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A dear friend

EXPRESS PHOTO BY DONNA GISLASON

Les Gislason and granddaughter Ellis Lee had a surprise visitor over the holidays. The tame white-tailed deer was quite curious and even posed for a selfie for Ellis to share with her friends and family in England. The Gislason's have been living at their home in Arborg since 1976 and have never had a deer visit.

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Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce chair offers New Year reflections

By Autumn Fehr

For the Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce, 2022 was a busy year coming out of the pandemic, with plenty of significant projects to look forward to in 2023.

Chair Richard Chomokovski, owner of RC Drilling, said eight significant projects they've been working on will continue to evolve in 2023.

"Our community basically stood still through COVID, and so did the chamber. The chamber didn't do very much at all during COVID," Chomokovski said.

In 2022, after successfully initiating a Training Centre in Arborg, the Chamber continues to support the Centre in cooperation with Arborg and Fieldstone Ventures Education in Ashern, he said.

"Arborg has expanded the centre. They built a basement, and they put one of the buildings on top of a basement, so now that gives us another 30 per cent more area for training, which is enough."

In addition, one of the chamber's main priorities is a housing development to increase their workers.

"We can't get people in because we

don't have housing facilities. Arborg people come from Gimli, Inwood, Stonewall, Fisher Branch, and some of the communities to the north, like Peguis and Fisher River Cree Nation, to come to work in this area, but we need housing. I've had many meetings about housing here, and there's going to be many meetings to get past this and get housing started here," Chomokovski said.

As well they have been working on getting a larger natural gas supply, as Arborg's is almost depleted.

"We only have room for a certain amount of housing, and we're out of natural gas. The natural gas line that comes from Gimli to Arborg is incapable of delivering the gas required for this region," Chomokovski said.

The chamber has also been working on improving the internet with a company that's launched fibre optics, which they have been pursuing.

Another project that has been underway for some time and is now completed is a new 3km road connecting Fisher River First Nation and Hwy 326.

Other highlights included a suc-

cessful career day at the Arborg High School in June, with 12 local businesses from Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton. Students from grades 9 to 12 attended Arborg, Riverton, and Okno.

With multiple successful projects underway and continuing into the New Year, the biggest challenge Chomokovski faced was getting people together to advance on the housing development, he said.

"It took a long time, it seemed, for us to get out of COVID, and now we are starting to get back into our normal routine, but COVID just sucked us dry. We used up all our funding and had to start over after COVID. It takes time," Chomokovski said.

In the upcoming year, the chamber will continue to work on these major projects to create a solid future and meet the needs of the area.

"We have more members now than we ever did before. We have 55 members, and by the end of February, I want us to have 75, and before, we only had around 40."

Chomokovski's No. 1 priority for 2023 is to get the housing development going by the spring to some ex-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce chair Richard Chomokovski.

tent.

"We have just started, so we must keep on and make sure this plays out. These are five-year plans, and there will be new ones coming up. There's no doubt about it."

Canada welcomes historic number of newcomers in 2022

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Submitted by Government of Canada

Canada has experienced one of the fastest recoveries from the pandemic, thanks in large part to our approach to immigration. Newcomers enrich our communities, and contribute to our economy by working, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. Recognizing their value, the Government of Canada planned to welcome 431,645 new permanent residents in 2022.

On Tuesday, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced Canada has reached that target, surpassing our previous record from 2021. This represents the largest number of people ever welcomed in a year, in Canadian history. Prior to setting a new record for admissions in 2021, the last time Canada welcomed such a large numbers of newcomers was in 1913.

This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the employees of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), who continue to set the bar higher for processing. In 2022, IRCC processed approximately 5.2 million applications for permanent residence, temporary residence and citizenship. That's double the number of applications pro-

cessed in 2021.

As we plan to continue to welcome historic numbers of newcomers, IRCC has added resources, embraced new technology, streamlined processing, and brought more processes online. These changes are all important improvements to Canada's immigration system, which will position us well for the future. As the Government of Canada focuses on addressing the acute labour market shortages we are facing today and building a strong economy into the future, one thing remains certain: immigration is a key part of the solution.

Quick facts:

- The number of permanent residents Canada welcomes each year is based on the annual Immigration Levels Plan that is tabled in Parliament.

- The 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan was tabled on February 14, 2022 and the 2023-2025 Immigration Levels Plan was tabled on November 1, 2022.

- Immigration accounts for almost 100% of Canada's labour force growth. Roughly 75% of Canada's population growth comes from immigration, mostly in the economic category. By

Continued on page 3

Arborg businesses spread the joy of the season with gift certificate draw

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg's business community certainly spread the joy of the Christmas season and encouraged people to shop locally through a gift certificate draw that saw the winners walk away with quite a haul.

Susan Bauernhuber of the family-run business The Watering Whole, which sells beer and wine kits, bottled water and other products, said 29 businesses generously donated gift certificates for the local shopping initiative.

"A couple of businesses got together to discuss what we could do to have a shop local in town. This is what we came up with," said Bauernhuber before Christmas. "I went around and asked businesses if they'd be willing to give two \$25 gift certificates. We had a great response with 29 businesses joining in."

Because of the large number of businesses participating in the event, Bau-

ernhuber said the organizers decided to draw two customer names, with each person receiving \$675 worth of gift certificates.

Alanna Jacobson from Arborg and Christine Peters from Fisher were the lucky winners.

Bauernhuber said the organizers had planned to hold the draw at the outdoor events stage near the Arborg Library, with Christmas music and a visit from Santa, but Mother Nature "didn't work with us."

"The winners were drawn at the Interlake Co-op store," she said. "We pulled a customer aside and with his eyes blindfolded, he drew two names for us."

Bauernhuber said because of the short timeframe to organize and launch the gift card giveaway, she didn't make it to all the businesses in the areas. But they did indicate they'd be willing to take part in next year's event.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN BAUERNHUBER
Christine Peters was one of the winners of gift certificates totalling a whopping \$675. Twenty-nine Arborg and area businesses took part in the gift certificate draw for customers.

> NEWCOMERS, FROM PG. 2

2036, immigrants will represent up to 30% of Canada's population, compared with 20.7% in 2011.

- Canada's aging population means that the worker-to-retiree ratio is expected to shift from 7 to 1 50 years ago to 2 to 1 by 2035.

- During the 2021 Census, nearly 1 in 4 people counted were or had been a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada, the highest proportion since Confederation and the largest proportion among G7 countries.

- Just over 1.3 million new immigrants settled permanently in Canada

from 2016 to 2021, the highest number of recent immigrants recorded in a Canadian census.

- Immigrants account for 36% of physicians, 33% business owners with paid staff, and 41% of engineers.

- In the Fall Economic Statement, the government committed an additional \$50 million in 2022-23 for IRCC, to address ongoing application backlogs, speed up processing, and allow skilled newcomers to fill critical labour gaps faster.

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More Manitobans die from COVID mid-December; RSV outbreak in Stonewall PCH

By Patricia Barrett

A significant number of Manitobans succumbed to COVID in mid-December, and Canada's top doctor is urging Canadians to take precautions over the winter from several respiratory viruses currently circulating.

There were 26 more deaths from COVID, according to the provincial government's weekly respiratory surveillance report for the period Dec. 11-17 (Week 50).

There were 50 new hospitalizations for COVID of which 12 people were admitted to the intensive care unit. There were 59 hospitalizations with 15 ICU admissions reported the previous week.

There were 158 new COVID infections reported in Week 50. Provincial data are an undercount as the government restricts PCR testing and rapid antigen tests aren't tracked. There were 154 new cases reported the previous week.

The government stopped providing in its surveillance reports the names of personal care homes and hospitals experiencing COVID outbreaks.


There has been a total of 2,331 deaths from COVID in Manitoba as of Dec. 17, according to the federal government's COVID webpage. Across Canada 48,948 people have died so far.

There were 294 new cases of influenza A and zero cases of influenza B reported in Week 50 in Manitoba, as well as 48 new hospitalizations and 15 more deaths. There were 231 influenza A cases reported the previous week.


There has been a total of 2,206 cases of influenza A so far this season, with 478 hospitalizations and 37 deaths.

The number of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases shot up in Week 50 with 120 new detections. There were 82 detections reported the previous


Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses




Stay up to date with **vaccinations**




Pay attention to **public health** alerts and advice




Stay home if sick or experiencing symptoms, even if mild




Properly wear a **well-constructed, well-fitting mask** in indoor public settings



Improve indoor **ventilation**




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Public Health Agency of Canada

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PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

PHAC advises Canadians to stay up to date on vaccinations, stay home when feeling sick, wear a face mask in indoor public settings, improve indoor ventilation and practise good hand hygiene.

week.

The provincial government did not release a respiratory surveillance report on Dec 30. Its next report is scheduled for Jan. 6.

Other health news:

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority reported an RSV outbreak at Stonewall's Rosewood Personal Care Home (Shura Lane) on Dec. 22.

COVID outbreaks that the IERHA reported on Nov. 4 at the Selkirk Betel Personal Care Home, on Dec. 7 at Pinawa hospital, and on Dec 13 in the Rosewood Lodge Personal Care Home (Appleyard Bay) continue as of Dec. 24, according to its outbreak webpage.

-Canada's chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam said health care systems across the country continue to be "burdened" by the spread of respiratory viruses, and she urged people to wear a well fitted and well constructed face mask in indoor public spaces or crowded settings over the holiday

season.

-The World Health Organization said worldwide more than 3.7 million new cases of COVID were reported over the period Dec. 12-18, as well as over 10,400 new deaths, according to its weekly epidemiology update.

The region of the Americas (Canada, the U.S. and Central and South America) has the highest numbers of new deaths over the past reporting period. At the country level, Canada (250 deaths), the U.S. (2,658 deaths) and Brazil (1,133 deaths) have reported the highest numbers of new deaths. The region also has the highest number of cumulative deaths.

There have been more than 649 million cases of COVID and over 6.6 million deaths reported.

The WHO says omicron's BA.5 and descendant lineages continues to dominate globally. Six variants - BQ.1, BA.5 with mutations, BA2.75, XBB, BA4.6 and BA2.30.2 - are being monitored.

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY DONNA GISLASON

The Icelandic River Trail and ice surface were busy last Sunday with perfect conditions to enjoy the outdoors. Temperatures hovered around -6.6 degrees C. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: weather@expressweeklynews.ca.

Pharmacists Supporting Manitobans with their New Years' Resolutions to Quit Smoking

Submitted by Pharmacists Manitoba

Pharmacists Manitoba launched a Social Impact Bond with the Government of Manitoba in April 2022 referred to as "Quit Smoking With Your Manitoba Pharmacist." This initiative is also supported by Canada Life and ClaimSecure. The goal of the social impact bond is to help 4500 Manitobans become smoke free by March 31, 2025.

"With 2023 around the corner, we

Continued on page 14

Lakeshore School Division Superintendent of HR reflects on New Year

By Autumn Fehr

Happy New Year from the Lakeshore School Division!

For Superintendent of HR, Policy and Alternative Program Director Donald Nikkel, 2022 brought many successes to the school division, navigating out of pandemic times.

"The last few years have certainly been very dynamic. We've dealt with a few curveballs coming at us, especially with COVID. One of the things we have enjoyed over the last several months has been seeing the return of many of the things we always knew were really important but never actually had the opportunity to appreciate as we have right now. The return of group works this fall in our classrooms, sports back up and running, music, and extracurricular activities - It's wonderful to see these things back up and running," said Nikkel.

One of the achievements that stands out to Nikkel from the 2022 school year was the adaptation of the new Indigenous education policy framework, Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With. The framework was launched in the spring to expand the Elder and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative, with a provincial focus on Indigenous ways of knowing.

"We've been thinking a lot as a division in terms of how we implement that framework in Lakeshore and how do we make that our own," said Nikkel.

Last year there were some precursors to this new framework with an 'on the land' program.

"We know many of our students here have connections to the land. That could be through hunting, trapping, farming or even going for a walk in the forest on the weekend," said Nikkel.

This fall, they hired a land-based coordinator through a provincial grant to work with the division's schools to implement land-based learning.

"There are so many things that can be learnt from the land as a teacher. I think there are pieces there that are really difficult to teach otherwise... Also, the respect that comes from being on the land and getting to see it through different perspectives and different ways of knowing," said Nikkel.

In 2022, the division continued its focus on literacy and numeracy, which have been its main goals over the last few years.

"Part of that is getting students learning together again. Over COVID, students were certainly learning,

and they were still focused on those overall goals, but it's great to see that group work component come back in, in a way that wasn't really possible before," said Nikkel.

Along with these successes, the division faced challenges related to the pandemic, which caused challenges to learning.

"Around this time last year, we were thrown the Omicron curveball. We ended up having a brief period of remote learning after Christmas break. This fall, we've seen more illnesses than we would normally have in our buildings regarding the flu and colds. Those have certainly been a challenge in terms of being able to work our way through that. Hopefully, we see the end of the tunnel, but it's certainly been a challenge for learning over the past year," said Nikkel.

Looking ahead to 2023, the Lakeshore School Division's strategic planning with its new board will begin in January.

Every four years, the board looks at where we are going as a division, what we will be focusing on moving forward, and what our local priorities are, said Nikkel.

On the horizon, the school division will continue to work on the pieces that have been put off due to the pan-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lakeshore School Division Superintendent of HR Donald Nikkel

demic.

"I would hope that we can move forward with those core pieces around literacy, numeracy, and Indigenous ways of knowing. I also hope we're able to continue developing those other pieces that were much harder to develop during COVID, such as citizenship, working with others, and teamwork. I think getting those things back up and running is absolutely critical," said Nikkel.

"Coming into 2023, there's still that collective excitement as a school system that we are back at these things, and it's wonderful."

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Laws need to change to adapt to new face of violence

The news from across the country and the violence is alarming. Police say that the 8 teenage girls who murdered a vulnerable man in Toronto, met over social media. As information becomes public knowledge we must ask ourselves why and what happened in their lives that created the mindset to think violence was

something they wanted to do, to target, hunting a vulnerable person. Is this the definition of second-degree murder?

From my perspective this cold-blooded calculated attack of a vulnerable person is exactly like the recent tactics of serial killer Jeremy Skibicki in Winnipeg. He was also hunting for vulnerable people, Indigenous women at homeless shelters. What did the parents know about their own teenage children, what they were planning? This is not just a one time event, it is happening too often for leaders and government to

act now.

There has to be serious consequences for this type of methodical cold-blooded murder including raising the ring leaders to adult court. The practice of hiding the identities of 'near adults' is out dated and a carry-over from a time when we had much less violent crime and serves little purpose in today's society.

If the creators of social media are so skilled at using algorithms to detect patterns for the purpose of profit then they should be able to create algorithms to protect the public from potential violent criminals who meet

online, or threaten people on line such the Toronto condo mass murder. I ask, how much longer, how many more victims before laws catch up. The general public are feeling that the police and the courts can longer protect them. Both the gun man in Vancouver who killed Stephanie Foster and recently in Toronto (condo) both had multiple restraining orders against them. Clearly our police need more resources and, our laws need to change to adapt to the new face of violence.

- Sherry Benson-Podolchuk
RCMP (retired)

Province gets failing grade from commercial fishers

Follow up from "Provincial government's water management strategy gets failing grade from critics" by Patricia Barrett published in the *Express Weekly News* Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022.

For the past seven years that you've been in power your government has accomplished absolutely and completely nothing on water protection. I am also completely unimpressed

by the Provincial government's water management "strategic blame game" narrative that comes across as an attempt by the government to shield itself from failure by shifting responsibility onto others. The strategy alludes to other jurisdictions — and Manitobans themselves — that will ultimately be responsible for the strategy's failure if they don't support it and implement its actions, which the government has yet to lay out. This government will say anything at all to not take responsibility,

There are no concrete actions associated with the Provincial govern-

ment's water management "strategy". This strategy charts a course for water that panders to our economic and social "needs" during an existential crisis that threatens the environment of entire planet. It is too little and too late. We already had lots of "strategy" under the previous governments through the decades while downstream we have watched Manitoba's water completely ruined and turned into one big sewage lagoon, a contaminated flood plain and an agricultural chemical poison dump. Over 50 per cent of the poison is from outside Manitoba while you sit on your "strategy". The time for compromise is long past.

I have been commercially fishing for over 70 years on Lake Winnipeg and during that time I have been a witness to the lake's steady decline, so I am fully aware of what's happening to water quality in the lake and I am not impressed with the Conservatives' track record on "protecting" it with words and no action. More strategies and less action have already half-killed Lake Winnipeg. Why you would suggest that the "remarkable water resources that define Manitoba" can be fixed with words without action makes no sense at all to those of us downstream who are now defined by the disastrous results of politics and gamesmanship exacerbated by doing absolutely nothing except talking our way of life to death.

It is also true that almost 50 per cent of the poison is from within Manitoba. There are things the government can do to stop the further degradation of the lake: for starters deal with the wastewater and raw sewage discharged from Winnipeg. I'm tired of waiting for the government to reduce the nutrients it releases from its North End Wastewater Treatment Plant. The time for compromise is

long past.

For example, raising awareness of the frequent and extensive algae blooms occurring on Lake Winnipeg does not fix the problem despite the fact that "table-talk" is far less costly and makes everyone think they are doing something while the problem worsens downstream. I want government to get on the city to fix its combined sewers, which discharge raw waste and nutrients straight into rivers that flow to the lake. Giving the

"Capital Region" autonomy and even more power to ignore us downstream does nothing to accomplish this. Why is the city allowed to keep on doing what it has been doing? They can't keep doing this.

Who is running this province? Manitobans need to know if the City of Winnipeg is going to keep on dumping pollutants in the rivers that feed our lakes and provide food and water for us all.

The Province of Manitoba is supposed to be monitoring polluters, yet about four years ago the government's then sustainable development minister Rochelle Squires had withdrawn Manitoba's legal challenge to North Dakota's inter-basin water project, the Northwest Area Water Supply. And today as I previously stated, and also as evidenced by this latest "strategy" document, this government will say anything at all to not take responsibility.

I therefore have no choice but to give you (and all the other do-little polluters that you represent) a failing grade, and to give your "strategy" a failing grade as well except perhaps as a creative writing exercise.

Please feel free to circulate this letter and to actually do something for a change.

- Sincerely, Robert T. Kristjanson,
OM
Lake Winnipeg Commercial Fisher

Shooting Star winner



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lake Manitoba First Nation Chief Cornell McLean was a lucky Shooting Star Casinos jackpot winner of \$1,376,617 million U.S. or 1,870,760 CAD last week.

Interlake-Gimli MLA anticipates a successful New Year

By Autumn Fehr

Interlake-Gimli MLA and Minister of Agriculture Derek Johnson has much to reflect on as he rings in a New Year.

Looking back on 2022, several projects stand out as great successes for Johnson.

"We all hold our waterways and lakes near and dear to our hearts. That's something we need to respect and treasure for centuries to come. I think we've done fairly well getting the federal government and the City of Winnipeg together to work on the North End Water Pollution Control Centre," Johnson said.

At this point, they've funded phases one and two, and they are working on getting phase three funding, reducing a large point load of nutrients into Lake Winnipeg, which continues to flow(s) north into our oceans, he added.

Johnson's constituency focused (\$200) \$812 million for rural healthcare, so as a result, the Ashern hospital will get multiple beds added. Also, to ensure proper recruiting, retraining, and training for doctors, nurses, and staff, the government (constituency) has put another \$200 million aside to improve the situation.

"It's something that we've been

struggling with and need to overcome for future years, and to get staff to ensure that everybody has access to all the programming that they desire, whether general healthcare or emergency," Johnson said.

Other successful initiatives include investing \$100 million over the next three years to help people celebrate and preserve their culture another \$8.6 million has been set aside to (and) increase the number of veterinarian seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

"We've increased them by 33 per cent, for a total of \$8.6 million annually invested in educating veterinarians for rural Manitoba. The new seats will be focused on rural roots," said Johnson.

In addition, changes to excess moisture insurance by increasing the basic coverage by 50 per cent will help the producers if the area has another year like 2022.

"Agriculture in Manitoba is the backbone of our economy, and when Manitoba agriculture has a good year, Manitoba has a good year. It's important we ensure that we have the support for agriculture to be resilient and continue on," said Johnson.

With the many successes in the past

year, 2022 also brought hurdles to overcome.

"The Interlake area was probably affected the most by the drought from the previous years, and 2021 was probably the worst year producers have had in years. Then this past spring, the excess moisture prevented many people from getting their crops in and harvesting their forage for the beef herd. It affected grain and beef in the Interlake area, where all the overland flooding happened this year," said Johnson.

"Some producers that I know personally were only able to get 25 per cent of their land seeded. When you're working in that poor condition, it's a lot harder and takes a lot more money to compact the soil, and it has a ripple effect for years to come. Only getting 25 per cent of your income is very tough. We are excited to get that behind us and move on to a fresh new year," he said.

Looking ahead to 2023, there's much to look forward to and to continue to build on in the community with the projects invested in 2022.

"In the new year, we will continue to use the \$200 million to retain, train, and recruit staff, to improve our healthcare, which is our number one



Derek Johnson, MLA Interlake-Gimli

priority. That's important no matter where you are in the province, realizing it's not just Manitoba with these issues; it's across the country and around the globe. Some of that money will encourage people to come out of retirement and help serve until we can get the education portion moved forward," Johnson said.



Gimli District Health Auxiliary 50/50 raffle nets winner \$1,250

EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF ELAINE THOMPSON

Joanne Minne was the lucky winner of the Gimli Health Auxiliary's 50/50 draw in support of the Gimli hospital.

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli District Health Auxiliary held its 50/50 draw and the lucky winner walked away with \$1,250.

Auxiliary president Elaine Thompson said Joanne Minne won the 50/50 draw held on Dec. 16.

All profits raised by the auxiliary go to providing health services or products that are needed by the Gimli hospital.

"Joanne's prize was \$1,250," said Thompson. "Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the raffle and supported the Health Auxiliary. Your support is always appreciated.

All profits go to helping the Gimli and district medical

community through our Wish List project."

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CLOSED TUESDAY
at 7:30 pm Each Night
Coarse Language; Suggestive Language **PG**

Six Manitoba individuals/businesses honoured with Manitoba Watershed Awards

Submitted

The Manitoba Association of Watersheds is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2022 Watershed Awards, which include Manitoba farmers who are adapting the way they farm and enhancing their land for the future, as well as leaders in the community who have worked to establish conservation programs, build partnerships, and enhance local knowledge.

The Manitoba Watershed Awards are presented through a partnership between the Manitoba Association of Watersheds and Manitoba's 14 watershed districts and are presented in two categories - Watershed District Awards and Watershed District Builder Awards.

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Please join us at 17B North Colonization Road, next to New Horizon building... Gimli at 7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an hour of support, strength, guidance and Hope. Contact 204-389-4777.

This year's Watershed District Builder Award recipients are:

Art Bergmann (Watershed District Builder Award), who built lasting municipal partnerships which are the foundation of the Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District, and helped establish a water retention project which remains among the most impactful projects in the district's history.

Linda Miller (Watershed District Staff Builder Award), who in her 14-year career with the West Interlake Watershed District, established some of their most successful programs (Community Tree Nursery Program, and the Winter Watering System Program).

More information on these recipients as well as the recipients of the Watershed District Awards can be found on our website here: <https://manitobawatersheds.org/awards>

"The work done in watershed districts has a direct impact on water quality for all Manitobans. That's why it's so important to recognize the work being done throughout the province, and to celebrate those who have demonstrated excellence within the watershed district program. The individuals and businesses presented with 2022 Watershed Awards are wonderful examples of how positive change is possible through dedication and community," said Lynda Nicol, Executive Director of the Manitoba Association of Watersheds.

The West Interlake Watershed Dis-



2022 West Interlake Watershed District Award Recipient Tyson Cook

trict is pleased to present a 2022 Manitoba Watershed Award to Tyson Cook. Tyson is a cattle producer from Moosehorn, who also works at the local cattle auction mart, and is well-deserving of this award.

Tyson has been a leader in the community for his environmental stewardship practices. Tyson is not afraid to try something new. His enthusiasm for soil health is reflected by his experiments with cover crops, no tilling, and various grazing practices. He has been a great resource for understanding the landscape and how environmental practices thrive in the Interlake.

Tyson has been on our local Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Committee for the last 2 years. His hands-on knowledge and experience was critical for building our cover crop program. Tyson has played an important role in educating about and promoting the programs offered through the West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD). Whether Tyson is presenting at an event, giving a field tour, or just talking to you on the street, he is relatable, passionate, and full of knowledge. He is always willing to answer questions and talk to other producers interested in soil health and environmental practices.

Having producers from your watershed who are passionate about working with the land is crucial for engaging producers in our programs. Without producers like Tyson who are willing to document and share their story, the WIWD would not be able to assist as many producers as we do.

We would like to thank Tyson for all the time and effort he has put into helping us develop and promote programs, and for being so open about his journey through implementing environmentally beneficial practices on his farm.



2022 Watershed District Staff Builder Award Recipient Linda Miller

When you think of the West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD) you should think of Linda Miller. Linda has been a devoted employee who has been part of the WIWD since the

beginning. Linda was essential in building the WIWD into what it is today.

In 2008, just a few months after the WIWD was beginning to form, Linda began working at the WIWD as a Financial Administrator. In 2009 the WIWD was looking for a manager. At this point Linda was already running the watershed by herself in the past managers absence, so it only made sense for her to be promoted to manager in 2010. Luckily (or not so luckily for Linda) she was an excellent financial administrator, and the board did not want to lose her in that role. So, she became the Manager/Financial Administrator. She remained the only employee for the next 2 years until the WIWD hired another part-time employee. Linda was the only full-time position at the WIWD until 2019.

During these years Linda was not only responsible for the Manager and Financial administrative duties, but she was also the technician, going out into the fields with producers and checking projects. In the early years of the WIWD Linda was out building relationships with the public. Many producers in the area were reluctant to sign up for programs, and as a cattle producer herself she understood the concerns others may have. Today the WIWD has a great relationship with producers in the watershed, much of that thanks to Linda.

Throughout her 14 years in the watershed Linda also implemented new programs unique to the West Interlake Watershed District. These programs are the Community Tree Nursery Program, and the Winter Watering System Program. Today these programs are still some of the most popular programs at the WIWD. After the 2011 flood many residents lost trees, so Linda came up with the idea of the Community Tree Nursery Program. The goal was to restore the trees that had been destroyed, especially those along Lake Manitoba which served as shoreline erosion protection. This is the WIWD's most well-known program, which helps advertise the WIWD and brings in new residents to the office.

In the winter, producers keep their livestock close to home so the livestock can drink from a drilled well. This leads to a concentrated amount of manure in one area, causing nutrient runoff. To encourage producers to put their livestock on alternative quarters, distributing the manure to a larger area, the Winter Watering System Program was developed. The WIWD would offset the cost by

Continued on page 9

The Christmas spirit alive and well in Winnipeg Beach



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SAMANTHA BABCOCK

The Winnipeg Beach Tiny Tots Daycare collected food and toys that were included in the Winnipeg Beach Rec Centre and Fire Department Christmas hampers. The youngsters learned the importance of the Christmas spirit by loving, sharing and giving to those in need. Their donations were dropped off at the Winnipeg Beach Rec Centre on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

Clarification

Staff

In the story titled "Medical lab assistant program expected to start in February in Arborg" on Page 9 in the Dec. 15, 2022, edition of the *Express Weekly News*, we wrote that we conducted a "quick scan through about a dozen pages of all the IERHA [Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority] jobs posted online" and were unable to find any postings for medical laboratory assistants (MLAs).

The IERHA reached out to the *Express* after the story was published to say that diagnostic jobs for its region are not found on its job website, but on provincial Shared Health's job website. Shared Health is responsible for overseeing the delivery of diagnostic services across Manitoba and is, therefore, the employer.

The IERHA said there were two "medical laboratory technologist" (MLT) positions posted on Shared Health's job website but didn't say how many laboratory assistant (MLA) positions were posted. Lab technologists undergo lengthier training pro-

grams, have greater lab responsibilities and earn higher salaries than lab assistants.

The "quick scan" was conducted in response to the possibility that a laboratory assistant (MLA) course will be offered in Arborg. In the story referenced above, Shared Health was asked how many MLAs need to be hired for the IERHA; it would not specify MLA workforce numbers, only that a need for them is "fluid." It would also not say how many people had so far registered for the MLA course that might take place in February.

Visit <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/>

careers for jobs in the Interlake-Eastern RHA for which provincial Shared Health is the employer, and visit www.ierha.ca/careers for jobs in the Interlake-Eastern RHA for which the Interlake-Eastern RHA is the employer.

> WATERSHED AWARDS, FROM PG. 8

funding a percentage of the materials and labour. This program that has now transitioned into the alternative watering system program through Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW).

The WIWD is so thankful for Linda's hard work and dedication over the last 14 years. With Linda as Manager/Financial Administrator the WIWD has flourished from a small 1-person watershed to 4 full-time staff plus summer students. The WIWD also went from a budget of 250,000-300,000 to a million-dollar budget. Linda deserves the watershed builder award because she has been one of the largest factors in contributing to the WIWD's growth today. Without her devotion who knows where we would be.

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Manitoba Government invests in French-Language education programming

Grants will ensure quality French-language initiatives are carried out in educational communities

Submitted by Manitoba government
The governments of Canada and Manitoba are investing \$2.8 million in 143 grants to support French-language

programming in Manitoba schools, Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Wayne Ewasko and Families Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for francophone affairs, announced on Dec. 22.

"French-language instruction is an integral part of Manitoba's education system and key to the vitality of our francophone community," said Ewasko. "Through our government's investment and the collaborative efforts of the federal government, these

grants will ensure that many quality French-language initiatives will continue to be carried out in our educational communities."

"Our government knows that access to Français and French immersion education enriches the lives of students and helps prepare them for success in the future," said Squires. "Manitoba's commitment to French language education is stronger than ever, and the work being done in the education sector is key to ensuring a vibrant francophone community in our province in the years ahead."

For the 2022-23 school year, the government will award 93 grants through the French Second Language Revitalization Program, which provides financial support for projects that:

- ensure the full implementation of the French Immersion program and the successful delivery of French courses; and
- enhance the linguistic and cultural identity of students.

An additional 50 grants will be awarded through the Program for the Enrichment of French in Education (PEFE), which provides financial support for school-based, extra-curricular and post-secondary projects that:

- enhance and promote learning of the French language;
- provide opportunities to discover francophone culture; and
- recruit and retain students in the French and French Immersion programs and in French language courses.

"The outdoor classroom at the DSFM Centre scolaire Léo-Rémillard, like our other outdoor initiatives, will allow us to offer our community a special learning space that brings nature and school together," said Karine Pilotte, directrice adjointe, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine. "It will also be an important gathering place for the francophone community since it will serve as a space for cultural

transmission while providing opportunities for students to act positively on their environment and their well-being."

These grants are funded under the terms of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction, Ewasko noted.

Applications for funding under the two programs are evaluated by a team of curriculum consultants in the Bureau de l'éducation française to ensure the projects meet education requirements and advance the objectives of the programs. A call for applications for next year will be shared with school divisions and other stakeholders later this fall.

The ministers noted the investments announced today build on other priorities to strengthen French-language education in Manitoba including:

- a federal funding increase of more than \$6.2 million over two years as part of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction to allow the province to work with school boards to increase resources for educators so students can thrive and have access to more opportunities to learn in French;
- renewal of the French Immersion policy (last updated in 2008) to support the full implementation of the French Immersion program in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools; and
- creation of a comprehensive and co-ordinated strategy to address the shortage of French language teachers, including an emphasis on career development to encourage Français and French immersion students to become teachers with an overall focus on recruitment and retention.

For more information about French-language education in Manitoba, visit: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/m12/polapp/direction.html>.

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MP James Bezan shares reflections for the new year

By Jennifer McFee

As we embark on a new year, there's much to reflect on for our local member of Parliament.

James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, shared a few musings about the past year.

"This was a year of some turmoil, especially because of the Russian war in Ukraine," he said.

"I've been very involved in pressuring the government to supply more weapons and aid to Ukraine so they have a fighting chance of winning this war."

On a professional front, Bezan filled multiple roles throughout 2022.

"At the start of the year, I was in the position of deputy whip with Erin O'Toole. We went through some leadership challenges, but it was great to see Pierre Poilievre elected as our

leader and I co-chaired his Manitoba campaign," he said.

"I did a stint as the shadow minister for ethics and one of my complaints that I took to the ethics commissioner recently came to fruition. Additionally, I was very excited to have Pierre Poilievre appointed me as the shadow minister for national defence again. I'm glad to be back in the role after taking some time off."

Looking ahead, Bezan shared some issues on his radar for the upcoming year.

"One of the things I'm looking forward to in 2023 is fighting for the members of the Canadian Armed Forces, making sure the morale issue that we're dealing with is addressed," he said.

"We need to make sure it's inclusive and respectful and that people

are protected in the work environment. We also need to get our military equipment bought and delivered a lot faster than what's been happening."

Locally, he said residents in his riding have expressed concern about the cost of living and inflation. Other top-of-mind topics include the carbon tax, fertilizer tariffs and firearms legislation.

"One of the things that I've also been working on is upgrades to the Lockport bridge. I want to make sure that it stays as a tourist destination as well as a very safe and functional bridge over the Red River that will be there for generations to come," Bezan said.

"We've got to also concentrate on tackling rural crime. I'm hearing that more and more, so one of my resolutions is to work with our shadow minister for public safety, Raquel Dancho,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman

and making sure that we have adequate resources for the RCMP. As well, I'll continue to be engaged with local communities."

Manitobans impacted by dementia break silence on stigma

By Rachel Wilson

This January, during Alzheimer's Awareness Month, the Alzheimer Society is creating awareness about the many resources available to help support families as they face the challenges of living with dementia.

With more than 18,400 Manitobans living with dementia today, a number expected to reach 39,100 by 2050, the Society continues to enhance support for families impacted by dementia and meet their needs early in, and throughout, their journey. Their First Link® program connects people living with dementia and their care partners with community, support, knowledge and expertise so they don't have to face dementia alone.

"Whether it's before, during or after a diagnosis, the Alzheimer Society is the first place you can turn," says Erin Crawford, Program Director, Alzheimer Society of Manitoba. "The Society gives you access to dementia-friendly expertise and resources and connects you with a community of people who understand what you're going through."

When Marcel Hebert's wife Ida was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia at 55, the couple was shocked and overwhelmed. The First Link® program connected Marcel with information about Ida's type of dementia and to a care partner support group where he met and received support from others in a similar situation. Learn more about Marcel and Ida's story through this video.

"I didn't think someone as young as Ida could be diagnosed with demen-

Support Changes Everything

For people living with dementia, the Alzheimer Society is your first link to a network of support, knowledge and people ready to help.








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alzheimer.mb.ca



tia. I thought it was something only older adults could get," says Hebert. "It was such a relief to speak with someone from the Alzheimer Society, she gave us the guidance we needed. And the support I received from my care partner group changed everything for me."

The goal of the Alzheimer Society's First Link® program is to ensure that people living with dementia and their care partners have the proper support and information from the moment they notice the first signs of dementia and throughout the progression of the disease.

"The more help and support we give now, the better our province will be at caring for the rising cases of dementia expected to come," says Crawford.

To get connected to support, contact your local Alzheimer Society today at 204-943-6622 (Winnipeg), 1-800-378-6699 (Provincial) or visit www.alzheimer.ca/FirstLink

Follow the Alzheimer Society

throughout January to see more stories like Marcel's and hear from Manitobans impacted by dementia about how the support they received from the Society has made all the difference.

Quick facts

National Statistics

- Today, more than half a million Canadians are living with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.1

- By the year 2050, more than 1.7 million people in Canada will be living with dementia.

- Care partners for people with dementia provide an average 26 hours of caregiving per week compared to 17 hours per week for seniors with other health issues (coming from data out of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)). Data from the CIHI has shown that:

- 45% of care partners providing care to people living with dementia exhibit symptoms of distress. This

is twice the rate compared to care partners of older adults with health conditions other than dementia (26%).

- 21% of care partners feel unable to continue their caring activities due to stress

The Alzheimer Society

- Alzheimer Societies across Canada provide programs and support services for people with all forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, and their care partners.

- Alzheimer Societies across Canada provide caregivers and families with information, education and resources to help them support the person in their care who is living with dementia.

- The Alzheimer Society is a leading Canadian funder of dementia research. Since 1989, we have invested over \$70 million in grants and awards toward innovative dementia research through the Alzheimer Society Research Program, improving the quality of life for people with lived experience and bringing us closer to a future without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

- The Alzheimer Society is a key partner in the development of Canada's first national dementia strategy, which will enhance research efforts and ensure access to quality care and support for all Canadians affected by dementia,

- The Alzheimer Society is the organization behind First Link® and all the important services and supports it provides to those diagnosed with dementia across Canada.

(The Landmark Study – 2022)

Eriksdale and area residents fight for health care and ER service

By Patricia Barrett

Eriksdale and area residents came out in force a few weeks ago to fight for the Eriksdale hospital's closed emergency room and for health care in the region.

Residents marched through town and gathered at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre where they asked provincial politicians what actions they were going to take to address the crumbling health-care system and service disruptions.

Lundar resident Faye Goranson, who is part of a Highway 6 health advocacy group, said she was pleased to see a sizable turnout of approximately 300 people, which included retired nurses, First Nations representatives and residents, Interlake-Gimli MLA and Agriculture minister Derek Johnson and NDP leader Wab Kinew.

The emergency room at the E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital in Eriksdale has had spotty coverage because of a chronic shortage of physicians. The ER closed the month of December because of what Shared Health – the provincial government's organization that oversees health care delivery – said was a laboratory staffing issue.

"One of the first people at the mic during question period asked, 'So where do we go from here?' I think that's the question that has been on the minds of people," said Goranson. "We know we have to keep up the pressure and make sure the decision-makers know people are very concerned about this. The next steps are the big question. We're not sure what's going to happen to our health care system."

One of the advocacy group's members handed Derek Johnson a thick folder containing petitions, asking the government to preserve health-care services, she said.

Lundar, 20 kilometres south of Eriksdale, had a resident doctor for over

100 years, but hasn't had one for several years now. A nurse practitioner is their only provider, said Goranson. Because the Highway 6 area is so thinly stretched in terms of health-care staff, the nurse practitioner will be also travelling to the Lake Manitoba First Nation reserve west of Eriksdale to provide service there.

"This is not just affecting the Eriksdale hospital, which represents the centre of health care on Highway 6. Eriksdale serves our whole area, from south of St. Laurent to past Ashern," said Goranson. "There are people in the Ashern area who choose to come to the Eriksdale hospital; that's been going on for years."

Shared Health said last month the Eriksdale ER will re-open in the new year once two medical laboratory assistants (MLAs) have completed their training at the Ashern hospital. But residents at the meeting said they weren't convinced that will be enough.

"I think this is a stop-gap measure," said Goranson. "They're saying, 'Oh don't worry, it will open again,' but it won't fully open. I think the [government's] long-term plan ... is to close a whole bunch of these smaller places."

There are fears that the Eriksdale hospital might be turned into a long-term care facility rather than continue on as an acute care hospital, she said. The government hasn't announced what it plans to do.

"Our communities know we need an acute care hospital in Eriksdale," she said. "You can travel up to Ashern [about 41 kilometres], but you may not get the service you need in terms of follow-up care."

The Eriksdale, Lundar and surrounding communities raised funds several years ago to buy a house beside the Eriksdale hospital for a doctor to live in, she said. One doctor allegedly told residents he couldn't

live in the house because a lab worker from the Ashern hospital needed a place to stay.

Eriksdale has one full-time and one half-time doctor, but some residents are unsure if those doctors are based in Eriksdale or if they're part of a six-doctor contingent that's keeping the Ashern ER open 24 hours a day.

The *Express* reached out to the IERHA, which said there are 7.5 doctors in the area.

"There are 7.5 physicians in the Ashern/Eriksdale area with six based in Ashern and 1.5 based in Eriksdale," said the IERHA's regional lead, medical services and chief medical officer Dr. Charles Penner by email. "Physicians living in each community spend most of their time in their home community but could provide service in other communities as needed."

There are actually two doctors' houses within the town of Eriksdale, said RM of West Interlake chief administrative officer Courtney Roehl by email. Both houses are "owned and operated" by the RM.

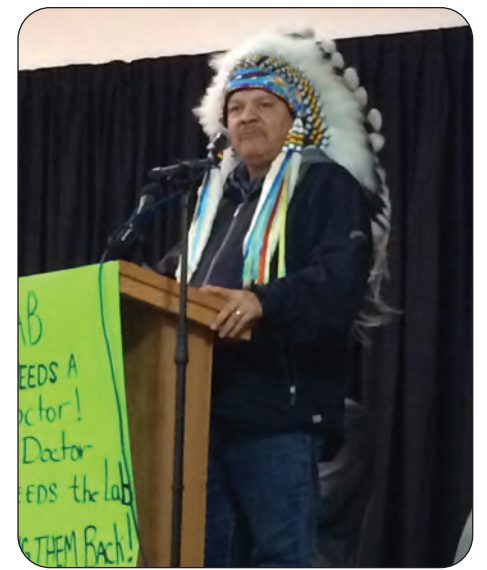
"Currently one is rented out to one of the attending physicians at E.M. Memorial Crowe Hospital and the other remains vacant as minor renovations are taking place in it," said Roehl. "The RM of West Interlake is responsible for all decisions made regarding the doctors' houses and is always willing to hear ratepayers' concerns regarding them or any other municipal matters."

Keith Lundale, who is part of the Highway 6 health advocacy group, said at the rally that health care in the region is in "dire straits." Even with six doctors at the Ashern hospital, the hospital still goes on diversion.

"Ashern diverts an ambulance from that facility so at times we don't have an emergency department from Thompson to Stonewall. If Stonewall's on diversion, we're kind of SOL. It's time we get this fixed sooner than later," he said. "... A lot of our [hospital] beds are filled up with people who need to be in long-term care facilities. That has to be addressed ... and if that's not addressed, why are we building more acute [care] beds [i.e., Ashern hospital expansion]? That fact is we don't have the staff to support them or the housing at this point. We're putting the cart before the horse in some way."

Other residents asked political leaders what they were doing to re-open the Eriksdale ER.

Derek Johnson said staff are currently being trained to work in the hospital's lab and will be "returning back here to start in the first few weeks of



Lake Manitoba Chief Cornell McLean spoke at the rally.

January, which will then open up the emergency department here."

Johnson said his government is also investing \$200 million in health care to retain, train and recruit 2,000 more health-care professionals, and during its past seven years in office "not one single rural emergency room has been permanently closed."

To address the issue of "transient staff," who work for a period of time in the area then leave, Johnson said more health-care courses need to be offered in rural communities in order to attract local people who want to live and work where they've grown up.

"A course that just graduated this past summer [had] 20 graduates. They were all from the local area," Johnson told attendees. "Sixteen are currently working for IERHA and I believe a couple on some First Nations including Percy Moore [Hospital] and out at Lake Man [First Nation]. That's how we get staff – by holding these courses right in the community."

A resident who identified herself as a retired nurse first confirmed Johnson was referencing a licensed practical nursing (LPN) course had been offered in Arborg before saying LPNs aren't enough to keep ERs open.

"Ok, so the LPNs will not keep the ERs open. It's the doctors and the lab we need," said the retired nurse to a round of applause. "I worked for 27 years ... an LPN won't keep the emergency room open. And you can't train a doctor in a rural community."

Johnson suggested that doctors from cultural groups different from those in the area's communities – predominantly of Icelandic heritage – are likely to become transient through lack of assimilation. To boost retention,

Continued on page 13



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY FAYE GORANSON

Retired nurses, First Nations representatives and government representatives attended a rally in Eriksdale before Christmas to fight to keep the hospital's emergency room open.

Winnipeg Beach Legion hosts lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus

By Patricia Barrett

The Winnipeg Beach Legion struck an agreement with Santa and Mrs. Claus to spend two days in town before the Christmas break so that beach kids could tell them how nice they'd

been all year and what sorts of gifts they were hoping to see under the tree. The legion held two lunches on Dec. 12 and 13 for local students in grades 1-8 and kindergarten and Tiny Tots (daycare) students.



Winnipeg Beach tiny tots.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Winnipeg Beach students visited the Legion for lunch and a visit with Santa.

> QUIT SMOKING, FROM PG. 5

are encouraging those who have set 'quitting smoking' as their new years' resolution to take advantage of this initiative" says Tanjit Nagra, CEO, Pharmacists Manitoba.

Individuals eligible for this program must be 18 years of age or older, be a Manitoba resident with a valid Manitoba Health card, and consent to participate in the program. Through the program, individuals will receive up to a \$100 subsidy towards smoking cessation products. The service will be delivered through an initial one-hour assessment, up to nine follow up counselling sessions, and prescribed first-line smoking cessation pharmacotherapy.

"Quitting smoking is not an easy task, but we hope that with the help

of a pharmacist and resources made available through this initiative, interested participants will feel motivated and supported every step of the way" says Nagra.

There are 200 participating pharmacies across Manitoba, throughout all health regions. Interested individuals can visit www.quitsmokingmb.ca and find a participating pharmacy near them to book an initial appointment.

Smoking cessation services are also available in additional languages at various pharmacies across the province. A full of available languages and where these additional language services are being offered can be found at www.quitsmokingmb.ca/languages.

> ER SERVICE, FROM PG. 12

physician recruitment efforts should focus on cultural matching.

"We have a lot of doctors that come and go in our community. ... Our doctor for IERHA, Dr. Penner, who sits on the College of Physicians and Surgeons – my question to him was why don't we recruit from countries that have roots similar to ours?" said Johnson. "Arborg, for example, they sent a delegate over to Iceland and they found 10 doctors ... interested in coming. Seven would come right away but they were not allowed [because] the College of Physicians did not recognize their requirements. And that's what we have to work on to attract doctors here. The Interlake, in my opinion, is the best place in

Manitoba When we have equivalent roots and beliefs, they're more likely to stay here."

NDP leader Wab Kinew said the allied health staffing issue in rural communities, whether it's paramedics, lab technicians, X-ray technicians and others—comes down to a lack of competitive pay and negligent treatment by the government.

"These folks have been without a deal for five years right now, and you wonder why you can't get a paramedic to stay, you wonder why diversion is happening over and over again, you wonder why there's a shortage of lab techs in the region," said Kinew. "It's because these folks don't feel as though they're being respected. And

they look to other regions and other provinces and they say, 'I can earn a better living over there.' That has to change if you want to address the staffing issue."

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba is also "under the purview" of the provincial government, said Kinew. If the province is not happy with its performance, it can issue a compliance order to have the college take action on recruitment and retention.

In the meantime, he said residents should continue advocating for the Eriksdale hospital because the longer it stays closed, "the less likely it is you're going to get it back in the future."

And the permanent loss of a hospital ER usually precedes the loss of local doctors.

"The long-term solution is to educate people from the region to come back and serve the region. However, that help is four years away for an RN [registered nurse] ... seven to eight years away for a doctor depending on their speciality," said Kinew. "So, you need to take immediate steps right here, right now. I can tell you the number one thing to get a doctor to stay in a rural community is you need an emergency department open. The communities that lose emergency departments, unfortunately, they often lose the family docs not too long after that."

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Vigfusson the points leader at the holiday break

By Brian Bowman

There are a lot of very good offensive players in the Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League.

But right now the scoring leader is an Interlake Lightning.

Lightning forward Adam Vigfusson leads the league with 42 points on 19 goals and 23 assists in 29 games at the holiday break.

He is one point ahead of the Winnipeg Bruins' Nathan Brown and the Yellowhead Chiefs' Bryce Bryant.

Vigfusson has had a great first half of the season.

"It's been a lot of fun," said Vigfusson last Saturday. "The boys are tight this year and I'm looking forward to getting back out there."

Vigfusson has been playing on a line with Joel MacMillan and Ian Buors. The trio has produced 93 points this season.

"(Ian) and I are kind of like a dynamic duo out there," Vigfusson said. "It's a lot of fun playing with him and I've been playing with him for about three or four years now so we've built up some chemistry together. It's been working, I guess."

Vigfusson had an opportunity to make his Manitoba Junior Hockey League debut with the Niverville Nighthawks against the Portage Terriers earlier this season.

"It was a good experience, for sure," he said. "We did lose, unfortunately, but it was a good experience. It was good to kind of get my feet wet. It was pretty cool."

Niverville's lineup includes Stonewall's Chris Fines and Hayden Wheddon and Argyle's Brett Tataryn.

"Those guys are really nice guys," Vigfusson said. "It was nice to have that Interlake connection over there."

Vigfusson, 17, is a play-making forward that can put the puck in the net. The Gimli product is a big reason why the Lightning are 11-16-0-2 and in the running for a playoff spot.

"It's crunch time, we got to go, the standings are pretty close and we're heading up to Souris pretty soon," Vigfusson said. "Those are four big points and if we can get them then we're in the hunt for the playoffs. We're looking forward to it."

Interlake will play the Southwest Cougars this Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Lightning forward Adam Vigfusson leads the Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League in points with 42 on 19 goals and 23 assists in 29 games.

Sunday (1:30 p.m.).

The Lightning's next home game is Jan. 14 when they host the Kenora

Thistles. Puck drop is 7:30 p.m.

U17 AAA Lightning lose to Thrashers

Staff

The Interlake Lightning U17 AAA hockey team ended 2022 with a 5-1 road loss to the Winnipeg Thrashers on Dec. 23.

Dainen Jacobson scored a first-period goal for Interlake, assisted by Tylan Johnson.

Winnipeg, which built period leads

of 3-1 and 4-1, received goals from Ariel Shuhtin-Poushkariov (two), Branden Watson, Draycen Ralph, and Hubert Clarke.

Braedan Cormack made 39 saves in the losing cause.

Interlake, now 3-17-1, will play the Winnipeg Bruins on Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at Southdale Arena.

In U15 AAA action, the Lightning were defeated 15-1 by the Eastman Selects in Landmark on Dec. 23.

Brody Slatcher scored an unassisted third-period goal for Interlake. He leads the Lightning in points with 21 on six goals and 15 assists in 22 games.

Eastman answered with goals from William Picklyk (four), Grayson

Slaney (three), Asher Gingras (three), Seth Hooper (three), Jimmy Wilcox, and Braxton Caruk.

Interlake (2-20) will visit the Southwest Cougars this Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Glenboro. The Lightning will then battle the Winnipeg Bruins Brown the next day (4:45 p.m.) at Notre Dame Arena.

Peguis Juniors enter 2023 in first place

Staff

The Peguis Juniors head into the new year in first place in the Keystone Junior Hockey League.

They hope to continue that great success in 2023.

Peguis is 15-3-0-1 and has 31 points, one ahead of the NCN Flames (15-5-0-0) and two ahead of

the OCN Storm (14-7-0-1).

Jeremiah Jacques leads Peguis in points with 27 on 17 goals and 10 assists in just 14 games.

Peguis' next game is this Saturday when it hosts the OCN Storm at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, the Juniors will host the Storm at 1:30 p.m. at the Peguis Multiplex.

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

GO TO

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Experience and Education in Management and/or the field of Community & Disability Support required.

This is a full-time position, complete with employee benefits and pension. Salary negotiable, according to qualifications.

Apply in writing by Mon., Jan. 16. For further information or to apply, contact:

Kathy Finnson, Executive Director
Riverdale Place Homes Inc.
Box 968
Arborg MB R0C 0A0

email: kfinnson_rph@outlook.com
phone: 204-376-2940 ext. 1



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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Public Works Foreman (Permanent, Full-time)

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the position of Public Works Foreman (Permanent, Full-time)

Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Public Works Foreman is responsible for the direction, coordination, efficient operation, construction, repair, and general maintenance of all municipal infrastructure.

Qualifications - Public Works Foreman

*Minimum of five years related experience, three of which were in a foreman or supervisory capacity.

*Experience in construction and maintenance of various municipal infrastructure.

*The ability to operate and maintain various types of heavy equipment. (tractor/mower, compact track loader, grader, loader, tandem)

*Valid Manitoba Drivers Class 3 License, air brake license or an air brake endorsement.

*Above average organizational skills.

*Ability to multi-task and supervise numerous staff and projects simultaneously.

*Above average skills to manage and direct staff.

*The ability to perform some physical labour.

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong offers a competitive salary and benefits package including health/dental and pension.

Applications must contain a resume, covering letter and three references. Application deadline is 4:30 PM on Monday, January 9th, 2023. Only those candidates chosen for an interview will be contacted.

Please forward applications marked "Application for Public Works Foreman" to Corlie Larsen, Chief Administrative Officer at:

RM of Armstrong
Box 69
Inwood, Manitoba R0C 1P0
Fax: (204)278-3437

e-mail: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

To view a full job description please visit www.rmofarmstrong.com or call the Municipal Officer at (204) 278-3377.

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THANK YOU

The Association for Community Living Arborg held their Christmas Gift Card Raffle draw on Dec. 16, 2022.

Thank you for the donated Gift Card prizes from

The Vandersteen Family - \$200.00
Norma and Dave Smolinski - \$200.00
Riverdale Place Homes - \$150.00

1st Prize Gift Cards

\$200.00 Arborg Interlake Coop
\$100.00 Arborg Home Hardware
\$50.00 Chicken Chef

Winner: Gertrud Hauser

2nd Prize Gift Cards

\$250.00 Arborg Interlake Coop

Winner: Nadine Legras

3rd Prize Gift Cards

\$100.00 Arborg Interlake Coop
\$50.00 Arborg Home Hardware

Winner: Gloria Sigurdson

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 persons who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE - BYLAW NO. 1065-2022 Creating a NEW ZONING BY-LAW FOR THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE

(Public representations will be limited to the proposed alterations)

LOCATION: R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office
23 Government Road, Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

GENERAL INTENT: To amend the proposed Zoning By-Law 1065-2022 to rezone SW 35-28-10 WPM and NW 26-28-10 WPM from Agriculture General to Agriculture Restricted, as part of the adoption of a new Zoning By-Law for the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale to manage land use and development as per Section 68 of The Planning Act.

AREA AFFECTED: The Zoning By-Law applies to all lands within the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale.

DOCUMENTS: The Zoning By-Law and all amended maps are available on the R.M. of Grahamdale's website at www.grahamdale.ca. Copies can be made at the R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office and extracts taken by request during normal office hours.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly Schwitek, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Grahamdale
Box 160, 23 Government Road,
Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0
Phone: 204-768-2858
Email: rm606@grahamdale.ca

To participate via phone or videoconferencing, please contact the R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the hearing.

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG PUBLIC NOTICE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Public Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 194 of The Municipal Act, that the Auditor's Financial Report, together with the related Financial Statements, for the year 2021, have been deposited in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Rural Municipality of Armstrong and are available for inspection by any person or his agent during regular business hours and that any person or his agent, at his own expense, may make a copy thereof or extract therefrom.

Dated at Inwood, Manitoba this 13th day of December 2022.

Kate Basford, Reeve
Rural Municipality of Armstrong



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Shaunne at 204-886- 2922 ext 205 or
email resume to shaunne@charisons.ca**



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Office Clerk Full-Time - Office Clerk Position

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites written applications for the position of full-time Office Clerk.

The successful applicant will be required to provide a variety of administrative and financial clerical duties associated with municipal and utility services. A detailed job description and duties are available upon request.

The successful candidate shall possess the following qualifications:

- Ability to communicate effectively with Council, employees and the public.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Computer Knowledge
- Attention to accuracy and detail.
- Honesty, reliability, integrity, team player and ability to work well with others is a must.
- Graduate of Municipal Administration an asset or willing to acquire
- Previous Accounting/Business knowledge an asset
- Able to handle stressful situations and deadlines
- Willingness to learn and grow within our organization

Written applications including resume, cover letter and three work related references to be submitted in confidence by 4:00 January 31, 2023. Open until suitable candidate is found.

RM of Fisher "Office Clerk Position"
PO Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
Fax: (204) 372-8470
Email: fishercao@mymts.net

The RM of Fisher thanks all applicants for their interest. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong is now accepting applications from various types of charitable, non-profit and community organizations.

Each year the Rural Municipality of Armstrong receives more grant requests than it can fund, the RM would like to treat all organizations fairly and share available resources throughout the Municipality.

All funding decisions are made based on local needs and priorities within the limitations of Council's approved budget.

Grant applications are available on our website at www.rmofarmstrong.com or contact the municipal office 204-278-3377.

The deadline for the Municipal Grant applications is January 31st, 2023 at 4:30 pm.

RM of Armstrong Office
Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1P0
Phone: 204-278-3377
Fax: 204-278-3437
Email: cao@rmofarmstrong.com



RM OF GIMLI

MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023

The deadline for the Municipal Grant applications is **February 15, 2023**

If your organization would like to apply for a grant, the grant application package is available 3 ways:

- On the RM of Gimli website, www.gimli.ca
- By email request, gimli@rmgimli.com
- By mail, call (204) 642-6650

Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2023

Kelly Cosgrove
CAO
Rural Municipality of Gimli



Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton GRADER OPERATOR

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton is looking for a seasonal full time Road Grader Operator. Must be energetic and dependable. Duties include grading and maintenance of municipal roads, snow removal in the winter, service and maintenance of equipment, assisting other employees and must be able to work independently with good problem solving skills.

The preferred candidate should possess:

- Experience operating a motor grader
- Experience operating any and all equipment
- A valid driver's license with a class 3 with air endorsement
- Mechanical skills would be an asset
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work within a team setting

Resumes with a cover letter and three references will be accepted by the undersigned.

Jason Comeau, Public Works Manager
Box 70, 329 River Rd
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Ph: 204-376-2391
Fax 204-376-2742
Email: pwbifrost@mymts.net

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Joanne Thomas would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff at the Grace Hospital ICU for the caring support that was given to our family and Joanne during a very difficult time. The staff at Gilbert Funeral Home, Erin and David for their patience and guidance, you made our journey peaceful. Pastor Martin for the lovely service, which was heartwarming. To all of the family and friends, near and far for all of the gestures of love and support, we thank you. We have been blessed with a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend and are thankful for the many years she was in our lives.

-Thank you from
The Thomas, Hrechkosy and Reinhardt families

CARD OF THANKS

Knights of Columbus 2022 Grey Cup Pool winners Gimli Council #7288 are: 1st quarter - Nathan Krulicki, \$200, reverse - Kurt Rudney, \$100; 2nd quarter - Brian Meyer, \$200, reverse - Fr. Art Seaman, \$100; 3rd quarter - Chris Struhan, \$200, reverse - Anita Campbell, \$100; Final - Dan Klyzub, \$1000, reverse - Karen Sveinson, \$200.

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HAY & STRAW FOR SALE

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OBITUARY



Kenneth Keller
March 18, 1945 - December 24, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved husband, dad and grandpa on Saturday, December 24, 2022. Ken peacefully passed away at the age of 77 years at the Health Sciences Center, with his family by his side.

His parents Rudolf and Leona, brothers Martin and Albert, sister Bernice Greenberg and special in-laws, predeceased him.

Ken will be lovingly remembered by his wife Jane; daughter Audra (Wally) Boyko of Tyndall, son Derek (Nicole) and precious granddaughters, Sienna and Athena of Winnipeg. Ken is also survived by his brother Richard (Betty), sisters Sylvia (Luc) and Mary Ann and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Ken was born and raised on the family farm in Camp Morton. He met and married Jane, where they settled in Gimli and raised their

lovely family.

Over his career, Ken was employed at Seagram's Distillery, Gimli Hotel, RM of Gimli and Diageo until his retirement.

Ken was an avid sports fan and with a love for hockey, this led him to coach minor hockey for many years. He spent many hours tinkering in his workshop with good friend Randy, who was always there to help him. Ken was the happiest though when spending time with his family, especially with his granddaughters, who were his pride and joy.

Cremation has taken place and Memorial Mass celebrating Ken's life will be held at St. Michaels's Roman Catholic Church in Gimli at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2023 with Father Stan Gacek officiating. A private interment will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Cemetery, C/O P.O. Box 92, Gimli, Manitoba R0C 1B0.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Allan Barry Olafson

Peacefully, on Monday, December 26, 2022 at the Gimli Community Health Centre, Allan Olafson, aged 87 years of Riverton, Manitoba passed away.

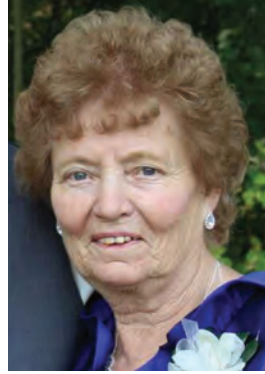
In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family graveside service will be held in Spring at the Arnes Cemetery.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Clara Smith (nee Caners)
September 11, 1933 - December 27, 2022

Surrounded by the love of her family, our mother Clara Smith, passed peacefully at Arborg PCH after a struggle with dementia. She left us knowing she was so deeply loved by her entire family.

Mom was born Clara Valerie to Louis Caners and Delima (Payment). She was the second child of 10.

Left with a lifetime of memories are her four children Donny (Susan), David (Lucille), Norman (Monique), Eileen (Mark) Hancharek.

Mom was also a devoted and loving grandmother to 10. Scott (Nadine), Rodney (Rebecca), Brent (Rebecca), Tyler, Chris (Megan), Kayla, Sheldon, Brittney (Lee), Amber (Randy) and Mitchell. She was also a great-grandma to 13.

Mom was predeceased by our father Lucien (2005), her parents, Delima and Louis Caners; brothers Hubert, Norman, and Robert and sisters Helen Dandenau and Cecile Conan.

She is survived by her precious sister Florence and brothers Philip (Pat), Paul (Rose) and Anthony (Mary).

Our mom grew up on a farm outside Fisher Branch where money was scarce, but love was bountiful. Her devotion to her faith and family was first and foremost in her life.

She married our dad in 1957, and when he passed in 2005, struggling without him by her side, with a broken heart, she once again relied on her faith. She missed him every single day!

Our mother was so much more than just a few words on paper. She was tremendously loyal, caring, and very compassionate, plus more.

We will be forever grateful for having had her in our lives as a mother, grandmother, sister and friend.

Her concern was always focused on our well-being, and we knew she would always be there for us when needed. She had a great zest for life and loved her family and friends with all her heart. (As she would say, "from the bottom of my pointed little heart").

She was a woman of great faith and prayed daily for her family. She remained steadfast and true to her final days.

A big thank you to the wonderful staff at Arborg Assisted Living and Arborg Personal Care Home for the exceptional care our mother received for the past seven years. Words cannot express our gratitude!

Mass and Christian burial will be held at St. Philips Neri Catholic Church on Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

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

She made the world a better place!



AURORA

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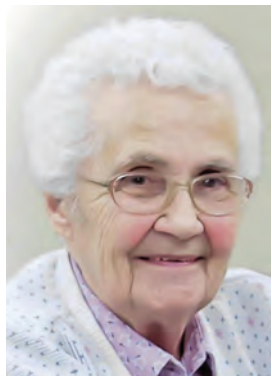
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Saturday January 7th from 3-7 pm
20025 Lakeside Road (6 min north of Gimli on PTH 222)
204-642-8058

OBITUARY



Anne Kalyta (nee Stefanec)

It is with heavy hearts that the family announces Anne Kalyta passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of December 20, 2022.

Mom will lovingly be remembered by her children, daughter Judy Koster (John Dibbin) and her daughters, Aldine (Sheldon Gale) and RONALDA (Vernon) Clifton; son John (Elaine) and their children, Stephanie (Khali Jabri) and Jeffrey (Damara) and son Jake (Lynn) and their children, Darryl, Kristin (Errick Birch) and Erin; and daughter-in-law, Jolana. She will be remembered by her seven great-grandchildren, Zion, Judah and Makeda Beech, Hendrik Gale, Kai and Arianna Clifton, and Violet Kalyta. She is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Wasyl and Tykyna Stefanec, husband Peter, son Ron, son-in-law Hank Koster, sisters Mary (Bill) Woloshyn and Pearl (Steve) Chuba and granddaughter Janaya.

Mom was born on the family farm in Kilkenny, MB. on June 19, 1930, the oldest of three daughters. She lived most of her life in Fisher Branch working with Peter on the family cattle and grain farm. After moving into town, Mom found work, lastly being the Ukrainain Farmers' Co-op. Mom's greatest joy were her grandchildren whom she would spend as much time as possible each having many fond memories of their time spent with Grandma. Mom had also enjoyed playing cards, walking, going to dances with friends and singing with the Songbirds. Mom was a kind and gentle person who put everyone else first.

The family is extremely grateful and would like to thank all of the staff of the Fisher Personal Care Home for their excellent care and compassion.

Cremation has taken place. As per Mom's request, there will be a private memorial at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fisher Personal Care Home Inc., PO Box 119, Fisher Branch, MB. R0C 0Z0

FISHER FUNERAL HOME INC.
Entrusted with arrangements.
204-373-6803 or 204-372-6271

OBITUARY



Douglas Johann Ashley Bjarnason
October 16, 1951 - December 30, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dougie Bjarnason, brother, uncle, and best friend after a short courageous battle with cancer on Friday, December 30th, 2022 with family by his side.

Dougie will be sadly missed by his brother Colin (Hazel), sister Susie, brother-in-law Alan, nieces and nephews Teresa, Kevin (Jody), Shianne, Kris (Megan), Joel, Sean, Nicole (Brayden), Jordan (Jenna), Caitlin, his great nieces and nephews Riley, Brody, Ostyn, Tytan, Kohen, Reese, Mason, Carter, Cayden, and many special cousins and dear friends.

Dougie was predeceased by his parents Stoney and Dorothy Bjarnason, his sister Shannie, and niece Kiersten.

Dougie was born on October 16, 1951 in Gimli, and spent all his years at the family home in Riverton where he attended school and grew up playing hockey. He had so many hockey stories that he loved to share with everyone. He could often be found at the Riverton Arena, watching his nephews and great nephews play. He spent most of his years working for Parks and Conservation, with the majority of his 35 years on the Hecla Golf Course. It was there, where he made great friends, and enjoyed many rounds of golf with friends and family. The golf course was a place where Dougie also enjoyed another past time - arguing with Colin! A bond between brothers like no other.

Dougie loved the outdoors and he spent many days hunting and trapping. He loved fishing, whether it was in the summers off the boat, from shore, or hanging out in the ice fishing shack in the winters. He always had patience with his great nephews when teaching them how to fillet. Dougie was an animal lover, and always had a house full of pets. He loved to garden and could often be found in his yard tending to his plants.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses, and health care staff for the kind, and compassionate care given to Dougie at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

A celebration of Dougie's life will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Riverton Hall. Cremation has taken place and a private interment will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Riverton Memorial Arena, Box 532, Riverton, MB, R0C 2R0.

Goda Nott, Elskan.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Timothy James Smith

It is with heavy hearts that we announce Tim's unexpected passing on December 22, 2022 at the age of 63 years.

He will be forever loved and remembered by his wife Helen, son Paul, and grandson Oliver.

Cremation will take place and a gathering in Tim's honour will be held at a later date.

Friends and family are welcomed to share memories and leave condolences by visiting Tim's memorial page at seasonsfunerals.ca

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Tim's memory to a charity of your choice.

Seasons Funeral Chapel, OakBank
in care of arrangements
204.444.5444

OBITUARY

Elwood (Woody) Glen Brown

June 10, 1950 – December 14, 2022

Elwood (Woody) Glen Brown of Lundar, MB at the age of 72, passed away at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, MB.

Elwood is predeceased by his parents Walter and Margaret.

Elwood will be truly missed by his partner Debbie, his step children Stash (Joe) and Sheridan (Amy) and grandchildren Chaz, John and Kai. He is also survived by his siblings Shirley, Beverly, Barbara, Doug and Larry.

Elwood dedicated 52 years of his life to the same employer, Sigfusson Northern. Elwood was proud of his Night Security jobs. Not a night would go by when he wasn't out there. Elwood's greatest interest in life was socializing, especially over coffee at Chicken Chef, his Cadillacs and good old Western music and movies of all types. He was always needing the latest in technology, even when he had no clue how to use it, but he definitely needed to have it. You'll be sadly missed but never forgotten.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2023 in the St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church Cemetery with Leanne Kell officiating. A luncheon will follow in the Lundar Legion Hall.

The family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to John, Karen and Leanne of Arnason Funeral Home. Also to CancerCare Manitoba in Selkirk, the nurses and doctors at the Health Sciences Centre and the staff of Lundar Chicken Chef (especially Donna) for doing your best to help. A big thank you to Lacie Miller and the Sigfusson staff...you guys are awesome.

In lieu of flowers, the family would encourage donating to CancerCare Manitoba Foundation Inc., 675 McDermot Ave., Room ON 1160, Winnipeg, MB R3E 0V9.

Arrangements by:
ARNASON FUNERAL HOME
Ashern - Lundar
1.204.768.2072
1.866.323.3593

OBITUARY



Elizabeth (nee: Kochan) McKenzie
July 20, 1939 – December 20, 2022

Elizabeth was born in Poplarfield, Manitoba, the 10th of 11 children. Elizabeth moved to Winnipeg as a young teen to continue her education. Interests in interior design, and administrative study had later secured her career with CN Rail for around 20 years, leading her to Edmonton, until her retirement. In addition, she worked part time in retail while at CN, being a full-time single mom. Devoting any free time to help her family. Elizabeth

continued her retail employment after retirement until her health prevented her from doing so.

Elizabeth will be remembered for her wit, fun personality, and generosity. As a young adult, she also enjoyed modelling for Holt Renfrew in Winnipeg, and working for Neiman Marcus. She loved current trends and style. She received awards and acknowledgments for her professionalism, dedication, and work ethic.

Her daughter will always remember her mom as an example of class, dignity, courage, and strength, as well as her dedication to her and her family.

Elizabeth was predeceased by Shannon's father, James "Jimmy" McKenzie; her parents, John and Pauline Kochan; siblings: Pearl, Alec, Bill, Ann, Nick, Kay, and Mary.

She is survived by her only daughter, Shannon McKenzie; Elizabeth's siblings: Joe Kochan, Helen Kartushyn, and Eddy Kochan; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She will be laid to rest at her hometown cemetery. This Christmas she will be in the presence of our Heavenly Father, and reunited with loved ones that have gone on before her.

Rest in Peace, mom. The love between us exists for all eternity.

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Home
St. Albert Chapel
780-458-2222

OBITUARY

Donna Marleen Zanzow

On December 24th, during her favourite season, Mom passed away peacefully with her daughters by her side. Donna has gone to join beloved family and her loving God.

Mom loved gardening, bowling, her Church family, and especially music. Her loving nature and wonderful smiles will be greatly missed by her family, especially her daughters Suzanne (Mark) and Michelle, her son Stephen and her six grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Tom, her sister, her son-in-law and many other immediate family members.

The family would like to give special thanks to those caregivers (you know who you are) who helped support Mom during her last few years.

You will be missed, but we know you are now "Home for Christmas."

A family memorial service has already been held.

In lieu of cards or flowers, the family is encouraging donations in Donna's name to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,

And He tells me I am His own;

And the joy we share as we tarry there,

None other has ever known.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Blake Beardsley

Blake loved his life in Gimli...it was deep in his bones and soul. After a tough battle from open heart surgery Blake passed away December 26th, 2022 in Gimli Hospital. He left his mark in our world with his kind heart and cared for many including the wild ones in his yard.

Please come celebrate his life with me (Gail his sister) on Friday, January 6th from 1-3:00 p.m. at the Hannah Room, Lakeview Hotel, Gimli. We will share coffee and sandwiches together.

Should you wish to donate in Blake's memory, he shared with me his admiration for all the dedication at the New Horizon's Senior Centre and Blake would love a donation sent there.

"Take the love you have for me and spread it around the world" author unknown

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

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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OBITUARY

Muzyka, Emery Peter

November 19, 1945 - December 5, 2022

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our brother, Emery, on Monday, December 5, 2022 in Surrey, B.C.

Emery is survived by his wife Lorraine; brothers Len (Kathy) of Aldergrove, B.C., Bryan (Odile) of Winnipeg, MB., Carl of West St. Paul, MB.; sisters Mildred of Fisher Branch, MB., Joan (Paul) of Winnipeg, MB., Marilyn (Greg) of Lac Du Bonnet, MB., Bridget (Lance) of Pinawa, MB.; and many nieces and nephews.

Emery is predeceased by his parents Pete and Sunflower; brothers Bill, Frank, Peter and Douglas.

Emery was born in Fisher Branch, MB. He moved to Surrey, B.C., at the age of 24. He worked for 50 years at Con-Force Structures, a concrete plant.

Cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held at a later date.

A Letter From Heaven

When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes filled with tears for me

I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say

I know how much you loved me, as much as I loved you
And each time you think of me I know you will miss me too

When tomorrow starts without me

Don't think we are far apart

For every time you think of me

I'm right there in your heart.

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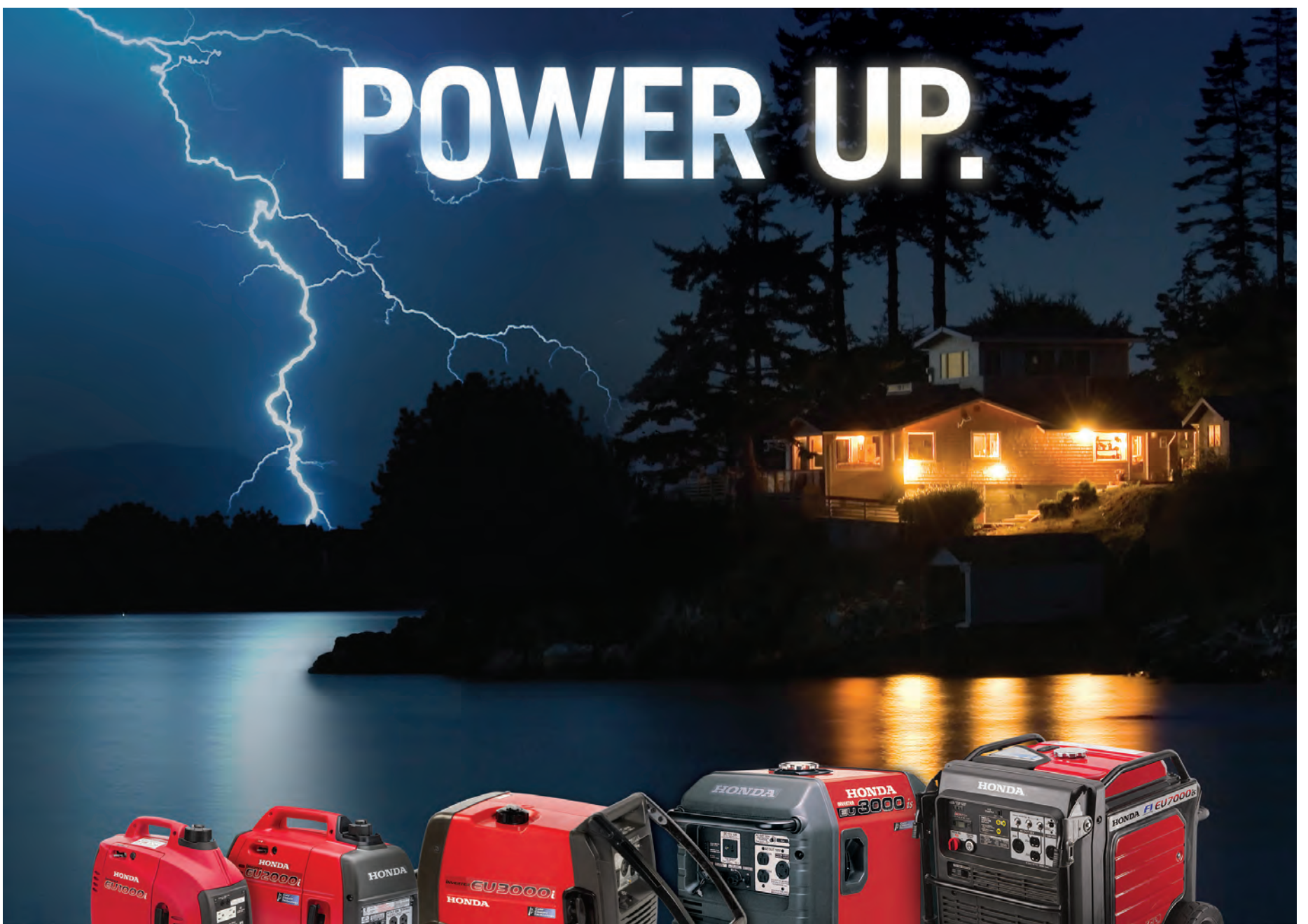
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