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**"Dash it all, we need music"**

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAY EWERT  
Homespun Poets AEMS Grade 7/8 teacher Jay Ewert (left) and retired Riverton Collegiate principal Thomas Kowalchuk.

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# The healing power of music for former piano teacher

By Jennifer McFee

A local musician hit the right note when she composed a musical tribute to honour the work and dedication of health-care providers.

For 45 years, Lorraine Schmidt taught piano lessons across Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta before she retired from teaching two years ago.

With a broad range of skills, Schmidt has also worked in health-care in various capacities. For the past decade, she has served as the resource coordinator for home care in both Prairie Mountain Health and now for the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority in Selkirk.

To express the emotions experienced by many people during the pandemic, Schmidt composed an original piano piece called "Hidden Heroes" earlier this month.

"The theme for this piece came together very quickly for me as the emotions of what we've all been through this past year clearly came to light as I was composing. As a supervisor to home care attendants, it was in my heart to compose this particular piece of music to recognize and honour them, as well as all health-care providers and professionals around the world, and to really capture the reality of this all," said Schmidt, who moved to Stonewall with her husband Glenn at the end of June.

"I knew I could show my respect and admiration for my staff through music. These times that we're in right now are uncertain, and I wanted the music to depict what has happened. It was very humbling."

The piece begins with a powerful chord, she explained, followed by many fast-moving notes with some repetition followed by a slower and quieter finale — depicting a sign of hope at the end.

"I also wanted health-care providers and front-line workers who are working hard, and our health-care professionals who are making very difficult decisions, to know that they are really our heroes," she said.

"A co-worker of mine, Lorraine Loewen, suggested this title 'Hidden Heroes,' which I believe fits this perfectly."

Schmidt's composition is posted on the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's social media pages, as well as on her own Facebook page.

"I have shared this piece with my co-workers and my managers," she added.

"I believe they appreciated this, but they were also surprised at the intensity of what was being played."

Tricia Tyerman, clinical team manager of home care and allied health, manages the team that Lorraine is on. She notes that COVID-19 has remark-

ably changed our everyday lives, both at home and in the workplace.

"One thing that has not changed is the dedication and commitment of the home care staff, particularly those that provide direct service care each and every day to some of our most vulnerable community members. At times, it is very hard to find the words to convey thanks and gratification for their tremendous work; however, Lorraine definitely found a unique way to do this," Tyerman said.

"In home care, we often hear staff talk about their work as their passion. Listening to Lorraine's composition, I can hear her passion and love of music intertwined with her love and belief in our home care services and, most importantly, how proud she is of the team she belongs to."

In addition to this piano piece dedicated to health-care workers, Schmidt has also written music as a personalized gesture for other significant people she has encountered.

"I had always encouraged my piano students to compose their own music, but two years ago, when our granddaughter Savannah was born and living halfway around the world in Uganda, I wanted to compose and dedicate a very special piece of music for her," she said.

"I named it 'Savannah Sunrise.' Since then, I have also composed eight oth-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lorraine Schmidt

er pieces of music dedicated to other very special people in my life."

While listening to her latest composition, Schmidt encourages everyone to think of all the changes we have collectively experienced during this year with COVID.

"Music, in all capacities, has been very important to me. I feel that music tells a story that words sometimes can't," she said.

"And my hope is that 'Hidden Heroes' can resonate in our hearts through the pandemic."

## Years of denture frustrations are being fixed

By Elisha Vador

Over the past 5 years of working alongside Brock, whether at reception, in the lab, or hiding in the back writing these articles; I must tell you, I have seen countless people come in with all kinds of denture problems, or even just denture questions, and leave just so happy they came. Sometimes their dentures were old, lots of times they were loose, other times they didn't even have dentures yet. But no matter what, we hear stories like these every day and are so encouraged to keep working hard doing what we do best, making people smile! I wanted to share just a couple of those stories today, hopefully to encourage you as well, that denture help is out there. Actually, right in your neighbourhood!

The first one is from Irma. She says, "I received my first

dentures in 2016 and basically since then I have not been able to eat properly due to ill-fitting dentures. I can relate to anyone who is dealing with the discomfort and the pain due to ill-fitting dentures. What I would recommend to anyone dealing with the same issues, is to go see Brock. He is friendly, professional and most importantly, he knows what he is doing. I had four appointments while he was making the new denture, but it was well worth it. All adjustments are done with you in the room, which I had not experienced before. He explains to you what he is doing while he is making his adjustments. I can't thank him enough for his patience and expertise. The staff are unbelievable! The professionalism and friendliness of Vador staff is the best. I will recommend Brock and his staff to anyone I know! Thank you

for everything!" - Irma

The next one had us in tears. Here is Joannie's story, "I had a full denture that I never really liked before. I stopped smiling, but my dental insurance wouldn't cover for me to get a new one. Brock did major changes to my denture, which basically made it brand new. I can't say enough about what a difference it is. Thank you Brock! Finally I can eat properly. My smiling confidence and self-esteem is way up there. Seriously look this fantastic team up. They're very caring, professional staff. They changed my life with teeth." - Joannie

If you've lost hope, become fed-up, or wondering about your teeth replacement options, just book a consultation with us. It's absolutely free. Who knows, you could be so happy that we all take a picture in the end like Brock and Doris did!



Happy patient Doris waved her lower denture frustrations good-bye when she decided on a dental implant solution.

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# Homespun Poets and Arborg rec commission to launch virtual concert

By Patricia Barrett

If you're tired of the COVID blues and need a little pick-me-up, how about some country, classic rock and pop courtesy of the Homespun Poets?

The guitar-centric band, made up of retired principal Thomas Kowalchuk (Riverton Collegiate) and teacher Jay Ewert (grades 7/8 teacher at Arborg Early Middle School), has teamed up with the Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission and will be offering a Stay-at-Home musical evening this Friday, virtual style.

"Dash it all, we need music, and we're going to make this work for the pandemic," said Ewert by phone last week. "This is mental wellness at its best. It's good for us and it's good for the community. We need to feel some good vibes."

Unable to do a live show together because of COVID-19 health restrictions and personal prudence (Ewert interacts with dozens of kids at school), Ewert said the 45-minute concert will showcase songs they've uploaded to YouTube plus new material no one has seen before and which they recently shot in their "YouTube television studios" in their respective basements.

The Homespun Poets started "jamming" together about eight years ago, performing occasionally, before picking up regular gigs.

Now they've got a fan base across the

Interlake, having played gigs on the Gimli bandstand, at the Gimli Ice Festival, the Ship & Plough pub in Gimli, Keesha's Kitchen in Winnipeg Beach, the Fraserwood Inn, the Arborg Street Festival, the Arborg Curling Club and the Arborg Hotel.

They're also a band with a conscience, helping raise money for local organizations. They participated in a virtual Arborg Carol Fest to raise money for the Christmas Cheer Board, and for the Arborg & District Health Auxiliary, a non-profit organization that supports the Arborg hospital and students pursuing a career in health care.

"We live-streamed the show from the Arborg rec commission's Facebook site [last May] and decided it needed to be a fundraiser for the health auxiliary. Thomas and I kept throwing in money until our gig fee was gone," said Ewert. "People had a good time, they could rock with us, and we ended up raising over \$2,000 that night. That was cool. Instead of just getting some gig money for ourselves, we ended up raising thousands for a good cause during the pandemic. We wanted to support the community and, selfishly, we got to play and have fun."

The band plays popular, classic rock and country cover songs, seasonal classics plus their own originals.

"About a year and a half ago, we decided to do an original album and we

started putting cover songs on YouTube," said Ewert. "The album will be released later this year; we're about 97 per cent done."

Because of COVID-19, Ewert said they would record their individual parts at home and share them rather than getting together to play.

"We would toss our recordings back and forth when the pandemic started. We were apart for months. Even when public health allowed gatherings, Thomas renovated his basement so that we could play in separate rooms with a plexiglass window — kind of a recording studio," said Ewert.

Kowalchuk is a seasoned recording artist, having released several solo albums under the name The Right Road, and Ewert himself did a solo project some years back.

"This is really just for fun. This isn't our bread and butter. We enjoy playing music. It keeps us busy and makes us some money to buy instruments and recording gear when we need it," said Ewert.

Recreation commission director Tom Chwaliboga hired the band for the Friday night concert after having booked them last year for a virtual concert and found them "very engaging and community-minded."

"For the recreation commission, both concerts (last May and this February) are ways for people to enjoy some local entertainers and forget about COVID and the cold weather," said Chwaliboga. "Our goal, once COVID is finally over, is to have the

Homespun Poets perform live so more people can enjoy their talents."

The Homespun Poets concert is free, and people don't have to register. Visit the Recreation Commission's Facebook page on Friday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

Chwaliboga said the rec commission is also planning another Facebook community event in March that will feature other local talent.

Visit the Homespun Poets on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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# Double masking, knotting, recommended by CDC

By Patricia Barrett

America's top infectious disease agency recommends that people start wearing two masks or knotting medical procedure masks after releasing a study showing that people can greatly reduce their chances of being infected with COVID-19 or one of its variants, which are thought to be more contagious and more resistant to vaccines.

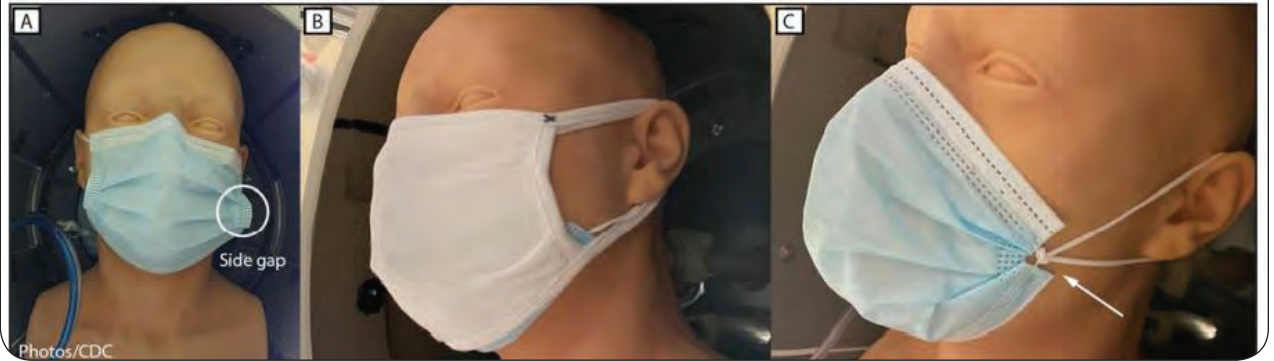
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made the recommendation last week as COVID infections and deaths around the world continue to climb, and as virus variants are spreading quickly in winter vacation hotspots such as ski resorts, prompting border closures and heightening travel restrictions.

Until vaccine-induced population immunity is achieved, state the authors of the CDC-backed study titled, "Maximizing fit for cloth and medical procedure masks to improve performance and reduce SAR-CoV-2 transmission and exposure, 2021," wearing masks are "highly effective" in slowing the spread of COVID in combination with physical distancing, avoiding crowds, staying out of poorly ventilated indoor spaces and practising good hand hygiene.

Recognizing that medical and cloth masks don't always sit snugly against a wearer's face, the CDC carried out experimental simulations last month to assess how well mask "modifications" could improve fit and reduce a wearer's exposure to respiratory droplets that carry COVID.

The first modification entailed placing a cloth

FIGURE 1. Masks tested, including A, unknotted medical procedure mask; B, double mask (cloth mask covering medical procedure mask); and C, knotted/tucked medical procedure mask



Modifying masks, by either wearing two masks (a cloth mask over a medical mask) or by knotting a medical mask at the sides to reduce gaps, can significantly cut down on exposure to aerosol particles carrying COVID-19.

mask over a medical procedure mask (called double masking). The second entailed knotting the ear loops of a medical mask then tucking in and flattening extra material close to the face (called knotted and tucked masks).

Researchers used a pliable elastomeric headform and mouthpiece to generate aerosols and to simulate coughing and normal breathing. They then measured how well the modifications performed.

"The receiver's exposure was maximally reduced (>95 per cent) when the source and receiver were fitted with modified medical procedure masks," state the researchers. "These laboratory-based ex-

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

periments highlight the importance of good fit to optimize mask performance."

The CDC warns that the findings are not representative of all types of masks or real-world situations. "The findings of these simulations should neither be generalized to the effectiveness of all medical procedure masks or cloths masks nor interpreted as being representative of the effectiveness of these masks when worn in real-world settings," say the researchers.

Governments around the world, including Canada, are cracking down on travellers, either height-

Continued on page 7

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# Vesturland homeowners oppose council changing zoning to allow duplex development

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Gimli council approved second reading of a bylaw that will establish a residential two-family zone on Solvin Road in Gimli's Vesturland neighbourhood where Broderco Development proposes to build duplexes among single-family residences.

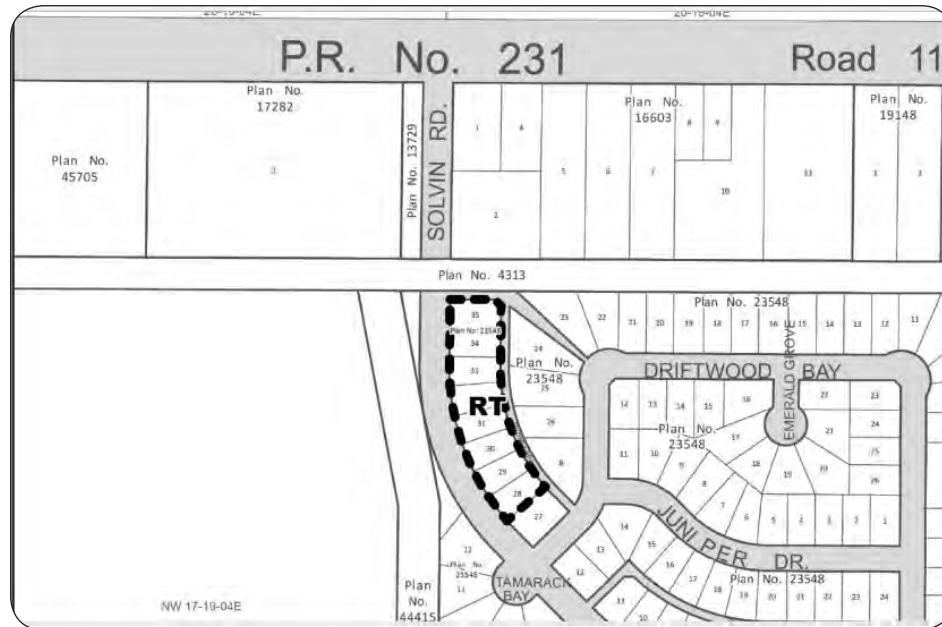
The area is zoned as a residential single-family zone (RS), and homeowners have objected to council changing the designation of eight empty lots to a residential two-family zone (RT).

The Express spoke with an opposing homeowner to determine what council had decided at its Jan. 27 meeting after the municipal office said after that meeting and again last week that it could not say how council had voted until meeting minutes were posted. The RM also declined to respond to questions regarding homeowners' concern about their property values decreasing and the total number of objections received.

Council's Jan. 27 meeting agenda notes only second reading of the bylaw was considered. Council had passed first reading of the bylaw on Dec. 9, 2020.

The homeowner, who requested that their name not be given, said a majority of council had approved the rezoning to allow the duplexes; Mayor Lynn Greenberg and Couns. Thora Palson, Richard Petrowski and Cody Magnusson voted in favour while Coun. Peter Holfeuer voted against it.

"Council also agreed to a variance. Five of the lots were not the proper size, but council allowed that to pass," said the homeowner last Thursday afternoon.



**EXPRESS EASTERN INTERLAKE PLANNING DISTRICT**  
Broderco Development Ltd. proposes to build duplexes on eight lots on Solvin Road in Gimli's Vesturland neighbourhood.

The homeowner said they were disappointed as they felt that existing homeowners had an understanding, at the time they had purchased their homes, that the neighbourhood would remain a single-family zone.

Threshold Planning Studio, which provides land-use planning consultation services, had written to the Eastern Interlake Planning District/RM on behalf of Broderco last November, asking that lots 28-35 be changed from single family to two family and that a variance for lots 28-32 be approved.

Lim wrote that "duplex development will increase municipal tax contributions" along the area in question on Solvin Road and it will also provide "diversity in housing types, allowing

those entering the housing market, or downsizing, options that are more readily affordable."

Objections from property owners within 100 metres of the duplex site were posted on the RM's website under the Jan. 27 agenda.

The letters spoke to residents' understanding that their area had been originally intended for only single-family dwellings.

Christopher Kilpatrick said he believed there's already an area within the municipality that's been specifically designated a residential two-family zone and doesn't see the need "to adjust these [eight lots] from the original agreed upon layout."

Brian and Mary Renaud asked that

council take into consideration rate-payers already living in Vesturland over that of "large business."

"When we built our home in 2017 we felt that we had a reasonable expectation that only single family homes would be built along Solvin Road and the area East of Solvin Road along Driftwood bay and Juniper Drive," they wrote. "It is hoped that the RM Council will strongly consider the reasonable expectations of its existing citizens ahead of big business that is moving in with intent for profit above the interests of the tax payers already living in Vesturland."

The reason they chose Vesturland was that it was an "upscale single family development" with adequately sized properties and zoning that would allow their home to "maintain or increase in value over time while new homes are built."

They see the duplex development as a "deterrent" to rising property values in the neighbourhood and, in particular, see it as resulting in a "direct decrease" to their home's value.

Lori Napp and Gordon Searle also wrote to council, saying they too believed the neighbourhood had originally been designated a residential single-family zone and that they "never would have purchased or built our home" had it been otherwise.

"It is unfair and unreasonable to those living within close proximity to the proposed duplex site to experience an unnecessary decrease in market value of their properties," they wrote. It's unknown when council will give third and final reading to the duplex project.

# New public health orders effective Feb. 12

Submitted by Manitoba government

Following feedback from Manitobans and advice from public health leaders, the province is loosening a variety of restrictions while ensuring protocols are in place to protect Manitobans from the risks of COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister and Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial health officer, announced on Feb. 9.

"Today is another big day for Manitobans, especially for our local business owners who are eager to safely reopen their doors, and provide the goods and services that Manitobans have missed the past few months," said Pallister.

The orders will formalize the following changes for all of Manitoba, replacing the General COVID-19 Prevention Orders made on Jan. 28 and the Northern Manitoba COVID-19 Prevention Orders made on Feb. 1, 2021. The orders took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 12 and will last for three weeks.

The orders include the following changes, with further pandemic safety measures in place:

- allowing restaurants and licensed premises to reopen at 25 per cent capacity with patron groups limited to members of the same household only;
- allowing outdoor rinks to reopen for casual sports as

well as organized practices and games, with multi-team tournaments not permitted;

- allowing gyms, fitness centres and yoga studios to reopen at 25 per cent capacity;
- allowing indoor sporting facilities such as rinks, gymnastic clubs and martial arts studios to reopen at 25 per cent capacity for individual instruction only;
- allowing places of worship to hold regular religious services if a service does not exceed 10 per cent of usual capacity or 50 people, whichever is lower;
- allowing self-help groups for persons dealing with ad-

- allowing museums, art galleries

Continued on page 6



THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS



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# getheard > Got news?

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## Bell Let's Talk now controversial

By Evan Matthews

Since its inception in 2010, Bell Let's Talk has really become an annual conversation and acknowledgement regarding stigma surrounding mental health issues and conversations.

It's largely been perceived as a positive campaign, but not so much lately. Why?

Aside from the less-than-average service and its even worse-off customer service, the question becomes: is Bell doing enough to actually make a difference as it relates to mental health?

A Bell commercial has been running throughout the pandemic with the gist more or less being "a toast to what keeps us connected." Of course, the commercial is referring to Bell.

What a great approach, market the brand by acknowledging something positive the company provides — all the while keeping in mind you pay for that service — amidst something so terrible: a pandemic that has not only infringed on citizens' health but also their rights and freedoms.

In a way, it's kind of distasteful, actually.

But is the Bell Let's Talk awareness campaign any different?

Going back to 2017, current and former Bell employees have come forward in the media to say, as opposed to what the company would have you

believe in its campaigns, mental health is a very low priority for Bell when it relates to its own employees.

Yes, the company may donate \$0.05 for every social media share, view and sent text message on the day of "Bell Let's Talk."

It seems the company fails to put any policy or procedure in place to better the lives of its own employees who experience mental health struggles, according to a few, though that has since changed a bit.

In the last couple weeks, Bell recently decided to shut down three TSN radio stations in Winnipeg, Hamilton and Vancouver. The decision to shut down the stations, as reported by many media outlets, was done while the radio stations were still live on-air.

Many former employees found out they were unemployed via social media, outlets reported.

The well-known and respected TSN hosts Dan O'Toole and Jay Onrait were among the notable staffers let go.

Is this the way to ensure the mental health of all current (and former) staff is maintained, nurtured and made a priority?

But the point isn't to roast (or to toast) Bell, as a company and corporation, but rather acknowledge that at the company's core, that's all it is: a company, a major corporation.

Bell is the same as any other: self-serving and out for its own interests. Why people would expect anything less is really the question.

Which is why we, as a society, need to take back the conversation relating to mental health.

It's an important conversation, maybe one of the most important conversations we can have, and it unfortunately falls on citizens to advocate for themselves. As has been made clear, corporations won't, regardless of their marketing campaigns.

Our governments need to create more grassroots resources, working with local communities to identify and address local needs. Languishing mental health is often tied to socio-economic issues, addiction issues and mental illness, all of which vary from location to location.

Having programs in place, physical locations for people to access, and ensuring citizens feel comfortable enough to have these conversations with other community members is all part of ensuring we have a healthy society.

But leaving it up to corporations like Bell to advocate for our mental health isn't the answer. Many of us wouldn't even trust the company to provide us with internet services, nevermind our health.

### > FEB. 12, FROM PG. 5

and libraries to operate at 25 per cent capacity;

- allowing personal service businesses, such as those providing pedicures, electrolysis, cosmetic application, tanning, tattooing or massage services to reopen at 25 per cent capacity;
- allowing photographers and vid-

eographers to offer services to individual clients or those residing in the same household in addition to providing services at weddings, with the exception of visiting client homes; and

- allowing the film industry to operate fully with physical distancing and other safety measures in place.

"These new orders allow us to resume more activities and services we

enjoy, but we cannot let our guard down yet," said Roussin. "We will continue to carefully monitor COVID-19 developments and case numbers to ensure we protect each other and our health-care system. Manitobans need to continue to follow the fundamentals at all times including staying home when sick, frequent handwashing and wearing masks. We all have a part to play in

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# get informed

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY EDWARD PENNER

Sundogs positioned on either side of Stony Mountain Penitentiary were picture perfect on Feb. 5. Sundogs are coloured spots of light that develop due to 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. The colours usually go from red closest to the sun, out to blue on the outside of the sundog. Sundogs are also known as mock suns or parhelia, which means “with the sun.” Help us record the weather of the week and send in your photos of snow blizzards, rainbows, lightning storms, beach photos and more to [weather@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:weather@expressweeklynews.ca)

## letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: [letters@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:letters@expressweeklynews.ca)

### > CDC, FROM PG. 4

ening protective measures at borders or restricting entry in order to prevent the transmission of COVID variants, which scientists say spread faster and are more infectious.

Genetic variants (where several mutations of the virus have occurred) are known as the United Kingdom (B117) variant, the South African (B1351) variant and the Brazil (P1) variant. Health Canada says there has been some evidence that the variants may be more resistant to vaccines.

All three variants are circulating across most provinces, including Manitoba. Health officials notified the public last week that the U.K. variant had been detected in Manitoba after someone travelled outside Canada.

In order to curb transmission of the variants and deter people from non-essential travel, the Canadian federal government announced that starting Feb. 22, air travellers landing in Canada (airports in Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver or Calgary) will have to quarantine in a hotel and pay their own expenses, including travel to and from the hotel, food and other expenses, for up to 72 hours while they wait for the results of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for the virus.

Travellers entering Canada at land borders will also be subjected to mandatory testing starting Feb. 22.

Vaccinated Canadians are not exempt.

The CDC mask study is published in the Feb. 10, 2021, issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and is available online.

### Where are the RCMP?

A few weeks back I received a phone call from someone claiming to be from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers looking for my financial support. To me that was just a scam. I don't understand how making a donation to M.A.D.D. is going to stop anybody from driving impaired. Another thing, where are our RCMP officers? Isn't that their department to nab impaired drivers? It's very rare to see a police cruiser car patrolling the highways, yet I always see a minimum of three cars, but usually more, parked beside the Gimli police station. Less than three cars would be a miracle, day or night. Summer or winter. Is there that much criminal activity inside the station? Makes me wonder if it's true what I hear on CJOB radio. That somebody broke into the police station and stole the toilet. Now they have nothing to go on. Maybe with thefts like that, they have to keep watch so another toilet

doesn't get stolen. Why can't those cars be patrolling our highways for impaired and distracted drivers, speeders, careless drivers?

Many times I am passed by speeding drivers. When the cat's away, mice will play.

- Sincerely yours, Peter Pilatyk

### COVID concerns

This past year has been an unparalleled time in Canada's history and in the world, not just for the COVID-19 but for the way we have handled it, especially in Canada. We have taken a one-sided approach to fighting this virus. Our leaders have told us that doctors and science will lead us out of this crisis. I believe that's true. I think scientists are very important to us and we need them. But leaving the scientists and doctors in charge of implementing the safety measures, has been short-sighted at best. Our leaders, especially our prime minister, have not shown the leadership that was needed. They are in charge of the country, not the doctors and

the scientists. They should have the ability to look at the big picture with the information from the health professionals and use that with common sense. In my opinion, they have not!

Lock down and shutting big parts of the economy is not a good responsible solution. Let me share some government statistics in regards to deaths in Canada. Mortality rate from COVID in Canada is 2.6 per cent; influenza, 2.4 per cent. Health professionals fear that COVID will overload the health-care system. Canada has in excess of 70,000 beds. As of Dec. 8, 2020, there were 3,093 COVID patients in Canada's hospitals, four per cent of the capacity. Total deaths in Canada 2019 — 284,082; COVID deaths as of Feb. 9, 2021, were seven per cent of the total.

The numbers I've shown help put this pandemic into perspective. Mortality rate from COVID compared to influenza is very similar, and we have learned to live with that risk factor. There is an inherent risk factor in anything we do. We all accept certain risks; otherwise, we would remain

covered underneath our blankets all day. Infection fatality rate from COVID-19, .03 to .04 per cent below the age of 70. Acceptable risk in the world we live in. There is no common sense in locking down parts of the economy, putting millions of people out of work with the evidence that is out there. Going into 2020, we projected a \$29-billion deficit. By the end of the year, it had ballooned to \$381 billion! Is that what we call rational? Our doctors and scientists are only doing what their trained for — to save lives. How many people have died from the collateral damage from the pandemic such as people dying from delayed surgeries, delayed cancer treatments, waiting to see specialists, etc.? Where are those numbers? Save one life here and three others die there? Suicides are up by close to 2,200 people from 2019. Of course, I'm not advocating that nothing should be done. Yes, consult with the health professionals, but please show leadership!

Respectfully submitted  
Wayne Hiebert

# Kingdom of the Polar Bears airs on CBC TNOT Feb. 26

Submitted by Merit Motion Pictures

The male polar bear is the largest bear in the world, a formidable predator and a creature of phenomenal strength and resilience — a powerful symbol of the Arctic.

But all this pales when compared to the extraordinary traits of courage, resourcefulness and great fortitude a mother polar bear demonstrates as she prepares the next generation for their new life and the challenges to come.

*Kingdom of the Polar Bears*, a two-part CBC documentary for *The Nature of Things*, tells the heart-warming tale of a mother and her two cubs as they make the arduous and dangerous 80-kilometre trek from their birth den under the snow to the flow ice of Hudson Bay. This high-stakes, high-emotion adventure puts an intimate lens on the life of this extraordinary mother as she teaches her cubs to survive in one of nature's most difficult, unforgiving and quickly changing climates.

*Kingdom of the Polar Bears* premieres Feb. 26 on *The Nature of Things* on CBC and the free CBC Gem streaming service. Episode 1 is on Friday, Feb. 26 at 9 p.m. (9:30 NT) and Episode 2 is on



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A rare and intimate glimpse into the solitary world of a polar bear mom and her newborn cubs as they leave the safety of their den for the first time and learn to survive in the changing frozen landscape of Canada's North. It premieres Feb. 26 on *The Nature of Things* on CBC and the free CBC Gem streaming service. Episode 1 is on Friday, Feb. 26 at 9 p.m. (9:30 NT) and Episode 2 is on Friday, March 5 at 9 p.m. (9:30 NT).

Friday, March 5 at 9 p.m. (9:30 NT). Leading this remarkable journey is veteran polar bear guide Dennis Compayre. He has lived his entire life among polar bears and, on the precipice of retirement, his last mission is to follow the bears onto the ice and understand first-hand how polar bears are surviving.

At least two thirds of the world's polar bear population live in Canada's

North and most of their life is spent on the sea ice. Up until now, the world of Churchill polar bears on ice has mostly been documented through aerial reconnaissance and satellite collar research. Now, *Kingdom of the Polar Bears* brings this secret world to screen, allowing viewers a ringside seat to view the world of a mother bear and her cubs and the many challenges polar bears face as they adapt

to our changing world.

*Kingdom of the Polar Bears* is directed by Alexis Barbier-Bouvier, written by Erna Buffie and Alexis Barbier-Bouvier, edited by Gil Tetrault and Alexis Barbier-Bouvier and shot by a team of top nature shooters from Canada and France over a two-year period.

Growing up in Churchill, the Polar Bear Capital of the World, Dennis Compayre was the original Tundra Buggy driver and was involved in the creation of the Polar Bear Cam, the first live-streaming website that brought wild bears to the general public. Best known for his on-camera participation in the hit documentary series *Polar Bear Town* for almost four decades, Dennis has worked with film crews to bring polar bears to life, to display their magnificence but also their fragile environment. Following the bears out onto the ice is the final link for him, one that brings together years of experience and a lifelong passion for these magnificent creatures.

A rare and intimate glimpse into the solitary world of a polar bear mom and her newborn cubs as they leave the safety of their den for the first time and learn to survive in the changing frozen landscape of Canada's North.

## LUD unhappy with Coldwell's decision regarding snow clearing

By Evan Matthews

While the Lundar LUD is expressing extreme displeasure with the RM of Coldwell council and administration, the dissent doesn't stop there. Council members have also expressed a clear divide and an inability to work cohesively.

Lundar LUD members Irene Runolfson and Will McLeod told the *Express* they have concerns related to the dealings with a specific employee, as well as concerns related to council's inability to work together to better serve the community.

"It's been just a terrible lack of communication," said Runolfson. "It's just my opinion, but it's all because certain council members have taken things from professional to personal."

LUD member Debbie Valiquette did not respond to the *Express's* request for comment.

Runolfson and McLeod are responsible for co-ordination of snow clearing in the Lundar community. In previous years, the LUD has co-ordinated with the RM — via the transportation committee, which is co-chaired by Coun. Kostyshyn and Reeve Sigfusson — to get the job done.

The LUD members said this year, without consult, the RM changed op-

erations and now solely decides when and how the snow clearing in the Lundar community is done. Due to a lack of co-ordination, Runolfson said safety concerns have arisen.

"We have an aging population," said Runolfson. "With COVID-19, people have been walking more. But it's difficult for them to do that when the sidewalks pose risk."

McLeod went so far as saying, whereas the RM has been using a skid steer and grader to clear snow, there is a safer option for snow clearing in a tractor — used by the LUD for the last six years — housed at the Lundar municipal shop.

The shop has been run by public works staff in the past.

But McLeod said the RM has locked the building and changed the locks, which was confirmed by Coun. Kent Kostyshyn.

"We believe this is a personal conflict Coun. Kent Kostyshyn has with the (public works) employee," said Runolfson.

"He leads Virgil Johnson and Jim Scharf, who typically follow suit," she said, outing the council coup.

**Long-story short**

For eight years, the RM and LUD

staffed one public works employee, who retired in January 2020. The position was always full-time, according to RM council and LUD members, and five days a week.

The LUD hired Paul Scharf as a casual employee in spring 2020, until the RM posted its public works position when it became available. (Paul) Scharf was hired for the public works position on May 6, 2020, with council resolution coming on June 19.

Coun. Jim Scharf confirmed he is not directly related in any way to Paul Scharf, despite sharing the same last name.

LUD members allege the RM almost immediately scaled back the position from a full-time, five-day position to a part-time, three-day position.

The RM agreed to pay for the three days a week, and the LUD decided to pay for two days a week, which created full-time employment again.

However, this past fall, LUD members allege the RM scaled the position back even further by deciding to make the position seasonal.

The RM said they'd re-evaluate the position's seasonal status come April, according to Runolfson, but she isn't sure what council will have to re-evaluate.

"They laid him off from Dec. 1 to April 30 when they made it a seasonal position. They said they had no work for him. But what did the previous public works employee do during all that time, for eight years?" said Runolfson.

"We're just very disappointed in the RM and in this council. We're supposed to all be working together for the community and it's just not happening."

**Council contention**

RM Coun. Greg Brown has served for 18 years on councils in different communities and in different capacities.

Coun. Brown echoed Runolfson and said Coun. Kostyshyn seems to have a personal conflict with most of the LUD, so with (Paul) Scharf being an LUD employee, he falls into that category.

"In my career on councils, I've never seen anything like this. It's so obvious there is such a division amongst council. Really, I don't know the path forward. I just want to operate to the best of our ability," said Brown, adding in regards to the LUD, the RM

Continued on page 9



# Northern Remote IERHA COVID-19 hot spot

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's daily COVID-19 case numbers were down, comparatively, heading into the long weekend, with Interlake-Eastern only seeing an increase of 23 cases from Feb. 8 to 13, with most of the cases in the Northern Remote district.

Public health officials on Friday announced 81 new cases of the virus. Prairie Mountain Health reported just three cases, there were five in Interlake-Eastern, 20 in Winnipeg, 25 in the Northern health region and 28 in Southern Health.

Prairie Mountain Health reported just three cases. There were five in Interlake-Eastern, 20 in Winnipeg, 25 in the Northern Health region and 28 in Southern Health.

Northern Remote seems to be the hot spot in Interlake-Eastern, with 171 of the total 231 active cases for the region as of Sunday.

In comparison, Eriksdale/Ashern had 14, Fisher River 27, Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 5 and Powerview/Pine Falls 9.

Interlake-Eastern RHA announced its 36th COVID-19 death on Sunday. A male in his 70s linked to the outbreak at Kin Place Personal Care Home.

A total of 178 new cases were announced over the weekend, bringing Manitoba's total lab-confirmed cases to 30,766. There were no updated numbers released on Louis Riel Day.

Manitoba as a whole had 1,619 active cases and 28,276 recoveries at the start of the week. A total of 226 people were in hospital due to the virus, 26 in ICU.

The total number of COVID-19 deaths in our province was 871 on Monday.

Chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin said the province is working to identify COVID-19 variants in the population as needed.

"We know that viruses such as the virus that causes COVID-19 change over time and we expect to see many new variants," he said. "The vast majority of these new variants do not have any clinical concern, but we know some of them can lead to increased transmission or possibly even

increased severity."

Three variants of concern are those first identified in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil.

Earlier last week, Roussin announced Manitoba's first case of the U.K. variant known as B117.

He noted that the case was connected to international travel and the individual had already

recovered. They self-isolated with their family, none of whom became ill.

Over the weekend, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs announced there are seven probable B117 cases on the Pauingassi First Nation in eastern Manitoba. Samples have been sent to the National Microbiology Lab for confirmation.



## Team Canada Gimli Curling Club

Left to right: Kerri Einarson (Skip), Val Sweeting (Third), Shannon Birchard (Second), Briane Meilleur (Lead)

The 2019-2020 season was one to remember for Team Einarson. Winning two monumental events in the Manitoba Scottie's Provincials, as well as The Scottie's Tournament of Hearts Nationals. They were unable to compete as Team Canada in 2020 World Championship due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Team Einarson finished the 2019-2020 ranked 2nd in the world for a second year in a row. They will represent as Team Canada for the 2021 Scottie's Tournament of Hearts February 19-28.

**Go Team Canada! Gimli Is Proud!**



### > LUD, FROM PG. 8

needs to do a better job of working with members to provide effective service.

"Councillors (Virgil Johnson, Jim Scharf, and Kent Kostyshyn) want to run things their way and, as a result, nothing is working out. We can't get anything done effectively," he said.

Reeve Brian Sigfusson said Brown's assessment is accurate, adding he and Brown are simply outnumbered. In regards to snow clearing in the LUD in Lundar, Sigfusson said he'd prefer the three other councillors make comment, as it is them who've made changes.

"I'm not at all surprised the LUD members are unhappy with some of the things going on," said Reeve Sigfusson.

"I don't blame the LUD at all for how they're feeling. We're all elected members, and we have to be able to work together," he said.

Coun. Jim Scharf declined to comment on the record.

Coun. Virgil Johnson did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Coun. Kent Kostyshyn declined to comment on the record, with one exception:

"Obviously, you write articles. You want to sell papers," said Kostyshyn. "I'm voted in by taxpayers, and I have to do my best to spend their tax dollars wisely. That's what I'm doing."



# Cut again: annual provincial funding for ESD represents reduction

By Patricia Barrett

The Evergreen School Division has been hit again with a provincial funding decrease that will result in cuts to its upcoming budget.

Where exactly those reductions will fall have yet to be determined, said ESD Supt. Roza Gray.

"Although the government has stated an increase to the provincial budget [for] education, this announcement includes capital expenditures (building new schools)," said Gray by email last week. "A number of divisions (including Evergreen) will receive less funding, again. Our budget reduction is not 0.7 per cent as per the provincial announcement, but 1.3 per cent."

That falls below the cost-of-living increase of 1.6 per cent and will require "cuts to a number of areas," said Gray.

The division is currently working on ways to make the reduced funding work, she said.

The province announced its annual funding commitment to public school divisions on Feb. 5, calling it a "record high" for the 2021-2022 school year.

Overall base funding for public schools represents a 0.5 per cent increase.

The province also contributed \$5.5 million to special needs programming, which includes specific supports such as educational assistants and assistive technology.

"This announcement continues our commitment to the success of students by making record levels of annual investment in our student's education while also keeping our students, teachers and staff safe," said Education Minister Cliff Cullen in the news release. "Our education system is one of the best funded in Canada, and parents need to know that our government will continue to support their children's futures."

Cullen said the province will continue to ensure that all divisions receive "no less than 98 per cent of the operating funding they received a year earlier."

In a backgrounder appended to the news release, details on how each school division will be affected by the fund-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Evergreen School Division trustees, superintendents with Riverton Friendship Centre and Recreation Commission staff, enjoyed a hearty lunch prepared by students in 2017 to celebrate Riverton Collegiate's upgraded kitchen and successful cooking program. The division is currently facing another funding decrease from the province that may entail cuts to programming or staffing.

ing are provided. It shows that funding represents a -0.7 per cent change for Evergreen.

Despite the government's announcement that it has increased funding to public school education, the Manitoba Teachers Society, the collective bargaining union and professional development organization for Manitoba's 16,000 public school teachers, is telling a different story.

MTS argues that the government "continues" to reign in spending on public education and has failed to "adequately fund public education for five years in a row."

MTS said that will have repercussions on the delivery of education and students' academic outcomes.

"This government boasts that this is the most funding public education has ever received, but that's only half

the story," said MTS president James Bedford in a news release posted on MTS's website. "What is missing from this narrative is the fact that this funding is not enough to meet the increasing needs of Manitoba's K-12 student population."

The government has invested 1.56 per cent, which Bedford call a "trend of funding public education below the rate of inflation. When capital funding is deducted from the total, the amount of funding going into Manitoba classrooms is barely one per cent."

Bedford acknowledged the province committed \$5.5 million to special needs funding and was "pleased" to see the government respond to concerns MTS had raised regarding increased funding.

COVID-19 has disrupted schooling across the province, with government-mandated closures and students and staff having to isolate when cases or suspected cases of the deadly virus were/are detected.

Increased resources will be needed to meet "recovery learning" after the pandemic, said Bedford, and he expects schools will be having to make "tough choices" about staffing and programming.

It's unclear when there will be enough vaccine to inoculate the majority of Manitoba's population. In the meantime, schools are grappling with in-class and virtual learning and a unrelenting daily hygiene regime to keep students, teachers and staff safe.



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CREDIT UNION



# Grade 1 students lobby for war memorial in Fisher Branch

By Evan Matthews

Fisher Branch Early Years students are proving one does not need years of experience to engage with government, nor to pay respect.

In November, Grade 1 teacher Carla Desjardins said the school couldn't host a Remembrance Day service due to COVID restrictions.

"But we were invited to attend an online service in St. Norbert, which we kindly accepted," said Desjardins.

After watching the outdoor service, the class had a discussion about

what the students thought about the service and why St. Norbert chose to host its event at an outdoor war memorial.

"When the students were asked if Fisher Branch had one, it was an immediate response and acknowledgment of 'No, our community does not.'

"But when asked if they thought our community should have one, it was a resounding 'Yes!'" she said.

Desjardins then tasked the students with writing to the RM of Fisher Reeve and council, explaining why they felt Fisher Branch should have a memorial.

Students expressed in their letters that a war memorial would be important for a variety of reasons ranging from having a place to go and think about soldiers to the fact that people should be proud to live in a peaceful country like Canada.

"Some simply thought it was important for people to have a place to lay poppies, which they watched during the online service and sparked the conversation," said Desjardins.

"Once the students completed their letters, we walked to the RM office and left our special delivery outside. I felt it was important for them to know where decisions are made, regarding our community."

Lessons are learned in more ways than one, and outside of learning about (Canadian) history and subsequently learning reading and writing skills (via their letters), Desjardins said she wanted to teach a lesson about citizen engagement by taking students to council.

A couple of months later, in January, Fisher's chief administrative officer Kelly Marykuca sent a signed letter to Ms. Desjardins and her class.

"I'm so pleased to announce (council) is overwhelmingly in favour of such a great idea. They are very proud

of each and every one of you to voice your opinions and to care about your community and the veterans the way you do," said Marykuca.

"I will start working on this project as soon as I am able and will keep you in touch with my progress. Thank you for caring about your community and keep up the great work."

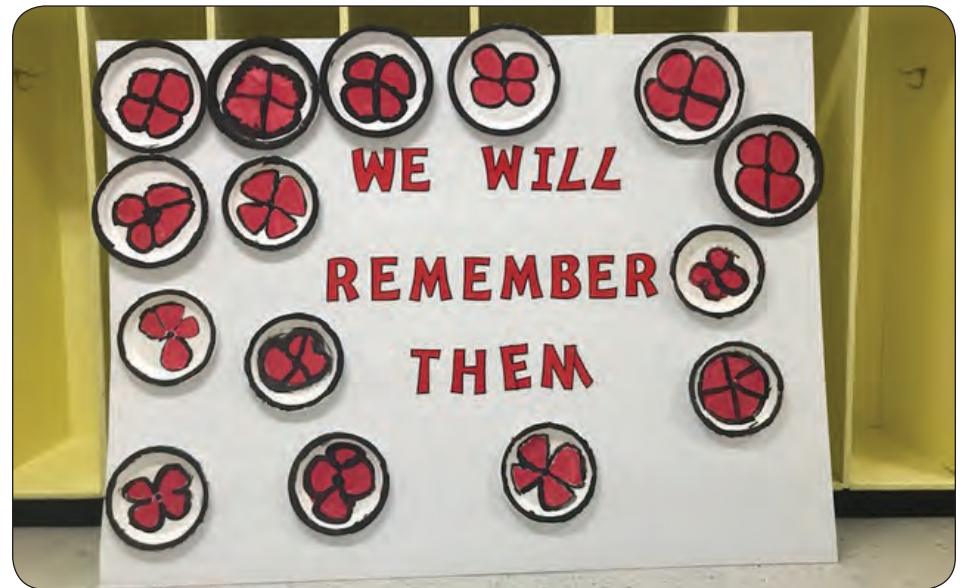
Though a definitive timeline was not available for the Fisher war memorial's installation, Desjardins said the class has been very excited to receive the news.

In regards to the war-related history, the lessons related to writing and to citizen engagement, one theme remained true for the Grade 1 class: "We will remember."

"We can't wait to see what type of memorial is being planned," said Desjardins.

"It is important for these young students to know that their voices, although small, can make a difference in their community and in the world."

**"IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THESE YOUNG STUDENTS TO KNOW THAT THEIR VOICES."**



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CARLA DESJARDINS

The sign created by Fisher Branch Early Years students, who carried the sign with them as they dropped their request letters for a war memorial at the RM building.



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# Keryluk named the Manitoba Fitness Council's Rural Fitness Leader of the Year 2020

By Patricia Barrett

Well known for her can-do attitude and indefatigable devotion to all things exercise — notably Zumba — Jan Keryluk was honoured with the 2020 Manitoba Rural Fitness Leader of the Year award last month.

And it's not the first time the Gimli-based fitness instructor has been recognized for her efforts to keep people healthy and active: Keryluk earned the same award from the Manitoba Fitness Council in 2012.

"I felt very overwhelmed and really very honoured," said Keryluk, who in addition to teaching Zumba is the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's wellness facilitator. "It really was a huge surprise to be recognized by my fitness professional peers."

With a little help from Keryluk's husband, Dave Cain, the Manitoba Fitness Council delivered the message to Keryluk during a fitness class she was hosting via Zoom (video-conferencing software).

"He [Dave] even made arrangements for my parents to be online for the occasion, too," said Keryluk, who's affectionately known as Zumba Jan around Gimli.

The council also issued a press release on Jan. 24 to congratulate Ker-

yluk for her strong commitment to physical activity.

"The Fitness Leader of the Year award is hailed as Manitoba's 'highest honor' by the local fitness industry," the council wrote. "The award is presented annually to a fitness leader that exhibits outstanding instruction techniques, shows leadership in programming, a strong commitment to physical activity and community, and provides an atmosphere that encourages their peers and participants."

Keryluk said she undertook a number of initiatives after COVID arrived in Manitoba and over the course of the pandemic to "help participants stay active and connected."

She was up and running with online classes in March 2020, after the first provincial lockdown, and began hosting free Friday night dance parties and low impact Zumba Gold classes in the spring. She also supported the local community by holding Zumba fundraisers for the Gimli-based Evergreen Basic Needs Food Bank and the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba.

All those activities factored into her winning the award as well as her dedication to helping people get fit and stay motivated through Zumba, which is an aerobic exercise program featur-



Jan Keryluk with her Manitoba Fitness Council award for fitness leader of 2020.



Jan Keryluk jumps for joy at Gimli harbour after winning the 2020 Manitoba Rural Fitness Leader of the Year Award.

ing Latin American-inspired dance movements and international musical styles. Created by a Colombian dancer in the 1990s, Zumba is a trademark owned by Zumba Fitness and instructors have to be certified.

"There is a strong focus on around-the-world music and I love that. Moving to the music really is exercise in disguise," said Keryluk, explaining why she's inspired by Zumba. "The other reason that I really love Zumba is the connections and friendships

that I've made along the way. My life wouldn't be the same without Zumba Fitness."

Keryluk earned her fitness certification through the Manitoba Fitness Council in 2000. In 2006 she was honoured with a Healthy Living Award from Winnipeg's Reh-Fit Centre, and in 2008 earned her licence to teach Zumba.

"At the time the training and licens-

Continued on page 16

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**Manitoba**  
CANADA'S HEART  BEATS



# KAP urges provincial infrastructure to invest for the future

By Evan Matthews

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) is urging the province to invest in infrastructure now.

With roads used by farmers in the southern part of the province crumbling more so with each passing day, and equally poor drainage in the Interlake and Parkland regions, KAP members said existing infrastructure has become unusable in spots.

"If the roads and drains are not fixed now," said KAP District 10 (Interlake) representative Paul Gregory, "we can only enjoy higher trucking costs, crop insurance pay-

Producers roads in inadequate drainage, with the Bank of Canada reporting bond rates at an "ultra-low" due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KAP members have said materials, labour and energy will only be inflated moving forward.

**"WE CAN ONLY ENJOY HIGHER TRUCKING COSTS, CROP INSURANCE PAYOUTS, AND LESS PRODUCTIVITY BEING DONE IN THE FUTURE."**

KAP president Bill Campbell agreed and said if the province were to invest in infrastructure, now would be an opportune time.

"There are a couple of features with that philosophy. It's not just for farmers because you'd be getting people across the province back to work," said Campbell.

"It would allow business and trade to be at its fullest potential. There are certain roads I will not travel on, as an example, when I want to haul my commodities.

"I'm missing out on market opportunities because I cannot — will not — travel on those roads because it adds increased wear and tear, maintenance and cost on my equipment," he said.

The shaking and rattling wears on trucks, according to Campbell, even more so when bearing immense weight while transporting commodities.

In June, the province announced it would be investing \$500 million in infrastructure upgrades, citing the allocation of funds to be as follows:

- \$230 million earmarked for the provincial share of projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a cost-sharing,

application-based program with the federal government;

- \$150 million for asphalt highway resurfacing;
- \$50 million for the Water Services Board to address the significant backlog of water and sewer projects across Manitoba;

- \$65 million for major projects that will improve the safety of Manitoba's highways; and

- \$5 million on municipal law enforcement priorities including local jails to alleviate pressure on the Winnipeg Remand Centre.

But Campbell said it might not be enough.

"This province is so far behind with so many respects to infrastructure," said Campbell.

"But we feel it would be a good time to invest in our own province."



## Co-op Community Spaces is investing \$1M to fund local community projects

**February 2021** – For years, Co-op has been creating places for Western Canadians. This year as we have been staying safe by staying apart, Co-ops continue to invest in spaces for when we can safely come back together.

Co-op Community Spaces was launched in 2015 to help protect, beautify, and improve spaces across Western Canada. Since then, it has provided \$9.5 million to 132 projects that improve the social, economic, and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

Entering its seventh year, the program is dedicating \$1 million in funding and is accepting applications for capital projects that will improve spaces across Western Canada.

"Locally, Moosehorn Co-op is proud to support organizations and projects that make a difference to our members and our community," said GM/CEO Gavin Walls of Moosehorn Co-op. "Finding ways to support our community is even more important as we've been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We're looking forward to a time when we'll all be able to gather as a community again and we encourage all of our community organizations who could benefit from capital funding to apply."

Capital funding between \$25,000 and \$150,000 per project is available. Co-op invites registered non-profit organizations, registered charities, or community service co-operatives to apply online between February 1 and March 1, 2021. Program funding categories include recreation, environmental conservation, and urban agriculture.

Federated Co-operatives Limited administers the giving program on behalf of more than 160 independent local co-ops across Western Canada that form the Co-operative Retailing System.

To learn more about Co-op Community Spaces or apply for funding, visit [communityspaces.ca](http://communityspaces.ca).

### About Moosehorn Co-op

For more than 6 decades, Moosehorn Co-op has proudly served its members and communities. Today, Moosehorn Co-op has more than 50 employees that serve 5,800 members in approximately in Ashern, Moosehorn, and providing services in other surrounding communities.

Giving back to our communities is a proud tradition at Moosehorn Co-op. Since 2015, Moosehorn Co-op has donated substantial amounts to various organizations, teams, events, and supported its members with annual patronage refunds.

### For more information, contact:

Gavin Walls, General Manager

Moosehorn Co-op

Phone: (204) 768-2770 Email: [gm@moosehorncoop.ca](mailto:gm@moosehorncoop.ca)

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Interlake Real Estate is pleased to welcome  
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to our team of Real Estate Professionals. Justin was born and raised in Arborg, Mb, and currently resides in St. Andrews. Prior to real estate he gained knowledge and experience working in the plumbing and carpentry trades, and honed those skills spending several years working in Western Canada. He stays active with golf in the summer and hockey during the winter months, and in his free time pursues a love of music by attending concerts and playing guitar. Justin is committed to developing honest, long-term relationships with clients and looks forward to the opportunity to assist you with all your real estate needs.

We invite you to call Justin at our Selkirk office at 204-482-5806, on his cell at 204-795-6664 or email him at [jzinkowski@outlook.com](mailto:jzinkowski@outlook.com). Justin is able to assist you in all of our service areas throughout the Interlake, as well as Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

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Additional programs will be announced soon, including ones that celebrate our francophone roots, encourage and facilitate reconciliation, and more!

[manitoba150.com](http://manitoba150.com)

# HONOUR



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In early 2020, HONOUR 150 presented by Canada Life, invited Manitobans to recognize people from across the province who make Manitoba an amazing place to live, work, and play. Read their stories at [manitoba150.com](http://manitoba150.com)!

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# Alarming number of vehicle fires over the past two months

Submitted by MPI

Over the past two months, a total of 81 passenger vehicle-related fires have been opened with Manitoba Public Insurance.

Nearly three dozen of these fires in December and January were directly related to the use of block heaters.

Disturbingly, some of these vehicle fires resulted in houses or carports also catching fire. Investigations discovered a number of these vehicle fires resulted from the use of interior car warmers and household interior heaters being used to warm vehicles in outdoor garages and carports.

Over the same two-month timeframe in a normal year, passenger vehicle fires are typically half the numbers compared to 2021.

"Many of these fires could have been prevented. The use of an interior electric heater in an outdoor winter setting is extremely dangerous," explained Paul Brisson, MPI fire investigator. "The issue is that moisture and overheating of the heater elements and internal components, which are not intended to be running continuously for extended periods of time especially outdoors in extreme cold, can cause the heater or power supply to fail."

Interior home heaters used in conjunction with an extension cord causes excessive power draw and may overload a circuit or cause a failure in the extension cord, plugs, fuse panels, said Brisson.

"Block heaters are intended to be used in cold climates to warm an engine prior to starting the vehicle," he said. "As a general rule, an engine block heater should be used when the temperature drops below -15 and greater. It's strongly discouraged to plug in a vehicle which is parked in an attached garage."

### Preventative Steps

- Block heater power cords and extension cords must be free of defects, cuts, dirt and corrosion and should be stored properly to avoid damage which could lead to a fire.

- Block heater power supply cords should be capped when not in use (if equipped) and be properly routed through the front grill or bumper area of a vehicle to avoid pinching or damage to the cord during winter months.

- Do not drive over your extension cord. This could potentially crack the cord and result in electrical failure when plugged in.

- It is recommended that block heater power supply and extension cords

be plugged into a GFCI outlet rather than a standard electrical outlet. The GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) adds an additional layer of safety as it contains a sensor that monitors the flow of electricity current through

the wires. When the GFCI sensor detects a variation from the normal current, it shuts off the flow of electricity in the outlet and may prevent damage or fire caused by an electrical fault.

### > KERYLUK, FROM PG. 12

ing with Zumba Fitness was in person and not yet available in Canada," she said. "I travelled to Fargo [North Dakota] to take weekend training and was instantly hooked. Having the licence means you can lead classes using the Zumba Fitness name and registered trademark."

As the wellness facilitator for the regional health authority, Keryluk offers free community wellness classes and prevention programs that focus on healthy eating, physical activity, prevention of falls, mental wellbeing and living tobacco-free.

She's based at the Gimli Community Health Centre (Gimli hospital) and serves Gimli, Winnipeg Beach, the Village of Dunnottar, Fraserwood, Arborg and Riverton. Wellness classes are currently being offered online.

Keryluk is also continuing to teach

various levels of Zumba online as well.

"We just finished up a virtual vacation series that showcased and focused on songs, rhythms and movements from different parts of the globe — Colombia, Egypt, Mayan Riviera and South African countries," said Keryluk. "I am currently leading low-impact Zumba Gold virtual classes for the RM of Gimli Rec Department and for the White-mountain River Rec Commission. I am also leading a combination virtual class: 30 minutes of Zumba Toning followed by 30 minutes of Zumba Fitness."

For more information about Keryluk's classes and registration information, visit [www.zumba.com/en-US/profile/janice-keryluk/19828](http://www.zumba.com/en-US/profile/janice-keryluk/19828)

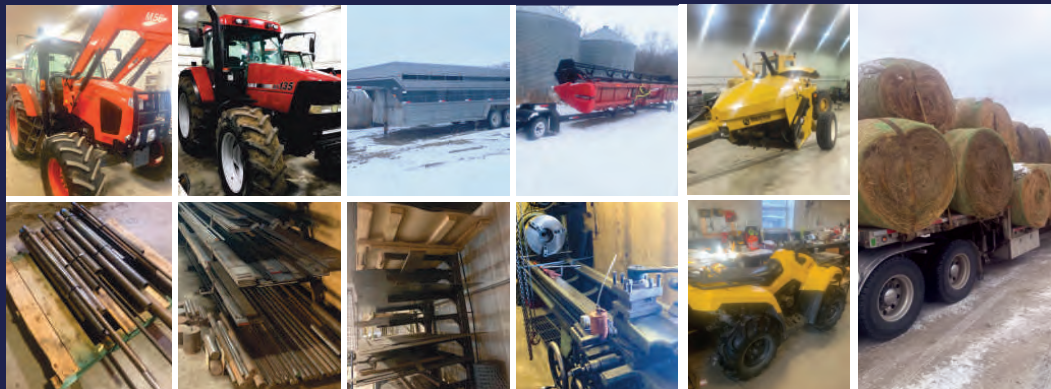
To view the health authority's wellness class schedule, email [wellness@ierha.ca](mailto:wellness@ierha.ca) to subscribe to a monthly newsletter or visit [www.ierha.ca](http://www.ierha.ca).

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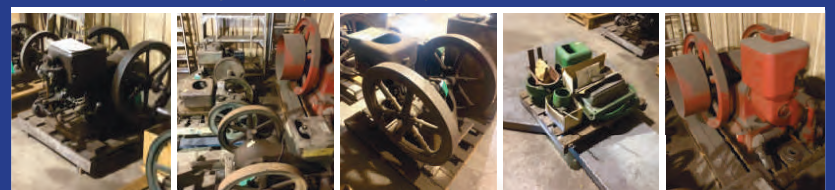
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# Thieves arrested in Hillside Beach, a week after robbing Randy's Tire

By Evan Matthews

A Lundar business person said the federal government needs to revisit the way it enforces rural crime.

Two thieves robbed Randy Gudmundson's business, were caught and arrested by Lundar RCMP, and then released. A week later, the same two thieves were caught for similar crimes by Selkirk RCMP. Gudmundson said career criminals are a sign of a broken system.

## The theft

Gudmundson, owner of Randy's Tire and Sport in Lundar, said he woke up on Feb. 1 at about 5 a.m. to find thieves had made off with two utility task vehicles (UTV) valued at a total of \$61,000.

"I was at home and I got a call from the alarm company. They call the police first. I've had to hire a night watchman because of all the thieves, so then I picked up the phone and called him," said Gudmundson.

"I told him to go and check because it was a fence alarm. He phoned back and said the fence was torn open with cutters. I rushed over there."

He added that despite the fact he has insurance, after a claim has been made, policy rates increase quite significantly until the claim is paid off.

The watchman didn't see the crime in progress, according to Gudmundson, because while he was patrolling, the thieves would turn off all lighting.

Gudmundson said when he arrived, he confirmed what he had already been told and saw tracks leading away from his property in a northern direction.

He and his sons, one on a snowmobile, began to follow the tracks.

Witnesses in town heard the thieves head down PR 419 out of town and then south, Gudmundson said, which raised suspicion in that he had tracked stolen machines to a very similar location previously in a separate incident. That time, he said he lost the tracks.

This time, Gudmundson said he was able to track, forced to zigzag through fields back and forth. Nearing a bluff, he saw one of the units parked in the field as it had run out of gas and had been abandoned by the thieves.

Throughout the chase, Gudmundson was communicating with police.

Gudmundson saw the tracks continue through farm property, with many fences in the thieves' path being cut along the way. His son, who was on snowmobile, needed to stop for gas.

But Gudmundson's son said he could hear the thieves in the UTV. Gudmundson said he obtained a visual on the thieves. Once Gudmundson spotted them, the thieves jumped out of the Polaris RZR and began run-

ning through a field.

Sticking with them, through a ditch and into the field, Gudmundson said he was hot on their tail, now between two MTS towers in Oak Point — in the St. Laurent area — around Road 103N and Road 20W. They were within earshot.

"I yelled to them that they had been caught. There was no use running, but they kept trying to run through the deep snow with their snowsuits on," said Gudmundson.

But the thieves continued to attempt to flee. By now, his son had caught up again with the snowmobile.

"I could still see them. They had tried to hide in another bluff. I told my son to go circle them — but not too close because we didn't know who we were dealing with — and I said I'd be right there," he said.

RCMP arrived shortly thereafter, but Gudmundson said police didn't have the capability of getting that far out into the field. After the chase, Gudmundson had to transport the thieves who stole \$61,000 of his possessions to the road where RCMP had parked.

Luckily for the thieves, RCMP told Gudmundson not to take matters into his own hands.

"They saw my demeanor and could tell. I got a warning not to do anything to them. I was hot," said Gudmundson. "I've been going crazy ever since. I'm so wound up about it. After all that, police arrest them and then they just release them. These guys are career criminals. They got arrested again the next week."

RCMP arrested Lee Brandon Stewart, 30, of Winnipeg, and Eric Wesley Allan, 32, of Hillside Beach, after Gudmundson chased them down.

The two were charged with breaking and entering, two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, possession of break-in instruments and possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose.

Gudmundson said the weapon was bear spray, which he found in the back of his UTV.

A week later, on Feb. 8, Selkirk RCMP responded to a theft in progress according to an RCMP news release.

In the early afternoon of Feb. 8, officers from Selkirk RCMP received a report of a theft in progress at a residence located in Belair.

The caller advised that an SUV was currently on their property and had just loaded their snowmobile onto a trailer and was pulling away with it. The homeowner provided a description of the suspect vehicle, which led officers to an address in Hillside Beach.

Officers arrived at the residence in Hillside Beach and observed a trailer



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RANDY GUDMUNDSON

Fencing around Gudmundson's business, Randy's Tire and Sport, had been cut by thieves. Tracks leading away from the property was his starting point, as he was able to track the thieves down.

in the driveway with fresh snowmobile tracks going from the trailer into the garage. Three suspects were arrested on scene for possession of stolen property and taken into custody. A search warrant was prepared and executed, where officers located the stolen snowmobile as well as another snowmobile that had its VIN number tampered with. A further search of the garage located additional stolen property including ATVs and various power tools.

The following individuals were arrested:

Eric Wesley Allan, 32, from Hillside Beach for possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 x 2; possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 x 2; possession of property with altered VIN; fail to comply with a release order.

Lee Brandon Stewart, 30, from Winnipeg for possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 x 2; possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000; fail to comply with a release order; fail to comply with an undertaking.

A 37-year-old female from Winnipeg was released for court on March 26 in Selkirk for possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 x 2; possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000; possession of property with altered VIN; possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose; and possession of a prohibited weapon.

The two males were remanded into custody and the 37-year-old female released for court scheduled March 26, 2021, in Selkirk.

A very frustrated Gudmundson

said, "The Crown attorneys and that, they're absolutely good for nothing. They're career criminals, and they weren't looked into after committing another crime.

"This is the question I have: why wasn't a search warrant put out and executed for their property while they were in custody, after I had caught them?" he asked.

Despite his frustration with the justice system, as he said, the officers are overworked and under-resourced. He said police do all they can do.

These two instances are not the first times Eric Wesley Allan has interacted with the system, either, as the *Express* located a police report dating back to July 2017 in which he was arrested and charged by Winnipeg Police.

Police charged Allan then with identity fraud; possession of break-in instruments; possession of methamphetamine; both possession of property obtained by crime over and under \$5,000; possession of an identity document; and fail to comply with probation. Failing to comply with probation would indicate Allan had been arrested prior to 2017, too.

The only solution to career criminals, in Gudmundson's view, is for the federal government to change the laws around property crime.

"Why should innocent people be getting robbed all the time? Why should I have to hire a watchman to guard my property all night?" asked Gudmundson.

"There is no repercussion for career criminals. The law isn't working. It's a catch and release program right now. But it should be: do the crime, do the time."



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Former Lightning excelling at Midland University

By Brian Bowman

Freshmen usually don't get much ice time at the collegiate level in hockey.

But that hasn't been the case for Ally Rakowski this season.

The former Interlake Lightning forward has been getting a lot of ice time as she is situated on the Midland University Warriors' top line.

"It's a big change from playing with Interlake last year. Playing with (former Lightning head coach) Dean (Rebeck) really helped me to get better as a player to be able to come down here and play at Midland in the ACHA," Rakowski said last week. "But it's good. It's a lot faster and the American game is a little less physical than what it is back home."

She has enjoyed the transition from living in Winnipeg to Fremont, Nebraska. Rakowski is grateful for the opportunity to play hockey this season while the game is put on hold here in Manitoba.

Midland University is 6-6 heading into this weekend's two-game road series with Liberty University in Lebanon, Illinois.

"It's going pretty good," Rakowski said, noting her team will be compet-

ing at the nationals in Minot, N.D., this season. "We're playing some hard teams and that's been a challenge for us. But hopefully when we play them next we'll do better and we've definitely improved since we played them."

Rakowski's success with Midland has kind of opened the door for Canadians to Midland. The Warriors already have four commitments from players north of the border for next year.

Warriors' head coach Jason White, a native of Stittsville, Ont., and a former collegiate player, is sure glad Rakowski chose to come to his program.

"She's not very big but she plays a tough game and she's got a great knack for scoring goals," White said. "She has scored some big goals already in a COVID, short career. She's really established herself on the power play and has a great attitude. Her work ethic is outstanding."

White feels that Rakowski has the potential to be a dominating player in the ACHA by the time her collegiate career ends. She has the innate ability to have the puck follow her while consistently putting herself in the right



EXPRESS PHOTO FROM MIDLAND UNIVERSITY

Former Interlake Lightning forward Ally Rakowski is enjoying a tremendous freshman season with Midland University in Nebraska.

spot around the net at the right time. "I feel there is so much more for her to accomplish yet," he predicted. "She's already off to a great freshman

year. I have big plans for her and I'm really excited about her game. She's only going to get better."

## Golf Manitoba announces 2021 championship schedule

Submitted by Golf Manitoba

Golf Manitoba announced its 2021 Championship schedule, which will feature 11 championships at member clubs from across Manitoba, last week.

"We are very excited to announce our 2021 championship schedule," said Lisa Andersen, director of competitions for Golf Manitoba. "We have an excellent lineup of venues from across the province and are very appreciative of the support we have received from those member clubs who committed to hosting this year."

Of special note for 2021 will be the 100th awarding of the men's amateur championship trophy.

"The Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Championship has an incredible history and we are pleased to bring this event back to the Neepawa Golf & Country Club," said Golf Manitoba

executive director Jared Ladobruk. "Neepawa is a fantastic venue and will provide an excellent test of golf for our men's amateur field and we are very excited about the incredible milestone we are recognizing for this championship."

As with this past championship season, the health and safety of all involved will continue to be of paramount importance as COVID-19 protocols continue to adjust.

"The safety of our member clubs, players, volunteers, and staff is our top priority," explained Ladobruk. "We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust the season accordingly."

The 2021 championship season will officially kick off with the Match Play Championship qualifier and matches being held at the Grand Pines Golf Club on May 29-30 and June 5, 6, 12

and 13.

2021 CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE  
Match Play Championship – Grand Pines Golf Course (May 29-June 13)

Women's City & District & Junior Bantam Championships – Transcona Golf Club (June 26 and 27)

Manitoba Junior Men's & Women's Championships – Shilo Country Club (July 5-7)

Diamond Athletic Women's Amateur and Men's Mid-Amateur Championships – Niakwa Country Club (July 9-11)

Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Championship – Neepawa Golf & Country Club (July 15-18)

Senior Men's & Women's Championship – Steinbach Fly-In Golf Club (Aug. 4-6)

Ladies Interclub Championship – Larters at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club (Aug. 27)

Men's Provincial Interclub Championship – Neepawa Golf & Country Club (Aug. 28)

Men's Senior Interclub Championship – Minnedosa Golf & Country Club (Sept. 1)

Also on the local golf calendar for 2021 is the Golf Canada junior NexGen Prairie Championship being held at the Quarry Oaks Golf Course from June 10 to 13 in Steinbach. Golf Canada's NextGen program aims to support and develop Canada's next wave of future Team Canada athletes.

More information on Golf Manitoba championships including dates, times, eligibility, how to register and host venues will be available in the coming weeks on the competitions schedule page at [golfmb.ca](http://golfmb.ca). Entry for registration for most Golf Manitoba championships is set to open online on April 1.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## MJHL cancels 2020-21 season

### From the MJHL website

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League has made the extremely difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the competitive season, which includes regular season games and playoffs.

The announcement was made last Friday.

"After multiple discussions with public health, representatives of the provincial government, facility managers and stakeholders, the MJHL board of governors have determined that the resumption and completion of the 2020-21 season is not feasible due to current conditions," read a statement.

"It has become unrealistic to continue operating in a state of hope with so much uncertainty and no timeline provided. It is unfair to our athletes and staff, our community organizations who have been severely impacted financially and the communities/regions our organizations support and garner support from."

When hockey activities were paused as the entire province moved to Code Red on Nov. 12, at no time did we not

think or work tirelessly towards having the opportunity to resume our season safely. Return to Play scenarios were exhausted with Public Health to allow for a safe, responsible, balanced and financially feasible return to team activities.

This included the MJHL securing Hockey specific CCM face masks for on-ice training along with demonstrated ability to safely manage our operations and extensive Return To Play protocols from July to Nov. 12, 2020. MJHL teams completed 24 prospect/training camps, 400-plus on and off-ice training sessions and 60-plus games safely and responsibly during that time.

"In the end, our advocacy efforts were not enough for public health to allow for a return to on-ice team training activity, even in a non-contact, professionally managed, closed to public, distanced, 100 per cent masked and extremely protected environment.

"As a result, the board of governors see no reasonable prospect that future restrictions would be sufficiently altered, in time to allow for a feasible

gradual return to regular-season play this season."

Moving forward, MJHL organizations will have the option to continue to provide training/development opportunities, exhibition games, etc. based on their individual circumstances and facility availability under current/updated public health orders and Hockey Manitoba directives.

Our athletes, staff, organizations, facilities and the entire MJHL community are to be commended for their efforts as they meticulously followed and executed the strict and extensive MJHL protocols that were put in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved. The MJHL community were Return To Play leaders throughout the province and beyond and it is disappointing that we were not able to do so once again. I would also like to recognize the entire Manitoba minor hockey community who went above and beyond this season to ensure that the many benefits of organized hockey could be enjoyed in a safe and responsible environment.

The league and member organi-

zations operational focus has now turned toward actively stabilizing our financial position, the continued advocacy for the safe and responsible return to on-ice team training activities for all players, teams across the province and planning for upcoming team training/development activities, spring camps, prospect camps, events and showcases.

The MJHL and each member organization will determine, based on their own unique circumstances, how they will proceed with their commitments to their stakeholders going forward.

We are very grateful to our communities, billets, sponsors, supporters, officials, volunteers, league staff, team staff and players for their support and leadership in navigating through the very difficult challenges faced over this past year.

Although we are extremely saddened to make this announcement, we now look forward to the future as we prepare for bigger and better things for the 2021-22 season.

## WHL granted approval to host Hub Centre in Regina

### From the WHL website

The Western Hockey League announced last Friday it has been granted approval by public health officials from the Government of Saskatchewan to play in a hub centre in Regina.

This will allow the WHL's Saskatchewan and Manitoba-based teams in the East Division to open their season on March 12.

"The WHL appreciates the cooperation we have received from both the Governments of Saskatchewan and Manitoba as we work towards a safe return to play in the East Division," said WHL commissioner Ron Robison.

"With our extensive protocols and the necessary approvals now in place, we are looking forward to play getting underway in Regina and allowing our players to continue their development at the highest level in the Canadian system."

Seven WHL clubs, which operate in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, will form the East Division, including the Moose Jaw Warriors, Prince Albert Raiders, Regina Pats, Saskatoon Blades, Swift Current Broncos, Brandon Wheat Kings and the Winnipeg ICE.

The WHL has agreed that all East Division games during the 2020-21 regular season will be played exclusively at the Brandt Centre in Regina, under an approved WHL hub centre model.

The WHL's East Division will play a 24-game regular-season schedule, which will be announced at a later date.

The WHL has developed an extensive set of protocols and believe the protective hub environment will provide a high standard of safety, for not only players and staff but the Regina community at large.

WHL players and staff from Saskatchewan and Manitoba-based clubs will begin self-quarantining this Saturday and then will report to the WHL hub centre in Regina on Feb. 27, where they will be required to undergo COVID-19 testing upon arrival followed by an additional quarantine period. Players and staff will then undergo a second COVID-19 test before being permitted to engage in any team activity.

WHL clubs are also committed to providing private PCR testing through DynaLIFE Medical Labs to ensure no additional strain is placed on public health. Players will be tested upon arrival to their WHL club and once again before engaging in any team activity. DynaLIFE's PCR testing is considered a gold standard for COVID-19 testing and was utilized in Edmonton during the NHL's Stanley Cup playoffs and the 2021 IIHF World

Junior Championship.

As the WHL returns to play in the East Division, no spectators will be permitted to enter WHL facilities. WHL fans can look forward to the launch of a brand-new live streaming service that will deliver the excitement of WHL hockey straight to their homes. Details on the new WHL Live will be announced soon.

With the East Division start date now confirmed for March 12, the WHL will have three divisions ready to open the regular season, starting with the Central Division on Feb. 26 and the U.S. Division on March 19.

The WHL continues to work with government health authorities in British Columbia to establish a start date for the WHL's B.C. Division. Approval from the health authority in B.C. is required for the WHL's B.C. Division to return to play.



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M & J Farms/Glasman Farms 2-year-old Simmental & Angus Bull Online Auction Sale 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 28th. View bulls at farm, videos & bidding online [www.DLMS.ca](http://www.DLMS.ca) Call Jared 204-796-0999, Matthew 204-773-6055.

**SCRAP METAL**  
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**HELP WANTED**  
The Window Factory located in Selkirk requires a full-time labourer for production/manufacturing position. Please bring resume into the office located at 605 Mercy St, Selkirk.

**LAND FOR SALE**  
For sale in the Steep Rock area - 2 adjoining quarters, mostly hayland & pasture, some bush. Fenced & cross fenced. All weather road access, hydro & telephone and road along one side. 2 dugouts & well, close to Lake Manitoba. Good hunting with a large area of crown leases close by. Also has potentially good yardsite for future development. Would sell separate or together. For more info. and price call 1-204-449-2383 or text 204-768-0121.

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**INVITATION TO QUOTE HOURLY EQUIPMENT RATES**

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting quotes for hourly rental rates for various equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates for the 2021 construction and maintenance season.

Quotation forms may be obtained at the Rural Municipality of Fisher Office, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, Manitoba.

Deadline for proposals is **12:00 p.m. on March 1st, 2021.**

Rural Municipality of Fisher  
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB ROC OZO  
Phone: (204) 372-6393  
Fax: (204) 372-8470  
Email: [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON**

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the **17th day of March, 2021**, at the hour of **10:00 AM**, at 329 River Road, Arborg, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
177630	THE SLY 95 FEET OF PARCEL 'E' AND THE NLY 105 FEET OF PARCEL 'F' PLAN 10410 WLTO IN LOT 6, EAST OF THE ICELANDIC RIVER IN SECTION 17-23-4 EPM - 134094 ROAD 20E	L -\$11,300 B -\$14,600	\$3,958.50
405500	LOTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 BLOCK 2 PLAN 2389 WLTO IN RL 5 WEST IN SECTION 20-23-4 EPM 49 THORVALDSON STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$5,000 B -\$29,600	\$5,680.32
410800	S 1/2 OF LOT 3 PLAN 2799 WLTO EXC. GREENWOOD AVE. PLAN 15218 WLTO IN LOT 5 WEST, OF 20-23-4 EPM. - 87 REGGIE LEACH DRIVE, RIVERTON	L -\$7,000 B -\$102,100	\$7,531.84
431200	LOTS 9 AND 10 RANGE 2 PLAN 13740 WLTO (L DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SECS 20 AND 21-23-4 EPM - 73 QUEEN STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$6,100 B -\$38,200	\$3,113.67
434100	LOT 48 RANGE 2 PLAN 13740 WLTO (L DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN, IN SECTIONS 20 AND 21-23-4 EPM. - 160 KING STREET, RIVERTON	L -\$6,100 B -\$1,100	\$2,051.27

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in **cash, certified cheque or bank draft** to the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton as follows:
  - i) The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
  - ii) If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale; AND
  - iii) A fee in the amount \$309.75 (\$295 plus GST) for preparation of the transfer of title documents. The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title documents in the land titles office, including the registration costs.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2021.

Managed by:

Jordan Willner  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton  
Phone: (204) 376-2391  
Fax: (204) 376-2742



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ASSISTANT UTILITY OPERATOR**

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites applications for the position of Assistant Utility Operator. This will be a **training position**, with the possibility of transitioning to a permanent position as the Utility Operator in the Summer of 2021. This position demands a high level of accuracy and dependability.

The normal hours of work are four (4) hours per day, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Candidates must be willing and available to be on-call for emergent situations.

**Applicants:**

- **MUST** obtain certification in Small systems water works operator certificate and Small systems wastewater works operator certificate. (can be done during training period).
- Must be 18 years of age or older, hold a valid driver's licence and have a vehicle, minimum grade 10 education.
- Strong mechanical skills a definite asset.
- Willing to work as part of a team and may be called upon to help out in other duties within the municipality.
- Friendly, team player, responsible and a strong work ethic is expected.

The Assistant Utility Operator will report to the Chief Administrative Officer. For copies of job description and pay as per CUPE Collective agreement please contact The Rural Municipality of Fisher at 204-372-6393.

Position remains open until suitable candidate is found.  
Kelly Marykuca, CMMA  
Rural Municipality of Fisher  
Box 280 Fisher Branch, MB, ROC OZO  
[fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)  
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This position is about relationship building, and providing support to our individuals. Working as a team member, your tasks will be varied, including personal care, community outings and assisting with all activities of daily living, as needed. Other duties include household upkeep, daily cooking, and record keeping tasks.

We offer full benefits and pension and a flexible schedule with options for day, evening, night or weekend shifts. If hired you will be asked to pass criminal record and child/abuse registry checks.

Please apply in writing to: Executive Director  
Riverdale Place Homes Inc.  
Box 968, Arborg MB ROC OAO

Or email: [kfinnson\\_rph@outlook.com](mailto:kfinnson_rph@outlook.com)

**Application Deadline: Feb. 26, 2021**

For more info contact: Kathy Finnson, Exec. Director 204-376-2940, ext. 1

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Email resume to: [swl@lakenet.ca](mailto:swl@lakenet.ca) or  
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## OBITUARY



### Jean (Coutu) Guimond

Peacefully on Saturday, January 30, 2021 Jean (Coutu) Guimond at the age of 89 years passed away at the Fisher Branch Personal Care Home.

Jean was predeceased by her loving husband Rosario in 1993. Also by her parents Arthur and RoseAnna (Neault) Coutu, brothers Albert Delorme, Maurice, George and Paul Coutu.

Mom will be lovingly remembered by her family Adele and Bill, Roslyn, Lorna and Jeff, Brad and Lisa, Karen and Bob, Darlene and Gerald, Todd and Laurie; grandchildren Crystal (Darren), Chris (Meredith), Debbie (Ryan), Billy, Stephanie (Mike), Lisa (Mike), Janika (Matt), Ian (Amber), Lyndon, Janelle (Nathan), Amber (Jared), Nathan, Brianna (Ryan) and Duncan; great-grandchildren Trin, Maddy Leia, Jackson, Logan, Payton, Ryder, Paxton, Lily, Khristian, Rocky, Oscar, Corbin and Wyatt. Other extended family

members Coledon, Venessa and Ian (Tattiana and Anna), Lyndon and Susan (Blake and Brooke), Deena and Chris (Jonathon, Cameron and Violet). Jean is survived by her three sisters-in-law Emily Coutu, Ethel Coutu and Terry Longtin, plus numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and special friends.

Jean married the love of her life Rosario Guimond in 1952. They moved to the homestead and farmed for many years. She was an avid gardener and loved canning and took pride in providing for her family. Later in life Jean and Rosario managed the Hodgson Legion for many years. Mom was involved in the following community organizations such as the C.W.L. Songbirds and the Fisher Air Cadets. She was also involved with the Ladies Legion Auxiliary and through the years she became the President of the Hodgson Legion. Our Mom took great pride in working alongside the Veterans. She was in charge of the Poppy Drive in our community, she arranged many Remembrance Day services at the schools, church and the Hodgson branch. Mom was very proud that she was awarded her Lifetime Legion Membership.

Mom enjoyed many activities such as watching curling, baseball and the Bombers. She enjoyed walking and going dancing with her dear friends Ann Kalyta and Beatrice Stodgell.

She was very loving towards her children and adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She found great joy getting together with her family for special occasions and also enjoyed a good caesar.

The family would like to express their thanks for the care that was provided by the staff at the Fisher Branch Personal Care home during her stay. A big thank you to Dr. Bruin for the special care she gave to Mom in the last few years. Thank you to the Fisher Funeral Home where Gordie and Tracy went above and beyond with respect to Mom's wishes.

Mom's honorary pallbearers will be her two sons and four sons-in-law.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba cremation has taken place.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Fisher Funeral Home Inc.  
In care of arrangements.  
204-372-6803 or 204-372-6271

## OBITUARY



### Alexander Samuel Tretiak 1939 - 2021

My life has been a journey of adventures, tragedies and triumphs that began in Winnipeg on January 26, 1939 and ended on February 9, 2021 due to complications from Parkinson's Disease and Cancer.

I am survived by my wife, Stephanie Wood, sisters Irene Willison and her son Greg, Judy Johnson and her husband Dennis, their children Brian and Sharon and Trish Casey.

Alex was predeceased by his father Fred Tretiak, his mother Mary Kaminski and his beloved wife Marjorie McKay in 1996 at age 54.

Alex and Stephanie moved to Gimli to enjoy retirement beside Lake Winnipeg when they married. Retirement saw Alex continue volunteering in the schools in Gimli, giving services in Arborg and Gimli at the Unitarian Churches and embarking on a new career

of writing articles on his travels and science. During their marriage, Alex and Marjorie travelled the world from the Canadian Arctic, Africa but their best memories were their years and special friends on the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii).

Alex and Stephanie enjoyed their life in Gimli until failing health necessitated a move to the city for medical attention closer to family.

As per Alex's wishes cremation has taken place with his ashes placed in a container made by Alex from red and yellow cedar from Haida Gwaii. A private service will take place at a later date.

To all of the special people in Alex's life, he wanted you to know you were very special to him. His final message to us all is to not grieve for him. Move on and enjoy a good and caring life with loved ones. Make the most of each day as dawn beckons you forward.



204-949-2200  
Gimli 204-642-7124  
[neilbardalinc.com](http://neilbardalinc.com)

## OBITUARY



### Rosie Beaudry Sobkowich March 15, 1923 - February 05, 2021

It is with heavy hearts we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother at the age of 97, with her devoted daughter Judy at her bed side; at Charleswood Care Centre in Winnipeg, MB.

She is survived by her children Frances, grandchildren Marlene, Crystal, Holly, Lucy; Gloria (Gerry) grandchild Bonita Rose (Greg); Larry (Irene) grandchildren Sherry, Samantha (Klaus); Judy (Charlie) grandchildren Catherine (Calvin), and Jamie. Her great-grandchildren Anton and Austin Prystupa; Eric (Nicole), Alexis and Ben Hawerchuk; Levi, Jedidiah, Justice, and Shaddai Mitchell; Isaac, and Brianna Pumphrey; Sara, and Bethany Krulicki; Joshua, and Branden Arnason; Charlie Lambert.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Elias Sobkowich in 1988, and her second husband Paul Beaudry in 2007, also by her parents Alex and Nellie Kopys; by her siblings Anne, Kay, Nellie, Mary, Dora, Steve, John, Matthew, and Mike.

Mom was born in Chatfield and raised in the Fisher Branch area. She attended Bartlett School. She married our Dad on January 15th, 1939 and together they farmed working oh so hard raising their family on the farm. For a time our Mom even worked as a clerk at Rene's Grocery Store in Fisher Branch. Then at the age of 43, Mom took a course at The Scientific School of Beauty Culture in Winnipeg and graduated with a diploma on the 29th of April 1966. They sold the farm and moved into town, building a new home and setting up a small Service Station for Dad to run. Mom set up a beauty salon in their new home which she successfully operated for many, many years. Mom loved to entertain. She was always so very generous with her time and money. We all can remember the wonderful family gatherings with a table loaded down with all kinds of traditional foods and drinks as well as all kinds of treats for the grandchildren. She always had the house so nicely decorated for each occasion. She was a great cook and gardener. She was famous for her homemade chicken soup. Friends were always welcome and royally entertained. Mom was a W.I. member in Fisher Branch for many years and was always ready to help out. As well she was a member of a group in town called the Song Birds, entertaining at senior homes and special occasions around town. Mom loved curling. She curled for many years and we will never forget the many after game parties with food, drink and music at her house. In later years she so enjoyed watching curling on T.V. She always loved Ukrainian music. She often went group carolling, house to house at Ukrainian Christmas time. Over the years she went on many trips to Hawaii, the U.S., British Columbia, and more. Mom loved to shop. She loved nice clothes especially the kind with a little bit of bling. She adored costume jewelry. She had a kind of unique special modern sense of style; whether it be for new clothes, a new car, new furniture etc. Eventually Mom and Dad sold and retired, moving into a small home in Winnipeg. It was there that Mom found another one of her passions and that was square dancing. She joined a club and took part in it for many years; even at times travelling to different provinces and the U.S.A. where the club held performances.

While in Winnipeg Mom faithfully attended Sunday Catholic Church services whenever she was able.

She was devoted to her family and was always worried about our welfare. In conversation with her, she would often time ask "how is everybody"?

"As long as everybody is okay " were her last words to me a day or so before she passed. Rest in peace Mom. We love you and we will miss you so. Please Father in Heaven hear our prayer, welcome our Mother into Your arms and guard her with tender care.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Charleswood Care Home for the good and kind care they gave our Mother during this very difficult time while she resided there. She always told us, "They take such good care of me here".

As per her wishes, cremation has taken place. Fisher Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. A private family celebration of life will take place when we can safely gather again. Mother will be buried beside our Dad in the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Fisher Branch MB.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery Fund Box 130, Fisher Branch. MB. ROC OZO.

### The Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree.  
I keep hearing a voice that says, "grieve not for me".  
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.  
The good life I lived while I was strong.  
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.  
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.  
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.  
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.  
Continue traditions, no matter how small.  
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls.  
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.  
Until the day comes we're together again.

-Author Unknown

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# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

### 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!

### 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!

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

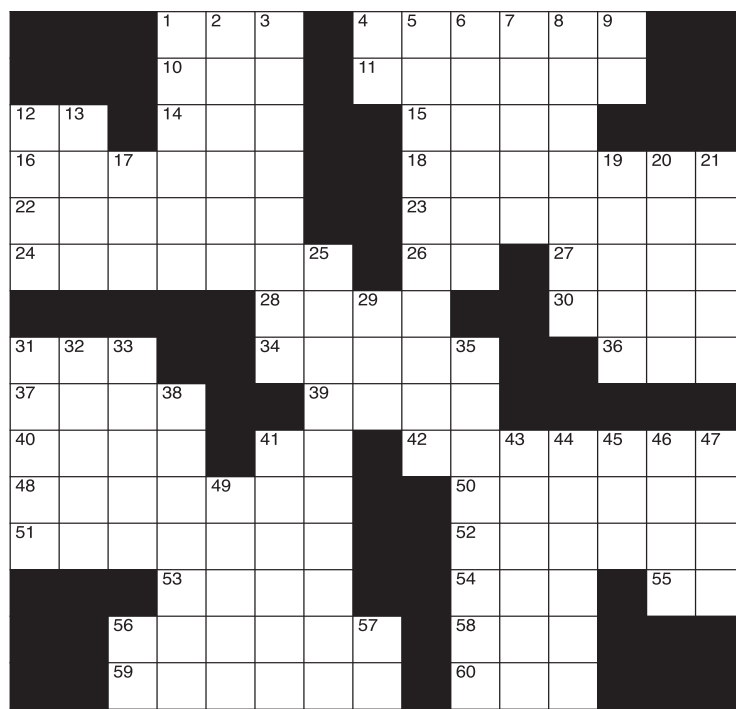
Sudoku Answer


Crossword Answer

# CROSSWORD

### CLUES ACROSS

- Big tech firm
- Picked
- Type of whale
- A woman of refinement
- New England state
- Common gibbon
- Tall coniferous tree
- State capital
- Making a liquid muddy
- Vinegary
- Peninsula
- Thee
- Atomic #55
- Used in units of measurement
- Welsh female name
- Arab ruler title
- One's mother
- Trap
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Assn. of oil-producing countries
- Holy fire
- Emit coherent radiation
- Atomic #81
- Orthodox Jewish college
- Herbs
- Ran after
- Begin again
- Named
- Barbary sheep
- Unwell
- Postscript
- Drivers
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Prim
- A facility equipped for sports or physical training



### CLUES DOWN

- Small islands
- Skullcap
- Unexplained events
- One hundredth of a meter
- Beloved baseball announcer
- Repulsive
- Northern European languages
- Match or surpass
- Northeast
- Chew the fat
- Innovative industry
- Land to put down to grass
- Products
- Nostril
- Surprise Icelandic politician
- Conclusive acts
- Inform on
- Grinding tooth
- Keep up
- Tablelands
- Raising
- Mythical creature
- Hums
- Mountain in Antarctica
- Neighborhood in Manhattan
- Distinctive practice
- Vice president
- Contributes to
- Small bones
- Oil company
- Empire State

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*In Jesus name ... Amen*  
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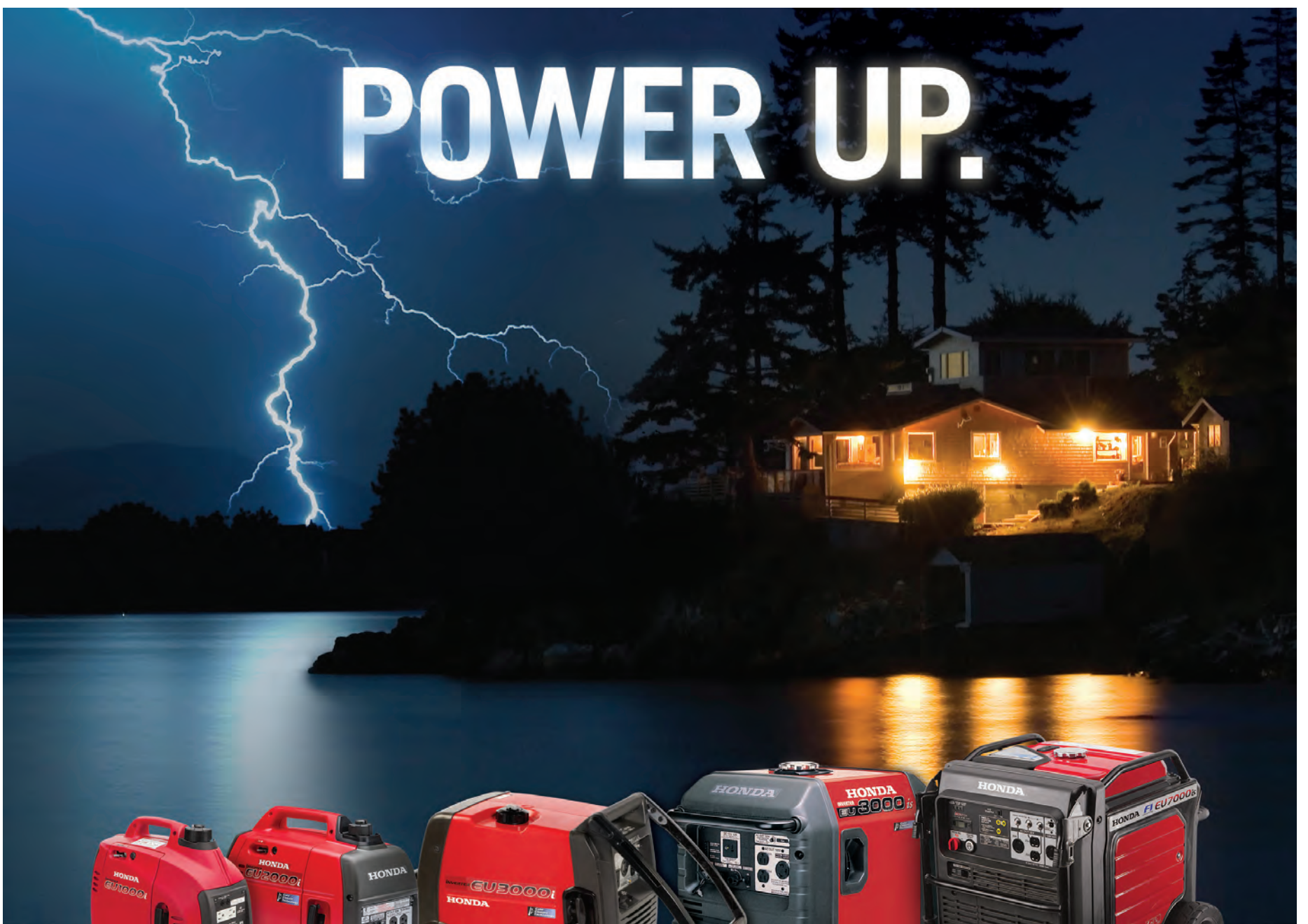
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