



**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
JMB & Associates  
**Matt McSherry REALTOR®**  
204-886-7585 (cell)  
mattmcsherry@royallepage.ca  
mattmcsherry.ca

Canadian, Owned & Operated!  
AWARD WINNING SERVICE



**RIVERTON - \$639,900**  
Sprawling 80 Ac Estate! 1364 sf 3 BR 3 Bath Contemporary home w/ multiple outbuilds nestled in Serene Countryside. PLUS 293 sf "Garage House", Above Grnd Pool, 34x50' Heated & Insul Shop/Garage; 50x50' Quonset; 42x66' She w/LOFT space, AND 48x24' Machine Shed! ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES!! MLS #202603970



**TEULON - \$299,900**  
Motivated Seller OFFERS April 15th!  
2.5 Acres w/2 BR country home Property AS IS  
MLS#202605807



**TEULON - \$294,900**  
OFFERS April 15th! Delightful 3 BR 1 Bath home w/over 1000 sf & Sunrm. Att'd Garage & Shed for TONS of storage. MLS #202605778

# THE EXPRESS

www.expressweeklynews.ca

VOLUME 13 EDITION 13 THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

WEEKLY NEWS

## LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

**BIG ORANGE EVENT**  
May 1st, 2026

**RTA1250 FWD, ROTARY TILLER, 50-INCH, 3PT HITCH, SLP CLUTCH**  
REG \$4,699.00  
**\$3499<sup>00</sup>**

**K54-22-06B 54" TWO STAGE 3PT HITCH SNOWBLOWER**  
REG \$4,499.00  
**\$3799<sup>00</sup>**

**RCR1242 42" ROTARY CUTTER 3PT HITCH, STUMP JUMPER**  
REG \$3,099.00  
**\$2199<sup>00</sup>**

**BB1254 54" BOX SCRAPER, 3PT HITCH, SCARIFIERS**  
REG \$1,649.00  
**\$1449<sup>00</sup>**

**SHACHTAY SALES & SERVICE**  
Arborg, MB  
204-376-5233



## Blooming into new beginnings

EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

Rayme Thomson, left, and Michelle Thomson prepare hanging baskets inside the greenhouse at Georgetown Acres & Interlake Garden Centre in Winnipeg Beach as they get ready for the spring season. The couple recently took over the long-standing business and are introducing upgrades and expanded offerings for customers.

SERVING LUNDAR, ASHERN, ERIKSDALE, MOOSEHORN, FISHER BRANCH, RIVERTON, ARBORG, GIMLI, WINNIPEG BEACH, ARNES, MELEB, FRASERWOOD



**Countryside Home**  
building centre

Lot 1, Hwy 17 S, Fisher Branch, MB  
204-372-8501

**Protect your basement before it's too late!**

Sump pumps and kits available for your convenience."



# Gimli RCMP recover stolen property, charge Rockwood man

By Haley Cvar

A months-long investigation into a series of thefts and break-ins across the Interlake has led to the recovery of a significant amount of stolen property and the arrest of a suspect.

Gimli RCMP say officers began receiving reports in recent months of thefts and break and enters at businesses and private properties in Arborg, the RM of Armstrong and the RM of Rockwood.

Police identified a suspect through the investigation and obtained a search warrant for a property in the RM of Rockwood. Officers executed the warrant on March 30.

Among the items recovered was a tractor reported stolen from a private property in the RM of Armstrong on Nov. 28, 2025. Investigators also seized fish finders, LiveScope monitors and an insulated monosuit connected to a break and enter at a Main Street business in Arborg on Jan. 23.

Police say additional recovered property includes seven chainsaws, two blowers and two generators taken from a business on Ardal Street in Arborg on March 15, as well as a tractor stolen from a Highway 68 business on March 14.



Officers also recovered toy tractors and accessories stolen from a Highway 68 business on March 19, along with a utility trailer, tools, liquor, an air compressor and a rifle taken from a private property in Arborg on March 22 and 25.

RCMP say other items believed to be stolen — including tools and various ATV accessories — were also seized. Investigators are working to identify their owners.



**EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

Recovered stolen property, including a John Deere tractor and other equipment seized during a March 30 search warrant in the RM of Rockwood, is shown.

Jesse Paluk, 30, of the RM of Rockwood, has been charged with three counts of break and enter, five counts of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, one count of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, improper storage of a firearm, possession of a non-restricted firearm while prohibited, and two counts of possession of a firearm without a licence. Paluk has been remanded in custody. Gimli RCMP continue to investigate.



## Evergreen Staff Spotlight Celebrating the People Who Make Our Schools Work

### Meet Scott Petrowski – Head Caretaker, Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School

In just one year with Evergreen School Division, Scott Petrowski has made a meaningful impact as the Head Caretaker at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School. A proud graduate of Gimli High School who spent his entire K-12 journey in Evergreen, Scott now finds himself giving back to the very system that helped shape him.

Scott's connection to education runs deep. "The respect and admiration I have for my past teachers and divisional staff has stayed with me," he shares. "Seeing those same familiar faces every day showed me the importance of consistency and community." Today, he brings that same steady presence to the students and staff at SSES.

While many people may think the caretaker's role is simply about keeping a building clean, Scott sees it as much more. "We all work to make sure students feel safe and heard," he explains. "From caretakers to principals, we are all part of creating a respectful and supportive environment."

Scott often reflects on the caretakers he remembers from his own school days. Their consistency and quiet dedication left a lasting impression — one he now strives to model himself. "Those small, consistent actions matter," he says. "They help build a strong community from the ground up."

What Scott loves most about working in Evergreen is the sense of purpose and appreciation. "The effort you put into creating the best environment for students and staff is truly valued," he says. As a father of three young sons in the division, that connection is even more meaningful. "I see firsthand how much staff care and go above and beyond, and I'm proud to be part of that team."

Scott believes that public education is powered by the people behind it. "Whether it's caretakers, bus drivers, EAs, teachers, or administrators — everyone plays a role," he says. "We all share the same goal: putting children first. It's that teamwork and commitment that helps build a strong future for our students and our community."

*Thank you, Scott, for your leadership, your pride in Evergreen, and for helping create a safe, welcoming environment where students can learn and grow.*

*Interviewed by and photographed with Trustee Jillian Yorga*



# Baker Law CORPORATION

Providing full time legal service to families and small businesses in Gimli and the Interlake.

If you are buying or selling real estate now or in the near future, call us to discuss the important legal issues that you will need to know about. Call us for more information and to find out how we can help you. ***We are here when you need us.***

**Grant D. Baker**  
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary

Our office is open  
8:30 am - 5:30 pm Mon to Thurs  
72 Centre Street, Gimli, MB  
**204-642-8681 or**  
**1-866-487-5688**

# Gimli council's commissioned trails plan provides no option for vehicle-free Rail Trail

By Patricia Barrett

After holding an open house on its Gimli Trails Master Plan a few weeks ago, Gimli council posted the plan on its website and is inviting the public to complete a short survey before April 15.

"The goal of the trails master plan is to create a high-level, long-term plan that guides the future development of the RM of Gimli to promote safe, accessible and enjoyable trail and urban pathway use for the community," states the preface to the survey. "The plan considers space for each group of users, provides opportunities for positive social interactions, and includes tourism and support for local businesses."

The plan addresses short-term, mid-term and long-term priority actions for trail enhancements in various parts of the municipality, including Aspen Park, Shorepointe Village, the Gimli urban centre, Odin Green and Sandy Hook.

It presents three options for the Rail Trail, all of which allow offroad vehicles (ORVs) on either all of the trail or a portion of it. The proposal also includes widening the trail.

The Rail Trail is the RM's longest trail at 36.2 kilometres. It is a former CPR rail line running from the Diego distillery, just north of Gimli, to Boundary Road (Road 123N) in the north.

It was gifted to the municipality in 2004 through an agreement with Trans Canada Trail. The agreement stipulated that the trail be used for activities such as walking, cycling, hiking and horseback riding in the summer, and cross-country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter.

"Please note the Trans Canada Trail does not en-

dorse any form of motorized activity on the trail in the summer months," states Schedule C of the agreement.

Residents living in a number of subdivisions along the Rail Trail have raised concerns with various councils for at least over a decade about ORVs on the trail, including noise generated by ATVs and motor bikes, the creation of ruts in the trail bed making it difficult for pedestrian or cycling use, pollutants discharged by ORVs, diminished property values, environmental damages to vegetation and wildlife, and ORV drivers' being disrespectful to non-motorized users.

Option 1 proposes to separate "active use," or non-motorized activities, from ORV use via the creation of a parallel track for ORVs. This is the most costly option.

Option 2 proposes no ORVs on a small section of the trail, from Seagram Road to Camp Morton Road, and ORVs allowed on the remainder.

Option 3 proposes ORVs share all of the trail with non-motorized users.

The RM's survey consists of seven questions, including resident status, preferred Rail Trail option, what short-term options for the other trails are preferred, and how excited people are for the future development of trails in the RM. It closes on April 15.

The Express reached out to the Active Trails Advisory Committee (ATAC) for comment on council's proposed Trails Master Plan.

ATAC was formed in 2019 under RM bylaw. The committee created a strategic plan for active trails (non-ORV use) in keep-



HTFC PLANNING & DESIGN  
Map shows proposed RM of Gimli Trails Master Plan and Rail Trail options.

ing with the agreement the municipality signed with Trans Canada Trails. That strategy was accepted in 2022 by a previous iteration of council. ATAC also created a website that includes detailed descriptions of about 15 trails throughout the municipality.

To view the Gimli Trails Master Plan documents and take part in the online survey, visit the RM's website at [www.gimli.ca](http://www.gimli.ca)

**Assistant Store Manager**

- Lead daily operations, support staff, and deliver top-tier customer service
- Assist with training, scheduling, merchandising, and inventory control
- Drive sales, maintain store standards, and solve problems with attention to detail
- Ideal candidate has previous retail experience as well as strong leadership and communication skills.

**Pro Desk Lead & Dispatcher (Full Time)**

- Lead PRO Desk staff alongside Sales Lead
- Ensure excellent service is provided to both in-person and call-in clients
- Coordinate and schedule deliveries alongside Yard Foreman
- Ideal candidate is a personable, administratively gifted professional with strong leadership and communication skills

**Building Material Sales (Full Time)**

- Help customers choose the right building materials
- Provide quotes & estimates for customers
- Serve customers over the phone and in-person
- Ideal candidate has previous sales and/or building materials experience

**Delivery Driver & Yard Associate (Full Time)**

- Ideal candidate has a valid Class 3 Drivers License
- Deliver and handle building materials on jobsites
- Package & load materials for customers

**Here's How.**  
451 Main Street, Arborg  
**204-376-3090**  
ArborgHomeHardware.ca  
hr@arborghhbc.com

# DOC WALKER

## SPRING FLING

FUNDRAISER

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST**

**QUINTON BLAIR**

**DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026**

**BUY TICKETS**

**Riverton Community Hall**  
Doors open: 8pm  
**Advance Tickets: \$55 Door Tickets: \$60**

A FUNDRAISING EVENT for Riverton's Recreation Facilities improvements!

# Interlake-Gimli MLA marks 100th birthday milestone

By Lana Meier with files from Patricia Barrett

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson helped celebrate a remarkable milestone last month, presenting a commemorative plaque to Lillian Gudmundson in honour of her 100th birthday.

The presentation took place March 23, recognizing Gudmundson's century of life and her contributions to family and community.

Johnson said it was a privilege to take part in the celebration.

"It was a great honour to present a plaque to Lillian Gudmundson on the occasion of her 100th birthday," he said in a social media post. "Reaching a century is a remarkable achieve-

ment and a testament to a life filled with love, strength, and dedication to family and community."

Gudmundson's milestone was marked by not one but two birthday celebrations — one with family and friends, and another with residents at Arborg's assisted living facility. An elegant white cake with floral decorations and heartfelt messages was prepared by Oma's Bakeshop for the occasion.

About a week after celebrating with loved ones at Ardal Geysir Lutheran Church, Gudmundson reflected on reaching the milestone.

"It doesn't feel like I'm 100. I still don't feel my age," she said. "I never thought about reaching this age. The

## Balmoral Townhomes

# Modern Five-Plex

—with 1475 Sq ft 3 Bedroom Units—



For SALE

- This five-plex house plan has a modern exterior and gives you five units of equal size, all with 3 beds, 2.5 baths and a 1-car garage.
- Each 1,475 square foot unit has 606 square feet on the main floor and 869 square feet on the second floor.
- The front-facing garage has 281 square feet of vehicle storage space.
- The living/dining room in back has access to the 110 square foot rear patio.
- 5 units total width 100', total depth 45'

Plan 666224RA-F

YOUR MODERN LIFE AWAITS

Contact **Silverbridge Developments**

Jeff at 204-292-0483 | Darren at 204-223-4558



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson presents a plaque to Lillian Gudmundson in honour of her 100th birthday on March 23.

secret must be in Arborg's water."

While she jokes about the secret to longevity, Gudmundson said she keeps busy with crosswords, jigsaw puzzles and visiting with family and friends.

She also fondly recalled travelling to see her children — driving to Winnipeg and flying to Whitehorse — something she has since given up due to the discomfort of modern airline seating.

"I used to fly to Whitehorse and I really miss that," she said. "But I'm tall and there used to be more space between the seats. I found I was sitting with my knees up in front of me and suffering."

Despite slowing down her travels,

Gudmundson continues to embrace life. She had a full schedule over Easter weekend, including plans to go out for dinner.

"I do enjoy life," she said. "Be thankful every day when you wake up every morning."

Johnson said Gudmundson's life stands as an inspiration.

"Lillian's life is an inspiration, reflecting resilience, kindness and the values that help make our communities so strong," he said.

He added that occasions like this highlight the importance of recognizing those who have helped shape their communities over generations.

"Celebrations like this remind us how important it is to honour those who have helped shape the generations that follow."

The plaque, presented on behalf of the province, commemorates Gudmundson's 100th birthday and acknowledges her lasting impact.

Johnson extended his congratulations and best wishes.

"Wishing Lillian continued happiness, good health, and many more cherished moments surrounded by family and loved ones. Congratulations on 100 wonderful years."

**Celebrations!**

Touch of... HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 60 YEAR VINTAGE DUDE 95 IT'S MY BIRTHDAY! bith-day BOY 18 GRAD You did it! GRAD

39 MAIN ST., SELKIRK North of Manitoba Ave.

HOURS MONDAY - THURSDAY 10-6 FRIDAY 10-6 SATURDAY 9-6 SUNDAY 12-5

**BIG DOLLAR**

# Pen pal program links Lundar class with local seniors

By E. Antonio

It was a lively St. Patrick's Day celebration for the Grade 4 class at Lundar Early Years School and their pen pals from the Lundar senior community.

The intergenerational pals have been writing back and forth since the beginning of the school year, but this marked their first in-person meeting. Both Lacie Miller, senior resource coordinator with the Lundar Community Resources Council, and teacher Breanna Malcolm said it was heartwarming to see those written connections come to life.

"The day before, the seniors were very busy bustling around, making decorations and preparing the Irish stew for our St. Patrick's Day party," Miller said. "They were all happy to meet each other and have a visit in person."

In total, 10 pairs of pen pals — seniors aged 59 to 88 and students aged nine and 10 — took part in the gathering. Miller said the event was well attended and clearly demonstrated the value of intergenerational connections.

"It was amazing to me — these kids ran up to people they'd never met before with open arms for big hugs to introduce themselves," she added. "They sure put smiles on the seniors' faces."

The group spent the afternoon enjoying activities such as floor curling, puzzles and crib, followed by a shared meal of bannock, dumplings and stew prepared by the seniors.

Miller brought the idea forward to the school after seeing similar intergenerational programs succeed in neighbouring communities. Support from the Manitoba Association of Senior Communities helped make the initiative possible through an intergenerational programming grant, which covered expenses such as letter-writing supplies and program materials. She said the program helps reduce isolation, fosters meaningful relationships and creates opportunities for both generations to share knowledge.

She plans to reapply for the grant in the fall and introduce a new Grade 4 class to the initiative.

The program also had a noticeable impact in the classroom.

"During the intergenerational pen pal program, students showed meaningful growth in their writing skills," Malcolm said. "With a real audience to write to, they became more engaged and intentional in their work. Over time, their letters demonstrated improved organization, including clear beginnings, middles and end-



A Grade 4 student plays cribbage with his pen pal during their St. Patrick's Day gathering.

ings."

She added that many students' voices, personalities and creativity shone through in their writing, and said she was "pleasantly surprised" by how excited they were to finally meet their pen pals.

Beyond literacy development, Malcolm said the experience helped students build a deeper connection to their community.

"Moments like that remind me how important it is to create opportunities for students to feel connected, valued and part of something bigger," she said. "By connecting with members of the community, students gain a deeper sense of belonging and understanding of different life experiences and perspectives."

The pen pals will continue corresponding through the end of the school year. Once the snow melts, the seniors hope to host the students again for a day of yard games and a barbecue lunch.

"This experience was all about building meaningful connections between students and their pen pals, between generations and within our community," Malcolm added. "It brought learning to life in a way that went far beyond the classroom, helping students feel seen, valued and connected to our small community."



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Grade 4 students from Lundar Early Years School and their senior pen pals share a meal of bannock, dumplings and Irish stew during their St. Patrick's Day gathering, marking their first in-person meeting after months of letter writing.



## PST off all groceries.

From roast chickens to salads, Budget 2026 will take the tax off all groceries in Manitoba starting **July 1**, to help save you money.

Manitoba.ca/Budget2026



 **Winnipeg Beach Legion Br. 61 & Ladies Auxiliary**  
**Mother's Day Spring Tea & Bake Sale**  
*Featuring finger sandwiches, dainties, coffee and tea*  
**Saturday, May 16 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**  
 20 Hamilton Avenue, Winnipeg Beach  
 Legion 204-389-2660  
 email: rclbr61@gmail.com  
 www.winnipegbeachlegion.ca  
*Monetary Collection at Door*  
*Silent Auction All events are cash only*

THE EXPRESS  
WEEKLY NEWS



**PUBLISHER**  
Lana Meier



**SALES**  
Brett Mitchell



**SALES & MARKETING**  
Laura Platt



**REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Emily Antonio



**REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Kieran Reimer



**REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Jennifer McFee



**REPORTER**  
Annaliese Meier



**REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Patricia Barrett



**ADMINISTRATION**  
Corrie Sargent



**DISTRIBUTION**  
Christy Brown



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta



**ADMINISTRATION**  
Jo-Anne Procter



**PRODUCTION**  
Debbie Strauss



**ADMINISTRATION**  
Allana Sawatzky

**OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS**



# get informed

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

## Provincial budget prioritizes jobs, lower costs, better health care: Sala

By Lorne Stelmach

The Manitoba government emphasized such things as good jobs, lower costs and better health care for Manitobans as it unveiled its 2026 budget last week.

Finance Minister Adrien Sala also particularly touted his belief that the budget positions rural and northern Manitoba for long term growth, safer communities and better health care.

He suggested the government is making responsible investments that align with Manitobans' priorities while making progress on the path to balance the budget within four years.

"Budget 2026 reflects the priorities we heard from Manitobans every day, strengthening health care, lowering costs and creating good jobs," said Sala. "We're delivering real progress with relief at the grocery store, more front-line staff in our health-care system and new opportunities for workers. This budget is about building a healthier, more affordable Manitoba for families."

Sala billed it as a budget that leaves no Manitoban behind.

"For the third year in a row, our government is making historic investments outside of Winnipeg. This budget includes policies and projects for every region every region of the province, every town, every city and ever regional municipality.

"Each section of the budget contains policies and projects that will have a positive effect on rural, northern and remote families, whether it's for health care, public safety, infrastructure, affordability or agriculture, there's something positive for your community in this budget."

Some key highlights included investing more in health care for the third consecutive year, adding 4,054 net new health-care staff to the front lines and focusing on new initiatives to reduce the number of emergency

rooms wait times.

Sala also suggested Manitoba is leading the country in tackling rising grocery prices through new legislation that would ban predatory pricing and restrict property controls. He said this budget goes further by removing the provincial sales tax from all food sold in grocery stores starting July 1. Additional measures to lower costs for Manitobans include an increase to \$1,700 to the homeowners affordability tax credit, increased rent relief and free transit for children and youth.

The budget also builds on economic growth with a commitment to train 40 per cent more apprentices in the skilled trades and a new \$10-million Churchill Catalyst Fund to attract more private-sector interest in an energy corridor that will create good jobs.

Sala further suggested the budget reflects the values of everyday Manitobans who want to see everyone succeed with progressive policies that give families with the lowest incomes the most help. This includes the change to the homeowners affordability tax credit to help Manitobans with the most give back to those with the least, new investments in free child care for low-income families, and a \$2.5-million investment in adult literacy programs to help more Manitobans graduate and find a good job.

In reference to economic development, Sala touted a number of key investments in various infrastructure projects that will serve as catalysts for further growth.

"All across Manitoba, we're building, and we know that those investments in capital are going to not only help to ensure that Manitobans have the resources and infrastructure that we need to support our local economies, but it's also going to help put people to work."

In a press conference, Sala fielded a

question about producers facing lower crop prices and higher input costs, and what the government was going to do to help farmers maintain their profitability beyond the usual supports and loan programs.

"I think we're doing the important work of making sure they have adequate access to those programs that we know will help our producers across the province," he said. "We know that producers are the backbone of the provincial economy, and we know that trade disruptions are creating increased risk and uncertainty, and I think it's critical our government is stepping up with more support to help producers."

The government is investing in the strength of rural and northern Manitoba, Sala emphasized.

"These communities deserve reliable infrastructure, good jobs and health care they can count on. Budget 2026 delivers real support to help families build a stronger future, close to home."

The budget raises municipal funding by close to \$6 million, bringing total base support to \$198 million by 2026-27, along with new commitments for water infrastructure, Northern Affairs communities, and the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for Municipalities (Manitoba GRO) program.

Sala also emphasized that they are aiming to improve rural and northern health care as a priority with several initiatives to continue the provincial commitment to improving the quality of health care in those areas.

While physician recruitment and retention are at an all-time high, according to Sala, the budget adds an additional \$6.3 million to recruit more doctors to Manitoba, and it also provides funding for new training pathways for nurses, paramedics and

Continued on page 7

**ADVERTISING OR PRINT**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Lana Meier 204-292-2128  
ads@expressweeklynews.ca

PHONE 204-467-5836

FAX 204-467-2679

**OUR EDITORIAL STAFF**

Patricia Barrett -  
Reporter/Photographer  
Cell 204-407-6099 patricia@expressweeklynews.ca

**PAPER DELIVERY OR FLYER CONCERNS**

Christy Brown  
Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

Funded by the Government of Canada | Canada

**> EMAIL US**

Letters to the Editor: news@expressweeklynews.ca  
Classifieds: ads@expressweeklynews.ca  
News: news@expressweeklynews.ca  
Print: igrphic@mymts.net

**ADDRESS**

74 Patterson Drive, Stonewall Industrial Park  
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

The Express Weekly News is published Thursdays and distributed through Canada Post to 11,396 homes. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing.



This newspaper is supported 100% by advertising dollars. If you enjoy the paper and would like to see the newspaper grow and prosper visit any of the advertisers and businesses in our rural communities. - Keep your dollars working at home and shop local. Our commitment to you, the reader - we connect people through stories to build stronger communities.

**Advertising Deadline: Monday 4:00 pm prior to Thursday Publication**

View the Express Weekly News online at [www.expressweeklynews.ca](http://www.expressweeklynews.ca)

# Mixed reactions follow Manitoba NDP's 2026 financial plan

By Lorne Stelmach

There were mixed reviews for the Manitoba NDP government's new provincial budget released last week.

Midland MLA and Conservative finance critic Lauren Stone was disappointed the budget lacks any serious plan to make life more affordable.

"Wab Kinew and his NDP are once again letting down Manitoba families," she said. "They promised Manitobans that they would make life more affordable, but this budget fails to deliver real, tangible relief for families struggling with rising costs."

Meanwhile, skyrocketing education property tax increases are what Manitobans continue to get from the NDP, Stone suggested. According to Statistics Canada, homeowners in Winnipeg experienced a near 20 per cent increase in property taxes between 2025 and 2026.

"When education property taxes in Winnipeg and across Manitoba are going up by hundreds and thousands of dollars, increasing the tax credit by only \$100 and not until next year is a drop in the bucket," said Stone. "Manitoba families need affordability relief now, not next year."

Obby Khan, leader of the Opposition, also said Manitoba families deserve affordability.

"They deserve stability. They deserve a government that understands what they're going through and is ready to act. I see moms and their kids in the grocery store, picking up fruits, vegetables, meat or coffee and putting it back on the shelf because it is just too expensive," he said.

"We're focused on putting more of

your hard-earned money back in your pocket because Manitoba families deserve affordability now."

The Conservatives are proposing zero provincial income tax on the first \$30,000 earned, which they estimate would save an individual about \$1,500 per year and the average family up to \$3,070 annually.

"That's real relief right now. It's not a rebate at tax time. It's higher paycheques every week, every two weeks, every month," said Khan. "It's shocking and surprising that Wab Kinew and his NDP have failed Manitobans on affordability, on growing the economy, on health care and on crime. That's not leadership. That's failing to understand what Manitoba families are going through."

Manitoba Federation of Labour president Kevin Rebeck saw some positives in the budget.

"As the global economy continues to face strain, it is encouraging to see the provincial government focused on creating good family-supporting construction jobs here at home by putting Manitobans to work first in building our province up," he said.

"This budget's commitments to build and renew critical infrastructure, like schools, hospitals and Manitoba Hydro projects, through the Manitoba Jobs Agreements is good news for Manitoba workers and higher wages and bad news for out of province licence plates on job sites. And this budget's greater investment in our apprenticeship system will mean more Manitobans can build their future here at home."

Rebeck noted the budget also in-

cludes several other good supports for workers to join and succeed in the labour force.

"Higher wages for child-care workers and more child care spaces will mean more parents, especially women, can participate in the labour force. More investments in personal care homes and long-term care mean more workers, especially women, will not have to limit working hours or exit the labour force altogether to provide care for loved ones," he said. "And increased investment in adult learning centres will help to boost employment by ensuring more Manitobans can achieve their high school diploma."

The cost of living is high on every worker's mind these days, and Rebeck saw the budget as taking steps to help make life more affordable for working families by providing free transit for kids and youth, free menstrual products in the workplace and free child care for low income families.

"Finally, we all count on public services to be there for us when we need them, and we know that workers in Manitoba's public sector continue to struggle with understaffing and high vacancy rates after years of cuts and chaos under the former PC government," Rebeck continued. "The provincial government's important goals of ending mandatory overtime and ensuring safe patient ratios will only become a reality through a sustained commitment to recruitment and retention in health care."

"And understaffing is a major contributing factor to health care and the public service having the highest workplace injury rates in the province."

## > BUDGET, FROM PG. 6

internationally trained physicians. Major capital projects include the construction or expansion of a number of hospitals, including Boundary Trails Health Centre in Morden-Winkler.

And for agricultural producers, Sala noted the budget will freeze crown land leases for the third year in a row, and producers will also benefit from the continuation of both the 50 per cent school tax rebate for farm properties and the farmland school tax rebate.

### ADDITIONAL FUNDING INCLUDES:

- \$45.6 million for AgriStability to help Manitoba producers manage the risks of changing weather and markets.

- \$71.8 million for AgriInsurance to lower premiums and protect producers against crop production shortfalls caused by natural perils.

- \$18.5 million for AgriInvest to help producers manage minor income

fluctuations.

- \$7.8 million for the wildlife damage compensation program to expand eligibility for claims on agricultural losses from predatory wildlife.

And to encourage young Manitobans to enter the agriculture sector, the government increases the cap on the young farmers rebate and the lifetime maximum rebate rises.

Sala also touted what he called record investment in rural and northern infrastructure ranging from twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway to Ontario to rebuilding Highway 2 in southwest Manitoba.

A federal-provincial investment in 2025 of \$76.9 million in water and wastewater capacity across rural Manitoba will include 22 million for the Pembina Valley Water Co-op capital plan and \$4.4 million for the Morden-Winkler sewer line as well as other wastewater capacity projects totalling \$28.5 million.



**MEMBERSHIPS Available Now for 2026 Season**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Saturday April 11, 11-4

**LADIES LEAGUE**  
Starts May 12th

**MEN'S LEAGUE**  
Starts May 14th

**MEN'S LEAGUE**  
General Meeting May 7 at 8 pm

**Call 204-886-4653**

This budget's additional funding for new workplace safety and health officers is welcome, but it only addresses enforcement. We would have liked to see commitments in this budget to bring these injury rates down through injury prevention programs as well.

"We know that these problems cannot be fixed overnight, but we encourage the government to focus its efforts on staff recruitment and retention to strengthen our public services."

Cynthia Leach, an assistant chief economist at RBC, saw some reason for hope in the budget.

"Manitoba is the seventh province to table its 2026 budget, and the new numbers look not as challenged as several others. Despite the negative surprise in 2025-26, Manitoba claims the smallest 2026-27 deficit-to-GDP ratio and is one of few provinces charting a path to balance," she said.

"Spending pressures and the uncertain economic environment could erode planned fiscal balances, and the province will need to continue to make fiscal room to support growth oriented spending. These are similar to the fiscal challenges faced by other provinces, but Manitoba will need to keep an eye on a debt ratio that is on the high end of the provincial average."

### Community Support Service

**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.

# Growth, tax arrears shape West Interlake plans

By E. Antonio

The Rural Municipality of West Interlake is moving forward with its annual tax enforcement process while also facing mounting infrastructure pressures tied to projected growth.

At its Feb. 17 council meeting, council approved a three-year agreement with Taxervice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery on the municipality's behalf and designated 2025 as the tax sale year — meaning properties with unpaid taxes from 2024 or earlier could be auctioned.

According to chief administrative officer Gary Campbell, there are currently 51 properties in tax arrears, a number he described as typical for the municipality.

Council did not specify how many of those properties could ultimately proceed to tax sale. Campbell noted the three-year agreement with Taxervice is a standard arrangement the company provides.

Alongside tax enforcement, council reviewed several items pointing to long-term growth and infrastructure challenges, particularly in Ashern.

A recent water system growth study projects the community's population could increase from 662 residents to

947 by 2045, placing added demand on existing infrastructure.

"Estimated usage was forecast out with moderate growth until the year 2045. The population within the town of Ashern is estimated at 662 people and projected to reach 947 people by 2045 in the study," Campbell said.

The study outlines significant upgrades, including larger distribution pipes, reconfigured water lines and improvements to the water treatment plant, with a total estimated cost of \$12.5 million.

While the current system continues to meet existing demand, it falls short of recommended fire flow standards.

"The study recommends a fire flow of 63 litres per second for a duration of one hour. Current system capability is roughly 31.5 litres per second, which has been adequate to serve the current population, both residential and commercial, but leaves room for improvement to reach the targeted mark highlighted in the study," Campbell added.

Council also approved a subdivision application with conditions aimed at mitigating flood risk, including elevation requirements and setbacks from

waterways.

Campbell said both growth and environmental risks remain ongoing considerations for the municipality.

"Climate change and looking for ways to mitigate future fire and flood risks are consistently discussed with council. Given this year's higher snow accumulation, we are closely monitoring conditions as the melt begins, and the possibility of more snow still exists. Residents, especially those in low-lying areas, are encouraged to remain aware and take appropriate precautions."

Council continues to work through issues related to the Boundary Line Drain, a long-standing file requiring regulatory approvals and coordination with landowners.

"It was made clear to us that day that an amendment to the existing Water Rights Licence — or the issuance of a new Water Rights Licence — would be a lengthy process with no shortcuts or exceptions," Campbell said, noting additional surveying, landowner agreements and legal easements are still required.

In the interim, the municipality plans to manage spring runoff us-

ing monitoring tools and established thresholds.

"Our goal is to establish seasonal water elevations as the trigger for opening the culverts," he said.

Other business included more than \$157,000 in accounts payable and \$25,390 in payroll, along with community donations and tourism-related spending.

Council also deferred a decision on bylaw enforcement services to gather more information.

"The decision on the bylaw services was postponed to allow for additional review to ensure all information is carefully considered before moving forward with any one company," Campbell said.

He added council is aiming to improve enforcement consistency and responsiveness across the municipality.

"Council is looking to address concerns related to bylaw enforcement, including consistency, response times and ensuring municipal regulations are applied fairly and effectively across the municipality."

A final decision is expected in the coming weeks.

## Manitoba minimum wage to rise to \$16.40 on Oct. 1

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial NDP government announced last week it's increasing the minimum wage this fall to reflect the province's inflation rate in 2025.

The wage will increase from \$16 to \$16.40 and take effect on Oct. 1.

The government has increased the minimum wage several times since it returned to power in 2022 in order to help Manitobans facing financial challenges with rising inflation.

The cost of living rose significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic when worldwide supply chains were interrupted. The current American-Israeli war on Iran, which began on Feb. 28, resulted in an immediate and painful jump in gasoline prices. The

war is expected to drive up global inflation and possibly spark a recession depending on how long it continues.

From a low of \$11.95 in 2022, the provincial government increased the minimum wage that year to \$13.50, then to \$14.15 in 2023, \$15.30 in 2023, \$15.80 in 2024 and \$16 in 2025, according to the province's "Historical Summary of Minimum Wage Rates in Manitoba." It shows the minimum wage having hovered in the \$11 range between 2015 and 2021.

Following the 2022 increase, the government sought to cushion the impact on small businesses by offering a Small Business Minimum Wage Adjustment Program, which provided a time-limited, one-time payment.

Although some businesses may feel the impact of the upcoming wage rise, some organizations say

the \$16.40 increase won't meet the needs of many Manitobans.

Manitoba Federation of Labour president Kevin Rebeck said the 40-cent increase is well short of a living wage, and will keep minimum-wage earners "trapped below the poverty line."

"The small 40-cent increase to the minimum wage announced today falls well short of what minimum wage earners need to afford essentials like groceries and rent," said Rebeck in a March 31 statement. "No one should work full time and still live in poverty, but that is the harsh reality for many minimum wage earners in Manitoba, because ... our minimum wage falls well below a living wage."

Although the provincial government's budget includes affordability measures such as free bus passes for youth, free menstrual products paid by employers and free child care for low-income families, Rebeck said instituting a living wage

would do "far more" to help workers by adding hundreds of dollars to their paycheques.

Citing a analysis by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Rebeck said workers in Winnipeg would need to earn \$19.77 an hour to meet their basic needs.

"The punishing price increase in groceries, housing and other essentials are something that all working families are dealing with, but the cost of living crisis is hitting our lowest wage workers the hardest," said Rebeck.

A living wage enables people to avoid having to live in poverty but may not help them address future inflationary pressures, help them save for a home or a car or help them pay down personal debt.

The *Express* contacted a number of Interlake businesses in different communities, as well as the Gimli Chamber of Commerce, for comment on the minimum wage increase.

Take care of details so they don't have to. *Just ask Ken.*

*kl*  
KEN LOEHMER  
FUNERAL SERVICES

55 Main St, Teulon Call 204-886-0404 or visit [www.klfuneralservices.ca](http://www.klfuneralservices.ca)

See Us for Everything you need to promote your business

Call 204-467-5836

# New assisted living, personal care home planned for Gimli

By Lana Meier

A new assisted living and personal care development is moving ahead in Gimli, with construction expected to begin in 2026 on a long-anticipated project aimed at addressing growing demand for seniors housing in the Interlake.

The development, to be located at 16 Centennial Rd., will be built in phases and is designed to provide a full continuum of care, allowing residents to remain in their community as their needs evolve.

The project includes two planned buildings — a 66-unit assisted living facility in Phase 1 and a 66-unit personal care home in Phase 2. The two buildings will eventually be connected by a walkway, creating an integrated campus-style environment for seniors care.

Planning for the development has been underway for several years, with

the concept first emerging following a provincial call for tenders in 2017 aimed at expanding seniors housing options.

“Regional demand is strong,” said Donald Benson, president of the development group. “Hospitals are having patients occupy beds that should be in assisted living or personal care. This project will help relieve pressure on the acute care system.”

Benson added that many seniors in Gimli and the surrounding area are looking for options that allow them to remain close to home.

“People want to stay in their own community, near family and familiar surroundings, and this project will meet that need,” he said.

Construction of the assisted living facility is expected to begin in September 2026, with completion targeted for 2027. The project has received all necessary municipal approvals, with

remaining steps including final design work, permitting and financing.

The assisted living building will offer a mix of one- and two-bedroom suites designed to support aging in place, allowing residents to maintain independence while accessing additional supports as needed. Shared spaces, programming areas and outdoor features are planned to enhance both comfort and quality of life.

Daily living within the facility will include meal services and organized programming aimed at keeping residents active and engaged.

“Residents will have access to daily meals as well as recreation programming that supports both physical and social well-being,” Benson said. “It’s about creating a community where people can stay active, connected and supported while maintaining their independence.”

Common dining areas and gathering

spaces are expected to play a central role in fostering that sense of community, offering opportunities for social interaction and reducing isolation — an important factor in overall health and well-being for older adults.

Care within the assisted living facility will be tailored to individual needs, with staff on duty at all times, including overnight. Approximately 20 staff are expected to be employed in the first phase, with developers aiming to hire locally wherever possible.

“We’re committed to hiring locally where we can,” Benson said. “We’re also looking at whether training opportunities, such as those previously offered in Arborg, could be re-established to support staffing.”

The second phase of the project will see the construction of a personal care home, expected to be completed in 2028. The facility will provide a higher level of care, allowing residents to transition seamlessly as their needs increase.

Priority placement in the personal care home will be given to those already living in the assisted living facility, helping to eliminate the need for disruptive moves to other communities.

“This model gives families peace of mind,” Benson said. “Residents can remain in a familiar environment with continuity of care as their needs change.”

Developers say the project is also expected to bring economic benefits to Gimli, particularly during construction, with opportunities for local trades and increased activity for nearby businesses.

Pricing will vary depending on unit type and level of care required. While the assisted living facility will primarily operate on a private-pay model, some supports may be covered through regional health services for residents with additional needs.

Safety and modern design are key priorities for the development, according to project architect Arsenio Pagunuran.

“Safety will be a key factor in every aspect of the design, including advanced air handling systems,” Pagunuran said. “When fully operational, the assisted living facility and personal care home will be among the newest in Gimli.”

An open house is being planned for May, where residents and families will be able to review plans, explore suite layouts and learn more about costs and services. Those interested in attending are asked to text their name and number of participants to 204-955-5042. Additional details will be shared with registered attendees.

PLANNED OPENING - SUMMER 2027



## GIMLI PERSONAL CARE HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING



ASSISTED LIVING YOU CAN TRUST AND WHERE CARE FEELS LIKE FAMILY

Project:  
GIMLI PERSONAL CARE HOME AND ASSISTED LIVING

Developer:  
NORDIC CANADA LTD.

Consultant:  
AGP Architects

PROVIDES:  
ONE & TWO BEDROOM SUITES

- Nutritious Meals
- Engaging Activities
- Experienced Care

For Further Information Call:  
**204-955-5042**

# Local couple brings fresh vision to Interlake garden centre

By Lana Meier

A new chapter is underway at the Interlake Garden Centre, where local owners Rayme and Michelle Thomson are blending community roots with a renewed vision for growth, customer experience and long-term sustainability.

The couple recently purchased the well-established business, now operating as Georgetown Acres & Interlake Garden Centre, and say the opportunity came at just the right time.

"After selling our former business, we were preparing to build new commercial greenhouses on our agricultural land when the opportunity presented itself," said Michelle. "We loved the idea of elevating an already successfully operating business and knew we could bring longevity to the



Michelle Thomson holds one of the thousands of plants beginning to flower inside the greenhouses



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME AND MICHELLE THOMSON

Rayme Thomson waters plants inside the greenhouse at Georgetown Acres & Interlake Garden Centre as the couple prepares for the upcoming spring opening.

**WOW! 25 YEARS!**  
Weekly Giveaways on facebook!



70-1st Ave, Gimli, MB 204-642-7560

community as local residents already established here in the Interlake."

Located in Winnipeg Beach, the garden centre is positioned in a community the Thomsons describe as being in a period of exciting renewal.

"There is a sense of revitalization happening in Winnipeg Beach that is very exciting, and it is a privilege to be able to add to the existing community," she said.

Both bring diverse backgrounds to the venture. Rayme, who is Icelandic and Métis, was born in Gimli and returned to Manitoba after working in Alberta's automotive sector before taking over his father's businesses. Michelle, originally from Newfoundland, also worked in the automotive industry and previously operated a music studio as a vocal instructor

and piano teacher. She later pursued graduate studies in counselling psychology.

The new name pays tribute to Rayme's late father, entrepreneur George Thomson, while reflecting the couple's desire to honour the past and build for the future.

Since taking over, the Thomsons have completed a number of upgrades aimed at improving both operations and customer comfort. Renovations include finishing the store ceiling, adding drywall, repainting, remodelling the washroom and checkout areas, and upgrading electrical systems throughout the greenhouses. New temperature monitoring systems and backup power have also been installed.

"We are also planning to create rest areas with seating and shade for our customers so they can enjoy shopping with more relief from the hot temperatures," Michelle said, adding that ongoing maintenance and structural improvements will continue in phases.

As the business prepares for its spring opening, customers can expect a wide selection of annuals, perennials and gardening supplies tailored to the Interlake region. Inventory will include flowers, herbs and vegetable plants, along with trees and shrubs such as pine, spruce, juniper and maple varieties. Fruit trees, ornamental grasses and additional landscaping plants will also be available.

Beyond plants, the Thomsons are expanding the retail offering to include seed potatoes, onion sets, birdseed, soils, fertilizers and a variety of gar-

dening tools and supplies. Giftware and Georgetown-branded merchandise will also be featured as part of the in-store experience.

Michelle has further strengthened the business's foundation by pursuing a horticulture diploma this winter, driven by a growing fascination with plant science and greenhouse production.

"Most valuable was studying Integrated Pest Management to ensure the healthiest growing environment possible, as well as plant identification," she said. "With just under 400,000 documented plant species, it is fascinating how similar and yet vastly different each one can be."

She hopes that knowledge will translate directly to customers, not only through plant care advice but also by encouraging a deeper connection to gardening.

"We are in a shifting time, where growing plants can establish not only a decorative sense of pride but also a more cost-efficient food source," she said. "It helps people reconnect with nature, learn new hobbies and engage with community gardening efforts."

The garden centre will feature a strong emphasis on Manitoba-grown products and plants suited to the Interlake climate.

"Supporting local is paramount," Michelle said. "Local supports us, and by doing so we create a cycle that benefits both our community and our province."

Among the unique offerings custom-

**Icelandic River Community Foundation**



**GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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. Projects can include assistance for health care, recreational purposes, buildings, vehicles, furnishings or new equipment not normally covered in operating budgets. Please provide projected costs and timeline for completion.

Application form is available at the IRCF website at <https://ircf.ca/>

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

**Applications must be received by May 31, 2026**

# Arborg-Bifrost recreation lets the paint fly at the arena

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission handed out the paint and the brushes last week and let residents go wild at the Arborg & District Arena.

The commission's third annual ice-painting event helped take the edge off the pain of losing the ice when spring arrives and winter sports activities wind down.

"Arborg-Bifrost recreation held an evening last week where people could come and paint the arena ice before we took it out," said recreation director Tom Chwaliboga. "The rec centre provided all the supplies and everyone brought their creativity."

People paid tribute to the Arborg Ice Dawgs, the Easter bunny, family members and created other icy works of art.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM CHWALIBOGA

# Province advises people, vehicles to stay off the ice

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial department of transportation and infrastructure is advising the public that there's a potential for hazardous ice conditions on rivers, lakes, drainage ditches and other water bodies such as retention ponds now that spring thaw is underway.

As daily temperatures continue to rise, the thickness and strength of the ice will deteriorate.

"Ice may appear similar to normal winter conditions but may be very thin and unable to support people or heavy objects such as snowmobiles and vehicles," said the department in a March 30 media bulletin "Use of the rivers, lakes, waterways and drainage ditches for activities such as skiing, sledding and snowmobiling could be hazardous at this time and should

be avoided. People living near waterways should be especially careful to prevent children and pets from wandering onto the ice."

The department and its Emergency Management Organization are preparing for possible spring flooding and are working with municipal authorities, First Nations and emergency partners, states the bulletin.

The average water level on Lake Winnipeg was 712.31 feet above sea level as of April 2. At Gimli, the water level was slightly higher, at 712.52 feet, according to the province's hydrologic forecast centre.

The maximum regulated level on Lake Winnipeg is 715 feet.

On Lake Manitoba, the average wa-

Continued on page 12

## > GREENHOUSE, FROM PG. 10



Rayme and Michelle Thomson unveil the new Georgetown Acres & Interlake Garden Centre signage, marking the start of a new chapter for the locally owned business in Winnipeg Beach.

ers can expect is the "Sensitive Plant," a houseplant known for responding to touch, alongside a full range of seasonal favourites.

Looking ahead to opening day — tentatively set for April 22, weather permitting — the couple says their goal goes beyond simply selling

plants.

"We hope that anyone who walks in our door leaves better for having come through it," Michelle said. "We want people to say, 'that's the place,' and continue to use coming to the garden centre as a reason to visit and support other local businesses."

Plans are already in motion for workshops, partnerships with industry professionals and on-site educational opportunities aimed at both new and experienced gardeners.

"We want to keep things simple as well — offering basic gardening practices, tips and learning from our customers too," she added.

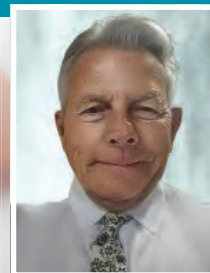
As the growing season approaches, the Thomsons encourage patience among eager gardeners.

"Remember to wait for the last frost and keep

coverings handy," she said. "Nourish your soil with compost once the snow melts, and check for animals that may have made a home in your garden over winter."

With full greenhouses and a clear vision for the future, the Thomsons say they are ready to build on the garden centre's legacy while adding their own personal touch. "Our goal is to provide dependable products and to be straightforward in how we work," Michelle said. "We're proud to be part of the community and to offer something people can rely on."

## TOM KOSTER DENTURE CLINIC



Denturist

- We accept the Canadian Dental Care Plan and all other dental plans
- Arborg Clinic - 356 River Rd.
- Phone (204) 376-5838 for appointment
- After hours (204) 781-6409



**FOREward  
TO SUMMER**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

**WIN YOUR  
DREAM GOLF  
PACKAGE!**

Enter daily for a chance to win a golf cart, golf club sets, & more!



DETAILS AT SOUTHBEACHCASINO.CA

> ICE, FROM PG. 11

ter level was 810.96 feet as of April 2, according to the forecast centre.

The maximum regulated level is 812.87 feet.

The forecast centre's March Flood Outlook is predicting a low to moderate risk of spring flooding across most basins in Manitoba —

with the exception of the Fisher River basin, which has a moderate to major risk of flooding.

The risk of spring flooding "could change depending on future weather conditions, including the amount of precipitation throughout the remainder of winter and spring, as well as the rate of snowmelt and thaw," states the report.

**FARM -to- FORK**

*Great Meals Start with Quality Meats*

**BEST ELK STEAK**

175 g. melted butter  
1 large onion  
3 sticks butter

Your full-service meat shop, offering an extensive selection of fresh, premium elk products for unparalleled taste and nutrition

**ALSO SELLING BISON AND LAMB!**

Free Range Raised  
Never Fed antibiotics or growth hormones  
- low fat  
- high protein  
- high iron  
Provincially inspected

**STONEWOOD ELK RANCH LTD.**  
STEAKS • ROASTS • GROUND • STEWING & STIR FRY MEAT  
LIVER • SOUP BONES • GARLIC SAUSAGE

MEAT SHOP LOCATED ON THE FARM

CALL OR TEXT 204-791-9856 (by appointment only)

StonewoodElkRanch.com  
stonewoodelkranch@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS FROM BALMORAL: 1 MILE SOUTH ON HWY 236 & 1.75 MILES EAST ON ROAD 84N  
OR 1 MILE SOUTH ON HWY 7 AND 1.25 MILES WEST ON ROAD 84N (Watch for Stonewood Elk Ranch sign)

# Manitoba Anglers' Guide 2026 now available ahead of fishing season

By Annaliese Meier

Manitoba anglers are being encouraged to prepare for the upcoming fishing season with the release of the 2026 Anglers' Guide, now available online.

Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures Minister Ian Bushie said the annual guide provides essential information for both residents and visitors heading out on the water this spring.

"The release of the Manitoba Anglers' Guide 2026 marks the start of another exciting fishing season," Bushie said. "During these free fishing days, I encourage Manitobans and visitors to enjoy their time outdoors safely and responsibly."

As part of spring break, anglers can fish without a provincial licence until April 5. However, federal licences remain required for those fishing in national parks.

New regulations for the 2026 season took effect April 1, including updated angling licence fees and changes to some possession limits and size restrictions. The full guide is available online, with printed copies expected to arrive later this month at retailers that sell angling licences.

Anglers targeting walleye and sauger are reminded to pay close attention to seasonal closures across Manitoba's fishing divisions.

In the southern division, the season closes April 6 and reopens May 9, except on Lake Winnipeg, where the season opens May 16. In the northwest and north central divisions, the season closes May 1 and reopens May 16.

Fishing for these species is prohibited during the closed periods.

Additional restrictions are also in place for specific waterways. Dauphin Lake and its tributaries — excluding the Vermilion Reservoir — close to fishing April 1. From April 6 to May 8, several areas are closed to all fishing, including sections of the Red River between Lockport Dam and Lake Winnipeg, as well as parts of the Assiniboine River downstream of the Portage Diversion.

Officials are also reminding anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by ensuring all watercraft and related equipment are properly cleaned, drained and dried after each use.

More details on regulations, fees and fishing zones can be found in the Manitoba Anglers' Guide 2026, available online, with print editions to follow later in April.

## JOIN US FOR THE APRIL CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

### April ONSITE Week 1 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 2nd from 9 AM to 5PM.  
Bidding starts: April 2nd, 2026 at 9:00AM  
Lots start closing on April 9th, 2026 at 10:00AM.  
Pick up days: Friday, April 10 from 9 AM - 5 PM

### April OFFSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 12th -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 22nd, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

### April ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 13 -16th from 9 AM to 5PM.  
Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM  
Lots start closing on April 23, 2026 at 10:00AM.  
Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

**GRUNTHAL AUCTION SERVICE**

CORTEVA agriscience  
Viatude

Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931  
• Ed Pylypyjuk (204) 392-8442 • Russ Harder 204-371-4771 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM. Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions.  
If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.

**National Huntington Walk Manitoba**  
**Lockport River's Edge Run**  
for HD HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE  
"Manitoba's Beautiful Run!"

30k MARATHON 7:30 am  
1/2 MARATHON 7:30 am  
10k RUN/WALK 8:00 am  
5k RUN/WALK 8:00 am

**Saturday, May 9th, 2026**  
Start & Finish at Skinner's River Road in Lockport, MB

Register at: [www.hdmanitoba.ca](http://www.hdmanitoba.ca)  
Free Deluxe Pancake Breakfast for all participants!  
EVENT SPONSOR

FOOD SPONSOR HARRY'S FINE FOODS  
TELUS authorized dealer  
4 COMMUNICATIONS INC.

5K SPONSOR K5 BROS. Brought to you by Running Room

# Pysanka workshop brings Ukrainian tradition to Matlock

By Lana Meier

The scent of beeswax and candlelight filled the Matlock Recreation Club on April 1 as residents took part in a hands-on pysanka workshop led by Angela Sarakula.

Pysanka, a traditional Ukrainian Easter egg, is created using a wax-

resist dyeing technique that produces intricate, symbolic designs.

Sarakula, a first-generation Canadian whose parents emigrated from Ukraine more than 75 years ago, has spent much of her adult life teaching the art form. Her workshops have taken her across the country, from

coastal communities in Newfoundland to schools on British Columbia's ski slopes.

Three two-hour sessions were held throughout the day in Matlock, giving participants of all ages the chance to try the technique for themselves. Using eggs as their canvas, attend-

ees worked with beeswax, dyes and traditional tools to create detailed patterns while learning about the cultural significance behind the designs.

Each participant completed a pysanka to take home, reflecting both their creativity and a connection to a long-standing Ukrainian tradition.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ANGELA SARAKULA

**SEALE'S**  
FURNITURE  
APPLIANCES

*Spring*  
**MADNESS SALE**

Things are getting fresh around here.

**LET YOUR HOME BLOOM**

**30% OFF**

All in-store and special order furniture, mattresses and accessories.

Look online, but visit us in store to receive our best prices and savings on hundreds of items.  
\*Some exclusions may apply.  
Sale ends April 30, 2026.

0% Financing with **flexiti** We match our competitors pricing.  
Free delivery within 30 KM.

74 1st Avenue, Gimli 204-519-8342 [sealesfurniture.ca](http://sealesfurniture.ca)  
Hours of operation: Tues. - Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-4, Sun. 12-4

# Grahamdale sets long-term priorities in first formal strategic plan

By E. Antonio

The Rural Municipality of Grahamdale has unveiled its first formal community-driven strategic plan, laying out a long-term vision aimed at growth, sustainability and stronger collaboration across the municipality.

The 2025-26 strategic plan, developed jointly by council and the Community Development Corporation (CDC), marks the first time municipal leadership, administration and community stakeholders have come together through a structured planning process to identify shared priorities.

“We were looking at the needs of the whole municipality and finding ways to fill gaps socially and economically to build up the RM,” said RM of Grahamdale economic development officer Jacqueline Keisman. “Our plan reflects the unique needs the community is seeing, focusing on what is needed most to make a difference based on their voices and opinions.”

Participants from various sectors — including volunteer groups, businesses, regional partners and service organizations — were invited to contribute ideas and help determine where resources should be focused.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Council, Community Development Corporation and community members at the signing of the RM of Grahamdale strategic plan on March 18.

More than 40 participants from across the municipality took part in three planning sessions held between August and November 2025, helping shape a roadmap that municipal leaders say will guide future investment and decision-making.

During the initial planning sessions, council members and stakeholders reviewed financial realities facing the municipality, including taxation, infrastructure pressures and population trends.

At the centre of the plan are nine key priorities identified as the most impactful and achievable initiatives for the community.

Those priorities include the development of return-of-service programs to help maintain critical services such as health care, education and trades; a campaign to attract permanent residents; and the expansion of age-in-place services and housing options for seniors.

The plan also calls for the creation of a tourism marketing strategy, a housing co-operative project, and increased efforts to maximize the use of existing community facilities.

Other priorities include building partnerships with First Nations communities, advocating for road paving and repairs to beach access routes, and reviewing and promoting business incentive programs aimed at economic growth.

“These priorities were created for our community members, and by our community members,” Keisman added. “The community chose these priorities, and if we are successful at achieving them, this will be a huge step forward for the RM — not only for the economy but for the quality of life of our residents.”

She noted the municipality’s goal is to create an environment where people want to live, work and play without having to leave for neighbouring communities to access services Grahamdale currently lacks.

Keisman used the analogy of a leaky bucket. “Our bucket is full of the needs in our community, but when people go elsewhere to meet those needs — whether it’s for shopping, health care or social activities — those are the leaks in our bucket,” she explained. “We are looking for ways to plug those holes and keep our bucket filled.”

The document was officially signed March 18 by approximately 20 community members.

Next steps for the RM include hiring consultants,

forming community-based working groups, and researching and gathering data on what is needed and wanted most in each of the nine priority areas.

This phase is expected to continue through the remainder of the year, with solutions and implementation efforts anticipated to begin in early 2027.

The RM is forming two community-based working groups focused on the “age-in-place” and “maximizing the use of existing facilities” priorities. Residents interested in participating can contact Keisman at the municipal office.

The groups will meet once a month to assess current situations, brainstorm ideas and offer suggestions on how to improve existing services and supports.

“We want to show residents we are serious about this plan,” Keisman added. “We are taking steps to make sure we turn these priorities into reality.”

She noted some priorities are not entirely within the RM’s control, such as paving roadways. However, the municipality will continue advocating to the province and Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of residents for improved road conditions.

Keisman said she is proud of what the community has created, adding the plan represents the entire municipality.

While the nine priorities will guide future work, the municipality will continue to maintain its ongoing responsibilities related to core services and infrastructure.

Current projects, including the Steep Rock development plan for commercial and residential lots and exploration of a regional waste disposal site, remain ongoing.

Looking ahead, the municipality and CDC will act as the “keepers of the plan,” responsible for monitoring progress, supporting working groups and maintaining communication with the public.

The plan is intended to be a living document that can be revisited as circumstances change and new opportunities arise. It is expected to guide the municipality for approximately the next five years.

The full strategic plan is available on the RM of Grahamdale website ([www.grahamdale.ca/p/community-development-corporation](http://www.grahamdale.ca/p/community-development-corporation)), and feedback can be shared through the municipal office.

**THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING HEARING AID GRANTS OF UP TO \$2,000 FOR ELIGIBLE PATIENTS**

**ATTENTION SENIORS! 65 YEARS & UP**

*Best Price Guarantee!*



**Horizon Hearing Centres uses the latest equipment and technology to properly fit clients with the best hearing aid for them.**

- Family owned and operated.
- Newest hearing aid technology available.
- Accommodate clients on a budget.
- Offer a free hearing test, followed by a consultation.
- No doctor referral necessary.
- Walk-in appointments always welcome.
- 75 day RISK FREE trial period.
- Accept WCB, Special Services, First Nations and DVA claims.
- **BEST PRICE GUARANTEED!**

\* SEE CLINIC FOR DETAILS

**CONTACT US FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATION HEARING TEST**



**HORIZON™** Hearing Centres

**LOCATED IN NEW HORIZONS CENTRE**  
17 LONI BEACH RD. GIMLI  
204-642-7809

**HORIZONHEARING.COM**

# Favorite 2nd Fashion gives pre-loved clothing a second life in Gimli

By E. Antonio

A new shop in Gimli is helping turn closets full of unworn clothing into fresh finds for someone else.

Favorite 2nd Fashion, located at 96C Third Ave behind the laundromat (enter through the side door), offers a wide selection of secondhand youth, women's and men's clothing and accessories. Open Thursday through Sunday, the store aims to make secondhand shopping accessible for every style and budget.

Local residents Leslie Leis and Svala Prastardóttir opened the shop on Feb. 6, inspired by a shared desire to give their own clothing a second life — without the hassle of online marketplaces or garage sales.

"I had these beautiful clothes that I worked hard to purchase, and I was frustrated with other selling options not being as efficient. I felt in my heart there had to be a better way of giving them a second life," Leis said.

"Leslie and I began talking about how we wanted to find a way to repurpose our clothing, and voilà — this came about," Prastardóttir added.

The store will celebrate its official grand opening on Friday, April 17 from 3 to 5 p.m., featuring coffee, cake and a few surprises for visitors.

The business operates on a model commonly found in Iceland, where Prastardóttir lived before moving to Canada in 2012. Favorite 2nd Fashion currently features 22 vendor booths, allowing individuals to rent space and sell their own clothing and accessories.

Unlike traditional consignment stores, where sellers typically receive a portion of each sale, this model returns most of the profit directly to the vendor, with the store taking a smaller percentage.

"We are very community-minded, and that's why we are here," Leis said. "We live and breathe in Gimli — it's been invaluable how the commu-



nity has embraced us."

The owners bring complementary experience to the business. Prastardóttir offers strong community connections, while Leis, a former esthetics business owner, contributes operational and logistical expertise.

Vendors rent booths in four-week cycles, with the option to extend. They select and price their own items, while the store assists with promotion and inventory tracking. Items must be clean and in good condition, with offerings ranging from casual wear and outerwear to shoes, accessories and formal attire.

For the owners, the concept goes beyond retail — it's about sustainability and community.

"Seeing the fashion go around is so nice to see," Prastardóttir said. "We are very thankful the community has taken us in with open arms."

Due to strong interest, there is currently a wait-list for vendor booths. Those interested can contact the store to be added and will be notified when space becomes available.

Looking ahead, Leis and Prastardóttir hope to continue building a wel-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

A new consignment store, Favourite 2nd Fashion, has opened in Gimli at 96 Fourth Ave. The shop aims to provide affordable fashion options while supporting sustainable shopping in the local community.



coming space for secondhand shopping in Gimli.

"If the community is happy, we are happy," Prastardóttir said.

Favorite 2nd Fashion is open Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to

3 p.m. Hours are subject to change. For more information, call or text 204-442-0396, email Favorite2ndFashion@gmail.com, message the store on Facebook or visit during operating hours.



# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Crispy Air Fryer Potato Nuggets and Dip

1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 teaspoon chili flakes  
1 cup canola oil  
Heat air fryer to 390 F.  
To make potatoes: In a shallow bowl, combine flour, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Whisk in milk until smooth.

Place panko in a separate shallow bowl.  
Working in batches, coat potatoes in batter then toss in panko until fully coated.

Place potatoes in the air fryer and cook 24 minutes, flipping halfway.

To make chimichurri: In a blender, blend cilantro, parsley, lime juice, honey, salt, pepper, chili flakes and canola oil until smooth.

Serve potato nuggets with chimichurri.

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 24 minutes  
Servings: 4  
Potatoes:  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 cup milk  
1 1/2 cups panko breadcrumbs  
1 1/2 pounds Little Potatoes  
Chimichurri:  
1 bunch cilantro  
1 bunch parsley  
3 limes, juice only  
2 tablespoons honey  
2 teaspoons salt



## Shrimp Pearl Couscous Salad

heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add shrimp and cook 5 minutes. If necessary, cook in batches to avoid overcrowding pan.

In another large pan, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add chickpeas and cook 8 minutes until crispy and golden, tossing often. Add garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and salt. Toss to fully coat and cook 2 minutes.

In large bowl, combine pearl couscous, shrimp, chickpeas, cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, red onion, dill, lemon juice and remaining olive oil. Toss to combine. Garnish with feta.

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 4  
1 bag Success Pearl Couscous  
1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1 tablespoon seasoned salt  
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 can (14 ounces) chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/2 teaspoon onion powder  
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 English cucumber, diced  
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved  
1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped  
1/4 cup red onions, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/2 cup feta, crumbled  
Prepare pearl couscous according to package directions.  
In medium bowl, toss shrimp with seasoned salt.  
In large saucepan over medium-high

## Cheesy Mexican Rice Bites



## Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

I can't believe it. This is my birthday month, and it feels like I just wrote last year's April column!

Now that I'm most definitely in my fifties (if there was any doubt the last couple of years, ha), when it comes to health — and sickness — I think my friends are catching up with me. One friend needs a hysterectomy. Another needs prolapse surgery. Yet another has stomach issues and is waiting for test results to see if they are benign or cancerous. Knee surgeries, hip replacements and back surgeries — my male and female friends alike are heading in for hospital holidays.

So I find myself in a different seat. Sure, I still have my ongoing chronic illnesses such as gastroparesis and Type 1 diabetes — and, and, and — but now I'm not the only one keeping the doctors guessing. I'm also in a position to understand what my friends are going through and offer compassion and support. I find all my past medical traumas (think: brain surgery, biopsies, blindness and eye surgeries) have led me

to this moment — a moment to give back.

And that's good for their health and mine.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: research shows that helping others helps us. According to the AXA Health UK website: "When you're kind to another person, your brain's pleasure and reward centres are activated, as if you were the recipient of the good deed — not the giver. This phenomenon is called the 'helper's high.'" It goes on to say, "There's growing research that your body benefits too, with kindness associated with lower blood pressure and levels of the stress hormone cortisol," and "...[kindness] is connected with living longer and functioning better as we age."

I can attest to this. It brings a warmth to my body and mind to help my friends. This could mean offering a ride to an appointment, but in my case, it usually means regular text messages or phone calls to check in and offer love and hugs. I don't do it for any reward, but I have to say, I feel like I've been hugged back just by offering one. (I guess it takes two to tango, doesn't it?)

So, as I celebrate another year on this planet, I plan to be the best support to my friends that I can in the coming months and years.

Everyone wins from kindness and support.

*Less health stress, yes?*

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @authorsusieschwartz and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com). Email: [info@lesshealthstress.com](mailto:info@lesshealthstress.com). Author of *Help the Doctor Help You: 41 Secrets and Tips for Self-Advocacy to Get the Best from Your Appointments*.

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 2  
1 Minute Jalapeno Rice Cup  
1/4 cup diced onions  
1/2 teaspoon cumin  
1/2 cup Mexican cheese blend, shredded  
1 egg, beaten  
1/2 cup breadcrumbs  
nonstick cooking spray  
salsa (optional)  
sour cream (optional)  
Preheat air fryer to 375 F. Heat rice according to package directions.  
In large mixing bowl, combine rice, diced onions, cumin and Mexican cheese blend. Mix well.  
Add beaten egg to rice mixture and stir until fully combined.

Using hands, shape about 2 tablespoons rice mixture into ball. Repeat with remaining mixture.

Roll rice balls in breadcrumbs, ensuring they are fully coated.

Lightly coat air fryer basket with nonstick cooking spray to prevent sticking.

Place rice bites in single layer in air fryer basket, leaving space between each for even cooking. Work in batches, if necessary. Spray tops of each ball with nonstick cooking spray to help with browning.

Cook 15 minutes, or until golden brown and crisp, flipping halfway through for even browning.

Allow to cool slightly and serve with salsa or sour cream, if desired.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Interlake forwards leading way early in MJHL semis

By Kieran Reimer

Two Manitoba Junior Hockey League clubs made their Turnbull Cup semifinal debuts last week with Interlake representation on both sides of the best-of-seven series.

The top-ranked Niverville Nighthawks — led by forwards Hayden Wheddon (Stonewall), Adam Vigfusson (Gimli) and Dawson Zeller (St. Andrews) — are tied 1-1 in their series with the Waywayseecappo Wolverines following Games 1 and 2. The Wolverines also feature strong Interlake representation, including Noah Oughton (St. Laurent), Blake Farthing (Stonewall) and Ryder Kirk (Stonewall).

Thursday's Game 1 featured goals scored solely by Interlake's own with Wheddon and Oughton burying for their respective teams before Vigfusson tallied the game winner for Niverville at 7:46 of the third period.

His fifth of the postseason stood as the final goal for either side, as the Nighthawks claimed a 2-1 victory in front of 852 at Niverville CRRC.

Nighthawks goaltender Austin Dubinsky finished with 24 saves in the series opener while Wayway's Jase Wareham turned aside 34.

Teams then headed west for Waywayseecappo Arena Complex on Saturday where the Wolverines drew even with a 3-1 victory in front of 888.

A scoreless first led into a second period with goals by Wayway's Dylan Duzan and Niverville's Kole Mears to tie things at one.

The Wolverines regained the lead just over five minutes into the third when Dylan Hebert supplied them with the eventual game-winning goal.

His first of the playoffs was followed up later on by Sebastien Hicks scoring at 19:13 of the third to seal Wayway's first win of the series.

Wareham finished with 27 in the Wayway crease while Dubinsky tallied 23 on the Niverville side.

The clubs now enter a new week that will include Game 3 through a potential Game 6, with action

continuing to flip-flop between arenas.

The Virden Oil Capitals hold a 2-0 series lead over the Steinbach Pistons in the other semifinal series.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

- Game 3: Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC
- Game 4: Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m. at Waywayseecappo Arena Complex
- Game 5: Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC
- Game 6: Sunday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. at Waywayseecappo Arena Complex\*
- Game 7: Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC\*

\*If necessary



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the U14C Interlake Ignite celebrate after defeating the St. James Boom 5-4 to win gold at the Ringette Manitoba provincial championships at Seven Oaks Arena. Pictured left to right, back row: Emily Lazaruk (coach), Neve Robbins, Darren Pott (coach), Gabby Sookermany, Trinity Walker-Ross, Lyla Cieszynski, Natalie Pott, Avery Jones, Emily Hempel, Keira Wilson, Tyler Erickson (coach), Kelsey Erickson (coach); middle row: Brooklyn Doll, Kaycie Margetts, Maya Manguiat, Isis Robinson, Leona Bruce; front row: goaltender Ellie Anderson. Missing from the photo is Hailey Surzyshyn-Ruud and Michelle Anderson (manager).

## Ignite capture provincial gold with thrilling final win

By Annaliese Meier

The U14C Interlake Ignite capped off a strong season by winning gold at the Ringette Manitoba provincial championships, battling through a competitive week and finishing with a dramatic 5-4 victory in the final.

The Interlake-based squad, made up of players from across the region — including Fraserwood, Selkirk, East Selkirk, St. Andrews, West St. Paul, Warren and Balmoral — showed resilience throughout the tournament.

Ignite opened provincials Wednesday with a narrow 5-4 win over the Northstars. They then faced a setback Friday night, falling 6-1 to the

St. James Boom. The team rebounded Saturday with a 4-3 victory in a rematch against the Northstars to secure a spot in the gold-medal game.

In Sunday's final at Seven Oaks Arena, Ignite once again met the Boom and delivered their strongest performance when it mattered most, edging their opponents 5-4 to claim the provincial title.

The championship caps a season of steady growth for the team, which finished second overall in the regular season and earned bronze in the city playoffs. Coaches credited the group's development, teamwork and perseverance as key factors in their success.

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

GO TO Stonewall Teulon Tribune | flickr

Copyright Stonewall Teulon Tribune. To be used for personal use only.



What's *Your* story?

Please share your story ideas at news@expressweeklynews.ca or Phone 204-467-5836

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS

# Gimli's Colton Lott wins world silver with Canada

By Haley Cvar

Canada's Team Dunstone, featuring Gimli's Colton Lott, earned a silver medal at the LGT World Men's Curling Championship after a 9-6 loss to Sweden's Niklas Edin in Saturday's final in Ogden, Utah.

Held March 27 to April 4, the Canadian rink put together an impressive week, posting a 10-2 record in the round robin to finish third overall before advancing through a pair of tightly contested playoff games to reach the gold-medal final.

Sweden, Canada and Scotland all finished pool play with identical 10-2 records, but Sweden and Scotland secured the top two seeds based on last-stone-draw rankings — a cumulative measure of pre-game draw-to-the-button accuracy used as a tiebreaker at international events. That left Canada in third place and on the more difficult playoff path.

Skipped by Matt Dunstone, the Canadian team featured Lott at third, second E.J. Harnden and lead Ryan Harnden. The rink qualified for the world championship after capturing the 2026 Montana's Brier in St. John's, N.L., marking another major milestone for a team that has steadily climbed the national and international ranks in recent seasons.

"It's such an honour to represent our country at worlds. It means everything to be able to wear the maple leaf," Lott said. "I couldn't be more proud of the group coming home with silver. Not many athletes in the sport get to compete in a world final, so I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the last week and a half."



Colton Lott urges his teammates to sweep hard while delivering a shot for Canada.

Canada opened the playoffs with a 9-7 quarterfinal victory over Italy's Team Stefano Spiller. After trailing 4-2 at the fifth-end break, Dunstone executed a steep-angle in-off to score two and tie the game, swinging momentum in Canada's favour. The team continued to apply pressure in the latter half, and in the 10th end, Dunstone sealed the win with a clutch double takeout to score three.

The semifinal proved equally dramatic, as Canada edged Scotland's Team Ross Whyte 9-7, snapping the Scots' 10-game winning streak. Trailing late, Canada found its breakthrough in the seventh end. Lott delivered a key double takeout followed by a precise hit-and-roll to set up Dunstone for a draw to score three and take their first lead of the game.

"That resilience that was displayed by the team, especially against Italy, is the main identity of our group," Lott said. "We lean on that and lean on one



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Team Canada, including Gimli's Colton Lott, earned silver at the LGT World Men's Curling Championship in Ogden, Utah, U.S.A. Pictured left to right, back row: Jeff Stoughton, Caleb Flaxey and Geoff Walker. Front row: Matt Dunstone, Colton Lott, E.J. Harnden and Ryan Harnen.

another in games to always give ourselves that chance in the end."

Scotland regained the hammer for the 10th end and looked poised to respond, but Dunstone executed a precise short raise to sit shot stone and apply pressure. Scotland was unable to fully capitalize, and Canada secured the win to advance to the championship final.

In the gold-medal game, Sweden quickly established control. Edin's rink — widely regarded as one of the most dominant teams in curling history — scored two in the opening end and dictated play from there. Canada was forced into a chasing role throughout the contest.

Despite the early deficit, Canada responded with resilience. The team scored deuces in both the fifth and seventh ends to stay within striking distance, but each time Sweden answered immediately to maintain its advantage. The Swedes then forced Canada to a single point in the ninth end, preserving a two-point lead heading into the final end.

Without last-rock advantage in the 10th, Canada needed a steal to force an extra end but was unable to generate the necessary pressure, as Sweden closed out the 9-6 victory to claim another world title.

"They showed today why they're eight-time world champions," Dunstone told World Curling following the game.

Earlier Saturday, Scotland's Whyte defeated the United States' Team

John Shuster 11-6 to claim the bronze medal.

The championship also marked the end of an era for one member of the Canadian lineup. Dunstone confirmed that Harnden played his final competitive game at the event, closing out a decorated career that included multiple national titles and international appearances.

Dunstone said the team will now turn its attention to determining a replacement as it looks ahead to the next Olympic cycle and future world championship opportunities.

"Lots of new things that we've seen in the past year and a bit will give us that extra bit of experience moving forward," Lott said. "We can always reflect on that as we move into the new quadrennial."

Lott also pointed to the strong support system behind the team throughout the championship.

"There's no words that can describe how thankful I am for all of our support that we've had all week," he said. "From family and friends who came out to cheer us on to everyone back home and our sponsors as well — I can't be more thankful to all."

For Lott, the silver medal represents another significant achievement on the international stage and adds to an already impressive resumé for the Gimli curler, who has become a key contributor to one of Canada's top men's teams.



Canadian teammates celebrate after securing a playoff victory.

# Gimli Junior Funspiel brings young curlers together over spring break

By E. Antonio

Young curlers from across the Interlake kicked off their spring break with a day of fun on the ice at Gimli U18 Curling's Junior Funspiel on March 30.

Twelve teams — made up of 47 athletes from Gimli, Petersfield and Teulon — spent the day at the Gimli Recreation Centre playing four-end games and taking part in draw-to-the-button competitions.

Jaz Boaz, a coach with Gimli U18 Curling, hosted the event to introduce young athletes to a competitive format in a fun and supportive setting.

"The focus of the Funspiel is on having fun, exposing kids to age-appropriate competition, and getting to play kids outside of their home rink," he said. "There are little, if any, curling events for kids age 10 and under, so every year the Funspiel is some kids' first time playing in an event outside of their junior program."

Teams were split into two divisions — 10U and 16U — and every athlete went home with a prize. Prize selection order was determined by each team's total number of ends won throughout the day.

Team P Town Sweeping Beauties came out on top, earning nine of a possible 12 points. A three-way tie for second place followed with eight points, but Team Einarson Jr secured the runner-up spot after posting the best team draw-to-the-button score.

The funspiel wrapped up with an individual draw-to-the-button competition for all athletes.

Prizes included free swim passes to the Gimli pool, awarded to the top team score in each age division, as well as an autographed Team Lott/Lott jersey for the top individual score in each division.

Team Einarson Jr and Team P Town Sweeping Beauties claimed the team



Kerri Einarson, right, presents a signed jersey to Alice Boaz, whose name was drawn at random during the Junior Funspiel.

awards, while Ava Waluk took home the top individual prize in the 10U division with a shot measuring 11 inches from the pinhole. In the 16U division, Soren Sigurdson's throw completely covered the pin, measuring zero inches.

Gimli Recreation Centre staff also selected their favourite team name, awarding The Sheet Disturbers with a free one-hour lane rental at Bowlers Lanes. All athletes were entered into a draw for a jersey signed by Kerri Einarson, with Alice Boaz selected as the winner.

Overall, the day was a hit with participants and families alike.

"The Teulon Curl Power girls had a blast," said Kara Lee Woods, Ava Waluk's parent. "My daughter Ava was completely in love with the day."

Anyone interested in participating next year is encouraged to follow the Gimli U18 Curling Facebook page, where details about the next event will be announced.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Team Banana Bunch sweeps the ice during action at the Gimli Junior Funspiel.



Ava Waluk (front), skip of Team Curl Power, delivers a shot while Sophie Grimes and Aubrey Grondin sweep during the draw-to-the-button competition.



Multiple jerseys signed and donated by Kadriana Lott, Colton Lott and Kerri Einarson were among the prizes awarded at Gimli U18 Curling's Junior Funspiel.



Team Einarson Jr placed second at the Junior Funspiel.

# Classifieds



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



Rural Municipality of Armstrong

## Employment Opportunity TRANSFER STATION & WASTE DISPOSAL GROUNDS OPERATORS

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the position of part-time and casual operators for the waste sites within the RM of Armstrong.

Under the supervision of the Public Works Coordinator, the Disposal Grounds Operator operates the site in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit, Municipal By-laws and policies, and applicable federal and provincial regulations.

The operator will be required to take the Manitoba Landfill Operator Certification Program and be responsible for various recycling programs. The operator must be physically able to lift 50 lbs and have a valid drivers license.

Posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. We appreciate your interest in the position, however, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted. This position commences as soon as possible.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three

references to:  
RM of Armstrong Office  
1094 Highway 17 Inwood  
P.O. Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1P0  
Fax: 204-278-3437  
Email: clerk@rmofarmstrong.com

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### 2026 DUST CONTROL NOTICE

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong will now be accepting requests for the application of dust control on rural roads in front of residences in the RM of Armstrong on a **PRE-PAYMENT BASIS ONLY**.

Costs are as follows:

- 12 ft x 300 ft \$291.83 plus GST = \$306.42
- 16 ft x 300 ft \$408.69 plus GST = \$429.12

**Areas to be serviced must be staked out by the applicant prior to application.**

Applications can be made in person or by using our drop box at the municipal office at 1094 PTH 17 in Inwood Manitoba. You may mail in your application form with payment to the RM of Armstrong.

**All information on the application form must be completed or your order may not be processed. Forms can be found at [www.rmofarmstrong.com](http://www.rmofarmstrong.com).** Cheques should be made payable to the RM of Armstrong. We also accept cash or debit. You may make a payment by e-transfer to cao@rmofarmstrong.com. Please call the office for details 204-278-3377. **Applications will be received up to and including April 30, 2026.**

The Municipality can not guarantee the effectiveness of the dust control suppressant. Once a dust control suppressant has been applied, no refunds will be made. The use of a dust suppressant is meant to control dust on the roadway, not to eliminate it completely.

**It is mandatory for residents, who choose to apply their own dust control, to use an approved, environmentally friendly product. You must notify the RM office before April 30, 2026 to ensure that road grading can be scheduled accordingly. Residents will not be compensated should they choose to apply prior to road grading.**

Angie Dzuba - Senior Administrative Assistant  
Rural Municipality of Armstrong

#### SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

**BUYING SCRAP METAL, CARS, TRACTORS, COMBINES, FARM SCRAP, ANY METAL MATERIAL, ANY FARM MACHINERY. PH LONNIE AT 204-886-3407 LVE. MESSAGE OR CELL AT 204-861-2031.**

#### FEED AND SEED

**FORAGE SEED FOR SALE: organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Free delivery! Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.**

**THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS 204-467-5836**

#### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg. with river view 2 bedroom apts. available. Central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

#### COINS

Call now for your cash! Your Interlake coin collector - buying old coins & paper money. Phone David 204-798-3045.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Comic pocket book sets, large variety, excellent condition; large display of dinky toys c/w cabinets; Heddon fishing lures & metal signs c/w cabinet. Call Bob 204-348-7731, pictures at <https://bobscollection.crd.co/>

#### WANTED

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

#### WANTED/BUYING

1950's-70's Scandinavian, Danish, Canadian Mid-Century Modern furniture, hanging wall units, lighting, ceramics, textiles, stereo or design. Contact Daniel at TEXT/PHONE: 204-918-1607.

#### 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](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

#### NOTICES

**SPRING INTO SUCCESS!** Let us help you book your blanket classified ads, Response Builder Ads or Power Builder Ads across Manitoba, to increase your marketing presence. Let people know about your business, item for sale or event, by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

#### HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & content. on next col.

tilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or email [stonewoodelkranch@gmail.com](mailto:stonewoodelkranch@gmail.com)



#### Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at **204.947.1691** or email [classified@mcna.com](mailto:classified@mcna.com)

[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

## Thank You

### What an incredible night at the Fisher Branch Recreation Centre "CFRY Talent Night"!

We are grateful to everyone whose enthusiasm, creativity and community spirit made the evening truly memorable. A special thank you to every performer who shared their talents, every volunteer who offered their time, and every attendee who came out to support the event.

We are so grateful and overwhelmed to have received so many sponsorships and community pledges from our community and outside our neighbouring communities, that made this event a huge financial success. Your monetary support is truly appreciated beyond words.

Events like this strengthen our community, and your participation ensures that our arena continues to thrive.

Acknowledgement to CFRY for hosting Talent Night in our community.

Thank you for helping make the night a meaningful celebration of local talent and recognizing the tremendous energy our volunteers continue to share. This is truly a remarkable community.

Sincerely  
- Fisher Branch Recreation Centre  
- Board of Directors  
Fisher Branch Curlers Association

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act* (MCSBEA), the R.M. of Armstrong Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the R.M. of Armstrong can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:

Rural Municipality of Armstrong  
Box 69  
Inwood, MB R0C 1P0  
Phone: (204) 278-3377  
Fax: (204) 278-343  
Email: [clerk@rmofarmstrong.com](mailto:clerk@rmofarmstrong.com)

The next Municipal Election takes place on October 28, 2026.

Angie Dzuba  
Senior Election Official  
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

#### News Tips? Story Ideas?

Call the Express 204-467-5836

# Classifieds



## CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER

- To run Canada - must have experience
- Paid pick, drops, layovers and stat pay
  - Multi drop runs
  - Benefit package
  - Dedicated truck
  - Sign On & Annual bonus
  - BC Experience an Asset
  - Reset at home
  - Weekend home time
  - Paid training
  - Referral program

Derek (204) 793-7465  
CENTENNIAL TRANSPORT & LEASING LTD.

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



### Registered Simmental Two Year Olds and Yearling BULLS FOR SALE

Full Fleckvieh, Horned and Polled Reds and Blacks.  
Off the farm by Private Treaty. Semen Tested & Guaranteed with Delivery.  
11 Miles East of Lundar on PR HWY 419, 5 Miles South on Barney's Rd 14W  
Call or Text Wade Thorgilsson 204 739 3225  
Email: angwadet@gmail.com  
www.tripletdiamond.com

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

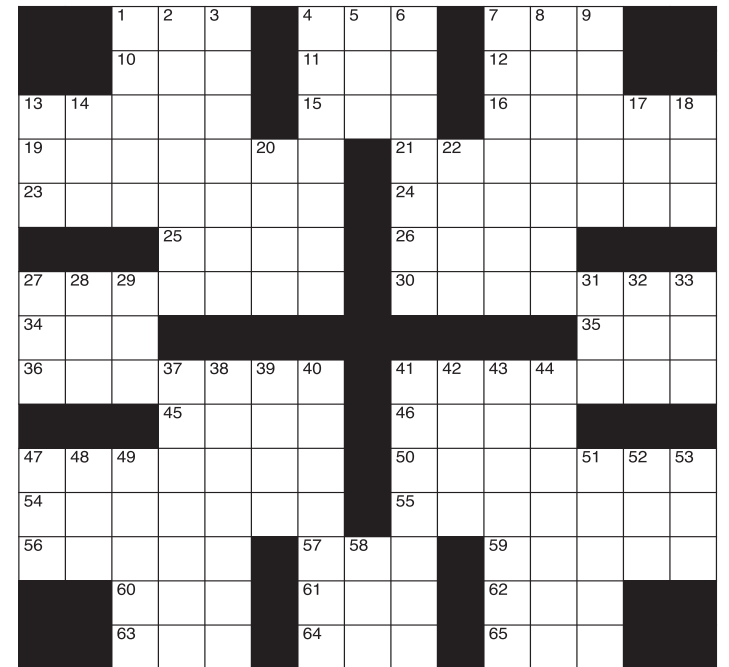


204-642-2158

- Comes with service trailer and full tire repair tool setup
- Hundred of tires in inventory
- Complete client list and contact number
- Ready to go business opportunity

For more information call or text 204-963-6583

# take a break > GAME



### CLUES ACROSS

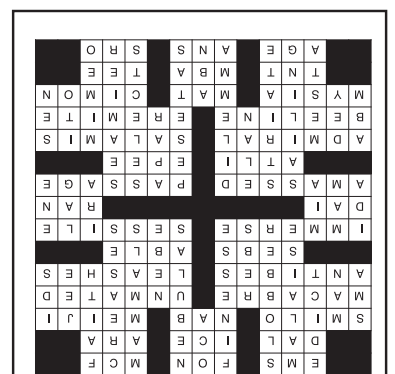
1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involving oneself deeply
30. Immobile
34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
35. Move quickly on foot
36. Gathered
41. A way through
45. Another name for Thor
46. Sharp dueling sword
47. The supreme commander of a fleet
50. Seasoned sausages
54. Path
55. Christian hermit
56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
57. Where wrestlers go to work
59. Roman statesman
60. Explosive
61. Licensed for Wall Street
62. Where golfers start
63. Grow old
64. Autonomic nervous system
65. No seats available

### CLUES DOWN

1. A legally binding command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding

### 9. Strong belief

13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. One's mother (British)
29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)



Crossword Answer



## CASH FOR ALL GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM COINS, BARS, JEWELRY, BULLION, NUGGETS, STERLING+!

Paying:  
\$5000 +/- per ounce 999+ Gold  
999+ Silver \$75+/- per ounce  
US Silver dollars \$60+  
Canadian Silver dollars \$40+  
US & Can. silver 50 cents \$18  
25 cents \$8, 10 cents \$3 each

Also buying entire coin collections, rare coins, old money, Royal Canadian Mint, Franklin Mint+++.

Call or text!  
1-204-904-9705

## Registered Purebred Polled 2 Year Old and Yearling CHAROLAIS BULLS FOR SALE

We have a good selection of quality bulls. Will be semen tested. Delivery & EPD's available.

For more information call Ken at (204) 376-2418 (land line) or Text to (204) 641-3788  
KLCC Charolais, Arborg

## Please support our advertisers SHOP LOCAL

### Links At The Lake Golf Course

#### Pesticide-Use Programs Public Notice

Public notice is hereby given that the following pesticide use program will be conducted during the 2026 season.

1. Fungus control in turf and tree'd areas within the property using: propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, boscalid, chlorothalonil, azoxystrobin, fluoxastrobin, fludioxonil, benzovindiflupyr, mefentrifluconazole, metconazole, fluzazinam, cyazofamid, pydiflumetofen, thiophanate-methyl, metalaxyl-m and s-isomer, penthiopyrad, isofetamid, difenoconazole, mono- and dibasic sodium, potassium, and ammonium phosphites and mineral oil, triconazole, fluxapyroxad, Tebuconazole, mono- and di-potassium salts of phosphorus acid, Prohexadione-calcium, Methylacetic acid, Octyl phenoxypoly polyethoxy ethanol
2. Weed control in turf areas within the property using: dicamba, mecoprop-P, 2,4-D, carfentrazone-ethyl and glyphosate. Amitrol, Dazomet, Iron, Ammonium Soap of Fatty Acids, Acetic Acid, Copper Sulphate, Dithiopyr, Bispyribac, Paclobutrazol,
3. Insect control in turf and treed areas within the property. Target pests include mosquitoes, tent caterpillars, cankerworms, white grubs, black turfgrass atenioid, etc. using: bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki, bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis, permethrin and chlorantranilprole, Deltamethrin, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Cyantranilprole/Spinosad.
4. Algae on Turf using: hydrogen peroxide
5. Growth control on turf within the property using: trinexapac-ethyl.

The projected dates of application will range from April 20th, 2026 to November 15th, 2026. All applications are part of a comprehensive IPM strategy. The duration of each program will vary within this time period, depending on weather conditions and pest thresholds. All of the pesticides used and procedures followed will be according to federally approved label recommendations and will only be used on Links At The Lake Golf Course property.

The public may send written submissions or objections to specific pest control program(s) within 15 days of the publication of the notice to:

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6  
Email: pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GENERAL LABOURER

Charisons Turkey Hatchery is currently hiring for general labourer type positions.

- Full time and part-time positions available with competitive compensation and benefits package which includes health and dental coverage.
- Training will be provided for the ideal candidate.

Please submit resume to shaunne@charisons.ca or call 204-886-2922 for further information.



## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF COLDWELL

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Regarding the 2026 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the RM of Coldwell intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year of 2026 at a public hearing in the Lundar Lutheran Church, 16 First Ave.N. Lundar MB on the 1st day of May, 2026 at 7:00 p.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 at the hearing for review or Contact the office (204-762-5421) prior to.

Dated this 25 th day of March, 2026  
Nicole Christensen, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer

# Classifieds Announcements



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

## IN MEMORIAM



**Oskie Vidalin**  
April 14, 2023  
In loving memory  
To Mom/Amma:

Goodbyes are not forever.  
Goodbyes are not the end;  
They simply mean we'll miss you,  
Until we meet again.  
Always in our hearts.

-Love, all your family xo

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
*Bridal Shower*  
IN HONOUR OF  
**Juel Sigurdson**  
(bride-elect of Tim Johnson)  
MAY 2ND, 2026  
Arborg Community Hall  
Shower starts at 1:00 pm  
Donations will be accepted on the couple's  
behalf at Riverton Co-op and Arborg Home Hardware.  
Visit our online registry at  
<https://www.myregistry.com/wedding-registry/juel-sigurdson-and-tim-johnson-arborg-mb/5375508/giftlist>  
**Social to follow at 8 pm**

*Tickets Now Available!*  
Contact Tim at 204-641-5615 or Juel at 204-641-8166 to purchase social tickets or support tickets.

## OBITUARY



**Elva Dagmar Simundsson**

It is with profound sadness, we announce the passing of Elva Simundsson on April 4th, 2026, after a short battle with cancer at the age of 76.

Elva leaves behind her devoted husband of 56 years, Jerry Jonasson. She is survived by her siblings: Erla (Valdi), Omar, Svava, and Bragi (Heather), her brothers and sisters-in-law: Halli, Diane, Valdi (Erla), and Ken (Sharon); her nieces and nephews: Tanya (Jonas), Chantel (Dennis), Ivar (Chrissy), Stacey, Danny, Thora (Kevin), Signy, Heida (Howie), Avery (Carl), Odinn, Johann, Laurie, Denise, David, Sherry (Boyd), Erinn (Blossom), Carmen, Mark, her great nieces and great nephews: Alexa, Darian, Kienan, Tessa (Tyson), Savannah (Soren), Aleesha, Anna, Eva, Freya, Chloe, Aki, Haley, Daniel (Kristen), Jason, Jordan, Samantha (Brett), Halli, Brandon (Kiersten), Lane (Hannah), Jesse, Brady (Savannah), Devon, Dylan, Liam and her great-great nieces and nephews: Daxton, Leo, Nova, Grayson, Calliope.

She was predeceased by her parents Gunnar and Margaret, brothers Sivar and Kar, in-laws Leo and Dyrunn, brothers-in-law Gisli and Keith, sisters-in-law Leona and Leola, and nieces Nadine and Melissa.

Elva was the first baby born at the newly opened Arborg Memorial Hospital on January 28th, 1950 and grew up on the family farm in Geysir. Her love of reading and books started at an early age and her mother would attest that she was reading by the age of four, which was to the delight of her parents, especially her father. She attended the Island School and later graduated from Arborg Collegiate Institute.

Her lifelong passion for books and learning led to her post education spending a year at the University of North Dakota in 1968-9. Shortly thereafter she met her lifelong partner, Jerry. They married on July 4, 1970, and set roots in Gimli. Elva loved to swim and earned her certifications in lifeguarding and swimming instruction, and went on to work at the Air Force Base pool in the early 1970s. She continued her education and completed a BA at the University of Manitoba in English and History, after that she went to the University of British Columbia to complete her Master's Degree in Library Science. Elva's passion for books and reading extended to her gifting copies of books to her family and friends.

Elva played competitive hockey starting in high school for the Arborg Falconets and later for both U of M and UBC women's hockey teams, and she continued to play recreational hockey into her 50's. She also got involved in refereeing hockey.

Her professional library science career and information research took her from the Museum of Man to the Brandon Agricultural Research Station, the Canadian Grain Commission and then Fisheries and Oceans Canada Central and Arctic Region. She was honoured for her 22 years of loyal public service to the Government of Canada in 2007 at retirement.

Over the years, Elva and Jerry did a lot of traveling together. At first during the summer months, spending time in Iceland, Europe, and across Canada. Later their travels took them to the Cayman Islands, winter sailing in the Virgin Islands and to sunny beaches. In their retirement years many cold winters were spent in the warmer climates of Florida and California where they offered many family and friends to join them.

Upon retiring in Gimli, Elva became very involved with the New Iceland Heritage Museum and generously volunteered in many areas of interest. Fiercely proud of her Icelandic heritage, she was highly skilled in speaking, reading, and writing Icelandic, and became a valued resource within the community translating documents and guiding tours. She and her husband Jerry welcomed and hosted visitors from Iceland. Though Canadian-born, Elva's fluency in Icelandic often led Icelandic visitors to believe she must have been born in Iceland.

Elva's cultural contributions began early and continued throughout her life. In the early 70's, she was instrumental, along with others, in founding the Icelandic Language and Culture Camp which continues to this day. In 1981, she authored the book, Icelandic Settlers in North America. She was an Icelandic language instructor and enjoyed attending "Kaffi Tími." Elva served as President of the Canada Iceland Foundation. She also served on the editorial board of the Icelandic Connection periodical for several years and was an active and dedicated member of the Gimli Icelandic Canadian Society.

Her significant cultural impact was formally recognized in 2022, when the Honourable Janice Filmon, on behalf of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, presented her with the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Historical Preservation and Promotion.

Elva loved to spend time outdoors; gardening, geo-caching, sailing, going for walks, and beach days with the nieces and nephews. The world won't be the same without her for her family and friends.

The family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Gimli Community Health Centre staff for their exceptional care and kindness shown to her and our family.

As per Elva's wishes, no formal service will be held. There will be a celebration of life at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to [www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com](http://www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com)



## Rural Municipality of St. Laurent Municipalité rurale de Saint Laurent

### Under the authority of The Municipal Act NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent shall hold a Public Hearing to present its 2026 Financial Plan.

**HEARING LOCATION:** RM of St. Laurent Recreation Centre, PTH #6 & Veteran's Memorial Rd., St. Laurent, Manitoba.

**DATE & TIME:** APRIL 29TH, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

At this time Council will present the proposed 2026 Financial Plan for the municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

A draft copy of the 2026 Financial Plan is now available.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2026.

For additional information, please contact:  
Billie Jean Oliver  
CAO for the RM of St. Laurent

**Remember Your Loved Ones**  
with an Announcement in the  
**EXPRESS**  
WEEKLY NEWS  
Call 204-467-5836



Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba is hosting FREE On-line and In Person Public Open Houses to discuss potential updates to *The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act*

Sessions are being held:  
April 7 & April 16, 2026

For more information about the potential changes to the Act, or to Register, or to provide Feedback, if unable to attend, please visit:

<https://www.EngGeoMB.ca/News.html#675>



## SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

- Monuments
- Restoration
- Granite
- Pillow markers
- Level monuments
- Bronze
- Pre Needs
- Renew monuments
- Columbariums
- Final Dates
- Engraving
- -single, family, community

Appointments available in the comfort of your home

Email: [sunsetmemorialsgimli@gmail.com](mailto:sunsetmemorialsgimli@gmail.com)  
www.sunsetmemorialsgimli.ca

Bus: 1-204-642-8818  
Cell: 1-204-407-3096



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

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*

**OBITUARY**



**Timothy Andrew William Barylski**  
It is with great sadness the we share the news that Tim took his final breath in the early morning of April 3rd, 2026. He will be deeply missed by so many. Service details and longer obituary to follow.



204-886-0404

**OBITUARY**



**Perry Lupal**  
Peacefully, after a lengthy illness, it is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved and cherished son on March 22, 2026 at the age of 42 in Arborg, MB. He is survived by his parents Valerie and Greg, Uncle Gary (Audrey) of Ottawa, Uncle Robert of Edmonton, many cousins, and Winnie the cat. He was predeceased by his grandparents, May and Wally Lupal and Nellie and Edward Mroz, and Uncle Ed and Aunt Edmee. He is also survived by his best friends Aarica Dann and Jordan Weik. Perry was a people person who loved talking, puns and jokes, and shopping. He used to like riding his quad with Chip and Karaoke.

Special thanks to Linda and Don Wikander, Ruby and Bob Tretiak, Martha and Jerry Ramnath, Tracy and Ernie Weik, Tina Barkman,

many doctors in Winnipeg and Dr. Donnelly.

Funeral service is April 14 at 2:00 p.m. in the Christian Fellowship Church with Bob Penner officiating.

If friends so desire donations can be made to Riverdale Place Homes (Arborg) or Cornerstone (Gimli) for vans.

You were the sunshine of our lives.



1-800-467-0024  
mackenziefh.com



204-949-2200  
Gimli 204-642-7124  
neilbardalinc.com

# Classifieds Announcements



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

**OBITUARY**



**Harry Andrews**  
1953 - 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Frank Harry Earnest Andrews on March 29, 2026, at the age of 73, at the Gimli Hospital.

Harry was born on March 8, 1953, in Thompson, Manitoba. In July of 1977 he married Cheryl Charison from Gunton, Mb. Harry and Cheryl built a life rooted in family and faith. They eventually moved to Gimli, where they raised their five children. In 2020 they fulfilled a dream together, purchasing a farm south of Gimli in Sandy Hook. There on the farm Harry found peace and purpose that suited him well.

He was a devoted father to Rachel (Kyle), Kristen (Landon), Steven (Alex), Becky (Isaac), and Amy (Chris), and a proud grandfather to 14 grandchildren who will carry his memory forward: Zion (19), Asher (16), Solomon (16), Kaelyn (15), Chloe (15), Lyrik (13), Jude (13), Aveah (12), Lex (11), Axel (10), Lennon (5), Cohen (1), and a granddaughter due in September. He will be reunited with his grandson, Isaiah, who entered heaven 16 years ago. He delighted in all of his grandkids. Harry is also survived by his siblings Debbie, Mark, Susan, Pam, and Raymond.

He will be remembered as a godly man with a wonderful sense of humor, ambitious ideas, and for the warmth he brought to everyone around him. Though we grieve his absence, we hold fast to the hope and assurance that we will see Harry again, reunited in the presence of our Lord.

Condolences may be sent to [www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com](http://www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com)

**THE FIREWOOD PLACE**  
PREMIUM FIREWOOD  
SEASONED & READY TO BURN  
WWW.THATFIREWOODPLACE.COM  
Call 204 981 5887  
LOCATED IN WOODLANDS MB

Get the Info You Need ...  
**WHEN YOU NEED IT!**  
Register for **CONNECT GIMLI!**  
www.gimli.ca

**GOETZ SIDING**  
• 5" Eavestrough • Soffit/Fascia  
• Custom Cladding  
(204)223-7740 goetzsiding@gmail.com

Custom Floater Service  
Custom Welding & Repair  
**HorsePower Enterprises**  
Harvey Plett  
c: 204-870-2748  
e: harvplett@icloud.com

**SHERLOCK TREE REMOVAL**  
Pruning • Stump Grinding • Chipper  
Licensed Arborists  
Fully Insured - Claim Free  
30 years Experience  
Vince 861-0487  
Darren 861-0028

**Biz Cards**  
To Book A Biz Card  
Call 204-467-5836

**FOREST STUMP**  
204-485-3887  
foreststump\_stumpgrinding  
Forest Stump - stump grinding

**GWT RENTALS**  
Trailer and Equipment Rentals  
204-771-3359  
gwtrentalsinc GWT Rentals Inc

**Brandt**  
New/Used Construction Equipment Sales  
Skid Steers, Mini Excavators, Wheel Loaders  
Kraig Wiebe - Territory Manager  
204-781-3903  
JOHN DEERE

**Innovative Electric**  
Ph: 204-519-0357  
Url: www.innovativeelectric-mb.ca  
Email: matthew@innovativeelectric-mb.ca

**CONVENIENCE**  
Grocery • Drinks • Snacks  
• Coffee to Go • Ice • Firewood  
• Fireworks • ATM • Greeting Cards  
• Newspapers • Books • Pet Food  
• Toys & more  
**SNAXS** • LOTTO  
20088 First Ave, Sandy Hook  
**OPEN YEAR ROUND 10AM - 6PM 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**Rx PharmaChoice**  
You have QUESTIONS, We have ANSWERS!  
• Prescriptions • Liquor Store  
• Home Health Care Aids  
• Snacks and more!  
**LUNDAR PHARMACY**  
204-762-5431  
18 Main St., Lundar

"From rust to riches, your scrap could be treasure with our unbeatable prices!"  
Purchasers of ferrous/non-ferrous materials  
Call Today  
Unit 5, 325 Parkdale Rd, St. Andrews MB  
info@eco-metallics.ca  
Office: (204) 404-4747  
ECO-METALLIC INDUSTRIES

**Bison Piling & Excavation**  
• Helical Piles  
• Excavation  
• Skid Steer Services  
Call 204-461-4443

**Focused Financial**  
Free Tax Comparisons!  
Accuracy with Perspective  
• Income tax filing  
• General accounting  
• Payroll  
• Business registration  
• Financial advising  
431 337 1263  
PO Box 1176  
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0  
solomon@focused-financial.ca

**NEW VALLEY ROOFING & RENOVATIONS**  
Serving The Interlake  
**Henry Reimer** 204-642-2551  
henry.reimer@newvalleyroofing.com  
newvalleyroofing.com  
BP & IKO Certified Roofer

# DURABILITY

# REDEFINED.



The Vermeer N-series balers bring heavy-duty components for strength and durability in the field when you need it most. Smart features like the available automatic pickup clutch and Auto Lube system help extend machine life. Plus, they're backed by the best distribution network in the industry.



Vermeer Corporation reserves the right to make changes in engineering, design and specifications; add improvements; or discontinue manufacturing or distribution at any time without notice or obligation. Equipment shown is for illustrative purposes only and may display optional accessories or components specific to their global region. Please contact your local Vermeer dealer for more information on machine specifications. Vermeer and the Vermeer logo are trademarks of Vermeer Manufacturing Company in the U.S. and/or other countries. © 2018 Vermeer Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

**SHACHTAY**  
**SALES & SERVICE LTD.**  
[www.shachtay.com](http://www.shachtay.com)

**204-376-5233**  
*Servicing the  
Interlake for 59 Years!*  
**Arborg, Manitoba**  
**Family Owned**