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EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHERYL BUHLER AND MICHELLE BELANGER
Gimli's Easier Said Than Run team, on Gimli Beach, are completing the 60 North Run this month. From left: Michelle and Armand Belanger, Lindsay and Chris Struhan, Kim Giesbrecht, Cheryl Buhler and Susan Holfeuer.

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Gimli's Easier Said Than Run team blazing trails with 60 North Run

By Patricia Barrett

If there's anything that motivates members of the Gimli Running Club, it's a new challenge.

That's why they've eagerly hit the trail for the 60 North Run, a 60-kilometre physical fitness challenge that must be completed over the course of January.

Club members adopted a humorous team name — Easier Said Than Run — and convinced a few friends and relatives to join them on a quest to enjoy the great outdoors and stay active as the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to sap morale and keep people too close to their sofas.

"60 North gets people outside and gets them moving. I think for a lot of people, this is something positive to focus on after Christmas and helps them set a goal for the new year. It keeps you motivated and allows you to support each other," said running club member Cheryl Buhler, who is serving as team captain.

Buhler said she co-opted several of her relatives to take part in the event and is doling out encouragement via her Facebook page every step of the way. The team is "doing great."

The 60 North Run is a cross-Canada winter fitness challenge which has participants running, walking or cross-country skiing (or a combination thereof) 60 kilometres in January. The registration fee gives participants access to a website where they can record their mileage and earn some swag such as badges, neck gaiters and reflective equipment. Each participant will also earn a medal.

In addition to Buhler, there are 13 people on the Easier Said Than Run team, including Kim Giesbrecht, Michelle and Armand Belanger, and Lindsay and Chris Struhan, plus enthusiasts who aren't part of the running club such as Gimli Ice Festival co-chair Susan Holfeuer.

Seven team members live in Gimli and the remainder live in Winnipeg, the Whiteshell and Alberta. The youngest person is 14 and the oldest is 60.

Team members are completing the challenge on their own or in a household group because of provincial public health restrictions on gathering sizes.

Some team members got off to a running start by completing their 60 kilometres within a week, making it easier run than said. Other team members are pacing themselves, completing a select number of kilometres each day, said Buhler.

"Trust me, it is easier said than run. I'm doing two kilometres a day. I know



Eithne Dean, 14, is the youngest member of the Easier Said Than Run team.

that's not much for some people. But last January I did zero kilometres. Now I've completed 20 kilometres over the past few weeks," said Buhler. "I want to do a little bit every day to stay motivated and start to form the habit."

Gimli Running Club member Michelle Belanger said she was aware of 60 North through social media and signed up when Buhler said she wanted to get a team together.

"I've really enjoyed the 60 North challenge and it's been great at keeping me motivated. I really liked how I could walk and cross-country ski, too," said Belanger, who completed her 60 kilometres in 10 days.

Belanger had set a 1,000-mile goal for herself over the course of 2020 after running 648 miles in 2019 and competing in 40 events, including her first full marathon. It was the first time she had set a distance goal for herself, she said. Although she was unable to complete 1,000 miles during the pandemic, she did rack up 621 miles (1,000 kilometres).

"I was still really proud to have made it that far. I had two foot injuries that required seven weeks of resting and then slowly building back up," said Belanger. "It's difficult to keep up the motivation to get out and run when you don't have a race to train for or anyone holding you accountable; therefore, I'm very lucky to have a supportive husband who's also willing to be my running partner."

Running became a "great distraction" for her after the first COVID lockdown in the spring, she said, and it was one of the few times she left her house.

"I really missed getting together with our group. Even when we couldn't get together to run, the Gimli Running



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHERYL BUHLER AND MICHELLE BELANGER
Kim Giesbrecht runs alongside the Gimli harbour wall. She's part of the Easier Said Than Run team.



Members of the Gimli Running Club took part in the Icelandic Festival's 10-mile road race last August, finishing in Winnipeg Beach.

Club kept in contact the whole time and either provided cheering support or offered up challenges," she said.

Club members were able to achieve some outstanding personal goals last year. Lindsay Struhan, for instance, ran her first half marathon and Kim Giesbrecht ran her first full marathon, said Belanger, while she herself completed her first 50-kilometre run. Alan Dann was able to "crush his old half-marathon time and still have the energy to continue running."

They ran in events around Gimli but also took part in events in Winnipeg, Hecla Island and Birds Hill Park.

With additional spare time during lockdown, Belanger said club members were able to focus on strength training and becoming stronger runners.

"We're still in close contact and love to share our runs and any highlights or lowlights we're going through," she said. "And we can't wait to get together again, not only for our regular runs but for a coffee and visit on Sunday morning."

As for the 60 North Run, team captain Buhler said she expects everyone taking part to break the ribbon at the imaginary finish line by Jan. 31.

"Everyone on the team has already earned a 'toque' badge and most have

earned a 30-kilometre 'snowman' badge," said Buhler. "We will all finish and get our medals."

Clarification

Staff

In the Jan. 14 edition of *The Express Weekly News*, the story titled "Fisher and Teulon Ag offices closing" appeared.

While the article is accurate, two Interlake offices were left off the list.

The province will close agricultural offices in both Ashern and Lundar as well.

The *Express* staff apologizes for the oversight.

Correction

Staff

In the article "Looking for creative people to enter contest" published in last week's *Express Weekly News*, we inadvertently left out the link of how to enter the contest:

<https://forms.gle/xpBwU6u7vr-CWJqxK6>

Dunnottar Community Club taking play to a new level

By Patricia Barrett

The Dunnottar Community Club plans to take play to a new level after it raises enough funds to install new playground structures and a public gazebo that will be able to host programs and events.

The club and playground operate during the summer season, serving permanent and seasonal residents and their kids from the three communities that make up Dunnottar's catchment area — Matlock, Whyte-wold and Ponemah.

"It's an ancient playground that's essentially no longer safe," said John Zajic, chair of the club's playground revitalization committee. "We decided it was time to get together with the community club, the village and our community to revitalize the green space around the club."

Last year the club had to decommission the playground's teeter-totter as it was no longer safe, said Zajic. The remaining equipment — swings and monkey bars — will be removed when the project starts.

"We're going to replace it with a modern, accessible play structure for the community," said Zajic. "One of our major goals is the accessibility component of the structures. There are no accessible structures in Dunnottar right now."

In addition to the new play structures, the committee plans to build a covered open-air gazebo on a concrete pad where kids can do arts and crafts, people can hold events and birding enthusiasts can meet, said Zajic. The gazebo will form Phase 2 of the project.

"The idea behind it is to broaden the



use of the green space and let kids and their parents and grandparents use that covered space," said Zajic.

Playgrounds are designated spaces for recreation, social gatherings and for teaching kids about sensory and physical learning, but it's well known that they can be quite expensive. Community playgrounds, as opposed to private playgrounds, can range in cost from \$10,000 to \$150,000 depending on how elaborate the structures are and what materials are used. Play structures can be made from aluminum, metal, plastic or wood.

The club set up a dedicated fundraising committee last year, and the Village of Dunnottar is handling all the monies raised and issuing tax receipts to donors.

"The capital campaign we started in the summer last year is still ongoing and it's approaching \$40,000," said Zajic. "We have various levels that people can contribute to. If they want to contribute \$50 or thousands of dollars, they can. We wanted the campaign to be more inclusive so everybody in the



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DUNNOTTAR COMMUNITY CLUB

The Dunnottar Community Club offers summer programming to kids from Matlock, Whyte-wold and Ponemah. Last summer the club launched a campaign to raise funds for a new playground and public gazebo.

community could participate."

This month the club launched an online fundraising raffle — the Dunnottar Community Club's Split the Pot

Online Raffle — through the Funding Change organization. The raffle is of-

Continued on page 5



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AMM doing COVID recon

By Evan Matthews

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities is in the midst of its second COVID-19 impact survey, as the organization tries to better understand how municipalities are coping.

The survey focuses on potential fiscal impacts and pressures coming in 2021, according to an AMM spokesperson, who added all 137 Manitoba municipalities received the survey.

"The information gathered through this survey will help inform the AMM's advocacy efforts, as we continue to advocate to both federal and provincial governments for greater financial and economic assistance to municipalities in 2021 given the ongoing pandemic," said the spokesperson.

"Responses from this survey will be summarized and shared publicly," the spokesperson said, adding AMM intends to do so in the near future.

Questions on the survey largely

pertain to what areas of operations within municipalities have seen the most impact and if that impact could be quantified.

Generally speaking, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) stated municipalities across Canada are facing a collective operating shortfall of roughly \$10 billion to \$15 billion due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

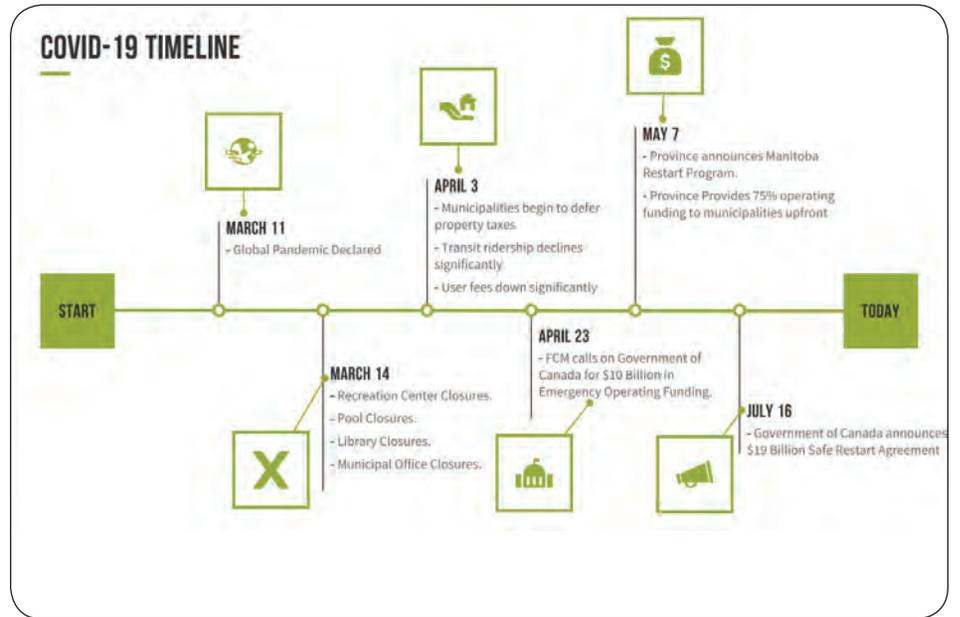
On its first survey, AMM asked municipalities what is considered highest priority in the coming weeks and months as Manitoba aims to recover.

Municipalities identified the continuation of services, safety of employees, increased information sharing, consistent messaging from government, funding to

ease financial pressures, operation of recreation facilities, and adequate supply of PPE as priorities.

A municipal COVID-19 timeline The AMM has designed a timeline

"RESPONSES FROM THIS SURVEY WILL BE SUMMARIZED AND SHARED PUBLICLY."



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COVID-19 timeline graph that outlines the pandemic.

graphic, which outlines the pandemic in chronological order from a Manitoba municipality perspective.

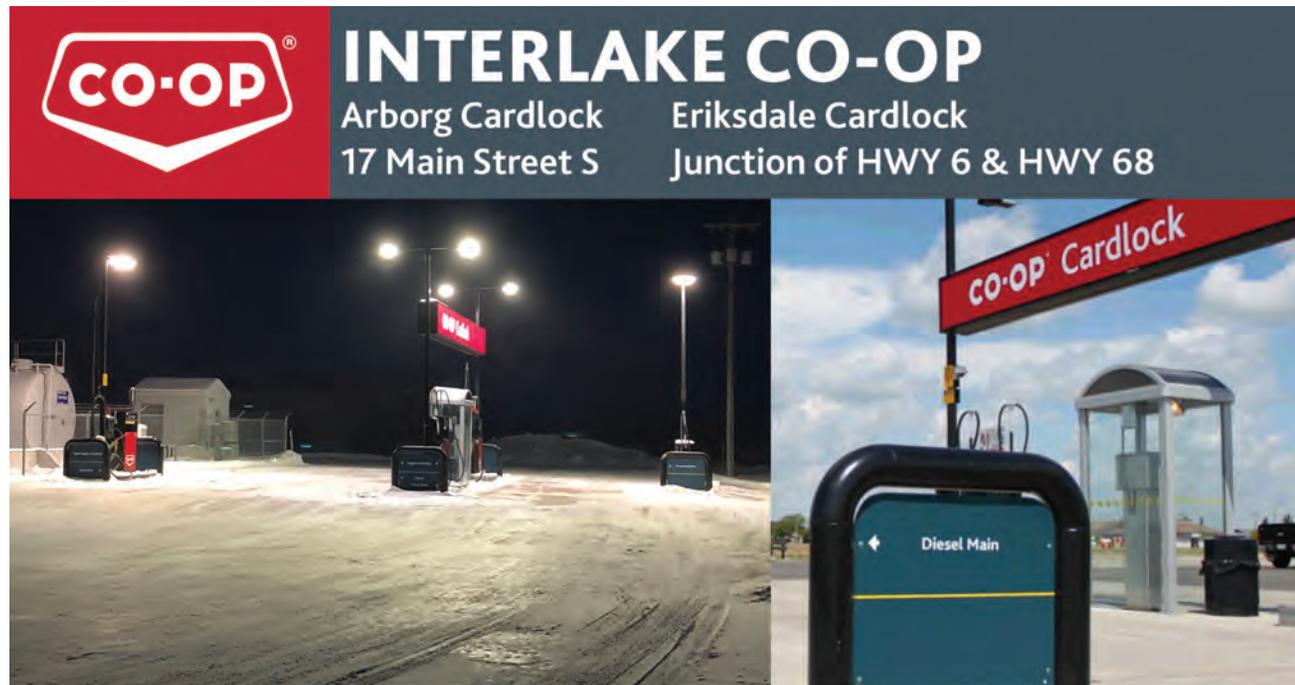
Shortly after the world entered into a global pandemic on March 14, the provincial government mandated Manitoba municipalities to close recreation centres, pools, libraries and municipal offices.

In April, municipalities began to defer property taxes, transit ridership declined significantly in major centres and user fees began to decline.

Simultaneously, the FCM called on the federal government for \$10 billion in emergency operating funding.

In May, the provincial government announced its Manitoba Restart Program and provided 75 per cent operational funding to municipalities up front.

Finally, in July, the federal government announced its \$19-billion Safe Restart Agreement.



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Snow days a thing of the past?

By Evan Matthews

Though Lakeshore School Division students got a day off last week, the time where learning stops due to weather may soon be a thing of the past.

On Jan. 14, schools closed due to inclement weather — a snow day — in a number of divisions, including Lakeshore. Some Interlakers asked if remote learning is available for COVID-19 limitations, why wouldn't it be used on snow days, too?

"Over the past year, our capacity to offer remote learning has increased dramatically," said Donald Nikkel, Lakeshore School Division's superintendent of human resources and alternative program director.

"I anticipate there will be further discussions ... about whether to ad-

just our procedures to reflect these changes. There has been quite a bit of discussion across North America on this development and a number of different positions are being taken."

Overall, Nikkel said there are key differences from an educational perspective between COVID-19, which has created medium- to long-term learning disruptions, and snow days, which are short-term learning disruptions.

When creating a procedure for snow days, Nikkel said the expectation is there are a limited number of days when travel is too hazardous, and those days are usually spread out over the course of several months.

"With the advances in remote learning we have seen over the past year, this is an opportunity to review our

procedures and determine whether change is needed," said Nikkel.

"Our current practice is for teaching staff to continue to work on inclement weather days. Teachers work on a variety of other tasks including lesson preparation, marking and other tasks principals assign."

Current inclement weather procedure

In Lakeshore School Division, in the event of a snow day, the director of operations and infrastructure — in consultation with personnel in each region of the division — and the superintendent will be in contact with each other between 6 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.

If at 6 a.m. the temperature, as read from The Weather Network, reaches

-40 degrees Celsius or the windchill reaches -45 degrees Celsius, buses and classes are cancelled.

Other factors such as visibility and road conditions may also warrant the cancellation of busses and classes or the closure of schools.

The superintendent makes the final decision regarding cancelling buses and classes by no later than 6:30 a.m. At that point, the division office activates the automated phone messaging system. The phone messaging system contacts all staff and student households.

The division office also makes contact with radio stations and posts information on the website via www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca, Facebook and Twitter: @LakeshoreSD.

Applications now available for 2021 urban and hometown green team grants

Submitted by Manitoba government

Urban and Hometown Green Team grant applications are now available for organizations to hire youth between the ages of 15 and 29 for summer jobs in Manitoba, Municipal Relations Minister Derek Johnson announced earlier this month.

"Green Team programs support summer employment for hundreds of young Manitobans and we look for-

ward to the work they can accomplish in 2021," said Johnson. "In addition to supporting community projects, employment through the Green Team also provides valuable work experience for youth, which is very beneficial for future career opportunities."

Green Team grants allow communities to hire youth aged 15 to 29 to work on community projects between May 1 and Aug. 31. Eligible recipients

include non-profit organizations in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba and municipal governments in rural Manitoba.

Priorities for the 2021 summer season are focused on community-based organizations and municipal governments that can offer full-time employment opportunities for youth and on projects that support COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The grants cover 100 per cent of wage costs and \$250 per position for support costs in non-profit organizations. Municipal governments receive 50 per cent of wage costs and \$125 per position for support costs, on a cost-shared basis.

The deadline for applications is Feb. 15. For more information on Green Team applications, visit www.manitobago.ca.

> DUNNOTAR, FROM PG. 3

fering the winner 43 per cent of whatever is raised. Forty-two per cent of the pot will go towards the new playground and the remainder will cover the costs of running the raffle through Funding Change.

"The raffle pot right now is just over \$1,500 and we hope to raise around \$2,500," said Zajic.

The revitalization project also has financial support from the Village of Dunnottar, he said, and they intend to apply for a provincial community grant that was delayed because of COVID.

Mayor Rick Gamble said the Village of Dunnottar is indeed helping fund the playground project.

"We've discussed funding the project on numerous oc-

casions. We'll finalize it when we put our budget together towards the end of February," he said.

The revitalization project will be of great benefit to the entire community, which has seen more and more younger families buying property in recent years, he said, as well as retirees looking for a good quality of life.

"We're seeing younger families coming to cottage country here and we're seeing a lot of kids at the club. So anything we do there is really an investment in the future," said Gamble. "It's a good [playground] plan and we're very grateful the playground committee is doing this. It's a very popular community club during the summer months."

The community club has been part of the area for decades. It was established in 1942 and is about 79 years old, according to an assessment Gamble said the village was able to find.

The revitalization committee expects to complete the

playground project by June if there are no unforeseen delays. They're hoping to complete the gazebo project the following year.

Tickets for the 43/42 raffle can be purchased online at www.fundingchange.ca/dunnottarcommunityclub. The draw is scheduled for April 10.

For inquiries about making a donation to the project and receiving a tax receipt, call the Village of Dunnottar administration office at 204-389-4962.

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Good ideas don't belong to parties



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By Evan Matthews

No matter how big or small a community is, it seems there is always somewhat of a political divide.

Some people find themselves gravitating to the "left," identifying with social causes — which often result in higher taxes but provide things like a perceivably more robust health-care or education system, access to libraries and recreation facilities, more social assistance and so on.

Other people find themselves leaning more to the "right," identifying with fiscally responsible causes — which often result in lower taxes but also result in cuts to health care and education systems, less emphasis on things like libraries or recreation facilities, and more hardened stances on things like social assistance and so on.

These traditional views — or leanings — are no secret, and it usually doesn't take long in speaking with someone to find out which way they lean politically. Often, when people lean in different directions, conversations seemingly become more volatile.

Maybe it can be attributed to social media and a readily available debate

on most every topic. Maybe people are more in tune with what's going on in their communities than they were before the age of the internet.

But regardless of the answer, one thing should be emphasized on a local level: good (and bad) ideas don't belong to parties; they belong to people.

It seems when a community discusses controversial topics, people within the community tend to pick their side, take a stance, and hope their side "wins."

But we are different here in Canada than our neighbours to the south; we are not America.

We can notice and affiliate with party ideals but also still sit down at the dinner table and discuss issues with our family, friends and neighbours, some of whom will have dissenting viewpoints.

We need not be so focused on the right and on the left; rather, focused on good ideas, working together for efficiency and efficacy, and execution of those ideas.

Whether a person is traditionally right- or left-wing in their views, they may have a good idea.

Writing people off because of those

views is not helpful to anyone's cause.

We need to assess ideas on individual merit, as opposed assessing based on who put the idea forward.

On the flip side, just because an idea is a "socially beneficial" doesn't mean it's fiscally responsible or warranted. Or just because an idea is "fiscally responsible" doesn't mean there isn't a need for a rise in taxes for a social benefit.

These archaic views of belonging to a party — beating the party drum, or towing the party line — whether Conservative, Liberal or NDP, it's all about power in numbers. It's about doing what's right for the party to obtain power, as opposed to doing what's right for everyone.

We have entered into a time when information and communication are readily accessible. It's time to start assessing ideas as they arise and stop writing them off based on who has put the idea forward.

You can't go out on your front step and wave hello to your local party, but you can go out on your step and wave hello to your local neighbours.

Good ideas don't come from or belong to parties; good ideas come from and belong to people.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Looking for support Lake Winnipeg health

To all Lake Winnipeg fishers, cottage owners, and people who live along the lake, from Matlock to Balaton Beach and beyond:

There are thousands of people living along the lake. When people settled here in 1875 along Lake Winnipeg's unspoiled shores, Manitoba was "The Postage Stamp Province." Now it is that same postage stamp

that pollutes the north of the province.

For over 100 years, the water quality from southern and western Manitoba has been unchecked, leaving water to flow into Lake Winnipeg.

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flows into Lake Winnipeg and all the way to the Arctic Ocean. I could go on and on.

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Regional approach to restrictions 'on the table'

By Lorne Stelmach

There was some cautious optimism as provincial health officials offered their COVID-19 update Monday.

Officials hinted at more information coming out this week about possible changes to the restrictions under the public health order while also touting progress being made on vaccinations despite a delay in the delivery of the Pfizer vaccine.

"We're definitely not out of the woods. We certainly still have a long way to go before we can return to normal. If we let up now, if we increased the amount of close contacts we have, we're going to see those numbers climb again," cautioned Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer.

"In order to start our reopening process, we need to do it in a continuous fashion, in a cautious fashion. We don't want to yo-yo, we don't want to have openings then require closures again if our numbers get high."

While not hinting at what might be under consideration in terms of easing restrictions, Roussin did allow, if possible, that they would like to again be able to take a regional approach where the numbers are better.

"That's not off the table. I think we want to try to get back to that regional approach. I think it's challenging when you're in the red and seeing the numbers that we had to take a very regional approach because there's a

lot of mobility."

Four additional COVID-19 deaths were reported Monday to bring the total number of deaths in Manitoba to 773.

The start of the work week brought 118 new cases of the virus, bringing the total number of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 27,629.

The Interlake-Eastern total case breakdown by district as of Monday, is as follows: A total of 2,017 cases, up by 65 from Jan. 11; 319 active cases, 1,665 recovered, 16 currently in the hospital with three of those in ICU and 33 deaths.

Arborg/Riverton 55 cases recovered; Beausejour 7 active cases, 120 recovered; Eriksdale/Ashern 66 active cases, 81 recovered and 7 deaths; Fisher/Peguis 54 active cases and 271 recovered, 3 deaths; Gimli 27 recovered; Northern Remote 81 active cases, 189 recovered and 3 deaths; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 53 recovered; Powerview/Pine Falls 80 active case and 54 recovered; Selkirk 92 recovered and 2 deaths; Springfield 155 recovered and 11 deaths; St. Clements 10 active cases and 80 recovered and 1 death; St. Laurent 15 recovered; Stonewall/Teulon 4 active cases, 141 recovered and 4 deaths; Unknown District 8 active cases and 176 recovered and 1 death; Whiteshell 25 recovered and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 131 recovered and 1 death.

Meanwhile, the province contin-

ues to further roll out its vaccination program with an emphasis right now on immunizing residents of personal care homes.

All eligible residents are expected to be given the first of two doses of the vaccine by the end of January, which is more than a week ahead of initial projections.

Last week, teams visited 10 personal care homes for consenting residents to be immunized with their first dose, and this week, residents at 51 personal care homes are to be immunized throughout the province.

"I am confident that our plan is sound," said medical officer of health Dr. Joss Reimer. She noted Manitoba is not holding back vaccine for second doses but will not book first-dose appointments unless there is either known inventory or a future federal delivery of vaccine that will allow the second-dose appointment to be booked within 21 days.

All new appointments were paused last Friday due to the uncertainty caused by the Pfizer vaccine supply disruption. Manitoba revised its projections, and eligibility criteria was being expanded to include health-care workers who provide direct care in long-term care facilities, including care homes.

"We wanted to give ourselves some time to look at the impact of those delays before opening the call centre back up," Reimer said. "We have been continuing over the weekend to meet together and to look at the numbers and recalculate and update our strategy in light of the Pfizer disruption."

"We did not over-extend. We did not assume that the future supply would arrive," she added. "Because of that, we're not cancelling any appointments or delaying any of our second doses."

Continued on page 11

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Manitoba 

ARBORG BIFROST-RIVERTON RECREATION MASTER PLAN – COMMUNITY SURVEY NOTICE

Dear Resident,

Over the past six months, the **Town of Arborg** and the **Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton** have been engaged in a comprehensive Recreation Master Plan process. Stakeholder engagement and public consultation are key components of this process, and the project team is interested in receiving your input. Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID-19 considerations, the project team will not be hosting the community-wide workshops originally planned for November 2020. Therefore, the project team is inviting you to participate in an online community survey to help understand residents' attitudes, preferences, priorities, and expectations when it comes to recreation programming and facilities in the community. The survey results will help guide the planning process and inform the Plan's recommendations and implementation framework. Specifically, the goals of the survey will be to:

- Understand specific user group and demographic needs;
- Gauge satisfaction with existing facilities and programming;
- Establish recreation priorities;
- Develop a long-term vision/philosophy for recreation in Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton; and
- Receive your feedback and input into the Recreation Master Plan process.

The survey can be accessed at the following link, and will be open until Friday, February 5th, 2021:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABR_Recreation_Plan

Thank you very much for your participation, and we look forward to your input.

Brendan Salakoh, RPP, MCIP
Landmark Planning & Design



Provincial Fast Pass COVID-19 testing site opens; select school divisions eligible

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government launched a pilot program to accelerate COVID-19 testing for educators in select Winnipeg and southern Manitoba school divisions and might expand the program in future.

The Fast Pass Testing Centre Pilot Program started Monday and is based at an established drive-thru COVID-testing site in Winnipeg on Nairn Avenue. It will provide a faster turnaround time for those who test positive for the virus.

In the city of Winnipeg, educators working in the Seven Oaks, Winnipeg, and River East Transcona school divisions can access the Fast Pass site.

Educators in the Seine River School Division, which includes the communities of St. Norbert, Lorette, St. Anne and Ile des Chenes, and the Hanover School Division, which includes the communities of Bothwell, Blumenort, Kleefeld, Steinbach, Niverville and Landmark, can also travel to Winnipeg to get tested at the site.

Health and Seniors Care Minister Heather Stefanson and Education Minister Cliff Cullen announced the launch of the program last week.

"Offering a dedicated testing stream to people working in schools will allow us to quickly identify any cases of COVID-19, enabling faster contact tracing and helping us to reduce

spread in our schools and community," said Stefanson in a Jan. 14 news release.

Educators from other school divisions will be able access the site in February, states the release, and the government may "potentially expand" the program to "other locations in Manitoba, including Winkler and Brandon."

The province has 39 school divisions and districts, according to the 2019/2020 Schools in Manitoba document on the province's education website.

Grades 7 to 12 students in the Interlake's Evergreen School Division (ESD) returned to class Monday after the province instituted a two-week period of online learning following the holiday break to help reduce the spread of COVID.

Currently under the pilot project, Evergreen teaching staff are ineligible for testing at the Fast Pass site, and Supt. Roza Gray said she hopes the government will provide a local rapid-testing site.

"The rapid-testing site is open only to staff from a selected number of ... divisions," said Gray by email. "We hope this pilot will be successful and that the provincial government makes a local testing site available soon."

Evergreen has a large catchment area, extending from Chalet Beach to Hecla on the shore

of Lake Winnipeg and encompassing communities to the west of the lake, including Arborg, Malton and Fraserwood. The division has eight schools located in four communities – Winnipeg Beach, Gimli, Riverton and Arborg – and about 265 employees, of which 181 are teachers, principals, clinicians and educational assistants.

When asked, Gray didn't say whether ESD would consider sending teaching staff to the Winnipeg-based testing site in February when it's supposed to open to other school divisions.

Provincial spokesperson Kailey McCaffrey said the school divisions in the pilot program were selected based on their proximity to the Fast Pass site in Winnipeg "to ensure a rural/urban balance and based on recent experiences in managing COVID-19 in the school community in order to best study the outcomes of the pilot program."

The pilot program represents over 30 per cent of total divisional full-time staff, she added, and other school divisions will have access in February with "further details to follow."

In addition, there are about 25 other testing sites open across the province for those experiencing COVID symptoms, she said.

In addition to teachers and educational support staff, bus drivers, custodians and child-care staff are

eligible for Fast Pass testing, according to the news release. They must be symptomatic, identified as a close contact or have a symptomatic household member.

Those eligible for faster COVID testing will be able to access a positive test result online the same day they were tested, states the news release. But there also may be some delays in which "some individuals may experience longer wait times to access a result as testing processes are established."

The site will be operated by Dynacare (laboratory services company) and tests will be administered by those trained to do rapid testing through Red River College's micro-credential program.

McCaffrey said the cost of the Dynacare contract "will be posted to the province's contact disclosure webpage as per the regular schedule."

On behalf of Interlake-Gimli MLA and Minister of Municipal Relations Derek Johnson, press secretary Blake Robert said that following a period of evaluation of the pilot, plans are in place to "potentially expand" Fast Pass to other locations in Manitoba.

The pilot is "just the first step of a potentially much broader rollout of this program," said Robert.

The Fast Pass site is located at 1066 Nairn Ave. in Winnipeg.



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Sustainable communities grants protect and enhance

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Building Sustainable Communities Program grant application intake will open on Monday, Jan. 18 to support community development projects, Municipal Relations Minister Derek Johnson announced on Jan. 15.

"Our streamlined grant program is flexible and more responsive to community needs, reduces red tape and enhances the project outcomes," said Johnson. "We are committed to supporting projects from municipalities, non-profit and community-led organizations across the province."

The 2021 program intake has been expanded to include support for larger-scale capital projects. This includes a maximum grant contribution of 50 per cent of eligible capital project costs, up to \$300,000.

The current maximum grant contribution of 50 per cent of eligible project costs, up to \$75,000, will continue to apply for all other project categories.

This will ensure regional distribution of projects across the province.

"The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates our ongoing partnership with the provincial government to review applications and make recommendations on the Building Sustainable Communities Program," said Kam Blight, AMM president. "This funding is maximized at the local level to help grow local communities and our province."

Eligible applicants for the Building Sustainable Communities Program include non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, municipalities, and northern affairs community councils.

"We are pleased to announce that we have fulfilled one of our commitments to continue to improve the

Building Sustainable Communities Program to modernize and strengthen the non-profit sector and promote capacity, sustainability and resilience in communities," added the minister.

Deadline for applications is Feb. 28. For more information about the program, or to submit an application, visit www.manitobago.ca.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING PROJECTS FROM MUNICIPALITIES, NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE PROVINCE."

Lakeshore School Division expresses concern to education minister

By Evan Matthews

Newly appointed Minister of Education Cliff Cullen didn't have to wait long to hear from Interlakelers in his new role.

The Lakeshore School Division board said in a statement that, as a small school division, it can be difficult to find the time and space to have its voice heard. The board said it has growing concerns about recent developments at the provincial level, mainly on three topics:

1. Rhetoric used by the province implying students in Manitoba are receiving a sub-standard education.

2. The well-documented continuous cuts to provincial funding for rural divisions over the past number of years.

3. Bills before the Legislative Assembly are eroding board autonomy and include language implying the potential of a preliminary implementation of an education review.

"Our board feels the time is right, given the cabinet shuffle and a new minister, in terms of putting our voice out there to be heard," said Don Nikkel, Lakeshore School Division's superintendent of human resources and alternative program director.

Nikkel noted while the division is concerned about the aforementioned issues, the division believes in the collective efficacy of working together with the province to make a stronger future for youth.

"We're not opposed to change. In fact, change is an important part of education. But change, in the end, needs to benefit our communities and our kids," he said.

An education review may be looming, according to the premier, but Nikkel said it could be a catch-22. He said there is both concern and hope in regards to an education review.

"Can we make the system better? Absolutely we can," said Nikkel. "Will the review focus on the right aspects? Will rural voices be represented?"

Minister Cullen did not disagree with Lakeshore, as in a statement to the *Express*, he said the province wants to ensure Manitoba students receive a quality education in order to reach their fullest potential, with the goal being social and economic prosperity for the entire province.

Concerning rhetoric

Since being first elected in 2016, Premier Brian Pallister has referred to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) scores across the province, which shows Manitoba students consistently scoring among the worst in Canada.

Nikkel said while Manitoba hasn't scored well in comparison, and the premier continues to highlight the need for change and education reform, Lakeshore School Division is of the opinion there is more to education than a test score.

"Testing for math and literacy has a place in assessing how your education system is doing, but it isn't the whole picture," said Nikkel.

"We need to think about the type of community members and citizens we're helping to shape, and who the people in our communities are going to be once they graduate.

"In the end, we want to have good people in our communities, contributing members, who

volunteer, who are involved in the democratic process, who are kind to their neighbours, who start small businesses," he said.

Furthermore, Nikkel added recent studies have shown Manitoba does well in creating an equitable education system, which means taking students who struggle with math and literacy and raising their levels sufficiently, compared to other provinces.

Bills put forward

The most prominent of problematic bills put forward, according to Lakeshore, is Bill 45.

For example, to ensure rural input, Section 99.9 of Bill 45 should be reworded to provide representation based on number of teachers and by region, whereas currently it is based solely on number of teachers.

"Bill 45, the mechanism itself, essentially sidelines rural voices," said Nikkel.

"Instead of having something based on the number of teachers per division, you could envision something based on regional representation (per capita)."

Nikkel pointed out any rural division likely employs fewer teachers than its urban counterparts, but that should not mean rural schools are not adequately represented per capita.

Most voting systems recognize the need for both regional and popular representation, Nikkel said, and there is an array of methods to achieve such an outcome.

Minister Cullen said the province is aware of the challenges rural communities face, but Manitoba is one of the highest "per pupil funders" in the country.

"We're committed to funding our education system with proper and necessary investment in rural education to ensure students have the best opportunity to succeed," said Cullen.

"School boards bargain directly with their teacher associations, currently, and Manitoba is the only province where public teacher bargaining is done exclusively at the local level.

"Our government is committed to modernizing public teaching bargaining where more time is focused on time in the classroom rather than the bargaining table," he said.

What the system should look like

Regardless of how the structure of education may change, Lakeshore emphasized an education system where:

1. The limitation of test scores is acknowledged, and recognizes it is a combination of character and hard skills that will create a future with thriving communities. Metrics to determine success should include a broad array of outcomes, including equity, well-being, creativity and community involvement.

2. Recognition of the challenges rural school divisions face, and creation of supports and funding formulas to ensure students receive the same options and opportunities urban students have.

3. Strong local voices and meaningful dialogue in the decision-making process. If significant changes are taking place, all parties should be forthright in their intentions and plans. Legislation introduced should include mechanisms to ensure local input and regional representation.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister appointed Cliff Cullen (pictured) as education minister in early January.



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Interlake-Eastern RHA's board of directors announce region's new CEO

Submitted by IERHA

Following an extensive national search, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's (RHA) board of directors has announced the appointment of David Matear as the new chief executive officer (CEO) for the RHA effective Feb. 8, 2021. Matear replaces Ron Van Denakker, who retired in October 2020.

David Matear, BDS, BMSc, DDPH, MSc, PhD, MCMI, MIHM, FRSPH, FACHE, holds extensive educational credentials including a PhD in health-care administration, a BDS in dentistry, certification in health-care management and change management, and he has more than 30 years of Canadian and international experience in health care. He brings to Interlake-Eastern RHA a unique combination of senior leadership experience in

policy, project management, change management, clinical, consulting, university, military and community involvement settings in Canada, England, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

In a former position as executive director, hospitals and community integrated services for Interior Health (IH) West in British Columbia, Matear planned and introduced a collaborative leadership team and strategic planning process that involved a broad representation of internal and external stakeholders including Indigenous communities and patient voices. As senior operating director in Fort McMurray, Alta., he was the incident commander for Alberta Health Services during the fire that swept through that community. It was the largest natural disaster in Alberta's

history. Matear successfully led the evacuation of patients and staff and then mobilized a field hospital including an operating room, air and ground medivacs, urgent care centre, primary care medical clinic, mental health services, public health services and home care services. This was then followed by the repatriation of these services at the conclusion of the disaster.

Matear is currently leading California's public health technical assistance teams in support of health-care systems and serves on the state health and human services COVID planning team, two major initiatives in the COVID response for the state of California.

According to Interlake-Eastern RHA's chair of the board of directors, Glen West, Matear's integrity and extensive knowledge and experience in health care, coupled with his proven skills in team building, strategic planning, community engagement, and ability to achieve results will be very valuable assets to the region.

"As a board, we feel very fortunate that David will be leading our region as our CEO. The board of directors is looking forward to working with him in his new role," West said. He extended thanks to acting CEO Ron Janzen for his leadership over the last several months in an unprecedented time in health care while the board conducted their CEO search.

Matear is looking forward to becoming a part of Interlake-Eastern RHA's team.

"My passion is population health management and the accessibility, safety, effectiveness and quality of



PHOTO SUBMITTED
IERHA CEO David Matear

health-care services delivered to meet community needs. I am committed to building on the foundational work of my predecessor in engaging external and internal stakeholders in the strategic planning and delivery of health-care services. Important components of my approach will be the development of collaboration and partnerships, innovation and empowerment," Matear said.

Interlake-Eastern RHA has 3,200 staff members that focus on the values of collaboration, accessibility, respect, excellence, innovation and quality customer service while serving the approximately 132,000 people in the region's area that represents one-tenth that of Manitoba.

Male drivers identified as 'super speeders' on Manitoba roadways

Submitted by MPI

Male drivers (aged 34 and under) account for more than half the speed-related, serious driving offences recently issued, according to Manitoba Public Insurance and the RCMP.

A total of 522 speed-related serious driving offences were forwarded to MPI from January to the end of December 2020. This is nearly a 60 per cent increase from the same time frame in 2019.

Over 50 per cent of these "super speeders" were caught on the following roadways: Highway 100/101 (Perimeter Highway), Highway 16, Highway 1, Highway 6 and Highway 59, according to RCMP data.

As per the Drivers and Vehicles Act, speed infractions (50 km/h or more over the limit) are one of several offences that must be reported to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. After

receiving the serious offense notice roadside, drivers are given five business days to contact MPI to schedule a show cause hearing.

"Excessive speeds is potentially fatal for the responsible driver, their passengers and all other innocent motorists," said Satvir Jatana, vice-president of employee and community engagement for Manitoba Public Insurance.

"These super speeds are inexcusable. About one in five road fatalities in Manitoba have speed as a contributing factor. This high-risk driving behaviour is careless and potentially fatal."

RCMP and other police agencies are on the front lines of protecting innocent motorists.

"When people drive really fast, there is a good chance they could end

Continued on page 15



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Westshore Community Foundation awards \$40,000 in grants through the Emergency Community Support Fund

Over this past June and July, Westshore Community Foundation awarded \$40,000 in grants to eight local non-profit organizations. These grants supported these organizations in running projects at the community level that serve vulnerable populations that have been especially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects included:

- The purchase of outdoor furniture, a portable oxygen concentrator and a Broda chair to provide a safe, outdoor environment for family visits at the Betel Home Foundation.
- For Heima Er Best, the purchase of indoor and outdoor activities for their clients.
- The purchase of additional protein and dairy replacement for the food bank at Evergreen Basic Needs,
- The purchase of 12 I pads for Gimli New Horizons, who will loan out the I-Pads to their members to enhance family communication during the pandemic.
- To augment the Meals in Need program at the Gimli Senior's Resource Council.
- To enhance sanitization practices, the purchase of hands free faucets for the Winnipeg Beach Tiny Tots.
- Providing support for programming at the Interlake Women's Resource Centre
- Assisting the Winnipeg Beach School Breakfast and Nutrition program.

The grants are part of the Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), funded by the Government of Canada.

The ECSF is a \$350 million fund that is being implemented with Community Foundations of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and United Way Centraide Canada, in partnership with local foundations across the country. Its goal is to provide support to charities and non-profit organizations serving vulnerable Canadians.

Andrea Dicks, President of CFC stated "CFC is proud to be funding projects designed to help communities experiencing heightened vulnerability during the COVID-19 crisis. The global pandemic has left no community untouched. It is also exacerbating existing inequalities and having a disproportionate impact in communities who are less equipped to deal with its health, social and economic impacts".

Karen Bowman, Co-Executive Director of Evergreen Basic Needs, remarked

"Evergreen Basic Needs is thankful for the ECSF Grant that has helped the EBN Food Bank maintain a consistent supply of healthy, protein rich food for our clients during the Covid-19 Pandemic"

The Westshore Community Foundation Inc. is an enduring charitable organization created to build a permanent capital fund, which supports registered charities and individuals.

The Emergency Community Support Fund
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Advertorial

Local MP offers new year reflections



Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan

By Jennifer McFee

Now that 2020 is behind us, Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan shares his reflections for the new year.

He notes that 2020 was a difficult year, particularly for those who lost family members to COVID-19 or businesses as a result of the economic crisis.

Nonetheless, the community has found ways to band together and support each other throughout the pandemic.

"Growing up in rural Manitoba, I think we were all taught the responsibility of taking care of each other. We are the people who check on our elderly neighbours, snow blow each other's driveways, stop when we see a car in the ditch on a gravel road and generally look out for one another. But 2020 has taken that to a whole new level," he said.

"There has been incredible sacrifice

> RESTRICTIONS, FROM PG. 7

"We want our health-care system and our most vulnerable, our top priority groups, to be fully vaccinated and fully covered."

The province's broader immunization plans, however, were adjusted based on delays or reductions in Pfizer vaccine shipments from the federal government, which are expected to continue for at least another month.

To date, 17,751 doses of vaccine had been administered, including 15,607 first doses and 2,144 second doses. The province is expected to announce additional details on the next steps of its immunization campaign sometime this week.

by frontline health workers at all levels, by essential service workers who showed up every day to serve their communities, by business owners forced to close to lower the spread or adapt to strict restrictions, and so many more. It has been a year of sacrifice and difficulty for all, but time and again, I am inspired by how our local communities have found ways to take care of one another and find joy during this difficult year."

During this tumultuous time, Bezan praises the abilities of his staff to keep the community informed.

"My staff has made me proud in how they stepped up to make sure every one of our constituents gets the information they need to get through this global health and economic crisis as quickly as possible," he said.

"We talk every day to constituents who are struggling through this crisis and many are falling through the cracks of government programs. The biggest successes are the days when we hear back from the constituents who have received the help they need as a result of our advocating on their behalf."

At the same time, Bezan draws attention to some of the noteworthy happenings of 2020.

"Personally, I joined forces with NDP Niki Ashton, MP for Churchill-Keewatinook Aski, to fight for Manitoba's freshwater fish harvesters who were being left behind during the pandemic response. Our bipartisan work paid off and it was a really good day when the Fish Harvester Grant and Benefit funding started to get transferred into the hands of fishing families who needed it," he said.

"Additionally, for Conservatives, a big success was electing our new leader, the Honourable Erin O'Toole. The leadership race was longer than anticipated due to the pandemic, but being back in the House of Commons this fall with Erin as the leader has been a real success."

In contrast, Bezan also expressed his opinion about some of the year's many challenges.

"At every point during the COVID-19 response effort, Canada has been playing catch-up due to a lack of leadership from Justin Trudeau. It is challenging to keep up to where our allies are when compared to the inconsistent and incoherent policies of the Liberal government," he said.

"Whether that was closing airports, shutting the border, procuring PPE, adopting mask protocols or now approving vaccines and ensuring there is enough for every Canadian who wants it, the Liberal government was slow to respond, resulting in greater risks for Canadians."

In addition, Bezan expressed his opinion that there are major gaps in almost every program included in the COVID-19 economic response plan.

"Despite calling for a Team Canada approach, there were a lot of moments when the Liberal government was rejecting ideas just because they came from an opposition party," he said.

"Through everything, our Conservative team has been

focused on helping Canadians and putting forward constructive solutions to improve government programs and policies. This has resulted in changes to the wage subsidy program, the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), the rent subsidy program and more."

Looking ahead, Bezan shared his perspective on big issues for 2021.

"No question, the first big project of 2021 will be vaccine distribution in a timely manner. Canadians remain concerned about the health, safety and economic security of themselves and their loved ones. Getting vaccines in the arms of every Canadian who wants one is a huge step toward getting our sense of security back," he said.

"I have heard from constituents on both sides of the debate on vaccines. I want to remind everyone that vaccinations are not mandatory under federal law. Thank you to all the Canadian Armed Forces members currently working as part of Operation VECTOR and Operation LASER. I have full confidence in their ability to handle these tasks."

He also shared his hopes for the Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman region for the new year.

"I want our local business community to be able to reopen their doors and serve our communities without the fear of what restriction or lockdown might come next. I want our fairs, festivals and community events to happen again and serve as a celebration of community being able to gather together," he said.

"Most of all, I will continue to serve the people of Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman to the best of my ability and be a strong voice for them in the House of Commons."

As the MP for the area, Bezan expressed gratitude to community members, as well as some words of encouragement.

"I want to thank each and every one for doing their part to ensure the continued health and safety of our communities. This has been an unpredictable and unprecedented year, but we are coming through it together. Please continue to be patient, kind and follow the advice of public health officials in order to give our frontline health workers the best opportunity for success," he said.

"I wish everyone the best in 2021. May it bring good health, recovery and the sense of normalcy we all are longing for."

Derek Johnson
MLA for Interlake-Gimli

204.641.8525
InterlakeGimliMLA@gmail.com

EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION'S JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN and KINDERGARTEN
Registration for the 2021 – 2022 school year

REGISTER BY PHONE any time before January 25th

Please call your local school:
Arborg Early Middle School: 376 - 5054
Riverton Early Middle School: 378 - 5145
Sigurbjorg Stefansson School (Gimli): 642 - 1500
Winnipeg Beach School: 389 - 2176

Children born in 2017 are eligible for JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN
Children born in 2016 are eligible for KINDERGARTEN

For new registrations, you will be asked to provide the following: child's birth certificate, child's health number, parent(s)/guardian(s)' name(s), phone numbers, email, mailing and physical address, as well as an emergency contact name and phone number.

If your child was registered for JK in Evergreen School Division for this school year (program did not run due to COVID-19), please call the school to confirm your child will be attending there for Kindergarten and to update your file.

Cross-country skiing the newest pandemic craze

By Nicole Buffie

Going up and down the frozen paths in Petersfield, Brent Czarnecki made sure a morning ski on the cross-country ski trails while the powder is fresh.

"I've been cross-country skiing on and off for a number of years now, but it's even better this year because more guys are going up and down pushing the trail," Czarnecki says about the upkeep of the trail.

A team of dedicated volunteers use snowmobiles and quads with special equipment attached and drag it along the trails to smooth out bumps and piles that may have accumulated, creating a smooth surface for skiers.

After stopping for a chat, Czarnecki continues west down the trail, letting his poles and skis guide him.

The Nordic sport has gained popularity this winter amid restrictions preventing social gathering. Those looking to stay active while gyms and community clubs are closed have taken to the trails in a bid to stay active while also getting a healthy dose of outdoor time.

The Happy Trails Ski Club, in its second year of operation, has seen their memberships explode this season.

"Last year, the first full season that we were a club with trails was about 70 members, and we're almost at 150 this year," said Jennifer Heinrichs, secretary of the club.

The ski club had humble beginnings last year, with a few members and a trail located in Winnipeg Beach. The

formation of the club was the result of the beach community expressing their desire for a formal trail, which grew to what Happy Trails is today.

As memberships grew, so did the need for equipment. Through donations and grants, the club was able to accumulate enough skis, poles and boots for members who didn't have any of their own.

Heinrichs said while their goal for this season was to be able to provide lessons to those new to the sport, COVID halted those plans. Instead, members can rent out equipment for the month and return it for those on the waitlist.

"We're just being really flexible, and I think that's the key to our success," she said. "We're adapting and learning as we go and responding to community needs and interest."

With the expansion of the trails to Petersfield this season making for over 30 kilometres of skiable snow between the community and Winnipeg Beach, Heinrichs said it has allowed more members to join as interest in the sport grows.

"We have probably half of our membership in that region, so it just shows that it's really something that people want to have access to," she said.

"Everyone wants to try it because it's something they can do during COVID. And I'm really hoping that this takes off and people stick with it because it's such a fabulous winter activity."

Czarnecki said it's been a great ac-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NICOLE BUFFIE

Brent Czarnecki takes advantage of the newly groomed cross-country ski trails on Netley Creek in Petersfield. Below: The Happy Trails Ski Club recently expanded their trail to the community of Petersfield to give access to more people wanting to try out the sport.

tivity for his family to partake in together as residents are trying to find ways to pass the time while the province is in code red lockdown.

"It's also been amazing to see the community come together to participate and take care of things," he said.

Whether engagement with the sport will be the same after restrictions loosen up remains unclear; however, Czarnecki says he will continue to follow the trails up and down Netley Creek for as long as the ice is frozen and the trails are groomed.



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Fisher River Cree Nation starts inoculating elders and health-care providers

By Patricia Barrett

Fisher River Cree Nation began inoculating band members last week after 190 doses of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine were made available to the First Nation community.

The community has about 1,945 people on reserve, and health-care workers and elders are the first to receive the vaccine.

The provincial government announced earlier this month that COVID vaccines will be shipped to various First Nation communities across Manitoba. First Nations' people have been hit hard by the virus, making up almost half of positive COVID cases and half of all people needing treatment in intensive care units.

The provincial government, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and other organizations representing First Nations determined which of the 63 Manitoba First Nations would be prioritized to receive the first doses.

The vaccine made by Moderna requires two doses at 28 days apart. Of the first 190 doses allocated to Fisher River, 17 were to go to elders at the Ochekwi-Sipi Personal Care Home, 50 to health-care providers and 119 to elders in the community, according to a vaccine rollout plan on the band's

website.

Before vaccinations started, health-care workers and the vaccine itself were blessed during a ceremony.

"Elder Stanley John McKay reminded everyone that there are millions of people in Canada ... waiting for vaccine and we should give thanks and be humble to have it here in the community today," stated a news release on the band's website.

Coun. Carl Cochrane thanked health-care providers and other front-line workers for continuing to fight the virus and help keep the Fisher River community safe.

Vaccinations were completed at the PCH on Jan. 13 with a total of 33 residents and staff having been inoculated. Elders who don't live at the PCH were vaccinated at the community centre.

"We are pleased to report that no one has had any reactions or side effects following their vaccinations," states a Jan. 14 update on the band's website.

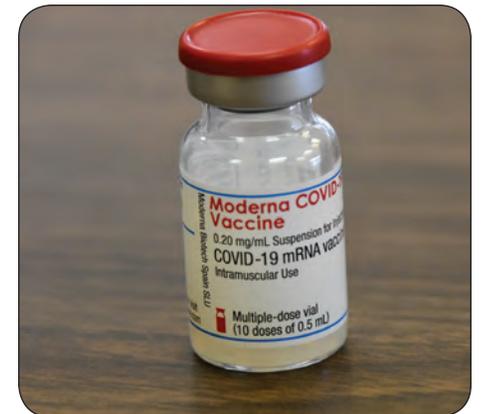
Elders wishing to be inoculated can call the Fisher River Health Services COVID-19 hotline at 431-256-0395 to book an appointment.

Band leadership noted that it will update the community when a CO-



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF FISHER RIVER CREE NATION
A community member receives the vaccine.

VID-19 vaccine is available to the general public.



The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

"WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT NO ONE HAS HAD ANY REACTIONS OR SIDE EFFECTS FOLLOWING THEIR VACCINATIONS."



Fisher River Health Services staff give the Moderna vaccine.



Fisher River Health Services staff.

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Diabetes Canada calls on government for national strategy plan

By Sydney Lockhart

Canada is a country that takes pride in its free health care, but millions of diabetic Canadians are paying hundreds or thousands of dollars a month just to stay alive.

"I recently calculated how much it costs for me monthly to live with the disease and that's not even including the juice or the sugar that I need when I go low or other little necessity things like that. I believe it was almost over \$1,000 per month," said Type 1 diabetic Alex Melsted.

Diabetes Canada is urging Canadians to reach out to their local MPs and ask them to push for implementation of a Diabetes 360 plan in the upcoming federal 2021 budget.

"With more word spread and people talking about it and raising awareness, that will definitely help," said Melsted.

This plan looks at all aspects of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. It would financially help diabetics and help the prevention of Type 2, making newer technologies more widely available to help manage the disease better.

Continuous glucose monitors are machines that constantly check blood sugar levels and warn users when their sugar is becoming irregular. With

this technology available widespread to diabetics, it would help manage blood sugar levels and prevent trips to the hospital from extreme high or low sugars.

"Canada is one of the few countries that doesn't have a co-ordinated approach to preventing it and managing it if you have it, preventing complications," said president and CEO of Diabetes Canada Laura Syron.

One hundred years ago in 1921, Sir Frederick G. Banting and his team discovered insulin at the University of Toronto, a discovery that has since saved millions of lives.

"We need our campaign to say it's great to celebrate the discovery of insulin. Absolutely we should honour that and be proud Canadians, but that shouldn't turn us away from the fact that we haven't done a good job on diabetes," said Syron.

The discovery itself has helped manage and regulate blood sugars; however, there is no cure for diabetes, but there is research currently being done using stem cells that has been promising in studies using mice.

"People with diabetes, if left untreated or not managed well, is the leading cause of blindness in adults. It leads to kidney failure and you must



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Alex Melsted with her medical supplies to manage her Type 1 diabetes. She calculated an average cost of \$1,000 per month on health-care expenses.

go on dialysis. It leads to foot ulcers and amputations. It leads to 40 per cent of heart attacks and 30 per cent of strokes," said Syron.

She said Canadians should educate themselves about the effects of diabe-

tes because the chances of knowing someone who is diabetic or developing it yourself is high.

To learn more about the Diabetes 360 campaign, or to donate to Diabetes Canada, go to diabetes.ca.

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ECBVerdyol marks 20 years of success and throws year-long celebration

By Patricia Barrett

Riverton-based ECBVerdyol is marking 20 years of success and continual demand for its products with a year-long celebration for the public.

The company, which is commonly referred to as the erosion control blanket plant on Highway 8 just west of Riverton, will be offering the general public opportunities to take part in contests and special events through its Facebook and LinkedIn social media pages.

Founder and owner Mark Myrowich said the company's success comes down to its products and the relationships it has built and maintained over the years.

"We make excellent products that have kept our customers loyal to us. We don't sell our products to a lot of people, but we sell a lot of products to a few people," said Myrowich by phone last week. "We also have very good customer relations. A few of our customers have been with us since Day 1. Building long-term relationships with key customers has kept us around."

Myrowich started off by manufacturing erosion control blankets when he founded the company all those years ago, then branched out into making other erosion and sediment control products to build up his product line.

The company now offers a line of products that includes turf reinforcement mats, biotic soil, wattles and rifle staple guns, which secure the blankets, sod and geotextiles. The products stabilize slopes, embankments along highways, the sides of wastewater treatment ponds and revegetate poor soils, to name a few uses.

"Biotic earth helps fix poor soils on construction sites. Construction-site soil gets beat up by big equipment and companies want to grow vegetation on that soil. Biotic earth is an organic amendment to make the subsoil act more like topsoil," said Myrowich. "It helps the plants take root, get food, grow healthy, build soil and store carbon."

ECB distributes its products throughout Canada, America and Latin America. The majority of product is sold to the U.S. (69 per cent) followed by Canada (29 per cent). The remaining two per cent is distributed to destinations outside North America, said Myrowich.

Like every other company, ECB has had to take steps to help ensure its employees are protected from COVID-19. Those include physical distancing, frequent handwashing and mask-wearing. But luckily enough, ECB's markets haven't been negatively affected by the pandemic.

"Fortunately, we fall under the essential services category, which includes construction, infrastructure, roadways and manufacturing in Manitoba," said Myrowich, "so we've been allowed to operate throughout the pandemic and we've not slowed down."

In fact, the company was able to hire new staff while the pandemic continued, he said, and is "always looking to hire new people." One of the ways the company acquired new staff was by using the student job support program.

"We've not used any of the specific support programs the government has offered to help businesses financially survive COVID, and we're proud of that," said Myrowich. "We've been able to keep our part of the economy going. We're very fortunate to be in the position we are."

That success and the ongoing pandemic are some of the reasons why Myrowich has decided to throw a year-long celebration. It will be virtual for the time being because of provincial public health restrictions around gatherings and safety precautions.

"With COVID we couldn't have a cake or throw a party to celebrate our anniversary, so we've had to improvise and do a whole year of fun stuff," he said.

ECB's marketing co-ordinator Abigail Guse said there will be something new for the public every month.

"We're rolling out a contest every month and we're going to have a '20 days of giveaway and countdown' to a grand prize to celebrate our anniversary," said Guse. "That will be rolling out later this year."

The public can enter the contests and giveaways through the company's Facebook and LinkedIn sites.

"We're switching up our prizes every month, but right now we're excited to give away Yeti-brand tumblers (rugged, insulated bottles). We also have hammocks and blankets [for warmth, not erosion control]," said Guse. "We're always trying to find fun stuff people will enjoy and be able to use in their everyday life."

In addition to prizes, the company donates a certain amount of money each year to community causes or special events. In the past the company has helped sponsor a senior's Christmas dinner and the Reggie Leach tournament to help raise funds for the Riverton skating rink.

"Typically, our budget is \$3,000 a year for supporting community events. But we've increased it by another \$2,000 for this year to celebrate our



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBIGAIL GUSE
Plant employees at ECBVerdyol were busy last week making erosion control products that the company sells across North and Latin America. This year marks ECB's 20th anniversary.

20th anniversary," said Myrowich. "Our community is not just Riverton but also Arborg, Gimli and Winnipeg Beach where our employees come from."

The money might not get spent right away as no community events are allowed under current provincial pandemic health orders. But Myrowich said he's hoping things will get back to normal by the fall or early winter.

He said he is tentatively planning to hold a barbecue for his employees, but whether that can go forward again depends on where the COVID numbers sit.

"If we can't do it in the summer, we'll do it when we can," said Myrowich.

For more information about ECBVerdyol, visit www.biocearth.com or call toll-free 1-866-280-7327.

> SPEEDERS, FROM PG. 10

up in a serious, even fatal, collision," said Insp. Chris Moore, officer in charge of traffic services for the Manitoba RCMP.

"You risk being transported to the morgue as opposed to arriving a few minutes early. It is simply not worth it. Whether it is a timing factor or an adrenaline high, there is absolutely no excuse for these excessive speeds, and the RCMP has zero tolerance for this behaviour. Make smart choices."

Licence Suspension

MPI statistics report that about 90 per cent of

these speed-related show cause hearings result in licence suspension. Suspension penalties are based on the speed recorded on the ticket and the person's driving history. Length of licence suspension can range from several months to multiple years.

In addition, the responsible driver is issued a hefty fine and could also face criminal charges such as dangerous driving, depending on conditions and behaviour.

Of the speed-related SDOs forwarded to MPI, the average speed is about 60 km over the posted speed limit.

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Contest entry deadline February 5th, 2021

*stories may be edited for length

Former Riverton resident named to Order of Canada

By Evan Matthews

A former Riverton resident has received one of Canada's highest honours, but the RM will not rename a street after him, opting to wait until a new street comes about for homage.

In November 2020, Glenn Sigurdson, now a West Vancouver resident, received one of Canada's highest civilian honours. Sigurdson was named as a member of the Order for his dexterous relationship-building skills and for his contributions to alternative dispute resolutions across Canada and beyond.

"The telephone rang, and an excited voice boomed in my ear: 'Glenn, it's Reggie (Leach). I am so proud of you. Now there are two Orders of Canada from Riverton,'" said Sigurdson on his website.

"We talked for a few minutes about growing up in Riverton. ... Not bad

for a little town in Manitoba," he said.

Sigurdson said it was the values, influences and experiences he had growing up in Riverton that shaped his life and career.

Describing himself as a man in search of a title, Sigurdson said he has been described as everything from a mediator, negotiator, facilitator, coach, mentor, lawyer, teacher, historian and writer.

"But probably the best and most simple description combines a bit of everything: the man in the middle," said Sigurdson, referencing how most of what he does involves helping others resolve deeply embedded differences, reach tough decisions and build resilient relationships.

"My business is moving people (away) from fighting (and toward) talking, most notably in complicated resource, environmental and land-

use challenges, often involving Indigenous communities' rights and interests."

He added that he is deeply appreciative for having been acknowledged and the words of congratulations to come his way in the weeks and months to follow.

Each message or call has brought back a deep and distinctive memory, he said. Sigurdson's full message can be found on his website at glennsigurdson.com.

The Order of Canada is how the country honours people who make "extraordinary" contributions to the nation.

A street for Sigurdson?

The RM of Bifrost-Riverton received a request to rename a street after Sigurdson, whose "soul and heritage are inextricably associated" with the community.

CAO Jordan Willner said the RM has acknowledged the request, which didn't highlight any specific street to be renamed. Therefore council chose to table the request and will consider



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Originally from Riverton, now a West Vancouver resident, Glenn Sigurdson is one of the 114 newest members of the Order of Canada.

it if and when there is a new road in Riverton in need of a name.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

King signs WHL Standard Player Agreement with Swift Current

By Brian Bowman

Karson King turned a dream into reality last week.

The talented forward from Warren signed a WHL Standard Player Agreement with the Swift Current Broncos.

"It's awesome and it was a long process right from the start," said King Friday evening. "My agent helped me make the best decision and Swift Current, on the other end, did a great job helping all of us get through it and put pen to paper. It was great news for my family, me, and everyone around me."

Still, King knows it won't be easy cracking the Broncos' roster.

"It will be a fight to get on the team so it's definitely driving me to be the best of my abilities and to work even harder to be a better player and person," he said.

King was selected with the first pick in the sixth round, 111th overall, in the 2019 WHL Draft. The Broncos selected King after he scored 21 goals and added 20 assists in 35 games with the Interlake Lightning U15 team. Originally a defenceman, King made the switch to forward for the 2018-19 season.

Following the WHL Draft, King moved to the U18 level with the Lightning for last season, scoring 16 goals and adding 15 assists in 44 games. King's 16 goals tied him for sixth amongst 2004-born skaters in the league while his 31 points put him 10th.

He had no idea that Swift Current struggled with a 10-48-2-3 record last season.

"I was just focusing on getting myself better," King said. "I wasn't too sure what their roster looked like, to be honest. This year, we still don't know what their roster looks like because COVID has shut everything down."

Limited to just four games this season before the league was put on hold, King recorded three assists.

It's been unusual for everyone to have their seasons halted due to COVID. King has been training with his brother and skating on a home rink to get ready when the season resumes.

The U18 league recently confirmed that they plan to resume this season at some point.

"It's definitely different," King said



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Swift Current Broncos announced last Thursday that they have signed 2004-born forward Karson King of Warren to a Western Hockey League Standard Player Agreement.

of the layoff. "Winter came around and there was no hockey. It was like I had no life. Usually, that's all I do in

the winter. It was definitely a change for me."

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Dola disappointed with SEMHL 2020-21 season cancelled

By Brian Bowman

Since he was about five years old, Hayden Dola has always played a league hockey game during the winter.

But the recently turned 24-year-old will see that streak snap this season.

Dola, a standout goaltender with the Warren Mercs, is one of many players disappointed that the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League made the decision to cancel the 2020-21 season.

Still, it was a decision expected by most people.

"I think just with everything going on in the world it was always a thought that we had in our heads," Dola said last week. "There was a chance that things would not come to fruition and we wouldn't be playing this year. But obviously guys were holding out hope that things would progress in a more positive way and we would get back to playing this year."

The SEMHL made the tough decision to cancel an entire season but it was one that was accepted by all seven teams.

"During a virtual meeting (Jan. 11), league officials and team management met to discuss the potential of a 2020-21 SEMHL season," read a statement on the league website. "With the Province of Manitoba code red extended to at least Jan. 22, after much discussion, it was unanimously

agreed by all seven teams to (cancel) the 2020-21 SEMHL season. This was a difficult decision to be made but all the teams are looking forward to returning to the ice for the 2021-22 season."

The cancelled season is especially tough for the Mercs, who were expected to ice another very good team this year. Warren was two wins away from winning a league title last year when Hockey Canada shut down all leagues in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Last year, we were up 2-0 in the finals and we had a real shot at winning it," recalled Dola, a former Interlake Lightning and Selkirk Steeler. "It was tough the way it ended last year and we were fortunate to have our core come back this season with a couple more key additions. It would have been nice to get out there and bring a championship back to Warren."

"At the beginning of the year, everyone had that goal in mind and there was a really good chance of that happening. It's definitely frustrating but hopefully things can get back to normal for fall and we can get back on the ice."

Dola was enjoying a terrific season a year ago with Warren before he was injured. He was later named the SEMHL's best goaltender.

"There's definitely a lot of really



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

For the first time since he was five years old, Warren Mercs' goaltender Hayden Dola will not play a hockey game this winter after the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League elected to cancel the 2020-21 season last week.

good goalies in the league ... so it was definitely an honour to be recognized by the league," Dola said.

"But no goalie ever gets an award like that without the team in front of them. We had a really good (defensive) core

and an all-around good team, which made my job pretty easy most nights. Without the team in front of me, that award definitely doesn't happen. The majority of that credit goes to them."

Sport Manitoba launches 'Play More Be More' campaign

Submitted by Sport Manitoba

Sport Manitoba's 'Play More Be More' campaign launched Jan. 12 and focuses on the benefits young kids experience when they play multiple sports.

Play More Be More is all about helping Manitobans, especially parents of kids aged six to 12, learn about the dangers of specializing in one sport at a young age while also promoting the benefits of multi-sport activities.

"Many people may not be aware of all the benefits that come with playing a variety of sports versus specializing in one sport at a young age," said Jeff Wood, sport performance specialist for Sport Manitoba.

"Of course, there may come a time when an athlete chooses one sport to

focus on, but leading up to that, there are a ton of great things we see when athletes play multiple sports growing up.

"For example, the skills that one sport develops that can carry over to another, or avoiding burnout or over-use injuries from playing only one sport by doing the same movements over and over again."

A multi-sport experience makes sport and physical activity fun.

Throughout the Play More Be More campaign, Sport Manitoba will share multi-sport perspectives, stories, and resources from the local sport community, including decorated athletes like Brigette Lacquette, that will appear on its blog, website and social media channels.

"Growing up, I played pretty much every sport. I loved getting out there, competing and being active," said Lacquette, an Olympic silver medalist. "I feel like playing those different sports helped me grow as a hockey player because it allowed me to become more athletic overall and has improved my ability to adapt to change."

"For myself, playing softball was great for improving hand-eye co-ordination and playing sports like volleyball, soccer, basketball, and badminton helped me develop as an athlete, too."

Sport Manitoba's long-range strategic plan — the Manitoba Action Plan for Sports — identifies promoting the values of sport, encouraging multi-sport participation and promoting

universal skill development in its current list of priorities for the next four years.

The multi-sport theme of this campaign is also in line with Canada's Long-Term Development framework's early developmental stages. The FUNdamentals and Learn To Train stages encourage overall development of young children's capacities, fundamental movement skills, and foundational sport skills in a range of sports, physical activities, positions and environments.

Visit sportmanitoba.ca and follow Sport Manitoba on Instagram, Facebooks and Twitter to learn more about the dangers of early sport specialization and the benefits of playing multiple sports in the development years.

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LAND FOR RENT

AGRICULTURAL CROWN LANDS are presently available for rent for hay or grazing or cropping. These lands will be available for rent through an online auction. These lands are situated in the Rural Municipalities (RM)s of: ALEXANDER, ALONSA, ARMSTRONG, BIFROST-RIVERTON, COLDWELL, DAUPHIN, DELORAINE-WINCHESTER, ETHELBERG, FISHER, GLENELALANSDOWNE, GRAHAMDALE, HANOVER, HARRISON PARK, INDIGENOUS & NORTHERN RELATIONS, KELSEY, LAC DU BONNET, LAKE-SHORE, MOSSEY RIVER, MOUNTAIN, NORTH NORFOLK, PINEY, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, REYNOLDS, ROBLIN, ROCKWOOD, ROSEDALE, ST. CLEMENTS, ST. LAURENT, STE. ANNE, STE. ROSE, SPRINGFIELD, STUARTBURN, SWAN VALLEY WEST, TACHE, VICTORIA, WEST INTERLAKE & WESTLAKEGLADSTONE. A complete listing of Agricultural Crown Lands available for rent can be found online at: https://resd.ca/leases_and_permits/LPproperties.aspx. The online auction will take place from February 8-12, 2021, hosted by Garton's Auction Service: <https://gartonsauction.com>. For additional information, please contact your nearest Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development (ARD) Agricultural Crown Lands District Office (or via email at agcrownlands@gov.mb.ca) or call Real Estate Services Branch at 1-866-210-9589. A listing of ARD Agricultural Crown Lands District Offices can be found online at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/contact/index.html>

SCRAP METAL

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

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. NO ITEM TOO LARGE! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

SNOWMOBILE

Wanted - Equinox 685 Snowcoach and a Ski-Doo Freestyle 300F snowmobile. Ph 431-335-1350, Gimli area.

FIREWOOD

Seasoned poplar & maple. Wood for next year. Call or text 204-861-0487.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Do you own rental property in Winnipeg? Are you tired of dealing with long term renters and the mess they can leave? We can provide you with a different option to earn a rental income. Pawluk Realty 204-890-8141.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Ashern - split entrance home, 3 bdrms, two baths, office., fin. wood bsmt., elec. furnace, air, attached garage, 3.67 acres, 4 miles from town. Less than two hour drive north of Winnipeg, \$210,500. Phone 204-768-2620.

HELP WANTED

HACCP rated individual needed for fish packer in Gimli. Experience with CFIA rules necessary. Ph 204-407-8012.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Having a virtual event in Manitoba? Need registrants? Advertise it in the 37 MB Weekly newspapers and get noticed! Each week our blanket classifieds could be helping your organization get noticed in over 340,000 homes! It's AFFORDABLE and it's a great way to increase and connect with our 37 weekly member newspapers. For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Call 204-467-5836 to book or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

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



PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH POSSIBILITY OF FULL TIME

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

Office Custodian & Automotive Detailer

Duties will include detailing the interior of trucks, cleaning offices, and other janitorial duties. Successful candidate must be physically fit, able to work independently, and be detail oriented. The successful candidate will receive competitive wages & benefits package.

Sales@jbrandtent.com

Call 204-364-2775 for more information



FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

HEAVY TRUCK & TRAILER MECHANIC & SAFETY TECHNICIAN

Duties will include, but are not limited to performing inspections on units, mechanical repairs, and more. Experience is an asset. The successful candidate will receive training, all necessary tools, competitive wages & benefits package.

Sales@jbrandtent.com

Call 204-364-2775 for more information



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TOWN OF ARBORG Administrative Assistant

The Town of Arborg invites written applications for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. The ideal candidate will be friendly, energetic, well organized with previous office administration experience.

The Administrative Assistant duties include:

- execution of day-to-day and recurring financial and administrative work
- being the first line of contact with the public
- receiving and managing the flow of information
- generally keeping the office an efficient place to work

Qualifications

- Grade 12 education with supplemental secretarial, bookkeeping and computer skills
- Previous office experience including accounting duties or relevant education
- Ability to demonstrate competence in various computer applications
- Certification, or willingness to obtain, in the Municipal Administration Course

Additional Assets

- Strong organizational skills with the ability to meet deadlines
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work alone or as part of a small team
- Capability to serve the public in a professional manner
- Experience with information technology

The Town of Arborg offers a competitive salary, depending on qualifications, as well as benefits and pension package to the successful candidate. Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume with **three** references on or before Friday, **February 5th, 2021**. Resumes may be mailed or emailed to the undersigned. We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for interview will be contacted.

Additional information about the position is available by contacting:

Cindy Stansell, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Arborg
P.O. Box 159, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Phone: 204-376-2647 Email: caoarborg@mymts.net

Classifieds



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

NOTICES

Follow your own trails. Don't try to steal **THE WORK OF OTHERS**. I would hate it, if you stole and got away. Quote – Elie Wiesel **“ALWAYS TAKE SIDES.** Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Signed:
Stanley Troshuk
January 18, 2021

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Urgent press releases or media advisories service. Have something to announce? A cancellation? A change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information, or email classified@mcna.com for details. www.mcna.com

THE EXPRESS
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HEALTH

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

WANTED

Interlake Freshwater Fisheries is looking to purchase fish quota. Call 204-999-6248.

HAY FOR SALE

For sale – small square bales wheat straw in shed. Round bales of barley, not combined. Ph 204-461-1717 or 204-375-6622.

Tame hay for sale. St. Laurent area. Ph Elmer at 204-278-3562.

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Park Works Supervisor

52 Week, Non-Seasonal Departmental
Manitoba Conservation and Climate, Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park
Advertisement Number: 36907
Closing Date: February 1, 2021
Salary Range: \$44,807- \$52,988 annually

The Manitoba government recognizes the importance of building an exemplary public service reflective of the citizens it serves, where diverse abilities, backgrounds, cultures, identities, languages and perspectives drives a high standard of service and innovation. The Manitoba government supports equitable employment practices and promotes representation of designated groups (women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities).

Employment Equity is a factor in selection for this competition. Consideration will be given to women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, visible minorities.

Qualifications Essential:

- Supervisory experience
- Experience working in the construction industry
- Experience with cost estimates, purchasing and inventory control
- Experience using Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, Outlook) or similar software applications

Desired:

- Experience with Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health act and or safe working practices

For a complete listing of qualifications, conditions of employment, duties for this position and Application Screening Form, please see ad No. 36907 at <http://gov.mb.ca/govjobs>.

The selection board will rely only on information provided in the Application Form as well as your resume to select candidates for further assessment. Once you have completed the application form, save it to your computer and email or fax the form along with your resume to the contact information listed in the "Apply To" section below.

Duties:

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

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 36907
Service Centre 2
Human Resource Services
360-1395 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, R3G 3P2
Phone: 204-945-3001
Fax: 204-948-2841
Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternate formats available upon request

NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION R.M. OF WEST INTERLAKE

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at 38 Main Street, Ashern, MB from January 18th, 2021 to February 19th, 2021 (Monday to Friday) between the hours of 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. (by appointment only while under Code Red) call 204-768-2641 for appointment

During this time, we will be available to update the voters list by:

- Adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- Deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- Making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters list if he or she is:
1) A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
2) A resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address/fax/email number below) no later than February 19th, 2021 to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail, email, or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before February 19th, 2021.

Dated at Ashern in the Province of Manitoba on January 15th, 2021

Myrna Little
Senior Election Official
R.M. of West Interlake
Box 370, #38 Main Street
Ashern, Manitoba R0C 0E0
Cell: 1-204-941-0156
Fax: 204-768-2301
Email: tanbeca@mts.net



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

SNOW CLEARING ON MUNICIPAL ROADS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Residents are reminded that pushing and leaving snow from private property onto and/or across municipal roads creates a hazard to travellers using the roadways as well as interfering with snow removal operations. In the interest of public safety and timely snow removal, the Council of the Rural Municipality of Fisher is asking for your co-operation in refraining from these practices. It is important to be aware that **not all municipal roads are snow cleared**. In the interest of public safety, please check your route as you travel on municipal roads during the winter season.

Reeve and Council
RM of Fisher



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Join one of Canada's largest home improvement companies! Gimli Rona is now accepting applications for a sales team member. If you are committed to providing exceptional customer service, we want to meet you.

Qualifications:

- Retail customer service experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Computer literate, able to learn new software and processes
- Mature and responsible with sound decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Proven leadership capabilities
- Ability to learn fast and work independently

This position requires any day of the week availability.

Applicants must have the physical ability to perform tasks that may require prolonged standing, sitting, or other activities necessary to perform job duties.

Drop off your resume in store at
Rona Gimli 100-7th Ave. or submit by
email to laura@ronagimli.ca

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204.371.5131

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204.825.8378

Grain Farm
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Henry Carels
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Email: info@eddiesgravel.com Tel: 204-389-2023



EVERGREEN BASIC NEEDS

EBN Is Hiring!

Respun Threads Store Manager - 35 hours a week

Skills required for the position include:

- Excellent customer service • Experience in retail/merchandising
- Strong leadership and interpersonal skills
- Experience with cash register operation and daily cash outs
- Planning and scheduling skills • Positive attitude
- Strong decision-making abilities

We offer a comprehensive benefits package and the opportunity to work in an organization that makes a difference in the community.

Please submit resumé to Karen Bowman at
ebnoffice@mymts.net or drop off in person at
71 - 4th Ave in Gimli by January 29, 2021.
For more information, call 204 642 9736.



Rural Municipality of Armstrong

PUBLIC NOTICE / LONG TERM FORAGE LEASES

THE RM OF ARMSTRONG IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LONG TERM FORAGE LEASES. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FEBRUARY 19, 2021 BY 4:30 PM TO BE REVIEWED AT THE MARCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

LEASE TERMS ARE TO THE AGE OF 65, WITH 5 YEAR RENEWAL OPTIONS AFTER AGE 65.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE 204-278-3377 OR EMAIL CAO@RMOFARMSTRONG.COM. FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.RMOFARMSTRONG.COM.

THE RM OF ARMSTRONG IS NOT OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE LEASED LANDS.

APPLICANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO VIEW THE LANDS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION.

LEASE RATE WILL BE A PERCENTAGE OF THE CURRENT YEARS ASSESSMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

Land Location	Roll	Assessment	Acres
NW 26-18-1E	11800	9,800	160.00
NE 29-18-3E	44600	62,800	156.96
NW 29-18-3E	44700	53,900	160.00
SE 13-20-1E	99300	23,200	157.46
SW 5-20-2E	110900	41,600	160.00
NW 8-20-2E	111900	36,800	160.00
SE 8-20-2E	112000	36,800	160.00
SW 9-20-2E	112500	36,800	160.00
SW 17-20-2E	117000	41,600	160.00
SE 30-20-2E	123100	34,300	152.06
SW 30-20-2E	123200	22,900	155.80
SE 5-20-3E	127000	51,200	128.00
NE 31-20-3E E 1/2	134200	32,000	80.00
SE 30-21-1E	148000	56,300	159.00
SW 30-21-1E	148100	56,000	159.00
SE 32-21-2E	165600	41,600	160.00
NE 5-21-3E	169500	64,400	161.00
SW 17-21-3E	172300	60,700	160.26
NW 19-17-1W	184300	26,300	159.00
SE 1-19-2W	254000	36,200	156.00
SE 9-19-2W	258000	41,300	149.00
SE 30-19-2W	266500	39,800	160.00
NE 13-21-2W	326800	39,700	152.78
SW 25-21-2W	331900	41,600	160.00
NE 26-21-2W	332000	32,500	159.00
NW 26-21-2W	332100	30,300	159.00
SE 26-21-2W	332200	32,800	160.00
NE 16-21-3W	342500	14,500	160.00

Corlie Larsen, CMMA, Chief Administrative Officer
RM of Armstrong



THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. LAURENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Rural Municipality of St. Laurent is seeking a By-Law Enforcement Officer, an individual who is highly motivated, confident and organized, to be responsible for enforcing municipal by-laws and providing the public with information to ensure the protection of residents, property and employees.

This is a full-time position (40 hours a week) with flexibility of time management and access to municipal employee benefits and company vehicle. The By-Law Enforcement Officer will be expected to work weekends, especially in the summer, and be available for calls in the evening or night from time to time. The Officer will keep meticulous documentation and be prepared to attend Provincial Court as required and will also be responsible for animal control in the municipality.

You will need to provide a current Criminal Record check including Child and Elder Abuse Registry checks and possess a valid Manitoba Driver's Licence. Other requirements will include completion of Grade 12 or equivalent, excellent written and verbal communication skills and proficiency of computer skills including use of Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word. The successful applicant must also live within a 50 km radius of the St. Laurent Municipal Office.

Assets considered would be fluency in French language, and prior experience in law or by-law enforcement or security. By-law enforcement training will be provided along with other training such as First Aid and CPR, however in the current provincial restrictions this training may be virtual or delayed.

Applications are to include your resume and cover letter (which would include a narrative as to how your experience and qualifications would be ideal for this position) and must be received by Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. A full job description can be provided on request. Only those considered for interview will be contacted. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

Rural Municipality of St. Laurent
RE: By-Law Enforcement Officer
Box 220, 16 St. Laurent Veterans Memorial Road
St. Laurent, MB R0C 2S0
Phone: 204-646-2259 Fax: 204-646-2705
Email: rmstlaur@mymts.net

Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.

NOTICE OF TENDER April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

RBH Inc. invites tenders for **Electrical** for Riverton Family Housing Units located in Riverton. For information call 204-378-2937.

- Contract will be awarded with option for a one year extension
- Tender will not necessarily be awarded to lowest bidder
- Submission Deadline
– Friday, February 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- Submit quotes by mail or email to:
Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.
RBH Houses
Box 448, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0
rbh.inc@outlook.com

Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.

NOTICE OF TENDER April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

RBH Inc. invites tenders for **Electrical and Plumbing** at the Icelandic River Lodge in Riverton. For information call 204-378-2937.

- Contract will be awarded with option for a one year extension
- Tender will not necessarily be awarded to lowest bidder
- Submission Deadline
Friday, February 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- Submit quotes by mail or email to:
Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.
Icelandic River Lodge
Box 448, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0,
rbh.inc@outlook.com

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CARD OF THANKS

The family of Raymond Palsson would like to express their deep and continued gratitude to friends, neighbours and community for the overwhelming support during Raymond's illness and passing. Heartfelt thanks for the many care packages, food drop offs, flowers, cards, messages, phone calls and offers of help. We are so grateful to be a part of such a caring community.

-Kathy Palsson and family

CARD OF THANKS



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your cards, flowers, calls, messages, and donations to beautiful causes in Judy's honour. You were the hope that kept us afloat. We felt surrounded by love and grace and we are forever grateful for all of you.

"I do not understand the mystery of grace, only that it meets you where you are and never leaves you the same way it found you."

-Love always,
Bob,

Pam, Bryan, Carter, Jaxon and Parker
Jeff, Courtney and Jake

PS - Our very sincere apology to Judy's dear cousin Bill Kops for misspelling his last name in her obituary. We love you.

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BIRTHDAY



Join us in congratulating
Pauline Finlay,
who celebrated her 80th birthday
on January 15th.

Count your days by smiles not tears,
count your age by friends not years.
Wishing you a joy-filled 80th birthday.

-From Kevin and Monica Finlay

CONDOLENCES

Benjamin Robert Grocholski - I would like to send my sincere condolences to Heidi, Dale and Lorelai in the recent passing of your son, brother and my grandson Ben.

It has been a long 15 years since I held him in my arms. I wish that I could have been part of Ben's incredible life.

After reading his obituary, I realized what an amazing family he had and what I missed out on.

-Love and Amma kisses to my dear Benjamin
góða nótt og sofa örugg

IN MEMORIAM



Shirley Davis
August 24, 1937 - January 20, 2011
It has been 10 yrs since you left us.
We love and miss you always.

-Love Fay, Mickey and family

In Memoriam

In memory of my brother Duncan Edward Geisler,
second anniversary, January 18th, 2021

Two boys sit in the barn,
daily chores done,
they plan a day
rich in July warmth.

Might swim in the lake,
plan future muskrat trapping,
sneak raspberries from Nettie's bushes,
laugh and scrape, as juice runs down their chins.

Endless summers stretch on,
until they are men,
with futures that part them;
one, a legal eagle, the other, to fly.

And fly they do,
The Prairie sky, their playground.
Feel invincible and lucky,
their precious farm below them.

Even with a father gone,
they live out their lives
as two boys in that barn,
always planning together.

Machinery, cattle, grain and hay,
as seasons roll by.
Like sturdy fence posts,
they hold each other up

Through severe winters,
dark clouds roll in,
businesses prosper and wane,
a marriage ends.

But still, two fence posts
weather life's storms.
A belief in each other
runs deep in their hearts.

Now, the shirt giver
must stand alone,
his childhood friend, brother,
at peace elsewhere.

Two years have passed.
He stands in that barn,
with cherished memories
that comfort him.

In a farm bedroom,
a photo stands
and watches over him,
as he sleeps in peace.

by, Jude McCudden
© Jan. 2020

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www.mcna.com

Career Opportunity



Interlake Co-op is presently recruiting for a FOOD MANAGER Including locations at Arborg & Eriksdale, MB

Reporting directly to the General Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Food Department in our 2 food stores located in Arborg and Eriksdale, including but not limited to: financial results, marketing, inventory control, asset protection, merchandising, administrative duties, corporate performance management, guest relations, along with recruiting, coaching and development. To lead a food team consisting of approx. 60 team members and team leaders.

Food Department Annual sales volume approx. \$11 million.

Qualifications:

- Desire to work in a team setting, and networking skills
- High standards in marketing and merchandising
- Exemplary guest service
- Strong leadership, and interpersonal skills
- Excellent supervisory, planning, and organizational skills
- Strong work ethic with a positive and ambitious attitude
- Possess sound management and decision making abilities
- Ability to operate a forklift (training will be available)
- Previous management/ leadership experience
- Ability to commute to neighbouring locations

We offer career advancement opportunities, competitive compensation and wages, benefits package, company contributed pension plan and learning/development opportunities.

If you would like to work in a business who strives to make a positive difference in our members' lives, please complete an application form at our Administration Office/ Website or send a cover letter and resume to:

Attention: Jordan Cook - General Manager 204-376-5245 ext 105
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Announcements



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OBITUARY



Raymond Palsson

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our loving husband, father, brother and uncle, Raymond, at his home in Hnaua, on January 6, 2021, his loved ones at his side.

He is predeceased by his parents Pall and Sigurros, and mother-in-law Gladys. He is survived by his wife Kathy; daughters Lauren (Derek), Dustin (Miso), Bailey (David), Morgan (Nicholas), Taylor (Kobie); sisters Valerie (Douglas), Patricia (Victor), Roslyn (Morley), Deanna (Blair); father-in-law David (Judith); sister-in-law Shelly (William); many nieces and nephews and their families.

We will remember him as a loving father and a hardworking farmer. He was a mechanic, electrician, plumber, carpenter, "vet" and "doctor". His 'non-traditional' creative approach to treating minor injuries will be fondly remembered.

Raymond was born on August the 8th, 1959, the day of the Arborg Agricultural Fair. His interest in machinery started at an early age. He used his first "machinery" to dig ditches, build roads and farms in his parents' yard. He was always on the move. Raymond attended Grade One at the Hnaua School, walking through the pasture and along the railway track as a short cut. It wasn't long before he was working alongside his dad, driving tractors and equipment, herding and milking cows, as well as feeding the chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and pigs, picking eggs and hauling bales, and later obtaining his class one driver's licence.

After graduating in 1977 he continued working with his parents, purchasing his first farm in 1980. He headed West in the winter of 1981 to work on the rigs, returning with great memories and fantastic stories. Raymond met Kathy that summer; they married June 5th, 1982 and started their family. He independently designed and built the family's first home including many of the furnishings including a desk, bunk beds, dressers, book shelves and an entertainment center.

Music was always a big part of Raymond's life. From songs sung by his mom and dad in the car on family trips, radio and speakers he installed in the barn played at full volume, stereo system in his trucks that included a good sized eight track and then cassette collection, beautiful stereo system and records for the house, to a radio in the garage and later the shop to listen while working.

He owned and operated the dairy, raised leafcutter bees, crops and beef cattle with the help of Kathy and the girls. Raymond was a force to be reckoned with, keeping everything going with his hard work, strong will, great determination and the combined efforts of the whole family.

Family was most important to him, and he always made time to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with his sisters and their families. Coffee with his parents was a daily event, making plans for the day or a quick visit. Raymond was always happy to take people around the farm to see the cows, a baby calf, or a new piece of equipment.

His love and respect for the land and animals guided and informed his decisions in his planning and operations of the farm. He was never too busy to stop and bring home some baby wildlife for the girls when they were small (to later return them) or have a coffee with the milk truck driver or a friendly chat with any of the numerous salesmen that stopped by. His genuine appreciation of people led to lifelong friendships with many of them.

Raymond appreciated his community and was involved in many ways. He served on the Hnaua Cemetery board, Riverton Elks Lodge #530, and several years on the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Producer committee - he always had an interest in improving the industry. Raymond was always happy to help and support local fundraising efforts. He made time for his neighbours by clearing driveways and assisting people who were stranded or in need of help.

Thank you to all the helping hands for their hard work on the farm over the years. Many have become dear friends, a big part of his life and members of the regular "Safety Meetings."

Your will was strong, your heart was true

With love we will remember you.

Special thanks also to all the health care teams that helped us through Ray's illness. Your kindness will not be forgotten.

Raymond has been buried beside his parents in the Hnaua Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers if you so wish, donations can be sent to the Arborg and District Multicultural Heritage Village, the Icelandic River Foundation or a charity of your choice.

Goda nott, elskan minn.



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OBITUARY



Johanna Minnie Magnusson May 8, 1914 - January 14, 2021

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved mother Minnie at the age of 106.

Minnie was predeceased by her husband Gunnstein (Steini) in 1997; her daughter Dolores (Stirling) Little in 1998 and son-in-law David Graham in 2002. She leaves to mourn her daughters Darlene Graham, Diane Thompson, Muriel Hanberg (Don); son-in-law Stirling Little; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren.

Minnie was born in Arnes, Manitoba the sixth of seven children born to John and Sigga (nee Sigridur Peterson) O'Hare. She married Steini in 1937 and spent the early years of their marriage in Arnes. She was a member of the Lutheran Ladies Aid and also enjoyed many other community activities - a favorite was attending dances

and concerts featuring local performers. She worked many years with her sisters seaming on nets for local fishermen.

In 1957 Minnie and Steini moved to Gimli. She joined the Good Neighbours Club and was a long time member of the New Horizons Club. She was also made a Lifetime Member of the Icelandic Club on her 100th birthday. She was an active member of these clubs and enjoyed many activities, square dancing being a favorite. She also enjoyed curling. She worked many years at the Golko store. She loved to garden and was often seen looking after her flowers of which she was justly proud.

After Steini's passing she continued to live alone in her house, alternating winters with her daughters in Nova Scotia, Ontario or British Columbia. She loved to travel and this gave her the opportunity to spend time with her daughters as well as getting to know the next generations. Shortly before her 100th birthday she moved to Gimli Betel.

Our special thanks to Dr. R.C. Patel who looked after her with special care for so many years. To the entire staff at Betel - your attention and care helped give her the grit and determination to continue to race around the halls with her walker for so much longer. Without that care her life would have been much more limited and we thank you for that.

In lieu of flowers we would appreciate donations being made to the Gimli Betel Foundation.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



William (Bill) Warren Riddell

With sadness in our hearts, we announce the passing of William (Bill) Warren Riddell. Bill was born on July 10, 1947. He passed away in his home on January 9, at age 73.

Bill will be incredibly missed by his wife of 47 years, Brenda; children Michael and Scott (Jennifer). He was a proud grandpa to Finlay, Chloe, Liam, Piper and will also be dearly missed by Piper's mom, Kara. He will be lovingly remembered by his Loewen family, Gerald and Carolyn, Len and Linda, Lori and Gerry, his nieces and nephews, and his mother-in-law Kathy.

Bill was predeceased by his parents, Charlie and Kay.

Bill grew up in Warren, Manitoba as an avid hockey player, music lover, sports enthusiast, and outdoorsman. He carried those passions into his adult life where he coached hockey and soccer teams for both of his boys. He also volunteered on school band

trips.

Bill met Brenda at the University of Winnipeg where he was working on his Bachelor of Science degree. The two made stops in Riverton and Killarney before settling in Gimli where he resided for 40 plus years until his passing.

Bill loved nature, wildlife, country music and road trips in the family car that took him as far as Prince Edward Island, Vancouver Island, and Mexico. Bill was an avid reader and had a curiosity for knowledge that provoked engaging conversations on almost any topic.

Bill spent his life in a variety of occupations. The one that brought him the most joy was his passionate work as a paramedic.

In retirement, Bill continued to do the things he loved - riding his motorcycle, visiting Hecla Island, watching spaghetti westerns and telling stories with his family.

Bill will be remembered by those closest to him as a gentle soul, a devoted father, quiet and calm, and with well-timed one-liners. He was always very caring, supportive, and genuine in his desire to pass on knowledge to the younger generations around him.

In later years, Bill was faced with a number of health challenges but always vowed to "keep on truckin'" and, when asked how he was, would reply, "I am!"

A private family celebration of life will take place when we can gather safely again.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Heart and Stroke Foundation.



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Announcements



OBITUARY



Daryl Edgar Calder
October 6, 1952 - January 8, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Daryl Edgar Calder, age 68, on Friday, January 8, 2021, with family by his side.

Daryl will be forever cherished and missed by his wife Debbie and his children Ashley, Dion (Jacey) and Donovan (Seanna). Daryl will also be fondly remembered by his grandchildren: Cyrus, Sylvia, Bryden, Daxton, Brody, Bentley and Easton. He is survived by his brother Kelvin (Shelley), sister Darlene (Todd), brothers-in-law Tyler, Laugi (Teresa) and Stuart (Michele), sister-in-law Tyanna (Steve) and many nieces and nephews.

Daryl was predeceased by his parents Leonard and Arlene Calder, sister Bonnie, brothers Wayne, Roger and Raymond.

A native of Washow Bay, MB, Daryl later moved to Riverton, MB.

He left school at an early age and spent his youth working. At 16, he started working in heavy construction and over the years worked his way up to a heavy equipment operator. He trained and supervised many young newcomers where he passed along his knowledge. His love and knowledge for heavy construction was soon passed on to both his sons where they worked side by side. Daryl even convinced Debbie to run a packer for a summer. He also worked as a commercial fisherman for many years and found a balance between both jobs he loved to do.

Daryl met Debbie in 1979 and got married in 1984. They built a home and life together and had three beautiful kids in Riverton, MB. In recent years, they lived apart but there was no denying the unbreakable bond they had for each other.

Daryl will be remembered for his tough exterior, a work ethic that knew no bounds, his sense of humour, his lavish stories and one liners and the nicknames he had for almost everyone he knew. He enjoyed hunting with his sons and his longtime friend Larry.

His grandchildren brought him great joy and he loved them to no end. They were his soft spot. Sylvia and Bryden will miss the quad rides at Papa's and secretly doing donuts when he wasn't looking. Daxton will miss spending time with his Papa. He knew as soon as he was in the truck, he was headed to Papa's and started to call out "Papa's house". Cyrus will cherish his truck rides with Papa and his dog Rocky around town and trips out hunting too.

Words can't express the void Daryl leaves behind in our lives. He taught his children to be hardworking, strong, and independent. A part of him will live on in each one of us.

Our dad is finally at peace. He fought to the very end to stay with us, the hardest working man we knew, his hands at rest, free of pain and suffering.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to his longtime friend Larry who was always there for him and would drive him to his appointments. We would like to thank Michael for driving him to appointments in Gimli. Our sincere gratitude to the staff at Gimli Hospital - nurses Cindy and Heather for providing exceptional care and making him comfortable in his final days. Thank you to Riverton Ambulance Service and Gilbert Funeral Home.

A celebration of Daryl's life will be held at a later date once COVID-19 restrictions have been lessened. A private family burial will take place.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Betty Ann Smith
(nee Lang)

On Sunday, January 10, 2021 Betty Ann Smith (Lang) passed away at the age of 80 years after a courageous battle with cancer.

Betty Ann was born May 22, 1940 in Belmont, MB. She moved north to the St. Martin area in the early 60's to teach at Karpaty and then Gypsumville School. There she met Fred and they married December 28, 1963 living and working together on the family farm at Fairford until their retirement. Betty Ann liked playing cards (especially her morning game of crib), working in the garden and with her flowers, camping and spending time with her family. In recent years, Betty Ann and Fred enjoyed travelling throughout Canada and the U.S. and in June 2019, shortly after her diagnosis, she completed her bucket list goal of visiting all 10 provinces with a family trip to Newfoundland.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband of 57 years Fred; her kids Kendra and Warren and her special little guy grandson Adam. She will also be remembered by sister-in-law Pat, brother-in-law Rod (Mary) and sister Marion (Alf) as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends. Betty Ann was predeceased by her daughter Corinne, brother Keith, parents Edith and Lyle and in-laws Blanche and Fred, Peggy, Harvey and Gerry.

We would like to thank the staff at Lakeshore General Hospital for their care during her final hours and thank you to all our family and friends for the kind words and messages.

We will be celebrating Betty Ann's life privately, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choice in her memory.

Arrangements by:
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1.204.768.2072
1.866.323.3593

OBITUARY



Leonard Raymond Kovich

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle, Leonard Raymond Kovich on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Lana; son Kyle, daughter Samantha (Jace Cherepak) and granddaughters, Brynley and Blaire; mother Olga, brothers Norman and Clifford, sister Doreen Olafson (Dean), father and mother-in-law Karvel and Judy Karvelson, sister-in-law Lisa Poirier (Bernie), brother-in-law Clayton Karvelson (Karen) as well as one niece, five nephews and one great-nephew and numerous aunts and cousins. He was predeceased by his sister Marlene, father John and brother Gerald.

Leonard was born on October 30, 1962 in Gimli and lived in Riverton and Hnaua all of his life. Right after graduation, and missing his grad, he left with a school buddy and headed straight

to Calgary to live and work with his brothers, Gerald and Clifford. A lot of funny stories were told about this time in his life! He moved back in 1982 and started working, thanks to big brother Norman, for Manitoba Highways as an Engineering Aide on a seasonal basis then eventually full time. He did many different jobs and travelled all over Manitoba. Eventually he started working in asphalt labs which he enjoyed. Because of his travels with work, he met a lot of people and would tell his family some interesting stories when he got home! He made sure to call Lana every night once he got back to his hotel, and they would each talk about their day and make plans for when he came home next. Everyone liked and respected Leonard, as he was very good at his job, was a straight-shooter, and would not put up with short cuts.

In 1989 he purchased his first commercial fishing quota, after apprenticing with his good friend Clay Peterson, followed by a second quota in 1991. In 1990 he married the love of his life, Lana, and they moved into the log home that he had won with a single \$100 ticket at the early age of 22. They renovated and moved in then welcomed two wonderful kids Kyle in 1991 and Samantha in 1994. Leonard took immense pride in the property, and worked on it tirelessly. No one but him could make it "perfect"!

He loved rod and reel fishing which became a passion to the point that he ended up with a huge collection of rods and reels and other equipment. He bought a kayak and would enjoy going north of Riverton to kayak and fish. He couldn't wait for granddaughter Brynley to be old enough to go fishing with "Gampa". He also fished commercially every winter first in Hecla, then in Hnaua, steps from his home and always did it by himself which earned the respect of other fishermen.

He would always fix things for his mom, either in her home, or outside. He'd haul branches and garbage away for her, and would often call her or stop in to make sure she was okay. He was a great big brother to little sister Doreen, always ready to protect her if needed. His family all says that he was the strong, level-headed one. His older brothers loved their little brother.

He discovered a great love of traveling and made many trips with Lana to the Caribbean, Las Vegas and Vancouver Island, which was his absolute favorite and said that if he ever won money, he and Lana would buy a home on the island.

Kyle and Sam remember a hard-working Dad who always made sure that they were taken care of and would pitch in to help whenever they needed it. He had a quirky sense of humor and they have a lot of memories of his goofiness.

One of his favorite things happened lately when he asked Brynley, "Who's the best, Brynley?" and she answered, "Gampa the best!!" He rode that one for a long time!

Lana, his children, his son-in-law and his little granddaughters were his life, and he made sure that they wanted for nothing. Everyone liked and respected Leonard as he was a hard worker, generous and loyal to a fault, full of compassion and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He touched everyone who knew him, and will be sorely missed by all.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in the search and brought food, and to the RCMP for their compassion and kindness.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Debra Irene Ruse
October 6, 1959 - January 11, 2021

Peacefully on January 11, 2021 at the Gimli Hospital, Deb lost her year long, well fought battle with cancer.

She leaves to mourn and cherish her memory her partner Howie Hamaberg and his family, her sister Rosemary and her family and many friends. Deb was predeceased by her parents, Howie's parents, and her brother-in-law. She was also predeceased by her best friend and companion, her fur baby Sam.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Sincere thanks to her many neighbours, friends, co-workers, and family for all their support, rides, visits, calls, and gifts during this past year. Thanks also to CancerCare, Home Care, Gimli and Selkirk Hospital as well as MacKenzie Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CancerCare, Manitoba.

You fought the good fight Deb

You have earned your wings

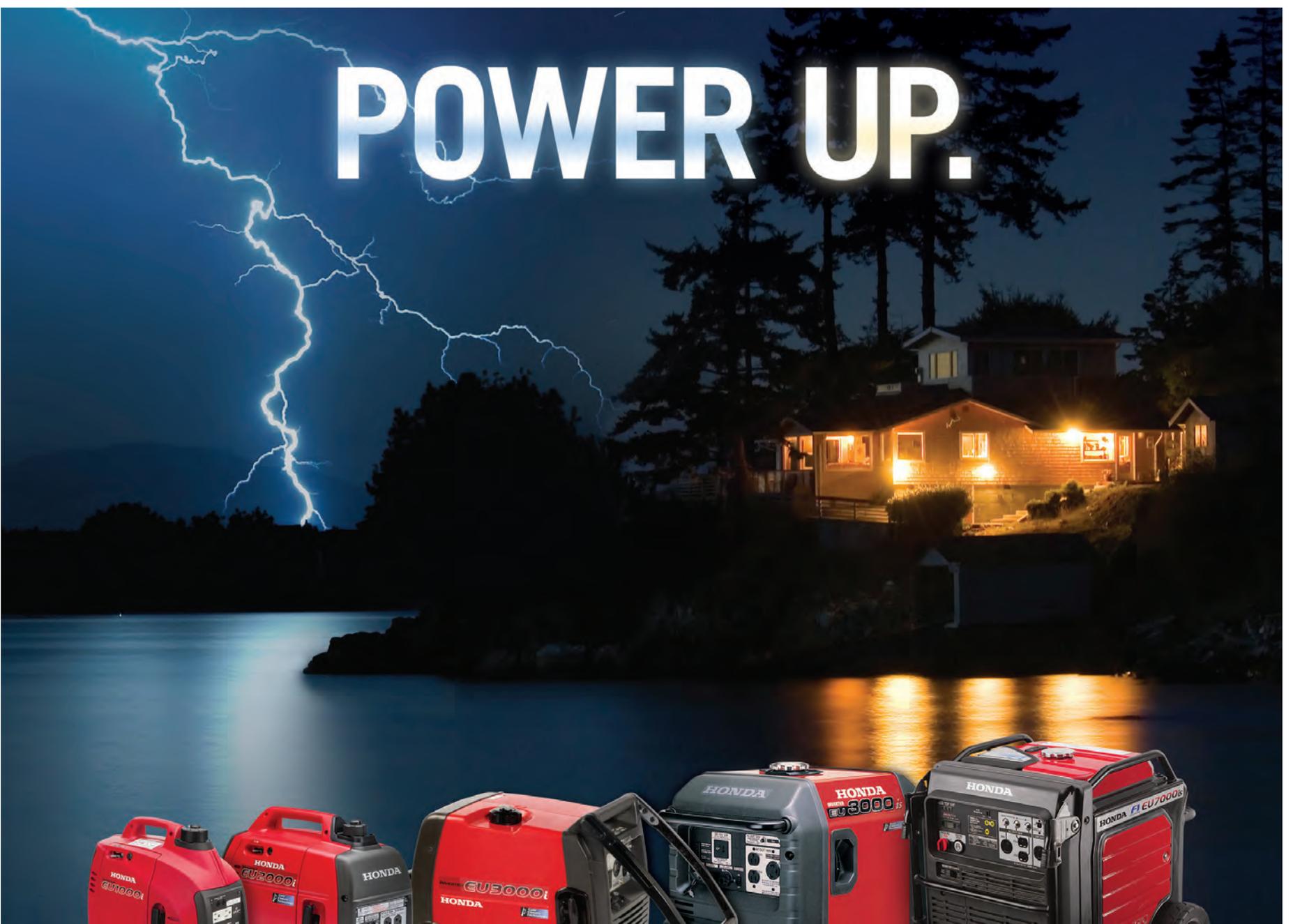
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