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EXPRESS PHOTOS BY TIBERIUS AND JACK BENSON
Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg joined Bruce Benson and his son Tiberius to raise the Flag of Humanity this past Monday.

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Flag of Humanity bridging the divide between people

By Patricia Barrett

Instead of flags being used to divide people, Bruce Benson's Flag of Humanity bridges the gaps and brings people together.

And it did Monday afternoon on Gimli Beach where Benson was joined by Mayor Lynn Greenberg and others to raise the flag and celebrate what we share — being human.

With people divided by hate and currently engaged in tense protests across the country, the timing couldn't be better.

"At this particular juncture in history, it seems like every year it's more appropriate to raise this flag," said Benson. "[Today] happens to be Valentine's Day and I thought it was a symbolic day to raise it."

The municipality has flown the flag every year since March 2017.

The flag depicts the passing of the Earth from the hands of an adult to the hands of a child, and the image in silhouette represents all skin colours. Benson wanted a stark image to show people what we have in common. Flags are "powerful" objects, giving rise to patriotism and battles. In his quest to see the flag flying in all nations around the world, Benson has taken it to countries such as the U.S. and China.

"After I left China, they had an event with the flag with 100 or so people in Qufu, the home of [Chinese philosopher] Confucius," said Benson. "They're not allowed to have parades in communist China but they were allowed to do this."

Benson created the flag after hiking in the mountains in 2008 with his son, Tiberius, and wondering what kind of world he would inherit. He realized that a "messed up" world is based on differences between people and nations and forgets what they have in common.

"Never in the course of human history has this message been more necessary. The mantra is 'No matter a person's religion, or lack thereof, or a person's skin colour, nationality or politics, these differences are nothing compared to what we have in common — we are human,'" said Benson. "Right now — certainly in the western world — it seems to be more about the politics; everybody seems so divided on that. Enough already."

Benson said the Manitoba government raises the flag every year on Memorial Boulevard in Winnipeg. It is scheduled to be raised in March. And he's currently working on getting the federal government to officially raise the flag, as well as the Canadian Mu-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Flag of Humanity has been flown in Gimli every year since 2017.

seum for Human Rights.

"The flag has travelled to many countries and been well received," said Benson.

Visit flagofhumanity.com for more

information. Watch the YouTube video of the flag being celebrated in China at www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpFNnO5CZ3U

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Winnipeg Beach celebrating winter this weekend with outdoor fun

By Patricia Barrett

The Town of Winnipeg Beach will be celebrating winter with its annual Wonderful Winter Weekend starting this Friday.

Activities include the Winnipeg Sports Car Club's ice racing on Lake Winnipeg and fireworks.

"In addition to ice racing, we've got a chili contest, a ball hockey tournament and a pool tournament," said Mayor Tony Pimentel. "We'll be having fireworks and a bonfire on Saturday night. I will be popping by to see how things are going."

The town's public works department is working with racing organizers to create a road and a track on Lake Winnipeg.

Other news:

- The town is in the process of getting a fibre optic network, but weather has somewhat hampered the installation schedule, said the mayor. The town and council are working with Valley

Fiber, an internet services provider.

"We are getting our fibre optic system installed with Valley Fiber," said Pimentel, "but it is a little bit behind schedule because of the weather and equipment. But the intent is to have the work start again as soon as the weather gets better."

All of council voted in favour of the project, he said, and "all the agreements have been signed." Council is looking forward to having fibre optic in the community as it will greatly improve internet speeds.

"We also have opportunities to go with a television package through the fibre optic network as well as phone service," he said. The project is expected to be completed by summertime.

- The town's recreation director Allan Sulyma gave council notice of his retirement and this is his last week.

- The municipal election in Winnipeg Beach and in neighbouring Dunnottar will be held on Friday, July 22.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Ice racing on Lake Winnipeg.

Information on becoming a candidate or questions about the voters' list in Winnipeg Beach can be directed to senior election official Kerry Swanson at 204-389-2698.

Questions about the election from those living in Dunnottar can be directed to senior election official David Lobban at 204-389-4980.

New immigration advisory council created to guide improvements to programs

Submitted by Manitoba government

A new advisory council on immigration is being created to serve as an expert panel to recommend improvements to current immigration policies and programs, Premier Heather Stefanson and Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration Minister Jon Reyes announced Monday.

"As committed to in the speech from the throne, our government has a bold plan to incent investment, foster job creation, improve education and training opportunities, all to facilitate economic growth and get our economy fully on track. We know immigration and a diverse workforce

contributes to a strong economy," said Stefanson. "This new advisory council will help us look at new and innovative ways to continue to be a welcoming new home for all newcomers, including refugees and international students, a dynamic destination for immigration and business investors, and an attractive place for people to come to build a life of opportunity and prosperity for themselves and their family."

The Immigration Advisory Council, to be co-chaired by the minister and Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, will review the entire continuum of immigration, from promotion to retention of new-

comers. It will provide clear recommendations and concrete actions to the Manitoba government including strengthening the Canada-Manitoba

Immigration Agreement by looking at options to include new annexes or memoranda of understanding. Addi-

Continued on page 9

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Municipality of Gimli to boost tourism opportunities

By Patricia Barrett

The Municipality of Gimli has hired a person to serve as a tourism co-ordinator to develop strategies and campaigns to boost tourism opportunities in the area and bring more events to Gimli.

Mayor Lynn Greenberg said the person's name has yet to be announced. He's scheduled to start on Feb. 22.

"I'm not sure of the exact title yet, but we're thinking of calling him the tourism events co-ordinator," said Greenberg last week.

Other news:

- The RM had purchased the Manitoba Hydro building in the Gimli Industrial Park and is currently renovating it for offices for municipal staff.

"We're renovating the building. Our public works shop is very crowded and some of our other staff really don't have an office, such as the airport manager," said Greenberg. "It was needed."

- Council reviewed last month an earlier proposal to build a Dairy Queen on Centre Street to ensure its drive-through will not debouch in a back lane.

LMA Developments is to build a Dairy Queen and drive-through at 64 Centre St.

"We didn't want a drive-through to go into the back lane. It has to come back out on Centre Street or Fifth Avenue," said Greenberg. "There were people that were opposed to have that traffic coming down the back lane. We told [LMA] at the original hearing they couldn't use the back lane and we just reinforced that."

- The RM and Gimli Chamber of Commerce's skating trail in Gimli Harbour has opened, and it has sometimes been a challenge keeping the snow off the ice.

"Every time you turn around it snows," said the



EXPRESS PHOTO PATRICIA BARRETT

Fish tossing at the 2020 Gimli Ice Festival.

mayor," and it has been so cold and bitter that people weren't skating a lot. If the temperature gets to about -10, the skating trail gets used more. But when it's 30 below, there's no one out there."

- Council is in the process of passing a bylaw to hire a senior elections officer (SEO) to oversee the municipal election that is scheduled for Oct. 26.

Once the bylaw passes three readings, council will appoint Robert Potter as SEO for the municipality.

- The Gimli Ice Festival will be going ahead in

some capacity, said the mayor. The race track on Lake Winnipeg for the Winnipeg Sports Car Club's Fire on Ice event hasn't been started yet, but it will be built.

Ice festival co-chairs announced online there will be two days of car racing as well as virtual and in-person activities, with more details to come next week.

NDP calls on PC government to address rising fertilizer costs

By Nicole Brownlee

The New Democratic Party is calling for the provincial government to step up its support for farmers in preparation for the next growing season.

NDP agricultural critic Diljeet Brar said the Progressive Conservative

government has been "slow to act," and producers are raising concerns about the rapid increase of fertilizer prices.

"The producers basically say that the drought broke (them), and now these fertilizer prices... are skyrocketing," said Brar.

Canadian farmers are paying nearly double for fertilizer per acre because of supply chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, rising energy prices and high demand.

Canada is the world's largest producer of potash, a common nutrient in fertilizer, and exports fertilizer to more than 75 countries, said Fertilizer Canada. Canada also imports fertilizer from the U.S., Russia and the Middle East.

Brar wrote a letter to Agricultural Minister Derek Johnson on Jan. 18, encouraging Johnson to ensure fair and affordable fertilizer prices for farming families.

"This is the time when (producers) representatives, people in power, need to speak," said Brar.

Brar said Johnson replied quickly to the letter, defending the province's current agricultural support programs, and explained the price increase of fertilizer is a global issue.

"They say that intervention on price is not recommended at this time," said Brar.

China asked its top state-owned fertilizer firms to curb the export of phosphate for 2022 to retain domestic supplies. China is the world's top exporter of phosphate and the world's largest phosphate producer.

Other impacts on the fertilizer industry were Hurricane Ida damaging major chemical and fertilizer manufacturers in Louisiana and nitrogen manufacturers shutting down in Western Canada, said Johnson.

If the province tried to control the price of fertilizer in Manitoba, companies would sell fertilizer elsewhere, said Johnson.

"It's costing (fertilizer companies) more money, and they would potentially take that product and sell it next door in Saskatchewan then there

would be no fertilizer available for our farmers."

Producers can access four programs created by the provincial and federal government, which help cover the cost of replacing livestock, transporting feed and water and accessing remote pastures.

The Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation is also increasing its direct loan limit from \$3.5 million to \$4.25 million to purchase agricultural land, buildings, equipment, livestock and maintenance.

Johnson also highlighted the federal AgriStability program, which protects Canadian producers against large declines in farming income because of production loss, increased costs and market conditions.

Producers need to enrol in the program to receive a payment if their production margin falls below their historical reference margin by more than 30 per cent.

"There are existing programs there, but obviously, they take place after the fact," said Johnson.

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Winnipeg Beach

Meetings are Saturdays
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Contact 204-340-1855

Gimli Waterfront Advisory Committee formed to help guide development

By Patricia Barrett

The Municipality of Gimli announced last week that an advisory committee has been formed to help inform and guide the development of Gimli's waterfront.

The committee will be working with the municipality and urban design consultants Scatliff + Miller + Murray to create a waterfront plan with input from the wider community.

"The intent is to engage local community members and stakeholder groups to deliver a plan that reflects community values, and pulls together the wide range of concerns and opportunities into a unified vision that can be embraced by the entire Gimli community," states a notice on the RM's website.

The Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) consists of seven Gimli and area residents, including former mayor Bill Barlow.

Barlow said he is not a spokesperson for the committee and that it hasn't yet had its inaugural meeting. But he was willing to outline in a broad way what the committee intends to achieve.

"The most important element is that the people of Gimli — the people who live, work, play and walk the waterfront and enjoy its natural beauty — provide input and advice for the

committee," said Barlow last Thursday. "That's the important thing, that the ideas that come forward actually come from the citizens of the Gimli area and that those ideas are embraced in the plan."

The committee wants to help create a long-term sustainable plan that will consider environmental impacts, said Barlow.

In terms of geographical scope, he said the plan will likely be looking at the area from the Viking statue north to Lake Avenue and perhaps a block inland. But the committee will refine/determine the scope once it meets.

And Barlow said he expects there will be discussions at some point in the future about parcels of land that are owned by the municipality, the province and the federal government.

"We know that there is quite a mélange of land parcels, property ownership, federal-provincial jurisdictions and land leases all the way across the waterfront," he said. "I'm quite sure those will form part of our discussions."

The committee will be deciding on how to receive feedback and ideas from residents, whether that will entail virtual meetings for the time-being as COVID continues to be a concern or whether in-person meetings will be possible.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

People enjoy the surf on Gimli Beach. The newly minted Waterfront Advisory Committee will be looking at ways to develop Gimli's waterfront with feedback from residents.

Scatliff + Miller + Murray is working on developing a timeline, he said, and consultation with WAC will be part of that.

"The development plan will have a timeline and goals," said Barlow.

He said he's excited to work with a committee on waterfront development.

"We have a great committee," he said. "I'm excited about working with everyone. I think the whole project is really positive and that we're moving forward with this."

Joining Barlow on WAC are Barb Foreman, DJ Sigmundson, Dave Cain, Erik Arnason, Norma Bailey and Andy Blicq.

Province announced funding for Ashern's hospital

By Nicole Brownlee

The provincial government announced the expansion of inpatient beds at the Ashern hospital in three years last Friday.

With a commitment of \$10.8 million from the Government of Manitoba, Lakeshore General Hospital will add 12 inpatient beds and will bolster their emergency department with additional treatment space.

The province hopes the expansion of Lakeshore General Hospital will improve patient care, help patients recover closer to home and attract health-care workers to the Interlake.

This project is a part of Manitoba's Clinical and Preventive Services Plan, released in 2019, which aims to improve access to care, quality and equity of care.

Details about how many staff members would be hired to address the expansion were not shared at the Feb. 11 press conference attended by Health Minister Audrey Gordon,

interim CEO of the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority Marion Ellis, lead of the provincial health system transformation Ian Shaw and other leaders.

Lakeshore General Hospital is the main emergency service on Highway 6 and serves remote communities in the northwest region of Manitoba up to 100 kilometres away, said Ashern physician Dr. Mina Gendi.

West Interlake Reeve Arnthor Jonas-

son said expanding Ashern's hospital will help make the Interlake a safer region.

When asked how the province is addressing the dismissal of ambulances because of high capacities in Interlake hospitals, Shaw said the province is working with Shared Health's emergency response team to improve inter-facility transport capabilities.

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Public health restrictions on their way out: Stefanson

Province announces a relaxation in some restrictions this week already, plans to lift mask, vaccination mandates next month

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba is speeding up its plans to do away with most public health restrictions before spring.

Last Friday, Premier Heather Stefanson and Chief Provincial Public Health Officer Dr. Brent Roussin unveiled the new public health orders that went into effect on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

There are no longer any capacity limits at venues such as restaurants, entertainment venues, and indoor and outdoor sporting events, nor are there restrictions on any gatherings at private residences.

Capacity limits have been removed as well for outdoor public gatherings, though indoor public gatherings are limited to 50 people unless proof of vaccination is required.

Youth age 12 to 17 participating in indoor sports and recreation are no longer required to provide proof of vaccination or recent testing.

There were no changes to retail and personal services.

There are no longer self-isolation requirements for close contacts of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, and self-isolation for people who live in a household with others who have symptoms is now only recommended, not required.

Likewise, people entering Manitoba from another province no longer need to self-isolate, though those coming in from international destinations still need to meet requirements under the federal Quarantine Act. Travel restrictions to northern Manitoba remain in place.

The past two years have been filled with financial hardships and countless missed celebrations and life experiences, the premier said.

"Manitobans have put their lives on hold and it's time that we give them their lives back," she said. "Today we offer hope to those who have been waiting for a long time to see that light at the end of the tunnel."

"The restrictions have placed many burdens on Manitobans, and now that we see the pressure of our hospital system starting to ease it's our responsibility [as] government to ease those restrictions on Manitobans."

The province intends to take the next step on March 1, removing proof of vaccination requirements entirely.

Starting March 8, notification of close contacts in settings such as personal care homes, shelters, and health-care facilities will no longer occur.

Finally, mask requirements and other restrictions will be lifted effective March 15, the province has said.

"Based on our data, on our modeling, we can see that omicron has peaked and is beginning to subside in Manitoba," said Dr. Roussin. "All the indicators that public health considers are moving in the right direction at this point."

Monday's COVID-19 bulletin noted data from the seven days ending Feb. 10 showed a 12.2 per cent decrease in new hospitalizations due to the virus

from the week before and a drop of 11.8 per cent in new COVID-19 ICU cases.

The provincial online dashboard had the total number of hospitalization of people with COVID-19 at 633, including 40 ICU patients. The death toll due to COVID-19 was at 1,637 — up 37 from the Monday before.

With numbers starting a downward trend, Roussin said Manitoba is moving into a transitional phase in its mandates, moving from public health restrictions to recommendations.

The public health orders were always intended to be temporary, he said.

"We knew that this pandemic would come to an end. We knew that the public health restrictions would come to an end, and we are now on that path moving forward."

Manitobans not yet vaccinated are still encouraged to do so, Stefanson said.

"As a government, we have encouraged as many Manitobans to get vaccinated as possible and we will continue with those efforts," she said. "But it's time for a new normal to begin in Manitoba."

"We need to end the divisiveness between families, between communities. We need to move forward. It's time to bring Manitobans back together again."

"IT'S TIME TO BRING MANITOBBANS BACK TOGETHER AGAIN."

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letter to the editor

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY KEEVIN ERICKSON

The sundogs were bright over Lake Manitoba last weekend. Sundogs are coloured spots of light that develop due to the refraction of light through ice crystals. They are located approximately 22 degrees either left, right or both from the sun, depending on where the ice crystals are present. Help the *Express* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: weather@expressweeklynews.ca.

Working towards healing and bridging divisions

We are very encouraged by Premier Stefanson's announcement earlier last week that laid out a detailed roadmap for the elimination of COVID-19 restrictions in Manitoba. We have confidence in the public health announcement that the announced deadlines will be implemented as publicized, with the removal of the proof of vaccination requirement for youth ages 12 to 17 for participation in extracurricular sports on Feb. 14, removal of the proof of vaccination requirement on March 1, and removal of the mask mandates for schools and indoor spaces on March 15.

The lifting of these mandates and restrictions will enable a resump-

Continued on page 8

Eriksdale PCH COVID outbreak ends; Fisher PCH outbreak declared

By Patricia Barrett

A COVID-19 outbreak that was declared in January at the Eriksdale Personal Care Home is now over.

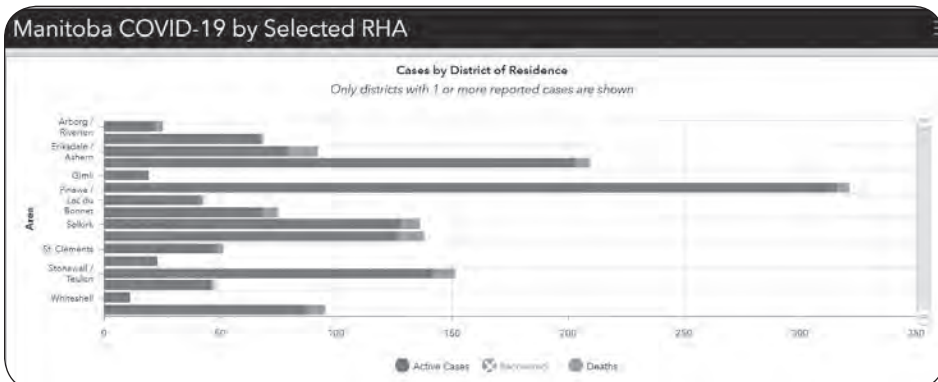
The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority notified media that the outbreak has ended in at PCH, which is attached to the E.M. Crowe Hospital.

"The outbreak at Eriksdale Personal Care Home has been declared over by the medical officer of health," said an IERHA spokesperson Feb. 9.

The outbreak had been declared Jan. 24, and a few days later the RHA reported that five residents and three staff members had tested positive for the virus. All residents at the PCH are vaccinated. Services at the hospital had not been affected during the outbreak.

According to provincial government guidelines, an outbreak is declared when at least two staff members or residents receive a positive test result

Continued on page 15



EXPRESS MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

There were 79 active cases of COVID in Eriksdale-Ashern (viewed Feb. 10).



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Horses teach peace, acceptance and forgiveness

By Nicole Brownlee

When Jackie Torgerson was experiencing the most challenging months of her life, she found solace and comfort in perceptive horses.

Torgerson struggled with her mental health after her brother Ryan Sigfusson committed suicide eight years ago.

"I wasn't myself," said Torgerson.

"I could not operate on a daily basis, like getting out of bed, making meals, getting your kids to their daily activities. My body was not able to function."

Lacking direction and understanding, Torgerson turned to what she knew best: horses.

"I have been around horses my entire life," said Torgerson.

She had avoided spending time with her family's horses but when she returned to them, she felt they knew she was emotionally guarded.

"I noticed that my horses were interacting with me differently."

While online one day, Torgerson read a post from a partner with Equine Connection explaining their similar tribulations.

"(Our) stories were different but what we were going through was the same," said Torgerson.

Torgerson made a leap of faith in 2021 and signed up to train with Equine Connection to learn more about healing while working with horses through the Equine Assisted Learning program.

Equine Connection said the program focuses on ground activities rather than riding horses and "allowing our horses to be who they are versus controlling them."

The purpose of the program is to empower people and horses to "live their best lives with life-changing skills programs to move forward with purpose."

Equine Connection is based in Carseland, Alta., but Torgerson could access online training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Torgerson was virtually taught how

to start her own Equine Assisted Learning program in Eriksdale and travelled to learn how to train with the horses in person.

"My situation with my brother was very difficult, and it's one of the reasons I'm so passionate about this program now," said Torgerson.

"Anyone who is struggling shouldn't struggle alone."

The equine program helped Torgerson take her healing into her own hands.

"It's just the power of being around something that isn't judging you, which is not something we get much of anymore."

Torgerson's brother Ryan didn't have the same connection with horses that she did growing up, but he understood her passion.

"As my kids developed to get their own horses, he came and helped build the shelter. He went to horse shows ... even though that wasn't his interest."

In an effort to share the peace she found working with horses, Torgerson is offering classes for people struggling with their mental health at her family's property in Eriksdale.

Participants will work through a series of activities with horses and teammates to improve communication, control and problem-solving techniques at DDDJST Equine Services.

"This program is based on the horse being the teacher," said Torgerson.

"Horses are non-judgmental, and they give instant feedback, and they can't lie, so their feedback is always honest."

Shawn Kirby started working at Torgerson's arena almost two years ago after an accident in 2017 impaired his mobility.

Kirby has limited movement in his wrist and leg and experiences chronic pain.

"It's helped quite a bit. When I go (to the arena), I know I have to move, instead of sitting on the couch and moping," said Kirby.

"It's definitely helped with the de-



Jackie Torgerson is crafting a program in Eriksdale to give people struggling with mental health issues an opportunity to improve themselves through working with horses.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY JACKIE TORGERSON

The Torgerson farm is located on her husband David's family homestead of 1906.

pression and anxiety a lot too."

Kirby visits the arena every day to help Torgerson organize the Equine Assisted Learning Program, brush the horses and feed them.

Spending time with the horses calms him, said Kirby.

"(Horses) know what you're feeling and how you're feeling. ... They'll just nudge up against you and kind of say, 'hey, I'm here for you.'"

To learn more about the Equine Assisted Learning Program, visit dddjstequineservices.com.

> LETTER TO THE EDITOR, FROM PG. 7

tion of normality for many Manitobans and is warranted given the evidence that the vaccines have an increasingly waning ability to prevent transmission and infection, and given that effective treatment options are now available. Bridging division is one of the most important steps that we can take in order to rebuild our

communities and strengthen public trust in our health-care system.

Our truck drivers intend to continue their presence in front of the legislative building until the provincial COVID-19 measures are removed and until there is collaborative discussion with the federal government on fully eliminating the border restrictions

and interprovincial mobility restrictions, particularly travel by air and train. However, as community members, we recognize the need for minimizing disruptions to residents and business owners in the area, and we will be scaling down our presence while continuing to ask for open dialogue with the federal government.

We also know that there have been a number of other independently orga-

nized protests occurring around the Province of Manitoba throughout the last week. Although we understand the frustrations that underlie these actions, we would ask that everyone acknowledge the efforts that the province has taken today. We collectively need to work towards de-escalation, healing and respect for one another.

- The organizers of Winnipeg Freedom Convoy

Arborg-Bifrost recreation getting into the Olympic spirit with 'Try It Days'

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission has launched free "Try it Days" programs and is encouraging the public to give some ice sports a whirl.

"The commission is getting into the Olympic Spirit by hosting a few Try It Days," said recreation director Tom Chwaliboga. "We're encouraging youth and adults to come out and try a few sports."

On the roster this week and weekend are curling and hockey.

Curling will be offered on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the curling rink in Arborg.

There are options for people who might have difficulty sliding.

"People can try out stick curling,"

said Chwaliboga. "You don't have to slide; you just push the rock with a stick. All the equipment will be provided. You'd just need to bring clean runners."

Hockey will be offered on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the arena.

"We're looking for girls to come out and give hockey a try," said Chwaliboga.

Participants will need to bring a helmet, stick and skates. But skates could be provided for youth aged 4-7.

"There will be instructors and/or coaches on the ice with the participants in all the sports," said Chwaliboga.

Try it Days are free and drop-ins are welcome, he said. But to ensure proper planning, please contact the recreation office at 204-376-5576 or



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Arborg arena

email Tom at tom.abprc@mymts.net to register. place for vaccination checks.

Provincial health orders will be in

> IMMIGRATION, FROM PG. 3

tionally, the advisory council will focus on:

- building on promotion to attract and recruit more immigrants and business investors to the province;
- streamlining the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program, especially with regard to setting the right balance between the province's regional labour market, economic development and community needs; and
- fostering Manitoba's settlement and integration programs and services, as well as foreign credential recognition programs, to encourage labour market attachment, improve foreign credential recognition and bolster immigrant retention.

"Immigration is an issue of great importance to the province, and we all have a common interest in an effective and efficient system," said Axworthy. "I'm pleased to be a part of this advisory council, and eager to get to work on behalf of all Manitobans current and future."

The co-chairs noted the advisory council will consist of individuals with expertise related to immigration services, governance, economic development, analysis, project management and community integration. It will represent front-line immigration service providers, ethnocultural community leaders and organizations, representatives of Manitoba's business, industry, and academic communities, and will have urban, regional and francophone representation. Work will begin immediately to finalize the council's membership, with a final report to be provided by the end of the year, the premier said.

The minister noted today's announcement builds on the success of Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program, which nominated 6,275 applications in 2021, the highest number of nominees since the program was established in 1998.

"This program brings thousands of qualified skilled workers to Manitoba each year, and more than 165,000 nominees and their families have immigrated to Manitoba from all over the world since the program began," said Reyes. "This year's number of nominees is the highest since the program was established, and we know these new Manitobans will use their skills and training to contribute to the long-term economic recovery and growth of our province."

In 2021:

- approximately 21 per cent of nominees chose to settle outside the Winnipeg capital region;
- Manitoba's top regional immigration destinations for nominees were Brandon, Neepawa, Steinbach, Winkler, Thompson and Portage la Prairie; and
- the top occupations for nominees included transport truck drivers,

food-counter attendants, food service supervisors, cooks and other customer service representatives.

Francophone immigration to Manitoba is also increasing due to strong collaboration with francophone community partners. More than 2,000 French-speaking immigrants have arrived in Manitoba since 2015, and 1,400 of these were provincial nominees.

"Manitoba was a pioneer with the Provincial Nominee Program and has always been at the forefront of imple-

menting innovative changes to Canada's immigration system. While we're very proud of these results, we know there are different areas of the labour market that need people with very specific skills to enable them to grow further," said Stefanson. "The advisory council will be reviewing the current Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program criteria and offer suggestions to help streamline processes to get people to Manitoba and have them join the workforce and their communities as soon as possible."

Support for Manitoba Livestock Producers Affected by Drought

Livestock producers affected by the drought conditions in 2021 can apply for assistance under AgriRecovery.

Assistance is available to help you recover from the extraordinary costs, such as:

- Replacing breeding animals due to winter feed shortages
- Buying, testing and moving feed from distant locations
- Hauling water, renting extra pasture and harvesting extra acres for feed
- Moving your livestock to alternate feeding locations

Deadline to apply

The deadline to apply for select programs is **April 15, 2022**. Call Manitoba Agriculture at **1-844-769-6224** or visit manitoba.ca/agriculture today for complete details.

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Kreviazuk enjoying his time working with the Jets

By Brian Bowman

Chris Kreviazuk has a very important job with the Winnipeg Jets.

Kreviazuk, who grew up in Lockport and attended Happy Thought School until Grade 3, has responsibilities that include the co-ordination of logistics related to team travel and hospitality, as well as managing the day-to-day itinerary of the Jets.

It's a pretty cool job to have.

"I like it a lot, nine years on this job and two years with communications and I liked that as well," said Kreviazuk, the Jets' manager of team services, from Philadelphia where the Jets were taking on the Flyers last week. "I like the travel quite a bit and being around the guys in the locker room. It's usually a pretty light mood in there with a lot of joking around, unless we're losing. Usually, it's a lot of fun and it's a cool job to have for a guy like me who was not nearly good enough as a player to make it. It's nice to be part of this league in a different capacity so I'm pretty lucky."

But his job has been a whole lot tougher this year with games being postponed and players and staff coming down with COVID-19.

This year, he is also involved with the daily private COVID-19 testing for players along with head athletic therapist Rob Milette.

Still, it's a pretty good gig, he said.

"It gets pretty hectic on the road sometimes with travel but we travel pretty comfortably," Kreviazuk said. "The time zone changes are difficult on the players but we travel comfortably. We don't travel commercial flights and we're staying in nice hotels."

The Jets recently had a road trip that lasted 23 days and reached eight cities.

COVID-19 and its fast-spreading



EXPRESS PHOTO WINNIPEG JETS

Chris Kreviazuk is the Winnipeg Jets' manager, team services.

Omicron variant was the culprit. Kreviazuk missed part of that monstrous road trip because he came down with COVID over Christmas.

"For the first time ever, I missed the road trip because the NHL protocols wouldn't allow me to go, which was too bad because my symptoms weren't too bad," Kreviazuk said. "But rules are rules."

Because of the NHL all-star break, the Jets had a full week between games. Winnipeg hosted the Minnesota Wild this past Tuesday.

"I (was) looking forward to it and looking forward to seeing family and friends," Kreviazuk said. "All of the players are asking me, 'Krevy, what are you doing for break? Where you going?' I'm going home to see a bunch of people that I don't get to see very often. Hopefully, I'll get out a couple of days to my parents' place and visit my nephews, niece and maybe go out for some beers with buddies. Just stuff like that. Before you know it, it will be right back into hockey and I'm sure I'll be missing it at that point."

Prior to his current role, Kreviazuk

spent two seasons working in the communications and marketing departments where his main scope of duties included writing for the Winnipeg Jets in-game fan program, "In Flight," and providing statistical information for the hockey club and members of the media.

He graduated with a B.A. in kinesiology from the University of Winnipeg in 2009.

"I just knew I wanted to work in sports so I thought about athletic therapy and maybe a personal trainer, something like that on the fitness side," he explained. "But I kept on coming back to the idea that I want to work in hockey and I really didn't care in what capacity. So I worked at the Highlander hockey rink while I was doing my B.A. in kinesiology and I ran hockey leagues for kids."

Then Kreviazuk got a huge break when he landed a job driving a Zamboni for True North.

He then started writing for the Manitoba Moose before moving on to getting an internship with the Jets after they were acquired from the Atlanta

Thrashers.

The rest, they say, is history.

"It was kind of fluky. I played a couple of hunches that paid off," he said. "I got in the good books of the right people, I guess, and things kind of happened fortunately for me."

A highlight for Kreviazuk with his job is being given the opportunity to take his parents on guest trips.

"Our owner, Mark Chipman, has been gracious enough to let the staff do that, too," he explained. "A lot of teams will just do the players but, for us, he lets all the staff do it. I brought my dad (Alvin) four times, I think, and my mom (Betty) was able to come once so that's been pretty cool. You sit beside them on a plane or the bus ride to the rink and you think about all of the times I sat beside them when they drove me to East Selkirk ... or the Barn to those early-morning practices. It was kind of cool to repay the favour a little bit all of this time down the road with the Winnipeg Jets. I'm not playing but it's still a neat experience."

"IT WAS KIND OF COOL TO REPAY THE FAVOUR A LITTLE BIT ALL OF THIS TIME DOWN THE ROAD WITH THE WINNIPEG JETS. I'M NOT PLAYING BUT IT'S STILL A NEAT EXPERIENCE."

Rural drivers more likely to go seatbelt-free: MPI

More Winnipeggers, meanwhile, caught on their phones while driving

Staff

Rural Manitobans are more likely to drive seatbelt-free compared to their urban counterparts, a study by Manitoba Public Insurance has found.

A road safety observation study commissioned last fall by MPI found that 10 per cent of all rural drivers observed were not wearing their seatbelt, compared to three per cent in the Winnipeg capital region.

The worst regions for non-seatbelt use were Interlake and Parkland at 16 and 14 per cent respectively.

Meanwhile, Winnipeg drivers were

found to be much more likely to be using their cellphones behind the wheel.

The use of an electronic communication device (ECD) was higher in Winnipeg (10 per cent) compared to rural areas (three per cent).

"The findings of this study will be used as a benchmark to monitor behaviour change over time, and shared with the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police for the purpose of planning future enforcement and awareness campaigns," noted Satvir Jatana, MPI's chief customer officer.

The study was conducted in September and observed nearly 29,000 vehicles in 46 towns and cities across Manitoba.

A few other interesting things the researchers found:

- Overall, seven per cent of all drivers observed were using an ECD in some capacity.

- ECD use appeared to be higher in areas with traffic lights.

- ECD use is highest among younger drivers.

- Overall, seven per cent of all drivers observed were not wearing their seatbelt.

- Those driving trucks had slightly higher rates of not wearing a seatbelt compared to passenger cars or vans/SUVs.

- Drivers in rural areas wore their seatbelt less often across all age groups.

- In cases where the driver was not wearing their seatbelt, 54 per cent of passengers were also not wearing their seatbelt.

"High-risk driving behaviours places all motorists at risk on our public roadways," said Jatana. "This study confirmed too many drivers continue to exhibit high-risk behaviours which can easily be changed."

Driver distraction is a leading contributor to fatal crashes in Manitoba, linked to nearly 50 per cent of all fatalities and 37 per cent of all serious injuries in 2020, according to MPI data.

Getting caught using a hand-held electronic device while driving comes with a \$672 fine, a three-day driving suspension for first-time offenders, and a drop of five levels on one's Driver Safety Rating scale. A subsequent conviction results in a seven-day driving suspension and moving down the DSR scale five more levels.

Not wearing a seatbelt could net you a \$200 fine and two levels lost on the DSR. A person is more than 50 times more likely to be killed and almost four times more likely to be seriously injured when not wearing a seatbelt, MPI says.

Pandemic parenting woes acknowledged in MPS seminar

By Nicole Brownlee

A Winnipeg psychologist researching the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on parents and their children is hosting a seminar to connect with parents and offer support.

Dr. Leslie Roos is an assistant psychology professor at the University of Manitoba and an investigator for the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. Roos' research focuses on developing clinical programs to support the mental health and parenting needs of families affected by chronic stress.

"Early on in the pandemic, we started doing some research in Canada and elsewhere on how family mental health was going," said Roos.

The challenges and stress of the pandemic continue to have a significant impact on families' mental health, which has pushed Roos and her team to learn how to improve virtual care to meet families' needs.

Roos' team has used online surveys, a parent advisory panel and online forums to dig into what parents need.

"We pull data from thousands of responders," said Roos.

"Some of the parents are really worried about persistent effects of the pandemic on their own relationships, kids' mental health."

Through the Manitoba Psychological Society, Roos will discuss "Parenting During the Pandemic: Supporting

Families of Young Children through Innovations in eHealth Technology" on Feb. 18 from 2 to 3 p.m. with Lindsay Berard and Bailin Xie.

The team will describe current research about the scope of parent mental health needs, their importance and address the impacts of family stress on kids.

Innovations in virtual care and app-based services will also be reviewed to remind parents to access support when they need it.

"Before the pandemic, it often felt like I was working hard to convince people that mental health is health, and I don't make that argument anymore," said Roos.

"I don't need to spend a lot of energy convincing people."

The pandemic has caused mental health resources to be more accessible online, the government to invest in mental health services and acknowledge the necessity of balanced mental health.

"I'm really optimistic we'll have long-term positive impacts," said Roos.

Roos said she hopes parents will learn more about the impact of the pandemic on families, consider resources and feel less alone after the seminar.

"Starting these conversations reduces the stigma, and you learn about some of the great work going on in the

province."

For more information, visit www.mps.ca.

[mps.ca](http://www.mps.ca).



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Nominations needed for Canada's Volunteer Awards

By Jennifer McFee

Do you know someone who is making a difference in the community?

If so, you might want to consider nominating them for Canada's Volunteer Awards program, which aims to recognize volunteers and bring national prominence to the contributions made by volunteers.

The call for nominations is only open until March 4, so you'll have to act fast if you'd like to nominate a volunteer for recognition. Nominees can be individuals, groups, businesses or not-for-profit organizations.

Brenda Martinussen is one of three representatives for the prairies on the National Advisory Committee. She encourages community members to consider nominating a local volunteer who is making a difference.

"I think at the heart of most volunteers is selflessness. They basically do things because it's the right thing to do. They want to see their community improved or meet a need in the community in some way," she said.

"I don't know of any volunteer that does it to get an award, but I do think it's one of the few ways that we can give back to volunteers and recognize how our society could not be what it

is today if it weren't for the work that they do."

The nominations are reviewed regionally and then the top-ranked nominations move forward for assessment by the National Advisory Committee.

Regional awards will be offered in four categories: community leader, emerging leader, business leader and social innovator.

The community leader award recognizes individual volunteers or groups of volunteers who have worked towards developing solutions to social challenges in communities.

The emerging leader award recognizes volunteers aged 18 to 30 who show leadership and help build stronger communities.

The business leader award recognizes businesses that demonstrate social responsibility, including by promoting and facilitating volunteerism.

The social innovator award recognizes not-for-profit organizations, including not-for-profit social enterprises, that use innovative approaches to address social challenges in their communities.

On the national level, nominations can be submitted for the Thérèse Cas-



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WHO can I nominate?	WHAT are the categories?	WHY is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUSINESSES INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SOCIAL ENTERPRISES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATIONAL AWARD Thérèse Casgrain Lifelong Achievement (20 years+ of volunteering) REGIONAL AWARDS Emerging Leader (youth ages 18 to 30) Community Leader (individuals or groups) Business Leader (businesses) Social Innovator (not-for-profits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THANK those who are involved in your community 20 GRANTS OF \$5K (REGIONAL AWARDS) 1 GRANT OF \$10K (NATIONAL AWARD) A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION chosen by the recipient will receive a government grant.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Canada's Volunteer Awards program is looking for nominations.

grain Lifelong Achievement Award, which honours individuals who have volunteered for at least 20 years to one or more organizations or causes.

Award recipients will be recognized at an award ceremony, where they will receive a pin and certificate signed by the prime minister.

Recipients will also have the chance to identify a not-for-profit to receive a \$5,000 grant at the regional level and a \$10,000 grant at the national award level.

Martinussen said she is available to speak with or provide information to

any individuals, clubs, organizations, boards and councils regarding the awards.

"These awards are recognizing both the volunteers as well as providing some much-needed funding for some not-for-profit organizations, especially in this day and age," she said.

To contact Martinussen, call 204-467-7450 or email brendamartinussen@yahoo.com. For more information about Canada's Volunteer Awards, visit Canada.ca/volunteer-awards, call 1-877-825-0434 or email Info-cva-pbc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca.



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Faouzia sings O Canada at NHL All-Star-Game

By Becca Myskiw

Carman's very own superstar sang *O Canada* in front of hockey's biggest names and millions of fans.

The NHL asked Faouzia to sing the Canadian anthem at the NHL All-Star Game on Feb. 5 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The singer-songwriter said she obviously said yes, feeling honoured to have been approached.

"I've been surrounded by hockey my entire life," she said. "So, it feels surreal to be a part of something so big like this."

The Saturday game was played in a three-game, three-on-three tournament. The Metropolitan division played the Pacific division in game one, Central against Atlantic in the second, with each game's winners facing off in the final.

Faouzia sang *O Canada* first, followed by American artist Blanco Brown, who sang *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Other artists lined up throughout the weekend to perform.

In the first game, Alex Ovechkin's team faced off against Connor McDavid's. Ovechkin tested positive for COVID-19 before the game and was replaced by Claude Giroux as cap-

tain while Tom Wilson replaced him as a player. Even with the change, the Metropolitan division beat the Pacific 6-4.

Nathan McKinnon's team then played Auston Matthews' team. MacKinnon was also replaced as captain by Joe Pavleski due to injury. Roman Josi replaced him as a player. The Central division defeated Atlantic 8-5, sending Pavleski's team into the final against Giroux's. Giroux ultimately took all and won the All-Star Game.

Faouzia said to prepare for her big moment singing the anthem, she sang every day and ensured she remained calm. She said performing the anthem in T-Mobile Arena was exciting because hockey has impacted her life and this was her first time in Las Vegas.

The game came just four days after the release of her music video for her newest single, *Puppet*. The song originally released October 2021 has gained over 4.5 million listens on Spotify. Her music video came out on Feb. 1. Now, the Carmanite said she's working on lots of music, so people can expect to see lots more from her this year.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Faouzia performed *O Canada* at the National Hockey League All-Star Game, while American rapper Blanco Brown sang the United States national anthem.

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Ashern Home Hardware gets new and improved look

By Nicole Brownlee

Ashern's Home Hardware renovations are underway with an updated lighting department and a new lumber yard.

An addition to the range of fixtures is *Income Property* host Scott McGillvray's Lighting Collection.

"Our lighting needed some sprucing up," said Jason Carpenter, owner of the Ashern home improvement store.

"It's more bright and fresh looking."

The cabinets and tools department are next to be renovated. The store's full-service lumber yard is also planned to open in spring.

"We had planned to do it last winter," said Carpenter.

The store planned to start the project last winter, but because of supply chain issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the high volume of sales and staffing, their location decided to delay the construction.

"A few months ago, probably a third

of our entire store was in back-order status," said Carpenter.

"It seems like things are getting a lot more caught up, but I would say still probably a quarter of our stock is still back-ordered."

While it's frustrating sending customers to look for items at competitors' stores in Winnipeg and other communities, Carpenter said Ashern residents are supportive of the store.

"People are focusing a little more on shopping local in general."

Business at the Interlake store has come in waves during the COVID-19 pandemic. Carpenter said because of the escalating price of lumber, people have put off some home improvement projects.

"We've been kind of up and down, but generally, we are a bit busier," said Carpenter.

Ashern's Home Hardware is open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUPPLIED BY JASON CARPENTER

Income Property host Scott McGillvray's Lighting Collection is a new addition to Ashern's Home Hardware.

> OUTBREAK DECLARED, FROM PG. 7

for COVID and the infection is determined to have been acquired in the facility.

Primary contacts of residents can call the Eriksdale PCH at (204) 739-4416 for more information, and people with other inquiries can call the IERHA's toll-free line 1-855-347-8500.

The IERHA also notified media – as well as posted information on its website – that a COVID outbreak was declared Feb. 8 at the Fisher Personal Care Home in Fisher Branch.

"Two residents out of 29 in the facility have tested positive and test results are pending for four other residents," said the spokesperson. "Ninety per cent of residents in the facility have been triple vaccinated."

Outbreak protocols such as restricted visiting and enhanced vigilance are now in place.

The Fisher PCH can be reached at (204) 372-8703.

COVID outbreak protocols are still in place at the Selkirk Betel PCH, Selkirk Red River Place and the Selkirk Tudor Home, according to the IERHA website viewed Feb. 13.

People continue to die from COVID. According to the provincial government's COVID dashboard – which is only updated Monday to Friday – Manitoba has had 1,619 deaths so far as of last Friday. That day also saw 673 new COVID infections reported, which is an undercount because the government is restricting PCR testing and rapid antigen tests aren't counted.

Premier Heather Stefanson announced last week the lifting of restrictions including capacity limits, proof of vaccination (eliminated on March 1) and the elimination of facemasks (by March 15) as anti-restriction protesters continue to block downtown streets near the legislative building and block the Canada-U.S. border at Emerson with farm tractors and semi-trailers, causing disruption to the supply chain.



ALL COVID RULES APPLY
Lic #318

Fraserwood Hall

Friday Nights 7:15 PM
February 18, 2022

Breakopens 50/50

5 Share The Wealth Games
15 Regular Games @ \$60.00
(reduced games with low attendance)

JACKPOT	\$2,450.00
FIRST SPECIAL	\$288.00 +
BONANZA	\$11,138.00 +
LUCKY 7	\$76 +
STAR	\$200 +
WEEHOUSE	\$1,672.00 +
HOUDINI	\$13,770.00 +
LOONIE POT	\$191.00 +

(Estimated amounts at time of publication)

"CHASE THE ACE"
Lic # LGA 318-RF
Tickets sold 5:00 - 7:00 PM
with draw to follow
\$2.00/ticket Current Accumulator - \$1,618.00+
CANTEEN - OPENS @ 5PM
Perogies, hamburgers, hotdogs, desserts, etc
INFORMATION - 204-642-9392 or
204-643-5541 or www.fraserwoodhall.com



New Opportunity for Farmers

Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) is a new initiative that recognizes the valuable role farmers play in improving the environmental health of the agricultural landscape.

Through GROW, local Watershed Districts provide financial incentives and technical support to help farmers implement projects that restore, conserve and enhance ecological goods and services originating from their lands.

Farm the Best, Conserve the Rest

Local watershed districts will work with you to develop a plan that is suited to the particular needs and goals of your farming operation as they align with local program priorities.

Examples of GROW projects include:

- ✓ water retention
- ✓ wetland conservation, restoration or enhancement
- ✓ multi-species buffer strips
- ✓ riparian area enhancement
- ✓ natural area maintenance and enhancement
- ✓ buffer and grassed waterway establishment
- ✓ perennial cover for sensitive land
- ✓ soil health improvements
- ✓ shelterbelt establishment

For more information on GROW or to connect with your local watershed district, visit www.manitobawatersheds.ca, or call 204.945.0002.



LRI celebrates Louis Riel Day with history and crafts

Virtual workshop Feb. 21

By Nicole Brownlee

Manitoba youth have the opportunity to learn more about the province's founder while making a colourful collage.

The Louis Riel Institute is hosting a virtual workshop on Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to teach participants about Louis Riel, his connection with Red River Métis, the importance of celebrating Louis Riel Day while guiding them through a craft.

"We feel there's a need for more learning about our Red River Métis history and culture, and who that is Louis Riel," said Teresa Byrne, history and culture co-ordinator for the Louis Riel Institute.

"They'll learn about Louis Riel, and then they walk away with something that they can be proud of and that they could share."

The Louis Riel Institute will provide participants with an outline of Louis Riel through email that they can fill with pieces of colourful tissue paper, crayon or whatever they would like.

After they complete their proud masterpieces, participants can submit a photo of their work to the Louis Riel Institute by March 1 to be entered to win a prize.

"I would love to see the kids go crazy and do what

they want to do with this collage," said Byrne.

This is the first year the institute is hosting a virtual workshop for youth. Most years, the institute team members spend most of their time creating programs with the Saint-Boniface Museum in Winnipeg.

"We have been on the fringes of society and really marginalized as people, and now is a really good time to be proud to be Métis," said Shannon Parenteau, executive director of the institute.

"I grew up learning that I couldn't celebrate who I was being Métis and the fact that we have the opportunity to change that narrative and to tell our story ... it just brings out a big smile," said Byrne.

The first Louis Riel Day was celebrated in 2008 after 11 Manitoba schools suggested the province's newest holiday should commemorate Manitoba's founder.

Louis Riel was the Métis leader of the Red River Resistance of 1869-1870 and was instrumental in drafting what would become the Manitoba Act and designating Manitoba as Canada's fifth province.

The Manitoba Act also fought to protect English and French-language rights, Protestant and Roman Catholic educational rights and land for the Red River Métis.

For more information about Louis Riel Institute workshops, visit www.louisrielinstitute.ca.

**"NOW IS A
REALLY GOOD
TIME TO BE
PROUD TO BE
MÉTIS."**

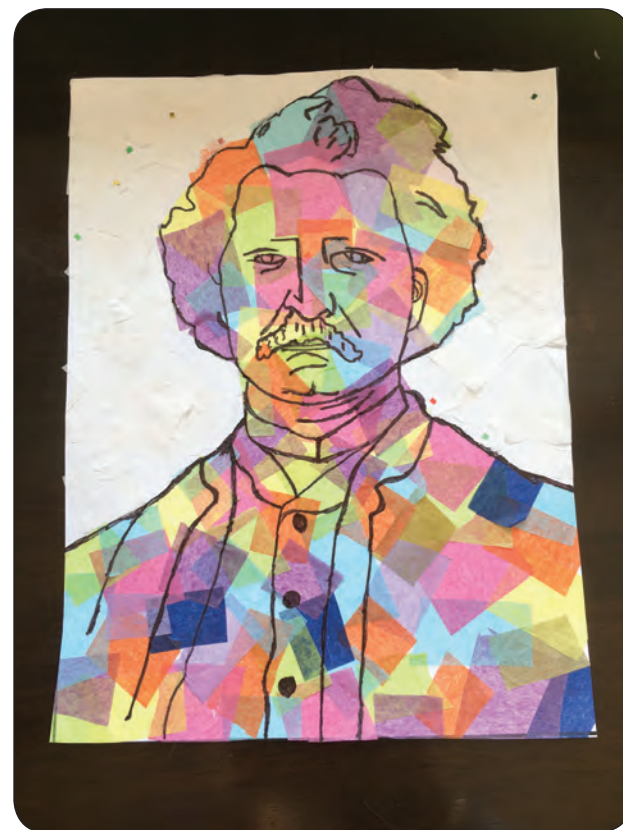


PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Louis Riel Institute encourages Manitoba youth to join them on Feb. 21 for a virtual workshop to learn about Louis Riel while making a colourful collage.

Evergreen School Division unable to cover some bus routes

By Patricia Barrett

The Evergreen School Division alerted parents in its catchment area that it is short of bus drivers and is experiencing a number of other challenges that are keeping buses off the road.

Supt. Roza Gray sent parents a letter dated Feb. 8, stating the division is unable to cover its bus routes. She cited a variety of reasons including a lack of driver applicants, illnesses due to COVID-19, poor weather and supply-chain interruptions.

"Even before the pandemic, like rural school divisions all over the country, the division struggled to recruit and retain drivers. We have frequently advertised for new drivers on a variety of platforms, followed up on potentially interested parties, led training sessions, collaborated with neighboring divisions and investigated alternative solutions," wrote Gray.

"Expectations related to the pandemic reduced our already limited pool of regular and substitute drivers. We are working with [Manitoba Education's] Pupil Transportation Unit to assist with securing MPI testing spots to help alleviate our shortage; however, we do not have sufficient drivers to

cover our routes."

Gray noted that some garages that handle bus repairs are operating with fewer staff because of COVID infections, and that the parts needed to repair buses are in short supply.

"Despite all our significant efforts to locate necessary parts for some repairs, a number of our buses have been sidelined while we wait weeks or months for parts," she wrote.

In the February update of its "Pandemic Return to School Plan," the division noted that in the absence of school buses "private transportation will be necessary."

However, there are a number of rules regarding carpooling, including prohibiting staff from arranging carpooling, prohibiting staff from transporting students in their personal vehicles and prohibiting students from transporting "other students to school-sanctioned events."

"Students who share such transportation will not be permitted to participate in activities," states the document which is posted on the division's website.

When asked if students who drive are allowed to drive other students to



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Evergreen School Division buses at the division's facility in the Gimli Industrial Park.

school, Gray told the *Express* by email that, "Yes, some parents permit their children to drive to school rather than take the school bus or walk."

The rule pertaining to not allowing students to transport other students to school events is "not new," she said.

"Evergreen and other divisions provide transportation or require adults to drive when carpooling in order to increase student safety," she said.

Continued on page 17

Louis Riel Day film screening brings families together

By Nicole Brownlee

A Manitoba film festival is giving families the chance to support Canadian filmmakers while celebrating Louis Riel Day.

Freeze Frame is a media arts centre for Manitoba youth. The centre is a non-profit that offers workshops and programs and organizes the annual Freeze Frame International Film Festival.

In addition to their film festival this year, Freeze Frame is screening a feature-length animated film and an animated short film for free on Feb. 21.

"It's a gift for families to watch together and a precursor to the festival," said Kelly Frazer, manager of Freeze Frame.

On the opening day of the festival, Freeze Frame would usually offer a free in-person screening of a film, but because of public health regulations, the organization chose to host the free screening virtually instead.

"We decided to keep the free screening online because that gives the most flexibility for families to watch," said Frazer.

Freeze Frame chose to screen *Snowtime!* and *The Importance of Dreaming* on Louis Riel Day to support Canadian artists and winter-themed stories.

The first film, *Snowtime!* (2015), is a recreation of *The Dog Who Stopped the War* (1984). The original film was released by director André Melançon and follows children in a small Quebec village who engage in a snowball fight over a snow fortress. The film won the Golden Reel Award as Canada's top-grossing film at the domestic box office in 1985.

Snowtime! is available in English and French.

The short film *The Importance of Dreaming* (2017) will also be available



The Importance of Dreaming will share the story of a white owl and red fox falling in love.

to stream for free on Louis Riel Day. Directed by Tara Audibert, a Wolastoqiyik artist from New Brunswick, *The Importance of Dreaming* tells the story of a white owl and a red fox falling in love despite the red fox family's disapproval.

Audibert started working on the film in 2015 and relates the plot to her family.

"This is the story about my mom and my dad falling in love," said Audibert.

Audibert's parents got married in the 1970s, before Bill C-31 was in power, taking away Audibert's mother's Indian

Status when she married Audibert's father, a non-Indigenous man.

Audibert's mother's family disapproved of their relationship and cut ties with the couple until Audibert



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY FREEZE FRAME AND TARA AUDIBERT
Freeze Frame is screening Canadian short film *The Importance of Dreaming* on Louis Riel Day, which reflects the director's life.

was born and the family reconciled.

"The (owl and the fox) end up having some very cute little fox babies that are white, and they represent me, my brother and sister, that brought everything back together again."

The Importance of Dreaming was also a source of comfort for Audibert as her father fell into Alzheimer's.

"I feel like at times (my dad) wasn't with us. He was there in body, but his mind was somewhere else, and I guess this is my little story of where

his mind may have been in those times."

Audibert said she is excited to have her short film included in Freeze Frame's Louis Riel Day screening.

"I want people to know this story and have access to Indigenous stories as well."

Freeze Frame's film festival will be held from March 6 to 13 with online and in-person screenings. To learn more visit freezeframeonline.org.

"IT'S A GIFT FOR FAMILIES TO WATCH TOGETHER."

> BUSES, FROM PG. 16

"Ample evidence exists that teens are at greater risk for accidents."

The division has prepared materials for students who are absent from school because of busing shortages.

"A variety of arrangements are being made to support students who are absent," said Gray. "Depending on the age of the student and the subject area, paper packages have been prepared and/or materials provided online. As always, teachers are being flexible about assignments and providing extra help to students when they return to school."

The division has made the provincial government aware of the busing shortage and the division is working with Manitoba Education's Pupil Transportation Unit.

"A bus driver shortage is being experienced all over Manitoba, and we are working with the Pupil Transportation Unit to assist with securing MPI testing spots to help alleviate our shortage," said Gray.

People interested in becoming an Evergreen school bus driver can email transportation@esd.ca



Jamming at Sunset!

COMING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH!

The Narrows Sunset Lodge will be open to musicians who would like to Jam at the Lodge.

To reserve your spot please call lrv 204-981-2831 or 204-768-2749

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

U18 female Lightning win pair of weekend games

By Brian Bowman

Interlake Lightning goaltender Zach Meadows was a very busy man on Sunday afternoon.

Meadows faced 59 Brandon shots as the Wheat Kings defeated the Lightning 4-3 in overtime in Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League action in Teulon.

Carter Dittmer scored the game winner in OT.

Interlake's Evan Calder and Nic LeClair scored power-play goals while Joel Purdom tallied an even-strength marker. The Lightning's Hayden Wheddon had two assists in the game.

Skylar Ramsay, Nolan Chastko (on the power play) and Braden Keeble also scored for the Wheat Kings.

Keeble's goal came at 13:50 of the third period to tie the score at 3-3.

On Saturday, Interlake was beaten 6-3 by Brandon.

The Lightning started great with goals from Nathan Vigfusson and Noah Slobozian just 45 seconds apart in the first period to grab a 2-0 lead.

But Brandon came back to score five straight goals before Interlake's Joel MacMillan struck on the power play midway in the third.

Wheat Kings' goals were scored by Dylan Schrader (two), Keeble, Clarke Caswell, Calder Crossin and Callum Halls.

Last Friday, the Lightning lost 5-3 to the Pembina Valley Hawks in Morden.

Wheddon scored a goal just 16 sec-

onds into the second period and then Vigfusson and Calder tallied in the third.

Interlake's Austin Lourenco had two assists in the game.

Pembina Valley goals were scored by Marek Miller, Griffin Ayote, Carter Campbell, Keston Worley and Liam Goertzen.

Interlake will wrap up its season with home games against the Parkland Rangers on Friday (8 p.m.) and Saturday (1:30 p.m.).

In U18 AAA female action, Interlake defeated the Westman Wildcats 1-0 in a shootout on Sunday afternoon in Stonewall.

Kenady Christensen scored the lone shootout goal.

Rachel Halldorson made 33 saves for the shutout victory.

On Saturday, Interlake defeated the Central Plains Capitals 4-3 in overtime in Stonewall.

Christensen scored the game winner in OT. She had a great game with two goals and an assist.

No other Interlake goal scorers were known at press time.

Danika Botterill, with a pair, and Phoenix Freis scored for Central Plains.

Katelyn Dorsch stopped 36 Capitals' shots for the win.

Last Friday, the Lightning lost 4-1 to the Winnipeg Ice in Stonewall.

Tessa Stewart scored Interlake's lone goal in the third period.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT
Lightning goaltender Zack Meadows of Gimli gloves the puck during Interlake's 5-3 road loss to the Pembina Valley Hawks last Friday.

The Ice, which scored three goals in the second period and another in the third, received a three-goal performance from Maia Ehmann while Stephanie Jacob also tallied.

Halldorson made 47 saves in the

game. Interlake started its playoffs this past Tuesday against the Winnipeg Avros. The two teams will hook up again this Thursday (7:45 p.m.) in Stonewall and then Sunday (1:45 p.m.) at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex.

Falcons, Ice Dawgs lose CRJHL games

Staff

The St. Malo Warriors had the Lundar Falcons' number last weekend.

St. Malo swept the home-and-home series with a 4-2 victory over the Falcons in Lundar on Saturday.

St. Malo's Cole Holdnick scored a first-period power-play goal and then Lundar's Andrew Henry tallied in the second.

Riley Wirgau gave the Falcons a 2-1 lead midway in the third period but the Warriors came back with goals from Evan Wuerch, Jaden Gosselin and Mitchell Penner.

Last Friday, the Falcons lost 5-2 to the Warriors in St. Malo.

St. Malo took a 2-0 first-period lead on goals by Levi Penner and Gosselin. But Lundar tied the score at 2-2 in the second as Jonathan Campeau and Jayden Timlick tallied.

Timlick and teammate Ryan Gleich each had two assists in the game.

The Warriors owned the third period, though, with three unanswered goals. Penner scored a shorthanded marker and then Wuerch and Penner tallied.

Lundar will host St. Malo on Friday

(8 p.m.) and then will visit the Selkirk Fishermen Sunday (3 p.m.).

The Arborg Ice Dawgs, meanwhile, lost 3-2 to the Fishermen in Selkirk last Sunday.

Selkirk scored three goals with the man advantage in seven opportunities.

Selkirk's Cale Jonski scored in the first period and then Reece Tessier made it 2-0 after 40 minutes.

Braeden Hummel put Selkirk up 3-0 before Arborg's Cadrick Dueck, on the power play, and Logan Clarke tallied.

Hummel and Jonski each had two points in the game while Arborg's Kalen Guimond had two assists.

Owen Derewianchuk made 28 saves for the win. At the other end, Tre Strachan stopped 29 Selkirk shots.

Arborg played at North Winnipeg this past Tuesday but no score was available.

The Ice Dawgs will have three home games this week, beginning with a Thursday (7:45 p.m.) tilt with Selkirk.

Arborg will then host North Winnipeg on Friday (8 p.m.) and St. Malo Sunday (2:30 p.m.).

Colton Lott finalist at Viterra Championships

By Ty DiLello

West St. Paul's Mike McEwen will be returning to the Tim Hortons Brier as Team Manitoba after defeating Colton Lott of Winnipeg Beach 8-3 in Sunday's 2022 Viterra Championships provincial final.

Team McEwen featuring Reid Caruthers, Derek Samagalski and Colin Hodgson defeated Lott by a dominant 8-3 score at the Selkirk Curling Club to punch their ticket to next month's Brier.

Earlier that day, McEwen overcame a wild back-and-forth struggle with Fort Rouge's Ryan Wiebe to win 10-9. McEwen drew the four-foot with his final stone in the tenth end to win the game.

With Sunday's win, McEwen will be heading to his seventh Brier. After it was all said and done, McEwen noted that this year's provincial victory felt like the most challenging one of them all.

"This one felt like the hardest one," McEwen said after the win. "I've been in a lot of finals, and this one really took a lot out of us. Very satisfying, but this took a lot out of the team. We were pushed very, very hard."

Winnipeg Beach's Colton Lott and his rink of Tanner Lott, Kyle Doering, Emerson Klimpke went into the final undefeated. However, a few uncharacteristic misses cost the young team a chance to go to the Brier.

"There's so much to build off of, and it just adds to the experience and knowing how to feel in these situations and better prepare ourselves in the future," Lott said. "We just weren't quite as sharp today as we were in our

previous games, and it showed."

Despite falling in the provincial final, the week was still a wonderful experience for the Lott rink as they will use what they learned from it in the future.

"We all played so well throughout the week. We just need to close it out a little better next time," said Lott's second Kyle Doering. "We'll be more prepared next time and hope to come out on top at this time next season."

Team McEwen's most challenging game of the week perhaps came in Sunday morning's semi-final when they overcame Team Ryan Wiebe 10-9 in a thriller.

"There's a lot of talent on that team, and it's nice to see that kind of potential in Manitoba curling," McEwen added. "We've played those guys in a number of different situations over the last few years, and they are all really progressing nicely."

The young 21-year-old Wiebe was a little bit down after Sunday's loss but feels like his rink is right up there to compete with the best in the future.

"Up until now, we haven't had too many games against top-level teams in the world," Wiebe said. "So, just to get these games under our belt and play really well in them and show a ton of composure and calmness, I think moving forward, it does so much for our confidence."

The 2022 Tim Horton's Brier will run from March 4-13 in Lethbridge, Alberta. Team McEwen will represent Manitoba, and Morris' Jason Gunnlaugson will enter the event as a wildcard team.



Emerson Klimpke and Kyle Doering prepare to sweep skip Lott's stone.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Team Lott was undefeated heading into the final of the 2022 Viterra Championships on Sunday. Mike McEwen's team beat the young team 8-3 in the final. Pictured left to right, Kyle Doering, Tanner Lott, Emerson Klimpke, Colton Lott and Kody Janzen.



Skip Colton Lott keeps a close eye on his stone.



Tanner Lott and Kyle Doering

Cvar scores pair of power-play goals last weekend

Staff

St. Cloud State Huskies' forward Olivia Cvar scored a pair of power-play goals in two games against the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers last weekend.

In the series opener last Friday, No. 1 Minnesota defeated the Huskies 5-3 in St. Cloud.

The Gophers scored three times in the third period before Cvar tallied a power-play goal with an extra attacker late in the final frame.

On Saturday, Cvar buried a rebound off the goaltender's pad to tie the game at 1-1 in a 5-1 road loss.

Cvar, whose family lives in Stonewall, now has nine goals and 12 points this season.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ST. CLOUD STATE
St. Cloud State Huskies' forward Olivia Cvar scored a pair of power-play goals in two games against the No. 2-ranked University of Minnesota Golden Gophers last weekend. She now has nine goals and 12 points this season.

Peguis storms past OCN

Staff

The Peguis Juniors cruised to a dominating 12-2 victory over the OCN Storm in Keystone Junior Hockey League action on Sunday afternoon.

Darian Murdock had a hat trick to go along with an assist for Peguis while Lyle Murdoch scored twice and added three assists.

Dion Fontaine also had a great game with two goals and three assists.

Ayden Manningway (two), Kyle Cochrane, Braeden Parenteau and Keelian Levasseur also scored for Peguis. Parenteau finished the game with three points.

Tyrese Bear made 30 saves for the win.

On Saturday evening, Peguis scored

four second-period goals in a 7-4 win.

Sundance Paul and Lyle Murdoch each had two goals and two assists in the game.

Gabriel Beaulieu (two) and Manningway also scored for the Juniors.

Darian Murdock had three assists.

Aidon Marchand stopped 21 OCN shots for the victory.

The Juniors, now 17-4-0-1 and in first place with 35 points, will host the Norway House North Stars on Thursday (7:30 p.m.) and then will visit the Cross Lake Islanders Friday (7:30 p.m.).

Peguis will then head to Norway House on the weekend for games on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (1:30 p.m.).

U17 Lightning doubled by Selects

Staff

The Interlake Lightning were doubled 4-2 by the Eastman Selects in U17 AAA action last Friday in Warren.

Hayden Kaczorowski scored to give Interlake a 1-0 first-period lead but Eastman's Ashton Vure, on the power play, and Steele Jowett tallied in the second.

The Selects' went ahead 3-1 early in the third on a goal by Luc De Gagne.

Ian Buors pulled Interlake to within a goal midway in the final frame but Jowett iced the win with a goal with three seconds remaining.

Kaczorowski and Adam Vigfusson

each had two points in the game.

Alex Myers stopped 37 Eastman shots.

Interlake was scheduled to play the Winnipeg Thrashers on Sunday but no score was on the league website at press time.

The Lightning will play the Wheat Kings on Saturday (2:15 p.m.) in Brandon.

In U15 AAA action, Interlake was defeated 10-3 by the Winnipeg Bruins Gold on Sunday in Warren.

The scoring summary was not posted on the league website.

The Lightning will host the Hawks on Wednesday (7 p.m.) in Stonewall.

take a break > GAMES

SUDOKU

					5	7		
	9		4		1			
8		5	9	1				
								8
	6		5					
5	4	1						2
			6	8				
6		9	3		2			7
	8			4				

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	9	9	1	4	7	2	8	3
7	4	8	2	5	3	6	1	9
3	2	6	8	9	5	7	4	1
2	9	7	6	3	8	1	4	5
4	1	3	7	2	5	8	9	6
8	5	9	4	6	1	3	2	7
6	7	9	1	3	5	9	8	4
3	8	1	5	7	4	6	9	2
9	6	5	8	2	6	3	4	1

Sudoku Answer

S	T	E	S	T	E	N	E	S	A	L	V	A	S						
S	O	T	O			E	D		K	R	K	O	N	S					
E	B	A	R	E	M	I								R	I				
Y	L	I	T	I	B	I			A	B	I	H		E	D				
L	P	E	L	A	H	C	S	R	P	F	T	D	D						
S	O	M	S	O	V	T			T	F	A	D	D						
S	T	S	A	V	A	K	P	A	S	P	A	S	D	C	O	V	E	L	I
E	I	E	E	E	S	G	V	O	S					B	A	L	L		
H	O	C			P	A	N	K		S	E	E		S					
I	C	T	S	I	R	I	O	N	I	G	D	E							
V	L	S	T	A	V	L	U	O	I					P	A	V			
L	E	S	A	B	L	E	S	A	I	V				A	R	E	S		
L	L	S	A	B	L	E	S	A	P	A	N	O	N	E					
														S	T	E			

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Remain as is
 - 5. Functional
 - 11. News magazine
 - 12. Popular treat
 - 16. Area units
 - 17. Artificial intelligence
 - 18. Marten valued for its fur
 - 19. Forms of matter
 - 24. Home of the Dodgers
 - 25. Bordering
 - 26. Part of the eye
 - 27. It might be nervous
 - 28. Visualizes
 - 29. Crest of a hill
 - 30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
 - 31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
 - 33. Not easily explained
 - 34. Song in short stanzas
 - 38. Detonations
 - 39. Intestinal
 - 40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri ___
 - 43. Balmy
 - 44. New Mexico mountain town
 - 45. Gobblers
 - 49. Insecticide
 - 50. Golf scores
 - 51. Has its own altar
 - 53. "Pollock" actor Harris
 - 54. Being livable
 - 56. NHL play-by-play man
 - 58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
 - 59. Unpainted
 - 60. Swam underwater
 - 63. Native American people
 - 64. Containing salt
 - 65. Exam
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Small bone in middle ear
 - 2. Long, angry speech
 - 3. Move out of
 - 4. Male organ
 - 5. Two-toed sloth

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10											
11						12						13	14	15							
16						17				18											
19					20	21			22	23								24			
25								26										27			
28							29											30			
						31	32											33			
34	35	36	37															38			
39								40	41	42											
43								44										45	46	47	48
49								50										51	52		
53																		55			
56																					59
60																					63
																					65

- 6. Making dirty
- 7. Article
- 8. Oil company
- 9. Emits coherent radiation
- 10. Amounts of time
- 13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
- 14. Forbidden by law
- 15. Drains away
- 20. Not out
- 21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
- 22. Bird genus
- 23. Gratuity
- 27. ___ and feathers
- 29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
- 30. Hot beverage
- 31. Pouch
- 32. It followed the cassette
- 33. Large northern deer
- 34. Ones who offer formally
- 35. Famed genie
- 36. Bequeathed
- 37. Skeletal muscle
- 38. Atomic #56
- 40. Silk garment
- 41. They deliver the mail
- 42. Equally
- 44. Check
- 45. Light-colored breed of hound
- 46. Drug that soothes
- 47. Railroads
- 48. Most slick
- 50. Jacket
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Hello
- 54. His and ___
- 55. Supporter
- 57. Popular software suite (abbr.)
- 61. Railway
- 62. NY coastal region (abbr.)

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Fresh Veggie Spring Roll Bites with Peanut Sauce

1/3 cup Georgia Peanuts, plus additional for garnish, divided

lime wedges, for garnish

Fill large bowl about halfway with hot water. Soak each rice paper in water 15 seconds until malleable. Place rice paper on clean work surface. Place four cucumber ribbons in single layer in center of rice paper. Perpendicular to cucumber, add strip of red cabbage, carrots, 1/2 cup basil leaves, 1/3 cup cilantro leaves, 1/3 cup mint leaves and avocado.

To roll, fold edges of rice paper over each end of filling. Working with side of rice paper closest to you, tuck rice paper around filling and roll tightly.

To cut rolls into bites, use sharp knife and gently move it back and forth. Arrange bites on platter. Repeat with remaining rice papers and filling ingredients.

To make sauce: In small bowl, whisk peanut butter, soy sauce, mirin, fish sauce, 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes and lime juice.

Toast 1/3 cup peanuts by placing in dry pan over medium heat. Move peanuts around until fragrant and toasted, 3-5 minutes. Roughly chop and add to sauce.

Serve spring roll bites on large platter with sauce. Garnish with additional herbs, lime wedges, red pepper flakes and peanuts.

Recipe courtesy of Rachael White (setthetableblog.com) on behalf of the Georgia Peanut Commission

- Hot water
- 6 rice papers
- 3 mini cucumbers, peeled into ribbons
- 1/4 head red cabbage, finely shredded
- 1 large carrot, shredded
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1/3 cup cilantro leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1/3 cup mint leaves, loosely packed, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 1 large ripe avocado, peeled and sliced
- Peanut Sauce:**
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon mirin
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice



Chicken Tortilla Soup

- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 corn tortillas (6 inches each), cut into 1/4-inch-wide strips
- 1 corn tortilla (6 inches), torn into pieces
- 2-4 tablespoons snipped fresh cilantro
- 1/4 cup finely chopped avocado
- 1/4 medium red bell pepper, cut into matchstick-size strips

In slow cooker, stir chicken, corn, broth, tomatoes, onion, sugar, ancho powder, garlic and salt. Cook, covered, on low, 6-8 hours, or on high, 3-4 hours.

Preheat oven to 350 F.

On baking sheet, arrange tortilla strips in single layer. Bake 8-10 minutes, or until crisp. Transfer baking sheet to cooling rack. Let strips stand 15 minutes, or until cool. Transfer to airtight container and set aside.

When soup is ready, transfer 1 cup to food processor or blender. Stir in tortilla pieces. Let mixture stand 1 minute. Process until smooth. Stir mixture into soup. Stir in cilantro.

Ladle soup into bowls. Sprinkle with avocado, bell pepper and reserved tortilla strips.

This recipe is reprinted with permission from "Healthy Slow Cooker Cookbook, 2nd Edition." Copyright 2018 by the American Heart Association. Published by Harmony Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, LLC.

- Servings: 4
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, visible fat discarded, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 cups frozen whole-kernel corn, thawed
- 2 cups fat-free, no-salt-added chicken broth
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) no-salt-added, diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon ancho powder

Talk to kids about what it means to be a friend



By Gwen Randall

Often parents express the concern that their child has no or few friends. This can happen at any age. Whether the child is six or sixteen, parents may be tempted to become involved in trying to change the situation. When is it appropriate to do so, and when should parents hang back, and let things be?

The first question to be addressed is how the child feels about the situation. If the child feels lonely and isolated, then parents need to try to help. However, if the child is quite content, the issue should not be forced. If the child wants friends but cannot make or keep them, we need to look a little deeper.

We are all different, and some children are loners at different stages of life. A child may be more introspective, and love spending time alone pursuing his or her interests. Creative or intellectual development often happens during quiet times, when the child is alone with his or her own soul. Often very bright children require higher levels of stimulation than that available with their peers.

In many cases, in older grades, they establish deep and enduring friendships with a few, or even one kindred spirit. These children should not be made to feel that something is wrong with them because they do not spend more time socializing with a larger group.

Sometimes children need a respite

from being in a school filled with students all day. They just need some quiet time. They may have a need to spend time with siblings and parents, because familial bonding nurtures and strengthens them. We must allow each child to find his or her own comfort level of interaction within and outside of the family.

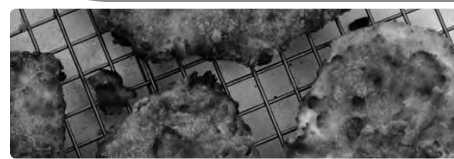
If a child clearly wants more involvement with friends and is having difficulty creating that, there are several ways we can help. First, we need to observe how the child interacts with others. Demanding and controlling, or mean behavior will push others away. Talk to your child about what happens when they approach others. You might find that the child does not know how to reach out, and is just waiting for someone who wants to be friends.

We can teach them things to say to someone they want to play with. I have counseled lonely high school students to simply begin smiling at others. I have modeled conversation starters. Sometimes it takes making an effort.

We can talk to children about what it means to be a friend, and what makes others want us for a friend. Being kind and friendly, sharing, and showing an interest in others are good ways to start. Inviting others to participate in activities shows them you want to be friends.

If lack of friends continues to be a problem, it can be helpful to talk to the child's teachers, to see what is happening at school. If the issue does not become resolved despite your best efforts, a couple of visits with a psychologist who works with children can be very helpful.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning psychologist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, CDs or MP3s, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for inspiration.



Air Fryer Crispy (Un) Fried Chicken

Recipe courtesy of the American Heart Association Servings: 4

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon ground oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1/2-1 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 1/2 tablespoon hot pepper sauce (optional)
- 1/3 cup whole-wheat panko bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 4 ounces each), visible fat discarded, flattened to 1/4-inch thickness, patted dry with paper towels

nonstick cooking spray
Preheat air fryer to 390 F.
In shallow dish or pie pan, whisk flour,

parsley, oregano, pepper and cayenne. In separate shallow dish or pie pan, whisk buttermilk and hot sauce.

In third shallow dish or pie pan, stir panko and Parmesan.

Place dishes and large plate in row. Dip chicken in flour mixture then buttermilk mixture then panko mixture, turning to coat at each step and gently shaking off excess. Using fingertips, gently press panko mixture so it adheres. Place chicken on plate. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes.

Lightly spray chicken with nonstick cooking spray. Arrange chicken in single layer in air fryer basket, working in batches if needed. Cook 10-15 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink in center and coating is golden brown, turning once halfway through and lightly spraying with nonstick cooking spray.


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RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED
 We are looking for a full time office receptionist at Ashern Dental Centre. Full training will be provided. Starting wage \$22/hr. Kindly send resume to: Audichad@yahoo.ca For further information call: 204-768-2730



Town of Winnipeg Beach
SENIOR ELECTIONS OFFICIAL (SEO)
For The Town of Winnipeg Beach Municipal Elections
 The Town of Winnipeg Beach is looking for an individual to administer all aspects of the municipal election process in compliance with The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act.
The SEO will be responsible for:

- Discharging his or her responsibilities under the legislation independently and impartially
- Attending at the training provided for the election process
- Establishing and maintaining an up-to-date voters list for the Town
- Exercising direction and supervision over the conduct of elections within an established budget
- Ensuring that election officials in the local authority carry out their duties with impartiality and in compliance with the legislation
- Providing election officials with instructions necessary to administer legislation
- Accepting nominations and communicating impartially with candidates
- Coordinating the counting of ballots and declaring of results
- Working in cooperation with Evergreen School Division Senior Elections Officer
- Preparing and submitting all necessary reports before, during and after the Election

Qualifications:

- Must be eligible as per The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act
- Must be able to work varied hours up to and including the day of the Election and following to meet the requirements of the legislation
- Possess excellent communication and organizational skills
- Have proficient computer experience, including working with a database
- Able to work independently and respectfully with elected officials, the public and municipal staff

 This is a contract position preparing for before, during, and after election periods: with comprehensive training being provided in advance. Interested individuals should apply in confidence indicating "Senior Elections Official" and provide a compensation expectation, with three (3) references, by mail or email to the attention of:
 Kerry Swanson
 Chief Administrative Officer
 PO Box 160
 29 Robinson Ave, Winnipeg Beach, MB R0C 3G0
 Email: cao@winnipegbeach.ca
 Phone - 204-389-2698
 We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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

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.

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.

HOUSE WANTED
 House WANTED - Looking to buy a 3 bdrm. home in Aspen Park Gimli. Phone 204-642-7870.

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.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
 Profitable Business-Gas station- Convenience Store- Restaurant for sale in Gilbert Plains, MB. Perfect location with 4 lots. Serious inquiries only. Call 204-548-2508 or 204-638-2643.

MISCELLANEOUS
 Osborne Books for early readers. Lots of variety and reasonable price. Ages 0-14 years. For more info Jennifer Duggan at 204-378-0606 or Facebook Jennifer's Osborne Books.

Difficult naps and/or nights? I am a Certified Sleep Consultant, I help families discover the beauty of sleep with healthy sleep habits. www.dayandnightsleep.ca

EXPRESS
 204-467-5836

FARMLAND
 3,200 fenced acres of cow-calf grazing land for rent 6 miles west of Teulon on #415. I will cover the cost of any required fence repairs. Call 204-782-2112 Raymond@Innovaat.com

LIVESTOCK
 Registered purebred, polled and quiet yearling Charolais bulls for sale. Will be semen tested. Delivery and EPDs available. For more information call Ken at 204-376-2418.

WANTED
 Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.



Full Time Employment Opportunity
We currently have openings for Carpenters Helpers/Apprentices and Carpenters.
 Send resume to northwel@mymts.net



SENIOR ELECTION OFFICER POSITION
 Seeking an individual interested in being the Senior Election Official for our October 2022 Municipal Election.
 This is not a full time or permanent position.
 Individual would receive provincial training and receive Provincial and Municipal supports.
 Responsible for the implementation of the whole election process, RM staff available to assist upon request.
 Interested persons can contact the RM office, 204-372-6393 for a more detailed description.
 Application Deadline is March 1, 2022, 4 p.m. Applications to be dropped off at the RM office only, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, MB.




JOB DESCRIPTION BOOK KEEPER/RECEPTIONIST
 We are looking for a full time Bookkeeper/Receptionist to join our team! Experience in the construction industry would be beneficial, but not a must. Your position will entail: Payroll, bookkeeping to trial balance, disbursement, government remittance, reception, dispatching/Scheduling orders & invoicing.
Qualifications:

- Previous experience in accounting/bookkeeping
- Fundamental knowledge of accounting
- Experience with current computer accounting programs and reporting tools (we currently use Money works and Microsoft Office)
- Detail and deadline-oriented
- Strong communication skills
- 2 years book keeping experience

Hours: up to 40 per week **Job Types:** Full-time or Part-time
Salary: \$18.00-\$25.00 per hour
Benefits: • Casual dress • Dental care • Disability insurance • Extended health care • Flexible schedule • Life insurance
Schedule: • 8-hour day shifts • Monday to Friday • No weekends
Contact: 204-389-5365 or gcsi@mymts.net



Like working with wood and working close to home?
 204 Pallet & Packaging in Stony Mountain is looking for full time production workers. Wage depending on experience, and health benefits after 3 months. **Please call 204-344-5404 for more details.**



ATTENTION FARMERS & RANCHERS
ASHERN AUCTION MART WILL BE HOLDING A BRED COW SALE FOLLOWING THE REGULAR SALE ON WED FEBRUARY 23, 2022
Complete Herd Dispersal for Edwin and Alison Malenchuk
Approx 80 Sim/Charolais Cows Bred Red Angus or Hereford Cows on Full Health Program. Due to start calving March 10th Herd consists of 15 Bred Heifers 15 Second calvers 50 Cows 4-8 Years old.
Also Selling 30 Mixed Cows for Allan Eyford Bred Charolais
For More Information Edwin 204-308-0666 BUDDY AT 204-768-0018 KIRK AT 204-768-0019

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NOTICES

GETTING READY FOR SPRING HIRING? Need Class 1 drivers? Having an AGM? Advertise in the 32 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging out now! Selling something? Have an on-line store to shop at, doing curbside pickup/deliveries? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Start the year off right. Don't let COVID get you down. We are now booking Classified Advertising for 2022. Call 204-467-5836 or call MCNA at 204-947-1691 for details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

News Tips? Story Ideas? call the Record 204-785-1618

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a spring/summer event? An exciting 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. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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 stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.

NOTICE OF TENDER

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

RBH Inc. invites tenders for **Snow Clearing** 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

Monday, March 7, 2022 at Noon

- Submit quotes by mail or email to:

Riverton Bifrost Holdings Inc.
Icelandic River Lodge

Box 448, Riverton, MB ROC 2R0, rbh.inc@outlook.com



EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites applications for the following temporary position, effective ASAP and is an indefinite term:

21.OP.11 **Licensed or Skilled Mechanic**
(8.0hr/day – willing to consider part-time hours)

See website for details and application procedures:
[http://www.esd.ca/Employment under Support Staff](http://www.esd.ca/Employment%20under%20Support%20Staff).

CLOSING DATE: February 22, 2022 (3:30 pm)

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks. Evergreen School Division may contact former employers.

Confirmation of COVID-19 vaccination/or routine testing is required of all Evergreen School division employees.



Town of Winnipeg Beach

EMPLOYMENT OPPORUNITY RECREATION MANAGER

The Town of Winnipeg Beach Recreation Department is accepting applications for a Recreation Manager. This hands-on management position reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer. The Recreation Manager is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing a broad range of community recreation services, programs, and facilities, encouraging maximum community involvement and coordination with other community organizations. A post-secondary education in recreation with a minimum of three years experience in a local government environment is preferred. Training in refrigeration plant operations is an asset. This experience shall include personnel management, recreation facility management and program planning. Excellent leadership skills and an ability to effectively communicate with the public, council and staff are necessary. Our Town is a progressive community with excellent educational, medical, professional, recreational, and commercial services. The Town of Winnipeg Beach offers a competitive salary and full benefits and pension package. Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume stating experience, education, and all other pertinent data to the Chief Administrative Officer via Email: cao@winnipegbeach.ca or by Mail: Box 160, 29 Robinson Ave, Winnipeg Beach, MB, ROC 3G0

We thank all interested individuals for their applications for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Applications accepted until the position is filled.

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

INVITATION TO TENDER

CLOSING DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Noon

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is accepting tenders for the following:

- SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LIMESTONE AGGREGATE:** for the supply and delivery of limestone aggregates; to be deposited on municipal roads throughout the RM of Gimli, or hauled to stockpile at the Public Works Shop yards, as directed by the Municipality. The material to be applied in one main haul approximately during the period of June 1, 2022, until completed. Additionally, there may be spot hauling continuing until December 31, 2022.
- GRAVEL HAULING & LOADING:** for the hauling of gravel to be deposited on municipal roads throughout the RM of Gimli from the pit located in SW25-20-3E. The material to be applied in one main haul during the period of June 1, 2022, until completed. Additionally, there may be spot hauling continuing until December 31, 2022, approximately 12,000 cubic yards. While the Municipality would normally be responsible for loading, contractors are asked for the option of supplying a loader.
- GRAVEL CRUSHING:** for the gravel crushing and stockpiling at the pit located in SW25-20-3E. Traffic Gravel to Department of Highways Specifications, approximately 14,000 cubic yards.
- 2022 EQUIPMENT RATES:** the RM of Gimli is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for hourly rates on various types of privately owned equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates and hiring order of private equipment for the 2022 works season ending March 31, 2023. Contractors who do not submit pricing and/or do not hold a valid business licence or business tax will not be considered for municipal projects.
- DUST CONTROL:** Application of Magnesium Chloride or Calcium Chloride dust control product. Product must be Magnesium Chloride Liquid or Calcium Chloride Liquid with a 30% to 35% Brine Solution and an Anti-Corrosive Inhibitor to meet Corrosion Rate of less than 4.0 mils per ASTM G 4-84. Bidders may provide a quote for one or both. The product shall be available for delivery to various locations in the Municipality from June 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022, as required by the Municipality.
- GRAVEL SCREENING FOR WINTER SAND:** for the screening of gravel for winter sand from the pit located in SW25-20-3E. Screened Gravel for winter sand must be to Department of Highways Specifications. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards required. Gravel Screening is to be 25% complete by June 30th, 2022 and 100% complete on or before August 31, 2022 weather permitting.
- FUEL:** for the supply of fuel for the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, for municipal equipment. The tenders are for approximately 40,000 litres of gasoline, approximately 50,000 litres of clear diesel fuel, approximately 80,000 litres of purple diesel (at pumps, card lock system). To be delivered to the Public Works Yard in the Gimli Industrial Park.

Detailed tender packages complete with specifications are available to interested bidders on the RM of Gimli website, www.gimli.ca, or at the Municipal Office, 62 2nd Avenue, between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Any questions or concerns related to the tenders can be directed to: Karl Bergman
Public Works Foreman
Rural Municipality of Gimli
Phone: (204) 642-6688
publicworks@rmgimli.com

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

HELP WANTED at Narrows Sunset Lodge

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No experience necessary, we will train you
Must be reliable and willing to learn

Please send resume to
office@narrowssunsetlodge.com
or call Irv at 204-981-2831

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **ROBERT BRIAN SZKLARUK**, late of town of St. Martin, in the Province of Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 387 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0V5, on or before the 1st day of April, 2022.

DATED at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 9th day of February, 2022.

Brent Kaneski
BD Oakes Jardine Kaneski UnRuh LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
387 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V5
Solicitor for the Administrator

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Maintenance Worker

Departmental Full-Time Positions and 12-Month Eligibility List
Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, Highway Regional Operations,
Manitoba Infrastructure, Technical Services & Operations, Capital Region, Several
Maintenance Yards within the Capital Region
Advertisement Number: 38482
Closing Date: March 1, 2022
Salary Range: LAB (\$35,896-\$38,442) & OR1-4 (\$38,859-\$46,414); remoteness allowance
where applicable

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, and visible minorities.

Manitoba Infrastructure is currently looking to fill eighteen (18) full-time departmental positions in the following maintenance yards: Selkirk (2), Headingley (4), Stoney Mountain (2), Warren (1), Hadashville/Whitemouth (2), Sandford (2), Lac du Bonnet (1), Steinbach (1), Piney (1), Lorette (1), and Manigotagan (1).

New employees are hired as Labourers (LAB) and promoted to the Operator (OR1-4) series as training, orientation, and proficiency testing milestones are achieved.

If you are interested in a career with Manitoba Infrastructure, we encourage you to submit an application. To be considered for this competition you must submit an application form. Please visit our website at www.manitoba.ca for a full list of conditions of employment, qualifications, and a link to the application form. Resumes are not accepted at this time.

Future Maintenance Worker (LAB/OR1-4) Career Opportunities: A 12 month eligibility list may be established to fill any subsequent vacancies within Capital Region. Even if you are not interested in the locations listed, we encourage you to apply in the event a vacancy does become available. A list of locations can be provided upon request.

Priority consideration will be given to Technical Services and Operations Division staff currently in the Maintenance Worker Series (LAB/OR) classification.

Duties:

Reporting to the Area Works Supervisor, the Maintenance Operations Worker will also receive lead hand directions from the Assistant Works Supervisor. This position performs physical maintenance work, operates and maintains small hand and power tools associated with highway maintenance operations to ensure the safety of the workers and travelling public while maintaining public infrastructure.

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 38482
Service Centre 3
Human Resource Services
600-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3H8
Phone: 204-945-8819
Fax: 204-948-3382
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.

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Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

CLASS 1 DRIVERS WINTER ROAD HAULING & SHORT HAULING

Competitive Wages, Benefits
Experience required
204-389-2023
info@eddiessgravel.com
102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre
@ #9 Main Street in Ashern
is accepting applications for

Counsellor/ Community Resource Co-ordinator Full-time position

Start Date: As soon as possible once a candidate has been hired.

Submit letter of application and resume to Hiring Committee, complete with 3 references & their contact info by email to Indentgal@gmail.com or by mail.

Applications accepted until a candidate has been hired. For more information, contact Hiring Committee at above email address or by phone @ (204) 768-3016.

We thank all those who apply, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Is seeking additional staff for the following positions:

- **Officer/Administration**
- **Service Technician**
- **Parts/Counter Person**

Experience not necessary but a definite asset. Benefit plan available.

Apply in person, fax, mail

or e-mail resume to:

276 Ardal St., Box 190,
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
shachtays@hotmail.com

Ph: (204) 376-5233

Fax: (204) 376-5234

Locally owned and operated.
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Casual Cooks and Casual Dietary Aides

Compass Group Canada is accepting applications for

Casual Cooks and Casual Dietary Aides at Betel Home in Gimli.

Experience preferred but willing to train.

Starting wage Dietary Aide: \$17.02/hr
and Cooks: \$18.40/hr

Please forward resumes to: Raissa Leme at Raissa.Leme@compass-canada.com

Betel Home Gimli is also hiring Health Care Aides with training available for untrained staff: Starting wage is \$17.73/hr

Please forward resumes to:
Cheryl Pich at cpich@ierha.ca

Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

HEAVY DUTY DIESEL MECHANICS

Competitive Wages,
Benefits

Experience required

204-389-2023

info@eddiessgravel.com
102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

TDM SPORTS
is currently seeking

1 FULL-TIME POSITION

Responsibilities include retail sales of sporting goods and Bell MTS services

Duties include scheduling, daily cashouts, inventories, ordering and paperwork for Bell MTS Services

Must be energetic, self-motivated, an effective problem solver & have good communication skills

Send resume to:

Box 38, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0

Fax to: 204-376-5836 or

Email to: tdmsports@hotmail.com or

Apply in person at 279 Main St., Arborg

Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

Fisher Branch Care-A-Lot For Tots is Hiring

Are you looking for a great job and career opportunity?

We are looking for a new team member to assist our ECE's and CCA's implementing an amazing program for our children

Job details include: Playing, fun, dancing, learning plus much much more!
Must be 18 yrs. of age, energetic, reliable and willing to learn
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OBITUARY

Suzanne Eleanor McCabe (nee Gudjonson)
1946 - 2022

Susie passed away February 11, 2022 at the age of 75 years. Susie is survived by her husband of 56 years, Peter; daughter Tammy (Calum); granddaughters Taelar (Martin) and Alexandra; great-grandsons Liam and Casey; and sister Shirley (Gordon). Everyone Susie met would become a friend.

The family wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our extended family for their overwhelming support throughout Susie's illness and to the staff at the Arborg Personal Care Home where they took wonderful care of Susie.

Cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held.

OBITUARY

Ernst (Ernie) Jensen

It is with great sadness that the family of Ernst (Ernie) Jensen announce his passing on February 5, 2022 at the age of 87 years.

Ernie will be sadly missed by his children Richard Jensen, Patty Arnold, Robert Jensen, grandchildren, siblings and extended family and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff of Betel Home in Gimli for their care over the years.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Betel home foundation Gimli.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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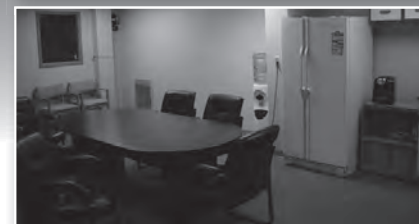
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CARD OF THANKS

Stevens – Heartfelt thanks to all our family, friends and neighbours for the many acts of kindness shown to us in the passing of Walter. Also to the Gimli RCMP Detachment, Corporal Dave Higgs, Gimli Ambulance attendants and Gilbert's for the compassion and professionalism extended to our family in our time of need.

-Betty, Lori and Joan

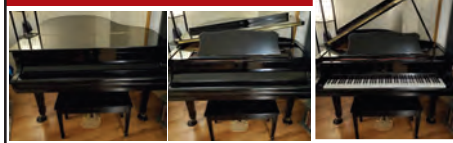
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-Love you lots,
your family

OBITUARY

Mike Potoski

March 2, 1933 - February 11, 2022

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Mike Potoski on February 11, 2022 at the Arborg Hospital at the age of 88 years.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no funeral service.

Condolences may be left at mackenziefh.com



MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME ARBORG
(204) 467-0024 • info@mackenziefh.com

OBITUARY

James Louis Orbanski

November 30, 1941 – February 9, 2022

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our husband, dad, and grandpa. James passed away peacefully on February 9 surrounded by his family at the Arborg Hospital. He was 80 years young.

James was born on November 30, 1941 to parents Mike and Rose in Winnipeg and was raised in Hnausa, MB.

He will be forever missed by his loving wife Linda (Sigurdson) of over 58 years.

His sons Greg (Linda), Jason (Shaunna). His beloved grandchildren, Dylan (Amandine), Lexi, Bailey & Lyndon. His brother Bernest (Barbara), special nephew Jonathon (Sherry), sister Sharon Bardarson, mother-in-law Alyce Sigurdson, sister-in-law Karen (Rob) Singer, brother-in-law Eric (Sandra) Sigurdson and

sister-in-law Debbie (Robbie) Thorsteinson. Dad also leaves behind many nephews, nieces and cousins along with his very close friend Carl (Yvette) Yestrau.

He was predeceased by his parents Mike and Rose Orbanski, son Dean, father-in-law Mike Sigurdson, brother David and brother-in-law Richard Bardarson.

Dad was a wild one. He grew up in Hnausa and always spoke of his adventures and the characters that he chummed around with. He settled down when he met a girl from Arborg named Linda Sigurdson and found his soulmate. Dad married mom in December 1963 and they had Dean the following summer. They resided at the family homestead in Hnausa for a few years, had Greg and then decided to build a house in Arborg when Jason was born. Dad and mom lived here for over 50 years and he was proud to call Arborg his home. He always felt that it was important to give back to his community and it showed in his efforts. He always helped with community projects like the Arborg Skating Rink, the Heritage Village, and the Ag Society Rodeo and Tractor Pull to name a few. He was also instrumental in building the Arborg Christian Fellowship Church, the Church that was co-founded by his parents.

Dad spent his life involved in the Construction Industry. He was born into and he loved it. He worked alongside with his father and his brothers when he was a young man and he found his passion. Clearing bush, building roads, and making drains became the way to support his family and he put his heart and back into it. In 1970, along with his dad and his brother Bernest, he incorporated the earthmoving company Tri-Line Construction Ltd. They started out finishing incomplete projects for the Bond companies and eventually built Tri-Line to be one of the largest earthmoving contractors in Manitoba. His company cleared thousands of acres of farmland, built hundreds of miles of roads, and excavated hundreds of miles of drainage in all corners of Manitoba. Dad was well respected in the industry and the province always called upon his knowledge and abilities whenever there was an emergency, flood, fire or snowstorm. Dad made lifelong friends in the industry, and he cherished those friendships to the end. He had a great respect for all the employees that had worked hard for him and always considered them to be part of his extended family. James passed those work ethics and values onto his boys, and they continue to run Tri-Line to this day.

Dad was also a grain farmer. In 1975, along with his brother Bernest, he decided to expand the Grain Farm Operation and started building Orbanski Farms. They added farms, improved them, cleared the bush, picked the stones and used their equipment to properly drain the land. James loved the land and was very proud of what the Farm had become. He loved purchasing new and innovative equipment to make the farm run more efficiently and it showed as the farm grew. Dad retired at the age of 70 but he still helped out on the farm and construction operations in any way he could. Orbanski Farms was also taken over by Greg, Jason and Jon and is in full operation today.

To say Dad loved Auction sales, would have been an understatement. The only thing he loved more than moving dirt or farming was the act of buying the equipment needed to do the job. He travelled to hundreds of heavy equipment and farm auctions over his lifetime and loved the thrill of live bidding. His idea of a great family vacation was travelling with his family to Edmonton, Vancouver or Florida to attend the Ritchie Bros Auction. His boys often joked about hiding his cheque book so he wouldn't be able to buy anything else from the auction.

Dad loved to travel. He hated the cold and escaped it when he could. Mom and Dad took many tropical vacations, went on cruises, toured Europe, and explored the USA and Canada with RV's. They spent many winters as snowbirds in Arizona and Texas and made many friends along the way. James always wanted to visit more places and was still planning trips up to the day he passed. Dad loved his family and would often boast to strangers about how wonderful he thought they all were. In the summer, Dad loved to spend time at their oasis in Silver Bay. He loved when all the grand kids, family and friends were out there and the boat was in the water. We will always cherish those memories from the lake. Summer was also the time for cruising and Dad loved taking his Grandkids for rides in his yellow Model A.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Arborg Hospital and Riverview Hospital. Thank you to Carl and Yvette for being such special friends.

A private service will take place at a warmer date, Dad hated the cold. He will be laid to rest beside his son Dean and his forever loving parents.

In lieu of flower, please donate to the Riverside Christian Cemetery, PO Box 676, Arborg, MB. R0C0A0.

Condolences may be left at www.mackenziefh.com

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OBITUARY

Mathilda Plett

Announcing the peaceful passing of Mathilda Plett of Arborg, MB, wife of Joas Plett on February 9, 2022 at the home of her daughter Sara and Henry Reimer.

Mathilda was predeceased by her parents Isaac U. and Elizabeth Kornelsen, one grandson Kenneth Plett, one daughter-in-law Regina Plett, six brothers and two sisters.

Mom was born on February 21, 1935 in Heuboden, MB (New Bothwell), the 6th of 11 children. Mom enjoyed her six years of school in Kleefeld, MB before the family moved to Jaqueyes, Mexico in summer of 1948. The first years in Mexico were spent helping with house and farm work, childcare and office work at the local business center. In her teen years, Mom made her choice to follow Jesus as her Savior and Lord and received baptism in the Kleine Gemeinde Church. Then along came the young, good looking Joas Plett and Mom knew she had found the man for her! They married on April 29, 1956 and began family life. By spring of 1964 they had four children and made the move from Mexico to Morweena, MB. This move was made in part due to difficult financial times and the first years were a struggle to make ends meet but Mom was hardworking and frugal and faithfully did her part to pull through. Five more children were born in Manitoba and as Mom loved, clothed, fed and nurtured her brood, she often sang, encouraging herself and those around her. Mom loved to show hospitality to friends and relatives, even inviting nephews and others to board for a while.



As the family grew to include sons and daughters-in-law and then grandchildren Mom was delighted! She stretched her table and cooked larger meals. She sewed, she quilted, she babysat, she loved. All 109 family members were special, right down to the two great-grandchildren born within the last three weeks of her life. Family life also brought intense relationship struggles and these nearly consumed her at times. Mom was willing to confront and then chose to adapt to other's decisions.

The years eventually brought Dad and Mom to empty nest stage. To accommodate semi-retirement from the farm, they had a new house built in 2001. In 2017, the time came to move into House of Hope in Arborg. This was a happy move for Mom, giving her lots of opportunity to interact with other friends who lived there. But the COVID pandemic in 2020 brought a sad set of restrictions, mixing limited access to family with increasing health issues. She faced these hardships bravely but they wore on her. On January 10th of this year, Mom and Dad moved in with Sara and Henry Reimer to receive personal care by family. Mom's health gradually declined until on Feb 9th, her spirit was released to go meet her Maker and Savior. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants." (Ps. 116:15NIV)

Left to mourn her passing is her husband, Joas Plett; nine children and spouses: Leanna (Gilbert) Gueret of Steinbach, Delmer (Janice) of Arborg, Ernie of Selkirk, Reynold (Janice) of Arborg, Sara (Henry) Reimer of Arborg, Milton (Valerie) of Arborg, Violet (Lyndon) Reimer of Arborg, Myrna (Marlin) Huber of Brownfield, AB., Eleanor (Abe) Neufeld of Seminole TX; 46 grandchildren and spouses; 27 great-grandchildren; and two sisters.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Donnelly, staff at House of Hope and Pastor Eric Isaac for the care shown to both Mom and Dad. We also thank the Morweena church and surrounding community for an outpouring of food, flowers and words of love and care.

Arrangements were entrusted to Birchwood Funeral Chapel with viewings in Steinbach and Morweena. Funeral service was held at Morweena EMC on Feb 13, 2022 with interment in the church cemetery.

-The Family

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OBITUARY



Eugene Auguste Ponchon

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Eugene Auguste Ponchon. Eugene passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early morning of February 7th, 2022.

He is survived by his brother Antoine, brother-in-law Rene Pinette, sisters-in-law Grace and Mary, as well as many relatives, friends and neighbours.

He was predeceased by his parents Marius and Beatrice (Meilleur) brothers Henri, Emile, and sister Juliette Pinette.

Eugene was born on August 1, 1940, in Fisher Branch, Manitoba where he spent his quiet life devoted to the family farm. His kind and gentle soul were felt by anyone who knew him, even the tiniest of creatures. He was always willing to help anyone in need. As a skilled welder he fixed farm machinery, and was always willing to clear a neighbour's driveway after a snow storm. His nieces

remember fondly taking ski trips on the Ridge, backyard skating rinks, and him building large tobogganing slides, where cherished memories were created. He made all those around him smile. He had a love for old country songs, and if you were lucky to have heard his beautiful singing voice and yodelling, you would never forget it.

After diagnoses of an illness in the spring, Eugene came home and was able to work the fields at his brother's side for one last summer, doing what he loved most. He was a quiet man who worked hard and served faithfully.

The family would like to send a special thank you to the community and neighbours who have offered such kindness through this difficult time. We would like to thank the Percy E. Moore Hospital staff for showing such care and compassion during his brief stay.

A celebration of Eugene's life will be celebrated at a later date.

FISHER FUNERAL HOME INC.

In care of arrangements. Fisher Branch, MB.
204-372-6803 or 204-372-6271

OBITUARY



Ronelda Sophie MacLennan (Ruchotzke)

January 29, 1935 - January 30, 2022

Mom passed away at the Meadowood Manor PCH in Winnipeg after a lengthy battle with Dementia, and finally, very quickly from complications of COVID.

She is predeceased by her parents Ralph and Olga; brother Elmer (Fran); sister Elma (Hector); father/mother-in-law Angus and Victoria; brother-in-law Alex (Pearl); sisters-in-law Helen (Ralph), Ann (Bill) and nephews Donald and Kerry.

She is survived by her husband Don; children Don (Judy), Lori (Walt) and Cheryl (Dennis); daughter-in-law Charlotte; grandchildren Aaron (Nicole), Carly (Steve), Caitlin (Michael), Mitchel (Claire), Taylor (Sam) and Hailey; great-grandchildren Cairo, Bode, Ford, Kaia and Harvey; sister Rita (Gus) and brother-in-law Lorne (Dorothy).

Mom was born and raised in Ashern, MB on the family farm. After high school she worked at the CIBC in Ashern where she met her husband Don. They married in August 1955 and shortly after moved to Thunder Bay, ON. In 1972 they moved to Winnipeg and she went back to work at the CIBC until both Don and her retired in 1996.

Mom's entire life circled around family and friends but her passion was her children and grandchildren. Mom was a country girl through and through and could always be found helping family and friends and, even in her late seventies, would be seen driving a tractor and cutting hay for days on end! She was known for being able to cook up an unbelievable meal at the drop of a hat and for always having some delicious baking just coming out of the oven.

We will never forget what an amazing wife, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend she was. She was such an important part of our lives and we are all blessed for knowing her love.

We would like to thank the staff at the Meadowood Manor PCH for all the love and care they gave our mother during her last years.

A small memorial service will be held in Ashern at a later date where she will be laid to rest beside her parents.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society, 10-120 Donald St. Winnipeg, MB, R3C 4G2.

Arrangements by:

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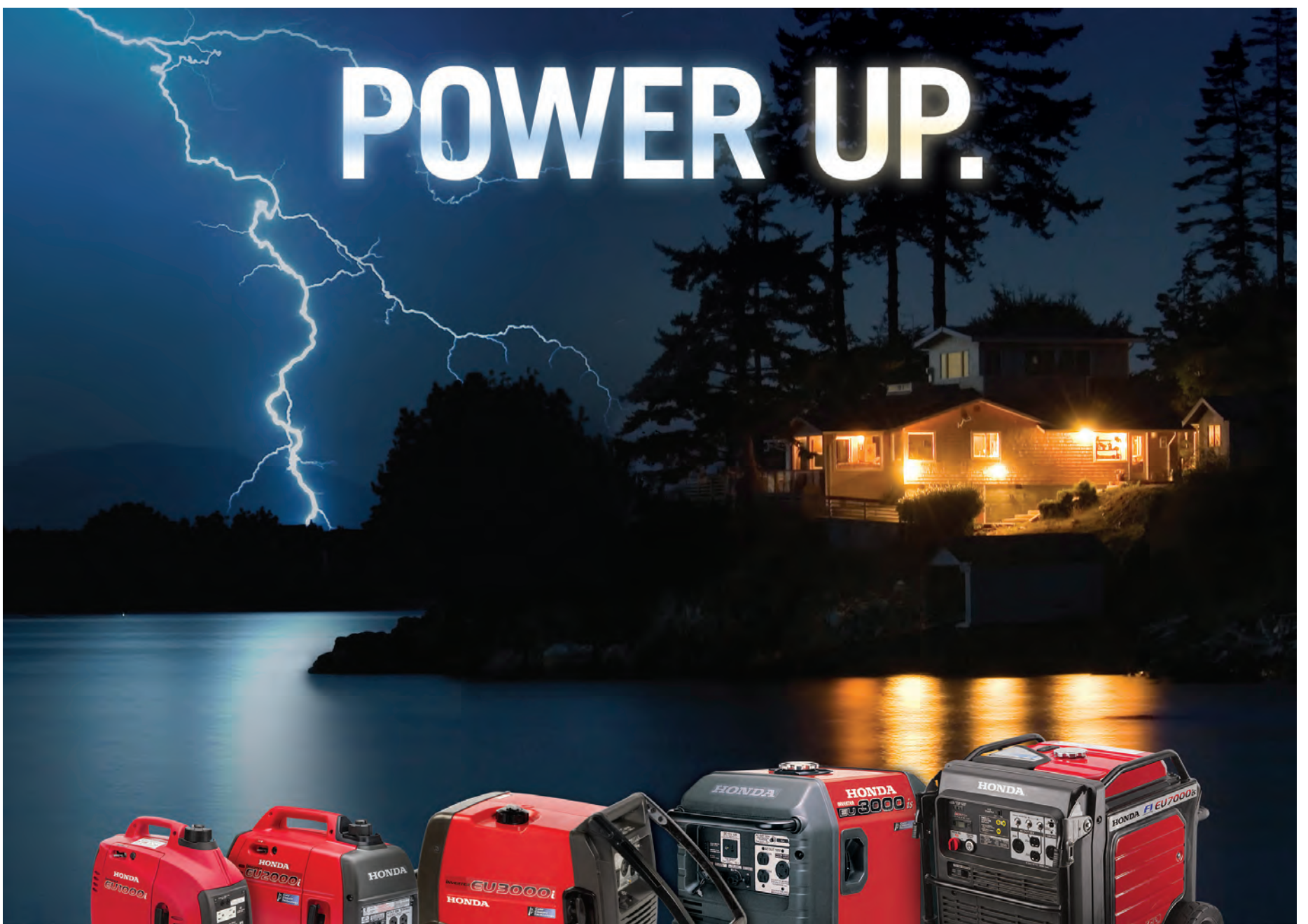
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