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EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

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## Tailor-made for local youth: Hailey's Way engages kids with Taylor Swift movie night

By Patricia Barrett

Charitable organization Hailey's Way brought Gimli and area youth together last Saturday for a free fun-filled night of movie-watching, dancing, photo shoots and crafts, plus a whole lot of bonding.

Organized by the charity's two youth board members, the engaging event in the Gimli High School gym featured the 2023 documentary musical *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, in which Swift performs her hit songs.

Freyja Robak, who's in Grade 11, was invited to sit on Hailey's Way board as a youth representative along with Taylor Smith, who's in Grade 10. The two students took on the challenge of planning and organizing the event, as well as overseeing some of the financial management duties.

And it was a success with a good turnout.

"Seeing all the kids having fun and being able to connect with each other stood out for me. They were all wanting to see Taylor Swift and they bonded over that. Seeing them enjoying that, having fun together and singing



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KRISTEN LEWIS

Freyja Robak (left) and Taylor Smith, youth members of Hailey's Way board of directors, organized a Taylor Swift movie night for Gimli and area youth last Saturday at Gimli High School.

the songs — that made me happy," said Robak. "If I would have had this opportunity as a kid, I would have loved it. I think it was amazing to see them all have so much fun."

Hailey's Way Inc. is a charitable organization founded in 2022 by Dana DesRoches as a legacy to her 20-year-

Continued on page 3



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## > HAILEY'S WAY, FROM PG. 2

old daughter Hailey Dugay, who was shot and killed in 2018 during a night out with her friends in Fraserwood, west of Gimli. The organization's mission is to create a safe and supervised environment for youth, fund youth programs in the Interlake, and encourage growth and positive self-esteem in youth. Having youth members sit on its board provides valuable insight into how to engage kids.

Robak and Smith set up a movie theatre with a huge screen and chairs in one section of the gym and made a dance floor in another area. They also brought in a photo booth with a life-sized cardboard cutout of Swift and a table where merchandise could be purchased. The proceeds covered the costs of staging the event, and any remaining monies will be put towards future events.

"We sold popcorn, food and candy bags and we set up a merchandise table where we sold Taylor Swift tickets, [wash-off] tattoos and heart-shaped sunglasses, which are a big thing with Taylor Swift," said Robak. "And we also sold friendship bracelets. Some were pre-made and some came in kits with beads and letters that the kids could use to make their own bracelet."

The idea of having a Taylor Swift-themed event for youth was initially broached in September, said Robak, and the board tasked her and Smith to put it all together.

"It took a lot of planning, but we worked together on it. We made a budget for the food and for the activities," said Robak. "It was a really good learning experience and I'm grateful to have this opportunity."

Hailey's Way will be holding future events, she added. Those will be discussed at the next board meeting.

In the meantime, the charity will be holding a 50/50 draw at the upcoming Icelandic Festival in August.

Robak said for their first event, they had a good-sized turnout, but they're hoping in future to engage even more youth.

The charity is currently fundraising for a youth centre in Gimli, which will be called the Gimli Youth Hub.

For more information about the charity and making donations, visit [haileysway.com](http://haileysway.com), email [info@haileysway.com](mailto:info@haileysway.com) or call 204-641-4939.



"IT TOOK A LOT  
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# Fantasy takes flight in Eriksdale with new costume-friendly festival June 7

By Lana Meier

A whimsical new event is set to bring magic to the Interlake next weekend.

The first annual Shadows and Starlight Fantasy Festival will take place June 7 at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre, offering a full day of enchantment for all ages. Hosted by Shadows and Starlight Fantasy Events, the gathering invites guests to don their favourite fantasy attire and step into a world of imagination — from foam sword battles to a glittering evening ball.

The event came to life through a partnership with the ROGerKimLee Music Festival, after one of its organizers expressed interest in bringing live-action roleplay (LARP) to the Interlake.

“Being someone who is involved a bit with that and with the fantasy realm, we banded together to create a fundraiser for their August festival,” said co-owner Erica Lindell. “I grew up in Eriksdale as well and wanted

to bring some opportunity for those who love cosplay, or LARP, or the fantastical to be able to spend a day or evening at an event catered for that.”

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with a fantasy market featuring local artisans, tarot readers, authors and a host of costumed characters. LARP groups Frontier Events and Mithaven will bring their stories to life through interactive demonstrations, while Viking re-enactors from the Hands of Lugh will be on hand to share their craft and lore.

Daytime entry is \$5 per adult, with free admission for anyone under 18.

“We wanted to create something that brings people together in a fun, creative way — a place where you can step out of the ordinary and into a magical experience,” said Lindell. “Whether you come in costume or just to explore, there’s something for everyone.”

At 8 p.m., the venue transforms into a magical ballroom for an evening so-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Costumed guests step into a world of magic during the first annual Shadows and Starlight Festival, held June 7 at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre.

cial unlike any other. Guests can expect LED performances, a night market, a silent auction, a high tea snack bar and the crowning of the ball’s

king and queen. Dressing up is encouraged — but not required — and costume rental discounts are avail-

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# Manitoba Hydro monitoring wildfires, 1,500 without power

By Lana Meier

Manitoba Hydro says it's closely monitoring wildfire activity and related power outages across the province, as about 1,500 customers remained without electricity as of Friday afternoon.

The outages are primarily affecting communities in northern and eastern Manitoba.

"The safety of our employees and the public remains our top priority," said Allan Danroth, Manitoba Hydro president and CEO. "We are working closely with the Manitoba Wildfire Service, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and RCMP to ensure we're not putting any of our restoration crews or emergency response teams in unsafe situations. We appreciate the support and patience of our customers as we wait to safely access affected areas to assess damage to our infrastructure and begin our restoration work."

Hydro confirmed all employees have left areas under evacuation orders. The Jenpeg Generating Station was evacuated Wednesday. The facility was undergoing maintenance at the time and was not generating electricity, so the evacuation is not expected to impact customers.

In eastern Manitoba, crews have paused restoration work in Nopiming Provincial Park and have left the area until conditions are safe to return.

"I want to acknowledge our staff and customers who live and work in communities affected by fires and evacuations," said Danroth. "Our thoughts are with them, and we are very mindful of the challenges they're facing. I also want to thank the firefighters and other first responders who are doing their best to protect Manitobans at this time of crisis."

Customers can view real-time updates on the Manitoba Hydro outage map.



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF MANITOBA HYDRO

A water bomber flies over a fire-scorched area in Manitoba.

## Town of Arborg 2025 budget highlights, operational spending increasing by 9.2%

By Patricia Barrett

The Town of Arborg plans to increase its total operational spending by 9.2 per cent in 2025, according to its budget released last month.

Council is expecting to bring in total revenues of \$2,698,357 in 2025. The town's actual revenue in 2024 was \$2,473,172, and it spent \$2,470,390, leaving a net operating surplus of \$2,781.

The town's mill rate (municipal tax) in 2025 will be decreasing by 2.094 mills from that of 2024.

As 2025 is a provincial property tax re-assessment year and there was a change in the way school property taxes are calculated, some property owners in Arborg may see an increase in their taxes and others may not. Overall, the provincial assessment trend shows an increase in property values.

Council expects to spend money from some of its reserves in 2025, including \$45,000 from the Building Reserve, \$25,000 from the Paving Reserve, \$90,000 from the CCBF Re-

serve and \$8,000 from the Handivan Reserve.

Council will transfer \$10,000 to its Building Reserve and spend \$45,000, leaving a balance of \$52,043. Council will not transfer to or spend any money from its PCH Building Reserve, which stands at \$215,910. The Equipment Replacement Reserve will get a top-up of \$10,000 to bring its closing balance to \$118,326. Council's spending of \$8,000 from the Handivan Reserve will bring its balance down to \$12,988.

Council will transfer \$10,000 to the Recreation & Cultural Reserve to bring its closing balance up to \$65,225. Council will spend \$190,000 from the Canada-Community Building Reserve and transfer in \$71,000, bringing the closing balance to \$62,514. There will be no transfers to or expenditures from the Arborg-Bifrost Fire Shared Reserve which has a balance of \$143,471.

Capital expenditures for 2025 include \$50,000 for sidewalk construction, funded by the Canada - Commu-

nity Building Reserve Fund, \$40,000 for drainage funded by the Canada - Community Building Reserve Fund, \$20,000 for a seacan container and shelving (use unspecified) funded by the general operating fund, and \$356,600 for handivan upgrades, which will be funded by a MEDIP grant, rural transit solutions fund, the Handivan Reserve and proceeds from a sale (unspecified). The town is receiving a \$185,600 grant from the federal Liberal government and a \$135,000 grant from the provincial NDP government for the handivan upgrade.

The town is embarking on a number of capital projects in 2025, including well mechanization that will be funded by the CCBF Reserve and the Manitoba Water Services Board (\$600,000) and wastewater treatment plant upgrades that will be funded through borrowing (\$250,000).

The town's five-year capital

plan includes sidewalks in 2027 and 2029 (\$100,000), which will be borne from reserves; the public works shop in 2030 (\$200,000) that will be funded from reserves; the recreation complex in 2026 (\$50,000) borne from operating; a pool liner in 2027 (\$60,000) that will be funded through operating and reserves; the arena ice plant in 2028 (\$250,000) that will be funded through borrowing; and paving projects in 2029 (\$2 million) that will be borne partly through reserves and partly through borrowing; the water treatment plant filtration in 2026 (\$1,148,000) that will be funded through borrowing (\$574,000) and through "other" (\$574,000); a lift station upgrade in 2026 (\$182,000)

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# get informed

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

## Speaking out for safer intersections

By Jennifer McFee

While a recent fatal accident weighs heavy on so many hearts, some people are speaking up about the need to bolster safety at a dangerous intersection.

On May 21, Nicholas Palmer of Stonewall lost his life in a collision at the junction of highways 8 and 67. A few weeks prior, his mom Shirley drove past an accident at the same spot. She recalls that she used to jokingly tell Nicholas to always check 1,000 times before crossing.

"I don't have answers as to why he thought it was clear and drove out," she said. "But what I'm finding out is that others have been advocating for change for years at this intersection and nothing has been done."

As a family, they visited Birds Hill Park countless times, and Shirley shared some observations about the drive.

"Out of all the intersections you cross, I do know that this is the only one where the speed limit is still 100 kilometres per hour — and we all know how much faster people travel than that. Vehicles can come up suddenly. Do they need lights? I'm not sure," she said.

"All I know is that too many accidents are continuing to happen, and I must now join the fight to do what I can to save other people from what happened to my Nicholas. When I'm finished with focusing on my family and preparing for my son's funeral, I will be doing all I can to fight. Whether it be writing letters to elected officials, going around with a petition — I'm not sure how, but I will do all I can."

Stonewall resident Kimberley Glowacki is adding her voice to advocate for change.

"I am a nurse who has travelled down this highway over the past 21 years. I have seen countless accidents at this intersection and feel it's past time to put lights up at the intersection," she said.

"I was driving past the accident when EMS and police were at the scene post Nick's accident, unknowing who was involved. My daughter had the pleasure of growing up with Nick in our small community. I have learned that he was a strong advocate for all mankind. I hope we can now advocate for him in his absence."

For 25-year-old Delta Hannah, news of Nick's accident struck close to her heart.

"This isn't the first tragic accident to directly affect my family with a vehicle and semi truck," said Delta, a lifelong Stonewall resident.

"It blew my mind when I heard of the accident, as I had



Nicholas Palmer of Stonewall had his life tragically cut short in a collision at the intersection of highways 8 and 67. His death has renewed calls for improved safety measures at the dangerous junction.

just driven through the intersection 20 minutes beforehand. It blew my mind again when my mother — Ms. Hannah, who teaches at the elementary in Stonewall — told me the next day it was her scheduled substitute teacher's son."

For the past year and a half, Delta has driven up and down Highway 8 every day for work. She always keeps in mind some advice from a Manitoba Public Insurance representative that she heard years ago: "If you're driving 110 kilometres down a highway, that 10-kilometre difference in speed can cost someone's life."

"This is something I will never forget hearing. I began to think about how rare it is for drivers behind me to follow the signage when I'm using the proper lane to turn right, heading back home across 67," she said.

"I firmly believe that some sort of traffic control in this intersection would not only improve the flow of traffic during peak times but save lives."

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# Sandy Hook musician's kitchen-table strumming leads to CD

By Patricia Barrett

Sandy Hook-based songwriter and musician James Brose released a new CD that includes a nod to the Gimli Glider after working on the project for a few years while teaching local students.

Brose, who's originally from Kenora and who has won and been nominated for a number of awards through a U.K. international songwriting contest, said he's ecstatic about the release of his CD titled *And Friends*.

The CD features 11 tracks of rock, light rock and adult contemporary songs. It includes the song *Fly Me Away*, which was written in part for the 40th anniversary of the Gimli Glider, whose story riveted the airline industry and caught Brose's attention at the time of the miraculous landing in 1983, and the pop rock track *Let Me In* that he co-wrote with George Belanger (lead singer of 1970s and 1980s Winnipeg band Harlequin) when they formed Harlequin II.

"It's taken quite a few years to put the entire package together and, during this time, have gone through many personal changes, which of course has a tendency to appear one way or another in some aspects of my writing. COVID certainly impacted my state of mind as with many others. It also impacted the lives of many people I personally knew, so accordingly one tune on the CD is dedicated to the transitions some of us had to endure," said Brose, who plays guitar and bass.

"Most certainly, putting an entire CD of music that came about while strumming the guitar at the kitchen table, bringing it into a professional studio and then putting it out there can be quite the daunt-



IMAGE COURTESY OF JAMES BROSE

Cover of James Brose's CD titled *And Friends*, which features a depiction of the Gimli Glider on Gimli Airport's decommissioned runway where the airliner made an emergency landing in July 1983. Local artist Manette Vandale did the cover work.

ing but incredibly satisfying task."

The idea for the title stems from the number of seasoned musicians on the CD who helped Brose put together tight and engaging songs.

"This idea came about as a result of having so many incredible musicians participating and influencing the direction of my music," said Brose. "This

includes more than 30 professionals, including eight different vocalists and five guitarists, many from the Winnipeg musical community."

The CD cover art features the Gimli Glider on the runway by local artist Manette Vandale, whom Brose commissioned.

Brose, who was classically trained as a child, said he's on the lookout for potential bandmates in the surrounding area so that he can perform live as he did for years in the past, including touring with Harlequin. In the meantime, he'll keep on writing new songs and teaching all genres of music to local students.

"Despite dedicating a little time to finding some potential musical partners to perform as a band, nothing definite has appeared. As I hope to perform this material on stage some day, finding the perfect band members for such a show is always on the back of my mind," said Brose. "In the meantime, I'll keep up with teaching locally and, of course, working on some new music."

*And Friends* is available on popular streaming services including YouTube, Spotify and Apple. People can also directly purchase and download the CD and/or songs via the website Bandcamp.com where he's listed as Jamie Brose.

"Despite the masses listening to streaming services, I've had quite a few enquire about the availability of physical CD's so that is something I am now focusing on," he said. "For some, it's always nice to have something physical in your hand, along with the lyrics and musical credits."

## Grahamdale moves forward with Faulkner Waste Disposal Grounds expansion

By E. Antonio

The RM of Grahamdale's Faulkner Waste Disposal Grounds expansion project is moving into the planning stage.

In 2024, the Province of Manitoba approved a \$125,000 grant under the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities for Municipalities fund to support the expansion. The Faulkner site services multiple communities within the RM, including Steep Rock.

Devan McCoubrey, assistant chief administrative officer, said the RM has been preparing for the expansion for several years after noticing the current waste cell was reaching capacity — particularly with the anticipated growth in Steep Rock.

The RM has hired JR Cousin Consultants to provide engineering services for the project, including design, tendering and construction administration. McCoubrey said the size of the new waste cell will be determined by JR Cousin Consultants based on the Population and Waste Generation Assessment report, which council accepted at its May 22 meeting.

"JR Cousins uses a lot of different formulas and algorithms to calculate

how much waste is generated per person — whether that person is a full-time resident, a seasonal cottager, a camper or a tourist making a day trip," McCoubrey said. "Council has reviewed the report, which not only takes into account the current population but also projected growth from future residents with the upcoming Steep Rock development."

The design for the expansion is expected to be completed by the end of summer. Construction is slated to begin in 2026, with costs to be included in the RM's 2026 financial plan. The new cell is projected to have a 20-year lifespan.

McCoubrey noted the RM is closely monitoring the capacity of its three other waste disposal sites and is encouraging residents to reduce their waste by recycling and using waste-reduction tools such as the FoodCycler.

### IN OTHER GRAHAMDALE NEWS:

- Council has selected Jansen Road as the municipality's major road construction project for 2025. This marks the third and final phase of planned upgrades to the stretch.

The scope of work will be announced in June, with completion expected in early fall. Planned improvements include reconstruction to a depth of two feet, resurfacing and shaping the shoulders on both sides of the road.

- Municipal dust control will take place in early June along Jansen Road, Little Birch Lake Road and in the Steep Rock town and cottage area.
- Reeve Craig Howse and Coun. Jason Bittner were appointed as the RM's environmental monitors

in April 2025. They will work with the Province of Manitoba as it decommissions two groundwater wells associated with the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel Project. The province requested municipal participation in March. The wells were originally installed during the design phase of the project to gather site information but are no longer needed for continuous groundwater monitoring. The province will reimburse the RM for any costs incurred.

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# Lakeshore deals with fallout from PowerSchool data hack

Student, staff and parent data back to 1992 may be compromised

By Patricia Barrett

The Lakeshore School Division continues to deal with the fallout of a cyber attack and data theft that occurred in late 2024 against California-based company PowerSchool, which provides information-management software that LSD and thousands of other school divisions across the world use. The breach of PowerSchool occurred in December 2024 and the company alerted its clients in Canada, the U.S. and internationally.

Lakeshore has been keeping its

students, parents and staff updated through letters and website postings, and is currently alerting everyone who was part of the division between 1992 and 2024 to visit LSD's website for details of the data theft as it could impact them.

Donald Nikkel, LSD's superintendent of HR, policy and alternative program director, was unable to provide the *Express* with specific information regarding the data breach, including whether the division will continue to use the software and whether it had received a ransom demand from any threat actor as the Toronto District School Board had in May — after PowerSchool said it had paid the hackers a ransom to have the stolen school-division data deleted.

"The PowerSchool breach has impacted a large number of divisions both in the Province of Manitoba, Canada and beyond. PowerSchool is also a third-party entity and is not owned, operated or controlled by the division, so we are limited in what we can say or comment on their breach," said Nikkel last week. "Since we were first made aware of the situation, we have been as transparent to our communities as possible and we have posted regular updates on our website."

PowerSchool is cloud-based software for managing K-12 school data and is used in 90 countries. The company was founded in 1997 and changed hands a number of times, with Apple once having acquired it. PowerSchool Canada opened in 2015.

Information that LSD had acquired from PowerSchool indicated the hackers gained access to Power-

School's Student Information System and acquired personal data between about Dec. 19 and Dec. 28, 2024. PowerSchool said it became aware it "experienced a cybersecurity incident" on Dec. 28.

In a May 6 communique to its community, Lakeshore said the following data about its students were accessed: name, date of birth, gender, address, contact information, doctor's name and phone number, relevant medical information (e.g., allergies), MET number, school ID number, enrolment/registration records and/or relevant alerts (e.g., related to discipline, guardian, custody or other issues) and the student's parent or guardian's name and contact information.

Staff data that were accessed are name, date of birth, gender, phone number, address, school email address, Professional School Personnel number and/or school ID number. The social insurance numbers of staff could also have been "potentially involved."

The division said no banking or credit card information of students and parents/guardians was stored in its PowerSchool software. As well, there was no banking and credit card information of LSD staff stored.

Personal identification is very valuable to hackers. They'll use it to perpetrate financial fraud or re-sell it on the dark web to other criminals. Pieces of stolen personal data can be combined with other stolen data to build a robust profile of an individual.

Thieves can use stolen data to open fake accounts, make purchases, and file false income tax returns to gain access to funds. They can use SIN numbers, addresses and other personal details to apply for credit-cards, loans,

mortgages, passports and driver licences or open cellphone and utility accounts in the victim's name. They'll also sell personal medical information that can be used to blackmail victims for money, commit identity theft or purchase prescription medication.

The fear of criminals sharing or selling people's personal data came to the fore on May 7 when the Toronto School Board District said it received a ransom demand connected to the 2024 PowerSchool hack. That came after PowerSchool said it had paid the hackers to delete the stolen data. The Calgary Board of Education and the Peel District School Board (Ontario) also received

ransom demands, according to media reports.

PowerSchool is offering victims two years of free identity protection and/or credit monitoring, and reached out to its victims via email with instructions on how they can take up the offer.

In its May 6 communique posted online, Lakeshore told students, parents and educators that PowerSchool is using three different email addresses with information on how to activate the free protection offer. The division said it had contacted PowerSchool and had been "assured" by the company that three email addresses it's using are "legitimate."

Visit Lakeshore School Division's website for more information: [www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca](http://www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca)

The Evergreen School Division does not use PowerSchool software and was unaffected by the breach, said superintendent and CEO Scott Hill.

"SINCE WE WERE FIRST MADE AWARE OF THE SITUATION, WE HAVE BEEN AS TRANSPARENT TO OUR COMMUNITIES AS POSSIBLE AND WE HAVE POSTED REGULAR UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE."

## > FANTASY, FROM PG. 4

able through Ragpickers.

Evening tickets are \$45 for adults, \$15 for children and free for kids under four. The celebration wraps at 1 a.m.

Organizers are hoping to draw more than 100 guests from across Manitoba and have promoted the event alongside local businesses and accommodations to help support regional tourism.

"We've shared places to stay and

places to check out on our website and social media," Lindell said.

Parking is available at the rec centre and the adjoining lot. Recommended lodging includes the Eriksdale Inn, Sharptail Motor Inn, Lundar Motel, hotels in Arborg and various AirBnB options.

For tickets or more details, visit Shadows and Starlight Fantasy Events on social media or online at [shadowsandstarlightevents.com](http://shadowsandstarlightevents.com)

### Community Support Service

#### A.A Meeting in Ashern

Location: #11 2nd Ave North  
- Pioneer Manor  
(beside the main door entrance  
of Pioneer Manor)  
Contact [Jackiem.lwrc@gmail.com](mailto:Jackiem.lwrc@gmail.com)

#### AA Arborg

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

#### AA Eriksdale

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

#### AA Winnipeg Beach

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

#### Gimli Group AA

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

#### Al-Anon Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

Join us at 17B Loni Beach Road, next  
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7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an  
hour of support, strength, guidance  
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#### AA Riverton Group

12 Main St. at the  
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LAKESHORE  
SCHOOL DIVISION

### POWERSCHOOL SECURITY BREACH

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a parent/guardian of a student,  
or staff in the Lakeshore School  
Division from 1992 to 2024?

If so, please visit  
[www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca](http://www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca)  
for details of a cybersecurity  
incident experienced by a  
software provider called  
PowerSchool that may affect  
your personal information.



# Interlake artists sharing the secrets of their studios June 7-8

By Patricia Barrett

Imagination having run wild will be on display during the upcoming 24th Annual WAVE Interlake Artists' Studio Tour.

Every summer and fall, WAVE member artists in communities such as Matlock, Winnipeg Beach, Gimli and Arborg open their studio doors and art caves to the public and share their innermost artistic thoughts, inspirational ideas and techniques.

Mediums on display include paint, jewelry, sculpture, clay, wood, photography, metal and paper.

Visitors can conduct their own tour of different studios to discover and unique arts and cultural expressions inherent in the region, as well as purchase art.

One of the artists about to reveal his artistic secrets is Arborg-based Jerry Maryniuk.

"This year's Wave's theme is 'Imagine,'" said Maryniuk, whose formal artistic training and work as a Winnipeg Police forensic artist (now retired) is borne out in painting, sculpting, cartoons and book-writing. "With this in mind, I created a number of pieces from old cattle bones, gourds, wood, rock and clay."

Maryniuk pays tribute to nature in some of his art, and he'll have on display an owl he sculpted from the vertebrae of beef cattle. He said there will "many more such surprises" at his studio, as well as at other artists'

studio.

Maryniuk is probably best known for his thunder gourds, which people love. He grows the gourds himself and turns them into art. He'll have those on display at his studio. He'll also showcase forensic art — skeletal remains reconstruction, which Maryniuk did as a police officer and which "most people find very interesting."

Visitors to his Arborg studio can also see the evolution of his work on a new cartoon called The Rusty Years.

"These new cartoons will appear in my next book, which is well on its way to being completed. It's about old people laughing at getting old rather than crying about it," said Maryniuk, who likes to instil humour in much of his art.

Visitors will have a chance to weigh in on future art pieces Maryniuk will be creating.

Maryniuk is a co-founder of the Winnipeg Police Service retired members' PTSD peer support group — which in addition to police officers has fire, paramedics, military and corrections personnel and civilian staff in the group — and he'll have art such as worry stones at his studio.

"Worry stones are a tool for people with anxiety and other PTSD-related symptoms. The worry stones were collected by me and my wife on the shores of Lake Winnipeg," he said.

Maryniuk will be teaming up later



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY MARYNIUK

this summer with artist Georgina Ball and the Arborg-based Creative Co-coon to host an art show in Arborg on Aug. 8 and 9.

The summer WAVE tour is sched-

uled for June 7 and 8.

For information about the 16 artists in the show and directions to their studios, visit [www.watchthewave.ca](http://www.watchthewave.ca)

# Harrison retires after 16 years of service in Lunder schools



Cindy Harrison

By E. Antonio

Cindy Harrison is retiring from the Lakeshore School Division after 16 years of dedicated service at Lunder School and Lunder Early Years School.

Throughout her career, she worked as both an educational assistant and secretary, drawn to the roles by her love of working with children and the positive school environment that kept her motivated.

"I truly enjoyed my job and the people I have worked with," Harrison said.

In retirement, she looks forward to some well-earned rest — though she's heard that life often gets even busier after leaving work. Harrison plans to stay connected to the school community, with grandchildren attending school in both Eriksdale and Lunder.

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# Gimli residents hit the streets to pick up trash, protect the environment

## Gimli chamber and Access Credit Union team up for collective cleanup day

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli residents descended on the streets and the beach last week to pick up trash and raise awareness of the importance of protecting their environment.

The Gimli Chamber of Commerce and Access Credit Union — which sponsored the event — worked in partnership once again this year to organize the annual cleanup initiative that sees scores of residents and staff from businesses get their gloves on and grab their bags to clear garbage from the streets, the beach and the Lake Winnipeg shoreline.

Cheryl Buhler of the chamber's destination brand committee said they got a healthy volunteer turnout for the scheduled cleanup on Tuesday afternoon, but unspecified numbers of people went out on their own at different times to do their part.

"The weather was perfect. There was a good turnout of 46 people on site," said Buhler, who registered volunteers along with Kim Giesbrecht of Right Choice Realty. "Other people told us they were going to pick up garbage, but they couldn't do it at the time we had scheduled for the cleanup. So, they did that on their own time and let us know."

Staff from the Waterfront Centre, including Tristin Tergesen and Kristin Strachan, looked after the Waterfront area clean-up outside the hours of the collective clean-up, for example, and people at Pelican Beach, just north of Gimli, cleaned that area at a different time.

"People here have a sense of pride in their community and they wanted to participate even though they couldn't come out on cleanup day," said Buhler.

As organizers do each year, they created a large map of Gimli and assigned registered volunteers to specific neighbourhoods and areas, said Buhler. After a specific area was cleaned, the corresponding section of the map was coloured in, giving people a "sense of accomplishment." Most areas of the town were targeted in the cleanup effort.

The Gimli Access Credit Union, which had a lot of staff participating in picking up garbage, provided the volunteers with free hot dogs, chips, freezies and drinks.

Kathy Sauerborn, vice-president of retail banking, said ACU's partnership with the chamber resulted in another successful town cleanup. And she's encouraging all ages and groups to get involved in the annual event because a lot can be achieved with "many more hands" helping out.

"This will be an annual event, and our hope is to drive increased numbers of people cleaning up our town. A clean and beautiful town like Gimli has many benefits including attracting more visitors that boost our local tourism and fostering community spirit and pride," said Sauerborn. "Next year, we will look to start planning early in the year, setting a date in May and challenging all of our businesses and residents to join us in the two-hour event."

She added that ACU is happy to continue sponsoring the food for volunteers during future clean-up events.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON

Volunteers rolled up their sleeves in Gimli on May 27 for the Gimli Town Clean-up, collecting litter from streets, parks and ditches across the community. Participants dropped off their full garbage bags at Access Credit Union, where they were treated to hot dogs, drinks, chips and freezies as thanks for their efforts.





# Free environmental film screening and expert panel coming to Gimli Theatre

## World Environment Day event explores Manitoba's waters and communities

By Lana Meier

A free film screening and panel discussion set for Saturday, June 7 at the Gimli Theatre will shine a spotlight on the vital connections between Manitoba communities and the waterways they depend on.

Presented by the Westshore Foundation in partnership with the Gimli International Film Festival, the event runs from 12 to 2 p.m. and is part of a World Environment Day initiative aimed at raising awareness about the ecological and cultural importance of the province's lakes and bays.

This year's program features two documenta-

ries: *Camp Morningstar*, directed by Kevin Settee, tells the story of a sacred camp established on the east side of Lake Winnipeg in response to a proposed silica sand mine; and *Tasiujarjuaq & Weeneebeg – Bays of Life*, directed by Brian Newell and presented by National Geographic, follows Inuit and Cree communities collaborating with scientists to protect the ecosystems of Hudson and James Bay.

Following the screenings, a panel of local and provincial experts will take the stage to discuss current threats facing Manitoba's lakes, watersheds and coastal areas, and what community members can do to help protect them.

The event is free and open to all ages.

"Film is a powerful way to connect people to the environment and inspire action," said event organizers in a joint statement. "We hope this screening and conversation helps spark meaningful dialogue around water protection in our province."



### > BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS, FROM PG. 5

reserves (\$91,000) and through "other" (\$91,000); an intercept sewer in 2026 (\$201,000) funded through reserves (\$100,500) and through "other" (\$100,500); WM upgrades in 2027 (\$891,000) and in 2030 (\$1,110,000) funded through borrowing (\$1,000,500) and other (\$1,000,500); the lift station north in 2027 (\$600,000) that will be borne through borrowing (\$300,000) and other (\$300,000); and lagoon repairs in 2028 (\$450,000) that will be funded through borrowing (\$225,000) and other (\$225,000).

The *Express* reached out to the town and mayor for comment.

For more information about the budget, visit the Town of Arborg's website [www.townofarb.org.com](http://www.townofarb.org.com)



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JUNE 19 OFFSITE DAY 2 BIDDING STARTS: JUNE 19TH AT 9AM LOTS START CLOSING ON JUN 26, 2025 AT 10:00AM

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# Gimli welcomes riders for a cause during annual Motorcycle Ride for Dad

By Lana Meier

The sound of hundreds of motorcycles echoed through Gimli on Saturday as the Manitoba Motorcycle Ride for Dad rolled through town, part of the annual provincewide fundraiser to fight prostate cancer.

The May 31 ride attracted more than 1,200 registered riders who departed from Winnipeg's Polo Park and travelled through several Manitoba communities, including Selkirk and Gimli, before returning to the city. Now in its 17th year, the event raised over \$600,000 — bringing the ride's total fundraising impact to \$5.7 million since its inception.

"It's a good cause and a reason for a bunch of people to get together," said Scott Mullen, who made the trek with his 12-year-old son Jake. The father-son duo enjoyed a free burger after arriving in Gimli, part of a lunch served to the first 500 riders courtesy of Lakeview Hotels, a major event sponsor.

"As a tourism partner, it's important for Lakeview to support the Ride for Dad along with other events including the Icelandic Festival, the Gimli Film Festival, MS Biking to the Viking and the Ice Festival to promote the town as a destination," said Lakeview's vice-president of operations Chris Miller. "We have been involved with the Ride for Dad since the beginning. It's a great cause and always an exciting day for the community, supported by our great local volunteers that make these events possible."

The annual ride is part of a six-week campaign to raise awareness about prostate cancer, which the Canadian



Scott Mullen and his 12-year-old son Jake enjoy a free burger during a lunch stop in Gimli as part of the Manitoba Motorcycle Ride for Dad on Saturday.

Cancer Society says is the most common cancer affecting Canadian men. One in eight men will be diagnosed with the disease, and one in 30 will die from it.

Gimli residents lined the streets to show their support as the parade of riders rolled through. Volunteers also helped make the day possible, including former Gimli mayor Randy Woroniuk, who was spotted helping with traffic direction. While similar events take place across the country, funds raised in Manitoba stay in Manitoba, supporting local research and education. Proceeds from this year's ride will go toward work being done at Winnipeg's Genomic Centre for Prostate Cancer Research.

Organizers praised the hospitality shown in each community along the route — with Gimli once again serving as a memorable stop for many riders and supporters alike.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHRIS MILLER

Former Gimli mayor Randy Woroniuk helps direct motorcycle traffic in Gimli during the Manitoba Motorcycle Ride for Dad on Saturday. The annual fundraiser drew over 1,200 riders in support of prostate cancer research.





# Ride For Dad plate unveiled to support prostate cancer fight

By Annaliese Meier

Motorcyclists in Manitoba now have a new way to show their support in the fight against prostate cancer.

Manitoba Public Insurance has unveiled a new Ride for Dad specialty licence plate, with proceeds directed to the Manitoba Prostate Cancer Support Group. The announcement was made Saturday during the annual Ride for Dad kickoff event in Winnipeg.

"Working with groups like Ride for Dad, and the many others we've partnered with over the years, to create specialty licence plates helps generate critical funding for charities in the province," said Satvir Jatana, president and CEO of MPI. "We are proud to support communities across Manitoba and groups like Ride for Dad and MPCSG, who are making a direct impact on the lives of people impacted by prostate cancer."

The plate — the 15th design available under MPI's Specialty Plate Program — will cost \$70, with \$30 from each sale going to MPCSG. The organization offers education, awareness

and support to Manitobans affected by prostate cancer.

Justice Minister Matt Wiebe, who is also responsible for MPI, praised the partnership.

"Prostate cancer affects thousands of Manitobans, and our government is pleased to partner with MPI and unveil the Ride for Dad specialty licence plate in support of this very important cause," said Wiebe. "These plates are one way Manitobans can show solidarity in the fight against cancer and support life-saving research and education right here in our province."

Since its inception, the Specialty Plate Program has raised more than \$5.5 million for local causes.

Ride for Dad co-chair Moe Sabourin said the plate is already generating excitement in the motorcycle community.

"The announcement of an official Manitoba Motorcycle Ride for Dad licence plate has the motorcycle community buzzing and will support prostate cancer awareness and education throughout the province," Sabourin said.

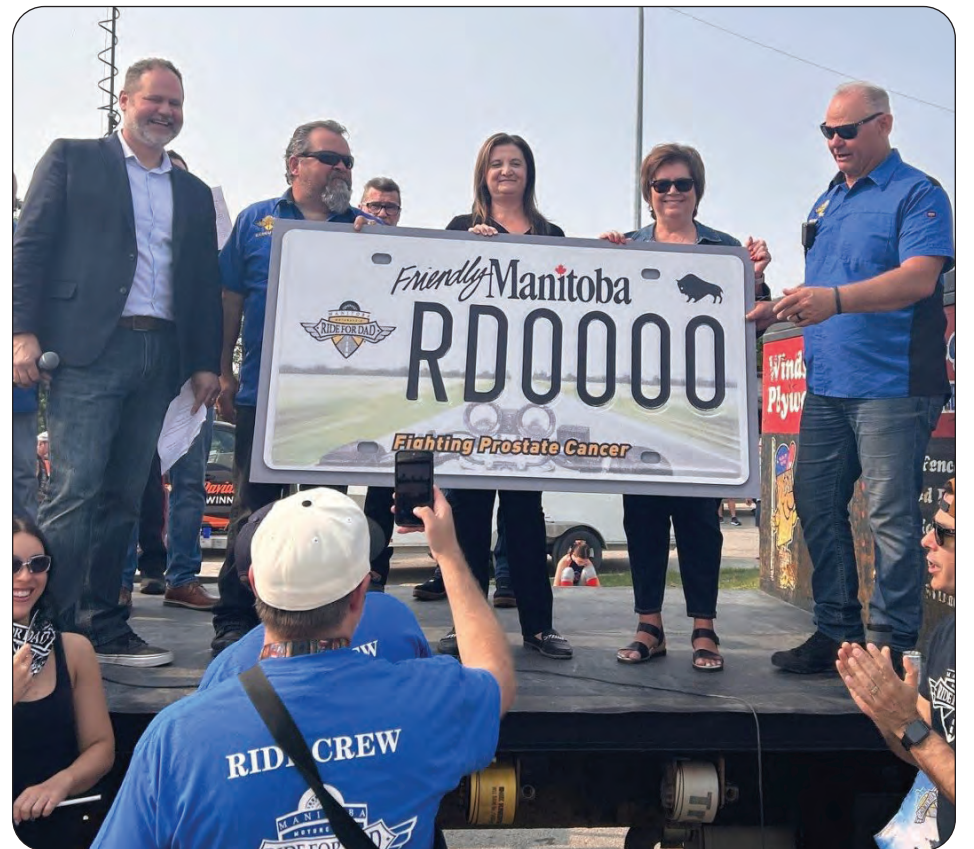


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Officials gathered to unveil the new Ride for Dad specialty licence plate, which will support prostate cancer awareness and education in Manitoba. Pictured from left: Justice Minister Matt Wiebe, Kirk Van Alstyne, Maria Campos, Carmen Nedohin and Moe Sabourin.

## MPI donates \$100K to support wildfire evacuees

By Lana Meier

Manitoba Public Insurance is contributing \$100,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to support thousands of people displaced by wildfires burning across the province.

"This is a devastating situation, and it is incumbent on us to step up and help people who have had to evacuate their homes and leave everything behind in the interest of safety," said MPI president and CEO Satvir Jatana. "At times like these, we need to come together as a community and offer whatever support we can to ease the suffering so many people are experiencing."

More than 17,000 residents in northern Manitoba have been forced to leave their homes due to wildfire threats. The Red Cross is helping evacuees by coordinating emergency shelter, reception centres, financial as-

sistance and longer-term recovery efforts.

"Our hearts go out to those who are impacted by the wildfires," said Carmen Nedohin, chair of MPI's board of directors. "One thing Manitobans know how to do is support each other through a crisis, and MPI understands the importance of keeping each other safe. We wanted to do our part to help through this donation to the Red Cross, who are currently matching every dollar donated, doubling the impact of each contribution."

The Red Cross is encouraging Manitobans to donate, with all contributions going directly toward wildfire relief and recovery in affected areas. Donations can be made online or by calling 1-800-418-1111.

The Manitoba government is providing ongoing updates on the wildfire situation through its fire bulletins.

# Imagine



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# Arborg Home Hardware Building Centre hosts contractor appreciation evening

By Lana Meier

Arborg Home Hardware Building Centre hosted a contractor appreciation event on May 29, welcoming more than 100 contractors and 16 vendors.

These professionals play a vital role in the community's growth by supporting local homeowners with renovations, expansions and new builds — from houses to sheds and barns. Their continued business has brought increased activity and sales to both the store and the broader community. The event was a way to express appreciation for their ongoing support.

The evening featured a steak dinner with baked potatoes, beans, garlic toast, beverages and dessert, all catered by Alvina Reimer and her team. Guests also had a chance to win a variety of prizes, including two grand prizes: a Louisiana Pellet Grill awarded to Delaney Klassen, owner of Lane's Exteriors, and a Milwaukee six-piece cordless tool set awarded to Ryan Pochailo of Sigurdson Electric.

Several vendors were also on hand to showcase their products and share insights on how they can support customers' projects. Many played a key role in making the evening a success by sponsoring meals, apparel giveaways and other event elements.

Special thanks go to Owens Corning and Doman Building Materials for generously sponsoring the dinner.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORINNE EINARSSON

Contractors and vendors gathered at Arborg Home Hardware Building Centre's appreciation event on May 29, which featured a steak dinner, prize giveaways and product showcases.





# Peguis First Nation volunteers to shelter up to 300 wildfire evacuees

## Fisher River Cree Nation, Gimli's Evergreen Basic Needs providing backup support

By Patricia Barrett

With out-of-control wildfires in Manitoba having forced about 17,000 people from their homes last week — with even more evacuated on the weekend — and burned thousands of hectares of land, First Nations and other communities in the Interlake are stepping up to help support people fleeing the disaster.

As wildfires intensified last week, Peguis First Nation proactively offered to house up to 300 evacuees. By last Friday afternoon, the First Nation community had about 65 evacuees staying in its arena.

Peguis' northern neighbour, Fisher River Cree Nation, and Gimli's Evergreen Basic Needs also stepped up to provide assistance to the evacuees who've been offered safe harbour in Peguis.

Peguis Emergency Operations Centre's (PEOC) emergency management coordinator Marjorie Nielsen said she reached out last week to her counterparts at the provincial Emergency Measures Organization with an offer from Peguis to help shelter evacuees from the north.

"We volunteered to take people in. I phoned and asked if they needed a place for people to come," said Nielsen last Friday afternoon by phone as she and other staff were busy coordinating the humanitarian relief effort and organizing the shelter at the Peguis Multiplex Centre. "The maximum number of people I said we could take was 300. Right now, we have 65 evacuees, but there's supposed to be more coming today. I don't know where the people are coming from, but it could either be Flin Flon, Cross Lake, Norway House or Pukatawagan. We were

asked if we wanted to shelter people from a specific area, but it doesn't matter to us where the people come from."

The PEOC coordinates responses to natural disasters and other emergencies to prevent or minimize the loss of life and property, prevent damage to the environment and the restoration of essential services.

The province declared a state of emergency last week. There were 22 active wildfires burning across the province as of last Thursday. Premier Wab Kinew said he expects more people from northern Manitoba to be evacuated and sent to communities around the province, with the majority coming to Winnipeg.

On Saturday, a mandatory evacuation was underway for about 430 people in Cranberry Portage after fire destroyed power lines overnight, caused deteriorating air quality and closed part of Highway 10, according to media reports.

Nielsen said some of the evacuees that arrived in Peguis said they're homesick while others are glad to be away as they didn't sleep while fires were threatening their communities.

"People are really lonesome for home; some are saying they want to go home. And others are saying they never slept for two days," she said.

Peguis' humanitarian assistance is being supported by Fisher River Cree Nation, which has offered a number of free services to help the evacuees with practical matters such as laundry, as well as recreational activities.

"Fisher River is offering free laundromat service to our evacuees because they'll have bedding that will eventually need to be washed, plus



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MANITOBA HYDRO

Wildfires have toppled hydro poles and scorched thousands of hectares of forest and land in Manitoba.

towels and their clothing," said Nielsen. "Fisher River's coordinator is also offering free recreation services for evacuees."

Those recreational services include a bowling alley, pool tables, darts, inflatables, indoor basketball nets, outdoor rink, baseball diamond, Netflix, television and a couch area, a play park, beach volleyball, golf, a skate park and horseshoe pits. Evacuees arriving by vehicle can also get a free car wash in Fisher River.

And Peguis itself will be providing a number of additional services to evacuees to keep their minds off the fires.

"Our recreational staff person on Peguis is pretty darn awesome," she said. "He's set up a big-screen TV for movies for the kids and is working on transportation to get them to the

beach. Plus we have an arcade, Xbox and Nintendo, pool tables, rollerblade floor hockey and basketball nets. Our recreational department is also offering to take people on outings. We have our own baseball field and volleyball courts here too."

The Evergreen Basic Needs food bank and second-hand store in Gimli sprang into action when it heard Peguis had offered to take in up to 300 evacuees and needed items such as bedding and towels.

EBN executive director Karen Bowman said she rounded up the items, and local restaurant Carlo's Cucina offered to get it up to Peguis, which is about 124 kilometres north of Gimli.

Continued on page 17

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## sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

# Storm FC edged in season opener at Buhler

By Kieran Reimer

Storm FC dropped their Manitoba Major Soccer League season opener on Friday with a 1-0 loss to Crescentwood at Buhler Recreation Park.

The Arborg-based squad now sits at

0-1 to start the Division 4 campaign.

Storm will look to bounce back on Thursday when they return to Buhler to face Real Sociedad. Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m.



# Lundar celebrates grand opening of new baseball park

By Lana Meier

The crack of the bat and cheers from the dugouts signalled more than just another ball game in Lundar this past Saturday.

After more than two decades of hope, planning and perseverance, the community of Lundar officially opened its new baseball park — a milestone moment for local sports and a testament to grassroots determination.

The new facility replaces Drew's Field, which had kept baseball alive in the community for nearly 25 years thanks to the generosity of Brad and Diana who allowed their private field to be used by local teams.

"Without them, baseball would have died here," said Blaine Fortin, who helped lead the charge on the new development. "Now, we have four fields — two full shale fields, one grass and one with grass infield and shale paths where the kids can play. We can host tournaments, run practices and play multiple games all at once."

The new ballpark features, large dugouts outfitted with seats salvaged from Canad Inns Stadium and a central building with a canteen, two washrooms and a storage room. Outfield fencing is the next major addition, expected to be installed in the near future.

Fortin said the dream of a permanent baseball facility in Lundar dates back more than 20 years. The initial groundwork was done by David Sigfusson, while Hope Sigfusson helped secure early grant funding. The project was put on hold for years, but Fortin revived it several years ago with fresh determination.

"I had no experience building a baseball facility," he said. "But once I put a basic plan together, I had help from people with more experience. Sandra Johnson, with her engineering background, was huge. Ross Tycoles also helped a lot with measurements and design. I learned so much from him."

Among the biggest early challenges was clearing the field areas — especially picking stones, which Fortin said felt endless. Once the land was

cleared, volunteers installed backstops and began shaping the diamonds.

Funding came from a wide range of sources. Nearly \$125,000 in grants were secured, \$150,000 from the province and the Jays Care Foundation contributed \$75,000 to help build dugouts and install fencing on three of the four diamonds. The RM of Coldwell provided additional support, and the project received donations from local businesses, families and community groups including the MMF Local and the All Canada Goose Shoot. Ongoing fundraising efforts led by players and their families have also been a major success. J & M Industries out of Brandon installed the backstops and dugouts. Volunteers built the seating inside the dugouts with the stadium seats.

"We were extremely blessed by the level of support," said Fortin. "This really is a community-built park."

With help from J5 Enterprises, who provided essential field maintenance equipment, the diamonds are now ready for full use. The park will serve Lundar Minor Ball, Rally Cap, a newly formed slo-pitch league, and the high school baseball team.

The grand opening event featured games between Lundar's minor teams — two teams in each division from 9U to 15U — plus a Rally Cap practice and a light-hearted match between the 12U girls and their moms.

"This isn't just about baseball. It's about creating opportunities, bringing people together, and building something lasting," said Fortin.

The fields were already tested last summer when Lundar hosted the Merv Farmer Regionals, welcoming 17 teams from across the region. All four diamonds were in play at the same time — something Fortin said hadn't been seen in the community before.

"I remember Erin and I driving up and seeing the parking lot full, kids on ev-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY AVA CAMERON

Dignitaries and community leaders gathered for the official opening of Lundar's new baseball park on Saturday, including Baseball Manitoba president Roger Langlais, Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson, community volunteer Blaine Fortin and Virgil Johnson.

ery diamond. It was emotional," he said. "We had people tell us they've lived here for 50 years and never seen anything like it. That's what makes all the time and work worth it."

Fortin said countless volunteers made the grand opening possible, with many hands helping out in the final week to prepare the site.

"I'm probably forgetting a few names," he said. "But I just want to thank everyone who's helped — from the early stages to the finishing touches. This park belongs to all of us."





# Local author publishes fourth novel in Hope trilogy

By E. Antonio

Author and screenwriter Ryan Souter continues to thrive in the creative arts community with the release of his fourth novel, *Hope Unites*, published in November 2024.

Souter, who grew up in Selkirk, has long had a passion for creative writing.

"When I am storytelling, I am in my bloom," he said.

*Hope Unites* is the second installment of the Hope trilogy and follows the events of *Hope Rises*. Souter said he wanted to create a series centred on a strong female lead. The trilogy, recommended for mature readers, is a dystopian thriller that follows Hope's charismatic journey as she battles obstacles in a shifting world.

He originally intended to write a standalone novel about Hope but soon realized one book wasn't enough to fully explore the character.

"It was feeling sluggish. I needed to find a way to develop Hope's persona and keep the story moving," he said.

The trilogy now captures the beginning, middle and end of Hope's life.

Before turning to novels, Souter began his writing career with screenplays. He said his early scripts were heavily influenced by the cities he lived in, which restricted his creative freedom. Writing novels, he said, has allowed him to expand his settings and imagination.

"I can create entire worlds on a page — there is no limit to the imagination.

You can go with the flow and turn a story into something so much more," he said.

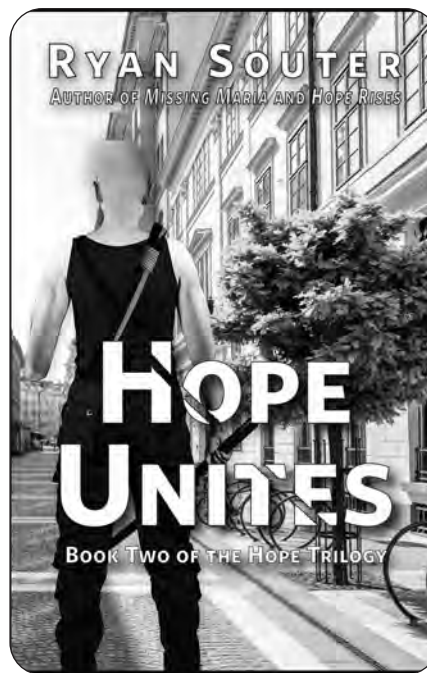
Souter credits a high school production of *Frankenstein* for igniting his love of storytelling. Playing the monster inspired him to begin creating compelling characters of his own.

"I loved the depth the character had," he said. "It opened a new world for me."

Though he isn't entirely sure what inspired him to become a novelist, Souter said the hobby quickly became a passion. He began writing novels alongside his film work and said the two forms have similar structure, though novels require more effort.

"It is a juggling act between the film and book work ... but if you like to write, you are always going to make time for it," he said. "When writing is in your blood, you have to put yourself out there and make it work."

Souter said it took nearly three years to complete his first novel, but he enjoyed the process. He embraces all stages of writing — from planning to editing — and aims to connect deeply with his audience.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Selkirk author Ryan Souter has published his fourth novel, *Hope Unites*, the second book in the Hope trilogy, is available at the Gaynor Family Regional Library, the Cozy Fox and on Amazon.

"You don't just write for yourself," he said. "You hope to entertain your readers and create a story they resonate with. It is about the emotions faced by my characters and readers that carry my writing. When you have story depth, it makes the stories much more interesting."

Now struck by what he calls a "writing bug," Souter is taking a break from the Hope series to work on a new novel. He believes stepping away between books helps bring fresh ideas

to a project. He encourages aspiring writers to be patient and persistent.

"If you quit, you will never know what you could have created," he said. "Find your passion and don't let self-doubt take control. We all have to start somewhere, and that start begins with you."

Souter's books, including *Hope Unites*, are available at the Gaynor Family Regional Library, the Cozy Fox and on Amazon.

## > PEGUIS EVACUATION, FROM PG. 15

"We're going to be taking some boxes over to Carlo's, who's arranging to transport it to Peguis," said Bowman last Friday.

When asked what EBN could provide to the RM of Gimli should it offer to house evacuees in the municipality, Bowman said she was trying to determine what its needs are.

"We know the Red Cross is involved and other organizations such as emergency measures and they will coordinate responses. But I don't know what they cover," she said. "At this point, EBN is saying [to the municipality] to let us know what you need, and if we can help you we will. If we're asked to help with food on a short-term basis, we'd be available to do that,"

She said she was able to speak with Gimli Coun. Andy Damm to see whether the RM could use back-up support.

"I let [Coun. Damm] know that the RM can keep EBN in mind if there's anything we can do to help," said Bowman. "We're ready and willing to

help with whatever the RM might need; we will do our part."

The *Express* reached out to the RM of Gimli, asking whether the municipality is planning to offer space to wildfire evacuees, but didn't receive a response.

The paper reached Coun. Andy Damm, who was attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' conference in Ottawa last week. He said he and his three fellow councillors want to do what they can in the face of this quickly evolving humanitarian crisis.

"Gimli is acutely aware of the rapidly spreading fires and the devastating effect they're having on our fellow Manitobans. Gimli has an airport and road links, and we could possibly source accommodations through local establishments and use the dormitory [an RM-owned facility with bedrooms, kitchen etc.] if given the go-ahead," said Damm. "My three fellow councillors have indicated they are on board with whatever Gimli can

offer, and I'm proud to be associated with them and [appreciate their willingness] to try to help Manitobans in need during these difficult times."

The provincial government told the *Express* it's in the process of exploring housing options for evacuees.

"The province is exploring all kinds of scenarios for housing evacuees. Evacuees are all over the province. Many have chosen to stay with friends and family; others are in hotels around the province (Dauphin, Brandon, Winnipeg, etc)," said a spokesperson.

Nielsen said some of the evacuees that arrived in Peguis have health-care needs that require a little bit more attention.

A child with autism was evacuated with his grandmother, and she's afraid to sleep at night in the arena because he might wander off. Nielsen might be able to set them up inside a dressing room as it has a door. They've also had some babies arrive on Thursday night who were ill, one throwing up and another with diar-

rhea that required diapers of a certain size they didn't have.

The band's SunLodge Village, which offers space for traditional Indigenous teachings, celebrations and other events, is housing some elderly evacuees in its bunkhouse cabins. One man had required nursing attention because the cot in the arena was too hard for him.

Nielsen said they needed strollers and playpens on Friday morning and a call was put out. Now she's looking for donations of small tents and/or room dividers or privacy screens.

"I have people situated in the middle of the rink and our arena lights don't fully dim. A lot of the evacuees were saying it's too bright so I'm thinking we need small tents they can set up inside the arena so they'll have some shade and can sleep better. That would also give them some privacy. We have no wall dividers," she said.

Inquiries and offers of assistance can be directed to Peguis' emergency coordinator Marjorie Nielsen by email at [emergency.coord@peguis.ca](mailto:emergency.coord@peguis.ca)



# Classifieds

THE **EXPRESS**  
WEEKLY NEWS

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Fisher Armstrong Planning District Building Inspector

The Fisher Armstrong Planning District provides service to the Rural Municipalities of Fisher and Armstrong in Manitoba's Interlake.

We are seeking a qualified building inspector on an as needed, part-time basis to perform site visits and inspections for Part 9 of the Manitoba Building Code.

**The successful candidate will have expert knowledge in**

- the Manitoba Building Code
- General knowledge of zoning by-laws
- Excellent written, communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to assess situations with impartiality and sound judgement
- Extensive knowledge in building design and materials used
- Knowledge of the Manitoba Electrical code and MB Plumbing Code
- Demonstrate safe work practices
- Good organizational skills

#### Requirements

- Certificate in Building Technology or related discipline and or extensive experience in the field
- Valid Class 5 drivers license with personal vehicle to be used for work
- Criminal record check

If you are interested in this position, please submit a cover letter and a resume with 3 work related references by June 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Fisher Armstrong Planning District  
c/o RM of Fisher  
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB, R0C 0Z0

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Special Care Supervisor

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc. requires a Special Care Supervisor Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Start Wage: \$17.50 per. hr. to provide one to one care and assistance and daily activities with a person with intellectual disabilities. A Criminal Record Check and Adult Abuse check required. Additional details and information about the job position is available at the workshop.

**Please send resume or drop of at the workshop to**

Alex Janower Manager  
Riverdale Place Workshop Inc.  
Box 609 Arborg Mb. R0C 0AO  
Phone : 204-376-5584  
Email: riverdaleplace111@gmail.com

## SCRAP METAL

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

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

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

## FEED & SEED

FORAGE SEED FOR SALE: Organic & conventional: Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Red Clover, Smooth Brome, Meadow Brome, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy, etc. Star City, SK. Birch Rose Acres Ltd. 306-921-9942.

## CAMPERS/ TRAILERS

LIKE NEW 25' Keystone Trailer. 2022 - used 1 season \$33,500 obo. In Autumnwood Resort. Can be moved. Wooden screened room and deck included. Transferable warranty valid until 2029. Contact 647-403-1553.

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

70 acres of pasture & bush at NW15-18-2E near Teulon & Gimli. Build anytime! Hydro nearby. Driveway access approved. \$135,975. Call Charity Reimer at 204-990-8531.

Nice 20-acre retirement or subdividing opportunity 4 miles west of Brandon on paved road. 1,572 sq. ft. home including appliances, wheelchair accessible, 1-level, attached garage. Also, additional adjoining subdivided 5-acre lot. Immediate possession, private sale. \$750,000. Call 1-204-723-0083 for appointment to view, anytime.

**News Tips? call the Express 204-467-5836**

## MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter(s):

THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON BY-LAW NO. **05-2025**

Being an amendment to the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton Zoning By-law No. 04-2024, as amended.

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the R.M. of Armstrong under the authority of the Planning Act will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the date, time and location listed below:

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

**1:00 P.M.**

**Armstrong Municipal Office  
1094 PTH 17, Inwood MB R0C 1P0**

Property owners are being notified in order to give them the opportunity to speak in support of or objection to the proposed variation order.

**VARIATION ORDER: # 01/2025**

**ROLL NO:** 0088998.000

**OWNER:** Clinton Graham

**APPLICANT:** Clinton Graham

**AREA AFFECTED:** Legal Description: Lot 1 Block 40584, 110098 Road 14E

**ZONE:** Rural Residential Zoning District

**SUBJECT:** Vary the building site area from 1,000 sq. ft. to 1,500 sq. ft.

#### PROPOSED

**VARIANCE:** Vary the building site area from 1,000 sq. ft. to 1,500 sq. ft. allowing for the construction of a 30 x 50 ft shop

**For further information, please contact:**

Colleen Mayer, CAO Phone: 1 (204) 278-3377  
Rural Municipality of Armstrong Fax: 1 (204) 278-3437  
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0 e-mail: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

Documents related to the matter to be considered at the hearing may be inspected or copied at the RM of Armstrong Office during normal office hours, Monday to Friday.

#### HEARING LOCATION:

Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton  
Council Chambers  
329 River Road, Arborg, MB

#### DATE & TIME:

June 12, 2025  
9:00 am

#### APPLICATION:

RMB-25-02R

#### AFFECTED AREA:

Pt. RL 46/47-22-2 EPM  
Roll 55806

#### GENERAL INTENT:

To rezone an area in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton from "AL" Agricultural Limited Zone to "CH" Commercial Highway Zone, to accommodate a future subdivision and development.

#### FOR INFO CONTACT:

Nancy Thom, CAO/Development Officer  
Eastern Interlake Planning District  
62 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue PO Box 1758 Gimli, MB R0C 1B0  
Ph: 204-642-5478 Fax: 204-642-4061  
Email: [eipd@mymts.net](mailto:eipd@mymts.net) Website: [www.interlakeplanning.com](http://www.interlakeplanning.com)



A copy of the circulation package may be provided/inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday; alternatively, a copy may be emailed upon request.

Please note, if you have received this notice in the mail, it includes the circulation package.

**Please Note: E.I.P.D. recommends that property owner's notify lessee/renter if applicable.**



## APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 bdrm. suites available in Teulon - \$898 monthly. Farview Place is seeking new 55+ Seniors for our independent living cooperative housing apartment building. Suites are spacious and includes Valley Fiber Phone, Internet & TV, hydro and water. Our building is 5 storeys and has an elevator, paid parking, 4 laundry rooms, exercise room, lounge for family gatherings and events, fridge & stove in each suite. Local amenities include grocery store, post office, Shoppers Drug Mart, Access Credit Union, medical clinic, several restaurants & small shops. Please contact Andrea at 204-886-2760 or farviewplace1989@gmail.com for more information.

## HELP WANTED

Overland Truck Outfitters, the leader in truck caps and truck accessories, is looking for a reliable motivated person to install truck accessories. Bring resume to Overland Truck Outfitters, 102 Aviation Blvd. St. Andrews. 204-338-4292.

## WATER TREATMENT

Pentair softeners. Iron removers. Reverse osmosis systems \$298. All sizes water housings and filters. Well-rite 20 gallon pressure tank \$295. Res Care softener cleaner \$29. All Seasons 204-661-8581.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED! Manitoba Highland Gathering - June 21 & 22, 2025 in East Selkirk, MB. Swords, Heavies, Paddling, Highland Dance, Pipes & Drums, Villages, Cars, Animals, Market & Food, Unicorns (Sunday only)! <https://manitobahighlandgathering.org>

## Remember Your Loved Ones

with an Announcement in the **EXPRESS** WEEKLY NEWS  
Call 204-467-5836

## 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.

## 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.

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## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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## HEALTH

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

# Classifieds

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email [ads@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:ads@expressweeklynews.ca)

THE **EXPRESS** WEEKLY NEWS



## Town of Winnipeg Beach PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

### 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that pursuant to sub-section 162(2) of *The Municipal Act*, the Council of the Town of Winnipeg Beach intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2025 at a Public Hearing to be held at the Winnipeg Beach Community Centre, 32 Hamilton Avenue, Winnipeg Beach, MB on **THURSDAY, June 19, 2025** at 6:00 p.m.

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

Interested parties may also submit questions by email to the CAO at [cao@winnipegbeach.ca](mailto:cao@winnipegbeach.ca).

The 2025 Financial Plan is available for review at [winnipegbeach.ca](http://winnipegbeach.ca).

Jodi Mitchell, cmma  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Winnipeg Beach

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Now Hiring: Various Positions

The Municipality of Armstrong is seeking motivated individuals to join our team in the municipal office located in Inwood, Manitoba. We currently have openings for the following positions:

- Finance Administrator (Part-Time 0.5 to 0.75 FTE)
- Planning Services Administrator (Part-Time)
- Public Works Coordinator (Full-Time)

Complete job postings are available for review through the RM of Armstrong website at: [www.rmofarmstrong.com](http://www.rmofarmstrong.com)

To apply, submit your resume to Jacky Syberg at [jsyberg@peoplefirsthr.com](mailto:jsyberg@peoplefirsthr.com)

Applications will be reviewed starting June 16.  
*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### B.A.R. Waste Facility SEEKING A CASUAL EMPLOYEE AND SUMMER STUDENT

B.A.R. Waste Facility is seeking qualified individuals to work at the landfill site at 13098 Road 128N in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton.

These positions involve general labour to maintain a clean site, record keeping, some equipment operation/maintenance, and other related duties as required. This position requires minimum a Class 5 Driver's License. The casual employee must have a willingness to obtain a Manitoba Landfill Operation Certificate from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), with all expenses covered by BAR Waste.

Position will remain open until filled.

BAR Waste Authority Co-op Ltd.  
Attention: Larissa Love  
Box 70, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0  
Fax: (204) 376-2742  
Email: [info@bifriv.ca](mailto:info@bifriv.ca)



## Interlake Co-op

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**For further information or job description**

**Submit applications to:**  
[samuel.ives@interlake.crs](mailto:samuel.ives@interlake.crs)  
Phone : 204-739-2116



## MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a vote of **WARD 1 - MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON** will be taken to elect **COUNCILLOR** from the following duly nominated candidates:

1. BRANDT, LARRY
2. JOHNSTON, KIRK

### VOTING PLACES

Voting places will be open for voting on **WEDNESDAY** the **18TH** day of **JUNE 2025** between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at **RIVERTON CURLING CLUB, 175 Reggie Leach Dr., Riverton.**

**IDENTIFICATION MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO VOTE.** A person may be required to produce one piece of government issued photo identification (for example - driver's license or passport) or at least two other documents that provide proof of identity.

### ADVANCE VOTING

For the purpose of accommodating persons who are qualified to vote, but who have reason to believe that they will be absent or otherwise unable to attend their proper voting place on election day, an advance voting opportunity will be located at **RIVERTON CURLING CLUB, 175 Reggie Leach Dr., Riverton** and will be open during the following day: **SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025** between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### APPLICATION TO VOTE BY SEALED ENVELOPE

A voter who is unable to go in person to the voting place or vote in advance, may apply in person, in writing, or by email to the senior election official at 329 River Rd, Box 70, Arborg MB R0C 0A0 or [janlar5001@gmail.com](mailto:janlar5001@gmail.com).

If applying in person\*, a voter may apply between June 2, 2025 and June 13, 2025.

\*A voter applying in person may pick up a sealed envelope ballot package at the time of application.

If applying by mail or email\*\*, a voter may apply between May 23, 2025 and June 13, 2025.

\*\* A voter applying by mail or email will receive a sealed envelope ballot package by regular post, or by making alternative arrangements with the senior election official.

Jan Larkin, SEO  
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton  
204-641-0329



X

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

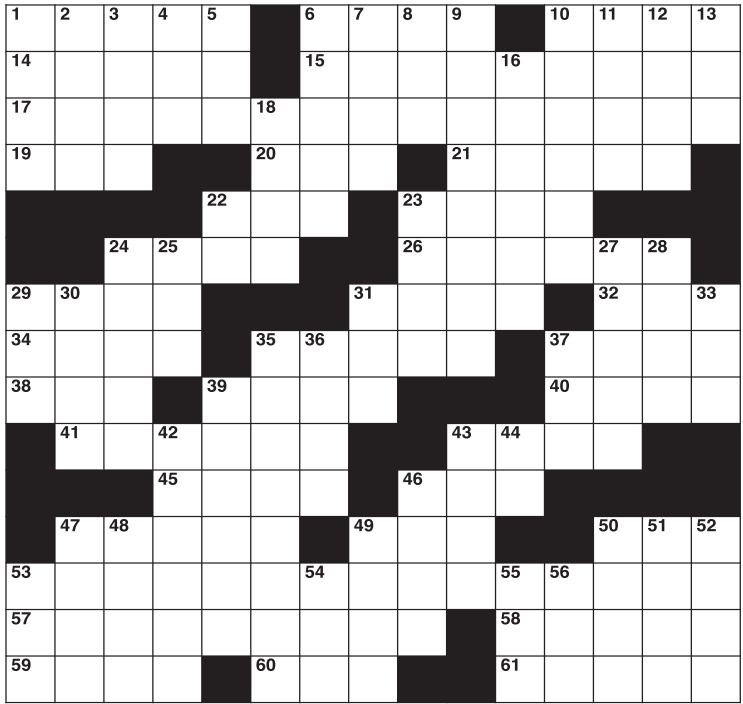
1. Marsh plant
6. Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
10. Fogginess
14. Home to Fools' Day
15. Absence of the sense of pain
17. Popular November holiday
19. Consume food
20. Buddy
21. Long-haired goat-antelope
22. Japanese honorific
23. Actor Malek
24. One point south of southeast
26. Illegal acts
29. As fast as can be done
31. Prevents harm to young
32. Exclamation of satisfaction
34. African nation
35. Slow-moving animal
37. Oh, goodness!
38. A team's best pitcher
39. Cleanser
40. Radioactivity units
41. Expectorated matter
43. Cover a wide range
45. The central area of a church
46. California capital (abbr.)
47. Dutch painter Klaver
49. 007's creator
50. Impression of dishonesty
53. Northeastern sports rivalry
57. Cloths
58. Stalin's police chief
59. Hostelrys

60. Bitterly regret
61. Anwar \_\_, Egyptian statesman

CLUES DOWN

1. Satisfy
2. European health advocate
3. Expression of annoyance
4. Strong liquor
5. Large red deer
6. Holder of less common religious beliefs
7. West Indian shrub
8. Family of proteins
9. Wealthy, influential business leader
10. Low spirits
11. Approves food
12. Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
13. Mary \_\_, cosmetics
16. Expressed in pithy maxims
18. Relaxing spaces
22. The NFL's big game
23. Proof of payment (abbr.)
24. Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
25. Indicates near
27. Minneapolis suburb
28. Herring-like fish
29. Doctors' group
30. Pouches
31. Bread dipping in sauce
33. Commercials
35. A reminder of past events

36. Affected by injury
37. Geological time
39. Stationary part of a motor
42. Brings together
43. Of sound mind
44. Personal computer
46. Without (French)
47. A bank might give you one
48. Agricultural testing organization
49. A small island
50. Type of gene
51. Murres
52. Card game
53. A measure of human health
54. Australian airline (abbr.)
55. One point south of due west
56. Affirmative



WANTED

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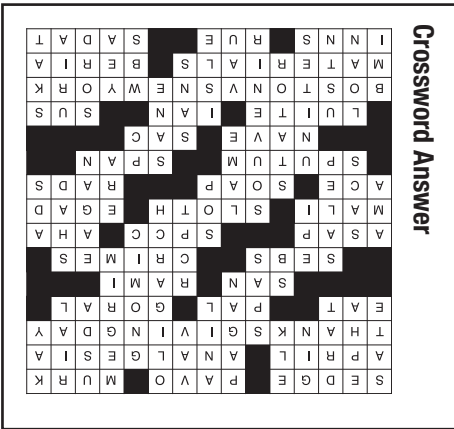
House calls available for free and I cover all of MB & SK. Todd 204-904-9705

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www.batteryman.ca



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

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter(s):

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI BY-LAW NO. 25-0003  
Being an amendment to the Gimli Zoning By-law No. 11-0013, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION: RM of Gimli Council Chambers  
62 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Gimli, Manitoba

DATE & TIME: June 25, 2025  
11:00 am

APPLICATION: RMG-25-03R

AFFECTED AREA: Pt. NE ¼ 17-19-4 EPM,  
Being Lot 23, Plan 16603  
#8 – 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Roll No. 147000

GENERAL INTENT: To rezone an area in the RM of Gimli from "RS" Residential Single-Family Zone to "CH" Commercial Highway Zone, for the expansion of commercial development.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Thom, CAO/Development Officer, Eastern Interlake Planning District  
62 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Box 1758 Gimli MB R0C 1B0 - Ph: 204-642-5478 Fax: 204-642-4061  
Email: eipd@mymts.net website: www.interlakeplanning.com

A copy of the circulation package may be provided/inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday; alternatively, a copy may be emailed upon request. Please note, if you have received this notice in the mail, it includes the circulation package.

E.I.P.D. recommends that property owner's notify lessee/renter if applicable.

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Election of Directors

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December 21, 1993 – June 7, 2023

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-Lovingly remembered by,  
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Grandparents – Steven and Kathie  
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*Your memory will live forever  
Engraved within our hearts*

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Contact: Tim North – 204.346.2990

*Thank you for your interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

## OBITUARY

Alice Linda Dyck (nee Skuba)  
February 24, 1950 – May 27, 2025

On May 27, 2025, Alice Linda Dyck, 75 years old of Moosehorn, MB. passed away with family by her side.

Cremation has taken place and a Graveside Memorial Service is being planned and will be announced at a later date.

Arrangements by:  
ARNASON FUNERAL HOME  
Ashern - Lundar  
1.204.768.2072  
1.866.323.3593

## OBITUARY

Carole Boychuk (nee Smith)  
July 13, 1948 – May 14, 2025

Suddenly, on May 14, 2025 at St. Boniface Hospital, Carole Boychuk passed away at the age of 76 years with family by her side.

Carole is survived by her husband John; son Sheldon (Shannon), daughter Shaylene (Brock) and grandchildren Rylee, Charly, Alaina, Ellie and Parker.

Special thanks to the entire Cardiac team at St. Boniface Hospital for their care helping us navigate a complex road with compassion.

In keeping with Carole's wishes, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre with Rev. David Fielder officiating. Interment will take place in the Eriksdale Municipal Cemetery with a luncheon to follow in the Hall.

Honorary Pallbearers that day will be Donna Kingsley, Wandis Day, Sandra Hogue, Marilyn Thompson and Audrey Sokoliuk.

Flowers are gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Carole's memory to the E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital Guild, c/o Debbie Lundale, Box 474, Eriksdale, MB R0C 0W0.

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OBITUARY



**Lorne Harold Floyd**  
July 20, 1944 - May 30, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Lorne Harold Floyd, who departed this life on May 30th, 2025 at the age of 80. Lorne/Dad/Afi passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, love, strength, and cherished memories.

Lorne is survived by his loving wife, Lorna, his devoted son and daughter-in-law, Stewart and Charla, and his precious grandchildren Braeden, Kylie and Kalan. He also leaves behind, his sisters, Alice Finnbogason, Doris Benson and their families.

Lorne is predeceased by his parents, Harry and Thrua Floyd, his son Ron and his infant sister Olive. He also joins his brothers-in-law, Lloyd Finnbogason and Roger Benson and his nephew Glen Finnbogason.

Lorne grew up and was raised on the family farm in Vidir, Manitoba. He attended the Vidir Elementary School and then Arborg Collegiate for high school. As a kid, he enjoyed skating in their outdoor rink with his friends and family, being a part of 4-H, spending time with his Big and Little Amma, and working on the family farm with his parents till he later took it over.

Lorne would say his greatest accomplishment was meeting the love of his life, Lorna, a cute girl that lived only two miles away (words taken from his memoir), who became his wife of 56 years, creating a beautiful family with their sons, Ron and Stewart. Lorne always considered himself the luckiest man being able to farm with his parents and his wife for 30 years, followed by the next 30 years with his sons. Lorne often spoke that there was no need for Father's Day because he lived everyday working with his sons. He was so proud to call them his partners and his friends. Later, he was joined by his daughter-in-law Charla and his grandchildren Braeden, Kylie and Kalan. He enjoyed so much teaching and watching them learn how life on the farm worked.

Lorne was progressive and innovative on and off the farm. He was a very community minded worker and was very passionate about its growth. He was part of the Arborg Curling Club, Vidir 4-H, I.A.E.A., Arborg Ag Society, Canadian FoodGrains, North Star Creamery, Vidir Hall, Vidir Cemetery, Manitoba Pool Elevators, Alfalfa Dehy. Plant, Ethanol Plant, Bio-Deisel, Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church, Arborg Chamber of Commerce, Manitoba Chamber of Commerce, Councillor and Reeve of Bifrost, Icelandic River Foundation, Prairie Oat Growers Association. Lorne and Lorna also hosted seven agricultural exchange students from overseas countries. He found it very interesting to learn different ideas and thoughts that they brought from their countries.

Lorne will be fondly remembered for his passion for his hobbies such as wood and metal work, his determination, his love for travel and adventure, breakfast cribbage games, believing he's able to fix anything, attending all his kids and grandkids events near and far, sitting by the fire and enjoying a drink and of course, anything chocolate! Lorne/Dad/Afi, you have been a blessing in all our lives and we will forever cherish the memories we've made together. You will be Forever Loved and Never Forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church.

Lorne's family would like to send a special thank you to the supportive and compassionate staff at the Arborg Hospital, the Health Sciences Center and all his Home Care nurses.

Service will be held Monday, June 9th at 2:00 at the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church.



204-949-2200  
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OBITUARY



**Olga Rydz (nee Fedowich)**

Peacefully, with her family by her side, Olga passed away on May 26, 2025 at the Johnson Memorial Hospital, Gimli at the age of 91.

She was predeceased by her husband Stanley, parents Anne and Mike and brothers Lawrence (Joan) and John.

Olga is survived by her son Danny (Darlene), daughters Darlene (Blaine) and Margaret (Stanley), grandchildren: Michelle (Allan), Darcy, Kathy (Mark), Kristy, Amanda (Aaron), Holly (Brad), and great-grandchildren: Treysen, Karyn, Rex, Dylan, Ava, Adam, Hunter, Chase, Emery and Colbie.

Olga Rydz (nee Fedowich) was born on June 21, 1933 in Hamrlik District, Manitoba. She spent her childhood years on the family farm with her parents, Anne and Mike and brothers Lawrence and John. On November 22, 1952 she married Stanley Rydz and they moved to their farm at Morweena, Manitoba. Together they

raised three children - Danny, Darlene and Margaret. They farmed together and enjoyed playing cards and taking trips to visit family and friends in Winnipeg Beach and the city of Winnipeg. Throughout her life, Olga also worked at various jobs in the Interlake and as a seamstress at Girls World Fashion in Winnipeg. When Stanley passed away in 1982, Olga continued farming on her own. Later on, she still kept a small herd of cattle and chickens and cut and baled hay until her retirement at age 68.

Throughout her life, Olga loved to garden and kept beautiful flower gardens full of a wide variety of annuals and perennials. For many years she planted a large vegetable garden as well as several different varieties of fruit trees and shrubs on her property. She enjoyed cooking, baking and crafting - especially crocheting. In her retirement years, she attended the Adult Day Program in Fisher Branch and took part in crafting classes and day trips.

Olga loved to spend time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and for many years hosted her family for Ukrainian Christmas and Easter celebrations. Olga was a quiet, strong and very independent woman.

She will be forever loved, always remembered and deeply missed by all of her family.

Funeral Service was held on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Ukrainian Catholic Church, Arborg. Interment took place at Morweena Community Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Morweena Community Cemetery, c/o 517 Clandeboye Ave, Selkirk R1A 0X7.

Vichanya Pamyat

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OBITUARY



**Winnie Vilborg Johnson**  
January 9, 1929 - May 21, 2025

Winnie Vilborg Johnson (née Olason) was born on January 9, 1929 in Caliento, Manitoba, to William and Christine Olason. She grew up in the small town of Piney, in Manitoba's southwest corner. Her parents were originally from North Dakota, and her grandparents had emigrated from Iceland - heritage she carried with pride throughout her life.

A lifelong learner and determined spirit, Winnie pursued education as far as she possibly could. She completed Grade 10 in Piney, followed her sister Margaret to Oak Point to finish Grade 11, and graduated from Success Commercial College in Winnipeg with honours. Winnie's life changed profoundly when she planted roots in Oak Point. There, she met and married her beloved husband, Lorne Johnson, on September 10, 1948.

At the age of 50, in true Winnie fashion, she completed a four-year Manitoba Municipal Employees course through the University of Manitoba. Winnie began her career as a secretary before dedicating herself to public service. In 1968, she accepted a position with the Municipal Office in St. Laurent. A decade later, she was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, a role she held for 13 years while also earning her diploma from the University of Manitoba. In 1981, she continued her public service in the RM of Coldwell as Secretary, where she remained until her retirement in 1992.

Winnie was predeceased by her husband Lorne, her son Lorne Neil, sons-in-law Brian Chartrand and Garry Diell, and grandson Tyler Chartrand.

She is survived by her children: Diane, Kerry (Laura), Lorraine (Doug), daughter-in-law Frances, brother David Olason and sister-in-law Aenone (Reg) Studler. She leaves behind her deeply cherished legacy, grandchildren Dennis, Pam, Lisa, Brandi, Jenni, Crystal, Leon, Adam, Mike, Mathew, Tom and Erik and 25 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

In every role - whether professional, personal, or in the community - Winnie led with heart, resilience, and quiet strength. She was a woman of many talents. From gardening and canning to baking her bread often topped with her legendary raspberry jam, she nourished those around her with both food and love. Her knitting was a gift of both warmth and tradition, especially her handmade Icelandic sweaters, mittens, and socks.

Regardless of the season or time of day, her door was always open, her coffee always on. No matter how busy life became, Winnie met it with a smile. She had an unshakable belief in health, family, and joy. She and Lorne were known for their speed and spirit - winning their respective races back in the 1950's at Oak Point's July 1st picnic, three years in a row.

Even in retirement, Winnie's purpose was to serve. She volunteered with the St. Laurent Seniors Resource Program, offered accounting support, and drove countless friends and neighbours to appointments. She also lent her time to the Canada 55+ Senior's Summer Games and was a proud member of the Oak Point Ladies Club.

She curled. She bowled. She made traditional Icelandic dishes such as vinarterta, ponnukokur, skyr and rullupylsa. She took Icelandic and French lessons. She traveled - to Iceland twice, to Churchill, along Canada's East Coast, down to Arizona, and even sailed on an Alaskan cruise.

Winnie embraced life fully - and perhaps, more importantly, joyfully. She taught her children to play rounders, bounced on trampolines with her grandchildren, and did countless puzzles. Music was part of her essence - she played piano, accordion, guitar, and organ, and she always sang with heart.

One of her favourite sayings was, "Let go and let God." And now, after giving of herself to so many, for so long, it's your turn to rest, Mom. Let go - knowing that everything you've done, all the ways you showed up for each of us, will never be forgotten.

Yours was a beautifully lived life. We will carry your spirit with us - forever.

The family thanks the staff at Rosewood Lodge PCH for their genuine care and compassion in the last year as well as Winnie's companions Heaven, Elvera and Jodi for their excellent care.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Oak Point Community Hall on Saturday, June 14th at 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to make a donation in Winnie's memory, please consider Rosewood Lodge PCH, 513-1st Ave N Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0 or the Alzheimer Society Manitoba at alzheimer.mb.ca

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