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Gimli rocks

Hazel, in red, Rudy and mom Caroline Woytowich enjoyed the -5 degrees C. temperatures and Gimli Ice trails skating and curling on Feb. 24.

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Gimli high students celebrate new band room with messages of thanks

By Patricia Barrett

Students at Gimli High School thanked everyone who helped them fight for a new band room by posting messages of appreciation on the school's Twitter site.

The appreciation came after Evergreen School Division trustees were given a virtual tour of the spacious room where band students learn how to read and play music (using very strict COVID safety protocols) and will prepare for performances once provincial public health permits them.

Grade 12 student Indiana Humniski, who had given a speech when the band room opened last November, said a number of music students were responsible for writing the appreciation messages that appeared on Twitter.

A few students spoke about the cramped conditions they had endured in the old band room and thanked those who fought for a new space.

"I wish I could fully express the appreciation I have for everyone that was involved with making this room happen," wrote one student. "I no longer need to do a set of stunts to get behind the drum kit. We all really needed this."

Another student wrote: "I am really grateful for the luxury of space in this new room. Now I don't knock over 5

"This room has inspired students to speak about what they believe is right. The whole journey has shown kids that their voices are valid and can make a change. The room itself has been extremely eye-opening as to showing what we're worth and knowing that the voices of our own peers made this possible."

One of messages posted on Twitter last week said student efforts created positive change.

saxophones and 3 tubas when I move around. Thank you for your resilience. You could have given up and embraced a 'no', but you didn't."

In her speech last November, Humniski reminded band peers and teachers that their fight for funding — after it had been initially turned down by the province and after a large group of band students went to the Legislature and questioned Premier Brian Pallister in the hallway — taught them a valuable lesson about perseverance for a worthy goal.

"I truly believe that through the



EXPRESS IMAGES COURTESY OF GIMLI HIGH SCHOOL

Grade 12 band student Indiana Humniski (at the front of the room in red) gave a rousing and humorous speech during the official opening of the band room last November.

fight for this band room, we all made a habit of perseverance and we definitely acted on it," said Humniski, who plays flute. "I honestly didn't think this day would ever come. ... We stuck it out and we prevailed. We showed so much courage through this journey, especially on the grounds of the Legislature. Some popular [media] channels called it an ambush, but I call it 'spontaneous conversation.'"

The band program is immensely

popular at Gimli High School among students in grades 9 to 12. They learn about music history, how to play an instrument, make up their own improvisations for the jazz band/orchestra and even learn how to conduct an orchestra. They were packed like sardines in a can in their old band room and had no relatively private space in which to practise, forcing them to find

Continued on page 9



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Researchers pleased with cover crop survey response

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The second round of the Prairie Cover Crop Survey has yielded some interesting early results.

University of Manitoba PhD student Callum Morrison said they received more responses overall than the year before and from a varied group of producers across Western Canada.

"We opened it up this year to people who had never grown a cover crop," he explained, noting over 350 producers have weighed in thus far, about 150 of which had never grown cover crops before.

Cover crops are those grown at a time when the land would otherwise be left bare, often during the shoulder seasons of spring or fall when the cash crop is not on the field. They've been gaining popularity across North America in recent years.

The survey, which Morrison is overseeing alongside assistant professor of agronomy and farming systems Dr. Yvonne Lawley, is designed to gather people's thoughts on this practice and find out what kinds of producers are using cover crops, what they're growing, and what benefits they might be seeing.

Expanding the survey's reach in 2020 allowed researchers to also hear from producers on the reasons why they haven't given cover crops a go before and what might make them decide to do so.

"We got such a wonderful snapshot" of what producers are thinking, Morrison said, noting that several things stood out to him from the results.

"We're really seeing the diversity of how cover crops are being used," he said for a start. "It's not just one group of farmers that are using them and they're not just using cover crops for one reason."

Looking at the Manitoban respondents alone (about 150 producers strong), many (47 respondents) have been growing cover crops for three to five years while 24 were giving it a try for the first time in 2020.

"Amazingly, we found 13 per cent have been growing them for more than 10 years," Morrison said. "So we know cover crops are relatively new here compared to the States, but there's still a sizeable portion that have been growing them for over a decade."

A quarter of Manitoba respondents

put their cover crops in after spring wheat. The next most common preceding crops were fall rye, canola, and oats.

The most popular cover crop by far was oats, with 55 per cent of respondents picking that as their crop of choice. Next up was peas and clover, respectively.

More than two-thirds of cover crop farmers reported that they grow a mix of species, most commonly two to three, and about half reported growing crops that die naturally over the winter so that additional herbicide or grazing is not required.

A good number of producers said they've seen benefits relatively quickly.

"I was in shock when I saw this because a lot of people will say it will take you a long time to see any benefits from cover crops, but for Manitoba about 40 per cent of farmers said they saw benefits within the first year," Morrison said.

Many producers reported seeing an increase in their profits thanks to cover crops. About one-quarter said they saw no significant increase. Only two producers reported a decrease in

profits.

When it came to common challenges, our province's short growing seasons and a lack of moisture topped the list.

"Really, our climate seems to be the biggest two hurdles," Morrison said.

Overall, Manitoba farmers, once they start growing cover crops, are more likely to grow more such acres year over year than they are to decrease them.

"That's another way to show whether farmers are enjoying it," Morrison pointed out. "You're only going to keep doing something and keep increasing your acres if you think it's doing some good."

Only one respondent reported actually decreasing their cover crop acres. The rest either increased them or, in a few cases, kept them the same.

Morrison plans to have more details about the survey results available in the months ahead. A series of in-depth focus groups on the topic are also in the works.

You can learn more online at <https://sites.google.com/view/prairiecovercropsurvey>.

Interlake Vet Services board clarifies vacancy

By Evan Matthews

The Arborg Veterinary Hospital and the Interlake Veterinary Services Board have clarified the situation in Arborg.

After a social media post alleged all staff Arborg Veterinary Hospital staff members had lost jobs and that the Interlake Veterinary Service Board was intentionally misleading the public, the two organizations have clarified their positions.

"Two of our full-time mixed practice veterinarians have resigned from their positions. Due to this event, Dr. Taylor has made the difficult decision to no longer manage the practice," a March 2 Facebook post from the Arborg Veterinary Hospital reads. The post notes Dr. Taylor has been running the practice for 18 years.

"All patient files will be transferred to Gimli Veterinary Services, and we welcome patrons to contact us for small animal care," it goes on, stating file transfers will be available, too.

The Arborg Veterinary Hospital's post also stated all veterinary technologists, assistants, receptionists and managers will continue to be employed by Gimli Veterinary Services.

The employees who work at the veterinary practice are employees of Dr. Taylor, not of the Interlake Services Board, according to board member Chad Johnson.

The Arborg Veterinary Hospital said in its Facebook post that the Interlake Veterinary Service Board is working to connect a vet to take over the facility as soon as possible, something Johnson had said in the *Express* previously.

Johnson doubles as Ward 2 councillor for the RM of Bifrost-Riverton.

In the Facebook group "Meanwhile in Arborg, Manitoba," a post by Debra Vandekerkhove alleged all staff members had lost jobs and that the Interlake Services Board misled the public by telling the *Express* it had put out job advertisements with the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association.

By press time, the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association had not listed an available job in Arborg, and Johnson clarified his original comments.

"It was recommended to us we list a job advertisement with the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association. It's possible they hadn't put it up on the site or there was some form of miscommunication, but we made arrangements over two weeks ago," said Johnson.

"But all to say, there is no new information relating to our search for a veterinarian," he said.

Vandekerkhove's Facebook post also alleged the *Express* should have interviewed a farmer, which Johnson took issue with.

"I've been a cattle farmer all my life, over 40 years just on my own. I know

what people are going through right now and the concern related to this. The first thing on my mind is calving, and we're doing what we can to get someone in that building," said Johnson.

"If we could have hired a veterinarian overnight, we would have. Some people like to make more of things than what's really there," he said.

Johnson acknowledged while someone may travel to another vet with a small pet, a large farm animal may require a vet for an on-site visit, which poses problems for farmers and their livestock if there isn't a vet nearby.

The Interlake Veterinary Services board owns the facility (that had been rented) and equipment that had been used by the Arborg Veterinary Hospital according to Johnson. Once a vet is found and agrees to manage the practice, Johnson said it can be as simple as unlocking the door and having them go to work.

When asked for comment on the situation, Arborg Veterinary Hospital staff referred the *Express* to Chad Johnson and the Interlake Veterinary Services board.

"IF WE COULD HAVE HIRED A VETERINARIAN OVERNIGHT, WE WOULD HAVE. SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO MAKE MORE OF THINGS THAN WHAT'S REALLY THERE."

Scholarship created to honour Fisher Branch student Ben Grocholski

By Patricia Barrett

A teenager who touched the hearts of the many and was well-known for lending a helping hand to community causes had a scholarship established in his name by members of the Fisher Branch community.

Ben Grocholski passed away this year on Jan. 9 at the age of 16. Despite his youth, the Fisher Branch Collegiate student had established himself as an actor and a model, signed on with a Winnipeg-based talent agency and was working in film and television. But he also contributed to his community, whether that entailed helping out younger students in Fisher Branch or taking part in fundraisers.

Ben's mom, Heidi Grocholski, said he was a tireless and enthusiastic volunteer, helping out wherever he could.

"Ben was always volunteering. He would volunteer for anything. We have ties to Hecla Island and every year there's a parade and every year Ben would help make parade floats and would be part of that parade without fail," said Grocholski by phone last week. "He was also involved in fundraising. He would go the Fisher Branch Early Years School every Friday to cook breakfast for the younger kids. He enjoyed that so much."

Ben attended the Manitoba Theatre for Young People for years, got private coaching and attended the Children's Acting Center in Winnipeg, said Grocholski. He earned supporting and lead roles in productions such as Universal Studio's *Channel Zero* on Netflix and *Steel* on Amazon Prime. He appeared in Manitoba-made films and made a commercial for the Manitoba Teachers Society. His modelling gigs included Winnipeg Outfitters and Showtime Productions.

"We never raised Ben to think that he was going to be a Hollywood star because we were told that only one per cent of actors make it to the big time; there's so much competition," said Grocholski. "We just taught him to work hard. And that's what he did and he really enjoyed it."

When he was 15, she said he decided to take a break from acting. He took a job at his aunt's store in Hnausa.

Grocholski said she and her husband had raised Ben to plan for his future, to be financially shrewd with the earnings he made from his arts career and to be a hard worker no matter what he did. And working hard was the approach he took to everything, whether he was carrying out chores on the family farm, doing his school work, helping the community or furthering his career.

He also enjoyed kicking back and

having a little fun on the dirt bike he got for his 13th birthday. His dad had bought it used, and Grocholski said she remembers Ben pushing it up the lane when it frequently stalled.

"That bike became something Ben and his dad could work on and fix up together," she said. "It was always breaking down. But it brought him and his dad closer fighting about that bike."

Throughout Ben's illness, the Fisher Branch community and people in Arborg and Riverton supported the family and held fundraisers so that they could take Ben for health-care treatments.

"I'm a lucky gal because we were really supported. We're lucky to be so close to the Fisher Branch community and other communities in the Interlake. You wouldn't believe what people did for us — raffles and fundraisers just so we could take Ben to treatments. And everybody, not only in Fisher Branch, came together; I grew up in Riverton and my husband Dale grew up in Arborg and both of our communities came together for us."

Three members of the Fisher Branch community decided to establish a student scholarship in Ben's name because of the example he set through his volunteering, his strong work ethic and his "impeccable manners," said Grocholski. She's hoping it will earn enough money to become an annual scholarship that area youth in communities such as Poplarfield, Fisher Branch, Hodgson and Broad Valley can apply for.

Amanda Bouchard, Lisa Mazur and Wendy Yuzwa, who now form Ben's scholarship committee, got together to discuss how they could best support the Grocholski family after Ben passed away and do something for the community at the same time.

Amanda Bouchard said she knew Ben from kindergarten at the early years school where she was principal and later at the collegiate where she now teaches grades 7 and 8 and is a part-time guidance counsellor.

"Ben touched our lives," said Bouchard by phone. "He was a kind and caring student and he understood the importance of volunteering for the community. All of us wanted to do something so that his legacy can live on."

Ben volunteered at school for the breakfast program, at Christ-

mas concerts and with recreational activities such as the curling program, said Bouchard.

"He was just that kid you could ask to help out anywhere and he would step up and do it with a smile. He was everything you could want in a child."

Last December, near the end of the school year, Bouchard said Ben spent time with his classmates outside, playing dodge ball.

"That was literally a month before he passed," she said, "but that was Ben; he was out there, smiling and having fun."

As this is the first year the scholarship will be awarded to a Fisher Branch Collegiate graduating student, and funds are still being donated, Bouchard said they have yet to establish a set amount.

The criteria for the award include a student who will be pursuing post-secondary studies and who has a record of volunteer service.

"Our hope is that the scholarship can carry on and be awarded every year for maybe five or 10 years so that all the students that knew Ben and his family can share in his memory," said Bouchard.

If public health restrictions around COVID-19 are eased in time for graduation this June, Bouchard said it would be nice if Ben's younger sister, another member of his family or one of his friends or classmates could present the scholarship rather than having teachers "hand students their diplomas and awards on the end of hockey sticks."

Community volunteer Lisa Mazur knew Ben from his involvement in the Fisher Branch youth curling program that she helps organize. He was also in the high school curling group.

"When he passed away, we thought, 'What can we do for his family as a community that could support them?' We couldn't spend time with them in person because of COVID," said Mazur by phone. "The scholarship was a way to channel our energy in a positive direction. The Grocholskis are part of the community, very positive people, very good people, and we needed to support them."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ben Grocholski passed away this year at the age of 16. Members of the Fisher Branch community established a student scholarship in his honour.

Mazur said her husband gave her the idea of setting up a scholarship as a way of "keeping Ben" in the Fisher Branch community, and she called up Bouchard and Wendy Yuzwa, who works at Noventis Credit Union, to help get it rolling.

Very quickly, the three women formed the committee, said Mazur. She also approached the municipality of Fisher and found it "very receptive" to providing scholarship donors with a tax receipt and advertising the scholarship on its website.

"I watched Ben grow up and knew he had lots of interests," said Mazur. "I feel this scholarship is a way to honour Ben's life for years to come and help support someone from the community Ben was a part of. This will help the children he went to school with. Hopefully, it will continue on for years."

Those wishing to make a donation towards the scholarship can visit the RM of Fisher administration office in Fisher Branch (cheques are to be payable RM of Fisher with a memo stating the Ben Grocholski Scholarship Fund) or the Noventis Credit Union (cheques payable to the Ben Grocholski Scholarship Fund).

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Collectibles going crypto?

By Evan Matthews

A new trend is emerging in the “collectibles” industry.

Market researchers such as Deloitte or industry experts such as Antique Sage have emphasized there is renewed worldwide interest and pursuit of collectibles as an option relating to investment portfolio diversification.

Hobbydb.com, a Boulder, Colorado-based company, self-identifies as building a giant database of every collectible ever made — from diecast cars to action figures to comic books to corkscrews. The company estimates the annual sales of collectibles to be roughly \$200 billion.

So, what is this new trend?

Digital collectibles, and as of now, the best example relates to sports.

NBA Top Shot is a website designed by Dapper Labs, in partnership with the NBA and NBA Players’ Association. The website offers users the ability to purchase “moments.” The same way a collector would purchase a hockey or baseball card, a collector can now purchase a digital basketball moment.

A “moment” is a five to 10 second video clip — an NBA player of your choice shooting a three-pointer, driving the lane for a layup or smashing down an uncontested slam dunk.

Attached to these moments are players’ stats and information, the same way it would be on a card.

But why purchase a moment that you could just go on to YouTube and watch for free?

Well, why purchase a hockey card that you could just go and find a picture of online and print out?

No different than the unique serial of a printed collectible, the digital encryption provides a serial number unique to each digital moment.

Sure, you can go on YouTube and watch the same moment for free, but you don’t own any unique aspect to it. Whereas if you purchase an NBA Top Shot moment, you do, in fact, own a unique and individual digital item.

The website has its own digital marketplace where collectors can day trade.

Once a collector owns a moment, they can either showcase it on the NBA Top Shot website and social media or they can re-list it for whatever price they see fit on NBA Top Shot’s marketplace.

Once a sale is made, collectors have the opportunity to withdraw U.S. dollars in a cryptocurrency called Ethereum, which they can then subsequently convert and withdraw into Canadian dollars.

As of press time, the lowest ask for a moment for sale was US\$6. However, a 2014 moment featuring the reigning NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo sold last week for almost \$137,000. Forbes has reported digital

collectibles using the cryptocurrency — blockchain technology — will grow into a \$200-billion annual revenue opportunity.

For those who don’t know, blockchain technology refers to a service acting as a cryptocurrency wallet — and a cryptocurrency exchange, in this case converting U.S. dollars to Ethereum to Canadian dollars — supporting two largest cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin and Ethereum.

Now, this is not an advocacy effort suggesting everyone buy in to this idea, but it is something to watch.

Could the financial bottom fall out of NBA Top Shots? Absolutely. Could the same happen to any or all cryptocurrencies? Anything is possible.

But so far, NBA Top Shot has already seen \$230 million in sales, and the website is still in its beta format.

As for Bitcoin, the most traded and recognized cryptocurrency? Well, it’s been around since 2010, when it was valued at \$0.08 U.S. dollars for a single Bitcoin. In 2020, a single Bitcoin is now valued at \$50,742 U.S. dollars, and increasing in value daily.

Does everyone understand cryptocurrency? No. Is there inherent risk? Yes.

Can we deny the existence of economic change and a digital shift any longer? No.

The proof is in the numbers, and the numbers are only growing.

letter to the editor

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NEWS > VIEWS > GIMLI > ARBORG > HIGHWAY 6 > SURROUNDING AREAS



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MATTHIEU MEIER

The first goose of the year was spotted at Oak Hammock Marsh on March 4 at 1:05 p.m. This pair were photographed at the marsh on March 8. Since 1994 Oak Hammock has kept track of the first sighting each year, which has typically been between March 3 and March 20. The earliest recorded arrival was Feb. 21, 2017, at 1:45 p.m. and the latest recorded arrival was April 6, 1996, at 7 p.m. Help us record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends and/or families enjoying the outdoors. Email your photo to weather@expressweeklynews.ca

Clocks spring forward this Sunday for daylight savings

Staff

Daylight Saving Time goes into effect on Sunday, March 14, when clocks will “spring forward” by one hour beginning at 2 a.m. The shift will essentially make it darker in the early morning hours, while leaving one extra hour of light in the evening.

It also means that March 14 will only be 23 hours long, and you’ll lose sleep if you have fixed times for waking up on the weekend. Regardless, you’ll probably feel a bit discombobulated over the following days as you adjust to a different sunlight schedule.

Continued on page 12

Province eases back on some restrictions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Another step in Manitoba’s slow return to some semblance of normalcy was taken Friday as the province’s latest public health orders came into effect.

At a press conference outlining the orders on March 2, Premier Brian Pallister stressed that while the province’s vaccination program is making some headway, “we are not out of the woods yet” when it comes to battling COVID-19.

That’s why Manitoba will continue with a slow but steady approach to re-opening, the premier said, explaining there will be two phases of health restriction rollbacks in the weeks ahead.

“These changes, once again, are cautious changes to ensure we continue to protect and safeguard Manitoba lives,” Pallister said.

Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba’s chief public health officer, went on to outline the first phase of orders, which came into effect March 5 and remain active until March 25.

“Manitoba’s case numbers and test positivity rates continue to trend in the right direction,” he said. “That’s

why we’re able to begin to look at other options to cautiously reopen services in Manitoba.”

Changes to the public health orders in effect throughout Manitoba include:

- Households can either continue to designate two visitors to their homes or designate a second household so that two households can visit each other, as long as everyone in the house has authorized those designated individuals to visit.

- Gathering limits at an outdoor public or private place increase to 10 people, including for outdoor non-organized sport or recreation activities.

- Places of worship have increased capacity size of 25 per cent or 100 people, whichever is lower, with physical distancing measures in place and mask requirements.

- All business types are now able to operate, with the exception of indoor theatres, indoor concert halls, casinos and bingo halls.

- Retail stores, malls and personal services have increased capacity limits of up to 50 per cent or 250 people, whichever is lower, with other public

health measures still in effect.

- Restaurants and licensed premises have increased capacity limits of up to 50 per cent, with the requirement for tables to sit with only household members. Other public health measures remain in effect.

- Businesses other than casinos can resume operating video lottery terminals.

- Professional theatre groups, dance companies, symphonies and operas can resume rehearsals that are not accessible to members of the public.

- Day camps for children can operate at 25 per cent capacity.

- Indoor recreation and sporting facilities such as gyms, fitness centres, rinks, courts, fields, ranges, studios, clubs, pools and centres can open at 25 per cent total capacity, with public health measures in place including for spectators, common areas and locker rooms. The requirement to provide one-on-one instructions has been removed.

- Gym, fitness centres and pool users must continue to wear a mask while working out and in all other areas of the facility, with the exception

of while in a swimming pool.

- Dance, theatre and music facilities can open for a total capacity of 25 per cent.

- Indoor recreational facilities such as arcades, go-kart tracks and children’s facilities can open at 25 per cent capacity with physical distancing measures in place.

A further easing of restrictions could come into effect in a few weeks.

“Later in March we’ll continue to evaluate whether we will stay at this level or continue to cautiously reopen,” Roussin said.

He stressed that people still need to take steps to protect themselves from contracting and spreading the virus.

“We shouldn’t interpret these reopenings as a reduction in our risk,” Roussin said. “We were at this place before. We know that if let our guards down we’re going to see transmission of this virus again. So we all have to be on guard, continue to practise those fundamentals.” That includes the continued use of masks, practising good hand hygiene, physical distancing and staying home when showing even mild symptoms of illness.

Province issues third round of Manitoba Bridge Grant payments

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is increasing its budget for the Manitoba Bridge Grant and making a third round of payments to help protect businesses in the province from the impacts of COVID-19, Premier Brian Pallister announced on March 2.

"As the pandemic and public health orders continue to impact businesses, we are increasing our budget by \$15 million for the Manitoba Bridge Grant to help create a bridge for businesses through this challenging time," said Pallister. "We are focused on creating an environment for a sustained reopening of our economy so that businesses can reopen safely and stay open. We continue to work side-by-side with all businesses to help them get back to doing what they do best – create jobs for Manitobans and offer the services Manitobans rely on."

Through a third round of payments,

the province will provide up to \$67 million in immediate support to eligible small and medium-sized businesses, not-for-profits and charities impacted by the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System. This brings the total program investment to \$215 million, which is \$15 million above the province's original commitment of \$200 million. The province has also extended the Manitoba Bridge Grant application deadline until March 31.

Eligible businesses that received a first and second bridge grant payment, each worth up to \$5,000, will automatically receive a third equal payment beginning as early as Friday, March 5 and will be notified of the deposit via email. New program applicants will be eligible for a one-time immediate payment to a maximum of \$15,000.

"This additional payment will help cover the impact of public health or-

ders on operating costs pending the careful reopening of our province, as well as help businesses with reopening costs as we safely loosen public health orders," said Pallister. "We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices our business community has made to keep all Manitobans safe and the crucial role it plays in our safe reopening plans."

The province created the Manitoba Bridge Grant in November 2020 to provide \$5,000 upfront to businesses, not-for-profits and charities directly affected by public health restrictions and temporarily ordered to close their storefronts to the public. It expanded the program Dec. 8, 2020, to support home-based businesses indirectly impacted by public health orders, offering up to \$5,000 based on 10 per cent of their most recent calendar year revenues. The province expanded program eligibility Jan. 8 to include

hotels, resorts, lodges and outfitters, travel agencies, janitorial services companies and owner/operators of licensed passenger transportation businesses that saw demand for their services impacted by public health orders.

To date, the Manitoba Bridge Grant program has paid approximately \$134 million to 14,775 eligible applicants. This includes approximately \$117 million to more than 11,700 storefront businesses and organizations, and \$17 million to more than 2,400 home-based businesses.

More information about the Manitoba Bridge Grant is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/programs/bridge-grant.html.

Businesses that require assistance in completing the online form can contact Manitoba Government Inquiry at 204-945-3744 or 1-866-MANITOBA (1-866-626-4862).

Legislation introduced to ensure Legal Aid Manitoba can be more responsive

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is introducing changes to the Legal Aid Manitoba Act that would give Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM) the authority to set fees for private bar lawyers, Justice Minister Cameron Friesen announced Thursday.

"Giving Legal Aid Manitoba the responsibility over the tariff will ensure that Legal Aid has the ability to make adjustments quickly and manage services more effectively," said Friesen. "Fees have not increased for years; we acknowledge the importance of addressing this in order to ensure that lawyers will continue to choose this important field of practice."

The proposed amendment would

ensure that LAM has the necessary levers and tools available to make modifications quickly to ensure fair or reasonable services. This would also provide opportunities to make adjustments when law or procedures change.

LAM provides free or affordable legal services to low-income Manitobans and ensures access to justice for those who are disadvantaged and facing a well-resourced individual or entity in court. These services are delivered using a mixed model, with roughly half of the cases handled by lawyers on staff and the other half of cases handled by private bar lawyers who are paid a fee for each case. Fees for private lawyers are currently

set out in provincial regulation based on an hourly rate, which has not increased since 2008.

Early last year, the province released an independent review of Legal Aid Manitoba that identified several important opportunities for improvements. The report included a number of recommendations to improve legal services and support the sustainability of the organization, including amendments to the Legal Aid Act to give Legal Aid the authority to set the tariff as they see fit.

This change aligns with Manitoba's throne speech commitment to enhance the provision of legal aid to ensure it delivers on its core mandate to efficiently provide legal services for

those who cannot afford them. The minister noted it also supports the goal of Manitoba's Criminal Justice System Modernization Strategy to improve the timeliness of the justice system including bail hearings.

LAM operates at arm's length from government and is funded by the Manitoba government, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Law Foundation and fees paid by clients. Similar programs exist across Canada. For more information about LAM, visit www.legalaid.mb.ca/.

The independent review of LAM and its recommendations are available online at www.gov.mb.ca/justice under Publications.

Sales tax and health and post-secondary education deadlines extended

Staff

Manitoba Finance is extending its tax relief measures to provide extra support to businesses, as the province continues to protect Manitobans against the impacts of COVID-19.

Small and medium-sized businesses with retail sale tax (RST) remittances of no more than \$10,000 per month are eligible for an interest and penalty-free payment deferral to June 30, 2021. The deferral is for the January,

February, March, April and May 2021 return periods. Businesses are also eligible for an interest and penalty-free payment deferral until June 30, 2021, for the March quarterly RST return.

As well, the Health and Post-Secondary Education Tax Levy returns for small and medium-sized businesses with remittances of no more than \$10,000 per month are eligible for an interest and penalty free payment deferral to June 30, 2021. The deferral is for the January, February, March, April and May 2021 return periods. The RST and tax levy deferrals are optional and for tax payments only. Businesses must continue to file returns by the required due dates.

The province has also extended the

previous interest and penalty-free repayment option set to expire March 31, 2021, until June 30, 2021.

The deferrals recognize Manitoba businesses are facing a challenging economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and some businesses may need access to these extra funds. The government provided similar relief in 2020, which benefited 20,000 businesses.

Businesses can contact the collections unit at the taxation division to update payment arrangements. Further information regarding filing requirements is available on the Manitoba tax publications webpage at www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation/bulletins.html.

**Beaver Creek
Bible Camp**

will be holding its

AGM

**on March 18 @ 7:30PM
via Zoom.**

**To request a link, contact
bcbc@lakenet.ca.**

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The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

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THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Manitoba delaying COVID-19 shot second doses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's vaccine task force announced a major change to the rollout of the COVID-19 shots last week.

Dr. Joss Reimer, the task force's medical lead, said the province is increasing the length of time between first and second doses of the vaccine. This change could allow every eligible Manitoban to receive a first dose of the vaccine by the end of May or June, depending on vaccine supply.

"This approach will allow us to immunize more eligible Manitobans sooner," Reimer said. "This helps protect us all."

Manufacturers of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines recommend second doses be administered three or four weeks after the first.

But recent guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) has stated the interval between doses could potentially be extended to four months without losing a great deal of effectiveness.

"These vaccines are providing a significant level of protection even after one dose," Reimer explained. "This

means that there is more of a clear advantage to getting vaccine to more people sooner."

Data from other parts of Canada, the United Kingdom and Israel have put first dose efficacy of the vaccines to be between 70 and 80 per cent.

"That's excellent real-world vaccine effectiveness," Reimer said, noting, of course, the vaccines have not been out long enough to get four-month data yet.

"We feel very comfortable with the data that we have in front of us, that it's been so consistent in so many different jurisdictions to provide that high level of effectiveness up until two months,"

she said. "But we also will be watching and if there's any signs after that two month point that immunity starts to decrease, we can pivot again."

"That's the nature of science — we are always putting out our best plan but then testing it and watching," Reimer said. "We need to be ready to adapt to new information as it comes

in ... we feel that, based on the information available to us, this is the best plan."

Health officials have said that all second-dose appointments made before this change was announced will be honoured.

It's also important to note that a second dose of the vaccine is still needed for full protection.

"For long-lasting immunity, that second dose is really important," Reimer stressed. "We don't want to have to do this next year."

"The whole world is watching"

Reimer also addressed questions about the differences between the various vaccines now approved for use in Canada, including the newer AstraZeneca vaccine.

"Clinical and real-world studies have shown all of these vaccines to be effective in preventing COVID-19," she said. "The people who have been immunized are much less likely to not only become infected but also to have severe symptoms if they do become infected."

While these vaccines were developed quickly they still had to meet certain standards before being approved for use.

"There have clinical trials, there

have been data reviews — all of the processes associated with a more typical vaccine authorization process," Reimer said. "Data on these vaccines are growing all the time and they continue to be very closely monitored. In fact, the whole world is watching as these vaccines get rolled out."

She pointed out that this close monitoring and quick reporting of any potential side effects doesn't happen with any other type of medical intervention.

"So we know far more about the vaccine safety than we do any prescription that I might write in my clinic, for example," Reimer said. "For me, the development of these vaccines shows what we are capable of on an international scale when there's a strong collective will to protect people's health."

Reimer urged people to get vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available as soon as they are eligible.

"They have all been tested and they have all been found to be safe and effective," she said.

Up-to-date vaccination eligibility guidelines and details about booking your appointment are available online at manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html

**"THIS APPROACH
WILL ALLOW US
TO IMMUNIZE
MORE ELIGIBLE
MANITOBA
SOONER."**

Case numbers on the right track, but risk remains: Roussin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Public health officials announced 63 new cases of COVID-19 and one new virus-related death on Monday.

That brought the total of lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 32,288.

There were 1,145 active cases, 30,236 recoveries and 907 total deaths due to the virus at press time. Manitoba has thus far reported six cases of the B117 COVID-19 variant and three of the B1351 variant.

"Our case numbers for the most part continue to improve, trend in the right direction, as do our hospitalization numbers," said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer. "However, we still see many individu-

als in hospital, still see many individuals still in intensive care.

"So there continues to be a need for us to be on guard. The variants of concern add to that need. We are still at risk."

A total of 164 people were in hospital due to the virus on Monday, 22 in intensive care. Fifty-four of those patients were considered to be contagious.

The five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was 3.5 per cent provincially and 2.4 per cent in Winnipeg.

Our health region, Interlake-Eastern, had a total of 138 active cases at press time on Monday and 10 people in hospital, including three in ICU.

Breaking down the numbers further in the Interlake-Eastern region, there were 110 active cases in Northern Remote and five in Powerview/Pine Falls at the start of the week.

Arborg/Riverton, Beausejour, Erksdale/Ashern, Fisher River/Peguis Gimli, Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet, Selkirk, Springfield, St. Clements, St. Laurent, Stonewall/Teulon, Unknown, Whiteshell and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews were all reporting zero active cases.

These areas together have seen 2,255 recoveries and 36 deaths since the pandemic began a year ago.

> BAND ROOM, FROM PG. 3

a quiet closet to play in at school.

Humniski said future band students will benefit from the bright large space.

"This legacy will extend far beyond our own graduation, providing space for generations to come," she said. "This was our gift for their futures."

Band student Lin Howelko, who

plays piano, said via text last week that power in numbers lay behind their success in getting funding for the new room.

"If the fight for this room has taught me anything, it is that we can accomplish anything if we all 'band together,'" said Howelko.

Division Supt. Roza Gray said CO-

VID has really hampered the music program, but GHS has found a solution to keep students together, so to speak, while keeping them apart.

"COVID restrictions have had a significant impact on playing instruments," said Gray by email. "Due to a creative work-around, we now have very limited playing — within the restrictions. One student per room, per day — with a number of rooms linked so students can play 'together.'"

Notice of Environment Act Proposal

Manitoba Conservation and Climate has received a proposal pursuant to The Environment Act regarding the following operation and invites public participation in the review process:

FAROEX LTD. - FAROEX GIMLI FACILITY - FILE NO: 6034.00

An Environment Act Proposal has been filed by Faroex Ltd. for the continued operation of a pultruded and injection molded products manufacturing facility at 123 Anson Street and 126 Municipal Drive in Gimli, Manitoba. Faroex Ltd manufactures large and small profiled glass-reinforced fibers and plastic or foam molded parts. The facility supplies various products for the hog industry, transit industry, wind turbine industry, and infrastructure markets.

Anyone likely to be affected by the above operation and who wishes to comment on the proposal should contact Eshetu Beshada, Environmental Engineer, in writing or by email at Eshetu.Beshada@gov.mb.ca not later than April 11, 2021. Further information is available from the Online Public Registry: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries>

Information submitted in response to this proposal is considered public information and will be made available to the proponent and placed on the public registry established in accordance with Section 17 of The Environment Act.

**Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Climate**

1007 Century Street
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W4
Toll Free: 1-800-282-8069
Fax: 204-945-5229

Website: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries>



Selkirk vaccination supersite up and running

By Nicole Buffie

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority reached another milestone in the fight against COVID-19 this past Monday as the newest vaccination supersite opened at the former Selkirk and District General Hospital.

Among the first to be vaccinated at the site was Calvin Long.

"I feel no different than I did when I walked in," said Long, 93, after receiving his vaccine.

Another resident to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech shot was Donnamay Innes, a resident from Gimli. She said it was a relief to have the site in Selkirk, meaning those in the area don't have to commute to Winnipeg or Brandon to receive their jabs.

"For a lot of people from the country, they maybe don't know their way around the city," Innes, 68, said. "I was happy that we'll just have to go this far."

Health Minister Heather Stefanson and MLA Dr. Alan Lagimodiere (Selkirk) were also in attendance of the new site reveal, receiving a tour of the registration, vaccination and observation areas.

The site is one of four supersites to open in the province, providing inoculations for those eligible including any member of the general public the age of 80 and over, and First Nations 60 years and older.

The site has 15 vaccination stations in total and had 198 people scheduled to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech shot on opening day. Shannon Montgomery, regional director of public health and wellness for the IERHA, said they plan to ramp up

numbers to provide 1,000 doses per week.

"As the vaccines start to flow, which is not a real problem today, then we'll be happy to be putting vaccines in people's arms," she said.

Montgomery said while the site can only provide the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the moment, as different vaccines are approved community clinics will be able to inoculate eligible persons as well.

"We'll be doing pop-up clinics as we move forward," she said.

"[They] will come into the community and pop up for the day, do six or eight clinics, and then return maybe a week later or two weeks later and keep that rotation through the region going until we get as many Manitobans with shots in their arms as we can."

Supply chain disruptions have caused a hiccup in the number of people able to receive their shots. However, with the recent federal approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine the government is hopeful their timeline for inoculations stays on track. The province estimates with a high-supply scenario they can provide first doses of vaccines to all eligible Manitobans by mid-May. Under the low-supply scenario, the timeline moves to the end of June.

As for the Selkirk supersite, any eligible person can book their appointment at the location even if they do not reside in the area. Those in the community wishing to get their jabs at one of the Winnipeg, Brandon or Thompson locations can do so as well. As of March 7, 90,927 doses of vaccines had been administered.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY NICOLE BUFFIE

IERHA regional director of public health and wellness Shannon Montgomery, Health Minister Heather Stefanson and MLA Dr. Alan Lagimodiere (Selkirk) receive a tour of the COVID-19 vaccination supersite at the former Selkirk and District General Hospital this past Monday.



Gimli's Donnamay Innes, 68, was the first person to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at the new supersite.

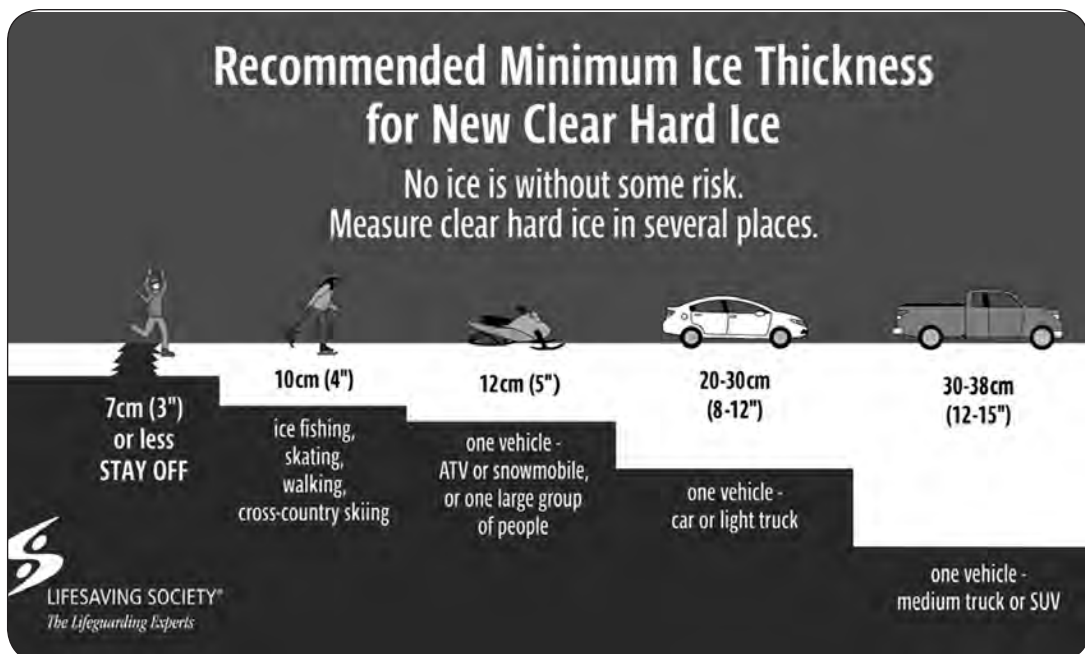
Warmer weather brings thinner ice

Submitted by the Lifesaving Society of Manitoba

Due to the ongoing above average and fluctuating temperatures in the province, Lifesaving Society Manitoba is advising everyone to stay off frozen bodies of water. All ice in the province is now unpredictable and potentially unsafe.

"If you do choose to go on the ice, then you need to plan ahead and be prepared to go through the ice and into cold water," said Lifesaving Society Water Smart co-ordinator Dr. Christopher Love. "Wear something that floats, like a lifejacket over your winter clothes, don't go out alone, and be prepared to perform a rescue."

Lifesaving Society Manitoba's Ice Safety Thickness Cards are now available in nine different languages. The cards tell you how thick the ice needs to be to walk or drive on it. However, no ice should be considered without some risk.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Thicknesses of ice required to hold various weights of objects.

Riverton woman earns law degree; Indigenous voice

By Evan Matthews

Now a graduate from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law, Kelly Taylor said she didn't always know she'd be a lawyer.

Taylor, 35, has been a Riverton resident all her life.

In her early adult life, Taylor said she worked with teenage foster girls for roughly seven years. In that time, Taylor became more excited at the thought of post-secondary education, when thinking of the policies relating to child welfare.

"A lot of the kids I worked with were Indigenous. A lot of them were apprehended at a young age. I'm Indigenous; that's the perspective I come from," said Taylor.

"A lot of these girls who had been apprehended still felt a bond to their family even though they had never lived with them. Advocating for that bond, that connection to one's community... I realized I wanted to learn more and get that education," she said.

Though her family is from Berens River First Nation, Taylor said she didn't have a lot of connection to the community, originally. Her aunts and uncles could speak Ojibwe, but Taylor said she doesn't due to the residential schools her grandparents went to.

It was in university while taking Indigenous studies that Taylor found herself immersed in her own culture.

"I was learning about policies and how the Indian Act — and the treaties that were not adhered to — were detrimental to Indigenous people, and that they've been restricted by these policies," said Taylor, expressing frustration that she learned about

her own culture through educational institutions.

Whereas Taylor said she could have and should have learned about her culture from family. Government policy forever altered the course of how she would learn of and interpret her own heritage.

"That's when I found my voice. I didn't have the intention of going to law school, and I'm still not sure I'll go to work for an actual firm," she said.

Tanis Grimolfson, executive director for the Riverton and District Friendship Centre, said she's known Taylor since she was just a little girl, but more recently Taylor has been heavily involved with the RDFC.

But at one point, Grimolfson even employed Taylor at D&T's Shop Easy Foods. Grimolfson described a young Kelly as fun, loving and a lover of sports. She said it isn't surprising to see Taylor succeeding.

"She was always very efficient and hardworking," said Grimolfson, "whilst always having a smile on her face."

Taylor referred to Grimolfson as an influence and mentor in her life, something she'll always be thankful for.

Being affiliated with a grassroots organization like RDFC, and now having extensive knowledge of Indigenous studies and legalese, Taylor said she's positioned herself to help advocate on behalf of Indigenous people.

"I really enjoy research and policy and understanding how policy is developed from the law. My goal is to work in policy development," said Taylor.

"Doing it from an Indigenous perspective. Historically, the policy and laws were formulated from



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY KELLY TAYLOR
Kelly Taylor in February 2020 at the "Carbolic Smoke Ball" hosted at Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

non-Indigenous perspectives. Those policies hindered Indigenous people.

"There are social problems today from these policies, and I don't think a lot of the issues created and being experienced today can be dealt with appropriately without Indigenous perspectives."

Thanks for painted stones

By Patricia Barrett

With the snow quickly melting at the Gimli Cemetery came a surprise for a family visitor to a gravesite.

Olle Bear found a painted stone and a poppy on his dad's grave, and he later took to social media to thank the person who left them there.

"I went to visit my Dad's grave yesterday and noticed a painted rock and a poppy on the marker," wrote Bear, last Saturday. "I would like to thank whoever put it there (Carol was on the back of the rock). Upon looking at other military graves there were more painted rocks and poppies. Thanks again to whoever did this, it was very moving and a very nice surprise."

Last November, Gimli residents Carol Simonson, her dad Carl, who served in the Korean War, her neighbour Victoria Smith and other neighbours had taken

it upon themselves to honour the dozens of veterans in Gimli Cemetery after Remembrance Day services were cancelled or curtailed because of COVID-19. They had laid decorated stones on all the veterans' graves.

Simonson, who is the cemetery's supervisor, had collected stones from Gimli Beach and painted them in different colours with poppies and messages such as "Lest We Forget," "In Flanders Fields" and "Brave."

When reached by phone last Sunday, Simonson she said she was pleased to hear that Bear appreciated the gesture. The snow is starting to melt around the graves so people will start to see them.

"This is the first bit of feedback I've had from people," said Simonson. "This makes my heart happy. I'm glad someone was there to visit."



EXPRESS FACEBOOK

Olle Bear discovered a painted stone and poppy on his dad's grave last weekend and thanked those who made the kind gesture.

> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS, FROM PG. 7

Clocks are pushed ahead one hour in spring to what's commonly called "daylight saving time," an idea first used in Germany during the First World War with the goal of saving energy. It aims to take advantage of day-

light hours in the spring so that people don't sleep through the first few hours of sunshine.

When the daylight period gets shorter in the fall, the clocks are readjusted to the proper "local standard time."



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Spectacular northern lights



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MELISSA TOKARIWSKI

The aurora borealis, or northern lights, have been dancing up a storm over Manitoba over the last few weeks. A large number of pictures of this spectacle have been posted to social media by those fortunate enough to catch the show. This photo was taken from the shores of Lake Winnipeg. The bright dancing lights of the aurora are actually collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the earth's atmosphere. The lights are seen above the magnetic poles of the northern and southern hemispheres. They are known as "aurora borealis" in the north and "Aurora australis" in the south.

Auroral displays appear in many colours, although pale green and pink are the most common. Shades of red, yellow, green, blue and violet can also be seen. The lights appear in many forms from patches or scattered clouds of light to streamers, arcs, rippling curtains or shooting rays that light up the sky with an eerie glow.

Combining dentures and dental implants

By Elisha Vador

Why not have the best of both worlds? To make the transition to dentures easier and a whole new experience, you can combine a denture with dental implants! Dental implants help the dentures function like natural teeth would, which provides a sense of normalcy when eating and talking with dentures. For Don, a recent patient, he said the dental implants combined with his denture has "changed his life!"

Basically, a dental implant acts the same way a natural tooth root does. When a natural tooth is pulled the root goes with it. A dental implant replaces that root and mimics its function, which keeps the jawbone from shrinking because the dental implant continues to stimulate the bone with the force of chewing and biting. When dentures are removed from the mouth the facial structure somewhat collapses because the

dentures are its support system.

We know dental implant technology is the answer to specific anti-aging problems. They improve looks, chewing, and are safe. So then, what is the process to get these? What kind do you choose? Honestly, it can be different for each individual based on their preference and oral situation, so it all starts with a conversation with Brock, where he will go over your options and various price points. For example, do you want your teeth permanent or removable? Even those who have been wearing dentures for years are able to combine dental implants with full upper and/or lower dentures. A fantastic option for someone who has a loose lower denture is a removable denture that snaps into two dental implants to secure it into place. Alternatively, teeth can be placed permanently for both the upper and lower with dental

implants. This is a common choice for patients who are ready to have the function and feel of natural teeth again. You may have heard of us talk about it before and refer to it as the Freedom Smile™.

There's so much more to discuss, but I'm running out of room! This is when your part kicks in. If you have any questions about dental implants, which I know you do, then book a free consultation to come in and talk to our Denturists Brock and Matthew. They have the answers you've been looking for. In fact, I often ask them my questions about dental implants, like titanium or Zirconia ceramic, which is better? What has a better success rate, mini or full-sized dental implants? It's so important to be well-informed and we want to make sure you feel comfortable with the decision you've made, whether you're starting with dentures or wanting to combine dentures with dental implants!



After having the dental implants placed, Do-reen says she "can't believe the difference. It's a great improvement."

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Celebrating the commonality of being human

Submitted by Bruce Benson

If you walk down to the beach in Gimli, near the library you will see a flagpole. Flying at the top of that flagpole is The Flag of Humanity. At the moment it is slightly frayed, but that can be fixed. We can replace it.

Near the flagpole is a plaque that reads "The Flag of Humanity — celebrating the commonality of being human."

It continues "No matter a person's religion, or lack thereof; no matter a person's skin colour, nationality or politics — these differences are as nothing compared to what we have in common ... we are human."

I was speaking with former Gimli Mayor Tammy Axelson recently and she said — I am paraphrasing here — that flag and the message it sends is much needed in the world today. I agree.

I was in China when the proverbial hit the fan. Jinan, Shandong province, is 850 kilometres from Wuhan, where it is speculated the coronavirus came from. At the time we in Jinan felt sorry for the people of Wuhan. I have friends there, had spoken at a university there the year before. We felt sorry for the people of Wuhan and indeed all of Hubei province, 60 million people, but we never thought the virus would reach us. History shows just how wrong we were.

I lost my job teaching English shortly after that, and the entire country went into lockdown.

People complain about restrictions here in Manitoba, but it is nothing compared to the lockdown in China last winter. Nothing. I remember standing in the middle of an eight-lane highway in a city of seven million people with no cars going in either direction. It was apocalyptic.

Since I lost my job, couldn't travel and everybody was freaking out, I started doing two-hour internet "shows." I had a translator sitting beside me the whole time. I would sing, recite poetry, dance, cook western food, juggle ... anything to distract people who were totally confined to their homes and, let's face it, beginning to panic.

In all the shows I had two main messages. First, I am from Canada. I can leave anytime I want, but I won't because I am not going to panic. I take my precautions. I wash my hands and wear a mask, but I will not panic. Neither should you.

The second, related to the first and undeliverable if the first did not exist, "We will get through this together."

Then I would introduce The Flag of Humanity, celebrating the commonality of being human. We are all in this together.

This is where the world sits now. We need to get through this together. We can't flee from this. There is no running back to Canada; there is no running anywhere. There is no running away from this truth.

The Flag of Humanity is two sets of hands in silhouette, shadow, to represent all the skin colours of the people on earth. Small hands represent children and larger hands represent adults. The adult hands are passing the earth to the child's hands. It is relatively simple, but that image was four years in the making.

It has now travelled much of the world, celebrating that commonality of being human. But this pandemic, which does not care about a person's religion, skin colour, nationality or politics, has made it all the more relevant. If this tiny virus is such an equal-opportunity villain, we can be equal-opportunity heroes.

But not just in battling this pandemic. If we see starvation, genocide, slavery, injustice, wherever in the world, we should act. We are in this together. There is a commonality of being human that supercedes our differences.

The Flag of Humanity is just that, a flag. But flags are powerful things. Every nation on earth has a flag. Millions of American children pledge allegiance to their flag every



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Bruce Benson wearing a shirt in front of the capitol building in DC.

morning in school. And in the course of human history millions of men and women have followed a flag, or banner, into battle to kill or be killed. So flags are powerful things, and as powerful flags go I believe the Flag of Humanity can be the most powerful of all because it represents all of us.

This is a pivotal time in human history, and I would like to see this flag, a simple image that represents all of us, in every school on earth, with the message of what it means.

In speaking at a conference in Florida, schools in China and even Gimli, wherever I was in the world, there has been a universal acceptance of the concept. I will not live to see it in every school on earth, but I believe it will happen.

I have often asked the question, what would be the result, or return on investment if you will, if for three generations children in one country could look at the Flag of Humanity flying over their school, government buildings, libraries (especially libraries) at sporting events, and do so knowing that children in other countries, though they have a different nationality of course, perhaps a different skin colour, political system, religion ... are

Continued on page 18

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Your FARM



Mixed farmer maintains five income streams

By Jennifer McFee

Although he might be among the last of the small mixed farmers, an Argyll man enjoys trying out new forms of agricultural technology.

Ian Smith generates his entire income from five different sources on his quarter-section that he bought from his parents, Malcolm and Audrey, in 1994. The industrious farmer cares for a couple hundred naturally raised pigs, 15 head of cattle, 85 laying hens as well as three fields — one for canola that he sells, one that he rents out to another farmer and one for barley that he uses for feed.

"I'm the last of the true mixed farmers in the province, meaning I have a little bit of everything. Hardly nobody has a quarter-section anymore. If they do, they don't have as much diversity as I have here," said Smith, who drives a 1954 John Deere 60 tractor.

"I have no off-farm income here. I have no pension coming in. I have no spouse here that's working off the farm. I have no other money to rely on except what I'm making off this farm."

When Smith's parents bought the farm in 1953, it came with some dairy cattle. Although they shifted their focus to hogs, they still kept cattle over the years.

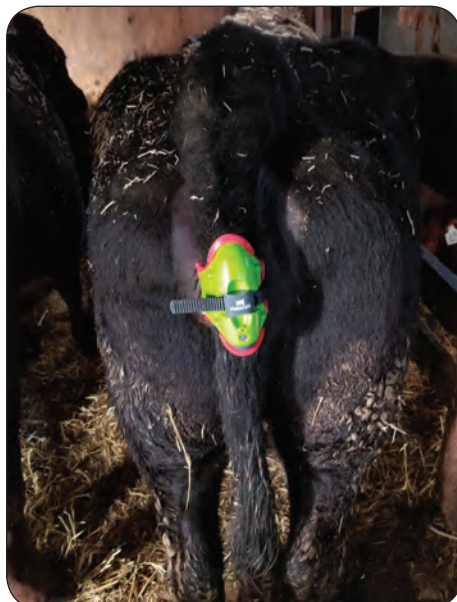
Since it's preferable if cattle remain calm in order to gain more weight, Smith decided to try the docile shorthorn breed. He bought four registered shorthorn heifers from Tom Walls of Balmoral in 2017, followed by two more the next year.

"He's been my mentor and guides me through," Smith said of Walls.

Now, Smith and Walls are the only two registered shorthorn breeders in the Interlake. In total, there are about 20 registered shorthorn breeders in the province, Smith notes.

Shorthorns were the first registered breed in North America, he adds. He refers to his animals as "Armac" shorthorns — "Ar" for "Argyle" and "Mac" for his dad's first name (which was actually Malcolm, but everyone called him Mac.) His family, his community and the shorthorn breed all have ties that bind to Scotland.

With an appreciation for agricultural history, Smith also keeps his eye on the future of the industry — and he doesn't shy away from incorporating



The Moocall sensor is attached to the cow's tail two to three days before her due date. It sends regular updates when the cow is going to calve with 95 per cent accuracy.

new technology.

About two months ago, Smith installed cameras in his cow barn so he could keep an eye on his cattle remotely.

"The cameras are quite a novelty. They're pretty nice to have. I can sit in the house and watch the cows calve from my couch. I can watch it on TV



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Ian Smith with one of his shorthorn cows and her calf.

or the computer or even my phone," he said.

"There's a camera in the centre of the barn on the ceiling and I can turn it around from inside my house or anywhere from my phone. I could be in Winnipeg and turn the camera

around to see what's going on with each cow."

A couple weeks ago, he also added another technological feature — a

Continued on page 16



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Your FARM



The varied value of trees

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Valley Water District is urging landowners to give some thought this spring to the value of shelterbelts.

Clinton Cavers, the district's GROW Program co-ordinator, says they're doing everything they can to incentivize people to plant and maintain new shelterbelts, including providing partial funding and labour for tree planting projects.

It can still be a hard sell, though, in an area where land values are so high.

"Most people want to farm as many acres as they possible can get," Cavers

says.

"Shelterbelts were pretty popular 40, 50 years ago, but now because they haven't been maintained they're starting to degrade, the trees are getting to the end of their life cycle, and with machinery getting larger they're maybe not in the ideal spot. That's why you see so many that are being torn down."

But as aging trees come down, it's becoming more clear than ever the vital role they play in the landscape.

"I think people are starting to realize the value in trees," says Cavers. "Once they're gone they can see what those



SUPPLIED PHOTO

From left: PVWD GROW Program co-ordinator Clint Cavers with Kroeker Farms organics agronomist Jason Peters. Kroekers has for years made shelterbelt planting and maintenance a priority.

old shelterbelts were doing for them and how they were beneficial."

Among the benefits? Wind erosion, for starters.

"Soil is the key to having a productive and successful farm, so if the soil's blowing away you're actually losing your productivity," says Cavers.

Shelterbelts also do their part to keep snow on the fields in the winter — something that can be immensely helpful during a dry spring.

On the flip side, they also provide a measure of flood protection.

Continued on page 16

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> VALUE OF TREES, FROM PG. 15

"Having that snow stay in the field and on the field a little bit more slows the runoff in the spring, which has great effect for soil erosion and flooding," Cavers says.

A well-placed shelterbelt also provides shelter for livestock and wildlife and reduces the impact of wind on snow drifting on nearby roads and yards.

But perhaps one of the biggest benefits — and one the water district is understandably most excited about — is the role trees play in refreshing local aquifers.

One recent study shows that a single kilometre of shelterbelt can supply

over nine million litres of water to an aquifer per year.

"It's pretty incredible," says Cavers. "And with an area like Winkler in particular where you have irrigation and lots of development happening, that aquifer recharge is hugely important."

PVWD, through the GROW Program, has about \$80,000 it can spend on shelterbelt projects across the region this year. It also teams up with local municipalities in funding certain projects, including the City of Winkler and the RM of Stanley.

Whether it's a single row of trees along a driveway or several shelterbelts on a larger farm, no project is

too small for consideration, Cavers stresses, explaining funding is based on the size of the shelterbelt.

"There's a huge list of trees that are available to plant," he says. "We will basically supply the trees. We can also supply some help with summer students to install the trees."

"And with this program we offer a little bit of incentive for the land that the shelterbelt takes up," Cavers explains. "So if there's an acre or two taken up by a shelterbelt along the side of your field, you can apply for some incentive payment to offset that."

One local farm taking PVWD up on this offer are potato growers Kroeker Farms, who have made shelterbelt planting a priority for years.

Jason Peters, organic agronomist with Kroekers, says that while some trees do need to be removed at the end of their life cycle, the company is committed to replacing as many as they can.

"Potato ground is extremely vulnerable to erosion," he points out. "We know we need trees to help keep it where it is. Without the soil, we have nothing."

CEO Wayne Kroeker adds that they feel a duty to the land they oversee.

"I do think we have an obligation beyond economics — we need to protect and enhance the environment and the precious resource of our soil."

If you'd like to learn more about the incentives available for shelterbelt projects, contact Cavers at 204-245-0636 or pvwdgrow@gmail.com.

"If anybody has any ideas or inklings that they might want a project to happen on their land, just give me a call and I will come out and see them," he says.

> MIXED FARMER, FROM PG. 14

calving sensor called Moocall from Ireland.

The sensor is attached two to three days before the cow's due date, high on the tail opposite the vulva, using a ratchet clip. The Moocall measures tail movement when a cow gets contractions and sends an SMS notification to a phone or computer.

"I'm only the third person in Manitoba to have this. It straps onto the cow's tail and it detects when the cow is going to have a calf. It's supposed to give you a two-hour notice, then another text an hour before they calve," Smith said.

"The technology is just unreal. It's totally awe-

some. I have two of them now, and it's unbelievable. They'll save a calf's life, for sure, because you can't be there all the time when a cow's calving. It gives you a warning and tells you when a cow is going to give birth."

For Smith, the best part of farm life is the hands-on experience that comes from working with the animals. All of his pigs and cattle are under a herd health program with his vet. Smith runs a closed herd, which means he keeps his own replacement females to reduce bringing in any health problems with other animals.

"Every animal has their own personality. I've

only got Grade 9 education and that built character in me. I'm not a big believer in textbooks; you've got to learn by experience," said Smith, who goes outside at 5 a.m. to start his daily chores with the animals seven days a week.

"I might be the hub of the wheel of this place, but the hub is no good without the spokes, meaning the people who surround me — like the guy I buy my hay from, the veterinarian I deal with, the guy that does my AI for me for the cattle, my neighbours at New Haven Hutterite Colony, the mechanics, the electricians that I depend on. In some cases, the big operations don't depend on locals in the same way."

For Smith, the bulk of his business still comes from pork sales. He proudly maintains a binder with the names of hundreds of customers as well as a website called Natural Raised Pork at www.naturalpork.ca.

"I've got customers that have been very loyal to me," he said.

"If you love what you're doing, it's not work. I just turned 58 and I would say I've never worked a day in my life."

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Province makes \$675,000 available to northern fishers

By Patricia Barrett

The province announced last week that it has made \$675,000 in grant money available to Indigenous and northern fishers to monitor fish stocks, which it says will go towards achieving eco-certification.

The initiative is part of a broader program of pandemic support and reconciliation.

In the province's March 4 news release, Indigenous and Northern Relations Minister Eileen Clarke says the grant will go towards "supporting advancement of economic reconciliation for project stakeholders and helping to position Indigenous and northern communities to emerge from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in a position of strength."

A lack of fishery certification limits its access to high value international markets, states the release. The initiative will see Indigenous fishing communities involved in stock monitoring programs which will "provide evidence to markets that Manitoba fisheries are moving to achieve certification."

A provincial spokesperson told the Express eight communities are involved but didn't name them or say

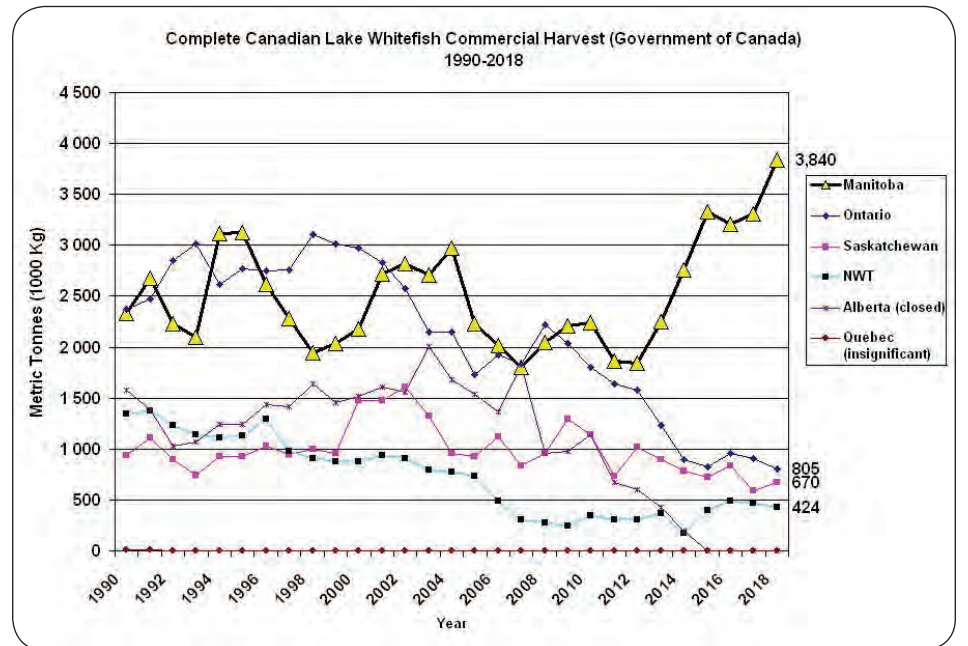
how the money will be split.

"Currently, eight fishing communities across central Manitoba, including two on Lake Winnipeg, are engaged in this initiative, with more fishing communities having recently expressed their interest in working collaboratively with Manitoba to ensure the long-term success of their commercial fisheries," said the spokesperson by email last Friday.

The \$675,000 is being provided though the provincial INR department, the spokesperson said, and that the "eco-certification of a fishery benefits all commercial fishers who participate in that fishery, as well as the reputation and saleability of Manitoba's commercial fish production as a whole."

The spokesperson said the province began engagement with commercial fishers on eco-certification in 2008 and will continue to work "collaboratively with local fisher associations, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, that have expressed written interest in advancing their fisheries towards certification."

Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Bill Buckels said the province has not had recent or meaningful consulta-



EXPRESS GRAPH BY BILL BUCKELS

Using Government of Canada data obtained from the federal department of Fisheries and Ocean, Buckels created a graph that shows Manitoba's commercial fishery as the largest producer of whitefish, which fishers have been told is in high demand (if eco-certified) in the European Union.

tion with Manitoba's 2,000 or so commercial fishers on eco-certification and its announcement "comes as a complete surprise to us."

The province has also excluded in-

dustry stakeholders and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which sells the majority of Manitoba's fish,

Continued on page 18



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> **NORTHERN FISHERS, FROM PG. 17**

from eco-certification discussions, he said. The government prefers to work alone on eco-certification, but all attempts it has made to date have failed to produce results despite the money, studies and rhetoric thrown at it.

"We currently have a single certified lake in Manitoba (Waterhen Lake) and it does not generally sell its fish as eco-certified, effectively breaking its chain of custody. Lake Winnipeg is one big fishery, not a bunch of small fisheries, and should be certified as a whole rather than broken up by small communities," he said.

"More than a decade ago, the province tried to lead the certification effort instead of letting the industry lead it, and it was a miserable failure. The province has made no progress to date. Yet the certifier, the Marine Stewardship Council, supports the fishing industry leading the certification effort with the support of governments."

Buckels said he's somewhat suspicious about the \$675,000 grant as it may just represent an attempt by Premier Brian Pallister and his party to establish a "special relationship" with Indigenous people in the north while accomplishing very little. "I just can't see bailing out a few bathtubs when the entire ship could be sinking." The program will likely pay Indigenous fishers to do supplemental index netting for the provincially run program.

"We had been having lots of discussion with the province about doing index netting and hadn't gotten an answer. So why is the province going off like this instead of getting together with all Lake Winnipeg fishers, the people who have the greatest investments in the fish business? Why isn't the province participating in an in-

formed effort? There is so much more to actually do than just count some fish around the north. A plan would be a good start rather than sowing division."

During budget consultations with the province this year, Buckels said he tried to get the government to commit money to eco-certification for the fishery as a whole but all his questions were "suppressed by the Zoom meeting moderator." He had also attempted, in person, last year to get other fishing concerns "on the menu" and later tried multiple times to engage Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson.

"Using technology during a pandemic makes it easier for the government to ignore the fishery and moderate us out of existence," said Buckels. "This is a dictatorship without precedent."

Eco-certification, a system that verifies a species has been caught using sustainable practices, doesn't happen overnight, he said. There are rigorous standards to meet.

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is a reputable eco-certifying body that Buckels says he has spoken with to find out about certifying species on Lake Winnipeg, which is by far the largest producing lake by value and is the largest whitefish producer in Canada.

The MSC fisheries standard, developed in consultation with scientists, the fishing industry and conservation groups, applies to wild-caught ocean fish and freshwater fish and is used to assess if a fishery is well-managed and sustainable, according to MSC's website.

Its criteria assess whether a fish population is productive and healthy, whether fishing is conducted without

impacting other species and habitats and whether there's effective fisheries management. That determines whether a fishery is eligible for certification.

The province doing a bit of supplemental index netting — the province calls it stock monitoring in its news release — until the \$675,000 runs out is only a nod towards eco-certification; it won't contribute to a sustained effort required for the process of earning certification and a monitoring regime that will need to be put in place to maintain that certification, he said.

Index netting, using a specialized net of several different size fish panels, is a short-term field sampling survey that assesses a species relative abundance and status.

Buckels said index netting is only part of stock monitoring, and stock monitoring itself is only part of determining if a fishery is sustainable.

"We need index-netting data to tell us what particular species and size of fish is around at any given time," he said. "Fisheries managers guess if a fishery is sustainable or not by combining that data with other data such as by-catch quantities and by using advanced techniques, such as Bayesian inference and CPUE (catch per unit effort). Scientific studies on fish populations to determine if they're productive are much more involved for eco-certification."

Before seeking eco-certification, discussion amongst Manitoba fishers has to take place about what species should be considered for certification in order to better compete on international markets, especially the European Union where "we've been told there's exclusive demand for eco-certified whitefish and roe (caviar)," said Buckels.

The Great Lakes, he noted, is Manitoba's biggest fishery competitor and

has already certified whitefish and walleye. Provinces such as Prince Edward Island had its lobster fishery certified several years ago so that it could better compete on world markets.

The Manitoba government hasn't treated the commercial fishery as the serious protein-producing, multi-million-dollar entity it is. The department of Agriculture, under whose banner the fishery falls, consults with beef and pork producers and helps promote and defend those industries, said Buckels. But the fishery is treated like "leftovers" and doesn't even exist on the department's protein menu or hierarchical charts. Links to fisheries datasets on some pages are broken.

Eco-certification is an expensive process, and the province won't be able to certify every lake in the province; it would go broke, he said. It could instead focus on certifying two major species — whitefish and walleye — from the largest producer (Lake Winnipeg) rather than the same and other fish from small northern lakes. Domestic and other markets unconcerned about certified fish could be tapped by smaller lakes with less fish value.

"The province hasn't sat down at the table with fishers and discussed possible eco-certification scenarios that would favourably affect everybody. Unless we discuss all the policy alternatives behind eco-certification and consider our strongest case scenarios, what the best value for our money is and how this benefits the industry as a whole, this is an empty gesture that will go nowhere," said Buckels. "This grant is no better than lunch money for northerners. The central question is, 'What should we be doing as an industry?'"

Fisher River Cree Nation, which runs the Macbeth Fisheries, was contacted for comment.

Province invests in Safe at Home Manitoba programming

Submitted

Hon. Derek Johnson, MLA for Interlake-Gimli, is pleased to highlight a recent provincial announcement of \$5 million for a variety of Manitoba organizations, municipalities and individual artists to provide free online programming for Manitobans to enjoy through the Safe at Home MB program.

"Our PC government recognizes the importance of investing in programs to help improve the quality of life for Manitobans, while helping us stop the spread of COVID-19," said Johnson. "The Safe at Home Manitoba programs provide the opportunity for Manitobans of all ages to stay active, engaged and entertained while spending time at home."

This funding will support a variety of Manitoba organizations, municipalities, local businesses and individual artists to provide free, inclusive programming. This includes live streaming of the performing arts, at-home fitness, cooking classes, art programs for children, and resources for seniors, Indigenous youth, newcomers and vulnerable Manitobans.

Projects selected to receive funding in the constituency of Interlake-Gimli include:

- Peacepipe Family Wellness Centre, Winnipeg Beach – Survivors Book Club — \$6,000
- Rural Municipality of Gimli – Family Time Programming — \$1,000
- Gimli Film Festival – The Manitoba Home Movie Archive (MHMA) —

\$15,000

- Homebrook/Peonan Point Community Council – Let's Keep Fit! Cross-Country Ski Project — \$5,000

> CAPITOL, FROM PG. 13

looking at the same flag celebrating the commonality of being human? I believe the results could be magnificent.

If we look south of the border to America we can see how divisiveness can destroy a country. Even Canada is hugely divided. A lesson we should learn from this virus, an invisible enemy that threatens all of us. And there will be more to come.

We can replace the tattered flag at

the beach, raise a fresh new banner to go into war against all the ills of humankind, divisiveness possibly being the greatest, that fear of the other. But when our societies, our countries become frayed, tattered, there is no replacement.

We can get through this pandemic together, putting petty differences aside. We can get through anything, together.

For more information on the various online programming, visit the Safe at Home Manitoba website at www.safeathomemb.ca.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Manitoba baseball community loses a legend

By Brian Bowman

The baseball community in Manitoba lost a legend recently.

George Ledochowski passed away on Feb. 27 at the age of 89.

His baseball resume is a very impressive one.

In 1946, he joined the Chatfield baseball team, along with four of his brothers, and as their pitcher he led the team to dominance throughout the Interlake.

In the early 1950s, Ledochowski was invited to a professional baseball try-out in Florida but declined to continue operating the family store.

Famous for his "hook ball," Ledochowski was quite the outstanding pitcher in his prime.

"George was an excellent pitcher," recalled his good friend, Gladwyn Scott. "His famous pitch was a curveball. ... I heard stories about him from the '40s and '50s."

Scott was often referred to as Ledochowski's baseball twin due to their passion for the sport and the fact they were both born on the same day and same year.

"In 1981 I met him and he was going pretty strong then with the Teulon team," said Scott. "I used to write for the papers there, Selkirk and Stonewall, and I used to write a lot about them. We also played some oldtimers (baseball) in the early '80s and we were pretty much over the hill then. We pretty much became good friends. We both had a strong interest in sports, particularly baseball."



Ledochowski pitched his last game when he was 68 years old at a Chatfield Oldtimers' tournament in 2000.



Ledochowski took to the mound at 15 and soon became a mainstay on Chatfield's Senior Men's Team.



Ledochowski, left, was inducted to Manitoba's Baseball Hall of Fame for his individual achievements both as a player and as a coach. Pictured with Ed Helwer.

The Chatfield team was inducted to Manitoba's Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003 in recognition of their great success from 1952 to 1957. While playing in tournaments with Chatfield, Ledochowski played league-organized baseball with the Balmoral Orioles.

He became involved with the Teulon Whips in 1971, winning back-to-back provincial titles in 1974 and 1975, when they also went on to win the Western Canadian championship.

Ledochowski continued to play, coach, and manage Teulon men's



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

George Ledochowski, front row, second from left, joined the Chatfield baseball team in 1946 along with four of his brothers.



In 1970 Ledochowski, front row, third from left, moved to Teulon where he and Mike Makowski combined to form some of the Interlake's premier baseball clubs. The Teulon Whips captured two provincials Intermediate titles, while the Cardinals won the Western Canadian Championships in 1975. The Cardinals also claimed Red Boine Senior Baseball League titles in 1970 and 1981.

baseball over the course of five decades. In addition to their numerous provincial titles, the Teulon Cardinals' all-time highlights included a spot at nationals in 1991 and 1998.

It was a banner year in 1998 for Ledochowski as he was inducted to Manitoba's Baseball Hall of Fame for his individual achievements both as a player and as a coach.

Ledochowski was involved in baseball for 68 consecutive years (1946 to 2014). He pitched his last game when he was 68 years old at a Chatfield Oldtimers' tournament in 2000.

"He was a hard-working man, building roads, things like that so he was always in good shape," Scott noted. "He lasted a lot longer than most baseball pitchers would."

Ironically, that's the same place where he threw his first pitch in 1946 with the Chatfield Cardinals.

His sons, Ross and Rodney (who was coached by Scott), played for the Teulon Cardinals for many years, keeping the team active until 2014. His daughter Roxane was a member of Smitty's fastball team.

King signs with OCN



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake Lightning captain Karson King has signed with the MJHL's OCN Blizzard. The Warren product was a 2019 seventh overall pick in the MJHL Bantam draft.

Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League ices season

Staff

The Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League has made the decision to suspend league play for the remainder of the 2020-21 season.

While no league championship will be awarded, teams are permitted to pursue activity, including practices, team events, and exhibitions games, as Public Health restrictions may permit.

"Our decision reflects the uncertain timeline and lack of direction

from Public Health with respect to game play," said Manitoba U18 Hockey League commissioner Levi Taylor in a statement. "Thank you to our players, coaches, managers, and volunteers for continued dedication to this program. We share in your frustration. We will continue to engage with the provincial government, Public Health, and local facilities to ensure a safe and responsible return to play for the 2021-22 season."

MJHL launches first annual Draft Prospect Camp

From the MJHL

The Manitoba Junior Hockey League is pleased to launch the MJHL Draft Prospect Camp to be held in conjunction with the annual MJHL Prospect Development Camp.

Hosted from July 14 to 17 at Seven Oaks Sportsplex in Winnipeg, the U16 age-division (MJHL Draft Prospect Camp) will feature elite Manitoba players from the 2006-born age category who will be eligible for the 2022 U17 MJHL Draft.

With the recent updates to the MJHL Draft process, moving to a U17 age category, the addition of the MJHL Draft Prospect Camp will give MJHL

organizations the opportunity to begin identification of those (U16) 2006-born players in a high-performance environment.

The current MJHL Prospect Development Camp has traditionally seen one division of the top U18 prospects from MJHL teams who are listed or drafted and eligible to compete for a roster spot in the upcoming MJHL season. That camp will coincide July 15-18 also at Seven Oaks Sportsplex.

Both camp divisions will further provide hockey partners such as the Western Hockey League, NCAA, and Hockey Manitoba U16 Program of Excellence opportunities for player

identification and evaluation within one convenient setting.

"We are excited to add another age group to our annual summer MJHL Prospect event and for the opportunity to work with these young athletes as they continue on their development path," said MJHL commissioner Kevin Saurette.

"It has been a difficult season for all of these players and this camp will provide them with the environment to showcase their abilities, while also learning more about the MJHL and what it takes to succeed at the next level."

An elite class of guest coaches and

development personnel that regularly participate in the MJHL Prospect Development Camp along with "AAA" coach networking and mentorship opportunities will become a part of the new MJHL Draft Prospect Camp.

Initial invites for the 2021 MJHL Draft Prospect Camp will be distributed in the coming weeks directly to those players identified.

The MJHL will continue to monitor and adjust to public health orders leading up to the planned event in July.

Please stay tuned for upcoming camp announcements including event schedule and rosters.

KJHL cancels 2020-21 season

From the KJHL website

On behalf of the governors and executive of the Keystone Junior Hockey League, its with deep regret the 2020-2021 KJHL season has been cancelled due to the current pandemic within our province.

The announcement was made March 3.

We would like to send our deepest condolences to the families affected by this pandemic, and would also like

to acknowledge and commend all the frontline workers that attended to the people in need. We are truly grateful for your selflessness and courage in these difficult times.

"The KJHL has unfortunately had to make the decision to cancel the 2020-21 season," said OCN Storm governor and general manager Jeremy Hohn.

"With so much uncertainty in the near future, it's just not realistic to be able to complete a full season. We are

now very much looking forward to the 2021-22 season."

KJHL commissioner Andrew Arksey added, "Cancelling the 2020-21 season is not something that we ever wanted to do. Public health restrictions are ongoing, to which we as a league support, but they made completing a season unrealistic as the calendar flips to March."

Peguis Juniors governor and general manager Ryan McCorrister said the

league simply ran out of time.

"Due to so much uncertainty and how things can change so quickly, the KJHL has decided to cancel the 2020-21 season and playoffs," McCorrister said.

"We feel we've waited until the very last day and there is still too much doubt to have a successful season."

Tim Hortons Brier is underway; Team Koe leading the way

By Ty Dilello

Team Kevin Koe of Alberta featuring Gimli's B.J. Neufeld at third is currently leading the way at the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary.

The upstart Koe rink has started the event with five straight wins, the most vital being a decisive win over the defending champion Team Canada rink that is skipped by Brad Gushue.

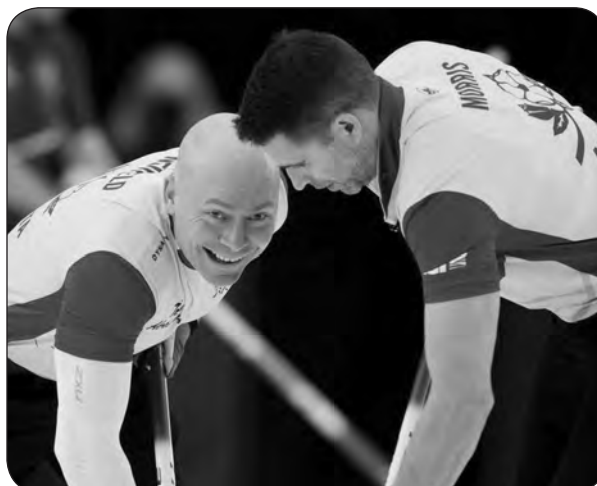
"They're a great team, and we're a great team. When both teams are playing pretty good, it's an entertaining affair," said Neufeld. "This is why we play the sport – to have these types of games on this type of stage. You've got a lot of great players out there that know how to play under pressure, and the result of that is great games, exciting, and they usually go down to the wire."

"I think that's a safe bet," Koe added when asked if he expects to play Gushue again in the playoffs. "They're defending champs for a reason. They'll only get better. Both teams had a lot of good shots and a few sloppy shots, but it was a pretty well-played game. They'll be around for sure, and if we're playing them again, that means we're in there as well."

At 5-0, Koe's new lineup of B.J. Neufeld, John Morris and Ben Hebert is poised to make a deep run in the event.

West St. Paul's Mike McEwen (Team Wild Card #1) and his team of Reid Carruthers, Derek Samagalski, Colin Hodgson are also in the thick of things this week with a 2-2 record.

"We've had some good games and some not great ones so far," said McEwen's third Reid Carruthers.



EXPRESS PHOTO CURL CANADA

Gimli's B.J. Neufeld, left, and Team Kevin Koe are currently pacing the field at the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary with a perfect 5-0 record.

"We know we can play a lot better, and we know we're going to need to as wins are only going to get harder and harder to come by as the week goes on."

"You just gotta take things one game at a time," added McEwen. "That's the only way you can get through the week."

Jason Gunnlaugson of the Morris Curling Club is also carrying the Manitoba flag this week and is an impressive 3-0 to start the Brier. Gunnlaugson's week was kickstarted by defeating perennial favourite Brendan Bottcher of Alberta.

"Really a fantastic start," said Gunnlaugson's third

Adam Casey. "It's a long week, and with three teams making the playoffs, you can only afford so many losses. To pick a win against a top-three or four team in the world is just a fantastic start. I think everyone felt pretty comfortable out there, figuring out the ice. Such a good start to build on and grow on."

Saskatchewan's Matt Dunstone, who hails from Winnipeg, pulled off quite the victory on Monday night when he drew the button with his final stone in the tenth end to defeat Team Canada's Brad Gushue 6-5. The win moved him into a tie for second place in his pool with a 3-1 record.

"They're all big wins, but this one, especially — a little bit of a revenge game from last year, so it feels good to get that one," said Dunstone. "We've been playing really well the first four games; we feel like we've been in control of almost every end we've played out here."

"We're pretty pleased. But we're only halfway through the first round robin, so if we can keep it trucking, I like where we're going to be at the end."

This year's Tim Hortons Brier in the Calgary bubble features 18 teams, split up into two pools of nine. All teams play an eight-game round-robin, and if by the end of it, they are ranked as one of the top four teams in their pool, they will advance to a championship pool where they will face off against the four qualifiers from the other pool. The three teams with the best overall records will qualify for Sunday's playoffs.

At the end of the week, the winning team will go on to represent Canada at the 2021 World Men's Curling Championships in Calgary in early April.

Einarson rink will compete at the worlds in Calgary next month

Staff

Kerri Einarson will finally get an opportunity to compete at a world women's curling championship.

Einarson and her two-time national champion Gimli rink will be heading back to Calgary after the World Curling Federation made it official last Friday that there will be a world championship in 2021.

"This is a vitally important championship for Olympic qualification," World Curling Federation president Kate Caithness said in a media release. "We are extremely grateful to Curling Canada and all our stakeholders for their willingness to work together, and at such short notice, to ensure that qualification for Beijing 2022 happens on the ice and in competition."

The event, originally scheduled to take place in late March in Switzerland, will begin April 30 with

the championship game scheduled for May 9.

Last year's championship in Prince George, B.C., was cancelled last March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fourteen teams will compete at next month's event, with the top six finishers earning a spot in the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Along with Einarson's Canadian team, reigning champions Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Russian Curling Federation team, Scotland, Sweden and the United States will take part.

With the addition of the upcoming women's world championship, Calgary will host seven events in a little more than two months. The men's Brier began last Friday.

"The protocols that have been in place for

the early events in Calgary have proved successful in keeping athletes, officials and the host city safe, so we feel good about this plan carrying on successfully through to the end of the LGT world women's curling championship," Katherine Henderson, CEO of Curling Canada, said in a statement.

"Our board of governors has been truly supportive of our plans from day one as we started down this road, and then as this late situation presented itself, they again stood behind us. It is a result of the positive relationships between our board and the World Curling Federation that we have been entrusted with this opportunity."

Hockey Manitoba updates Return to Play policy

Staff

Based on the province's public health orders that took effect last Friday, indoor ice rinks will be permitted to open for practices and drills. There will no longer be a one-to-one requirement and no organized games or tournaments are allowed.

Groups of a maximum of 10 players will be able to participate in practices (excluding coaches and instructors) and must take reasonable measures to ensure that there is no interaction between different groups participating at the same time. The ice surface can be divided in half with

one group on each side.

Indoor rinks will be permitted to open at 25 per cent total capacity, with public health measures in place for spectators and common areas. Dressing rooms will be permitted to open at 50 per cent of the usual capacity or to a number that ensures that all persons in the dressing room are able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other persons, whichever is lesser.

Hockey Manitoba has released Version 6 of its Return to Play (RTP) plan which includes updated Indoor/Phase 2 protocols.

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LAND FOR SALE

Red Rose/Dallas, MB. NE 22-29-1W. 160 acres of bush. Asking \$40,000 obo. Excellent for hunting. Contact Leona Hancox at 1-306-693-1060, Saskatchewan.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Property for sale - Gimli, RM (near Silver Harbour, dry dock, Snowman trails) - 2 bdrm. 1 bath home on 1/3 acre, septic, well, det. garage, Sold as is. \$105,000 obo. Thompson - double-wide lot for sale on town sewer and water, \$30,000 obo. Phone or text 204-307-7625.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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



Call 204-467-5836

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.

LAUNCH your career! BLAST-OFF Fireworks requires FT/PT warehouse personnel for summer positions. Competitive wage, great team atmosphere, benefits, potential for permanent employment & advancement. Apply at 609 Greenwood Avenue, Selkirk; or e-mail: hr@blastofffireworks.ca using subject "Warehouse"

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Looking for an EXPLOSIVE part-time job?! BLAST-OFF Fireworks requires seasonal "Class 5" delivery drivers. Perfect for the semi-retired individual: home nights, scheduling based on demand. Must possess customer service skills, outgoing personality. Competitive wage & benefits. Apply at 609 Greenwood Avenue, Selkirk; or e-mail: hr@blastofffireworks.ca using subject "Driver"

Like working with wood and working close to home? 204 Pallet & Packaging in Stony Mountain is looking for full time production workers. Please call 204-344-5404 for details.

HELP WANTED

DROP THE BOMB on a boring summer job! Red Bomb Fireworks is seeking part-time retail managers for seasonal roadside retail locations. Duties include: greeting customers, providing retail assistance, picking and processing orders, and ensuring retail cleanliness standards are met. Hours mainly on weekends, competitive wage and benefits package. Apply at 609 Greenwood Avenue, Selkirk; or e-mail: sales@redbomb.com using subject "Roadside Retail"

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MORTGAGE SALE ADVERTISEMENT

The building and land known as 14 Second Avenue, North, in Ashern, Manitoba as described in Certificate of Title No. 1896014/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday, the 7th day of April, 2021 by way of video or teleconference at 11:00 a.m.

The Vendor is informed that there is situated on the property a single family 1 1/2 story residence of approximately 1,686 square feet with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, and kitchen. There is a 3/4 fully finished basement with a rec room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and utility/laundry room. There is a double detached garage.

TERMS: Deposit of \$19,000.00 which deposit shall not exceed twenty (20%) percent of the Reserve Bid by certified cheque, bank/credit union draft or solicitor's trust cheque to the address below within 24 hours of the date and time of auction and the balance in accordance with the conditions to be announced at sale.

The Property is sold subject to a RESERVE BID of \$95,225.37 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Lender from the 8th day of February, 2021 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the Sale.

Property Taxes are paid to December 31, 2020.

Purchaser to be responsible for payment of any outstanding water accounts owing by the Mortgagor.

Property is subject to Mortgage 3791970/1 (to be discharged).

In order to participate in the auction sale, you must pre-register by contacting Sonia at 204-957-6437 or by email at sruppel@itgic.ca at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled auction.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Further information and copies of Conditions of Sale may be obtained from:

LEVENE TADMAN GOLUB LAW CORPORATION
Barristers & Solicitors
700 - 330 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 3Z5
Attention: Mara Koven-Lapointe/Sonia
File No. 115565
Phone No. 957-6437

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 194 of *The Municipal Act*, public notice is hereby given that the auditor's financial report, together with related financial statements for the 2019 fiscal year, is available for inspection. This information can be retrieved at the office of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton in Arborg, Manitoba during office hours or online at BifrostRiverton.ca

Dated at Arborg, Manitoba this 17th day of February, 2021.

Mr. Jordan Willner, CMAA
Chief Administrative Officer



GIMLI HARBOUR AUTHORITY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Gimli Harbour Authority is looking for two responsible, self-motivated individuals with knowledge of the Gimli Harbour, Town of Gimli and surrounding communities for the following positions:

Seasonal Harbour Master Assistant

The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and computer skills, be able to work flexible hours, evenings and weekends. Responsibilities include managing office operations, staff, public relations and maintenance. Term of employment begins May 3rd 2021.

Seasonal Administration and Facility Assistant

The successful candidate requires computer, social media, retail and customer service skills. Must be available to work flexible hours including evenings and weekends in an office and outdoor setting. Responsibilities include office support, light maintenance and groundskeeping. Term of employment - Seasonal, start date is flexible.

Call 204-642-2374 or email gimlihm2@gmail.com for further information. To apply, send resume with a cover letter to gimlihm2@gmail.com. Closing date: March 15th, 2021 for both positions.

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On behalf of the Community of Gimli A thank you to Leslie Einarson

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Leslie Einarson for his service and stewardship of the Gimli Community Cemetery having 30 years of volunteer work with the committee.

It is volunteers like you that make this world a better place. Thank you for all your hard work; it truly makes all the difference.

Sincerely,
Mayor, Council and Staff
Rural Municipality of Gimli

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On behalf of the Community of Gimli A thank you to Dilla Narfason

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Dilla Narfason for her service & stewardship of 31 years to the Gimli Community Cemetery. She has been inspirational to others with many years of volunteer work and a well deserving recipient of the Westshore Honourary 150 recognition.

Thank you Dilla for your energy and dedication that you have put forth; you are truly a remarkable human being with a big heart for others.

Sincerely,
Mayor, Council and Staff
Rural Municipality of Gimli



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH

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 31st day of March, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at Town of Winnipeg Beach, 29 Robinson Avenue, Winnipeg Beach, 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
65400	LOT 18 BLOCK 9 PLAN 2226 WLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 33-17-4 EPM - 449 OAK AVE	L -\$18,200 B -\$57,700	\$4,465.27
77600	LOT 1 BLOCK 28 PLAN 2226 WLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NE 1/4 33-17-4 EPM - 382 NO 9 HWY	L -\$31,100 B -\$105,500	\$16,645.95
171850	ALL THOSE PORTIONS OF CENTRAL AVENUE, MCPHERSON AVENUE, MURRAY AVENUE AND STITT STREET, IN THE VILLAGE OF WINNIPEG BEACH, IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, SHEWN COLOURED PINK, ACCORDING TO A PLAN FILED IN THE WINNIPEG LAND TITLES OFFICE AS NO.1884 EXC: PLAN 5521, LOT SEVENTEEN IN BLOCK ONE, SHEWN ON A PLAN OF SURVEY OF PART OF WINNIPEG BEACH IN MANITOBA, REGISTERED IN THE WINNIPEG LAND TITLES OFFICE, AS NO. 2357, - 1.01 MILES/ STN GRDS PL	L -\$27,700	\$4,850.49

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 Town of Winnipeg Beach 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 4th day of March, 2021.

Managed by:



Roger Bouvier
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Winnipeg Beach
Phone: (204) 389-2698
Fax: (204) 389-2019

MANITOBA FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION

Summer Research Assistant

MFSA is seeking two highly motivated agronomy students to be part of its research program for the summer of 2021. Term will be from May 3 – September, 2021. Compensation will be competitive based upon experience.

Position will be based out of Arborg, MB.

Closing date March 19, 2021

Responsibilities:

- Agronomy Students are responsible for supporting all research programs at MFSA and will be responsible for the following tasks:
- Assist in the planting, spraying, maintaining, evaluating, and harvesting of small plot and field scale research trials
- Accurately enter and manage research data
- Maintain, transport and operate research equipment in Manitoba
- Assist with summer tours and other research meetings

Qualifications:

- Highly motivated with the ability to work independently
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Strong communication skills
- Willingness to accept responsibility
- Good understanding of agronomic practices in Canada
- Basic mechanical skills; ability to operate farm machinery
- Farm background is an asset
- Agriculture Degree or Diploma student
- Valid Class 5 Driver's License
- Satisfactory driver's abstract

Please send resume and cover letter to:

Manitoba Forage Seed Association email:
Roger Burak, Research Manager rburak@forageseed.net
Box 2000, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0

ASHERN



We Are Hiring! Positions available:

- 3 Full-time Summer Student Salesperson positions, May 3 - September 4. Hours and dates flexible, must be able to lift 50 lbs unassisted and available to work Saturdays.

Application deadline: April 17, 2021.

- Permanent part-time salesperson and/or lumber yard worker. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. unassisted. Class 5 Drivers licence holder is preferred.

Please submit resume at #28 Railway Avenue, Ashern, or by e-mail to jason.carpenter@homehardware.ca

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH CARETAKER WANTED

The Town of Winnipeg Beach is seeking a person to provide cleaning services at its municipal office and public works office effective April 1, 2021.

Approximately 3-4 hours per week.

Town of Winnipeg Beach will supply all cleaning equipment and supplies.

Please submit resume/application with hourly rate expected to: cao@winnipegbeach.ca or drop off information at municipal office mail box prior to March 22, 2021. For further information, please contact the municipal office at 204-389-2698.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING 2021 / 2022 BUDGET March 17, 2021 6:15 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Evergreen School Division will be passing the 2021/2022 Operating Budget.

Interested community members are invited to attend virtually. Please call the Board Office at (204) 642-6260 or emailing info@esd.ca.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE

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 8th day of April, 2021, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at Rural Municipality of Grahamdale, 23 Government Road, Moosehorn, 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
77250	ALL THAT PORTION OF W 1/2 OF SECTION 9-24-6 WPM TAKEN FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY PLAN 398 WLTO (P DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L -\$5,800	\$1,948.44
81200	LOTS 4 AND 5 BLOCK 1 PLAN 444 WLTO (P DIV) SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SE 1/4 17-24-6 WPM	L -\$1,100	\$1,661.13
85250	ALL THOSE PORTIONS OF SE 1/4 17-24-6 WPM TAKEN FOR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY SHOWN PINK ON PLAN 398 WLTO (P DIV) EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L -\$3,900	\$1,744.22
174500	LOT 9 PLAN 5207 WLTO SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SW 1/4 32-26-7 WPM	L -\$1,800 B -\$13,100	\$2,365.23
350226	LOT 3 BLOCK 2 PLAN 49585 WLTO EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN FRAC SECTION 3 AND FRAC SE 1/4 4-29-10 WPM, FRAC NE 1/4 33-28-10 WPM AND GOVERNMENT ROAD ALLOWANCE (CLOSED)	L -\$53,000 B -\$189,200	\$18,036.29
358150	LOT 4 BLOCK 1 PLAN 17684 WLTO IN LOT 18 SETTLEMENT OF FAIRFORD	L -\$1,200	\$2,291.20
421630	PARCEL 'A' PLAN 12440 WLTO SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN NW 1/4 4-32-9 WPM	L -\$2,500	\$2,277.15
424000	THE S 1/2 OF LOT 3 PLAN 654 WLTO (PP DIV) SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN IN SW 1/4 4-32-9 WPM	L -\$300	\$2,155.24
472200	SW 1/4 9-33-9 WPM - SW 9 33 9 W	L -\$23,400	\$3,639.93

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 Rural Municipality of Grahamdale as follows:
 - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - 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
 - 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 23rd day of February, 2021.

Managed by:



Shelly Schwitek
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Grahamdale
Phone: (204) 768-2858
Fax: (204) 768-3374



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL & STUDENT POSITIONS

General Skills & Qualifications for all positions

Candidate must have excellent communication, organizational skills and must be able to work independently or in a team environment.

SEASONAL POSITIONS

(Part-time May, June & September and Full-time July & August)

Park Patrol – Duties include monitoring and maintaining a clean safe beach and park areas as well as other public facilities. Greet visitors, provide tourism and environmental information. Shifts are varied; seven days per week; 8:00AM to 10:00PM.

Rec Centre General Labourer – Grass cutting and other miscellaneous maintenance duties. Shifts are varied; seven days per week; 8:00AM to 10:00PM

Summer Program Leader – Help organize and host summer day camps and recreation programs. Work with the Programmer to develop and promote new initiatives. This position will involve work in a variety of facilities including the Rec Centre, Beach and Pavilion. Shifts vary, some weekends and evening shifts will be required.

Gimli Aquatic Centre - R.M. of Gimli is now accepting applications for the positions of Head Lifeguard, Lifeguard, Instructor, and Cashier. Interested applicants can view the job postings in full at the R.M. website www.gimli.ca

SEASONAL POSITIONS

(Approximately May to October, as required)

General Labourers – Duties include refuse crew, grass cutting, landscaping, etc., must be physically fit. Typical work shift 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday to Friday but may include some weekends. Valid class 5 driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement

Operator C – Duties include operating medium equipment such as refuse trucks, roadside mowers, and dump trucks, as well as general duties. Valid class 3 with air endorsement driver's license required. Wage based on collective agreement.

Completed applications stating the position(s) applying for, with resume and references, are to be submitted to the Municipal Office located at 62 2nd Avenue by 4:00 p.m. on April 2, 2021

Kelly Cosgrove, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli
PO Box 1246, 62 – 2nd Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
Email: gimli@rmgimli.com
Fax: (204) 642-6660

We thank all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Call 204-378-2997



Royal Canadian Legion #161 is seeking a

Clubroom Manager

Previous Food & Beverage experience required. Supervisory experience an asset.

This position is full time,
salary commensurate with experience,
start date negotiable.

Interested applicants may send resumes to
RCL #161 PO Box 419 Arborg MB R0C 0A0

or email legion161@mymts.net no later
than **Friday, March 26th 2021.**

We thank all applicants however only those selected for interview will be contacted.

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

Classifieds Announcements



CARD OF THANKS

Drewlo – We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone for their support through prayer, phone calls and cards. Due to COVID it was very unfortunate that we could not get together for a celebration of life and fellowship with family and friends. Mom was laid to rest on February 20, 2021.

-The family of Irene Drewlo

CARD OF THANKS

Drew Lambert would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated during this difficult time to make her 100th birthday so special. All who participated in her parade including Arborg RCMP, Fire, EMS, family and friends; to Susie for putting together center pieces and decorations and all the people who made donations for her to do so; to everyone for the phone calls, cards, flowers and gifts; as well as to anyone else that made an effort to make it special. Drew's girls would like to join in as well in extending a HUGE thank you to Maureen and all the awesome staff at Assisted Living for going above and beyond at making Mom's day truly memorable. Thank you to all the residents for being participants at this special milestone and making her feel so accepted. Lastly, Drew thanks her granddaughters, Tamara for the wonderful digital frame and Dawnett for the fabulous cake!

OBITUARY

Ambrosia Patricia (Bonnie) Pawluk

June 7, 1932 - March 4, 2021

Peacefully in the early hours of March 4, 2021, with family by her side, our precious mother completed her journey here on Earth. We are comforted in knowing she is reunited with Dad and safe in the arms of God.

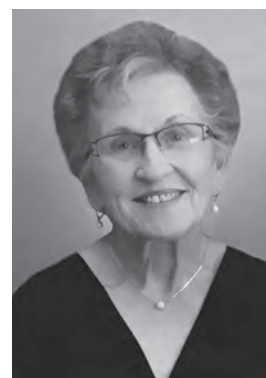
She was predeceased by her beloved husband John. Mom will lovingly be remembered by her children, John (Vicky), Patti (Bob), Dawn (Craig) and Lori (Bill); grandchildren John E. (Melissa), Josh (Cher), Jaymes (Ashley), Jordan (Nicole), Robbie, Pam (Greg), Jayson, Casey and Reid; also, her precious great-grandchildren Nevayah, Emma, Makenna, Addie, Olivia, Jack and Owen. Mom is survived by loving siblings Lovie, Zenith, Muriel, Ben (Linda) and Michael (Judy); in-laws Elsie, Sophie (Clarence), Ernie (Phyllis) and countless nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by sisters Gloria and Patricia.

Mom was born and raised on the family farm in the Pleasant Home District by parents Peter and Mary Chreptyk. She attended the Plum Ridge School and completed her education in Teulon. At a young age, she left home to work in Winnipeg at Paulin Chambers with her sister Lovie.

Mom and Dad were married in 1952 and together raised their children and worked the family farm for 48 years until Dad's passing. She remained on the farm for another eight years and then moved to Gimli in 2008, but continued to visit the farm and help where she could.

Mom was entirely devoted to her family with unconditional love. She was always there with an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, and comfort food.

She touched the lives and hearts of many people through the numerous organizations and activities that she took part in. Mom



was a lifetime member of the St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg Beach, where she devoted her time and energy selflessly until its closing. Once moving to Gimli, she attended the Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church where she continued to volunteer her time and talents.

Mom took great enjoyment in singing in the church choir, Ukrainian music and dance. She took great pride in her green thumb on the farm, as well as during the years she worked at the Teulon Golf and Country Club as gardener. She was also famous for her cinnamon buns, butter tarts and cookies; where golf course staff and golfers would line up to purchase those delicious treats.

We convey our deepest gratitude to the EMS Staff, Dr. Fulmore of Gimli and STARS Air Ambulance. In addition, we are so thankful for the care and compassion received by the HSC Emergency Staff, GB3 Care Team, and special thanks to Dr. Semus and Dr. Hiebert.

A private family mass and interment is being held.

In lieu of flowers, Mom's charities of choice are STARS Air Ambulance and the St. William's Cemetery.

Mom did not suffer the ills of old age and lived her life to the fullest to the very last. Mom (Baba), you were our rock. Although physically you are gone, your memory and spirit will continue to live on in us, your children, your grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. God bless you Mom, rest in Peace until we meet again.

Vichnaya Pam'yat

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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

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Reporter/Photographer Wanted

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? The Stonewall Teulon Tribune and Express Weekly News is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Interlake and surrounding area communities.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Deadline to apply is Friday, March 19.



SCLERODERMA MB INVITES YOU TO OUR 2021 ON-LINE SUPPORT GROUPS:

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OBITUARY



Lawrence (Lorne) David Park
August 28, 1943 – March 2, 2021

With an ocean of tears and shattered hearts our family announce the passing of Lorne, 77 years young of Ashern, MB.

Forever missed and left to cherish his memory are his wife Linda (nee Yanke); daughter Crystal; son James (Shirley); granddaughters Alexandria and Seraphina, along with the family pet Dogg. He is also survived by his siblings Sarah Baker, Tom (Dorynne) Park, Florence (Alvin) Tully, Nell Tully, Keith (Rose) Park; brother-in-law Wes Tully; nieces and nephews Heather, Linda, Jim and Lesley – Patti, Tab and Marcie – Darcie, Shelly and Brad – Sherry, Lori and Lori – Wesley and Robyn – Marshall, Tracey and Cameron – Jamie, Chad, Lisa and Jayson – Melissa, Carey and Katie and their families along with cousins Liz (Bob) and Vincent.

Lorne was predeceased by his parents James and Letitia (Pritchard) Park; sisters and brothers Ethel Dobbryn, Bob Park, Tena Tully, Marge Turner; brothers-in-law Les Turner, Dale Dobbryn, Gene Baker, Terry Tully and nephews Tim Baker and Barrie Tully; aunts Maude Pritchard and Belle Thompson; in-laws Fred and Natalie Yanke, brothers-in-law Paul Kernested and Don Russell. Also forever missed by Linda's family; sisters and brothers-in-law Marion Kernested, Dorothy (Bill) Nightingale, Shirley Russell, Larry Yanke and their families.

Lorne grew up and schooled in Poplar Point, MB and also schooled in Edmonton, AB. He was proud of his large family of 10 children and liked to tell and hear stories of the Point. He started out working in Brian Sr. and Gert Hextall's lumberyard and became a family friend. He later worked at the mine in Thompson, then returned from the north and taught school in St. Reita and Lundar. In 1972 while working for Manitoba Highways, he met Linda. Four months later they were married in Winnipeg and Ashern became

their home. During this time he received his pilot license. His first Ashern friends were Mel and Jalmar and he treasured the Siglunes families forever.

Shortly after moving to Ashern, Lorne started work with Manitoba Hydro and became Reeve for the RM of Siglunes. He stayed with both jobs for over 30 years. Between jobs, sports and politics, he developed many friendships. Lorne loved animals and raised different kinds. He enjoyed being a Marriage Commissioner, playing hockey, baseball, hunting, fishing, politics and building, not to mention having coffee with the boys. Lorne served on many boards and received a certificate for the numerous years of volunteer work he did.

Lorne was a proud Dad and Grandad, loving family Sunday drives, playing hardball or fishing with Jim. Lorne and Crystal would drive around in the dune buggy or bake bannock together. With Shirley, her personality added richness to our family. His pride and joy were his granddaughters and going for rides in the golf cart. He loved spending time at the island in our cabin at Little Limestone Lake. We loved spending a month at Osoyoos one winter. Lorne always looked forward to spending a week with Keith each fall.

Lorne felt blessed and thankful for the life he was given. Almost a year after retirement, he had a stroke, followed by dementia.

A family Celebration of Lorne's life will be held at a later date.

Donations may be made in Lorne's memory to Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, 1379 Kenaston Blvd, Winnipeg, MB, R3P 2T5, Canadian Diabetes Association, 200 - 310 Broadway Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3C 0S6, Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba, 10-120 Donald St. Winnipeg, MB, R3C 4G2 or a charity of one's choice.

A heartfelt thank you for the excellent care and compassion to the doctors, nurses and staff at the SMHC Geriatrics Area 4 for Dementia in Selkirk and to the Lakeshore General Hospital. A special thank you to our families and friends, especially Keith and Rose, Greg and Barb and Allen and Donna. Also thanks to John, Karen and staff at Arnason Funeral Home for their professionalism, kindness and compassion.

When tomorrow starts without me

Don't think we're far apart
For every time you think of me
I'm right there in your heart.
"You're My Man"

Arrangements by:
ARNASON FUNERAL HOME
Ashern - Lundar
1.204.768.2072
1.866.323.3593



George Ledochowski
January 28, 1932 – February 27, 2021

Peacefully on February 27 at the age of 89, Dad passed away at Goodwin Lodge with his daughter, Roxane, at his side.

He was predeceased by his wife, Laura (2019), and son Roger (2016). He is survived by his daughter, Roxane (Craig), grandchildren Kristen (Kirk), Jennifer, Wesley (Brenna), Michelle (John) and Brayden; his son Ross (Sonya), grandchildren Kaila, Kailen, and Rye; and his son Rodney (Diana), grandchildren Jade (Garrett), Jake, and Jacey.

Surviving family members are sisters Kay and Gloria, as well as sisters-in-law Helen and Myrtle, along with many nieces and nephews.

He is now reunited with his parents, Fred and Anna; sister, Mary; brothers, John, Harry, Mike, Steve, Alex, Joe, Kost, Paul, and Dan; sister-in-law, Hattie; brothers-in-law, Mike and John; niece, Linda; and nephews, Clayton, Gary, and Brian.



Dad was born on the family farm in Wheathill District. He moved to nearby Chatfield in 1949 to operate his father's General Store. Mom and Dad were married in 1954. Together, they operated the store until 1970, when they made the big decision to move the store and attached house to Teulon and converted the building into a restaurant. With their four children, they opened G & L Restaurant in 1971, quickly becoming famous far and wide thanks to Mom's incredible cooking. Expansions included The Cardinal Lounge and Motel, and eventually they sold the highly successful establishment in 1986.

Dad entered the construction business with his partner, Nick, in 1965, when they started land clearing. Later, they worked for the municipalities of Armstrong and Rockwood building roads, in addition to digging dugouts and drainages. Dad was an active business owner until just a few years ago as his health began to decline. Rodney worked alongside Dad for 20 years.

Dad was an avid outdoorsman, and for many decades he was well-known for his trapping skills. One of his many pastimes was digging Seneca roots to be sold for medicinal use. Dad operated a grain farm near Silver in the '70s.

His lifelong passion was baseball. In 1946, he joined the Chatfield baseball team, along with four of his brothers, and as their pitcher he led the team to dominance throughout the Interlake. In the early '50s, he was invited to a professional baseball tryout in Florida but declined to continue operating the store. The Chatfield team was inducted to Manitoba's Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003 in recognition of their great success from 1952-1957. While playing in tournaments with Chatfield, Dad played league-organized baseball with the Balmoral Orioles. He became involved with the Teulon Whips in 1971, winning back-to-back provincial titles in 1974 and 1975, when they also went on to win the Western Canadian championship. He continued to play, coach, and manage Teulon men's baseball over the course of five decades. Serving as a town council member in Teulon throughout the 1980s, Dad had an essential role in the development of Green Acres Park. In addition to their numerous provincial titles, the Teulon Cardinals' all-time highlights included a spot at Nationals in 1991 and again in 1998, which was also the year that Dad had been inducted to Manitoba's Baseball Hall of Fame for his individual achievements both as a player and as a coach. Dad was involved in baseball for 68 consecutive years (1946-2014). Dad pitched his last game when he was 68 years old at Chatfield Oldtimers' tournament in 2000; ironically the same place where he threw his first pitch in 1946 with the Chatfield Cardinals. Ross and Rodney played for the Teulon Cardinals for many years, keeping the team active until 2014. Many have cherished memories of Dad's baseball journey. Sport truly does create friendships and memories that last a lifetime!

We would like to thank the staff at Teulon Hospital and Goodwin Lodge for their care and compassion over the past few years. Special thanks to Ken Loehmer for his thoughtfulness and unwavering support. Sincere gratitude to Father Peter Chorney and Father Barry Schoonbaert.

Family and friends are invited to leave condolences or to share memories on his tribute wall at www.klfuneralservices.ca.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Teulon Senior Resource, Box 418, Teulon, MB. R0C 3B0, IERHA — Attn. Goodwin Lodge Box 89, Teulon MB R0C 3B0, or a charity of one's choice.

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OBITUARY

Gregory Ernest Grimolfson



We sadly announce the peaceful passing of Gregory Ernest Grimolfson on March 1, 2021.

He will be lovingly remembered by his family, daughter Joanna Grimolfson, son Erik Grimolfson, and daughter Alana Grimolfson (Sam); granddaughters Blaire Grimolfson and Andi Grimolfson; sister Darlene Chartier (Claude), sister Joanne Matheson (Tom), brother Johnny Renaud (Kerri), all his nieces and nephews, and special long-time friends Bob, Richard, John, and Marie. He was predeceased by his parents Kris and Johanna Grimolfson.

Gregory cherished his family and friends. He loved his children with all his heart and his grandchildren were the bright light in his life. He enjoyed visits as well as long deep talks with his children and loved doting on his granddaughters. He was always ready with words of advice and encouraged his children to follow their hearts. He believed in his children wholeheartedly and ensured

that they knew how much they were loved.

Gregory always felt at home in the outdoors and on the water. He loved playing all sports, especially hockey. He was a journeyman carpenter by trade and meticulous in his work. He was intelligent and creative, often looking for ways to improve or create something. He shared his love of music with his children; picking up his guitar and playing any song by ear. He believed in reflecting on and improving himself; finding peace and serenity through AA and his religion.

You are so loved Dad and will forever be missed.

We will have a celebration of life at a later date.

We would like to thank the Stonewall Hospital staff and palliative care team for their outstanding care and compassion.

In lieu of flowers a donation can be made to the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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- ensuring operating procedures are followed in the handling, processing, storage and shipping of seed products;
- ongoing communication with management and seed producers on production status; and,
- representing Rutherford Farms' best interests with growers and industry partners.

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- a university degree or diploma in agriculture, engineering or relevant field considered an asset;
- plant management experience desirable, or industry experience with a preferred focus on seed;
- Manitoba Agriculture Pesticide and seed treatment certification considered an asset;
- knowledge and understanding of the seed business, including quality, processing, and logistics;
- excellent interpersonal skills; strong ability to build relationships;
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