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Colouring contest winners

EXPRESS PHOTO BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Jacob and Sammy Burbano McFee were thrilled to have won \$50 for their entry to the Gimli Ice Festival's virtual colouring contest.

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Breaking the ice on Interlake waterways

By Evan Matthews

If you've noticed a few unusual "spider-like" pieces of machinery on the Red River as of late, the province has answers.

The spider-like equipment are the amphibexes, belonging to Winnipeg Environmental Remediations Incorporated (WERI).

The company started ice cutting and icebreaking on Feb. 22 at the mouth of Netley Creek, Minister of Infrastructure Ron Schuler said.

Initially, operations moved in a northerly or downstream direction as far as two kilometres past Netley Lake.

The Amphibex subsequently returned to Netley Creek and began working their way south towards the City of Selkirk last week.

Minister Schuler said the operation "went very well this year" and added all work on the Red River was completed on Friday, March 12. As of Monday, March 15, the WERI deployed the Amphibex in other areas including Riverton (on the Icelandic River and at the wharf), Brokenhead and Fisher River.

The province said the Amphibex will travel in a downstream direction toward Lake Winnipeg, eventually returning back towards Riverton, travelling up to the road bridge at the south end of the community.

The minister added the crews will be "working on the ice until later this week."

After the previous agreement with North Red Community Waterway Maintenance had expired on March 31, 2020, the province issued a competitive tender in August and eventually named WERI the winning bidder for the new five-year ice jam mitigation services agreement. WERI's bid contained the lowest overall proposed cost and the lowest price per point, according to the province.

The province launched its Ice Jam Mitigation program in 2006. The program consists of cutting and breaking river ice to reduce the risk of flooding caused by ice jams on the lower Red River and several other rivers, according to the province.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BOB MCLEARY

The Winnipeg Environmental Remediations Incorporated's (WERI) Amphibex was south of Selkirk on March 10. The machinery will break up the ice on the Icelandic River in the next couple of weeks.



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Gimli asks province for more than \$4.7 million for water main renewal



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Gimli public works staff clear a pipe at the intersection of Centre and Third with a portable steamer after a water main break in February 2018.

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli council requested \$4,721,975 from the Manitoba Water Services Board to help it upgrade water mains on Fifth and Sixth avenues in Gimli. The municipality would share a portion of that cost and fund it through borrowing.

Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg said the project "has to be done" despite the high cost because the town's water main infrastructure is old.

"Over the years the water mains keep breaking and they're costly to repair all the time," said the mayor by phone last week. "We want to do the mains all the way to First Avenue. We re-lined the mains on First Avenue last year and did a little re-lining on Centre Street. But we've been told there are so many breaks in the mains on the other streets that re-lining them won't work. So we'll have to dig everything up and put in new pipes."

The mayor said there is also federal-provincial grant money the town can apply for.

The RM hasn't yet heard whether the Water Service Board will provide the money. And should the RM be unable get approval for borrowing, there are available funds to proceed with the engineering design.

Other council news:

The RM will apply for a Building Sustainable Communities grant for development of the Gimli waterfront, flooring in the hockey dressing room at the recreation centre, a commercial kitchen at the Pavilion and tennis courts at Gimli High School.

"The Water Front Plan is a concept plan that will provide direction for the growth and development of the waterfront area," said CAO Kelly

Cosgrove by email. "Concept plans provide a detailed strategy for land-use, parks/open space and utility and transportation networks. The municipality plans to engage the services of a professional community planner to guide this process."

The majority of council passed a resolution in favour of asphaltting Corona Crescent, which represents Phase 4 of the Pelican Beach Road reconstruction project, and will increase the borrowing authority for it. Maple Leaf Construction will asphalt Corona for \$371,857.50 plus GST.

The RM's administration building will be getting a new boiler. The majority of council accepted a \$20,838.61 increase in a contract with St. Vital Plumbing and Heating for the replacement of the boiler. The total adjusted contract amount is \$285,468.36. Coun. Thora Palson abstained from the vote.

Council agreed to purchase a 2001 genie lift from Nick Vogiatzakis for \$30,000.

Council approved its monthly indemnities and expenses for January in the amount of \$12,276.38.

The pay of two public works department staff, who are family of councillors Thora Palson and Richard Petrowski, has to appear on agendas and be approved at council meetings so that each councillor can declare a conflict of interest.

"They are working for the RM. If a spouse is on council, they have to bow out of the meetings or they could be called on it by a member of the public that it's a conflict to vote on that," said the mayor. "It's small community and so many

people are related."

Council authorized a payment for \$300 for a 2021 membership in the Hudson Bay Route Association.

The mayor said belonging to the association will provide the RM with information that could be useful should freight be flown north from the Gimli Airport.

Gimli had a one-day COVID-19 pop-up clinic this week, and the mayor said he's not sure at this time whether there could be another one.

"The government called us. We had a couple of staff that talked to them and I had a virtual meeting with them. We encouraged them to set up here if they could," said Mayor Greenberg. "I don't know if there will be another pop-up clinic. The government can get only so much vaccine and they have to distribute it across the province. They're doing the best they can and hopefully we'll get vaccinated by the end of the summer. It could happen sooner because they announced they got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine."

He added that people still have to be careful and practise social distancing until everyone is vaccinated.

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Province advises spring run-off has started in southern Manitoba basins

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba's Hydrologic Forecast Centre advises that spring run-off due to snowmelt has started in most of the southern Manitoba basins.

River ice conditions are expected to weaken and users should be cautious when venturing onto the ice.

Water levels on the Red River continue to rise approximately one foot per day. The Red River is expected to peak at Emerson between March 18 and 21. The Red River is expected to remain

within its banks and the forecast peak will not require the use of the floodway.

Run-off on the Assiniboine and Qu'Appelle rivers, and the upper Assiniboine river (Shellmouth basin) is expected to begin later this week.

Manitoba's Hydrologic Forecast Centre released its first spring thaw outlook on Feb. 26. The report is at https://www.gov.mb.ca/mit/floodinfo/pdf/2021/february_2021_high_water_outlook_report.pdf.

Mordens' Meadows' 144-site expansion proposal expected next week

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli council is giving more consideration to the proposed expansion of the Mordens' Meadows campground/trailer park after a public hearing on Feb. 24 and the municipality received 20 letters of objection and concern.

The family-operated seasonal trailer park is about 18 kilometres north of Gimli. Owner Blake Morden wants to create 144 additional sites in the park over a period of three to five years in order to meet demands for camp sites. Each site is to have its own water, hydro and a holding tank.

Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg said council decided to move its decision forward to another meeting in order to further consider the proposal.

"We adjourned the [Feb. 24] hearing and we're reconvening it for a further meeting," said the mayor by phone last Thursday. "At the hearing we told them we'd make a decision on March 24."

There will be no further public input into the process, the mayor added.

Council had already approved the rezoning of Mordens' Meadows land from agricultural use to recreation resort on Aug. 12, 2020, the first step along the way to expansion. But at that same meeting, council defeated a conditional use proposal to expand sites in the campground, with four councillors opposed and Mayor Greenberg in favour. At the Sept. 9, 2020, meeting, however, all councillors approved the conditional use to expand the site subject to a development agreement.

Area residents said that approval came after Morden had already created 36 new sites over the sum-



EXPRESS MAP SUBMITTED BY RM OF GIMLI
Seasonal and permanent residents north of Mordens' Meadows campground/trailer park and Camp Neustadt to the south object to a 144-site expansion proposal.

mer.

The latest proposal for 144 more sites will require either a new development agreement or an amendment to the previous agreement.

After reviewing the 144-site proposal, Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) raised concerns in its Feb. 19, 2021, letter about an increase in traffic on PR 222. Should council go ahead and approve the project,

MI asked that a conditional agreement between the municipality and the developer be established.

The conditions include having the developer provide a preliminary traffic projection to MI. And based on the information provided, the department could ask that an engineer conduct a detailed traffic impact study to see if highway improvements would be required. Another condition would see the developer provide information showing that drainage from the site would not adversely affect the provincial highway system.

On its website the municipality posted one letter of support for the 144-site expansion, 17 letters of objection and three letters of "concern."

Letters of objection/concern were sent by both seasonal and permanent residents in the area, the German Society of Winnipeg, which owns neighbouring Camp Neustadt, and the Spruce Sands Cottagers Association (SSCA).

Concerns ranged from increased traffic on PR 222, increased motorized traffic such as ATVs and dirt bikes on trails and the old rail bed along the highway, "200-plus" children on golf carts travelling to and from the beach all day and night, near-miss accidents involving children and adults on ATVs and motorbikes, beach congestion, clashes between swimmers and Sea-Doos, months of excessive development noise based on the expansion work that took place last year, further destruction of wildlife habitat and the lowering of property values of nearby dwellings.

The SSCA wrote in its objection letter that since

Continued on page 10

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Family concerned about a few shortcomings after survey

By Patricia Barrett

A survey undertaken at the Gimli Betel personal care home has raised a few concerns from a Gimli family who has a relative living in the 80-bed care facility.

Speaking on behalf of her family, Sherry Benson-Podolchuk said a few shortcomings during the COVID-19 pandemic came to light after residents, including her dad, completed a survey.

She wrote a letter to Gimli Betel to advocate for the elderly, who have arguably been hit the hardest during COVID-19 in terms of deaths and hospitalizations and in terms of enduring the negative effects of isolation that have arisen after being subjected to reduced contact, or being cut off altogether from family in a bid to keep the virus out of care homes.

"My dad has completed his own survey; thankfully, he has a voice and a functioning mind. Clearly there are a few shortcomings, which have been highlighted during the COVID lockdown and crisis," said Benson-Podolchuk in her letter, which she shared with the *Express*. "As we are all going to be elderly with various mobility issues, now is the opportunity to create a Betel with the best policies for residents, and create a home where people are pleased to live."

In the survey, several Betel residents mentioned issues with food quality and problems with getting assistance to eat, she said. With regard to activities, residents expressed a need for more activities in the evening and during holidays, plus a better activities notification system for residents with "visual and hearing issues."

"More than one resident mentioned they would like more activities. Let's face it, they are bored. I think anyone who cannot leave or have visitors would quickly become very bored and this has a direct impact on their mental and physical health," said Benson-Podolchuk. "My dad and others are able to have more challenging activities to keep active. [But] last Christmas [there were] no activities listed and although I asked about it, I was told there were 'unscheduled events.'"

Residents also noted that staff could be overheard gossiping in the hallways, which had a negative impact on them. Residents typically come from Gimli or small, tight-knit communities where everyone knows everyone.

"Respectful workplace includes being respectful to and around the residents. You never know who may be a relative. Either way, it is unprofessional. Working with the elderly requires a great level of patience," wrote Benson-Podolchuk. "Something to discuss with all staff and those on the board is unconscious bias, how we really feel about the elderly, what triggers we may be experiencing when frustrated with the residents and why we get angry or feel impatient?"

She asked that additional survey data be gathered from families whose relatives had died to get a rounder picture of the quality of care, whether the access to their loved one at the end of life or during palliative care was sufficient and what they think needs to be improved.

They're thankful family members are being kept safe and that COVID was kept out of the home, said Benson-Podolchuk. The opening of the pods [outdoor visitor trailers] was "wonderful" and recent indoor visits have helped establish important connections again.

But lockdown came at a cost to residents' physical and mental well-being. More could have been done to help them cope with unprecedented isolation.

"There was a cost to their mental and physical health; no one to walk with them, talk to them, listen to them, get them water and feed them," she said.

She reminded staff that when they go to work every day to look into residents' eyes, and if they see loneliness or helplessness, act on it because one day that could be them.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY SHERRY BENSON-PODOLCHUK
Sherry Benson-Podolchuk would often visit her dad Harvey from the lawn of Betel.

"You along with me at some point in the future will be sitting in those seats," said Benson-Podolchuk. "Think about what you/we/the board can do to make their world, our future, a better and happier place to live the last years of life."

Angela Eyjolfson, chief executive officer of the Betel Home Foundation, told the *Express* the survey is distributed every year and is part of the PCH's continuous quality improvement program. Volunteers at the PCH — or recreation staff if volunteers aren't available — help residents complete the survey.

It's also sent to residents' primary contacts. Those contacts, who are registered with the PCH, can fill it out if their loved one is incapacitated. Both the resident and primary contacts also receive an invitation to attend a "conference" with an interdisciplinary health-care team.

"This conference is intended to discuss the resident's care/needs and any concerns that need to be addressed with the resident's primary contact, as well as with residents if they are able to attend," said Eyjolfson by email last week. "This meeting is planned, minimally, annually but we will meet more frequently than that if family or residents request it."

The PCH responds to concerns raised in surveys by addressing the issues with managers. The complaint process is also facilitated by a council that meets regularly.

When the surveys are completed and there's an urgent complaint or request for a response, Eyjolfson said the survey is forwarded to the manager responsible for a particular area.

"Otherwise, all of the survey data is collected and results are shared quarterly with our advisory committees and board members. They are also reviewed at department meetings and management meetings — and if specific results warrant, an action plan is developed," she said.

There is also a Resident and Family Advisory Council, made up of Betel residents and family representatives,

which meets five times a year in addition to an annual meeting. The council can bring forward specific resident complaints to managers.

When asked how residents' concerns about food quality, lack of activities and gossiping staff are being handled, Eyjolfson said those issues are being "directed to the appropriate manager to address and respond back to the complainant."

She added that she, as CEO, follows up on all formal complaints to confirm they've been resolved.

Betel posts on its website a copy of the most recent Modified Standards Review Report, which are released after licensed PCH visits by Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living. The last visit to Gimli Betel by provincial officers occurred in August 2020.

Eyjolfson shared both the Gimli Betel and the Selkirk Betel reports with the *Express*.

In the Gimli Betel report, the province's general findings stated that there were "no critical issues identified during the course of the review and no follow-up reporting is required."

It noted the facility was clean and generally well-maintained. Some carpeting was in need of repair and wooden tables were noted to be quite worn. Respondents that had been interviewed called for more staffing, more variety in meals, more fire training and drills and more opportunities for residents to spend outdoors.

Eyjolfson said the results of the recent Gimli Betel survey show that residents and families, in general, are quite happy with the care provided.

"For the most part, people are understanding of the changes we have had to put in place as a result of COVID-19 to help ensure the health of our residents," said Eyjolfson. "Residents and family members report staff as being friendly and helpful and state that they feel safe and well taken care of."

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Op ed: COVID-19 pandemic – lessons to keep

By Cam Dahl, Manitoba Pork

As we approach the one-year anniversary of pandemic lockdowns, COVID-19 fatigue has set in for most.

We want to see our families again. We want to have a barbecue with our neighbours. We want to be able to meet a group of friends at a restaurant. While we don't want to talk about positives coming out of the COVID-19 experience, there are lessons for our relationship to agriculture and food that need to be remembered after the pandemic response ends.

One of the foremost lessons we have learned during this pandemic is the importance of people on the front lines. There are too many "front lines" to list. I am grateful for them all.

I would like to focus on the front-line workers of Canada's food supply. Being able to put food on the table depends upon staff at grocery stores being willing to come to work every day despite the risk of infection. Having full grocery shelves would not be possible without truckers who are willing to make the long haul, even with restaurants and rest facilities closed across the country. Farmers from coast to coast continue to produce healthy and nutritious food. We would be lost without them.

We cannot forget the workers who keep our processing plants running. These jobs might have been taken for granted in the past, but we need to acknowledge their importance. It would only be a matter of days before meat counters were empty if processing plants were forced to close due to labour shortages.

Canada's agriculture supply chains have proven to be incredibly resilient during the pandemic. Demand from domestic consumers continues to be met, and we are seeing record export levels for agriculture commodities



Biosecurity is a higher priority to protecting our food supply.

as countries around the world turn to Canada as a reliable supplier. We should honour the people who have created and maintain this reliability. We can do this by giving priority vaccine access to those employed in critical infrastructure and essential services.

The second key lesson from COVID-19 is the importance of biosecurity. How do you stop a pandemic (no, this is not the beginning of a bad joke)? The best way is to prevent the virus from spreading from one host to another. We have spent a year physical distancing, limiting contacts outside of our home, not travelling and wearing masks. These lessons apply to raising livestock too.

Foreign diseases are one of the biggest threats to the animals under producers' care. Like COVID-19, these diseases are spread from contact with someone who has travelled to an infection zone, contact with infected animals and contaminated equipment, feed and clothing.

African Swine Fever (ASF) is one example of a virus that has devastated the pork industry around the world. For the past 15 years, the disease has spread across Africa, central Asia and several European countries. Some estimate that more than 200 million pigs in China were lost in the first year of the outbreak there. There is no cure for the disease and there is no vaccine



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EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Governments are passing biosecurity legislation to protect animals from disease outbreaks.

to protect animals.

How do we keep ASF out of the Canadian swine population? Through rigorous adherence to biosecurity protocols, similar to steps taken to limit the spread of COVID-19. Animals that are brought into barns screened to be disease free, as is the feed used to raise healthy animals. Pork producers also restrict contact with the outside world through carefully limiting barn access to only those who provide animal care.

The threat of disease outbreaks is why we are seeing provincial governments across the country pass legislation that impose penalties for those who trespass onto farm operations. This legislation is a necessary step to protect animals and helps producers ensure that disease outbreaks like ASF do not happen.

Gratitude for front-line workers that keep our grocery shelves full. Understanding the reasons for enforcement of strict biosecurity requirements that keep livestock safe from devastating foreign animal diseases. These are two lessons from the global pandemic that should not be forgotten after we are vaccinated, and the lockdowns are finally lifted.

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Hadley Moscall, left, and Maci Otter were having fun playing on the ice last Saturday. The thermometer reached 7 degrees, melting most of the snow in the fields. 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.

Homebrook, Peonan Point receive provincial funding

By Evan Matthews

Though the timing is a bit ironic, the communities of Homebrook – Peonan Point have received some funding to be used for next winter's recreation.

The early melt means the equipment won't serve much use this year but Susan Olson, volunteer project co-ordinator for the communities (and recreation advocate), said the provincial money was used to purchase \$5,000 worth of cross-country ski equipment.

"We were able to get 10 sets of skis. Our community is so small, so 10 sets should be fitting for us. There are 23 community members total," said Olson, noting communities' Let's Keep Fit! Cross-Country Ski Project was made possible through the Safe at Home MB program.

"We got quite a variety of sizes, so the idea is that we should have a set to fit everyone, and we think it'll be easy to share them," she said.

The idea is to have residents call and sign out the skis, boots and poles for two-week periods, according to Olson. When the two weeks are up, she said the equipment is to be returned to the hall.

Skis were available for bookings in the past, Olson said, but about 15 years ago someone broke into the community storage facility and stole the cross-country ski equipment.

"We've had a (groomer) for our trails, and no skis to go with it," said Olson, adding the groomer will be available to sign out, too.

"When this became available, we thought, 'Hey, here is our chance to get our equipment back.' We're pretty lucky."

The funding is part of a \$5-million provincial announcement on Feb. 26 for a variety of Manitoba organizations, municipalities, and individual artists to provide online programming; helping to keep Manitobans engaged while at home through the pandemic.

The program includes, but is not limited to, 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, according to the press release.

Other Interlake organizations to re-

ceive funding included:

- \$6,000 to the Peacepipe Family Wellness Centre's Survivors Book Club (Winnipeg Beach);
- \$1,000 to the RM of Gimli's Family Time Programming;
- \$15,000 to the Gimli Film Festival's Manitoba Home Movie Archive.

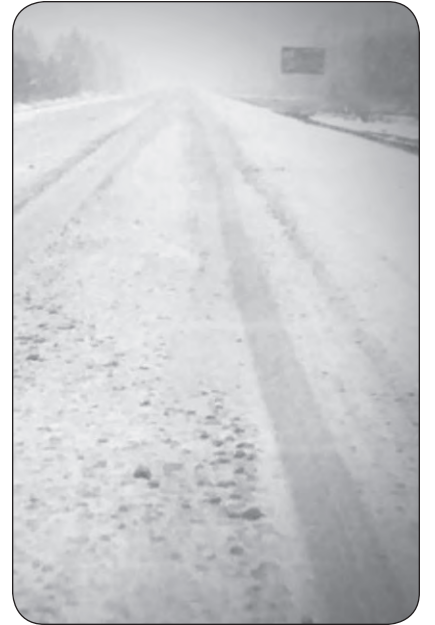
"Our PC government recognizes the importance of investing in programs to help improve the quality of life for Manitobans, while helping us stop the spread of COVID-19," said MLA for Interlake-Gimli Derek Johnson.

"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," he said.

For cross-country ski rentals in the future, residents can call the Homebrook Point Council at 204-659-5847 or email homebrookcc@xplornet.com.

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

Spring storm closes Lakeshore schools



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mother Nature hopefully dumped her last bit of snow last week shutting down most of the schools in the Lakeshore School Division, while making highway travel treacherous throughout the northern Interlake.

By Evan Matthews

With a bit of snow, Mother Nature swiftly reminded northern Interlake students that spring is still a ways off.

All but one school within the Lakeshore School Division closed on Wednesday, March 10 due to road conditions resulting from almost a foot of snow and sleet the day prior, with the only unlucky students in the division attending Inwood School.

"It depends how you look at it," said a chucking Don Nikkel, Lakeshore School Division's superintendent of human resources and alternative program director.

"We always like to think our schools are places people like to be, but some students might think otherwise," he said.

It was as though the storm formed a geographically horizontal line through the division, as roads in the southern part of the school division remained clear, but Nikkel said conditions progressively worsened heading north.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Ag-Gag law gives animal factory owners and operators a free pass

Dear Editor:

Re: Carl DeGurse - It's time to talk about Ag-gag in Manitoba. (*Winnipeg Free Press*, Feb. 27) "Manitoba is exploring potential legislation that would protect bio-security at food production premises where livestock or other animals are being kept in order to protect animals from hazards that may compromise food safety."

However, it doesn't say why bio-security is suddenly so critical that it now needs legislative action especially when factory hog barn establishments have been in Manitoba for nearly 25 years!

Ag-Gag laws are dangerous because they essentially give animal factory owners/operators a free pass at doing what they want to animals. These laws are designed to scare off activists or potential whistle blowers from taking videos, photos or documenting anything that takes place on the premises. There would be no accountability. What are they afraid of? Self-regulation and scrutiny would be a mockery to animal stewardship. And if hog factory operators (a.k.a. farmers) are so terrified that protesters will bring disease onto their properties, I find that somewhat ironic in that they are spending manpower and resources to try and create disease-free barns, when they are exacerbating the problem by providing the perfect medium for diseases

to proliferate within the barns themselves, along with the huge storage lagoons of feces.

As citizens of Manitoba, we need to decide what kind of a country we want to live in. A healthy, vibrant, rural economy with small family farms and small local abattoirs, which are good for urban Canada as well. We need to restore public confidence in the food system (currently very low). We need to develop a food supply system that does not destroy community, here in Manitoba, Canada or in other countries. Farmers must be valued for the contribution they make to our society.

Sadly, this is not taking place in Manitoba. The public good, our concerns for health, the environment and protection to our water sources have fallen through the cracks.

Today, caring people are continually in conflict to save our communities, their health, their way of life and to preserve precious water sources and environment. Sadly, however, it's like fighting fires with a hammer.

"Why?" one might ask, "has the Manitoba government deserted their obligations to uphold and protect our rural citizens?"

As we know, our present Manitoba government is a proponent of the hog industry and also the regulator, which is wrong. Needed regulation must be determined and administered by another independent agency, else there is a conflict of interest.

Justice Horace Krever, the presiding judge during the tainted blood scandal, expresses the following as a solemn warning (Inquiry- Oct. 1993).

"The relationship between a regulator and the regulated must never become one in which the 'regulator'

loses sight of the principle that it 'regulates only' in the public interest and 'not' in the interest of the regulated."

- John Fefchak
Virden

Happy to see that the *Express* doesn't suppress and allows free speech

Dear Editor,

Thank you for printing Thomas Verduyn's letter re: COVID, which gave an injection of truth into an otherwise single-sided vaccination debate. And thank you to Evan Matthews for your timely story about "social media and tech giants killing unbiased journalism" from last week's issue. I am absolutely thrilled that the *Express Weekly News* is still a place to find some truth in this heavily suppressed "unprecedented time."

I was concerned that our free speech was being stripped in Canada, as I have recently been censored by social media, specifically Facebook, whom I resultingly broke up with after a steady 15-year relationship. No remorse.

I also noticed television broadcasts and other news syndicate sources are more closely resembling pharmaceutical ads than the impartial journalism required to keep a civilized society fair and democratic. But I broke up with TV when my children were just old enough to tell me all the things they "needed" after watching the ads that told/sold them so. I am not missing the TV "programming."

If you don't hear from me here, I

still exist, but I am choosing to do it in the land of free. The land of me.

And I hope you all, every single one of you, find your own truth, your own anchor and live by your own creed.

Please know that whatever I am doing, I'm having fun!

Because we all choose our reality.

Stay strong. And be well.

And as Thomas V. said in his letter, there is so much more truth to come.

Sincerely,
Erika Goodman

Seems like the kettle calling the pot black

P4P spokesperson Dr. Muriel Smith is correct in saying 1,000 to 1,200 truck loads of fill was dumped in the wetland to build up the property to a grade that would allow the construction on that site.

Muriel Smith also states that two different provincial governments plus the council of the RM of Gimli approved this. I am pleased that the government has given the green light to finish the canal. I, for one, believe that wetlands protection should be a top priority and definitely preserved as it has been proven to help Lake Winnipeg.

P4P group singling out one family seems like the kettle calling the pot black as the entire Siglavik was built on wetland.

As a young boy, spear-fishing carp at this very location was popular. Fields were covered with two feet of water and water used to flow over Highway 9 most springs.

Thank you,
Norman Valgardson

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@expressweeklynews.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Interlake pharmacies approved to give COVID-19 inoculations to those eligible

By Patricia Barrett

Several pharmacies across the Interlake region will be providing COVID-19 inoculations after the province approved more rural and northern sites to administer them.

The province announced last week that Manitobans can receive an inoculation at pharmacies, medical clinics and pop-up clinics when vaccines become available.

Pharmasave in Gimli is on the province's approval list and is eager to help with the vaccination effort, said pharmacist Melissa Jacobs.

"We know we will be getting the vaccine, but we just don't know specifically when and how many [doses]," said Jacobs by phone last Thursday. "The province is sending out some vaccines today and tomorrow to a small number of pilot locations. I think it's still very much based on supply."

Pharmasave was told it will "most likely" be receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine. It will also be inoculating people according to the province's eligibility criteria, which are based on age, special settings and underlying health conditions.

"Who will get it first depends on priority," said Jacobs. "Pharmasave has to focus first on Priority 1 patients then Priority 2 patients — according to the direction of the government. Those priority groups are listed on the government's website," she said.

The province's eligibility criteria are updated as more COVID vaccines arrive in Manitoba. As of March 15, people 77 years of age and older and First Nations people 57 years of age and older are eligible.

Over the weekend, vaccine criteria was expanded to also include:

Health-care workers, who may or may not provide direct patient care, working in outpatient health-care settings including clinics, diagnostic imaging, laboratories, patient transport, blood donor centres, surgical centres, elderly day programs and home-based care (expanded to include workers without direct patient care, no age restrictions), and people working in congregate living facilities (no age restrictions).

Some of the other approved pharmacies (see full list below) told the *Express* they're still waiting for shipments of a vaccine while others have already received them. Most pharmacies said they are expecting to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The pharmacist at the Winnipeg Beach Pharmacy said he is ready to start booking appointments on Monday (March 15) as he has already received a shipment.

"I have the vaccine and people can start making appointments on Monday," said the pharmacist by phone last Thursday. "But people are subject to the eligibility criteria from Manitoba Health. The guideline issued by the government is what we follow."

St. Mary's Pharmacy in Gimli has also received a shipment of vaccine.

"We have received the vaccine but I don't know exactly when they'll tell us to start," said the pharmacist. "It will be according to the [province's eligibility] website and they'll let us know."

A pharmacist at the Lundar PharmaChoice Pharmacy said last Thursday he is currently waiting for a shipment of a vaccine.

People can book an appointment with a pharmacy when the province makes their group eligible and when

pharmacies receive a shipment.

Dr. Joss Reimer, medical lead of the province's Vaccine Implementation Task Force, said even if people get the vaccine, they should continue to practise public health precautions, including wearing masks, staying six feet away from other people and washing their hands, as it's still possible to contract COVID and researchers have yet to determine whether vaccinated people can transmit the virus to others.

"I would encourage everyone to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible, to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Vaccines are safe, effective and will protect you and the people you love," said Dr. Reimer in a March 10 news release. "Once people get the vaccine, it is important to continue to follow public health measures, because we do not yet know whether or not COVID-19 may still be able to spread to others even if you have been vaccinated and do not get sick."

In addition to pharmacies, the province is establishing temporary vaccination clinics in rural and northern communities.

A temporary clinic was offered in Gimli on March 16 to help vaccinate those eligible. Upcoming clinics will be established in Ashern on March 18 at the Centennial Hall; Teulon on March 23 at the Anglican Parish Hall; Eriksdale on March 25 at the Recreation Centre; and St. Laurent on March 25 at the Recreation Centre. All clinics run from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

To book an appointment, phone the vaccination call centre at 1-844-626-8222. The temporary clinic schedule is available at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/clinics



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Gimli Pharmasave pharmacist Melissa Jacobs said Pharmasave was approved by the province to administer COVID-19 inoculations. Other pharmacies in Gimli and across the northern Interlake region have also been approved by the province.

As of last Thursday, the following Interlake pharmacies have been approved to administer COVID-19 vaccines:

Ashern: Ashern Guardian Pharmacy
Fisher Branch: Fisher Branch Pharmacy
Gimli: Pharmasave; Taylor Pharmacy; St. Mary's Pharmacy
Lundar: Lundar PharmaChoice Pharmacy
Riverton: Riverton Pharmacy
Winnipeg Beach: Winnipeg Beach Pharmacy

Arborg veterinarian job posted

By Evan Matthews

Confirming what board members have said from the beginning, the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) has posted the Arborg Veterinary Hospital's job vacancy.

The posting went live as of March 11, according to Interlake Veterinary Service District Board member Chad Johnson.

"Start your own practice without the overhead ... Interlake Veterinary Service District is looking to partner with an enthusiastic veterinarian(s) to provide large and small animal care to the Town of Arborg and surrounding rural communities," the posting reads.

The posting notes that 2020 caseloads exceeded 6,500 in total, mostly consisting of small pets but also including food-producing animals, livestock and equine.

"We offer an established hospital located one hour north from the Perimeter Highway, our facility is equipped with a CR stationary X-Ray, My Lab 5 Ultrasound, Abaxis Vetscan & VS2

(CBC and Blood Machines), Anesthesia machine, I.V. infusion pump, Pulsator 5 ejaculator with two probes, as well as office equipment and furniture," the post goes on.

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.

Johnson has been a cattle farmer for over 40 years and also acts as a councillor for the RM of Bifrost-Riverton. He said he understands what people (and farmers) are going through right now and their concerns as it relates to calving season.

The priority and hope is to get a veterinarian operating in the building ASAP, he said.

Anyone with questions or comments relating to the job is encouraged to contact Johnson at 204-378-0018.

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'We're really in that race to get Manitobans vaccinated'

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba began the work week with no new COVID-19 deaths but 50 new cases, including 18 new cases of the more contagious B117 variant.

One of those variant cases was found in the Interlake-Eastern health region while the rest were in Winnipeg. That brings the total number of variant cases to 41 (30 of B117 and 11 of B1351).

At press time, Manitoba had 908 active cases of COVID-19 and 30,968 recoveries. A total of 151 people were in hospital due to the virus, 23 in intensive care.

Our province's death toll due to COVID-19 since last spring is 917.

The province's test positivity rate is on the rise once again, hitting 4.8 per cent provincially and 3.5 per cent in Winnipeg.

Those are numbers Manitoba's top doctor wants to see moving in the other direction.

"We're really in that race to get Manitobans vaccinated, but it's going to really impair our ability to vaccinate Manitobans if we start to see high test positivity rates again," said chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin at Monday's press briefing.

The restrictions of the past few months have had an impact on the spread of the virus, Roussin said, so we're in better shape than we were in November or December.

That said, as restrictions continue to ease, the risk for transmission increases so it's important people continue to follow the fundamentals: physically distance from non-household members, wear your mask, avoid crowded spaces and stay home if you're ill. "I do feel overall we're in an optimistic place, but we still have to be quite cautious right now for these next many, many weeks as the vaccine rolls out," Roussin stressed.

In our region on Monday, Northern Remote had 15 active case while Powerview/Pine Falls had five. Reporting no active cases were Arborg/Riverton, Beausejour, Eriksdale/Ashern, Fisher River/Peguis, Gimli, Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet, Selkirk, Springfield, St. Clements, St. Laurent, Stonewall/Teulon, Unknown, Whiteshell and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews. The Interlake Eastern Regional Authority had an additional death on Saturday, a male in his 70s from the Northern district, bringing our total to 37 deaths due to COVID-19.

Interlake Eastern as a whole had 38 active COVID-19 cases at the start of the week.

Public health order changes
Public health officials have announced a few changes to the public health orders in effect until March 25.

Church-goers are now allowed to take off their masks while seated in household groups at a service, assuming they are appropriately distanced from other groups and are not singing.

Restaurants are also now allowed to seat up to six people from different households at their outdoor patios.

The province also announced on Friday that indoor singing and playing instruments, including wind instruments, are once again allowed in K-12 schools as long as COVID-19 precautions are taken. Concerts and public performances are not yet permitted.

Meanwhile, Manitoba over the weekend marked a milestone when it comes

to its vaccination program.

Health and Seniors Care Minister Heather Stefanson announced Saturday that 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been administered thus far.

"We know we still have much work to do so that we can return to our new normal with COVID-19," she said. "But it's also important to acknowledge hard work, commitment and dedication from those on the front lines and on our Vaccination Implementation Task Force who have made this possible."

The province is aiming to be able to give 20,000 doses of the vaccine a day at its super sites and pop-up clinics throughout Manitoba.

The age eligibility for vaccination continues to drop — on Monday it was expanded to include anyone aged 77 or older and First Nations people aged 57 or older.

Visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html for up-to-date criteria before calling to book an appointment.

> MORDEN MEADOWS', FROM PG. 4

2017 it has tried to get the RM to address its concerns about road and beach congestion and a lack of management.

Over the past 15 years, the Mordens' trailer park has expanded to 250 sites and its latest proposal would put it over 400 sites, said the SSCA. Mordens' proposal comes without expansion of in-camp recreation areas and facilities, and that will put pressure on neighbouring communities such as Spruce Sands and Bayshore Heights.

For both parties [the RM and Mordens' Meadows], further economic activity and revenue generation is promised by the initiative," wrote SSCA president Stephen James. "However, from a Spruce Sands and Bayshore Heights perspective, these communities are exclusively destined to bear, as they already have, the burdens of increased population density, movement congestion, and beach safety costs associated with this proposal."

The area is currently the "most populated" seasonal area outside the town of Gimli, James added, and a further influx of people into the area with no recreational infrastructure will further overtax Spruce Sands' park.

To the south of Mordens is Camp Neustadt, which is owned by the German Society of Winnipeg. In its objection letter, the society's board treasurer Melissa Kryschuk wrote that it has concerns about increased traffic, increased traffic from construction vehicles and the use of ATVs.

"We are concerned of the wear and tear/maintenance of the public road and the safety impacts for summer residents that like to take walks and bike rides," Kryschuk wrote.

She also noted concerns with trespassing in Camp Neustadt and crime that comes with an increase in population during the summer.

Area residents Doug and Russella McBurney said in their objection letter that the RM had not imposed any penalties on Mordens after it developed 36 new sites last year without permission.

Mordens "failed to follow regulations in expanding their capacity by 36 sites. Only after completion of that project did they notify the RM of Gimli of the project. Only then did the RM

hold a public hearing and approved the project with no penalties imposed," they wrote.

They added that the proposed 144-site expansion will nearly double capacity and overcrowd the beach.

"Mordens' Meadows summer residents will migrate to the Spruce Sands public beach, increasing motor traffic on Highway 222 and Spruce Sands Road causing safety concerns for families walking to and from the store and beach," wrote the McBurneys.

Area residents Debbie and Rick Mazur wrote that capacity in the area, in terms of population, beaches, roads, green space, infrastructure and recreational facilities, is already "stretched" to the max.

"We already experience serious safety concerns at our beaches with the amount of boats and various other watercraft that come from Mordens Meadows and Silver Harbor areas," they wrote.

Melanie Rocan wrote that the trailer park is a "big party zone" over the summer with loud music, and that disrupts the peace of people living in the area and also that of animals.

Permanent residents Iris and Dan Van Caeyzele asked if the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion have been studied.

The sole letter in favour of the 144-site expansion proposal spoke to the family's past management of the trailer park and the need for the RCMP to clamp down on recreational vehicles and traffic violations.

"I have seen Mordens Meadows grow over the years and the Morden Family have managed the park very well," wrote Gord Mattes, who identified himself as a 20-year camper at Mordens' Meadows and a local land owner. "Concerns over traffic violations (vehicles, golf carts and dirt bikes) are a police matter and should be dealt with accordingly."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pesticide Control Program

Public Notice is hereby given that the Province of Manitoba intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2021 within the province right of way.

1. To control invasive plants and noxious weeds on Manitoba Provincial right of way.
2. The herbicides include: Dicamba, 2,4-D amine, 2,4-D Choline, 2,4-D Ester, 2,4-D, Mecoprop-p, Dichloroprop-p, Amitrol, Aminopyralid, Metsulfuron- methyl, Diflufenzopyr, Fluroxypyr, Imazapyr, Triclopyr, Picloram, Aminocyclopyrachlor, Chlorsulfuron, Saflufenacil, Iron (as FeHEDTA), Glyphosate, Clopyralid, Bromacil, Acetic Acid, LI 700, Non Ionic Surfactant, Flumioxazin, & Indaziflam.

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

Manitoba Conservation and Climate
Environmental Approvals Branch
1007 Century Street
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W4



Gimli Ice Festival's 9.5 edition donates \$255 to the local chamber

By Patricia Barrett

The 2021 virtual edition of the Gimli Ice Festival wrapped up last week after several days of activities that could be enjoyed online or in individual or family groups.

The festival also donated \$255 to the Gimli Chamber of Commerce.

Co-chairs Susan and Peter Holfeuer called this year's festival the 9.5 edition because group events could not be held in person. Provincial public health restrictions around COVID-19 and gathering sizes forced the co-chairs to adapt to an online format.

"Visitors to the festival's website were able to view many exciting videos, some that were created from past festivals," said the co-chairs in a joint statement. "They were also invited to participate in three no-cost, stay-safe activities that they could register for online."

The Holfeuers said the most popular of those three activities was the five- and 10-kilometre walks. For each participant completing the event, the festival donated \$5 to the local chamber.

"As a result of this event, the festival is donating \$255 to the Gimli Chamber, that being the festival's small way to thank the local business community for all it's done to support the festival prior to the pandemic, which has been a struggle for many of them to navigate through," said the co-chairs.

Another popular virtual activity, the Kid's Colouring Contest, centred on artistic expression. The festival made picture templates available online that kids could download, colour and send in for a chance to win prizes. From all the entries, the festival made three random draws worth \$50 each. Brittany Moore, Jennifer McFee, and Lianne Gibson — parents whose kids participated in the contest — were the lucky winners.

Brothers Sammy and Jacob Burbano McFee were thrilled to discover that they won the \$50 prize for their age group.

"It's fun to enter different kinds of contests," said six-year-old Jacob.

The duo would like to eventually buy a PlayStation 4, and they're trying to save up by doing chores and entering contests. So far, they've amassed \$115 in prize money from colouring contests and other challenges, said their mom by email.

"We're so excited to win the \$50 prize," said Sammy, who will celebrate



EXPRESS PHOTO BY SUSAN HOLFEUER
Terry and Sam Sekhon of the Gimli and District Kiwanis Club earned a Shining Star Award from the Gimli Ice Festival for going above and beyond in their volunteering efforts.

his ninth birthday this weekend. "It helps to get us closer to our goal."

The festival's third stay-safe activity focused on the great outdoor and snow sculpting.

"Due to the incredibly warm weather, this activity was a bit challenging. However, every household that got involved is being provided [with] a participant medal in appreciation for their outstanding effort," said the Holfeuers.

Every year the festival recognizes the people who volunteer their time to help make the event a success and who go "above and beyond" in their efforts. They're presented with a Shining Star Award.

"This year we honoured ... Terry and Sam Sekhon from Gimli who have and continue to do incredible work for the Kiwanis Club of Gimli and have been avid supporters of the festival," said the Holfeuers.

The co-chairs said what they learned this year from the online format will prove valuable for future festivals. The 2022 festival will be counted as the 10th annual event. It's scheduled to run March 4-6.

Visit www.gimliicefestival.com for more information and to view videos and events from past festivals.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHERYL BUHLER
Gimli Ice Festival co-chairs with several of this year's volunteers. From left: Gord Anderson, Carol and Bill Szewaga, Susan and Peter Holfeuer (festival co-chairs), Clint and Peggy Kennedy and Kristine Dubois-Vandale.



The festival held a colouring contest and snow sculpting event that resulted in some unique creations.

"VISITORS TO THE FESTIVAL'S WEBSITE WERE ABLE TO VIEW MANY EXCITING VIDEOS."

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Manitoba Hydro



Zebra mussels found in moss balls sold for aquarium and water garden use

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development advises that zebra mussels have been detected in a variety of moss and algal ball products for aquariums or water gardens sold in Western Canada. These products are sold individually or in packages, and are a popular ornamental plant that are also kept with betta fish.

In Manitoba, zebra mussels are designated as an aquatic invasive species (AIS) and are prohibited.

Zebra mussels have been found at all life stages, including some that are extremely small (size of grain of sand), and are often found inside the moss or algal ball itself. This makes it difficult to detect whether your moss or algal ball is infected simply by visual inspection.

Due to this risk, Manitoba is asking the public to remove and treat all moss or algal balls in their possession that were purchased after Jan. 1, 2021. A process to treat and dispose of moss or algal balls safely and treat the aquarium contents (e.g., water, décor etc.) can be found below.

Thanks to a well co-ordinated effort across Western Canada between the department and its partners in neighbouring jurisdictions, and swift ac-

tion and collaboration from retailers across Western Canada, moss or algal balls are being removed from the supply chain, ensuring that potentially contaminated products are no longer available for distribution or purchase.

Steps to safely treat and dispose of moss or algal balls are as follows:

- Step 1: Treat the moss or algal balls:
 - place into a plastic bag, seal and freeze (preferably in a deep freezer) for at least 24 hours; or
 - place in boiling water for at least one minute and then let cool.

- Step 2: Dispose of moss or algal balls:

- place it and any of its packaging in a sealed plastic bag and dispose in household garbage.

To prevent zebra mussels from getting into water bodies, do not dispose of the moss, algal ball or any aquarium or water-garden contents (e.g., substrate, plants etc.):

- by flushing down the toilet,
- by putting down drain, or
- in a compost.

After moss or algal balls have been removed from an aquarium, do not dispose of untreated water down the drain or into any residential water system or waterbody.

If you have questions, or if you think



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A tiny, invasive zebra mussel found on a moss ball sold as aquarium decor in a pet store. Officials say moss balls containing the invasive species have been reported in pet stores.

you have found a zebra mussel, contact Manitoba's AIS Unit by email at AIS@gov.mb.ca or by calling 1-877-

867-2470 (toll free). To learn more about zebra mussels, visit www.manitoba.ca/StopAIS.




Weekly

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inmotionnetwork.ca

AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine temporarily halted in Europe

By Patricia Barrett

Several European countries pulled the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine last week as a precautionary move after reports of blood clots developing in some people after inoculation, but Health Canada said it has no plans to suspend it.

The department is working with European health regulators to assess whether "action" needs to be taken, according to its advisory dated March 11. It said the European Medicines Agency informed it of reports of blood clots and that several countries have either paused the use of specific batches of the vaccine or suspended it altogether.

Austria and Italy were among the countries reported to have stopped using certain batches of the vaccine while Norway, Denmark and Iceland were among those that suspended its use after one person who received it in Denmark died several days later after developing a blood clot.

Health Canada is reassuring Canadians there's no evidence at the moment showing the AstraZeneca vaccine is linked to the formation of blood clots.

"At this time, there is no indication that the vaccine caused these events," states the advisory on Health Canada's website. "To date, no adverse events related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, or the version manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, have been reported to Health Canada or the Public Health Agency of Canada."

It added that the benefits of the vaccine "continue to outweigh its risks."

The department says common side effects of all vaccines, including the COVID vaccines, include pain at the injection site, feeling feverish, feeling

tired and developing body chills. Serious side effects are allergic reactions.

According to March 5 Health Canada data, 2,255,174 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Canada with 1,923 adverse events (or .085 per cent of all doses given). Of those adverse events, 214 were serious with anaphylaxis being the most frequently reported. Fifteen people have died after receiving a COVID vaccine; nine of those are not linked to COVID vaccines and the remaining six are still under investigation.

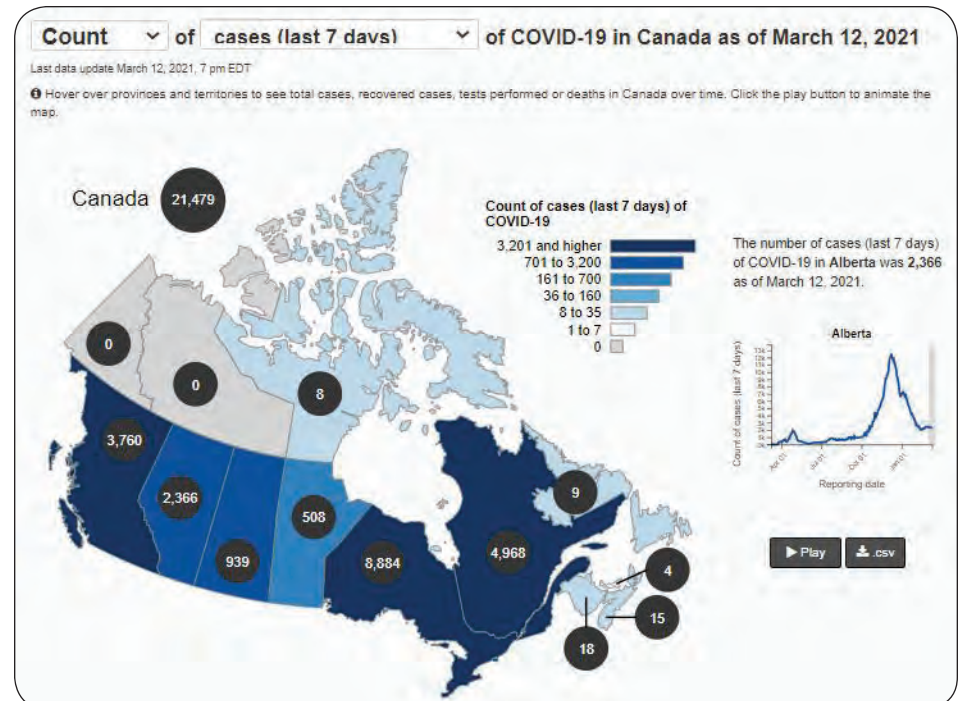
The vaccine was developed by British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca in collaboration with Oxford University. The U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said that following 11 million doses of the vaccine, "reports of blood clots are no greater than expected." Blood clots "occur naturally" in a population.

The Manitoba government started distributing 18,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to pharmacies and clinics in rural and northern areas last week as it can be stored in fridges in clinical settings unlike the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines which require colder temperatures.

Thrombosis Canada issued a statement March 11 addressing the unproven association of the AstraZeneca's vaccine with thrombotic complications (blood clots).

"It is the view of Thrombosis Canada that, based on the available evidence, there is no link between receiving this vaccine and the development of blood clots. In general, vaccines of any type are not associated with the development of blood clots."

It goes to say that thrombosis is a common medical problem, especially in older people.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY HEALTH CANADA

Health Canada data as of March 12 shows the number of new COVID-19 infections over the past seven days by province and territory.

The organization "strongly recommends" that people get inoculated against COVID even those with a history of blood clots.

It's up to provinces and territories to determine who will get what vaccine. The Manitoba government decided that people aged 65 and over won't be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine after Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) said earlier this month that those over 65 shouldn't receive it because of insufficient data showing its efficacy in seniors.

Although clinical trial data found the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine safe, only a small number of trial participants aged 65 and older had been recruited and the efficacy, therefore, is uncertain, according to an interim guidance document dated Feb. 10 from the World Health Organization. More efficacy data for the age category will become available as ongoing

trials are completed and from studies of its effectiveness that are being carried out by countries administering it.

Despite NACI's recommendation that people 65 and older shouldn't receive it, Health Canada's vaccine information webpage shows the two-dose vaccine is authorized for use in adults 18 years of age and older.

Manitoba is offering AstraZeneca to people under 64 years of age and who have chronic conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, heart problems, a history of stroke, HIV, renal disease and obesity.

Based on ongoing research, health officials and infectious disease experts have said all the COVID vaccines presently on the market, regardless of their efficacy rates, protect people from serious illness should they become infected with COVID or one of the more infectious variants.

Pandemic tickets on decline

Staff

Efforts to enforce the COVID-19 public health orders across Manitoba continue, though provincial officials noted last week that the numbers of tickets being issued continues to decline.

The Manitoba government reported that its agents had issued a total of 89 warnings and 19 tickets for the first week of March, including 15 \$1,296 tickets to individuals for various offences (10 related to gatherings in private residences or outdoors), three \$298 tickets to individuals for failure to wear a mask in indoor public places, and one \$5,000 ticket to a business.

Officials note that most Manitobans are doing their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but education and enforcement remain necessary in some instances.

Since enforcement efforts began in April 2020, a total of 3,391 warnings and 1,028 tickets have been issued, resulting in more than \$1.4 million in fines to businesses and individuals.

Manitobans are urged to continue reporting compliance and enforcement issues by visiting www.manitoba.ca/COVID19 or by calling toll-free 1-866-626-4862.

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Your FARM



Brad Reykdal, a fifth-generation farmer

By Evan Matthews

Though technological advancements have drastically changed Canadian farming methods over the last 153 years, remnants of a simpler time remain on Lake Manitoba's Birch Island, where Brad Reykdal's family has farmed for five generations.

But as much as things change, they stay the same, as 35-year-old Reykdal said he and his family have been preparing for the annual calving season on the farm. The Reykdals' commercial cow-calf operation totals about 600 head of cattle.

"Going back five generations, our descendants immigrated from Iceland in the late 1800s. My great-great-grandfather was named Havardur Gudmundson," said Reykdal, making note that his family first started the farm where it is today—"Hayland"—in 1907.

The farm is located roughly 30 minutes west of Ashern, between Lake Manitoba Narrows and Vogar.

"My grandfather, David, would tell stories about growing up, when he lived on Birch Island. We still farm the island today. We take cattle out to pasture on a barge, and in the context of some of his memories out there, he was four years old. Some of the equipment they used is still out there.

"Our family has a lot of history on that island. The lineage and the history, it definitely adds value for me when I'm spending time out there," he said, noting the island itself is technically considered Crown land.

Reykdal returned to the farm full-time after the passing of his grandfather. He said the family intends to spread his grandfather's ashes at Birch Island. While growing up, the farm belonged to Reykdal's grandparents, but the entire family had a hand in having things run smoothly.

Whereas many kids growing up would leave the farm for



Brad Reykdal, right, with his son Thorian and his uncle Calvin Reykdal whom he farms with.

summer to find other employment experience, Reykdal said he never did work off the farm. Some of his fondest memories growing up are those summer days and nights, he said.

"All summer, those times were spent in the hayfields," said Reykdal. "The farm has always been really important to me. I've spent a lot of time here."

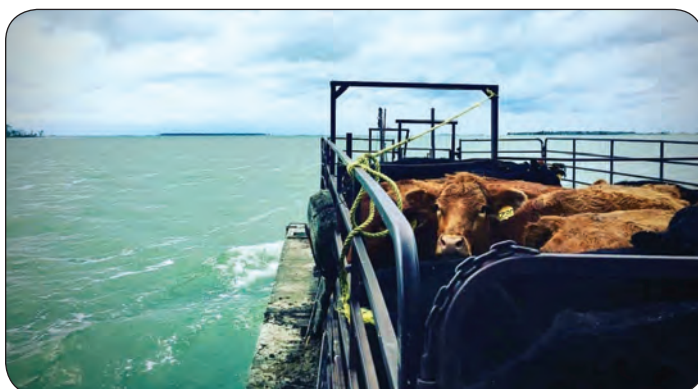
The notion has been passed down to his own kids, according to Reykdal. He said one of his kids is in school now, but the other often goes to spend time with grandma while dad goes to work on the farm.

It's something both grandma and Reykdal's son enjoy, but he said he also enjoys seeing the history continue.

"Right now, I'm farming with my mom, my uncle and my grandma, so we have three active generations," said Reykdal, noting his children are five and eight years old, respectively.

"My kids are starting to get involved and they would be the fourth (active) generation. I kind of hope they grow up and go to college, maybe go do something else for a while, then come back and take over the farm. It's a lot of hard work, but it's a great lifestyle," he said.

On the side, Reykdal has started a business in which he sells state-of-the-art video equipment, specifically designed for cow-calf operations. The technology makes it easier for farmers to monitor their herds from afar, he said.



The cattle enjoy the ride, on their way out to pasture at Birch Island.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRAD REYKDAL
Brad Reykdal said though his children are young, he sees both Thorian and Stannis taking an interest in the family farm.

Calling his side business Reykdal Ag and Security, Reykdal said it has become quite successful. For inquiries, Reykdal said to call 204-302-1402.

The future of Manitoba's agriculture industry

Year over year, Reykdal said it seems there are fewer and fewer family farms.

For a young person interested in the agricultural industry, it's an uphill battle, to put it mildly.

"A lot of the current programs don't really cater to cow-calf operations," said Reykdal, referring to AgriStability, agricultural insurance, and even recent changes to the Agricultural



Late-grandfather, David Reykdal, guiding in the barge at Birch Island.

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Your FARM



Keeping an eye out for Canadian Canola

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Canola Council of Canada is celebrating its 15th year of connecting to canola growers, processors and exporters to make sure that the canola grown and processed in Canada meets all the needs of international buyers.

"The [Keep It Clean] program is about sharing that information with growers across Canada, and now it actually includes cereals as well as pulses in addition to canola," said Brian Innes, VP of public affairs for the Canola Council of Canada.

For the canola part of the program, the council wants to make sure that farmers only grow registered varieties of the crop.

"We have a registration system for all varieties that are grown for a number of crops. And, for canola, there's a very specific process to get varieties

registered and as part of our quality assurance system," said Innes.

The reason that they maintain this list of varieties is to ensure consistent and reliable products for customers who buy canola oil all around the world as well as making sure that it follows all of the varying guidelines necessary to be sold in all of those countries.

"Really, that means that when that variety is growing, that it's going to keep the canola reputation and the canola brand around the world for consistency in things like oil quality, disease resistance, and also in just the characteristics of canola and what it is for our customers," said Innes.

The companies that hold the patent for varieties need to keep them in good registration standing with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which is part of the Canadian government. If, for some reason, the company elects not to, that variety becomes a de-registered variety, which the Canadian Canola Council needs farmers to keep track of so that they don't accidentally grow the wrong type of canola.

"The case of canola oil, actually, is the risk is that some of the older varieties contain biotech traits that are no longer approved for export markets.

So, in each country, each jurisdiction has its own biotech regulatory requirements. In the case of the [European Union], as an example, they're only approved for 10 years. Then, after which time, they have to be re-approved essentially, but it's not always the case that variety of traits are re-approved because technology genetics change quickly and those traits may no longer be relevant for farmers," said Innes.

The Keep It Clean program's website keepitclean.ca is the best place to find information about canola growing and resources to the correct pages on the Canadian governments website about which varieties are registered according to Innes.

"The Keep It Clean program [also] covers a number of practices that farmers do, including how they use pesticides, how they store their crop, how they manage disease in their crop, as well. You can [find] all of those aspects that farmers [may need] covered in the program across multiple commodities on the website."

Farmers, processors and exporters all working together is how Innes says everyone can get the most out of their hard work.

"This is about preventing risk in our exports and for canola, we export 90



FILE PHOTO

The Keep It Clean program includes cereals as well as pulses in addition to canola.

per cent of what we produce in one form or another. So, keeping our reputation for a high-quality product is something that everybody in the value chain has a role in doing," said Innes.

"The Keep It Clean program is really about helping our farmers be part of keeping our canola brand strong with our customers and preventing risk related to market access issues that occur when we don't meet our customer requirements."

Catching up with the crop chief

By Nicole Buffie

The Canadian Grain Commission has announced the appointment of a new chief and assistant chief commissioner, with one being from the Interlake.

The federal agency that oversees the regulation, supervision and advocacy for grain farmers and producers across the country made the announcement in December 2020 of the appointments.

Doug Chorney, acting chief-turned-head-honcho, resides on a farm in East Selkirk where he grew up and is currently working remotely most days.

With a degree in agricultural engineering, multiple positions on boards

Continued on page 16

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> CROP CHIEF, FROM PG. 15

related to agriculture and a heritage that is rife with farming, Chorney has the references for the position.

Working beside assistant chief commissioner Patty Rosher and third commissioner Lonny McKague, Chorney's job is to oversee operations of the CGC and participate in conferences of interest to the bureau. Chorney was appointed chief after operating in the role since June 2020 when former chief Patty Miller retired.

At a time when operating in a federal role may seem daunting amid efforts of economic recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chorney said the agriculture and grain industry is holding their own for the most part.

"The grain sector through the pandemic has performed very well, and we find demand is continuing," he said. "It's kind of a silver lining for the Canadian economy, which has been hurt in many other ways because of

the pandemic, so it's good that agriculture has been able to do its part to perhaps support the country."

While it's not exactly clear why the industry has been alive and well amid the economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chorney said it could be due to a range of reasons such as the uptick in home baking and cooking, which caused a national flour and yeast shortage in the early days of the pandemic.

"Food is essential for life, and when you have people in a situation where they're challenged to figure out what to do next, it seems like securing good food supplies is a first step that a lot of countries took and that might have driven some of the demand," he offered.

As for farmers in the Interlake region, Chorney said they are in a unique position where the climate during growing season usually works

in their favour, but they are not immune to problems that can happen elsewhere.

Despite excessive moisture in 2019 when a freak October snowstorm destroyed many fields and had farmers worried about the spring growing season, the province reported crop yields in most categories were up for 2020, saying the pandemic did not measurably affect field crop production.

"Producers are supposed to be resilient and I think they've proven themselves to be resilient this year," he said.

In addition to their resilience, more and more farmers are getting creative with their crops. In addition to wheat, oats, canola and soybeans, forage seed and grain corn crops have been on the rise in the Interlake area in recent years. While corn tends to be grown close to the southern border, Chorney said it's becoming more and more popular in the region.

"It just shows how farmers are always trying to do better the next year than they did the year before," he said. "And that's been something I think a lot of Interlake farmers have done over their careers."

While it is a time of ingenuity for the agricultural industry, it is also a time of reflection. The federal government is currently reviewing the Canadian Grain Act, a framework for ensuring the quality of crops across the country and the CGC itself. Chorney and



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
The Canadian Grain Commission has appointed Doug Chorney as Chief Commissioner for a three-year term.

his co-commissioners are helping to oversee the agency's participation in the review and contribute to the discussion of the future of the legislation and commission itself.

"We actually try to really wholeheartedly support the industry in many ways," Chorney said. "My No. 1 goal is to guide that process to make sure we have the best Canadian Grain Commission possible."

> FIFTH-GENERATION FARMER, FROM PG. 14

Crown Lands Leasing Program.

He said larger corporate farms are outbidding smaller operations for Crown land leases, which acts as a difficult barrier to entry for young farmers. However, legacy farms such as the Reykdal's always have priority on lease renewals.

"It would be extremely tough to start from nothing. If you don't have generational farm ties, I can't imagine it," he said, emphasizing how lucky he and his family are to have the lineage and history they do.

Flood Outlet Channels Project

Farmers in the region are still recovering from the floods of 2011 and 2014, according to Reykdal.

The Province of Manitoba has responded by initiating the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels project, both designed to

enhance flood protection for the respective lakes and help to strengthen Manitoba's existing flood mitigation network.

Reykdal said while the project has been controversial in some ways — including the expropriation of farmers near Moosehorn, as well as environmental concerns raised by First Nations — farmers he's spoken with in the region are supportive of the projects.

"The land still hasn't come back the way it was before the floods. Birch Island even, we couldn't use it for a couple years and had to find pasture elsewhere," said Reykdal.

"The outlet channels are going to be a good thing and reduce the risk of major floods, which set the farm back many, many years. I'm all for it."



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Gimli hosts Hollywood

Neeson stars in The Ice Road

By Evan Matthews

It's not every day an Interlake community hosts A-List Hollywood actors; actors to have starred in movies like *Batman Begins*, *Taken*, *Star Wars*, *The Grey*, *Kinsey* or *Schindler's List*.

But such was the case last month, as Liam Neeson spent time in Gimli shooting his latest action-thriller, *The Ice Road*.

The film stars Neeson alongside Laurence Fishburne (*The Matrix*, *John Wick*, *Contagion*), and was written and directed by Jonathan Hensleigh (*Die Hard: With a Vengeance*, *Jumanji*, *Armageddon*).

The plot, according to IMDB, takes place after a remote diamond mine collapses in the far northern regions of Canada. An ice driver leads an impossible rescue mission over a frozen ocean to save the lives of trapped miners despite thawing waters and a threat they never see coming.

Deadline, a media company that first began in March 2006 as Deadline Hollywood Daily, broke news on March 1 that Netflix had won the U.S. rights to

The Ice Road, coughing up a reported \$18 million for the movie after its promo was released.

Netflix hasn't said whether the movie will be available immediately in Canada.

According to Deadline, Fishburne stars as Goldenrod, the trucking company owner who hires driver Mike (Neeson) and accompanies him on the dangerous mission.

Local media has reported sightings of cast and crew in Winnipeg (near Deacon Road) beginning on Feb. 3, as well as in Ile des Chenes and in Gimli toward the end of February.

Shooting will wrap up by the end of March, according to local media and IMDB.

Local Gimli residents reported via social media seeing cast and crew in a variety of capacities; some on location, while others cleaned Neeson's hotel room.

No official release date has been announced, but Deadline reported its Netflix release and debut to be in the third quarter of 2021.



EXPRESS PHOTO TWITTER

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister, middle left, and his wife Esther, far left, pose for a photo in Winnipeg with Hollywood-star Liam Neeson (middle right). The Express could not identify the woman on the far right.



KIMBERLEY MCLEAN FACEBOOK

Cast and crew were seen between Arnes and Gimli, with this photo being taken on the corner of roads 15N and 20E.

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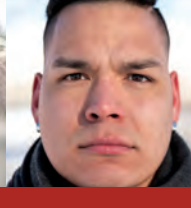



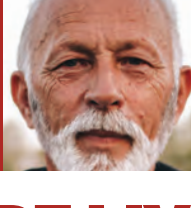

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Education funding becoming a regional concern

By Evan Matthews

Receiving the largest cut of any division in the province, things have gone from financially bad to worse for Lakeshore School Division.

With the Province of Manitoba cutting the division's budget by two per cent every year since 2018, Lakeshore has received its funding and allocated its 2021-22 budget as of March 16, which sees another 1.6 per cent lopped off.

"It's a significant hit for a school division that's already been experiencing cut backs. We're seeing (fixed) cost increase as well as funding decrease," said Don Nikkel, Lakeshore School Division's superintendent of human resources and alternative program director.

"Think of it like boxers in a ring. Organizationally, you can take a little bit of a hit and another hit and another hit, but after a while, it wears you down," he said.

"We're definitely getting to a point where ... something is going to have to shift here. Ultimately, we value rural education and we believe the province values that as well, but we're going to need more support."

The 2020-21 budget sees a total provincial funding decrease of \$148,078 when compared to last year, and the draft budget predicts a shortfall of \$416,750.

Division can't raise municipal taxes
The province funds roughly two-thirds of the division's budget, with the other third coming from the municipal levy, which Nikkel said the province had always left in the school board's control.

However, attributing the decision to the pandemic, the provincial government put a freeze on the board's ability to autonomously control the levy for the second consecutive year, meaning the division can't bring in more of its own revenue.

"There has been a great deal of local autonomy in the past to balance local needs within the school system in combination with the economic reality of a region," said Nikkel.

"Last year, there was a cap on how much the school board could increase the municipal tax, and this year, there is a freeze on it altogether."

He noted the provincial government did contribute a two per cent offset-

ting grant, and while the division is thankful for the grant, it's the fourth consecutive year in which the division is having to do more with less.

Community engagement

Typically, the division hosts an annual "vision and voice meeting," where community members are invited to come listen, comment and question the division's budget and direction.

This year (as a result of COVID), the division hosted an online community survey, which Nikkel said had higher engagement than the meetings usually do. The survey saw 130 community members within the division participate.

In total, 105 of 130 survey participants said either the division should raise municipal taxes as needed to maintain programming or raise municipal taxes in line with inflation.

But, again, the province has taken away the school board's ability to do so, for now.

"We had a really strong response from the community. Lots of direct feedback," said Nikkel, noting the online method will be used again in the future.

"It was great to hear from communities about what they thought of our budget situation, and what we can do moving forward," he said.

The survey also showed despite its financial struggles, the majority of people feel the division is doing a good job of offering quality education, preparing students for attending university, preparing students for the workforce and preparing students to be good community members.

But there was also a fraction of people who disagreed with those statements, and Nikkel said the while the division makes do with what it is given. The basis and rationale for a disagreement is there, as the division is so underfunded.

"Our hope for the future is that, as the province discusses fully phasing out property taxes, when and if they do so, it'll be done in such a way that provides an alternative funding model to replace it," said Nikkel.

"We hope it's a model that is able to recognize the differences and challenges in rural areas," he said.

The survey also showed, as Manitoba gets set for a province-wide kin-

Continued on page 19



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Kindergarten to Grade 12 review puts students first

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government released its kindergarten to Grade 12 strategy with a focus on putting students first, Education Minister Cliff Cullen announced Monday, saying the Better Education Starts Today (BEST) strategy that will shift resources to the classroom while giving parents and guardians much more input, as it rebuilds Manitoba's kindergarten to Grade 12 education system through the proposed putting students first bill.

"The strategy introduces much-needed change to create a unified provincial education system that is accountable for results, classroom focused, student-centred and parent friendly, leading to the most improved education system in Canada," said Cullen. "We want students to graduate high school with the knowledge, skills and competencies they need to move into post-secondary education, the labour market, or whatever path they choose, and have the best opportunity to succeed."

Manitoba is one of the highest spending provinces on education and getting among the country's lowest student achievement results. Per capita, Manitoba has the highest number of school divisions and elected trustees across all provinces.

The government's plan streamlines administration by unifying 37 school divisions into one Provincial Education Authority (authority) while maintaining the French school division, Division Scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM). The authority will deliver

kindergarten to Grade 12 education, manage shared administrative services such as collective bargaining, procurement, IT and workforce planning — money that will be reinvested directly into classrooms. Within the authority, 15 regions will provide a focus on local needs. Parents will have involvement that is more meaningful in local decision-making through new School Community Councils.

"Our government believes in a robust education system that addresses the inequalities of the current system," Cullen said. "We have committed to building 20 new schools and followed that up with our \$1.6-billion education funding guarantee. However, we want to ensure we have a system focused on students, teachers and, ultimately, results."

Within the next five years, Manitoba's government is committed to becoming the most improved education system in Canada by:

- shifting resources to the classroom to ensure that student learning and achievement come first;
- ensuring that teachers, school staff and leaders have the capacity, knowledge and tools they need to support student performance;
- unifying the education system with a focus on accountability for results, outcomes and addressing the vast disparities in the system;
- giving parents and caregivers more opportunity to participate and play a meaningful role in the design and oversight of the system; and
- considering the provincial needs and ensuring that all students are

New Regions	
Winnipeg, St. James-Assiniboia, Louis Riel, Pembina Trails, Seven Oaks and River East Transcona	Garden Valley, Western
Frontier, Kelsey, Flin Flon and Mystery Lake	Evergreen, Lakeshore
Beautiful Plains, Park West, Rolling River	Interlake, Lord Selkirk
Mountain View, Swan Valley, Turtle River	Hanover
Fort La Bosse, Southwest Horizon, Turtle Mountain	Sunrise, Whiteshell
Brandon	Seine River
Portage La Prairie, Pine Creek	Border Land, Red River Valley
Prairie Spirit, Prairie Rose	

EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The 15 new regions plus DSFM will replace 37 separate school divisions.

ready for life-long success regardless of where in the province they live.

"Maintaining the status quo puts our students further behind, and that is why our government is making the necessary reforms and investing in our children's futures," said Cullen. "By unifying our system and focusing educators on what matters most — student outcomes — the government expects up to \$40 million will be shifted to the classrooms to support educational results."

Manitoba Education will be undertaking public consultations on a variety of areas as it builds a roadmap for the future on topics such as curriculum development, teacher training and learning, and ways to support the most vulnerable students. This includes further conversation with education partners, parents and the

wider Manitoba community, and a survey that will be available on <http://engagemb.ca>.

The BEST strategy was informed by the Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education report, Our Children's Success: Manitoba's Future, received in March 2020. The 75 recommendations of the commission represent the most extensive reformation of Manitoba's kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in decades and presents a clear plan of action for becoming the most improved education system in Canada. The BEST strategy also drew on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic from across Manitoba's education system.

For more information, visit www.bettereducationmb.ca.

> EDUCATION FUNDING, FROM PG. 18

dergarten to Grade 12 educational review, there is great concern among locals as it relates to the amalgamation of Lakeshore School Division into a larger division.

In total, 101 of the 130 participants said they were either very or somewhat concerned about losing local voice and local choice in public education, if the division were part of an amalgamation.

Lakeshore School Division fast facts

Lakeshore School Division's school population numbers show consistent decline dating back to 1994, with average division enrolment between 1994-2006 being 1,410 students. Then between 2007 and 2020, the average division enrolment dropped to 1,127 students.

In 2020, the division saw its low-

est enrolment in the last 26 years, with 895 students. Those students are spread out amongst the division's huge geographical sprawl of 6,900 square kilometres.

The division's 10 schools require a fleet of 41 vehicles with 27 different routes, travelling over 900,000 kilometres annually.

The division employs (roughly) 195 people, according to the 2020-21 budget, hired for the roles of:

- 85 teachers
 - 57 educational assistants / librarians
 - 15 maintenance staff
 - 11 clerical staff
 - 18 transportation staff
 - 5 ALC/ECD/community support staff
 - 4 senior divisional admin staff
- Lakeshore School Division also has a higher annual average cost per stu-

dent, with the provincial average being \$13,374 per student, whereas it is \$16,726 per Lakeshore student.

"Our board will continue to advocate for our students. Students who receive a rural education should be equal to that of what students receive in Winnipeg," said Nikkel.

"Obviously, there is additional costs associated with that. We need the province to recognize those challenges, so we can create healthy schools and healthy communities," he said.

Concerns in other areas

The concerns relating to the Province of Manitoba's education funding isn't owned solely by the Lakeshore region's school division and board; Orval Procter is a councillor in the RM of Woodlands and acts as council's liaison to the Southwest Teens At-Risk (S.T.A.R.) program.

He is also parent to a child who went through Interlake School Division and needed specific care and programming. After reviewing the division's 2020-21 budget, he's noticed tangible cuts to — what he calls — critical school staff and programming.

"There is a definite need for the programs the school board is being forced to end or reduce, and there is not a great capacity in our communities to make up the services that are being lost," said Procter, noting most people understand the provincial debt is amassing more and more each day, largely due to the pandemic.

"But ... the provincial government has missed the mark in the way they force spending retraction. It is really sad to think ... without a mill rate increase, we be could leaving vulnerable (populations) without critical support. It's just wrong."

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Bottcher captures elusive Tim Horton's Brier

By Ty Di Lello

The fourth time is the charm for Alberta's Brendan Bottcher, as it turned out to be at the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier in Calgary.

After losing the last three Brier finals, Bottcher wasn't going to let another one pass him by as he defeated provincial rival Kevin Koe (with Gimli's B.J. Neufeld at third) by a 4-2 scoreline in the championship final on Sunday night. It marked the 29th time that a team from Alberta won the event, the most among all provinces and territories.

"It's just absolutely amazing," said Bottcher. "Those three years were tough, each one of them for different reasons, but it just makes tonight so much more special to know that we persevered, we worked so hard, and we've just been so consistent the last few years — it's awesome."

It was a reasonably quiet final for the most part. Koe led 1-0 at the midway point of the game before giving up a three to Bottcher in the seventh end. Koe tried to fight back but, in the end, it wasn't enough as Bottcher held on for a 4-2 victory.

"It means a lot," said Bottcher. "Losing is never easy. Losing in this game ... sucks. For lack of a better word, it really sucks. It sucked the first time. It sucked the second time. And it sucked just as much the third time. We all show it differently, but it means so much to us. I think that was really on display tonight when we closed it out — just the raw emotion that was out there, just how happy we all were. I think for each other as much as for ourselves, and that's pretty special."

Koe and company were humble in defeat as they have been long-time provincial rivals with the Bottcher rink and knew that they would break



EXPRESS PHOTOS CURL CANADA

Gimli's B.J. Neufeld of team Kevin Koe was named a Second Team All Star at the third position for his tremendous play over the course of the 2021 Tim Hortons Brier. Left to right: Kevin Koe, B.J. Neufeld, Brett Gallant and Ryan Harnden.

through eventually and win a Brier after reaching the final for the last four years.

"I mean, I'd feel happier for him if he beat someone else, that's for sure," said Koe. "It's tough to get enjoyment out of losing. But they're a great team; it was only a matter of time. I'm sure they'll represent us great. They'll do well at Worlds, for sure."

"We had some great games with Bottcher over the years," added Gimli's B.J. Neufeld, who throws third stones for Koe. "Some really great games that go down to the wire with a lot of drama. They're a great team, and so are we, and we know if we want to win a big event, we will have to go through them at some point. We're certainly always pushing each other to be better, and it showed this week."

One of the other major stories of the week was Saskatchewan's Matt Dun-

stone (a Winnipegger) reaching the semi-finals of the Brier with a 9-3 record. He got within a whisker of the final before falling to a miraculous angle raise takeout by Bottcher in the tenth end to lose a heartbreaker.

"There's nothing to hang our heads about; it was a world-class game," said Dunstone. "They played awesome, we played awesome, and the curling gods were wearing a blue sweater today. That's all there is to it. Totally stinks, but this isn't the end of us. We'll come back stronger. You keep putting yourself in these sorts of situations, you're going to succeed eventually. That's all we can really do. It's meant to be at some point."

Although for Dunstone, it was the second straight Brier that his Saskatchewan rink finished in third place, the 24-year-old skip had some perspective on the situation at hand.

"To be able to feel all the emotions again — how lucky are we to actually be here right now, competing, and playing on the biggest possible stage?" he said. "I know it's upsetting right now, but in the grand scheme of things, it's really a blessing to be out here competing in a global pandemic, when there are so many other things going on in the world. Pretty thankful for the experience."

Team Manitoba's Jason Gunnlaugson of the Morris Curling Club started off strong with a 5-0 record and progressed to the championship pool. Although they faltered and finished with a 6-6 record, the upstart skip was impressed by his team's play throughout the event.

"We had a great Brier," said Gunnlaugson. "It was the first event for our team, and we played great. A lot of good things to take with us going forward into a very important next curling season with the upcoming Olympic Trials."

For West St. Paul's Mike McEwen, the Brier was a struggle right from the start. McEwen was upset by a strong New Brunswick team early on in the event and wasn't able to recover. They missed reaching the final eight with a 4-4 record in their respective pool.

"Obviously it wasn't our best showing," said McEwen. "We certainly could have played better, but we will take some positives and move forward to our next event together."

Brendan Bottcher and his team of Darren Moulding, Brad Thiessen and Karrick Martin will now represent Canada at the upcoming 2021 World Men's Curling Championships in the Calgary bubble, April 2-11.

Hockey Manitoba cancels spring development programs

From Hockey Manitoba

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Hockey Manitoba cancelled the following Spring Development Programs for the spring of 2021:

Female U13 Prospects program
Director's Cup Prospects program

Rising Stars Plus program

The cancellation of these programs is a full cancellation for 2021 and these programs will not be rescheduled this year. Programming for all three programs is scheduled to return in the spring of 2022 and

information regarding next year's programs will be made available in early 2022.

Some regions may choose to continue with minor hockey skills programming or other development programming, however, this may

vary from region to region based on ice availability. Athletes should contact their Minor Hockey Association or region regarding any programming that may be offered in their area.

Cvar's hockey season ends with a pair of wins

By Brian Bowman

The St. Cloud State Huskies women's hockey team won their final two games of the season.

But, unfortunately, those victories — a 3-2 overtime win and a 4-1 triumph over Bemidji State University — came in conference play rather than in the postseason.

"It was an awesome way to finish the year off," said Stonewall's Olivia Cvar on Sunday evening. "It was kind of bad (though) because we had to say goodbye to our seniors that day but I'm glad we ended it on a good note."

St. Cloud State finished its season with a 6-12-1 record and did not make the playoffs. Still, Cvar was grateful to have an opportunity to play hockey this season with all sports shut down in Canada.

"With COVID, it was difficult because you didn't even know if you were going to have a season," said

Cvar, one of 16 St. Cloud State women's hockey players named to the 2020-21 WCHA All-Academic Team.

"I thought that this year we put together some good structure for our team and came away with a couple of more wins than last year. I feel it will be a work in progress."

St. Cloud scored just 32 goals in 17 games while allowing 62. The Huskies need to score more goals next season to be successful.

"I definitely feel like scoring, I wouldn't call it a problem, but almost like a struggle," Cvar said. "Sometimes the puck seemed to bounce the other team's way and that seemed to happen to us a lot. Maybe we could do some more technical practices (to get better at) scoring and having that dominant offensive type of forward."

Despite the lack of scoring, St. Cloud played some close games against the No. 1 ranked Wisconsin Badgers and

the No. 2 Minnesota Golden Gophers. The Huskies are not too far off against the top teams.

"We're there," Cvar said. "It just seems to happen in the third period when people are getting tired and it's just those very small areas where mistakes are made and then those teams capitalize on it every time. It's just cleaning up those errors and hopefully next year we can get a win against Wisconsin."

On a personal level, Cvar finished the season with a goal and five points in 17 games. During her playing days in Manitoba, she often put up big offensive numbers.

"I definitely thought I could have had a couple of more goals or made more plays but we'll just have to wait until next year, I guess," she said, noting she has three more years of eligibility remaining at the collegiate level.

"I'm really looking forward to next



Olivia Cvar

year. I have a couple of years (of experience here) now so it's comfortable for me to be on the ice and try new stuff. I'm really excited for this upcoming year."

Local rinks well represented at Mixed Nationals



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Winnipeg Beach Curling Club's Kadriana Sahaidak and Colton Lott are in Calgary this week competing in the 2021 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship.

By Brian Bowman

The 2021 Canadian Mixed Doubles Championship is loaded with talented curlers.

And three of them live right here in our area.

The Winnipeg Beach Curling Club's duo of Colton Lott and Kadriana Sahaidak will be one of 35 teams vying for national bragging rights — along with the top prize of \$50,000 — when play begins this Thursday and wraps up on March 25.

The Gimli Curling Club's Kerri Einarson will be teaming up with St. John's Curling Club's Brad Gushue. Einarson is fresh off winning the Scotties title in Calgary while representing Team Canada and defeating Ontario's Rachel Homan 9-7 in the final.

There will be, no doubt, some outstanding curling

action in the bubble in Calgary.

"It's definitely exciting," said Lott in the car on his way to Calgary on Monday afternoon. "We can't wait to get back on the ice. We haven't had a competitive game at all this season. It will be nice to get back out. We just have to take it one game at a time and not expect a lot. There's going to be misses out there and everybody is in the same boat as we are."

Lott and Sahaidak have had a few good weeks of practice leading up to nationals. They have plenty of experience playing elite mixed doubles teams in previous years, noted Sahaidak.

"We're pretty excited," she said. "I even noticed yesterday that I was getting pretty nervous but I think getting there, getting settled, it will be easy and we'll have lots of fun."

The pair will have to get off to a strong start if they want to advance from their Pool A. They begin action Thursday at 8:30 a.m. against the Oshawa team of Clancy Grandy and Patrick Janssen. Lott and Sahaidak will have an opportunity to practice on Wednesday.

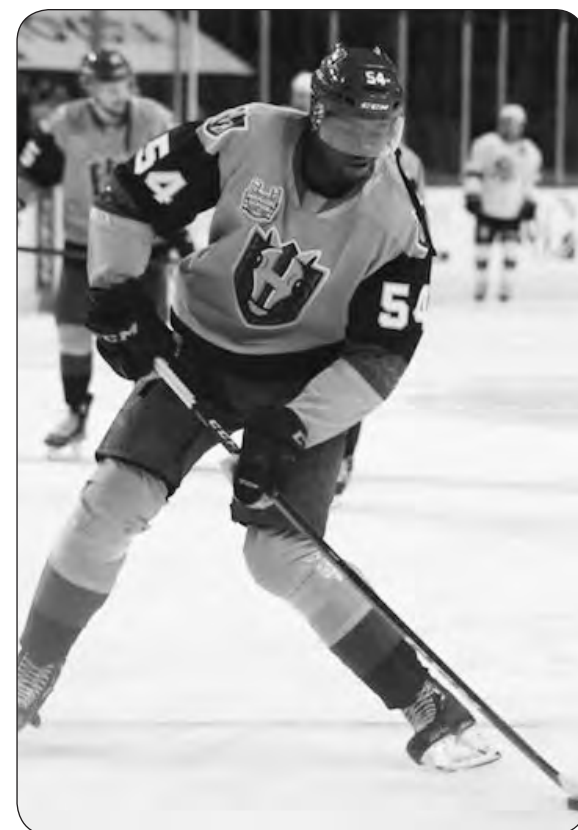
"There's 16 teams that advance but there's extra teams this year from previous years," Lott noted. "We're going to have to have a decent record out of the pool to be able to advance to the playoffs."

Lott said it didn't matter to him which pool they were placed in. All of the rinks are extremely talented.

"Whatever pool we're in, I personally think we can beat anybody as long as we play our game and make our shots," he said. "(But) it's definitely a field where you are going to have to be at the top of your game, especially with half of these teams already being there with the Scotties and the Brier. They almost have a bit of an advantage with the whole venue and adapting."

"For the both of us, we're just going there for our first time and we're going to have to adapt. But it will be good."

Loewen gets first point in Henderson



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Former Interlake Lightning forward Jermaine Loewen picked up an assist in the Henderson Silver Knights' 4-2 loss to the Ontario Reign last Saturday.

Classifieds

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CORRECTION

In regards to a Thank You that was published in the *Express Weekly News* on March 11 it incorrectly stated that Dilla Narfason was the recipient of the Westshore Honourary 150 recognition when in fact it should have said that Dilla was one of 150 community champions recognized by Manitoba 150. *The RM of Gimli apologizes for the error.*



Riverton Coop
39 Reggie Leach Drive
RIVERTON (204) 378-2251

CARETAKER WANTED

Riverton Coop is in search of a person/s to provide cleaning services at its retail location. Approximately - 3 hours per day/7 days a week. Cleaning supplies and equipment provided. Please contact Darlene for information. Submit resume to rivertoncoop@mymts.net or mail to Box 160, Riverton, MB R0C 2R0



EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION
Invites applications for the following temporary position, effective ASAP and is expected to continue to June 30, 2021:

20.SU.24 Arborg Early Middle School
American Sign Language – English Interpreter (6.0hr/day)

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

CLOSING DATE: March 23, 2021 (3:30 pm)

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

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



Help Wanted Full/Part time Positions

Cashier, stock shelves, customer service, deliveries
Must be able to carry 50 lbs and able to do stairs
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(typically every 2nd weekend)

Must have a valid driver's license

Experience in Retail an asset but willing to train

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AUCTIONS

Ward's & Bud Haynes Firearms Auction, Saturday, April 24th, Edmonton, AB. Online bidding, live preview April 23rd. WardsAuctions.com. Consign now. Brad Ward 780-940-8378.

SCRAP METAL

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

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

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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

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.

Lakefront Lot - Lake Manitoba. Sand beach, ready to build on. Only one lot left. Auction April 16. Go to beckvillebeach.com or mcdougallbay.com

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.

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 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"

HELP WANTED

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"

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"

MISCELLANEOUS

"Just A Closer Walk" Bluegrass Gospel songs by KEN OLSON. \$25 per CD: DONNA KOLOCHUK, 305-375 Whitmore Ave. East, Dauphin, Manitoba, R7N 1E8.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

NOTICES

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

HEALTH

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

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Rural Municipality of
GRAHAMDALE
www.Grahamdale.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE 2021 FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act*, that the Council of the R.M. of Grahamdale intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2021 at a Public Hearing being held at the Moosehorn Community Hall, 21 Railway Avenue, in Moosehorn, MB on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan as provided.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review on April 1, 2021 and may be examined by any person during regular office hours at the Municipal Office or on our website at www.grahamdale.ca.

Provincial Guidelines on Pandemic Response System Restrictions at the Red: Critical level will be enforced. Public participation can be met through interactive technology or by written submission. Please call our office for more information.

Dated this 12th day of February 2021.

Shelly Schwitek, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
R.M. of Grahamdale

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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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: CYRIL (JIM) HENDERSON CRAIG, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased. ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 19th day of April, 2021. DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 17th day of March, 2021. BAKER LAW CORPORATION SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTRIX Attention: Grant D. Baker

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: WALTER JAMES CHARNEY, late of the Postal District of Riverton, in Manitoba, Deceased. ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 2500 - 360 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 4H6, on or before the 17th day of April, 2021. DATED at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 10th day of March, 2021. PITBLADO LLP Attention: Leah Robertson Solicitors for the Estate of Walter James Charney



PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH REGARDING THE 2021 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to sub-section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council of the Town of Winnipeg Beach intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2021 at a public hearing on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021** at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask question or register an objection to the Financial Plan as provided.

A copy of the 2021 Financial Plan is available for review on the municipal website at www.winnipegbeach.ca or can be requested by emailing finance@winnipegbeach.ca on or after March 19, 2021.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually and available to all interested parties to observe on the municipal website (www.winnipegbeach.ca). Interested parties may forward their questions, concerns or register an objection at any time to cao@winnipegbeach.ca or by calling the CAO at 204-389-2698.

Interested parties may also present questions, concerns or register an objection by calling 204-389-2698 following the completion of the presentation. These questions will be received directly by council. Calls will be accepted in order of receipt.

Dated this 11th day of March 2021.

Roger A. Bouvier
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Winnipeg Beach



99 7TH AVE GIMLI 204-642-7490

Is currently accepting applications for the following position:

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- *Strong oral and written communication skills and well developed interpersonal skills, including excellent phone skills
- *Self starter, efficient and able to produce high quality work under pressure and in a timely fashion
- *Reliable, Punctual, and conscientious
- *Excellent time management/organizational skills with the ability to meet important deadlines in a fast paced environment
- *Strong problem solving and analytical skills
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Rural Municipality of Woodlands REQUEST PROPOSALS



The RM of Woodlands Is Requesting Proposals From Professional Auditing Organizations To Perform The Annual Audit Of The Financial Statements Of The RM of Woodlands, The RM of Woodlands CDC and The RM of Woodlands Community Pastures Inc. Commencing With The Year Ending December 31, 2021. The Term Of The Engagement Of Service Will Be For Three (3) Years With Independent Audits Performed For Each Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021 to 2023 inclusively.

Closing Date: May 19, 2021 04:00 PM CST



Rural Municipality of
GRAHAMDALE
www.Grahamdale.ca

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:
 - 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 23rd day of February, 2021.

Managed by:



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



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



RONA GIMLI is looking for a LUMBER YARD ASSOCIATE

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting customers
- Putting away and merchandising freight
- Preparing lumber orders for delivery and for in-store sales
- valid driver's licence
- the right candidate for this position will be physically fit and able to move heavy merchandise manually and/or using appropriate machinery provided.

Please submit your resume in person or email to

laura@ronagimli.ca

RONA GIMLI

100-7th Avenue | Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0

Classifieds



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

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Maintenance Worker

Five (5) Departmental Full-time Positions and Eligibility List
Manitoba Infrastructure, Technical Services and Operations, Regional Operations 1 and 2,
Stoney Mountain (3) Gimli (1), Morris (1), MB
Advertisement Number: 37212
Closing Date: March 28, 2021
Salary Range: LAB (\$35,896-\$38,442) / OR1-4 (\$38,859-\$46,414)

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

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

Manitoba Infrastructure is currently looking to fill five (5) full-time departmental positions within Regional Operations 1 and 2 in the following maintenance yards: Gimli (1), Morris (1), and Stoney Mountain (3). New employees are hired as Labourers (LAB) and promoted to the Operator (OR1-4) series as training, orientation, and proficiency testing milestones are achieved.

If you are interested in a career with Manitoba Infrastructure, we encourage you to apply once you have reviewed the complete list of conditions of employment and qualifications on our website at: www.manitoba.ca

Applications must clearly state location preference(s) and describe how the applicant meets the conditions of employment and qualifications.

Duties:

Maintenance Workers (MW's) report the Area Works Supervisor and receive lead hand direction from the Assistant Works Supervisor. MW's operate and maintain maintenance equipment, small hand and power tools, and perform physical maintenance work associated with highway maintenance activities to ensure the safety of workers and the travelling public while maintaining public infrastructure.

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 37212
Service Centre 3
Human Resource Services
600-155 Carlton Street,
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3H8
Phone: 204-945-8819
Fax: 204-948-3382
Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

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

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

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

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

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

People. Purpose. Progress.

manitoba.ca/govjobs



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

Alternate formats available upon request

Manitoba Government Job Opportunities

Water Resource Supervisor

Two (2) Departmental Full-time Positions
Manitoba Infrastructure, Water Operations, Minitonas (1) and Hodgson (1), MB
Advertisement Number: 37211
Closing Date: March 28, 2021
Salary Range: \$50,525 - \$58,038 per year

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

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

Manitoba Infrastructure is seeking highly motivated individuals to work within our Water Operations Branch. Water Operations ensures safe and effective provincial water related infrastructure through the delivery of inspection, planning, design, maintenance, rehabilitation and construction activities. The Branch is responsible for the overall management of infrastructure inventory that includes: drains, dams, flood protection dikes, diversions, bridges, culverts and pumping stations.

For a complete list of conditions of employment and qualifications please visit our website at: www.manitoba.ca. Applications must describe how the applicant meets the requirements of the position and location preference(s).

Duties:

Reporting to the District Superintendent, the Water Resource Supervisor is responsible for supervising department staff and retained contractors on project sites for maintenance and construction of Water Control Infrastructure (this includes agricultural drains, dikes, diversions, culvert and bridge crossings, dams, dikes, pump stations and water control structures). Also performs assigned moderate technical engineering related functions and is responsible for independent decisions related to hour to hour operations, insuring department standards, specifications, policies, procedures and sound construction practices are followed, when employed in field operations.

Apply to:

Advertisement No. 37211
Service Centre 3
Human Resource Services
600-155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3H8
Phone: 204-945-8819
Fax: 204-948-3382
Email: govjobs@gov.mb.ca

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

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

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

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

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

Alternate formats available upon request



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Year Round Manager Required
Bookkeeping, balancing tills and payroll a necessity

Chef Helper
Help with food prep and menu ideas

Living quarters available.

Send resume to admin@narrowssunsetlodge.com or call Irv at 204-981-2831

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204.745.0451
- Grain Farm**
• 154 acres
• Near Macgregor Stacey Hiebert
204.371.5930
- Dairy Farm**
• 265 kgs quota
• Near Grunthal Sheldon Froese
204.371.5131
- Grain Farm**
• 155.2 acres
• Near Ste. Alphonse Junior Thevenot
204.825.8378
- Beef Farm**
• 311 acres
• Near Virden Henry Carels
204.573.5396
- Grain Farm**
• 1277 acres
• Near Brandon Catharina Carels
204.720.4779

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www.mcna.com

Classifieds

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AGASSIZ DRILLING 2000 LTD.

TRAINING ON A DRILLING SIMULATOR

Agassiz Drilling (2000) Ltd. is a 3rd Generation Drilling and Blasting Company. We have been given access to train individuals on a Drilling Simulator. You will be trained by drillers with many years of experience in the drilling and blasting industry and fill a void in an industry where there is a shortage of qualified drillers. Successful candidates will be given access to operate an actual drill.

The training will take place at our shop site and the training will be done **March 15 through April 16**. Interested applicants will be contacted as to times and dates.

Applicants can apply to
cyndy@agassizdrilling.com

Only those applicants selected will be contacted.

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.



Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

53rd Annual LUNDAR BULL SALE

"Where the good bulls come"

April 3, 2021 1:00 P.M. Lundar Agri-Ed Centre - Auctioneer - Bud Bergner

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10 - 1 Year Herefords | 8 - 1 year Simmental |
| 4 - 2 year Herefords | 4 - 1 year Limousin |
| 2 - 1 year Angus | 3 - Hereford heifers |
| 2 - 2 year Angus | 3 - Simmental heifers |
| 9 - 1 year Gelbvieh | 5 pens of 3 commercial heifers |

Watch and bid online at DLMS.ca
Limited seating available Sale day due to Public Health Guidelines.

SALE DAY: Mike (204) 739-3158. Jack (204) 739-3645

For more info contact Jim (204)461-0884 or Ken (204)793-4044

View catalogue online at www.buyagro.com



EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites applications for the following temporary positions, which are effective ASAP and are indefinite terms:

- 20.OP.10 **Bus Driver – Riverton Area** (approx. 4hr/day)
20.OP.11 **Bus Driver – Gimli Area** (approx. 4hr/day)

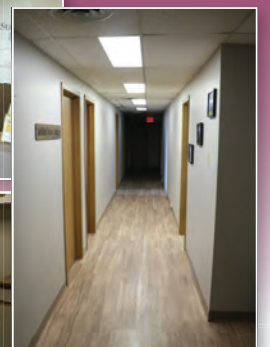
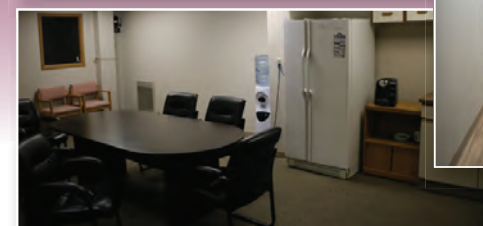
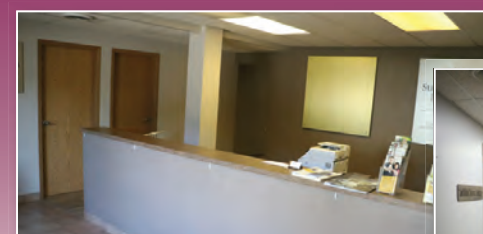
See website for details and application procedures:
[http://www.esd.ca/Employment under Support Staff](http://www.esd.ca/Employment%20under%20Support%20Staff).

CLOSING DATE: March 22, 2021 (3:30 pm)

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

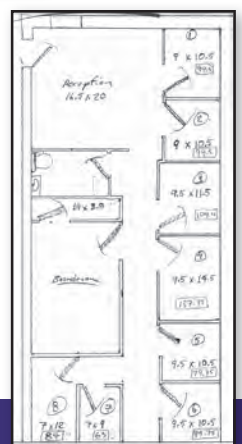
Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks. Evergreen School Division may contact former employers.

CLANDEBOYE AVE in Selkirk Executive Mall OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE



Property Features

Total square Footage 1700, includes eight offices of various sizes, a board room and a front reception area. Current tenants include The Lord Selkirk Teachers Association, Sun Life Financial, two Massage Therapists, an Esthetician and the Selkirk Record. The building was upgraded in 2012. Both the reception and board room are shared, there are currently two offices available for lease.



For information please contact:

BIG Real Estate
204-485-0010

email bigandcolourful@mts.net

Classifieds

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

IN MEMORIAM



In loving memory of our dear
Wife, Mom and Gramma
Joan Pich
who passed away March 20, 2020

If roses grow in Heaven Lord,
Please pick a bunch for us,
Place them in our Gramma's arms,
And tell her they're from us.
Tell her that we love and miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for a while.

-Forever loved and remembered by
Lawrence, Cheryl, Kurt, Cindy, Tom.
Nevaeh, Monika, Aurora and Sparkie.
Love you forever!!

IN MEMORIAM



Sheldon Bardarson
June 13, 1979 – March 19, 2020

We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new;
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name;
Now all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part;
God has you in His keeping,
We have you in our hearts.

-Love always,
Mom and Dad,
Corey, Tiffany, Mason and Conley
Darryl

IN MEMORIAM



Ivan Belousow

When the stars shine up in the sky
We miss you.
When the sun rises and sets everyday
We miss you.
When the rain falls and everything looks bright
and beautiful
We miss you.
Everyday, every hour, in every way, in
everything we do
We miss you.

-Love Alma, Linda and Ingrid

IN MEMORIAM



John Chuba

December 8, 1929 – March 20, 2011
Another year has passed,
Since you were called away,
Quietly remembered every day,
Sadly missed along life's way.
No longer in our lives to share,
But in our hearts you will remain.
Thinking of you.

-Your nieces Cathy and Theresa

OBITUARY



Eileen Kathleen Mazur
(nee Dutkywich)

Ever so peacefully, as she was in life; Eileen passed away with her family by her side on March 8, 2021 after a brief battle with cancer at the Arborg & District Health Centre. Mom has gone on to join Dad who passed away a short four and a half months ago.

Mom will be lovingly remembered by her children Angela, Donald, and Karen and Colin and her most precious grandsons Patrick, Gavin and Chad Finnsson, her sister Stella Gombola, brother Tony Dutkywich, sister-in-law Alma Mann, special nephew Larry (Shirley) and numerous nieces and nephews across Canada.

Eileen was born on April 21, 1932 to Steven and Katherine (Zimmerman) Dutkywich at the family home in Rosssburn, MB. She completed her schooling there and taught for a couple of years as a permit teacher before going to Provincial Normal School in Winnipeg, graduating in June of 1954. Her first teaching position after graduation was in the Burdett School District. The following year, she ventured away from her home district to the Interlake region and accepted a position at the New Star School in the Poplarfield area. Mom taught at New Star for two years 1955 and 1956, and it was during this time she would meet her future husband Joe Mazur.

Mom and Dad married in October of 1956 and settled on the family farm, where they would spend the next 64 years together working side by side. They had three children within three years, she was an incredibly busy woman. Although Mom never operated a moving vehicle, she did her fair share of stacking and pitching square bales, milking cows, feeding the pigs and chickens as well as maintaining the house and looking after the family. Mom would eventually go back to teaching, as a substitute teacher once the

children were older.

Mom was a great cook; she had endless cookbooks and was always searching for and trying new recipes and they were always a hit. Grandma's perogies and baking were the favourites with her grandsons! Grandma and Grandpa would babysit from time to time and her little boys learned how to play Scrabble, crib, Kings in the Corner and other card games; and Grandma always had a puzzle going to pass the time away.

Mom, like Dad was an active member of the Poplarfield Community Centre, although not to the extent that Dad was, but she did what she could without a drivers' license. Mom and Dad moved to Arborg in 2013 and Mom enjoyed her life in town. I would often hear sightings of her out and about. She made many new friends at the Arborg Lodge and took part in floor curling and Bingo and just enjoyed being able to get out on her own. Mom was selfless and dedicated to her family and friends, her door was always open for a visit and coffee and food at the ready.

The family would like to thank the doctors, nursing and support staff at the Arborg and Gimli hospitals for the exceptional care Mom received while she was there.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Arborg Hospital Auxiliary at Box 301, Arborg, MB. R0C 0A0, or to a charity of one's choice in Memory of Eileen Mazur.

Due to COVID, the funeral service will be held at a later date.

Our hearts are broken but we have our memories, we will cherish them forever. Love you – Always! Rest in Peace.

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLANT MANAGER/ SEED TREATER

Rutherford Farms has been producing, processing and selling pedigreed seed for over 60 years. We grow the seed we sell and are leaders in producing quality seed for our local retail market. Rutherford Farms specializes in contract seed production and processing for large multinational seed companies. Currently we are seeking a:

PLANT MANAGER/SEED TREATER

Based in Grosse Isle, MB, this opportunity will be exciting for a dedicated professional seeking to be part of a team that ensures ongoing and timely supply of top-quality seed to retail and wholesale customers. Reporting to the General Manager, the Plant Manager's primary responsibilities include:

- overall accountability for all seed processing plant operations (maintenance, operation, calibration, cleaning, etc.);
- shipping, receiving, logistics, seed grading, seed treatment of soybeans/cereals, and inventory tracking;
- working alongside other employees, contract personnel, and third-party service providers;
- 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.

Qualifications include:

- 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;
- highly organized, task orientated, independent worker with proven team building skills;
- good judgement, problem solving skills, professionalism, high ethics.

Salary commensurate with experience, qualifications and ability.
Apply, with resume to: corey@rutherfordfarms.ca by March 22, 2021.

Classifieds Announcements



IN MEMORIAM



**In Loving Memory of
Olga Blahey**
Passed away March 22, 2019
Those We Love don't Go Away,
They Walk Beside Us Everyday,
Unseen, Unheard, but Always Near,
Still Loved, Still Missed and Very Dear.
-Love Bruce
Sharon, Karen, Kathy and families

OBITUARY

Mary Dunlop
Peacefully, on Friday, March 12, 2021 at the Betel Home, Gimli, Mary Dunlop, aged 99 years of Gimli, MB passed away. In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held. 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**

**Meyers
Gun Auction
April 18, 2021**

**To consign
call Brad @
204-476-6262**

**www.
meyersauctions.
com**

OBITUARY

Samuel Patrick Goodman

Samuel of Gimli, Manitoba, born in Dundalk, Ireland on January 4, 1928 peacefully passed away at the age of 93 on March 3, 2021 at Teulon Hunter Memorial Hospital.

Service held on March 17, 2021 at St. Michael's Church in Gimli, Manitoba.

The family would like to say thanks to all the staff and Dr. Loudon for the excellent care provided for my Dad.

Full obituary at Wojcik's website condolences may be sent to www.wojcikfuneralchapel.com



OBITUARY

Leona Joan Vandersteen (Payment)

July 26, 1933 – March 11, 2021

With deep sadness, Leona's family announces her passing on Thursday, March 11th at the Fisher Personal Care Home in Fisher Branch. She was eighty-seven.

She was predeceased by her parents Joseph and Mary Payment; her husband Tony; Tony's parents Bert and Cornelia; Tony's siblings Bertha, Jack, Case, Susie (Armand), Bert (Lil), and her brother-in-law's Nestor, Keith, and John.

She is survived by her son Allan (Shelley); grandchildren Cody (Kim), Quinn (Jessica), Tekla, and Laine; great-grandchildren Brandt, Jared, Peyton, Blake, and Rhett. She is also survived by her sisters Eva, Lorraine, Ina, Denise (Frank), Clara (Ben); brothers Leonard, Henry (Barbara), Danny (Sandy), along with many nieces and nephews.

Leona was born in Fisher Branch, MB and lived her whole life there.

Leona loved playing piano at church services, the care home, as well as for family and friends any chance she had. Religion was a major part of her life. She was a very devoted Catholic. She was a part of the Songbirds and the WI for many years. You could typically find her out in the garden, knitting and spinning wool, painting, cooking and baking, or visiting with company around the table. You couldn't go visit her without playing a game of crib or scrabble before leaving, along with fresh baked buns or bread and coffee.

Mom always had at least one sewing project on the go, either for herself and family or for others who were in need. She enjoyed going to the local Hutterite colony to purchase material to sew baby clothing for the Pregnancy Distress organization in Winnipeg. She mended clothing for neighbours and friends, for virtually a nickel on the dollar, altered grad dresses, and made clothes for grandchildren.

Over the years she loved baking and decorating wedding cakes. She took pride in her beautiful flower beds and garden each and every spring. In the summer and fall she was kept busy with canning various fruit and vegetables to enjoy over the following months. As well, Leona looked after her mother for 13 years, her father for nearly two years, and cared for the needs of her sister-in-law Bertha.

With our loss we are heartbroken but knowing she is reunited with Dad it puts our hearts at ease.

We would like to thank special relatives Phillip and Pat Caners for the many years of visits and support with mom. The staff at the Fisher Branch Personal Care Home for their exceptional support, care, and compassion over the last few weeks, final days, and the years she spent in the care home. We would like to thank the Fisher Funeral Home for their compassion and care at this time. We would like to also thank friends and neighbours in the community for all their support over the past several days.

In lieu of flowers a donation can be made to the Fisher Branch Personal Care Home in Leona's memory.

May Leona and her beloved Tony now rest peacefully in God's tender mercy.

Fisher Funeral Home Inc.

In care of arrangements.

204-372-6803 or 204-372-6271

OBITUARY

Kenneth Johann (Claude) Thorsteinson

It is with heavy hearts we announce the peaceful and unexpected passing of our treasured Dad, Afi and brother on March 7, 2021.

Born in Riverton MB, at the Bakka Farm beside the Icelandic River on May 6, 1938 to parents Sigurlin (Lena) (Erickson) and Kjartan (Ken) Thorsteinson. He was a kind, calm and stubborn Icelander – fiercely proud of his heritage. Always ready with an interesting story on a variety of topics, which we will forever cherish, and wish we could hear just one more.

Claude attended school in Riverton and Business College in Winnipeg where he resided until retirement in 1998 to Lochwoods, north of Gimli. His working career was as an Administrator at Success Commercial College and later Frontier School Division. He loved the travel portion of his job that took him to many communities in Northern Manitoba.



He was interested in genealogy and became a resource for others researching their Icelandic background. Many times the Icelandic River Saga book was pulled from his bookshelf, along with other well used books.

The cottage (Njardvik) was his bliss. He wood carved, puttered and had wonderful memories there. Erika and Carter will forever remember beachcombing, elaborate bedtime stories, informative nature walks, and time on the deck - Claude with a strong cup of black coffee. Saturday BBQ night with his brother Dick, continued until present.

He moved to the Waterfront Center in Gimli in 2014. He enjoyed his balcony view, the camaraderie of the coffee group, and term as President of the Tenant Association.

Volunteerism was an important part of his life. Icelandic National League of North America, Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society, Icelandic Canadian Fron, Riverton Transportation & Heritage Museum, Icelandic Festival – Cultural Pavilion. He volunteered at the New Iceland Heritage Museum until he was over 80.

He was a hands on Afi with strong, supportive relationships with each grandchild. Countless hours were spent on the phone - especially in this last trying year. He was simply the best Dad a daughter could ever hope for.

Claude is survived by his daughter Signy Thorsteinson; grandchildren Erika Sigurlin Thorsteinson (Michael Black), Carter Johann Thorsteinson and brother Dick Thorsteinson.

"In the end, we all become stories." Margaret Atwood.

You will be immeasurably missed.

Góða nótt

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

Donations can be made to the Icelandic Heritage Museum or Betel Home Foundation.



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