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EXPRESS PHOTO BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Arborg Early Middle School students packed the gymnasium to welcome Fred Fox, brother of Canadian hero Terry Fox, during a special assembly honouring the community's outstanding fundraising efforts for cancer research. Pictured, Eli Danard holds up a replica of what Terry ran his Marathon of Hope on after he was diagnosed with bone cancer and had his right leg amputated.

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Men's Shed MB hopes to come to a community near you

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A program designed to give men a welcoming space to gather to share skills, learn and support one another is hoping to come to a community near you.

Men's Sheds Manitoba already has branches in Winnipeg, Beausejour, Howden, Minnedosa, Neepawa and Dauphin, and they're hoping to see even more community hubs pop up across the province.

"We are looking to grow," says Fred Bobrowski, provincial chair of the organization.

A Men's Shed is a group of men who come together on a regular basis to enjoy a range of activities.

"It's a casual place for men to connect and socialize and get together to work on projects that benefit themselves and the community," explains Bobrowski.

Some sheds revolve around wood or metalworking, others gardening, technology, card games or any other interest (or multiple interests) that resonate with the group.

Bobrowski's group in Winnipeg started out making walking sticks and canes, though the activity itself is really secondary to the camaraderie.

"Any sort of thing where guys are sitting shoulder to shoulder doing their stuff and talking," he says. "It's a bottoms-up organization. It's whatever the guys want with respect to the activities."

Educational workshops and presentations are a staple of many Men's Sheds, welcoming guest speakers on a host of topics, including health, finances and technology. Many also partner with local non-profits to tackle community projects.

"The aspect of giving back is key," says Bobrowski. "When we know we're helping our community. We really feel that sense of purpose that can be lost after retirement."

Bobrowski's involvement with the program began several years ago when he was a member of the Transcona Council for Seniors.

The council welcomed Doug Mackey, the man who brought Men's Sheds to Canada in the early 2000s, as a guest speaker. By that point, Men's Sheds, which began in Australia in the '90s, had spread to more than 15 countries around the world. Today there are 150 sheds in Canada alone.

"He came and talked to a few men in our community about it and it really



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

There are 10 Men's Shed groups across Manitoba right now, providing a welcoming space for men to come together to share skills, tackle projects and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat.

struck a nerve with me," Bobrowski recalls. "I know that there are many men who, when they retire, don't plan for it, or it may come unexpectedly to them. So they have too much time on their hands and not enough things to do."

Men's Sheds give guys a place to get out of the house and together with other men of all ages (though seniors make up the bulk of the membership, sheds are not exclusive to that age group — any male 18+ is welcome to get involved).

"Being part of a shed provides a vital sense of belonging," says Bobrowski. "We often hear from shed members how their shed community has helped them feel valued, supported and less lonely."

Anyone can start up a Men's Shed chapter — you'll just need to recruit

a few members and find an affordable space in which to meet.

Men's Sheds Manitoba and Men's Sheds Canada have support for new sheds by way of startup funds and advice on how to get a one up and running successfully.

Bobrowski urges anyone interested in the idea to reach out to learn more.

"I think the impact you'll find of Men's Sheds to the men and to their families and by default to the community is probably quite profound," he says. "Friendships are made, skills are taught, skills are learned, and guys have a place to come that's safe, non-judgmental. Everyone's accepted."

For more information on starting a Men's Shed in your community, head to mensshedmanitoba.ca or mensshedsCanada.ca or send an email to mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com.

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The Icelandic River Community Foundation is accepting applications for grants from registered charities and organizations for projects in the Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton catchment areas.

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Please mail applications to the Icelandic River Community Foundation, Box 159, Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0

Applications must be received by May 31, 2025

Empty Bowls fundraiser generates \$440 for Winnipeg Beach Food Connection

By Becca Myskiw

Empty bowls are being filled in the community.

Hidden Treasures Studio in Gimli recently held its second Empty Bowls fundraiser on Sunday, March 16 to support the Winnipeg Beach Food Connection. At the event, attendees painted ceramic bowls while enjoying a delicious meal to raise funds for the local organization.

The Empty Bowls fundraiser began in 1990 when Michigan art teacher John Hartom organized the first event to benefit a local food drive. He had students create their own ceramic bowls and then invited school faculty to a soup lunch where they contributed to the cause.

Since then, the fundraiser has grown into a global movement that Barb Fletcher of Hidden Treasures Studio is proud to be part of.

"It's the whole concept of giving back to the community," she said.

The inaugural Empty Bowls event was held last year at the pier in Gimli. This year's event took place at the Winnipeg Beach Curling Club and raised \$440 for the Winnipeg Beach Food Connection. Tickets for the fundraiser were \$40 for larger bowls and \$30 for smaller ones, which included a meal of soup and a bun to enjoy while painting. After the event, Fletcher took the bowls back to the studio to be fired, so attendees could pick them up later.

"The whole thought of an empty bowl is that it's a reminder of, even in our own backyards, there is such a thing as food insecurity," said Fletcher. "It does happen in our own backyard as much as we don't think, and so the empty bowl is a reminder to all of us that, yes, there is need in our community but also it's a fun event for people to participate in."

Lori Sul from Winnipeg Beach Food Connection shared that the event united the community to raise "much-needed" funds for the organization. She explained that all proceeds from Empty Bowls would go directly toward purchasing supplies to restock the shelves of Winnipeg Beach Food Connection, benefiting the community directly.

"Events like these where the community pulls together to make things happen are very important and show us all what can happen when people pull together," said Sul. "I strongly feel that Hidden Treasures as well as Coralea's are two businesses that show what true co-unity is all about. So much pride."

This year, Coralea's Kitchen provided the soup, and the



The event had people buy a ticket to eat a soup meal while painting their own ceramic bowl to take home.



Hidden Treasures Studio held an Empty Bowls fundraiser in support of Winnipeg Beach Food Connection, raising \$440 for the organization.

EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

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Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers showcase wild-caught fish for potential French buyers

By Patricia Barrett

With American president Donald Trump having imposed punishing tariffs against Canada earlier in March and repeatedly threatening to make Canada his 51st state, commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg are helping their industry showcase wild-caught freshwater fish and perhaps hook up with potential new fish-buying partners.

Canadian businesses and industries are actively looking for new non-American markets to tap into and partners with whom to build trusted trade relationships, and the freshwater fishing industry is no different.

Last week, members of the Gimli-based Kristjanson commercial fishing clan played host to potential fish buyers from a major French frozen food company called Picard Surgeles.

Robert T. Kristjanson said he and his son Chris and grandson Trevor took over a dozen people on the frozen lake at Hecla-Grindstone, including representatives from Picard and staff from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation [FFMC]. The fishers let the French drive their bombardiers on the lake and had them lift a net.

"This visit doesn't mean the Picard people will buy our fish. The French



Robert T. Kristjanson said Manitoba's fishing industry needs to showcase to non-U.S. buyers the variety of fish it has in response to the U.S.-instigated trade war against Canada.

already buy a lot of jackfish (pike) from the marketing board," said Robert T. Kristjanson, who along with his family was featured in the television series *Ice Vikings*. "But this visit had a different purpose; they wanted to see other types of fish we catch. Jackfish is native to France so they know this fish very well. But as far as wall-eye (pickerel) and whitefish go, they



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS KRISTJANSON

Members of the Kristjanson family with representatives from FFMC and Picard Surgeles, a French frozen food giant that has about 1,000 stores in France as well as stores in other countries. The commercial fishers gave the French visitors a full lake-to-plate Manitoba commercial fishing experience.

don't know it and wanted to see it."

After half a day on the lake, the fishers brought their visitors back to Gimli where they had lunch — pickerel fillets and Canadian whiskey — at the Lakeview Resort.

"This was not a pleasure trip," said Kristjanson. "We're trying to find new markets for our fish now that Canada is up against American tariffs. We want to get people outside of Canada interested in our high quality freshwater fish and show them how we catch it and how it's handled on the way to market."

France purchases unspecified kilograms of fish from the Canadian federal government-owned FFMC, which is headquartered in Winnipeg and operates a processing plant in Transcona. FFMC buys fish from commercial fishers in Manitoba, the

Northwest Territories and Saskatchewan, and has a mandate to buy from Alberta, whose commercial fishing industry is currently defunct. According to FFMC's 2024 annual report, the fish is used in France for making a traditional dish called quenelle, which is a mixture of creamed fish (typically a lean white fish such as pike) that's combined with breadcrumbs, eggs and other ingredients.

"FFMC's international reach extends through both food service and retail marketing channels. FFMC is one of the world's largest and most consistent suppliers of wild-caught walleye, lake whitefish, mullet and northern pike. FFMC provides western and northern Canadian commercial fish harvesters access to global

Continued on page 12

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Yes I Can program open for nominations

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual initiative of the Nellie McClung Foundation that aims to inspire confidence and empowerment among girls is again in search of candidates to support.

The Yes I Can program highlights and celebrates achievements and accomplishments in a variety of fields like science, business, politics and more. Nominations are open until April 30.

As one of the 2022 recipients, Divya Sharma is a testament to the impact it can have on a young woman like herself.

"The Nellie McClung Yes I Can video and leadership series strengthened my belief in the power of women empowering women," she shared. "It opened doors, connected me with inspiring leaders in the community and

gave me the confidence to lead on a bigger stage.

"The mentorship, support and connection I received with women from all walks of life played a major role in shaping my path to becoming the youngest and 100th president of the University of Manitoba students' union."

The Yes I Can leadership awards celebrate five outstanding young women aged 16 to 25 by showcasing their achievements in a video profile series

It provides a platform to share their unique personal and professional stories and celebrate their journey toward becoming future leaders.

Now in its fourth year, the program has featured remarkable women who have excelled in areas including sports, culture, education, arts, science, community, entrepreneurship

and other professional environments.

Their compelling narratives, captured on video, have not only celebrated personal success but also inspired countless girls across Manitoba to pursue their dreams with confidence, said Myrna Driedger, founder of the Nellie McClung Foundation and Yes I Can program.

"Programs like Yes I Can are essential in helping girls confidently navigate the challenges of their teen years," said Driedger, who emphasized the transformative impact of the program. "By showcasing these stories, we empower girls and young women to embrace their potential and confidently become leaders at any age."

Ibukun Okunnu, who is a spokesperson for the program, said being part of it has given her an incredible

opportunity not only to inspire young women and girls but also to be inspired by them.

"Year after year, I am in awe of the remarkable young women in Manitoba who are quietly paving the way for themselves and others," she said.

"I have grown in ways I never imagined — learning to be confident, to turn my ideas into action and to embrace the power of saying Yes I Can. This mindset has made me bolder, more daring and more confident, and I hope that through this program, even more young women and girls will feel empowered to embrace their own potential"

For more information and to submit nominations, head online to www.nelliemcclungfoundation.com/nomination-form.

> EMPTY BOWLS, FROM PG. 3

curling club graciously donated the space for the event. Fletcher noted that everyone enjoyed the fundraiser, and Winnipeg Beach Food Connection aims to make it an annual tradition.

"It's a great way to raise some extra funds for them and for them to be able to purchase the things they need most," she said. "It's a really awesome opportunity to pull the community together for an event but not only that, it's an opportunity to give back."

"The Winnipeg Beach Food Connection was started to offer our community a little help during these difficult times that many of us find ourselves in," said Sul. "With the prices of everything rising, families are left with little money to allocate towards food and nutrition. We are a community of people coming together to help one another."

Fletcher is already planning the next Empty Bowls fundraiser, which she hopes to hold at the Lakeview Gimli Resort or again at the pier in town. This upcoming event will raise funds for Evergreen Basic Needs, and although the details are not yet confirmed, she mentioned it will happen soon.

"I am very much community-minded and always looking for opportunities to give back to the community, and this is such a win-win," said Fletcher. "Pottery bowls go with what we do here in the studio, and everyone can use a bowl at home. And it's an innovative fundraiser, it's something different and new for people to do."

For updates on the next Empty Bowls fundraiser, follow Hidden Treasures Studio on Facebook.

Pothole problem? Nominate a road for the CAA Worst Roads campaign

By E Antonio

The annual CAA Worst Roads campaign is back, and they are looking for your input in finding Manitoba's worst roads.

From now until April 11, you can nominate a road in your community that is in dire need of improvement.

"We do a lot of research here, and we have learned that 96 per cent of Manitobans are concerned or very concerned with the state of our roads," said Ewald Friesen, manager government relations at CAA Manitoba.

Now in its 14th year, CAA addresses the conditions of roads by releasing a Top 10 list of worst roads, nominated by the public.

Through the campaign, you have the ability to nominate a road in poor condition either as a driver, a cyclist or a pedestrian. If you can use the road, you have the opportunity for your voice to be heard.

Whether it is a plethora of pot-

holes or faulty crossing signals, CAA wants to hear it all.

"We can't change our roadways without your help," said Friesen.

He particularly addressed the concern in rural communities.

"If you cannot access your road, you are going to be in a lot of trouble," he said.

In the previous two campaigns, rural roads were voted as Manitoba's worst roads — 18th Street in Brandon and Highway 74 near Morris both reached the top spot. Within months of the list being released, the government took action and made commitments to fixing both roads.

"The government is responding to our lists. Every nomination submitted drives home the message to our government leaders: safer roads, better infrastructure and attentive governance matter to us all."

You can nominate the worst road in your community once a



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER
Nominations are open for the CAA Worst Roads campaign. Have your voice be heard and nominate the worst road in your community for a chance to win free gas for a year.

day until April 11. Voting takes place at www.caaworstroads.com, and every nomination you cast enters you into a draw to win free gas for a year.

CAA will release the roads with the most nominations in May, where they will also share regional lists to ensure that everyone's voices are heard.

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Tariffs and trade – now what?

By Cam Dahl, General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council

“This too shall pass” is a Persian proverb used to encourage hope when times are difficult. Does this saying apply to the current U.S. president’s confrontational approach to allies and friends? Does it apply to the U.S. administration’s isolationist trade policies and tariffs? It probably does apply in the long-term, but today, hope is in short supply for many Manitoba farmers.

Manitoba exports about \$9.3 billion worth of agriculture and food products every year. This represents 13 per cent of the province’s annual gross domestic product. Almost half, 46 per cent in 2024, of these exports were shipped into the U.S.

On March 4, President Trump carried through on his threats to put tariffs of 25 per cent on almost all Canadian exports (outside of oil and gas). This means that half of our agriculture and food exports became 25 per cent more expensive with no return to farmers or processors. The negative impact of this will reverberate throughout every community in Manitoba, large and small.

Tariffs do not come as a surprise. The president talked about tariffs throughout his election campaign. The current U.S. administration views trade surpluses as a foreign subsidy provided by U.S. taxpayers. The president’s closest economic advisors are advocates for tariffs for both revenue generation as well as a tool to drive manufacturing to the U.S. Given these views, it is likely that these tariffs will

be with us for some time.

Many are predicting that a recession is coming. Looking at the pork sector as an example, it is not hard to see why these predictions are being made. The sector supports 22,000 jobs in Manitoba, in almost every part of the province. The industry contributes \$2.3 billion to the provincial GDP. Our largest export market is now significantly disrupted, putting those jobs and economic contribution at risk. Pork is not alone. A recent survey by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce found that over 60 per cent of businesses will be negatively impacted, with many seeing impacts already.

Governments need to act decisively and rapidly. We have seen positive action from the Government of Manitoba, with the premier, together with his provincial counterparts, engaging with decision makers in the U.S. Cabinet ministers, like the minister of Agriculture, Ron Kostyshyn, have been reaching out to strategic partners in state capitals. The establishment of the Premier’s U.S. Trade Council was a positive step. But more can, and must, be done.

At least in agriculture, we have common objectives with our neighbours in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The three governments should come together with a strategic outreach plan for Prairie agriculture and food trade stakeholders in the U.S. Through work done by the Keystone Agricultural Producers, agriculture and food value chains in Manitoba have identified 18 key states with whom

we should be engaged. It would be difficult for Manitoba to effectively launch an advocacy campaign in all 18 states, but together with the other Prairie provinces we have the necessary resources.

The province should consider leveraging their “Buy Local” campaign to partner with the other two Prairie provinces to further boost consumer demand here at home. Longer term, both the federal and provincial governments should be looking at incentives for investments that would help support export diversification and increase trade between provinces. For example, providing incentives to both farmers and processors who, considering U.S. trade actions, might want to adjust their operations to meet European regulations.

We also need to have a strategic plan going into the renegotiation of the Canada–U.S.–Mexico Agreement. The aggressive shift in U.S. foreign and trade policies over the past two months clearly show us that the renegotiation of our most important trade agreement will be difficult. We must be more prepared than we are today.

Canada has responded to the U.S. tariffs with our own duties. We really had no option. But a protracted trade war with the U.S. will weaken our province and our country for years to come. There is hard work to be done by both exporting industries, like agriculture, and governments to prevent that from happening and to recharge that hope for the future.

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Provincial government unveils 2025 budget

By Lorne Stelmach

A financial plan for the province billed as “Trump-proofing” Manitoba was introduced by the Manitoba government last week.

Finance Minister Adrien Sala hailed the \$3.7-billion capital spending program as the largest ever to help spur economic growth and create jobs in the face of such uncertainty.

The budget includes a forecast for a baseline deficit of \$794 million, but it could increase to nearly \$1.9 billion in the event of U.S. and Chinese tariffs.

The budget includes two financial plans — one without tariffs and one if U.S. President Donald Trump imposes sweeping 25 per cent tariffs April 2.

A \$1.1-billion tariff relief plan would include up to \$200 million to help businesses, up to \$100 million for farmers and \$100 million for families. It also includes \$85 million to train workers or students, and the province had already announced payroll and retail sales tax deferrals for businesses.

“This budget is ready to take on the big challenges and build the services Manitobans depend on,” Sala said in a news conference following the release of the budget last Thursday.

“We didn’t start this fight, but we are not backing down. We are building up our province. ... We’re ‘Trump proofing’ our economy and our country with a historic \$3.7-billion invest-

ment in capital projects like schools, hospitals in every part of Manitoba,” said Sala. “This is the largest capital spend in Manitoba’s history. We’re doing it to put Manitobans to work and protect our economy.

“From the moment Trump threatened his tariff tax, our government has been responding,” he continued. “We took these threats seriously, and we delivered a response that was measured but strong. ... This budget is a clear examination of the impact Trump’s unjustified tariffs may have on our economy, our revenues and our communities.

“We’re going to keep communities thriving with our historic new funding model,” Sala continued. “Our One Manitoba Growth Fund gives municipalities four per cent of our gas tax revenue to build hockey rinks, playgrounds and community centres ... to rebuild hometown pride all across our province.”

Sala emphasized the NDP government’s commitment to grow the economy, protect jobs, rebuild health care and lower costs for Manitobans.

The \$3.7 billion in capital projects include new schools, emergency rooms and personal care homes and other critical infrastructure.

A strong economy needs a strong health-care system, stressed Sala, and he suggested the budget continues to make progress on improving access

for Manitobans. It includes putting shovels in the ground this year on the new emergency room and mature women’s centre at Victoria Hospital and a new health-care centre of excellence in downtown Winnipeg as well as renovations at the Health Sciences Centre children’s hospital emergency room.

“We’re continuing to rebuild rural health care. ... Today, there are 1,255 new health-care workers on the front lines of Manitoba’s health-care system,” said Sala, citing the need to not only have more physicians and more nurses, but also boost training with more spaces for nurses and paramedics.

He went on to also cite an 11 per cent increase in spending for roads, highways, and infrastructure with a budget of more than \$800 million.

“Our budget helps rural communities be more climate resilient with funding for big flood mitigation projects,” said Sala, noting as well the \$881 million committed for Manitoba Hydro upgrades and improvements to help keep rates low across the province. “We’re making a generational change in hydro to keep rates low by eliminating the capital tax and cutting their debt guarantee fees. These are big changes that will allow Hydro

to keep Manitobans’ bills affordable while building and repairing the infrastructure we need into the future.”

The budget aims to lower costs for families and businesses with an increase to the homeowners affordability tax credit, more access to free birth control, a reduction in payroll taxes, an extension of \$10-a-day child care into the summer, a new business security rebate program and making provincial park entry free for an entire year.

It also includes a contingency with hundreds of millions of dollars in support to help businesses pivot to new markets, help workers skill up and find good jobs, and support Manitoba’s canola farmers and pork producers facing tariff threats from the U.S. and China, noted the finance minister.

“Budget 2025 includes strategic investments in the things we need to strengthen our trade corridors and protect northern sovereignty,” Sala said. “Budget 2025 delivers lower costs for working families where they need it most — permanent gas tax relief, a hydro rate freeze and more savings on child care fees.

“And as uncertainty impacts Mani-

Continued on page 12

get informed

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



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DAVE JOHNSON

The above-average temperatures recorded at 4 C on March 20 were causing the snow to melt around this barn, giving this deer a meal of dried grass. Help us record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends and family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca

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✓VACCINE
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Manitoba 

Winnipeg Beach councillor sanctioned for incidents involving two female staff

Councillor to apologize in writing, re-take Code of Conduct training

By Patricia Barrett

A Town of Winnipeg Beach councillor was formally sanctioned by council a few weeks ago for incidents involving two female members of staff.

Coun. Larry Kisiloski was sanctioned at council's regular meeting on March 12 after a third-party investigation was carried out.

Details of the incidents were not provided during the public portion of council's meeting, which is livestreamed and available on YouTube.

Kisiloski is required to issue written apologies to the interim chief administrative officer, Tara Antichow, and to the town's recreation manager, Charissa Melnick. He's also required to re-take a Code of Conduct course that all councillors must complete and adhere to in the discharge of their municipal duties.

The sanction came after a Code of Conduct complaint was brought against Kisiloski by Deputy Mayor Jean Gendron.

Towards the end of the two-hour-plus meeting, and after an in-camera (private) discussion, Antichow read

out a resolution regarding Kisiloski:

"Whereas a Code of Conduct complaint was filed by deputy mayor Gendron against Councillor Kisiloski. And whereas mediation was rejected so a third-party investigation was pursued. And whereas given the findings, the investigator recommends the following sanctions as outlined in Section 10.2 of the Code of Conduct Bylaw requiring councillor Kisiloski to issue a written letter of apology to the interim CAO and [the] rec manager within 30 days after being directed to do so and ... requiring councillor Kisiloski to once again complete the Manitoba Code of Conduct online training course and review the Province of Manitoba's 2022 council members guide."

Deputy Mayor Gendron was the only member of council who offered comments on the incidents during the meeting.

"Our staff need to feel safe in the workplace. Our staff need to be respected," said Gendron. "I would like to request a recorded vote on this matter, please."

According to the video, all councillors — including Kisiloski himself — voted in favour of adopting the resolution.

In addition to his duties as councillor, Kisiloski is a member of the public safety committee and the chair of de-



WINNIPEG BEACH LIVESTREAMED COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 12

Deputy Mayor Jean Gendron (left) is shown telling council that staff need to feel safe and respected in their workplace. Also shown are Coun. Doug Jarvis and interim CAO Tara Antichow (middle), and soon-to-be CAO Jodi Mitchell, who is scheduled to start in her new role on April 1. Coun. Kisiloski, whom council sanctioned, is shown in the top banner, second from the right.

velopment.

This is not the first time council has found itself dealing with incidents relating to conduct. Former mayor Pamela Jackson resigned last September, citing bullying from her male colleagues as well as homophobic slurs and the denial of a medical leave for a spinal cord injury. In an interview with the *Express* (see Oct. 3, 2024, edition online), Jackson said some men disrespect women in leadership roles.

The *Express* reached out to CAO Tara Antichow, the town's new mayor, Stan Potten — who was not present at the March 12 meeting — and all councillors. It asked for information such as the circumstances behind the incidents that prompted the sanction and whether Coun. Kisiloski would like to offer comment.

No response was provided by deadline.

Southern Chiefs Organization responds to 2025 Manitoba budget



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There are opportunities for everyone in your local provincial park this summer:

- Park Attendants: customer service, camping reservations and janitorial work.
- Park Interpreters: delivering guided experiences and education programs.
- Park Maintenance Workers: labourers, equipment operators, trades helpers, plumbers, mechanics, and carpenters.
- Green Team Youth Employment: for students ages 16-29.

Supervisor roles may also be available and advancement opportunities for long-term employment.

▶ Visit manitobaparks.com to find job opportunities or visit your local Environment and Climate Change office.



Submitted by SCO

On Friday, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) responded to the latest provincial budget, tabled March 20, 2025. The "Building One Manitoba" budget includes a record \$3.7 billion in spending for capital projects, including investments in critical infrastructure that will directly impact several of our Nations and the work of SCO.

"While I understand and even empathize with the provincial government given the current economic strains the Trump administration's tariff threats are putting on their fiscal bottom line, that in no way excuses them from meeting their obligations to the first peoples of this land," stated SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels. "Together we can emerge from this existential threat to the economy of Manitoba. By engaging in respectful and productive dialogue, we can ensure that First Nations are not left behind at this critical time."

The creation of affordable housing continues to be a priority for SCO, and we are heartened to see a budget line that will see the building of over 600 affordable housing units along with a \$7 million commitment to end chronic homelessness.

SCO also welcomes a \$4 million for the cre-

ation of the Health Care Centre of Excellence as part of the redevelopment of Portage Place in downtown Winnipeg.

"Along with our transformative Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn project in the former Hudson's Bay building, this investment will further our promise to revitalize downtown Winnipeg," said Grand Chief Daniels. "First Nations are at the forefront of so many critical projects in Manitoba's capital city, and I am pleased to see our provincial partners recognizing that indisputable fact."

Finance Minister Adrien Sala also revealed that work will now commence on the Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba outlet channels. These projects are long overdue and critical to protecting our impacted Nations from repeated and devastating floods.

"I applaud the province for committing to protecting our Interlake Nations from future catastrophic flooding," added Grand Chief Daniels. "However, I cannot overstate how vital it is to include them in the final consultations and plans for these channels and to listen to them when it comes to the potential impacts these

MPI and 'Professor Popsicle' talk ice road safety as spring thaw begins

By Tara Seel, MPI

Driving the ice roads in Manitoba's north, hopping in your vehicle to head out to your ice fishing shack, or driving a well-known route on a frozen lake all carry a risk of going through the ice. With warmer weather on the way, that risk only increases as ice begins to soften and melt.

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) received 22 claims in 2024 for vehicles that went through the ice, and there have been four claims reported so far in 2025. Going through the ice into cold water is potentially fatal as it can lead to hypothermia or drowning. In fact, one third of all drownings in Manitoba occur during the winter months — between October and April.

Recommended ice thickness for walking is 10 centimetres; to support one ATV or snowmobile, ice should be 12 centimetres thick; for a car, ice

should be 20-30 centimetres thick; and for a truck, it should be 30-38 centimetres thick. However, even thick ice has the potential to be weak and crack. Temperatures can also vary widely throughout the province and while ice may be thick enough to travel on in one area, it could be extremely dangerous elsewhere.

"Drivers need to consider whether it is reasonable and safe to head out onto the ice," said Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer. "Understand the rules when travelling on ice roads and be prepared in case an emergency occurs. Manitobans should take special care when driving on surfaces that are slippery and can change without warning."

Preparation is the key to keeping safe on ice roads — whether those are maintained ice roads in Manitoba's north or a worn path on a local lake.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured left to right: Lynne Stefanchuk, executive director of Lifesaving Society Manitoba; Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer, MPI, Winnipeg Police Service River Patrol, Manitoba RCMP Marine Unit.

Federal carbon charge on natural gas customers ends after March

Submitted by Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro natural gas customers will soon see a significant change on their bills.

There will be no federal carbon charge on natural gas used by Manitoba Hydro customers on or after April 1.

The federal government announced the change earlier this month. The Public Utilities Board later authorized removing the charge from Manitoba

Hydro customers' gas use.

The federal carbon charge was levied by the federal government starting in 2019 and increased in increments. The amounts were set by the federal government and collected on its behalf by Manitoba Hydro. In 2024, a typical Manitoba household paid about \$338 in federal carbon charge on natural gas for the year.

Federal carbon charges still apply to any gas customers use before April 1

and will show up during the next billing cycle.

With a paper bill, some customers may receive the Energy Matters newsletter that details the federal carbon charge increase that was scheduled

for April 1. This is outdated information and should be disregarded.

Manitoba Hydro has about 298,000 natural gas customers.

> SOUTHERN CHIEFS ORGANIZATION, FROM PG. 8

projects could have on fish habitat and water quality. To do anything less can only be seen as a betrayal of trust."

SCO is pleased to see in this budget a commitment to increasing reconciliation within the education system. We are heartened to learn of investments in land-based curriculums and Treaty education, along with bringing in language revitalization and a \$2.2-million annual investment to create an Elders and Knowledge Keepers Program for schools.

As SCO Nations continue to face ongoing safety issues, the investment of \$11.9 million for the Manitoba First Nations Police Service Program and the First Nations Safety Officer Program is essential.

SCO also calls on the Kinew government to follow up on important areas of meaningful reconciliation,

including investment in First Nation-led economic projects, along with loan guarantee programs and resource-sharing for wind power and resource development.

We will continue to ensure important issues such as Treaty entitlements, consultations on a critical mineral strategy, health, housing, and other fiduciary responsibilities are met by our provincial Treaty partner.

"We are in a unique and potentially remarkable time in our history when it comes to our relationship with the province," concluded Grand Chief Daniels. "Having an Anishinaabe premier who is also the minister responsible for Indigenous reconciliation gives us a direct voice at the table. I am confident that this will result in positive outcomes for our Nations and peoples."

**Building ERs.
Building Schools.
BUILDING ONE
MANITOBA.**

Manitoba.ca/Budget2025

Manitoba

Tudor House hosts community information sessions this spring

By Katelyn Boulanger

Tudor House Personal Care Home is inviting residents to some information sessions and a support group that is taking place this spring.

In order to support the community, they are hosting a presentation by the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba about understanding dementia. Also with the Alzheimer Society, there is a bereavement support group starting up, and, finally, towards the end of the month, there will be an information session about long-term care information.

“(We’re) offering these two programs for our community to bring awareness and to talk about dementia as well as there’s going to be the third point about long-term care,” said Melanie Thomas, social worker at Tudor House Personal Care Home. She explained that the reasoning be-

hind hosting these programs is that they are advocating for compassion and action highlighting the dedication and advocacy that drives meaningful change in communities. This is also the theme of Social Work Month which is this March.

The first program is the Understanding Dementia in Long Term Care information session. The presentation will be made by Alzheimer Society of Manitoba’s First Link regional team lead Samantha Holland, who is based in Selkirk’s Gordon Howard Centre.

“The focus is less on the basics of dementia as it pertains to what it looks like and how to get a diagnosis, but on the ways in which specific brain changes impact behaviour. So what she wants to get across is that all behaviour has meaning, and it’s up to us as care partners and people who work with individuals with dementia to be able to offer support to people living with dementia to figure out what it is that they’re trying to get across,” said Thomas.

The session will take place at Tudor House on April 1 at 7 p.m. and residents are asked to register in advance.

“The presentation will focus on how these various behaviours might present in the mid to later stages of dementia, which is typically the point at which individuals are transitioning into long-term care. The larger focus is sensory changes and the ways we can approach and interact with the person for a better chance of success while visiting and providing care,” she said.

Thomas explained that this info session is open to anyone in our community and would be beneficial to families or anyone who might provide care or look out for someone with dementia like a neighbour or friend. She said it also would benefit people who work with people with dementia.

Next, at the boardroom in Woodland Courts there will be an eight-week Bereavement Support Group that aims to help residents navigate the complicated feelings that come up with someone with dementia passes away. This group runs for eight weeks

from April 2 to May 21. Thomas is facilitating this program, and she is a volunteer for the Alzheimer Society in addition to her role at Tudor House.

“The focus is to support those who are in the process of grieving someone who’s died with dementia and to acknowledge the unique and complex experience of having been a caregiver or a care partner for a person with dementia. This will also include the grief of losing aspects of that person and that relationship, even before the person actually passes away, which we call ambiguous loss,” said Thomas.

It is a specific experience losing someone to dementia because care partners lose their person piece by piece. This group acknowledges that grief is universal and combines information as well as discussion sessions.

“This (bereavement group) is a little more specific to individuals who have lost a family member with dementia. So it could be a spouse, could be a son or daughter or a relative. But it is targeted towards that group of people who’ve actually experienced that,” said Thomas.

This support group will also require advanced registration.

The third event that will be taking place doesn’t have an exact date on the calendar yet but Thomas plans to host a What to Expect Navigating Long Term Care information opportunity towards the end of May.

She explained that this event will be open to anyone in our community who might need more information about long term care as so many people at some point in their lives need long term care.

“The focus will be on managing and meeting expectations of families when their loved one comes into long term care, and there’ll be a variety of topics,” said Thomas.

She said if you are planning to attend you should start to think about what questions you might have as there will be a question and answer session.

“Some of the areas that I will cover will be about everything from the ser-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

There will be some information sessions and a support group at Tudor Home this spring.

vices that are offered at a care home, the financial and legal considerations when your loved one comes into a care home, quality of life and well-being, and some of the programs that we offer and how to maintain and address your family’s quality of life and well-being and make sure that we can maintain that health and safety protocols,” she said.

She also wants residents to know that this information will not just be specific to Tudor House but will be helpful to people with care questions who haven’t gotten to needing long term care yet or even if someone has a family member in care in another community.

“Literally everyone would benefit (from coming), just in terms of really good information, because so many people are going to experience long-term care in some way or another. For themselves, that’s an important one, somebody may be living in community that’s living independently and know that this may, in five years, be where they’re going to end up residing,” she said.

Thomas believes it’s important that we have these conversations about long-term care and dementia in our community.

“From my perspective, a social work perspective, would be to be able to normalize when we’re talking about dementia and long-term care, that this is something that’s really, really common,” she said.

Thomas invites residents who would like to attend the support group or the sessions to register for these events by emailing her at melanie@mytudor.ca or by calling 204-482-6601 ext. 141.

Community Support Service

A.A Meeting in Ashern
 Location: #11 2nd Ave North
 - Pioneer Manor
 (beside the main door entrance of Pioneer Manor)
 Contact Jackiem.lwrc@gmail.com

AA Arborg
 Thursdays - 7:30 pm
 Arborg Support Centre
 327 Main Street
 Contact 204-376-5861

AA Eriksdale
 Eriksdale United Church building
 #7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)
 Meetings are Mondays
 at 6:30 p.m.

AA Winnipeg Beach
 Lady of the Lake RC Church
 Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,
 Winnipeg Beach
 Meetings are Saturdays
 between 7 and 8 p.m.
 Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

Gimli Group AA
 Bldg 18 Municipal Rd
 Industrial Park
 Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm

**Al-Anon
 Gimli and Winnipeg Beach**
 Join us at 17B Loni Beach Road, next to New Horizon building... Gimli at 7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an hour of support, strength, guidance and Hope. Contact 204-389-4777.
 All ages welcome.

AA Riverton Group
 12 Main St. at the Riverton Senior Centre
 Mondays 7:30 p.m.

Winnipeg Beach byelection does not go ahead, mayor acclaimed

By Patricia Barrett

The Town of Winnipeg Beach did not go ahead with its mayoral byelection after only one person submitted verified nominations.

Stan Potten was acclaimed as the town’s mayor a few weeks ago.

Senior election official B. Leah McIsaac wrote in a notice posted March 11 on the town’s website that only one

candidate provided “verified nominations.”

“Therefore, we will not be proceeding with the byelection,” wrote McIsaac.

Potten replaces former mayor, Pamela Jackson, who resigned after two years of enduring bullying, homophobic slurs and a denial of medical leave for a spinal injury.

The next general election in Winnipeg Beach is scheduled for July 2026.

Anyone who wants to be added to the voters’ list can visit the town office in person with a written request or email the senior election official: seo@winnipegbeach.ca by Friday, April 11, 2025.

Provincial government unanimously backs bail reform

By Jennifer McFee

Provincial politicians banded together to unanimously pass a motion demanding bail reform after a much-loved woman died in a collision that involved a repeat offender.

In the morning of Jan. 15, 28-year-old Kellie Verwey was killed in a three-vehicle collision on Highway 26, about three kilometres east of Portage la Prairie.

A stolen pickup truck veered over the centre line, causing another truck to swerve into an SUV driven by Verwey. She died at the scene.

Headingley RCMP arrested 24-year-old James Lorne Hilton from the RM of St. Andrews. He was charged with multiple offences including dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death, operation while impaired and failure to stop after an accident resulting in death. At the time, had a warrant out for his arrest.

On Monday, March 10, Progressive Conservative MLA Jeff Bereza introduced a motion calling for the provincial government to enhance bail enforcement and protect Manitobans from people who violate the conditions of their release. Lakeside MLA Trevor King supported the motion, which is close to his heart through a personal connection with Verwey.

"Kellie meant so much to so many that on March 10 on what would have been Kellie's 29th birthday, her family, friends and communities gathered in the gallery of the legislature with a shared hope to push for change in our justice system so that no other family has to endure such a tragic and preventable loss," he said.

"May Kellie's memory serve as a call to action, inspiring us to fight for a system that truly protects the innocent. Kellie attended high school with our oldest son Colton. We had the opportunity to learn what a remarkable young woman that she was and what she would have been. She most definitely made her mark on our communities and many lives, and she will be sadly missed."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lakeside MLA Trevor King, Kellie Verwey's mom Meechele Best and Portage la Prairie MLA Jeff Bereza at the Manitoba legislative building on March 10..

King said the catch-and-release justice system needs to be reformed, and he plans to continue working every day to make that happen.

"No family should have to experience what the Verweys have gone through," King said.

"In Kellie's memory, we brought forward a motion in the legislature demanding immediate action to crack down on repeat offenders, keep them behind bars and enforce bail before more innocent lives are lost. The system failed Kellie, and it's failing too many other Manitobans."

Sharilyn Knox, mayor of the City of Portage la Prairie, has been outspoken on the need for bail reform, calling on leaders to step up and make meaningful changes.

"I'm pleased to see the Manitoba legislature unanimously pass a motion to advance bail reform in our province. The province recently announced their five-point bail reform plan, and this is another step in addressing the concerns of communities across Manitoba," Knox said.

"Our communities' call for bail reform has been loud and clear, and while this progress is encouraging, the focus must now shift to the federal government to take meaningful action. Community safety should not be a partisan issue — this is about protecting Manitobans and all Canadians, and all levels of government must work together to ensure a justice system that prioritizes safety while ensuring accountability."

Allied health workers represented by MAHCP union ratify new collective agreements

By Patricia Barrett

Allied health workers represented by the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) ratified new four-year collective agreements with the provincial government and public health-care employers last week after going nearly a year without contracts.

Tentative agreements were reached a few weeks ago, and allied health workers voted on those agreements over the course of two days last week. In January MAHCP members had voted 96 per cent in favour of a strike mandate.

"This contract was achieved through the resolve of frontline allied health professionals and their bargaining committee, who were willing to go on strike to demand change," said MAHCP president Jason Linklater in a news release. "It is my hope that the new contract represents the first step in finally addressing chronic shortages of specialized staff and improving health care for Manitobans."

The new agreements are with employers provincial Shared Health, the Winnipeg-Churchill health region and the Northern health region.

Workers will receive a general wage increase of

12.25 per cent over four years, retroactive to 2024 with a 2.5 per cent increase. They'll subsequently see wages rise this year by 2.75 per cent, three per cent in 2026 and three per cent in 2027, plus a one per cent market adjustment.

The wage increases are "consistent with other recent health-care agreements, along with several improvements intended to enhance work-life balance and address workload and health and safety concerns," says MACHP.

The contract also includes a \$3 per hour step adjustment for most classifications, new rural and northern wage differentials, and wage parity for MAHCP paramedics with the City of Winnipeg paramedic services.

MAHCP says retention is a top priority as there are over 1,000 vacant allied health positions, and most positions require years of training because of their high degree of specialization.

Manitoba experienced a net loss of allied health staff represented by MAHCP in both January and February 2025 in Shared Health and the Winnipeg-Churchill and the northern health regions, says the news release. And this was the first "two-month

streak of net loss since August 2023, under the previous government."

Although the contract doesn't address "significant issues" affecting retention and recruitment, it nevertheless is expected to help stem the loss of allied health workers from Manitoba and provide potential recruits with information about wages and working conditions — information allied health professionals assess when looking for a job.

"The new contract is the starting point to stop the bleed and keep more allied health professionals on the job while Manitoba trains and recruits more to fill the thousand vacancies that have built up in recent years," said Linklater. "Employers must prioritize implementing the contract as quickly as possible before Manitoba loses more specialized allied health staff."

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals represents over 7,000 allied health members working 45-plus disciplines. Some MAHCP members are employed by Shared Health and work in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority.

> 2025 BUDGET, FROM PG. 7

toba's farmers and producers, our budget offers direct supports with over \$140 million in business risk management programming," he noted. "Budget 2025 helps small and medium businesses grow and compete by reducing the payroll tax."

BUDGET REACTIONS

The Progressive Conservatives slammed the NDP for having such a tax-and-spend budget, noting Manitobans are struggling to pay their bills and worrying about job losses.

"The premier and his finance minister have had months to get this right and prepare a budget that gives Manitobans immediate and substantial relief," said interim leader Wayne Ewasko. "Instead, they brought forward a reckless plan that raises income taxes, expands the PST and slaps double-digit increases on education property taxes."

The Tories cited a few examples of how the budget hits Manitobans hard, including \$182 million more in

education property taxes, \$82 million more in income taxes by freezing inflation indexing, and \$16 million more from a new PST on software subscriptions and cloud storage.

All told, the government will rake in over \$1 billion more in taxes and other revenues from Manitoba families and businesses in 2025, Ewasko said. This comes, he added, as budget projections show new U.S. and Chinese tariffs, along with retaliatory tariffs, will slash Manitoba's GDP by \$3.6 billion, reduce incomes by \$1,420 per capita, and cause a recession comparable to 2009.

Midland MLA Lauren Stone, PC critic for finance, added that the budget contains no actions to remove inter-provincial trade barriers, no comprehensive strategy to expand trade and no meaningful relief for Manitobans during these uncertain times.

"At a time when government needs to be making life more affordable, the NDP are hiking taxes across the board, making life more expensive for everyone," Stone said. "Instead of

giving back to Manitobans, the NDP are taking more, spending more and giving themselves raises. Our province is going to be poorer for it."

Other reactions to the budget offered mixed reviews.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) welcomed Manitoba's commitment to business growth but suggested more may be needed to help increase business confidence during these turbulent times.

"Small business owners in Manitoba are feeling extremely pessimistic about their future. Ongoing trade uncertainty, rising costs and lack of demand make it nearly impossible to plan for the months ahead," said Tyler Slobogian, CFIB's senior policy analyst for the prairies and the north. "No one knows when the tariff war will end, and businesses are deeply concerned that the worst is yet to come."

"We are pleased to see the Manitoba government recognize the challenges that small businesses are facing, especially in light of ongoing trade disputes and significant economic

uncertainty," Slobogian added. "But further tax cuts may be necessary to promote growth and expansion and to help small businesses remain competitive should we find ourselves in a prolonged trade war."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation criticized the government for hiking taxes by bringing back bracket creep. They pointed out that the government will stop indexing income tax brackets and the basic personal amount by inflation — a sneaky way, they said, of increasing taxes. Because of bracket creep, inflation can automatically bump taxpayers into a higher tax bracket and raise their taxes even though they can't actually afford to buy more because prices have gone up.

"The government shouldn't be punishing taxpayers with a tax hike just for getting a cost-of-living pay raise," said prairie director Gage Haubrich. "Failing to adjust tax brackets to inflation is a stealth tax hike on Manitobans that will increase their tax bills every single year."

> FRENCH BUYERS, FROM PG. 4

customers as a brand leader in several foreign markets," states FFMC's annual report. "FFMC's stringent handling, transportation and processing standards ensure all fish products meet regulatory requirements. FFMC works closely with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ensure its supply chain meets federal and customer requirements for food safety and quality."

Interest by the French in perhaps purchasing more fish or different kinds of wild-caught fish from western and northern Canada is an opportunity Manitoba's commercial fishers are eager to explore.

Chris Kristjanson said Picard Surgeles is a very large frozen food chain that's similar to the Canadian-owned M&M Food Market.

Picard has, according to a quick Internet search, about 1,000 retail stores in France and also operates in other countries. And it clearly likes to offer its customers a lot of choice as it has hundreds and hundreds of different frozen meals, including various kinds of fish.

"Picard is a highly trusted name in France and is important to the mar-

keting board because this a way for [FFMC] to add value to fish that the French haven't had before. Picard could potentially want to sell our fish in their stores," said Kristjanson. "This is why we wanted to show them — they've never been on the ice before — where this fish is coming from ... and the entire chain of custody. They got an authentic experience on the lake, from learning where the escape hatch is in the bombardier and driving it across the lake to pulling up a net and identifying the fish in it."

The visit also included a tour of an FFMC fish-packing facility in the Gimli Industrial Park and a tour of the FFMC processing plant in Winnipeg.

The marketing board sends a lot of fish to the United States, said Kristjanson, because we have enough resources to meet our own needs. But now that Trump has imposed tariffs against Canada, the fishing industry has to think outside the tote.

"The United States is our biggest consumer of Canadian products including fish. In the atmosphere we're in right now with U.S. tariffs, what's more important than showcasing a

Canadian product from Manitoba, caught on a Manitoba lake, processed by a Manitoba plant in Winnipeg, tailored to what particular customers want and shipped to them?" he said. "This is what we're striving for when we talk about getting behind made-in-Canada products ... and looking for potential partners in Europe with whom to do business. I think the most important thing for our potential partners is to see where our products comes from."

Consumers are concerned about eco-certification and want to understand how their food is grown or caught, said Kristjanson. The government is in the process of certifying more Manitoba lakes that supply wild-caught fish.

"People want to know if their fish is being grown in a swamp in China. People are more conscious of where their food is coming from; they want to feel warm and fuzzy when they're eating food. They want to know it's sustainable. This is how we have to operate when selling our fish in the global marketplace," said Kristjanson. "This is a critical time for the future of the fishing industry. If we have somebody in the U.S. deciding to put a 25 per cent tariff against Canada today then deciding 50 per cent might

be better tomorrow — we just can't sustain that type of dealing. It's too erratic. We can't live like this for another four years. We need to broaden our reach."

Kristjanson said he's hoping Manitoba and federal politicians "get on board" to stimulate interest in Canadian fish and promote the fishing industry.

As for the outcome of the visit with Picard's representatives, Kristjanson said he doesn't know whether it resulted in a deal, but he enjoyed showing his French visitors how fishers work.

"I was left with a very good impression of the visit. Nothing bad can come from this; we were able to showcase our fish. The Picard representatives will go back to France armed with stories of driving the bombardiers, taking a net out of the water, learning how we process and manage our fish and following the fish through each stage until it ready for the market," he said. "From lake to plate, Picard saw it all. And I'd be happy to take other potential buyers on the lake to show them what Manitoba has."

The *Express* reached out to FFMC for comment.

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THE **EXPRESS**
WEEKLY NEWS

Alan Campbell elected president of MSBA

By Jennifer McFee

Alan Campbell has been elected as the president of the Manitoba School Boards Association — for the second time.

Campbell served his first term as president from October 2018 to March 2023. After that, he served as past-president from March 2023 to March 2025.

Now he has been elected as president once again for the 2024-2026 term, and he also continues to serve

as president of the Canadian School Boards Association since 2022 and a trustee for the Interlake School Division since 2010.

Campbell said his first term as president was largely monopolized by fighting the former provincial government's attempts to eliminate school boards through Bill 64.

"There is a sense of cautious optimism as we move forward in collaboration with the current provincial government, who has publicly stated

a strong willingness to respect the autonomy of locally elected boards in the spirit of partnership, for the good of our public schools and the communities they serve," he said.

"In a world where there is so much instability right now, school boards are focused on ensuring that local public schools remain a source of safety and stability for all students, staff and families."



Alan Campbell

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Every day, the people at Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries strive to make positive contributions to Manitoba's economic, environmental, and social well-being. Read how we're doing in our recently published **2023-24 Environmental, Social, and Governance Progress Report** by scanning the QR code below or visiting MBLLGoodTogether.ca.



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in vehicle fuel consumption since 2015



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#MBLLGoodTogether

Fred Fox celebrates student contributions to Terry Fox Foundation

By E Antonio

On March 18, Fred Fox, Terry Fox's brother, visited Alf Cuthbert School and Ashern Early Years School to honour their contributions to cancer research in Canada.

Both schools had significant achievements to celebrate, which prompted Fox's visit. Fox began the day at Alf Cuthbert School to commemorate their 20-year anniversary of donating to the Terry Fox Foundation. Over the years, the school has raised a total of \$14,863.90 for cancer research.

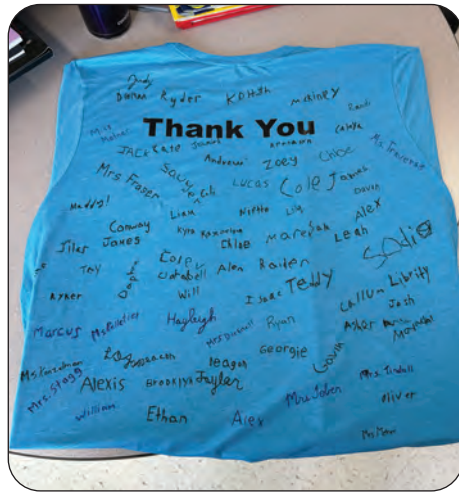
Alann Fraser, the principal of Alf Cuthbert, was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet with Fox.

"Our visit with Fred was amazing," she said.

During the visit, students had the chance to speak with Fox and ask him questions about Terry. They were also presented with a 20-year commemorative pennant. Lanyth Tober, a teacher at the school, accepted the banner on behalf of the school. Additionally, student Conway Rawluk presented Fox with a special gift: an Alf Cuthbert T-shirt signed by all the staff and students.

In the afternoon, Fox travelled to Ashern Early Years School. Earlier in the school year, families at Ashern raised \$3,200 for the Terry Fox Foundation, more than doubling their previous donation record. Andrea Gryba, a teacher at the school, was excited when she learned that Fox would be visiting.

"A school visit from Fred Fox is a truly special event, especially in Canada where Terry Fox's legacy is continually recognized and held close to



Fox received a shirt with the names of all the staff and students from Alf Cuthbert School on it. Student Conway Rawluk presented Fox with the gift.

our hearts."

During the visit, Fox shared family memories from their time living in Winnipeg and gave students insight into Terry's life prior to his cancer diagnosis. He also discussed the emotions and challenges Terry faced during his Marathon of Hope.

At the end of the assembly, students had the opportunity to ask heartfelt questions about Terry — questions that only family members could answer. Fox's visit concluded with a community walk down Main Street, where students created posters with inspirational messages and chanted Terry's name. Gryba felt fortunate that she and her students could be part of this memorable day.

"It was an emotional and a once in a lifetime opportunity," she said. "One that I will forever cherish."



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Fred Fox went on a community walk with staff and students from Ashern Early Years School. The students made posters with inspirational messages.



Alf Cuthbert principal Alann Fraser and Fox.



Lanyth Tober accepted the 20-year anniversary pennant on behalf of the school.



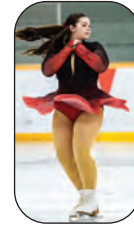
Fred Fox, Terry Fox's brother, visited Alf Cuthbert School and Ashern Early Years School on March 18 to celebrate their Terry Fox Foundation fundraising efforts.

Skating Under the Big Top: Arborg Club hosts carnival on ice



EXPRESSION PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON

Skaters from the Arborg Skating Club performed during the club's circus-themed ice carnival on March 22. The show featured routines by CanSkate, StarSkate and Pre-Power skaters, marking the club's first ice show since reopening. "We were very excited to showcase our skaters' hard work," said board member Jaclyn.



GROW OUR OWN SCHOLARSHIP

for all Interlake Grade 12 High School Students

At Vidir, a core value is to Raise Others Up. We are actively involved in our local communities in the Interlake and believe strongly in the talent that comes out of the area. Vidir is now offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one Interlake grade 12 student who is pursuing post secondary education. Included with the scholarship is also an offer of one summer of employment to shadow in their prospective career, with the opportunity to possibly do more summers in the future.

Application deadline is April 30th, 2025 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2025.

To apply, you must meet these criteria:

1. You are an Interlake high school student graduating grade 12 and going into a Vidir-specific post-secondary area of study (examples include welding, engineering, machining, accounting, business, marketing, HR, etc.).
2. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD EMAIL CARISSA.REMPEL@VIDIR.COM FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

When applying:

1. Fill out the scholarship application.
2. Submit most recent transcript.
3. Submit a recommendation letter from a non family member regarding what you want to study and why you will do well in it.
4. Submit 2 essays:
 - 1st essay: 500 words on why you love the Interlake and your chosen career path and how you think you will make a difference in the Interlake in the future.
 - 2nd essay: 500 words on either an innovation, safety measure, or community service or activity that you feel would benefit the Interlake and how you would propose making that happen.

VIDIR HERO SCHOLARSHIP

for all Vidir Employees' Children in Grade 12

A core value at Vidir is that Education Elevates Excellence. We also believe in Raising Others Up, especially our employees and their families. We want to see the future generation continue to learn and elevate both the Interlake and the world. Vidir is now offering two \$1,000 scholarships to children of Vidir employees.

Application deadline is April 30th, 2025 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2025.

To apply, you must meet these criteria:

1. Your parent must have worked at Vidir for 5 years or more and must be in good standing with the company.
2. You are graduating grade 12 this year in any high school.
3. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

When applying:

1. Fill out the scholarship application.
2. Submit most recent transcript.
3. Submit a recommendation letter from a non family member regarding what you want to study and why you will do well in it.
4. Submit 2 essays:
 - 1st essay: 600 words on a Vidir value, why you think you exemplify it, and how you hope to use your studies and that value to make a difference in the future.
 - 2nd essay: 500 words on a time where you saw a need in your community and an innovative solution you came up with to meet that need.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD EMAIL CARISSA.REMPEL@VIDIR.COM FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Fred Fox pays tribute to Arborg and area's outstanding fundraising for Terry Fox Foundation

By Patricia Barrett

Fred Fox, the older brother of Terry Fox, paid tribute to Arborg and surrounding communities last week for their outstanding fundraising efforts over the years to help the Terry Fox Foundation find a cure for cancer through research support.

Fox spent a day meeting with members of the Arborg Terry Fox Committee, businesses, schools and the fire department — all of whom play a role in supporting the foundation through Arborg's annual Terry Fox Run.

Arborg and the surrounding area (referred to as Arborg for simplicity) earned the distinction of being the Terry Fox Foundation's top fundraising community in Manitoba on a per-capita basis. Arborg is also in the top two per cent of fundraising communities across Canada on a per-capita basis.

Donna Gislason, the outgoing chair of the Arborg Terry Fox Committee, said Fox paid tribute to her, the committee, the organizations and people from Arborg, the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton and beyond for their generosity and commitment to help find a cure for cancer. That commitment never wavered, even during the COVID-19 pandemic when the committee pivoted to a virtual format.

"This was so emotional. It makes me feel so proud of our community and the generous people that live here," said Gislason, who has served as chair for about 15 years. "I've never been prouder of them."

The community was "beyond thrilled" to find out that Fox planned to visit them, she said. And when she got to meet him, her impression was that he is so passionate about his brother and the foundation, and a caring and humble person.

Terry Fox is a Canadian icon whose battle with cancer and determination to fight it continue to inspire generations. Born in British Columbia, Fox embarked on a Marathon of Hope in April 1980 at the age of 18 after losing a leg to cancer. He was determined to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. After running over 5,000 kilometres, he had to stop when the cancer spread to his lungs. He died in June 1981.

The volunteer foundation that was created in Fox's name provides funds to cancer research projects. About \$850 million has been raised since 1980. The annual Terry Fox Run sees communities from across Canada take part in raising funds for the foundation.

Gislason said that in addition to the generosity of Arborg and area donors, the committee is "very fortunate" to have the volunteers it has had and does have as they've been a vital part of the success story. She also thanks the school for its efforts.

"It was so moving at the school. The community should be so proud of our school, the staff and the



students because they were outstanding. They put together so much for Fred and I think he was overwhelmed by it. I myself couldn't believe it. I just can't commend [teacher] Cheryl [Chwaliboga] and everyone else at the school enough for what they did."

Arborg Early Middle School teacher Cheryl Chwaliboga, who's a member of the Arborg Terry Fox Committee, coordinated the school activities around Fred Fox's visit.

Last year's Terry Fox Run was a banner year for Arborg and the surrounding community, raising over \$41,000, with \$10,000 of that raised by the school.

Chwaliboga said Fred visited the local Co-op, Access Credit Union, the Arborg Legion and the fire hall to thank them because they're "big supporters" of the annual run.

AEMS students left no stone unturned in their bid to welcome Fox to the school. They got as many old Terry Fox shirts as they could and hung them on the walls in the school's entrance hall.

"Prior to him coming, staff and kids in every class took on a job because we wanted to create a big welcome for Fred," said Chwaliboga. "One class made banners for welcoming him. Another class decorated a runner and put inspirational words about Terry on that. Kindergarten students decorated T-shirts. We had some poems and thank-you cards for Fred. Another class made a booklet about what it means to be a hero and why Terry was a hero."

The school also held an assembly and invited students and staff from the high school. Principal Brad Harding welcomed the assembly and two high school students spoke about how cancer affects all of us and the importance of cancer research, she



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON
AEMS Grade 2 student Summer Hallett shares her drawing with Terry Fox's brother Fred Fox.

said. Then Fred spoke to the assembly, telling them about his brother's life.

"It was incredible to hear Terry's story from someone so close to him," she said. "It brought his story to a whole new level. You can read about Terry's life, but this was so much more personal hearing it from Fred about his courage and determination."

Afterwards, AEMS' choir sang You Raise Me Up by Josh Groban and they watched a two-minute video on Terry. They had lunch with Fred then fire trucks from the department led them on a walk to the recreation centre where they took a picture at the town's iconic Curling Rock.

"Fred is a down-to-earth guy and very easy to talk to. He was appreciative of everyone. He did a presentation at the Co-op and at the credit union and thanked everyone for their efforts and getting involved and how important every little bit is to help keep Terry's dream alive," said Chwaliboga. "He did a presentation for the community in the evening. They had a banner that says Terry Lives Here,

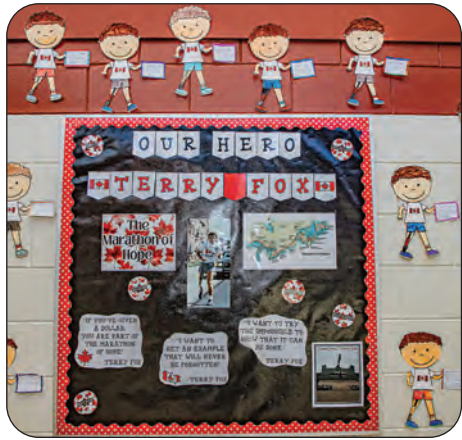
and Fred said that from being in our school and seeing the support in our community, he could tell that Terry really does live here. That was so nice to hear."

Fox, who acts as the supporter relations contact for the Terry Fox Foundation, said the people he met in Arborg were very welcoming and the full day of activities made it a memorable event.

"Everyone I met in Arborg was so welcoming and my time there was heart-



> TERRY FOX, FROM PG. 16



warming. The schedule in Arborg was full and amazing," said Fox.

He arrived last Tuesday evening and had supper with members of the community. The following morning, he joined the Arborg Terry Fox Committee for breakfast at Gislason's home then visited community businesses, the fire hall, the legion and early-middle years and high school students.

"The full day made my visit one of the most memorable things I've ever done in my visits across Canada," he said. "I hope to return to Arborg in the future."

He wanted to visit Arborg because it has supported Terry from the get-go in 1981 when the first Terry Fox runs were held, he said.

"Arborg has the highest per capita of fundraising for a Manitoba community at \$24.33 per person, the 11th highest in Canada. The whole community of Arborg came together for an outstanding year with a head-shave challenge, barbecues and a Terry Fox Run," said Fox. "It was great to visit and acknowledge Arborg's commitment to Terry's dream. It was nice also to recognize Donna Gislason and her leadership."

When asked why he thinks his brother's story continues to resonate so strongly with Canadians, Fox said he thinks it's the characteristics Terry showed during his Marathon of Hope

"I feel it's Terry, his effort in 1980 during the Marathon of Hope, his sacrifice, his honesty, humility and integrity that what he was doing would one day make a difference to those with cancer that still impacts Canadians of all ages," said Fox. "For almost 45 years, in thousands of schools across Canada, students have learned ... about his determination, how he always needed to work hard and never gave up. Terry is a perfect example of what it is to be Canadian. Terry would often say during his MOH that we will all be touched by cancer, maybe not personally, but a family member, friend or neighbour will be diagnosed with cancer and that's why it was important to give a \$1 to cancer research. Terry's message is still important today."





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Eriksdale Curling Club wraps up its first season with geothermal plant

By Becca Myskiw

The Eriksdale Curling Club had a successful first season with their new geothermal plant.

After years of fundraising, the local curling club finally installed the geothermal plant last October. The push for a new system started when the global climate crisis became bigger news, since geothermal plants require very little energy and emit even less. So the Eriksdale Curling Club board decided it was time to upgrade their facilities from a chemical-based plant to a geothermal one.

According to the Government of Manitoba, geothermal heat pumps save money and the environment. Using the earth's thermal energy, geothermal systems save homeowners 30 to 70 per cent in heating mode and 20 to 50 per cent in cooling mode compared to conventional systems. Arenas across the province are now switching to the method to take advantage of the savings.

Geothermal heat pumps have underground pipes that carry water and antifreeze, helping heat exchange between the ground and the air. To add heat, that fluid absorbs heat from the ground, transfers it into the pump and then sends it into the air. To cool the space, the process happens in reverse, the heat being absorbed from the air into the ground and sending cool air out instead.

Because geothermal pumps use



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Eriksdale Curling Club held their first season with their new geothermal plant this year.



ground temperatures to move pre-existing heat, the process uses very little energy yet produces more than a typical system. Where a natural gas furnace may make less than one unit of heat for every unit consumed, a geothermal pump produces three to four — an efficiency of 300 to 400 per cent more.

Geothermal pumps also last 20 per cent longer than traditional systems, eliminate the combustion of fossil fuels and offer stable heating and cooling, among other things. Because older arenas lose a lot of heat trying to cool the ice, geothermal has become a more popular option for multiple reasons.

"We know it's going to be there for long after we've gone from this earth," said Donna Pool of the Eriksdale Curling Club. "Our youth are showing great promise, and our numbers are growing so it's also satisfying to know that the cost and the amount of work that went into that project will make many curlers happy for years to come."

The project cost the rink \$200,000, with an added cost of \$63,000 for a dehumidifier that wasn't part of the initial plan. Pool said they decided to add one after the fact because they've seen other clubs have success with them, and the lack of a dehumidifier can cause ice issues. Pool said it will control humidity in the building in the winter and summer months.

Prairie HVAC installed the geothermal plant and donated the dehumidifier for the rink, so the club only had to pay the extra install cost.

The plant started in August and was completed by October, making it available for the entire 2024-25 curling season — and a successful season it was.



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Aurora lights up night sky along Lake Winnipeg



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

The northern lights danced over Lake Winnipeg near Hnaua on Friday, March 15. Corrine Einarsson captured the aurora as it lit up the night sky along the lakeshore. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca

Local patients share about their ‘fabulous’ new dentures

BY ELISHA VANDOR

We see a lot of patients who have been wearing dentures for their entire adult life and feel very honoured when we are entrusted to make them their next denture(s). After all, it’s not a regular occurrence for denture replacement. On average, someone replaces their dentures every 5-25+ years, so when it’s new denture day at Vandor Denture Centre, it can be exciting, emotional, and down right picture worthy.

In the month of February, some of our patients shared their experiences of their new dentures. Brenda writes, “my mouth has not felt this good since I lost my natural teeth. 5-stars for the staff being so genuine and professional, a process of both efficiency and pleasantness, and the Denturist Brock for his degree of expertise, attention to detail and sense of humour. But mostly for the collective attitude of caring and good manners shown by all - such a lovely surprise. Grateful to have you all in our small community!”

- Brenda K.

Here’s a fresh perspective from new patient, Doris, who received a new denture from us. She says, “this was my first experience at Vandor Denture Centre. My experience was one of professionalism and caring by both Denturists Matthew and Brock. The partial was fixed and fit perfectly. The receptionists were very accommodating when I had to change my appointment

and gave me a time slot that fit my busy schedule. I definitely am recommending this clinic for any denture needs you may need.”

- Doris G.

Don came to us, never having worn a partial upper denture before. He says, “I am very happy with the service that they provide. They are very professional and very personable. Brock did a fabulous job on my partial upper plate. I am very satisfied. Love the friendly atmosphere.”

- Don S.

Sharon quickly became someone who instantly felt like family upon meeting her in January! She says, “I had a tooth next to my front teeth removed as the cap failed. A replacement at the dentist was going to be over my budget. Brock was able to replace the tooth with a beautiful matching tooth at a very reasonable price. The turnaround time was a matter of a week and I was ready to be seen in public again. How fortunate to have such a successful business locally. Staff were wonderful to deal with as well. Will be very happy to recommend Vandor Denture Centre to my friends and family.”

- Sharon E.

Going for a new denture can sometimes be daunting and satisfactory at best, but here, we aim to provide the ‘wow’ factor with dentures. Our consultations are free, and we look forward to hearing from you!



Recent patient of Vandor Denture Centre, Leona poses with Denturist Brock and Elisha after getting her new dentures.

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On the NE corner of Regent and Lagimodiere in the DOMO gas parking lot

Rock solid fundraiser to end global hunger March 29

By E Antonio

Mark your calendars for March 29 at 7 p.m. and come to the Ecco Choir Rock Solid Fundraiser at Stonewall's New Life Church. This event aims to address one of the most pressing issues facing our world today — global hunger.

This is an opportunity to hear inspiring stories from Dan and Hertha Penner, two Manitoban farmers who dedicated their time to teaching sustainable farming practices in Africa. Their efforts are part of the Rock Solid Growing Project, which has already contributed over \$100,000 to the Canada Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB).

"It is not just about giving people in Third World countries to feed themselves; it is about teaching people how to feed themselves," said Andrew Harris, one of Stonewall's three farmers who are involved in the Rock Solid Growing Project for CFGFB.

Harris works alongside Nick Matheson and Nathan Tollenaar, who all volunteer their time, equipment and resources to maintain and sell a crop. Once the crop has been harvested, they donate 100 per cent of the proceeds to CFGFB.

CFGFB is a nationwide initiative that works with communities in third world countries to combat the food



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Stonewall farmers (left to right) Nathan Tollenaar, Andrew Harris and Nick Matheson are hosting a Rock Solid Project fundraiser at New Life Church on March 29 in support of Canada Foodgrains Bank.



Let the Professionals Handle Your Taxes - You've Got Enough on Your Plate!

It's that time of year again! The season of tax forms, and that overwhelming feeling of "Did I do this right?" You could spend hours wrestling with complicated deductions, or you could do yourself a favour and let a tax professional handle it. After all, you're a pro at your job, so why not let the experts be pros at tax filing?

Tax laws change constantly, and while your tax software might offer guidance, it won't be able to explain the intricacies of your unique situation. Did you get a side gig this year? Maybe you've got an investment portfolio that's grown more complicated than your love life? Whatever the case, a tax professional will find the deductions and credits that could save you money and sanity.

Let's be real: Tax season is stressful. But you don't have to face it alone. Hiring a local professional means you get someone who knows the ins and outs of the system and will fight for you. Plus, we all know that the last thing you want is for the CRA to come knocking on your door with questions.

So, put down the calculator and step away from the coffee-fueled tax marathon. Trust a tax expert to get the job done right. Your taxes are important, but your peace of mind is priceless. Let us handle the heavy lifting so you can focus on what really matters: getting back to your life (and maybe a little bit of Netflix)!

Call today to schedule an appointment!

insecurity crisis. In membership with 15 different church organizations, proceeds are put towards creating, improving and maintaining sustainable farms that can assist in generating income for impoverished communities. Certain funds are also created to supply emergency food assistance and food rations.

Dale Friesen, Manitoba's spokesperson from CFGFB, explained in their last fiscal year, 123 different CFGFB projects supported 35 different countries, totalling \$18.8-million worth of donations.

"Canadians are working together to end world hunger. Hunger issues are on the rise around the world, and these are real people with real needs that we are helping," said Friesen.

He advocates for community involvement, addressing the matter that we all are working towards one

Ecco Choir Rock Solid Fundraiser March 29th - Saturday

7:00 pm
New Life Church
6106E Hwy 67
Stonewall, MB

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Nick Matheson - (204) 461-0706
Dale Friesen - (204) 226-7505

Come hear the Ecco choir and stories from the field.



Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. Visit foodgrainsbank.ca to learn more.



common goal of ending the hunger crisis.

"Through each project's support,

Continued on page 21

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Old-time dancers welcomed at Matlock Hall on April 23

By Tiago Resko

Local music has a way of bringing communities together, and few know that better than Selkirk's Edward Chrapchynski.

At 74, he's not just strumming the guitar or pulling on fiddle strings; he's orchestrating change for his community.

With the windows leaking, the floors torn up, the bathrooms outdated and the kitchen cabinets falling apart, something had to be done to save the Holy Eucharist Parish Hall.

Chrapchynski was president of the board for the hall at the time and feared if repairs weren't made, the hall's lively spirit would be silenced forever.

In 2011, Chrapchynski started doing monthly shows playing old-time music for seniors with his band — It's Group Four — to raise money to renovate the hall.

After playing shows for three years, the band raised \$8,500 and helped the Holy Eucharist Parish Hall with the purchase of 200 chairs, 35 tables, new flooring, windows and renovations to the kitchen and bathrooms.

What started as monthly shows for seniors has blossomed and continued into a decade-long endeavour, raising over \$14,000 for various organizations.

Chrapchynski and his It's Group Four band are currently planning their next fundraiser from 1 to 5 p.m. on April 23 at the Matlock Hall. The afternoon will include live music and lunch and a 50/50 draw. This is his first fundraiser since COVID-19 shut him down.

"I'm starting all over again with zero dollars. My wife and I are putting out \$2,000 to get this thing started," said Chrapchynski.

He said costs include \$50 an hour for renting the hall, \$175 for the damage deposit and \$150 for cleaning.

He says he relies on the seniors, who pay \$20 per person at the door to attend with hopes to make his money back and a little for a community organization in need.

This year, Chrapchynski hopes to secure a monetary donation from the government and plans to invite a member of Parliament from each party to attend the event.

The donation would allow Chrapchynski to save his personal money and put it towards the next show in May.

Even without the donation, Chrapchynski says he's confident he'll make his money back.

"We're excited to get there and get started, I already have about 80 people that are interested in coming and it's still over a month away," said Chrapchynski.

Once he had finished raising money for the Holy Eucharist Parish Hall in 2014, Chrapchynski moved his next show to the Gordon Howard Senior Centre.

He continued playing monthly with his band, and this time 100 per cent of the money went back to the Gordon Howard Senior Centre.

"The seniors are the No. 1 priority," said Chrapchynski.

If there is extra money from a previous show, he won't charge the seniors for the next show. Instead, he uses the



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

It's Group Four band including Len Oaskrit (guitar), Zenon Prystapa (drums), Edward Chrapchynski (fiddle) and Steve Ambrose (accordion) will be playing at the Matlock Hall on April 23.

money from his profits instead.

In 2016, Chrapchynski decided to move again to Clandeboye Community Hall, which had better hardwood floors for dancing.

At Clandeboye Community Hall, Chrapchynski and his band raised \$3,500 with \$500 each given to HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital and Pellaatt United Firefighters in Ontario. The rest of the money was given back to Clandeboye Community Hall.

"It makes me feel like I'm doing something to give back in my life. ... Growing up there was always someone older than me to help me out," said Chrapchynski.

Chrapchynski has been playing the fiddle and guitar for over 60 years.

He said his father's side of the fam-

ily was very musical and made fiddles, so naturally he took up the instrument at a young age.

He is entirely self-taught and would learn to play and sing songs by ear.

"I copied down the words and pretended I was Hank Williams," said Chrapchynski with a laugh.

Chrapchynski's band, It's Group Four, formed in 1974 and has been performing ever since.

Members have varied throughout the years, but the lineup on April 23 will include John Lewitski (accordion), Wayne Wasney (guitar), Brian Houle (drums) and Chrapchynski singing and playing the fiddle.

The band has three shows upcoming for April, May and June before taking a break for the summer, with hopes of starting up again in September.

> ROCK SOLID, FROM PG. 20

this is a whole community saying this is unacceptable."

The Rock Solid Growing Project specifically donates to the Tearfund within the CFGB. This fund

Targets food insecurity by training farmers to offer low-cost, resilient farming practices.

The trio of farmers are looking to raise \$7,000 at their first fundraiser on March 29 to help cover costs for the upcoming growing season. This includes seeds, maintenance supplies and other farming equipment. At the event, the Penners will share how they witnessed first-hand the impacts created by the CFGB. The pair visited Malawi, Africa in November 2023, and engaged in a learning tour with CFGB. They will share their experi-

ence, and the importance of CFGB's contributions to third world countries.

Locally, Harris, Matheson and Tolenaar rent 45 acres of land located a half mile south of Stonewall, where they plant, maintain and harvest a crop to sell and donate its proceeds.

Their project first began in 2019 north of Balmoral but later relocated to their current Stonewall location in 2021.

"We have the experience and expertise to make an impact, so we all figured it was a good way to give back to the community," Harris explained.

All proceeds are donated to the CFGB, and the federal government matches the donations 4:1 up to \$25 million.

Matheson noted the federal government's commitment as "remarkable" and condones their dedication.

You can kick-off the growing season by showing your support for the Rock Solid Growing Project with their fundraiser at the New Life Church, 6106E Highway 67 on March 29. The event is free to attend, and cash and cheque donations will be accepted throughout the evening. Entertainment from the Ecco Choir and light refreshments will also be provided for all patrons.

Entertainment will be provided by the Ecco Singers, a Winnipeg-based community choir that bonds over their admiration of music. They strive to use music as a way to advocate for change and frequently are invited to perform at fundraisers.

Twelve of their singers will perform at the Rock Solid Fundraiser, creating a 20-minute musical program.

"Some pieces the audience will know and others that will be new," said Ecco Singers artistic director Roberta Velarde, who was born and raised in Stonewall and is Matheson's sister. She is looking forward to performing in Stonewall, as several members of the choir are from the area.

"It is a nice opportunity to showcase and celebrate Stonewall with our singers, and showcase the talents of the local singers at home."

For more information, or to get involved with the CFGB, you can contact Dale Friesen at DFriesen@foodgrainsbank.ca.

Host a musician in your community as part of the Home Routes tour

By E Antonio

Welcome a musician into your home or community as a volunteer host for the Canada-wide Home Routes concert tours.

Home Routes is a non-profit organization that connects rising folk artists from around the world with rural communities through a shared passion for music. During each Home Routes tour, artists perform in various rural communities across Canada, with each show hosted by a local community member.

"It is about enriching your life with culture and sharing it with your community," said Leonard Podolak, Home Routes executive director.

Home Routes is currently seeking Manitobans to host a tour for the upcoming season starting in September. The last full tour in Manitoba took place in 2019 before being interrupted by the pandemic.

As a host, you will welcome six different artists into your home or community, providing them with a performance venue, overnight accommodations and breakfast. The venue can be your home or a communal space such as a church or arena, as long as it can accommodate at least 30 audience members.

"You are contributing to the development of an artist's career," said Podolak. "It is an amazing opportunity to get together and share and uncover Canadian culture."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Home Routes tour is looking for hosts for the upcoming season starting in September to welcome six different artists into their home or community.

Shows are scheduled once a month in September, October, November, March, April and May, featuring different performers each time. As a host, you will need to promote the concert in your community by creating posters and engaging the public. You will also be responsible for selling concert tickets and presenting the ticket proceeds to the artists.

Previous hosts from across the country have expressed the benefits of participating in the tour.

"We have had the privilege of meeting interesting and highly skilled musicians through Home Routes. Learning about how these musicians live and make a living is humbling. The beauty of music pulls us together as Canadians and as lovers of music across the globe," said a host from Baldur.

Podolak encourages you to collaborate with others in the community if you wish to host only one artist. As long as a concert stop can be main-

tained, multiple hosts are welcome to participate.

"It is an exciting experience being a host because you are meeting somebody who has travelled around the world. So take this opportunity to get involved and shape the face of a musician's career."

Applying to become a host is simple — just fill out a form online at www.homeroutes.ca, and a member of the Home Routes team will contact you.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Kerri Einarson and Reid Carruthers led a clinic for the youth curlers at the Eriksale Curling Club on March 22. Participants had the opportunity to learn from some of Canada's best curlers to enhance their skills throughout the day. Youth curlers with instructors Kerri Einarson, Reid Carruthers, Kyle Einarson and junior curler Aiden Spalding. A generous grant from the Doc Seaman Hockey Fund and the Calgary Foundation made it possible for this amazing day. Pictured clockwise from top left, Easton earned a prized broom, while Gavin's skilled curling earned him a Carruthers memento; and Emery gained a Carruthers keepsake.

> PLANT, FROM PG. 18

"[Prairie HVAC] worked many hours to make that happen," said Pool.

This curling season saw numerous clubs, leagues, and activities, including an evening for youth curling in-

stead of the traditional after-school program. Pool said the youth league had curlers as young as five, where the after-school program only allowed children in Grades 5 to 8. The Eriksdale Curling Club also saw a stick curling league with three full timeslots each week, a stick curl-

ing bonspiel with 24 teams, a ladies' league, a men's league, and a Christmas bonspiel.

Pool said the season was highly successful, and their numbers and interest in the sport continue to grow. Last weekend, the club welcomed curlers Reid Carruthers and Kerri Einarson

to teach more than 23 youth the sport, something they were able to do with a grant.

Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the Eriksdale Curling Club, and Pool said they're hoping to add even more events to their schedule to celebrate.

sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Gimli's Lotts repeat as Canadian Mixed Doubles Champions

By Kieran Reimer with files from Curl Canada

Team Lott/Lott defeat Team Nova Scotia 9-8 to repeat as Canadian Mixed Doubles Champions

The Gimli tandem of Kadriana Lott and Colton Lott added another chapter to its storied mixed doubles history Friday afternoon, winning the 2025 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship with a 9-8 extra-end victory over Team Nova Scotia's Marlee Powers and Luke Saunders (8-3; Halifax) at the Gerard "Turk" Gallant Arena in Summerside, P.E.I.

The duo will now go on to represent Canada at the 2026 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship at a location to be named later.

The historic win marks the first ever back-to-back Canadian championship victories for any Canadian mixed doubles curling team, with Team Lott/Lott having won in 2024 at Fredericton.

"The feeling you get of winning a national championship; there's no words to really describe it," said Colton Lott. "It's an unbelievable feeling and just for us to have that opportunity to do it back-to-back is phenomenal. We're going to be great at worlds next year."

Team Lott/Lott posted a near-perfect 10-1 record on its way to the 2025 Canadian mixed doubles crown, with its only one loss in pool play.

The Lotts began this year's tournament with six consecutive wins defeating Team Bouchard/Charest 11-2, Team Powers/Saunders 7-3, Team Gagne Morissette 7-4, Team West-

lund-Stewart/Stewart 12-3, Team Jackson/McCrady 11-3 and Team Papley/Van Amsterdam 8-2, before falling 6-4 to Team Jones/Laing in their Pool D finale last Wednesday.

The second place finish in Pool D with a 6-1 record, qualified the Lotts for the playoff round where they played Team Papley/Van Amsterdam on Thursday afternoon.

The Lotts won the rematch 10-4 and moved on to play Team Martin/Laycock in the evening where they won 9-4 and earned a spot in Friday morning's semi-final against Team Brunton/Horgan.

They then won the semi-final game 6-5 after a three-point eighth end by the Lotts that erased a 5-3 deficit and sent them through to the gold medal game Friday afternoon.

The Manitobans opened the gold-medal final with a score of three that set the tone early for the match, proving to be the game's biggest score. It was enough to outpace Team Nova Scotia, who managed to pull even in the sixth and eighth ends but never once lead.

"They played a great game," said Kadriana Lott. "They kept us on our toes. We knew we had to make those key big shots, which I think we executed really well. We keep pitching away at every shot and, fingers crossed, that you come out win the win."

Three shots defined the outcome of the final for Team Lott/Lott; the first being a clutch draw for a second point in the second end, where Kadriana Lott had little more than a third-of-a-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CURLING CANADA/MIKE BERNARD

Team Manitoba's Colton Lott and Kadriana Lott of Gimli won the 2025 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championships defeating Team Nova Scotia 9-8 in an extra end on March 21. The duo will represent Canada at the 2026 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship.

rock sized piece of the button to sneak an extra point on the board.

The second was an extremely thin double takeout to pick two Nova Scotia stones off the four-foot, both of which were nearly fully buried behind a corner-frozen Lott/Lott stone, to leave a single Lott/Lott counter around to score in the fifth end.

It was a shot so difficult that it was barely there, but the successful outcome changed the complexion of the final for Kadriana Lott.

"I'm a lot more comfortable throwing those draws," said Kadriana Lott. "That pick? From my eyes, you couldn't really see much down there. It was definitely a momentum swing for myself. It made me feel more confident in making my next shots."

The third came in the extra end, where Colton Lott managed a heavy-draw-bump around two guards to remove a Team Nova Scotia stone off the tee-line in the four-foot. Lott was perfect on the execution, forcing Marlee Powers to attack on Team Nova Scotia's final stone, but the offering hung wide, giving the national title to Team Lott/Lott.

"With doubles you can have a bit of a game plan but it's kind of hard because with just how crazy the ends can get and some things do come up unexpectedly as well to," said Colton Lott.

It's the third time that Team Lott/Lott will wear the Maple Leaf at a

World mixed doubles event; the first at the 2024 World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship at Östersund, Sweden, and, the second, at the 2018-19 World Curling Cup at Jönköping, Sweden.

At 2024 Worlds they finished fifth place, bowing out to the eventual finalists Estonia in the Qualification Games.

They'll now make their return to Worlds with some unfinished business on their minds.

"It means everything to wear the Maple Leaf on our back and represent our nation," said Colton Lott. "We don't take any of that for granted and I almost feel like we have some unfinished business to do at that World Championship. We feel like the last World Championship we played really good and just had lost the wrong games at the wrong time. That kind of sealed the deal for that for last year's Worlds so yeah we've got a little bit of redemption and we'll feel quite a bit more comfortable going into Worlds as well to since we've already been there."

The Canadian mixed doubles title also ties Colton and Kadriana Lott with Team Jocelyn Peterman/Brett Gallant (Chestermere, Alta.) for most all-time with two since the event's inception in 2013.

The date and location for 2026 Worlds is still to be determined.



Kadriana and Colton Lott celebrate their gold medal win.

Firebirds in playoff spot with Laxdal at the helm

By Kieran Reimer

Fans of the American Hockey League's Coachella Valley Firebirds have enjoyed a remarkable start to the franchise's existence over the past two and a half seasons.

As the AHL affiliate of the Seattle Kraken, the Firebirds reached the finals in both of their first two seasons and have continued their success during the current 2024-25 season.

This season, the Firebirds are under new leadership with Stonewall's Derek Laxdal, who was appointed as the second head coach in the franchise's history last summer.

As of March 20, the team holds a record of 32-21-2-5, placing them third in the Pacific Division.

Laxdal, 59, previously coached the Oshawa Generals to an appearance in the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series and earned the OHL's Matt Leyden Trophy for Coach of the Year. He succeeded Dan Bylsma, the former head coach, who set an incredibly high standard during the team's initial two campaigns.

Despite these expectations, Laxdal has made an impressive start in continuing the Firebirds' tradition of fielding a competitive team. Notably, the Firebirds are also one of the youngest squads in the league, with

an average age of 24.38.

"If you look at our team, knock on wood, we've had a really good season," said Laxdal on Thursday. "The organization is very happy where we are obviously with a group of young kids. But the area here doesn't have a great understanding of where we are, so they expect you to win every game so at the end of the day we know as a staff it's all about development. The best way for these kids to develop is to win, so there's a fine line there when we're doing this."

Laxdal has significant experience in developing young players with NHL potential, having coached at various levels across North America, including juniors, the East Coast Hockey League, and the NHL.

Before joining the Firebirds, he served as the head coach of the Texas Stars in the AHL from 2014 until midway through the 2019-20 season when he was promoted to assistant coach of the Dallas Stars in the NHL, remaining there until the end of the 2021-22 season.

"One thing I've noticed from coaching Texas in the AHL to now is the emphasis on development of what you have available at your hands with development coaches," said Laxdal.

He explained that he has adapted



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Derek Laxdal, who grew up in Stonewall, is head coach of the Coachella Valley Firebirds, AHL affiliate of the Seattle Kraken.

their practice structure: the first 15 minutes are dedicated to skill development relevant to the game for either forwards or defence. He then aims to integrate these skills into their practice to prepare for games.

"It's a little bit more of an emphasis on development, trying to get these kids ready to play for the NHL and trying to give them the best opportu-

nity to take that step," said Laxdal.

Among the young prospects on the active roster, 14 players were born between 2000 and 2005. Key names include forwards Eduard Sale (20th overall in 2023) and Jagger Firkus (35th overall in 2022), as well as de-

Continued on page 26

Fisher Branch Collegiate boys claim bronze at Provincial 'A' Championships



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Fisher Branch Collegiate varsity boys basketball team brought home bronze from the Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial 'A' Basketball Championships this past weekend in Forrest, hosted by Rivers Collegiate. Led by coach Nathan Lee, the Cougars earned a spot at provincials after an impressive 89-74 win over the No. 2-ranked Minegoziibe Anishinabe Talons. In the quarterfinals, they defeated the St. Laurent/Aurèle-Lemoine Co-op team 70-44. The Cougars then faced the top-ranked Frontier Mosakahiken Grizzlies — eventual provincial champions — in the semifinals, falling 123-92. They bounced back in the bronze medal match with a strong 82-70 win over the Rosenort Redhawks to claim third place. Left photo: Grade 12 student Patrick Yuzwa was named to the Provincial 'A' All-Star Team for his standout performance throughout the tournament. Team photo, left to right, front row: Ren Sta Ana, Colby Ledoux, Ram Sta Ana; back row: Mr. Nathan Lee (coach), Jaden Sutherland, Ryder Gauthier, Nathan Stodgell, Aiden Cameron, Curtis Benoit, Sebastian Hnatiuk, Patrick Yuzwa, Brandt Cochrane, Taylor Vandersteen, Aaron Baril, Brody Webb, Jero Tacad and Hunter Hawkins.

Gimli's Alec Baldwin brings home three medals from Special Olympics in Italy

By Patricia Barrett

Alec Baldwin from Gimli has increased his medal cache after earning three medals at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy a few weeks ago.

Baldwin, who has autism, competed in three snowshoeing events in Sestriere, Italy, as part of Team Canada. He earned bronze in the 400-metre race, silver in the 800-metre race and gold in the 4x100-metre relay race.

Baldwin, who is 31, was a close finisher in the races in which he earned the bronze and silver medals. And he went on to earn gold with his teammates in the relay race, beating the silver- and bronze-winning teams from Pakistan and China.

"My favourite part of the competition is relay. I used the baton and ran forward towards Harry [Burns from Winnipeg] while the others were waiting to take [the baton] when we were surrounded by snowy, foggy [conditions]," said Baldwin after he returned from Italy. "Tony goes first then me with the baton and [I] handed out to Harry to go for it then Harry ran towards Garrison and then full sprint towards the finish line while other teams from international countries weren't as fast as we are."

Over 1,500 athletes from about 100



Alec Baldwin competing in a Special Olympics snowshoeing race in Italy.

countries competed in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy from March 8 to 15. The sporting event honours the skills and abilities of people with intellectual challenges. There were eight winter sporting events this year — alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding, dance sport, figure skating, floorball and short-track speed skating — that were held in Turin, Sestriere, Pragelato and Bardonecchia.

During the 800-metre race, Baldwin



Team Canada's snowshoe athletes celebrated their gold medal win in Sestriere, Italy.

said he employed an athletic strategy he had used when running the same race in an international competition in Berlin in 2023.

"I stayed with the athletes first lap around, just recover, until the second lap I'll continue to run quicker ahead of those guys, then full speed to the finish line," he said.

In addition to striving to test yourself on the field, sportsmanship is also part of the game, said Baldwin, and sometimes you don't always achieve what you set out to do. That said, "ev-



Athletes traded parts of their uniforms. Baldwin got a cap from Liechtenstein.

everyone [was] proud of each other because we worked hard."

Baldwin's three-medal win in Italy complements the three medals (two gold and one bronze) he won during the Special Olympics' international games in Berlin, as well as those he has won during Special Olympic Canadian provincial and national competitions.

In addition to giving athletes opportunities to hone their athletic skills, compete against others and learn that setbacks and losses are a normal part of sporting competition, Special Olympics also allows athletes to socialize and get to know each other. Athletes can trade national pins (e.g., trade a Canadian pin for an Australian pin) and even exchange pieces of their national uniforms, similar to the way soccer players will sometimes trade their trade shirts after a game.

During trades, Baldwin said he got a koala pin and stickers to put on his water bottle, as well as a national cap from Liechtenstein, a principality be-

Prairie Fire edges Blazing Stars in WWHL thriller



EXPRESS PHOTO BY TIM HORTON

The Prairie Fire clinched the Winnipeg Women's Hockey League provincial championship banner after defeating the Blazing Stars 3-2 in a close game at Dakota Arena on March 16. Pictured left to right, back row: Maggie Litchfield-Medd, Allison Sexton, Amanda Klassen, Jenelle Kohanchuk, Brenley Anderson, Olivia Cvar, Madi Cole, Nicole McGlenen; Front row: Jordy Zacharias, Emily Meronyk, Amanda Schubert, Cass and baby Lennon Taylor, Jess Horton, Kyleigh Palmer, Nicole Carswell and goaltender Rachel Dyck.

Reimer shuts down Western Conference leading Jets

By Kieran Reimer

The Winnipeg Jets faced off against the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday afternoon at Canada Life Centre, where they fell to Morweena's James Reimer. The 37-year-old goaltender was impressive throughout the game, stopping 33 of 36 shots in Buffalo's 5-3 victory over the Western Conference-leading Jets.

Buffalo's offence was fueled by a standout performance from forward Ryan McLeod, who recorded one goal and three assists. Additionally, 22-year-old Tyson Kozak from Souris, Man., contributed a goal in the third period.

With this victory, the Sabres im-

proved their record to 28-35-6 for the 2024-25 NHL season, positioning themselves eighth in the Atlantic Division with 62 points.

Reimer earned his third win of the season with this game. He has now participated in 13 games with the Sabres since being reclaimed off waivers from the Anaheim Ducks in November, posting a record of 3-6-2, a goals-against average of 2.74, and a save percentage of .904.

Throughout his NHL career, which began during the 2010-11 season with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Reimer has won 218 regular-season games and played in 516 regular-season games.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY FRED GREENSLADE

Buffalo Sabres' goaltender James Reimer (47) and Owen Power (25) make a save on a shot by Winnipeg Jets' Mark Scheifele (55) during second period NHL action in Winnipeg, Sunday March 23, 2025. Reimer stopped 33 shots as the Sabres beat the Jets 5-3 on Sunday afternoon at the downtown rink.

Banner win for Falcons



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Arborg Falcons celebrate after winning the 2024-2025 Interlake Minor Hockey U15 Regional Championship. The Falcons defeated Lundar in a best-of-three series, bouncing back from a 5-4 loss in Game 1 to win Game 2, 7-6 in overtime, and Game 3, 5-4, also in overtime. Both overtime goals were scored by Carter Buehlmann. The winning team includes coaches, Mike Shachtay, Darren Kornelsen, Shane Sigurdson, managers Tara Buehlmann, Amy Kornelsen; players, Josiah Hardy, Hayden Sigurdson, Dray Reimer, Locklin Pearce, Eli Kornelsen, Carter Buehlmann, Ty Shachtay, Hayden Plett, Deklen Mowatt, Lucas Calderia, Jayce Reimer, Oliver Sigurdson, Hunter Sigurdson, Brynn Maxwell and Sullivan Naylor.

> THREE MEDALS, FROM PG. 25

tween Austria and Switzerland.

"I traded my Canadian hat to a Liechtenstein hat and I [will] keep it forever, how interesting the hat is," said Baldwin. "It has a white pom-pom and navy blue and sign on front."

Baldwin said he's got his sights on competing at the Manitoba provincial Special Olympic games in June. If he qualifies there, he'll be able to compete at the Canadian national games in Medicine Hat, Alta., in August 2026.

"Three kilometres, 400 metres, 800 metres, 1,500 metres (all running events), running long jump and maybe relay," said Baldwin, when asked what provincial events he plans to compete in.

Baldwin's family attended the games in Italy to watch him compete. His mom, Tanis Benson, said she's proud of his determination to always do his best.

"I'm very proud of Alec coming

home with bronze, silver and gold in the fastest heats, and I was really proud of him for his sportsmanship," said Benson. "He messaged me while we were in Turin and said something like, 'If I don't win gold in the 800 metres, I will be brave for trying.' He let me know he was going for gold, but it'll be OK if he doesn't get it. He'll be brave."

Benson said the athletes and families were invited to a lunch reception at which Baldwin sang *O Canada*. Baldwin is a trained singer and has sung in competitions, as well as at Manitoba Moose games and a Winnipeg Jets game.

When they returned to Winnipeg, Baldwin and his Manitoba teammates were treated to a Manitoba Moose game last week. Before the game got underway, the Special Olympics athletes held a meet and greet and signed autographs for fans.

> FIREBIRDS, FROM PG. 24

fenceman Ty Nelson (68th overall in 2022), all of whom were playing junior hockey just last year.

Another notable player, 2022 Seattle second-round draft pick Jani Nyman, led the Firebirds with 26 goals this season before being called up to the Kraken earlier in March. Nyman made an impressive NHL debut, scoring his first goal as Seattle defeated the Montreal Canadiens 5-4 in overtime on March 12. He has since re-

corded two goals in five games with the Kraken.

"If you look at the group of young kids, Eduard Sale is 19, he still could've went back for another year of junior," said Laxdal. "Because he's a European and is drafted out of the Swedish League at 17, he's able to play down here, but you can really see this is a huge transition for him from junior hockey to the American League. All these young kids have peaks and

valleys in their seasons and in their games. If you look at Jagger Firkus, here's a scorer whose probably scored at will in the Western Hockey League but when these guys take steps to the pro game, they go through a lot of adversity."

They need to learn to get bigger, stronger, and faster; these are crucial developmental years for them.

"Ty Nelson, who I coached against in the OHL last year, he's probably been one of the first year prospects.

I think he's played every game and he's taken some very good steps, but then he has moments in his game, so a lot of these prospects that we have are probably going to be two or three year AHL players before, or if they do make that step to the NHL."

The Firebirds' regular season will continue with less than a month remaining.

They are scheduled to conclude their 72-game season in San Diego on April 19.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the 2025 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 2025 at a Public Hearing being held at the RM of Grahamdale Municipal Office, 23 Government Road, in Moosehorn, MB on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:30 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 Monday, April 14, 2025 and may be examined by any person during regular office hours at the Municipal Office or on our website at www.grahamdale.ca.

Public participation can be met through interactive technology or by written submission. Please contact our office for more information Ph: 204-768-2858 or email: info@grahamdale.ca

Dated this 17th day of March, 2025.

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

Rural Municipality of FISHER

Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
 Tel: 204-372-6393, Fax: 204-372-8470

EMPLOYMENT

GRAVEL CHECKER

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites applications for the position of Part-Time Gravel Checker for the 2025 Graveling Program.

Applications will be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m., April 1, 2025.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. Access to a vehicle is an asset.

For further information regarding this position, please contact the Municipal Office at (204) 372-6393.

Kelly Marykuca
 Chief Administrative Officer
 Rural Municipality of Fisher
 PO Box 280
 Fisher Branch, Manitoba R0C0Z0
 Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Rural Municipality of FISHER

Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
 Tel: 204-372-6393, Fax: 204-372-8470

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CUSTODIAN

- PERMANENT/PART TIME POSITION Poplarfield Disposal Site - Poplarfield

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites applications for the position of Custodian (permanent/part time) for the Poplarfield Disposal Site.

Requirements for this position are:

- Valid driver's license
- The applicant must be prepared to obtain legislated certification that is required for the position.

Job Description: The Custodian is required to direct waste disposal and recycling activities, and perform other duties relating to maintenance of the site as assigned.

Days/Hours: The Disposal Sites are open three (3) days a week - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Hours vary depending on the season.

Resume, cover letter and three work related references to be submitted in confidence. **Deadline for applications is April 1, 2025**
 RM of Fisher "Custodian Position-Poplarfield"
 P.O. Box 280
 Fisher Branch, MB. R0C 0Z0
 Phone: (204) 372-6393 Fax: (204)372-8470
 Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Classified booking deadline is Monday at NOON prior to Thursday's publication Please Call 204-467-5836

Classifieds



Winnipeg Condo Corp. #20 - Gimli, MB
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated **Summer Student** to join our team.

This position is ideal for individuals looking at gaining practical work experience. Duties to include grass cutting, trimming, painting and assisting with various projects and tasks in the complex.

Please submit resume with work experience to shorepointev@gmail.com

RECYCLING NOTICE FOR APRIL / 2025

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc. **WILL NOT** be picking up Recycling on the below MENTIONED DATES

April 1 at Arborg curbside pickup

April 3 at Riverton curbside pickup

April 15 at Arborg curbside pickup

April 17 at Riverton curbside pickup

April 29 at Arborg curbside pickup

May 1 at Riverton curbside pickup

Please do not put garbage in recycling

Thank you for recycling

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Winnipeg Condo Corp. #20 - Gimli, MB
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Winnipeg Condo Corp. #20 in Gimli is looking for a **seasonal maintenance person.** The successful candidate should have basic knowledge of building maintenance, various yard equipment, and lawn tractors.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Mowing and trimming lawn
- Performing minor landscaping tasks
- Painting and basic repairs as needed.
- Operating and maintaining lawn tractors and yard equipment
- Assisting with general building maintenance
- Training will be provided for pool and hot tub maintenance.

Salary will commensurate with experience. Please submit resume with work experience to shorepointev@gmail.com

News Tips?
call the Express 204-467-5836

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dauphin Gun & Hobby Show April 12th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. & April 13th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 8th Avenue Hall. For info. call Victor 204-444-4690.

WANTED

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NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of **Deborah Grace Natyna-Hill**, late of East Selkirk, Manitoba, Deceased.

All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the attention of: Amanda Adam, Estates Officer, at 155 Carlton St Suite 500, Winnipeg MB, R3C 5R9 on or before the 30th day of April, 2025.

Dated at Winnipeg, Manitoba, this 24th day of February, 2025.

KERI RANSON
Acting Public Guardian and Trustee

NOTICES

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **JAN GERRY NOORDMAN**, late of the Town of Winnipeg Beach, 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 30th day of April, 2025. DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 27th day of March, 2025. **BAKER LAW CORPORATION SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS**
Attention: Grant D. Baker

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NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS ELECTRONIC VOTING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (the "AGM") MEMBERS OF ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")
TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third-party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, the 3rd day of April, 2025 until 5:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 9th of April, 2025. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at www.accessvotes.ca. Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. CDT** via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2024 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Announcement of Member Rewards
5. Director Elections Voting Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at www.accesscu.ca prior to April 16, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

More information can be found at: www.accesscu.ca.

DATED this 27th day of March, 2025
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By Order of the Board of Directors



VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the **2025 Financial Plan**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Village of Dunnottar intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a public hearing on **Monday the 31st day of March, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

Council will hear any taxpayer who wishes 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 and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Municipal Office. A copy of the financial plan will also be posted on the Dunnottar website (www.dunnottar.ca) at that time.

Please contact the office, info@dunnottar.ca or call 204-389-4962, to register to attend this hearing or review a copy of the 2024 Financial Plan.

Dated this 26th day of February 2025.

Sarah Palson, C.M.M.A.
Administrator

Classifieds Announcements



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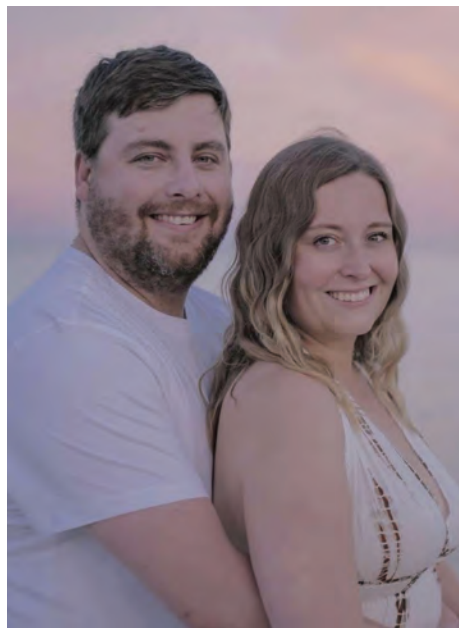


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WEDDING SHOWER



Please join us for a come and go
bridal shower
in honour of Heida Johnson,
bride elect of Cory Pochailo.
Sunday, April 13th, 12-3 p.m.
Aspen Park Community Centre
Heida and Cory are registered
on myregistry.com
Password: Ourregistry1!
Donations can be dropped off at
Head Over Heels in Gimli
or Arborg Home Hardware

OBITUARY

Diane Petrachek

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Diane Petrachek on March 19, 2025. Diane was a beloved wife, mother, Baba, sister, aunt and friend.

Leaving to mourn her, son Anthony (Jenn), daughter Alisa (Sean), and all her amazing grandchildren; brothers Alex (Joan), Jerry (Dianne); sisters Sharon and Colleen; in-laws, David (Anne), Ray (Debbie), and Rick (Marianne).

Diane was predeceased by her loving husband Edward; parents Alex and Winnifred Fotty; in-laws Steve and Pauline Petrachek; and brothers-in-law Pierre and Ross.

Diane's door was always open to anyone who wanted to stop by the house in Stony Mountain. If Diane was not in the kitchen cooking or baking, you could find her in the yard cutting grass, trimming trees or in Ed's vegetable garden. Her caring, loving



touch showed through on everything she did.

We would like to thank the palliative care team from CancerCare, Mom's special nurse, Angela and all the staff on 3E at Riverview for taking such great care of Mom.

Memorial service to be held at MacKenzie Funeral Chapel in Stonewall on Friday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. Private burial will occur in the summer.

Donations can be made to CancerCare Manitoba, The Winnipeg Humane Society or Winnipeg Harvest.

Mom, you are now free to dance the night away in heaven with Dad. The stars will shine even brighter in the sky as you and Dad are together again.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME STONEWALL
(204) 467-2525 • info@mackenziefh.com



OBITUARY

Frances Margaret Pearce (nee Ford)

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Frances Margaret Pearce (nee Ford). She passed away on March 19, 2025 at the age of 82 at the Gimli Community Health Centre after a courageous battle with lung disease.

Frances was born on July 29, 1942 and was the beloved wife of Arthur Reginald Pearce who passed away on November 27, 2018. She was an amazing mother to four children: Cynthia McLeod, Judy Martin, Jacqueline Pearce and Perry Peterson. She will always be remembered for her dedication to her husband and family as well as her kindness, patience and stoicism.

The family would like to extend a special thank you and heartfelt appreciation to the Gimli Community Health Centre staff. You were all amazing and we could not have asked for better.

A celebration will be held at a later date.



Rest in peace with your loved ones who have been waiting for you.
Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk/Gimli in care of arrangements.

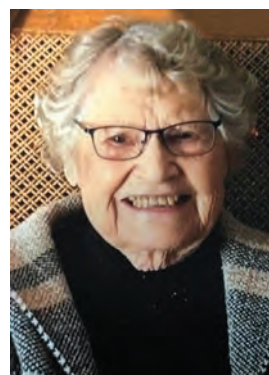


OBITUARY

Alyce Edna (Johnston) Sigurdson

On February 20, 2025, we said goodbye. Quick to smile, she made friends with everyone she met. Time could always be made for a visit, a cup of tea and a game of cards. She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter and a life well lived.

Left to cherish her memory are her children and their families Linda Orbanski, Greg and Linda, Jason and Shaunna, Dylan and Ami, Lexi and Alex, Bailey, Lyndon; Karen and Rob Singer, Kathy and Craig, Kurt and Debbie, Ashley and Ray, Wayne, Shawndah and Tj, Josh and Brittney, Chance; Eric and Sandra Sigurdson, Jonathan, Allison and Richard, Gabby, Sienna, Sairene and Erik, Sloan; Debbie and Robby Thorsteinson, Erica and Phil, Karla, Kyler, Abigail, Taryn, Logan; sister-in-law Beatrice Johnston, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Predeceased by her husband Magnus; grandson Dean; great-grandson Jordan; son-in-law James; parents Robert and Beatrice Johnston; and her siblings and in-laws.

We would like to thank the staff at the Arborg Personal Care Home, the Mary Thorarinson Estates and the Arborg Hospital for the care and kindness shown to Mom. Special thanks to her dear friends, she cherished your visits and was so thankful you took the time to stop in.

A celebration of life will be held April 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Arborg Community Hall, interment at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Riverside Christian Cemetery, Box 764, Arborg, MB ROC 0A0 or the Charity of your choice.

When someone becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

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Rural Municipality of
FISHER

Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB ROC 0Z0
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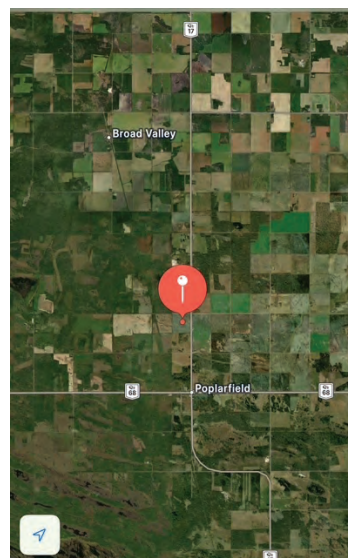
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONDITIONAL USER ORDER [CU02-25]

The Rural Municipality of Fisher, under the authority of The Planning Act, will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** at the RM of Fisher Council Chambers on **April 2, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.** at which time and place Council will receive representations from the applicant and any persons who wish to make them in respect to the following application under the RM of Fisher Zoning By-law 1055/00.

Where: NE 25-22-2W
Property Owner: Dan Kosc
Applicant: Glacier North Limited
Proposal: Natural Resource Development (aggregate quarry)
Zoning: AG

Area:



A copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from, upon request.

For information contact: Kelly Marykuca, CAO RM of Fisher, Recording Secretary Fisher Armstrong Planning District. Email: fishercao@mymts.net Phone: 204-372-6393

OBITUARY



Dave Enns

Peacefully at home, Dave Enns, passed away on Sunday, March 16, 2025 at the age of 76.

Born on December 19, 1948 in Winkler, MB to George W. and Agnes Enns.

Dave worked for the Home Care Program for many years, but his true passion was being a truck driver. He was very proud of achieving his goal of achieving a million miles and more.

Left to mourn are his wife and best friend of 24 years, Ray; daughter Vanessa (Derrick); son Jamie (Tammy); step-sons Shaun (Amy) and Jamie; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; siblings Don (Kathy), Norma (John), Merle (Vic) and Wayne (Elaine); 12 nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents George and Agnes; brother Johnny and sister Judy (Dan).

Dave loved his country living, riding and training horses and riding his motorcycle. He also loved to socialize with family, friends and neighbours.

Special thanks to family and friends for all their care, support and time in aiding in his many projects.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Gilbert Funeral Chapel, Selkirk, MB.

Planting yellow flowers will forever hold a place in our hearts as they did in Dave's. So this spring in memory of Dave, when picking out your flowers, plant a yellow one in Dave's honor.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Robert Johann Melsted

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Robert Johann Melsted at the age of 42. Robert passed away on March 17, 2025 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Robert was a beloved son of Margaret and Cam Goodman and Wyatt Melsted; brother to Ryan and Alexe; father to Brayden Thor and dearest friend to Melissa Boyle. Robert will be deeply missed, and we will cherish the memories of him.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Goda nott elskan min

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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OBITUARY



Walter A. (Sigg) Sigurdson

It's with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Walter A. (Sigg) Sigurdson on March 16th, 2025 at the age of 95, after a sudden illness.

Walter was predeceased by his wife Margret (2013), daughter Ingrid (2008), son Brian (2015) and daughter-in-law Vera (2013).

He is survived by his son Stephen (Kellie), granddaughters Adair and November (Adam) and great-granddaughter Gunnar, great-grandson Brody, sister Mabel and many nieces and nephews.

Walter was born on January 17th, 1930 in Riverton, Mb and grew up in Gimli with his parents and sister. It was here that he met his future wife Margret, who he married during the height of the 1950 flood in Manitoba.

Walter spent over 50 years driving across Canada doing long haul moving, he started his trucking career in Gimli before moving

his young family to Winnipeg in 1966 and settling in the west end. He fondly told us the stories of the road and the people he would meet along his journeys. Even though he retired from driving he was always there when they called him for help. The last years of Dad's life he took up small engine repair and started fixing up the neighborhood lawn mowers, but I think it was more for the people who would sit in his garage with him sharing laughs, stories, beers and talking about the Jets and the Bombers.

His daily phone calls are going to be missed by all.

Keep Heaven's Highways Moving Dad, we love you.

Cremation will be taking place and a graveside service will be held at a later date.

Thank you to the doctors and nurses at Selkirk Hospital for their care of Dad in his last days.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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