for a period of three years beginning Jan. 1, 2017. It had formerly used CIBC.

- Council authorized a \$100 donation to the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba subject to further review of the organization.

Petrowski said he had never heard of the organization and does not know what it does.

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee documents history

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli's Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee has embarked on a major project to document the rich history and the notable people of the municipality.

MHAC member Wally Johannson appeared as a delegate at Gimli council's regular meeting Nov. 24 to provide details about the project.

"We're going to be publishing three booklets," said Johannson, a former teacher and MLA. "These are historical pictorial booklets of about 100 to 150 pages each. So they're pretty major historical works."

MHAC is a sub-committee of RM council and provides advice on local heritage issues. Its project will focus on the municipality's Fresh Air camps, the harbour and the fishing industry and notable persons.

"We'll be looking at 15 different Fresh Air camps that have historically been located in the RM of Gimli," said Johannson. "Five of them are still operating — Camp Arnes, Ukrainian Park Camp, the Gimli Bible Camp, [Camp] Rusalka and [Camp] Massad. And they're all functioning very well and doing very good work."

Johannson said the RM has been a "centre for Fresh Air camps in Manitoba" with no other region coming close to the numbers Gimli has had.

"The purpose of the camps, generally, was to provide a beach experience, fresh air and healthy food for underprivileged kids from Winnipeg," he said. "And also they had a religious and cultural function."

Some of the camps still have outstanding historical structures.

"For example, the Ukrainian Park Camp has two beautiful heritage buildings: the Blessed Virgin Mary Church ... built about 1950. And it's



A 1956 photo shows whitefish boats on Lake Winnipeg being towed north to their fishing ground.

a remarkable heritage building," he said. "And it also has the House of Grace — that is probably the best stacked-wall building in Manitoba."

The booklet on the Lake Winnipeg fishery and Gimli Harbour will include information on fish plants, feature famous boats such as the Goldfield and the Lord Selkirk and contain stories of prominent fisher families.

Johannson said the harbour has been the "focal point of Gimli, probably the most historic centre of the community."

Coun. Thora Palson, who sits on the fishing booklet sub-committee, said, "Part of what we're trying to capture ... is the stories."

Johannson showed council a number of historical photos that will form part of the booklets. He said the harbourmaster provided researchers with a lot of documents and information.

Coun. Danny Luprypa said the photographs brought back memories. As a child, he used to go down to the dock where the BC Packers Plant used



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Wally Johannson of the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee provided Gimli council with an overview of three historical works the committee is currently working on.

to be and swim in the lake.

"We used to take the cheeks out of fish heads," he said.

The notable persons booklet will contain biographies and photographs of about 50 people who have lived — or live — in the RM and have contributed in some way at the local, provincial, national and international level.

Johannson said the names are not yet available as the committee is still in the process of gathering and considering submissions.

MHAC has hired David Butterfield, Ed Ledohowski and David McGuinness, former staff members of the provincial Historic Resources Branch, to help write the booklets. MHAC has also hired Gimli filmmaker Andy Blicq.

"Andy Blicq, last year, won a national award for the best documentary film produced in Canada," said Johannson. "So we're getting a national-class man in Andy."

Part of the funding for the project has been provided by the province (\$14,500) and by the municipality.

"I'd like to thank the council for the \$5,000 grant," said Johannson. "We couldn't function without it."

The booklets on the camps and the fishery will be completed in time for Canada's 150th birthday next July. The notable persons booklet is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

"They're pros. They're really good at what they do."

Police officers recognized with Excellence In Law Enforcement Awards

Submitted

Nineteen Manitoba police officers received Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards for outstanding contributions to their police services and communities, Justice Minister Heather Stefanson announced Nov. 25.

"These officers have served the citizens of Manitoba with honour and distinction, demonstrating leadership and a commitment to excellence in policing and law enforcement," said Stefanson. "Their passion and dedication, combined with their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect others, make Manitoba a safer place for all of us to live. I congratulate each of the officers being recognized with this award."

The awards were presented yesterday evening at the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police Excellence in Policing Awards dinner. This year's recipients are:

• Det. Sgt. Michelle Bacik, Winnipeg Police Service (WPS);

• Sgt. Brian Brewer, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP);

• Sgt. Larry Dalman, RCMP;

• Const. Bruce Ewanyshyn, Brandon Police Service (BPS);

- Staff Sgt. Lee Fortin, RCMP;
- Staff Sgt. Andrew Golebioski, WPS;
- Const. Paul Human, RCMP;
- Sgt. Cheryl Larson, WPS;
- Staff Sgt. Rob Lasson, RCMP;

- Insp. Kevin Lewis, RCMP;
- Sgt. Lisa Mandziak, WPS;
- Det. Sgt. Shaunna Neufeld, WPS;
- Const. Jay Palmer, BPS;
- Sgt. Nicholas Paulet, WPS;
- Sgt. Shawn Pike, WPS;
- Const. Scott Robinson, RCMP;
- Sgt. Bettina Schaible, RCMP;
- Sgt. Milo Thompson, RCMP; and
- Const. Brad Wall, WPS.

"The efforts of the men and women recognized with this award are sometimes taken for granted, but when you see their hard work on a daily basis, it is nothing short of amazing," said Ian Grant, president, Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police. "They are involved in dedicated investigations that may result in real personal safety risks, in community-oriented crime prevention and engagement efforts, and countless hours of volunteer service. On behalf of all of our member agencies, we congratulate this year's recipients for all they do for Manitobans."

The Excellence in Law Enforcement Awards were established by the provincial government to recognize extraordinary efforts by police officers in Manitoba. Award recipients are selected by a committee representing the Brandon Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Winnipeg Police Service and Manitoba Justice.

Battling phosphorus in wastewater a challenge for some municipalities (Part 3)

By Patricia Barrett

The considerable financial cost to municipalities that have to purchase alum to lower phosphorus levels in their lagoons or wastewater treatment plants to meet a new provincial regulation was discussed in Part 2 of Battling phosphorus (see the Nov. 17 edition of the *Express*).

The environmental impact of alum is considered in Part 3.

Alum (aluminum sulfate) is a chemical that binds phosphorus. Municipalities across Manitoba use it to lower phosphorus concentrations in their wastewater, which is eventually discharged into streams and lakes.

"It grabs it and sucks the phosphate into a bubble and it sits on the bottom [of the lagoon]," said Jason Comeau, RM of Bifrost-Riverton's manager of public works. "And it doesn't do anything else. It just sits there. Once that bubble is full of phosphate, it won't collect any more. And it won't break down."

Many lagoons in Manitoba were built in the 1960s and 1970s, according to a 2016 article titled "Extending the life of lagoons helps municipal budgets" in the May 14 issue of *Environmental Science & Engineering Magazine*. That means they've reached their capacity and need to be expanded.

"Over time, accumulated sludge can reduce the hydraulic capacity of the lagoon. Municipalities often look at adding an additional cell, or removing accumulated sludge as options for regaining lost capacity. However, these options can be expensive."

Bifrost-Riverton built a new cell (or pond) in 2012. In October of this year, it found phosphorus levels slightly exceeding the new provincial limit of 1 mg/L, which necessitated a \$4,000 purchase on alum (see Part 1 in the Nov. 10 edition of the *Express*).

Comeau said the municipality could be looking at spending up to \$15,000 on alum in the future to treat all its cells, plus shouldering additional costs to deal with sludge buildup and removal.

"[If] we did an alum treatment year after year, after year, after year," said Comeau, "I would think the bottom of our lagoon is going to be saturated with alum and phosphate."

The only option is to dump wastewater sludge into an approved landfill site. Hauling it away"is"going to cost us lots of money," said the RM's CAO Cindy Stansell.

In 2015, the City of Winnipeg, through its Biosolids Application Program (WINGRO), deposited 100 per cent of its biosolids at the Brady Road Resource Management Facility and will continue to do so in 2016, according to a 2015 compliance report.

The city is undertaking a two-year composting pilot project to reduce biosolids landfilling by constructing a digestion facility. The estimated cost for its biosolids projects is \$247 million, which will result in increased sewer rates.

To build such a facility is beyond the wherewithal of rural municipalities.

The RM of Gimli deposits its wastewater biosolids once a year on farmland near its Industrial Park, west of Highway 8, according to CAO Joann King.

Bifrost-Riverton is questioning whether dumping sludge containing alum onto cropland or into landfill sites will cause environmental damage and whether alum is also entering the lake with discharged wastewater.

"It seems to me that a solution ... to alleviating one problem [phosphorus] is adding another," said Reeve Harold Foster. "And I think the other problem is alum. I think once you get the plugs of alum in the lake — our problem right now is phosphorus — is ... [alum] the next problem?"

According to scientist Dr. Eva Pip, who has published extensively on a range of water quality issues and environmental threats, alum is not the "next" problem but one that has been with us for years.

"It actually is an old environmental threat whose risks have been known for decades," said Dr. Pip, who taught at the University of Winnipeg."There was a lot of research on it when acid rain was in the public eye. ... Somehow, this issue faded away and we don't hear as much about it now, but it is still there, probably because there



The environmental threat of wastewater treated with alum to reduce phosphorus concentrations has been with us for decades but has faded from public view.

are so many newer environmental threats that have currently captured the public's attention: climate change, [the] oil industry ... mercury."

Humans are exposed to aluminum in a number of ways and that children have "much higher" absorption rates than adults, she said. Deodorants, canned soft drinks, food packaging, cookware and utensils, preservatives in vaccines, antacids, buffered aspirins, powdered food mixes and overthe-counter diarrhea medications all contain aluminum.

Foods containing citrate (e.g., women's calcium supplements), malic and lactic acids, along with copper plumbing, enhance the ability of aluminum to leach, she said.

Research has shown how it affects living organisms.

"We know that aluminum affects human and animal health," said Dr. Pip. "It accumulates in the brain — where it has been implicated in neurofibrillary tangles and Alzheimer — and bones. It increases the output of adrenal hormones [and] it impairs kidney function. ... Epidemiologically, there are more cases of Alzheimer-type dementias where aluminum concentrations in drinking water are higher."

And the disposal of alum-infused sludge in landfills or on cropland can

threaten groundwater, which many communities rely on for drinking water.

"Wastewater treatment sludge contains thousands and thousands of substances, and nobody ever knows what is really in it," she said. "If aluminum has been used in the treatment process, there will be aluminum in the solids portion. Because there are so many unknown materials in the solids (pesticides, pharmaceuticals, all kinds of heavy metals, hormone disruptors, flame retardants, etc.), it is extremely irresponsible to use biosolids/sludge on cropland. Places like Sweden have outlawed it for years."

Although landfill sites for sludge have to be built to a certain standards, they are not failsafe.

"Putting it in separate disposal sites is only as good as the containment: landfills leach to groundwater, and during times of flooding, to surface water. Aluminum is a basic chemical element — it is indestructible," said Dr. Pip.

There are alternatives to reducing phosphorus levels in wastewater, with which some municipalities have been experimenting. See Part 4 of Battling phosphorus in an upcoming edition of the *Express*.

James Beddome reconfirmed as Manitoba Green Party Leader

Submitted

The leadership of James Beddome was unanimously reconfirmed by Green Party of Manitoba members at their annual general meeting Nov. 26. The election saw some new faces added to the party's governing Council and the retirement of others. "I'm very optimistic about the Green Party's future in Manitoba," Beddome said. "We came out of last year's election stronger than at any time in our history and we have attracted many new faces to our party and our Council."

"I'm honoured to have been chosen

to be President of the Green Party of Manitoba," said incoming president Dirk Hoeppner."The new Council has a good blend of new and experienced members; I expect we will work hard and achieve great things."

Here is the new Green Party of Manitoba Council: leader: James Bed-

dome, president Dirk Hoeppner, treasurer Brenda Forman, membership coordinator Michael Cardillo, election readiness coordinator Kate Storey, secretary James Peters, members-atlarge David Nickarz, Pamela Sanford, John Redekopp, Jeff Buhse, Dwight Hartfield and Kelly Whelan-Enns.



Ice Dawgs improving as they prepare to host westerns

By Brian Bowman

The Arborg Ice Dawgs had mixed results in a pair of Keystone Junior Hockey League games last weekend.

After blitzing Fisher River 13-1 on Friday, Arborg hosted Selkirk the next night and lost 3-1 to the South Division leaders.

"We didn't have our best game yesterday, truth be told," said Ice Dawgs' head coach Cody Didychuk Sunday afternoon."There were a lot of areas where we could have been better, especially on special teams.

"Our power play and penalty kill didn't have a great night."

After Arborg's Colton Davies scored a shorthanded goal midway in the first period, the Fishermen received power-play goals from Auzzie Loewen and Milan Horanski.

Horanski then scored his second goal of the game in the third period, assisted by Josh Poponick, to seal the win.

Selkirk outshot Arborg 48-31 as Travis Schalk earned the win in goal. Giving up that many shots in a team's home rink, isn't exactly a good sign but Didychuk wasn't too concerned with the high total.

"It wasn't as though they were quality shots," he noted. "A lot of the shots were from the outside. We did a pretty good job of clearing the way for our goalie to see most of them."

The Ice Dawgs started the weekend with a great effort in the 12-goal home win over the Hawks. According to the KJHL website, Arborg was 7-for-14 with the man advantage

"Everything seemed to be going in for us," Didychuk said."We were generating a lot offensively."

Arborg scored early and often in this one, building period leads of 4-0 and 9-0. The Ice Dawgs outshot the Hawks by a whopping 78-29 margin.

Jordan Kristjanson led Arborg with three goals and an assist while Dylan Furgalo had a goal and three helpers.

Also scoring for Arborg were Ryan Pochailo, Aaron Kristjanson, Karson Collins, Corbin Pasternak,



Arborg captain Ryan Pochailo scored for the Ice Dawgs in their 13-1 win over the Fisher River Hawks Friday night.

Spencer Kilbrei, Braydon Chwartacki, Clint Torfason, Brett Goertzen and Colton Davies.

Nathan Friesen made 28 saves for the win. Joshua Beaulieu scored Fisher River's lone goal in the third period. Fisher River hosted Arborg last night but no score was available at press time. The Hawks will visit the Peguis Juniors tonight (8 p.m.) and then will host Norway House on Sunday (2 p.m.).

Arborg, meanwhile, will travel to Lundar to play the Falcons Friday (8 p.m.) and then will host St. Malo on Saturday (7:30 p.m.).

The Ice Dawgs will be looking to improve on their

7-6 record this month as they prepare to host the westerns in 2017. Arborg would like to see that record improve in the next several months. Didychuk has already seen his team get much better since the

start of the season. "There's definitely a lot more pressure on the team," Didychuk said of hosting westerns. "And that's good. I'm trying to put pressure on them and I know that they're putting pressure on themselves. "We're going to keep getting better and we want to earn our way into westerns. They don't just want to be the team that hosts westerns."

Peguis enjoying home-ice advantage

By Brian Bowman

With five consecutive home games to end November, the Peguis Juniors have been getting used to playing on home ice.

They are also getting used to winning.

The Juniors won their second straight home game after a 6-4 win over the Cross Lake Islanders in Peguis on Saturday evening.

Waylon Neault and Tyrome Spence-Bair each led Peguis with two goals while Keesin Richard had a goal and two assists. Tristan Starr scored the Juniors' other goal. Quinton Flett finished the game with three assists. Treymian Trout (two), Tie Braun and Brandon McKay replied for Cross Lake. Dray Flett made 32 saves for the win.

Peguis (9-4) hosts Fisher River (4-7) tonight at 8 p.m. and then will have winless Norway House visit on Saturday. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Lundar Falcons, meanwhile, had a solid effort in defeating the Warriors 5-3 in St. Malo on Friday. St. Malo took a quick 2-0 lead on goals by Tyrel Bueckert and Brett Jocelyn but Lundar tied the score at 2-2 before the first period ended with power-play goals from Shayne Desjarlais and Dennon Sichewski. Jack Clinton and Sichewski scored for the Falcons in the second period and then St. Malo's Jared Hunter and Lundar's Craig Cane traded goals in the third.

Caine's goal was an empty-net one with six seconds left in the game.

Braydon Weatherburn was, once again, solid in goal. He made 37 saves for the victory.

Lundar (6-7) will host Arborg (7-6) Friday (8 p.m.) and then will take on the league-leading Fishermen (11-5) Sunday (7:30 p.m.) at the Selkirk Rec Complex.



Nedotiafko named MFLM rookie of the year

By Brian Bowman

Interlake Thunder running back Colton Nedotiafko was recently named the Midget Football League of Manitoba's rookie of the year.

But from the Thunder's very first offensive snap this past season, he hardly looked like a rookie at all.

Nedotiafko plowed his way to 649 yards rushing and three touchdowns on just 113 carries — and average of 5.7 yards per rushing attempt.

"It feels really good to get rewarded for working really hard throughout the whole season," said Nedotiafko, who lives in Fraserwood, last Saturday.

Nedotiafko beat out St. Vital Mustangs' running back Breydon Stubbs for the rookie of the year award.

Nedotiafko, 15, is a real sturdy 5-foot-8 and 200 pounds. He is one of those backs that uses his leverage to his advantage and is real hard to bring down.

"I've always been more of a power back, going up the middle and breaking tackles," he said. "But growing up, I've always been a sprinter, too."

Nedotiafko has two more years of eligibility left in the MFLM and will, without question, get much, much better during that time. He improved tremendously over this past season and would like to play either at the junior or university level.

"My first (Midget) games were a little nerve wracking because the other guys were bigger and stronger than my last Bantam year," Nedotiafko admitted, noting his goal is to rush for a 1,000 yards next season.

"So, it was a lot more different and challenging." Nedotiafko, who was also selected to the MFLM

all-rookie team and was a league all-star, made a lot of people take notice at the Thunder's training camp.

"From Day 1, everyone was impressed with Colton's physical stature," said Thunder head coach Kris Johnston. "He brings a great physical presence to the field, he plays fast, and is incredibly strong.

"That said, it was his football intelligence and dedication to bettering his fundamentals that truly made him great in 2016."

Johnston could not have asked for a harder-working – or more dedicated - player.

"Colton is a very hard-working football player, who showed tremendous dedication to the team this season," Johnston said. "He didn't miss a single practice all season and even when he suffered an injury late in the year, he still attended practice to participate in any way possible."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Colton Nedotiafko was recently named the Midget Football League of Manitoba's rookie of the year.

Lightning zap Northstars

By Brian Bowman

After losing a pair of games to the last-place Northstars to begin November, the Interlake Lightning made sure to exact some revenge on Norman to end the month.

Interlake will head into December on a winning note after pounding Norman 7-2 in Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League play last Sunday afternoon in Teulon.

James Maxwell scored a first-period goal for the Lightning and then Keenan McPherson, Jack Einarson, Corbin Mariash, and Codey Behun potted goals in the middle frame. Behun's goal came on the power play late in the period.

Mariash and Behun then scored for Interlake in the third. Jerome Linklater and Derian Garrioch replied for Norman.

Riley Buhay made 40 saves for the win.

On Friday evening, the Lightning lost 6-1 at home to the Winnipeg

Thrashers.

Winnipeg, which held period leads of 1-0 and 3-0, broke the game wide open with three goals in the first 13:42 of the third period.

Dylan Burton had two of those goals to go along with an assist while Ryan Gottfried had a goal and three helpers. Trent Halfdanson, Reid Robertson and Carter Ives also scored for the Thrashers.

Mariash scored Interlake's lone goal late in the third, assisted by Derek Mathez.

Adam Swan made 41 saves for the Lightning.

Interlake, now 6-11-0-2, will play the struggling Eastman Selects (9-12) at the Sun Gro Centre in Beausejour Friday (8 p.m.) and then will host the fourth-place Brandon Wheat Kings (13-5-0-0-1) on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) in Teulon.

The league-leading Winnipeg Wild (17-3) will then visit Teulon next Wednesday. Puck drop is 7:30 p.m.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER The Lightning's Shea Gorenstein battles for the puck with a Winnipeg Thrasher's player Friday night.

Thunder announces winners at awards banquet

By Natasha Tersigni

The Interlake Thunder had a chance to recognize the outstanding achievements of their athletes from this past season at the organization's awards banquet last Saturday in Teulon.

Capping off an exciting season, including their first-ever junior girls' provincial championship, the Interlake Thunder Football Club had lots to celebrate.

While awards were handed out to

recognize the success of individual come a long way since 2011 when we players and teams, Interlake Thunder president Joel McDonald took the opportunity to recognize the progress that has been made in the six short years since the club was formed.

"We have come a long way and we have only just begun. We have come a long way since 2006 when Mitch (Obach) first approached the Stonewall Collegiate to resurrect the Stonewall Rams football team. We have

The Bantam award winners, left to right, presented by head coach Ed

deLaroque: Thunder Impact Player Brayden Beers, Most Outstanding Lineman Andrew Heald, Most Outstanding Defensive Player Connor Henry and Most Outstanding Offensive Player Carlin Doak.



Senior girls' head coach Joel McDonald, left, recognized Most Outstanding Defensive Player Isabelle McDonald, Thunder Impact Player Paige Kenny, Most Outstanding Offensive Player Maddy Siwicki, Most Outstanding Lineman Sydney Duck-McFadyen and offensive assistant coach Julie Sprague.



The Junior girls' award winners were presented by head coach Derek Charison to Most Outstanding Offensive Player Zoe Ougthon, Most Outstanding Defensive Player Madison Charison and Thunder Impact Player Bailey Prystupa. Missing from the photo is Most Outstanding Lineman Zaida Thompson.

transformed the Stonewall Rams into the Interlake Thunder Football Club and entered our Midget team into the Midget Football League of Manitoba," said McDonald.

"We are now one of the largest football clubs in the province and while it sometimes feels like we have to battle we have become a respected member of the football community."

During the evening, the Atom, Pee Wee, Junior girls, Senior girls, Bantam and Midget teams recognized their most outstanding offensive, defensive and lineman players. As well, the Thunder Impact Player award was presented to one player on each team to recognizes how that player contributes to their team in more than just athletic abilities, including team building efforts and mentoring other players.



The Atom boys' award winners, presented by John Montgomery, were back row: Most Outstanding Defensive Player Sean Sevillano, Outstanding Most Lineman Matteus Law; front row: Thunder Impact Player Lance Hudson and Most Outstanding Offensive Player Aiden Will.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NATASHA TERSIGNI

Award winners for the Thunder's Midget team: Back row left to right: head coach Kris Johnston, Thunder Impact Player Kevin Lister, Most Outstanding Special Teams Player Alex France, Most Valuable Player Thomas Dunlop, Most Outstanding Lineman Joe Rosser, Charlie Cooke Leadership Award winner Tristan Kisilowsky, Most Outstanding Defensive Player Austin deLaroque; front row: Most Outstanding Offensive Player Colton Nedotiafko and Most Outstanding Rookie Tanner McCallen.



Head coach Mitch Obach, right, recognized Pee Wee boys' players Most Outstanding Offensive Player Tyson Wyryha, Most Outstanding Lineman Keenan Karish and Most Outstanding Defensive Player Bailey Prystupa. Missing from photo is Thunder Impact Player Jackson Doak.

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Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board

Once again the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board is preparing Christmas hampers. To request a Christmas hamper, please contact Sandy at 204-376-2926 or Brenda at 204-376-3585. The deadline for requests is Thursday, December 15th and the Christmas hampers will be delivered on Tuesday, December 20th.

Monetary donations can be mailed to Box 185 Arborg ROC 0A0, or may be deposited at the Arborg branches of Noventis Credit Union or CIBC. Nonperishable food items can be dropped off at participating local businesses, churches and schools.

Thank you for your support.

FARMERS & RANCHERS HERD DISPERSAL SALES Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. **Ashern Auction Mart**

1) Complete Herd Dispersal for: Jo-Ann & Fred Gittoes (204) 449-2056 Mostly red-white face Hereford cows & heifers to start calving first week of March 135 Cows & 25 Heifers 4 – 3 yrs old Hereford Bulls & 1 Yearling Hereford Bull Herd has been on full health program.

2) Complete Herd Dispersal for: Marvin Bednarek (204) 449-2383 40 Red Angus cross cows – Bred Charolais (Triple "C" Bulls) To start calving March 1 Full Health program w/scour guard

3) Cow & Heifer Sale for: Ray Bittner (204) 768-0010 20 Cows Red & Red/White face bred Horned Hereford bulls 13 Heifers Red/white face - bred Red Angus To start calving March 15 Full Health program

4) Complete Herd Dispersal 37 cows, ½ are mostly Charolois up to 6 years old; 1/2 are mostly Red over 6 years old Bred to Charolais bull Full herd health program

5) Bred Heifers for:

Keith Warrener 75 mixed heifers bred to Red Angus Bulls turned out June 1, 2016 Herd health program

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For further information please contact: LeAnne Price at leanne@aurorarecoverycentre.com



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

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

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI BY-LAW NO. 16-0015 Being an amendment to the Gimli Zoning By-law No. 11-0013, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION:	RM of Gimli Council Chambers 62 - 2 nd Avenue, Gimli, MB	
DATE & TIME:	December 14, 2016 7:00 pm	MG
AFFECTED AREA:	Pt of SW 18-19-4 EPM, Being Pcl A – Plan 30465, Pt. of Pcl. B – Plan 23108, and Pt. of Pcl. B – Plan 31970.	Gimli Alrport
GENERAL INTENT:	To rezone an area in the Gimli Business Park, from "AL" Agricultural Limited Zone to partly "MG" Industrial General Zone and partly "AD" Aviation Development Zone.	Pan 50 312 2100 Pi Pi B 3120 Pi Pi Pi B 3120 Pi Pi P
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:	Nancy Thom, CAO/Development Officer Eastern Interlake Planning District 62 – 2 nd Avenue, Box 1758 Gimli, MB R00 Ph: 204-642-5478 Fax: 204-642-4061 Email: <u>eipd@mymts.net</u> web: <u>www.interl</u>	

A copy of the proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from upon request.

Please Note: E.I.P.D. recommends that property owner's notify lessee/renter if applicable.

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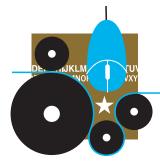
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