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EXPRESS PHOTO BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY
Riverton Collegiate graduate Hannah Keeper proudly displays her support for the 1,323 children found in unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools during the school's graduation parade.

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RM of West Interlake launches summer camps for youth

By Nicole Brownlee

West Interlake kicks off summer with four summer camps for kiddos.

Within days of the province announcing summer camps are back on the table, the RM of West Interlake got to work planning activities for kids in Ashern and Eriksdale.

Sam Bayer, recreational coordinator for West Interlake, said he's feeling excited.

"There's a lot of activities that I found that I can't wait to go out there and try," said Bayer.

Originally from Ohio, Bayer started at the RM in late June to fill the community's new recreational position.

"The RM is very excited to have Sam on board and to be able to offer eight weeks of day camps for no charge to families this year," said Courtney Roehl, chief administrative officer for West Interlake, in a statement.

The free camps are open to children aged 6 to 11 years old and will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Kids can choose from four themed camps running from July 12 to

Sept. 3, including dinosaurs, the jungle, the ocean and space.

"I would say that the space and dinosaur one are the ones that I'm looking forward to the most," said Bayer.

Campers will get to create fossils, go on digs and make exploding volcanoes during the dinosaur week and learn about moon phases, create moon sand and launch seltzer rockets during space camp.

"The camps are built with both kids and parents in mind by planning activities that the kids can both learn from and have fun with while the hours are structured to accommodate children for the whole day," said Roehl.

Most of the activities will be enjoyed outside, but they're also reserving community halls in case of poor weather, said Bayer.

Each camp has spots for 20 campers, and they're slowly filling the slots.

"I want to start planning lots. As many activities as I can really around the Ashern and Eriksdale areas," said Bayer.

"We are also looking at offering some online camps for teens and adults throughout the summer as well as a few drive-in families movies," added Roehl.

Bayer said the upcoming summer camps and other events that are in the works for the community are a great way to help ease back into social situations.



The RM of West Interlake is proud to announce that registration for our summer camps is now **OPEN!!** Summer camps are open to children aged 6 to 11 and will run from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm daily.

There are no registration fees for these camps. To register, please call Recreation Coordinator, Sam Bayer, at 204-768-2641 or email rec@rmofwestinterlake.com.

Have you ever wished that dinosaurs were still alive? They will certainly come alive in this fun, prehistoric-themed week! Join us as we create fizzy dinosaur eggs, make dinosaur fossils, go on a fossil dig, and make exploding volcanos!



Ashern Camp Dates - July 12 - 16
Eriksdale Camp Dates - July 19 - 23



Welcome to the Jungle! Join us as we take a wild ride learning about the layers of the rainforest and jungle animals! This week will be filled with making rain sticks and creating fun jungle creatures like slithering snakes, cheeky monkeys, and friendly tigers.

Ashern Camp Dates - July 26 - 30
Eriksdale Camp Dates - August 3 - 6



Ahoi me Hearties! This week is guaranteed to be a blast as we learn to talk like pirates while exploring the deep sea! We will have fun creating the different ocean zones in a bottle, making floating sea turtles, and going on a treasure hunt with our spy glasses!

Ashern Camp Dates - August 9 - 13
Eriksdale Camp Dates - August 16 - 20



CAMP SPACES ARE LIMITED! BE SURE TO CALL OR EMAIL TO BOOK YOUR SPOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



Blast off into space as we make seltzer rockets, learn about the phases of the moon while making moon sand, and learn about the solar system while making galaxy slime! This week is sure to be out of this world!

Ashern Camp Dates - August 23 - 27
Eriksdale Camp Dates - Aug 30 - Sept 3

The RM of West Interlake is launching four free summer day camps starting July 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

"I think it's very important for kids to get outside and have fun and interact with other people... especially after COVID," said Bayer. "They're going to need to get out and do something, and everybody's just been itching, I'm sure."

To register, call Sam Bayer at 204-768-2641 or email rec@rmofwestinterlake.com.

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Fisher River shows support for LGBTQIA2S+ community

By Nicole Brownlee

Fisher River Cree Nations raised their rainbow flag on June 25 to mark the community's first Pride festival.

Led by the FRCN Caring Community Coordinators, families, students and elders supported the spirited LGBTQIA2S+ parade.

Shayna Spence, a coordinator at CCC, said they usually plan around three community events per month and thought Pride would be a great event to include for June.

"We decided to do a spirit week alongside [the parade]," said Spence. "To get the young people and like the ones who couldn't make it out to the parade involved."

Participants were asked to send in a daily photo of themselves wearing a pride color to enter a draw. The photos will be compiled later to create a mosaic Pride flag to include in the community's magazine, Something Deadly.

Mercedes Sinclair, Spence's colleague, suggested they also design a Pride flag that incorporated the community's emblem as well.

"Our elders are very important to us, and we wanted to make sure it was [done] in an educational way, in a respectful way for all parties," said Spence. "The council really supported us in our goals and helped us make the arrangements for the flag to be raised at the band office."

The first Pride flag was raised at Charles Sinclair School earlier in the week to start a conversation about the upcoming Pride parade.

"We tried to do educational pieces about why we were doing these things in the community," said Spence. "It's a hard conversation, you know, but it needs to happen."

Spence said that over 10 floats from community organizations joined the parade alongside personal vehicles colourfully decorated at home.

The parade started at the Lee Co-



EPXRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

From left, Shayna Spence, Lacy-sue Amos, Travis Kirkness and Harold Amos raised the Pride flag at the Fisher River band office at the end of the parade.

chrane Memorial Visitor Centre, passing the personal care home where elders came outside to wave at the participants on floats, and ended in front of the band office where two community members who are a part of the LGBTQIA2S+ community raised the final Pride flag.

"I felt like raising the flag was a step in the right direction," said Travis Kirkness, who raised the flag alongside another community member, in a statement. "[I] finally felt I was part of the community and proud to be a two spirited!"

"This was a long time coming and it was such a great feeling to finally raise the rainbow flag and have my community and leadership standing by our side as allies for love, equality and solidarity," said Kirkness.

CCC hopes to continue the new tradition next year.



Fisher River Cree Nation hosted their first Pride parade on June 25, signalling their support for the LGBTQIA2S+ community by raising a custom pride flag at the band office.

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 Funded by the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge

We see you. We love you: Gimli's Canada Day honours Indigenous children

By Patricia Barrett

In a show of solidarity with Indigenous Canadians, Gimli's Canada Day Committee, area residents, local organizations and municipal representatives came together on July 1 to honour over 1,300 children found in unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools.

In the days leading up to Canada Day, Indigenous resident Dee Dee Miyai, committee members and local groups such as the Wave Youth Club decorated the streets with symbols of love and support and created a memorial on the bandstand near the harbour.

"In light of the now 1,363 children found in unmarked graves, the Canada Day Committee decided to make July 1st a day of solidarity, mourning, paying our respects and showing our Indigenous and First Nations people that we support them," said committee member Susan Holfeuer on her social media page.

Holfeuer and other volunteers painted a large broken heart on the road at the Centre Street and First Avenue intersection to symbolize "heartfelt reflection and mourning." Club members from the Wave helped tie orange ribbons around trees and lampposts.



Dee Dee Miyai had created a memorial at her Gimli home to collect shoes for Indigenous communities. The memorial was moved to Gimli bandstand

The committee and Robin's Donuts owner Cheryl Buhler provided volunteers with snacks and greatly needed hydration as temperatures soared into the high 30 degrees C.

The bandstand memorial included signs honouring the children who attended government- and church-run residential schools, which disrupted family bonds and prevented Indigenous people from practising their culture and language. Many children were physically and sexually abused.

Shoes, teddy bears and toys donated by community members were placed on the stairs ringing the bandstand to



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY DEE DEE MIYAI, CHERYL BUHLER, SUSAN HOLFEUER
The Gimli Canada Day committee's Susan Holfeuer (left) with Dee Dee Miyai at the bandstand.



Canada Day committee member Susan Holfeuer along with volunteers tied orange ribbons around lampposts.



Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg (right) and Coun. Peter Holfeuer spoke at the memorial.

honour the lost children. Signs commemorating Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls were displayed near the Gimli Art Club to bring awareness to a cycle of violence that must end.

Holfeuer said Miyai felt a strong calling to start a Gimli-based Every Child Matters movement after the "first precious souls were located in Kamloops."

Miyai decorated signs with feathers and eagles and messages such as, "We see you, We love you, We mourn with you, We support you," and "And a small voice whispers, They found us, 1,363 found ... more to come."

She had set up a memorial at her Gimli home in the weeks preceding Canada Day to raise awareness of the fallout of residential schools. She welcomed donations of shoes, clothes,

toys and other items, which she'll have delivered to First Nations communities such as Fairford and Grand Rapids.

"The children sparked the awareness and I took the opportunity to speak

Continued on page 5

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Bill 64

EVERGREEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Teachers in rural Manitoba are facing the uncertainties of Bill 64, and it's lack of a plan regarding the reorganization of education. This government already did away with the k-3 cap on class size. Imagine the effect of reduced teachers and swelling class sizes in your local, rural community.



Organizers paid tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Kids from the Wave youth group, with Wave director Anders Kuusselka, pitched in.



Vigil on Gimli Beach.

> WE SEE YOU, FROM PG. 4

today not only about them, but bring awareness to the Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, racism and how we need to show up and help at the reserves," said Miyai on her social media page. "Make changes not just talk about them."

Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg and Coun. Peter Holfeuer spoke at the bandstand to pay their respects to In-

digenous Canadians.

A "Light up the Lake" vigil took place in the evening along the shore of Lake Winnipeg. Miyai organized smudging, drumming and singing ceremonies. People lit candles to honour the loss of the children and reflect as Canadians move forward along the path of reconciliation.



Volunteers painted a large broken heart on the road at the Centre Street and First Avenue intersection.

Pandemic's days are numbered: Roussin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Public health officials announced 65 new cases of COVID-19 and one more death on Monday.

The daily numbers continue to drop as the number of Manitobans getting vaccinated is on the rise, providing hope for an end to the pandemic that has upended everyone's lives for the past year and a half.

"We know that all pandemics end, and this one will be no different," said Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer.

"Looking at other jurisdictions that have had high vaccine rates, we can see that perhaps this pandemic's days are numbered," he continued. "It's certainly reason to be hopeful considering Manitoba's vaccine uptake."

As of Monday, 74.8 per cent of eligible Manitobans had received their first dose and 50.2 per cent their second.

Monday's COVID numbers were part of 177 total new cases announced since Friday.

They brought the total number of active cases in Manitoba to 1,022 and recoveries to 54,309. Deaths due to COVID are at 1,151.

There are 156 Manitobans in hospital due to COVID-19, including 46 in intensive care (six in ICUs at hospitals in Ontario)

The five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate on Monday was at 6.3 per cent provincially and 6.1 per cent in Winnipeg.

One day soon, the health care system won't be under strain, daily COVID-19 briefings will be a thing of the past,

and public health restrictions will no longer be needed, Roussin said of what a post-pandemic Manitoba will look like.

"With each passing day, more and more Manitobans are getting vaccinated," he said. "Nearly 1.5 million doses have been administered in Manitoba already."

"This is really a tribute to the vaccine team and to Manitobans for stepping up and getting that vaccine as soon as they can. We need Manitobans to continue to do so ... our ability to re-open businesses, services, facilities, to gather with each other once again relies on Manitobans getting those two vaccines. Immunization is our key to a post-pandemic Manitoba."

All people age 12 and up are eligible to make first- and second-dose appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. You can do so online at protectmb.ca or by calling (toll-free) 1-844-626-8222.

By the numbers

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health reported nine new cases on Monday bringing the total to 161 active cases with 3,633 recovered.

A number of districts continue to report zero cases including Arborg/Riverton, Gimli, Pinawa/LacduBonnet, St. Laurent, Whiteshell and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews. Fisher River/Peguis reported 81 active cases, Eriksdale/Ashern 36, Powerview/Pine Falls 19, Selkirk 10, Unknown 4, Stonewall/Teulon 3 and Beausjour, Springfield and St. Clements all with one.



FACT:

Plans are already underway to take staff out of small communities. What will this loss of employment mean for rural and northern Manitoba?



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Hydro responds to Consumers Coalition accusations

Submitted by Bruce Owen

Financial information submitted by Manitoba Hydro to the Public Utilities Board demonstrates there has not been a substantial change in Manitoba Hydro's financial circumstances since the last General Rate Application in 2017-18.

The utility today responded to comments regarding the Crown corporation's actual financial results and budget filed with the PUB.

"Our submissions to the PUB provide a comprehensive picture of Manitoba Hydro's actual and budgeted 2021-22 financial position," Manitoba Hydro President and CEO Jay Grewal said. "The coalition groups did not dispute the information we provided that supports this fact.

"It's verging on offensive to suggest we are defying orders by not supplying information we have already told the PUB does not exist," she said. "To be clear, what we supplied will allow

the PUB to answer the question it currently has before it – whether there's been a substantial change in Manitoba Hydro's finances. And we're confident the information we provided clearly demonstrates that there has not been a substantive change since the last GRA."

Grewal said that going forward, the Corporation's long-term financial forecasts will be more informed and comprehensive, with a thorough integration of long-term strategic and operating plans. Those forecasts will underpin the utility's first five-year GRA, which will be filed with the PUB in the winter of 2022-23.

"We are in the midst of identifying, developing and assessing what is required to successfully execute on our long-term strategic vision for Manitoba Hydro, which puts our customers at the forefront of everything we do," Grewal said.

"We are implementing new pro-

cesses and improved approaches that we believe are necessary to prepare Manitoba Hydro to be able to effectively respond to the changing energy landscape of the future and ensure we operate as efficiently as possible, both today and into the future." Grewal added Manitoba Hydro routinely provides the PUB with information on its financial state, including operating and administrative costs, capital projects, and other information to ensure the regulatory body is always aware of state of the organization.

Manitoba Hydro always operates in full compliance of all legislated and regulatory requirements.

"I want to assure our customers that Manitoba Hydro and its employees remain committed to providing them with the affordable and reliable energy they have come to rely on, today and always," Grewal said.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Vandalism at the Legislature is a criminal act contrary to reconciliation

Dear Premier Pallister,
We are writing to express our shock and dismay regarding the acts of vandalism at the Manitoba Legislature on July 1, 2021. The Manitoba Conservative Members of Parliament condemn the destruction of public property on the Legislative grounds in the strongest possible terms. We acknowledge that the small number of individuals who perpetrated these acts are not representative of the thousands of Canadians who exercised their right to attend a peaceful protest.

Vandalism at the Legislature and the burning of places of worship in provinces across Canada are criminal acts contrary to reconciliation. We agree Manitoba's elected officials have a responsibility to condemn these violent acts that jeopardize public safety and endanger reconciliation.

As a province, we are committed to resolving our differences through lawful democratic debate, not vandalism. We cannot allow a small number of individuals to subvert our democracy or erode our democratic

institutions. Therefore, we respectfully request that the statues of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II be repaired and restored to the Legislative grounds as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Larry Maguire, MP Brandon-Souris, Honourable Candice Bergen, PC, MP Portage-Lisgar, James Bezan, MP Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, Honourable Don Plett Conservative Senator-Manitoba (Landmark), Raquel Dancho, MP Kildonan-St. Paul, Ted Falk, MP Provencher, Eric Melillo, MP Kenora, Marty Morantz, MP Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia-Headingley and Dan Mazier, MP Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa

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Hooked on life jackets

Submitted

National Fishing Week is July 3 to July 11. With that in mind, Lifesaving Society Manitoba wants to remind anglers about the importance of wearing a lifejacket. It is like a seatbelt. It can save you when the unexpected occurs, but only if you are wearing it.

Eighty percent of recreational boaters who drown every year in Canada were not wearing a lifejacket or personal floatation device (PFD). Most

drownings occur in small, open powerboats accounting for 60 per cent of these preventable deaths. The majority of victims were males between the ages of 19 and 35, out for a day of fishing.

"It's not enough to have a lifejacket in your boat," said Lifesaving Society Manitoba Executive Director Stacey Grocholski.

"Situations can change in an instant and you might not be able to reach

your lifejacket if you are thrown from your boat or knocked unconscious. Even if you are fishing from shore, you should wear a lifejacket if you are not a confident swimmer."

Think about falling in, off the bank of the Red River by Lockport. Good swimmers have drowned at that location.

Today, many boaters choose to wear an inflatable lifejacket because they are cool, fully adjustable and provide

full arm motion. These are available in both manual and auto-inflate models. All lifejackets and PFDs (personal floatation devices) must be Transport Canada approved, the correct size and fit snugly.

To help anglers and boaters, the Canadian Safe Boating Council has launched a new "go-to" boating App called Weather to Boat. Get all the key information needed in one place including marine and local weather forecasts, pre-departure checklists, geo-referenced marinas and boat launches, and a trip planner with emergency contact alerting. Go to weathertoboat.ca to learn more.

Get laced up for the Icelandic Festival's virtual running races

By Patricia Barrett

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba (IFM) is getting set to host its popular running races, which will be held virtually for the second year in a row as it won't be clear whether COVID-19 case numbers and vaccination uptake will result in the lifting of provincial public health restrictions.

"Due to the uncertainty surrounding public health restrictions, the annual ... 10-mile, 5-kilometre and 1-mile races will take place virtually this year," said organizers on the IFM website. "Virtual races allow par-

ticipants to compete for prizes (and glory), while enjoying the flexibility of choosing a time, date and route to run that works best for you."

Runners must fill out a registration form indicating what race they intend to run. They'll receive a digital race kit and instructions on how to participate. The run has to be completed in one go, but runners can choose their own location.

The competition opens on Sunday, July 18. Runners must submit their running times by Sunday, Aug. 1 in order to be considered for judging.

"Runners must record their race in real time by a Global Positioning System (GPS) either with a GPS enabled watch or a smart phone and once completed, upload the results automatically to RaceRoster by using the Runkeeper application," said organizers.

The winners will be announced on Monday, Aug. 2 on the IFM's website and Facebook page.

Organizers are holding out hope they'll be able to host some limited in-person race-related activities on the August long weekend when the festival gets underway.

The IFM will be celebrating its 132nd festival this year from July 30 to Aug. 2. Visit the IFM website at www.icelandicfestival.com, email: info@icelandicfestival.com or phone (204) 642-7417 for more information.



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Public Notice

You're Invited

to share your views about the proposed rate changes from Manitoba Public Insurance

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for a 2.8 per cent decrease to Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. MPI is also seeking to replace the 5 per cent capital release from last year's application with a rebate request currently estimated at \$155 million to be filed later this year. If approved, the rebate would be equivalent to a rate reduction of approximately 15 per cent.

For further details, please contact MPI at inquiries@mpi.mb.ca or visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

If you are interested in learning more about this rate decrease, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle, at 204-945-2638 or toll-free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **October 1, 2021**.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Manitoba Public Utilities Board
400-330 Portage Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4
Phone: 204-945-2638
Email: publicutilities@gov.mb.ca

An electronic-based virtual public hearing on the proposed decrease will be held beginning:

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
at 9 a.m.

Please view the hearing via the Board's website (www.pubmanitoba.ca)



Winnipeg is your urban oasis this July

Clockwise from left: Assiniboine Park's English Gardens (Mike Peters); Oodena Celebration Circle at The Forks (John Slipec); Explore The Forks (William Au)

Temperatures and vaccination rates continue to rise, while Winnipeg's outdoor attractions are back and better than ever.

Now's the time to rediscover the city's lush new attractions—where hidden gems will be music to your ears and hotels will have you sitting poolside within the city's glittering skyline. Here are some options for a full day of exploring this month.

Great gardens, goats, mini donkeys and massive dinos

Assiniboine Park and Zoo is a peach of a place to spend a morning, providing a little something for everyone. The English Garden



Book your stay & save!

Winnipeg's hotels continue to safely bring their best with great summer deals.

Fairmont's "Family Fun-cation"

Features a Caesar bar for adults and dessert bars for kids

Delta's Balconies and Brunch

Includes access to its rooftop pool

Fort Garry Hotel's Spa Package

Includes a \$300 credit for Ten Spa

and Leo Mol Sculpture Garden provide a brilliant bouquet for the senses, from the smell of fresh flowers to visions of Mol's wondrous bronze works, which depict everything from local ambassadors to scenes from Greek Mythology.

The Gardens at The Leaf are new for summer 2021 and open July 9. This near 30-acre horticultural exhibit surrounds the impressive, 90,000 sq. ft. conical Leaf building, which is currently under construction. The outdoor gardens consist of The Indigenous Peoples Garden, the Kitchen Garden, Sensory Garden, Performance Garden, Seasonal Garden and the Grove, providing a bountiful showcase of plant species, all interconnected by charming pathways.

Assiniboine Park Zoo also offers plenty of new things from the cute and whimsical to the fierce and ferocious.

On the cute side of things, there's Aunt Sally's Farm. This new exhibit is such good fun with inhabitants that include goats that traverse right over your head via rainbow-coloured bridges. Pot-bellied pigs, mini donkeys and llamas that frolic to and fro, guaranteed to bring a smile to your face.

For something more ferocious, Dinosaurs Uncovered has returned, with 17 life-sized animatronic dinos lurking in the Zoo's forested trails. This time around, Dinosaurs Uncovered also includes museum-quality fossils and interactive archeological fun.

Plus, while you're at the zoo you might even encounter some stars—and we're not just talking about the polar bears that swim right overhead in the Sea Ice Passage. Several of the zoo's caretakers and research scientists were recently featured in CBC Television's *Arctic Vets*, which you can still stream.

Find it at The Forks

For the afternoon, adventure awaits at The Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet and inspirational new works are ready to welcome visitors.

In the past few years The Forks has become, to quote national award-winning columnist Niigaan Sinclair, "One of the largest collections of Indigenous-led public expressions in any historical site in Canada." Sinclair is the Indigenous Curator at The Forks and the host of *The Forks: A self-guided audio tour*, which reveals some of its 6,000-year history and public works of art. This includes the massive Niimaamaa ("my mother")—a huge sculpture by KC Adams, Jaimie Isaac and Val Vint that is a must-see on the south-east side of The Forks. You'll also find signage throughout the area in Cree, Ojibway and Michif.

The Forks Market is open for shoppers and culinary enthusiasts. It's the place to be for locally made fashions, products and gifts. End your day by sipping wine or craft beers under a spacious, tree-covered patio, while sampling food from kiosks run by some of the city's best chefs.



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Grad 2021



Congratulations Class of 2021!

Derek Johnson
 MLA for Interlake-Gimli
 InterlakeGimliMLA@gmail.com
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Fisher Branch Collegiate celebrates graduation with loosened COVID restrictions

By Jules Stevenson

After a difficult year, the 17 grade 12 graduates from Fisher Branch Collegiate turned their tassels together.

Fisher Branch Collegiate had a drive-up grad on Saturday, June 26 at 1:00 p.m. COVID-19 restrictions loosened that day, allowing more space for the celebration. The graduates and their families parked around the stage in a semi-circle.

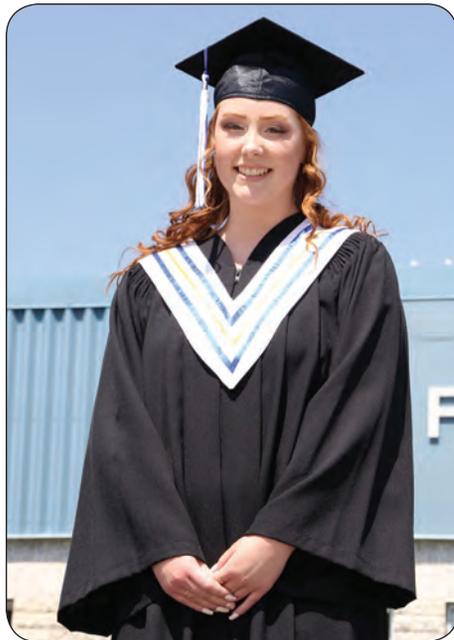
Graduates sat socially distanced in the middle of the semi-circle and were called up to the stage one at a time to receive their diploma.

"The ceremony went very well, all things considered. It felt very joyous and celebratory for a tough, tough year," said Principal Joel Matheson.

There was a principal's message and a message from the school administration, which was played so all those attending, either from the school or at home, could listen and watch.

"These kids have shown resilience throughout the last year and a bit. We think they're going to continue on and do great things with that. If they can conquer this one, then they can easily move on to the next step," said Matheson.

Alayna Kochan was the top student of the year and received the Lakeshore Proficiency Award, Governor General's Medal, and was the class Valedictorian. Kochan shared a speech about the highs and lows of the past few years, as her and her classmates look towards the next steps in their lives.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JOANNE SMITH
Valedictorian, Alayna Kochan Gov. Gen and Lakeshore Proficiency award.

After the ceremony, the graduates paraded through Fisher Branch, and in front of the personal care home. Each graduate had their own decorated parade float.

Fisher Branch Collegiate hired a digital production company to film and livestream the graduation. Matheson said it made the livestream look more professional. The weather on Saturday was hot and sunny, reaching 18 degrees Celsius, which Matheson said was perfect.



Fisher Branch's class of 2021 celebrate the end of their high school career.



This year's graduating class had a class photo taken at their Kindergarten graduation with Nick Yuzwa's 1930 antique car in 2008. Nick's son Pierson, pictured right, with his dad's car.



Graduates parade through town following the ceremony.



Graduate Dasani Cameron waving to the community.



Allan and Paul Emms had formal photos at the WI park in Fisher Branch.



The graduation parade was enjoyed by the community.

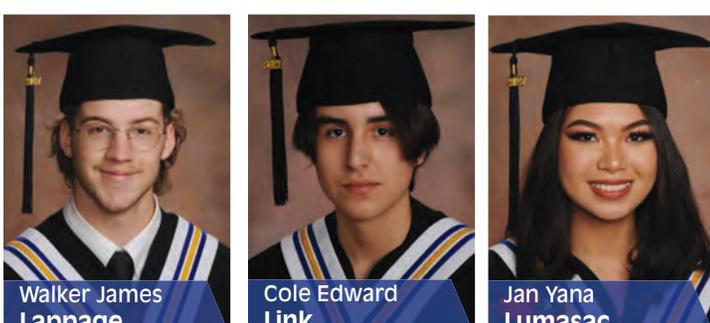
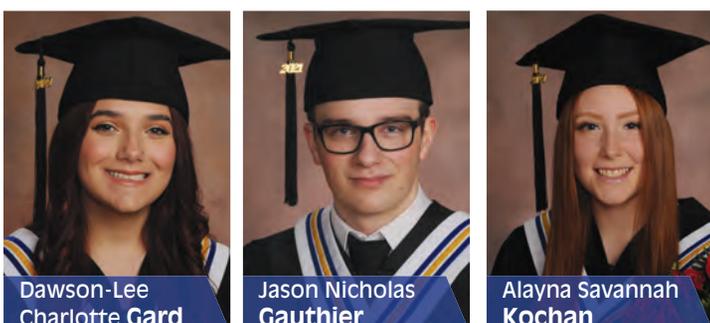
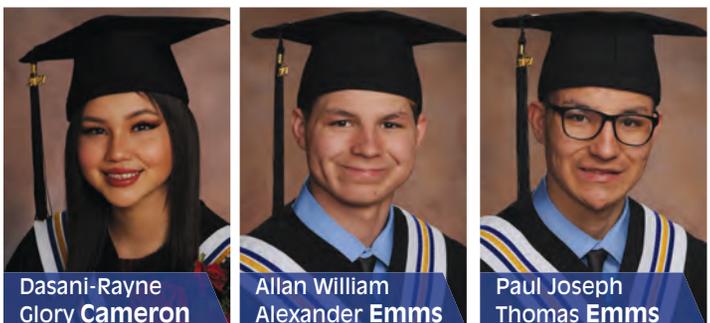
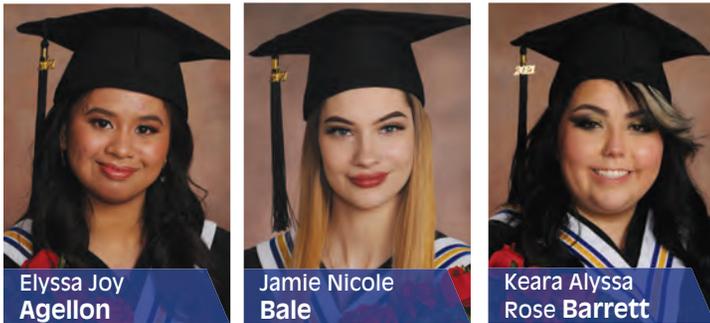
All the Best to
All of Our Graduates

It's your day, and we hope you enjoy every moment as you celebrate the culmination of your hard work. May your graduation be the beginning of a bright and beautiful future.
We look forward to celebrating your continued success!



Rural Municipality of
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FISHER BRANCH GRADUATION 2021



Fisher Branch Scholarships

Recipient	Name of Donor	Name of Award
Alayna Kochan	Noventis Credit Union	Noventis Credit Union Bursary
	Interlake Café	Furthering Education
	Walther Wochuk (UK Farmers Coop)	Furthering Education (they pick)
	Lakeshore School Division	General Proficiency Award
	Chown Centennial	University of Manitoba
	Derick Johnson Citizen Scholarship	citizen scholarship
	FB WI	1st place grad
	Governor General Medal	1st place over gr 11 & 12
	French Frog Award	1st place in Grade 12 French
	FB Filipino Community	Validictorian
	Ben Grocholski Memorial Fund	Volunterism
	University of Manitoba	UM Queen Elizabeth II Entrance
	Highest in Gr 12 Pre-Calculus Math	Medal
	Highest in Gr 12 Biology	Medal
	Highest in Gr 12 Chemistry	Medal
Highest in Gr 12 Physics	Medal	
Highest in Gr 12 French	Medal	
Chaika Dance Club	graduating member	
Patti Witzke	in memory of Keneth Carson	
Allan Emms	Royal Canadian Legion #57 Poppy Fund	Most Congenial Graduate
	Interlake Metis Association INC	Metis graduating student
Cole Link	TDM Sports	Furthering Education
	Winnipeg Foundation	Olga Grouch Fund - FBWI
Dasani Cameron	Rm of Fisher	furthering education
	Noventis Credit Union	Noventis Credit Union Bursary
Dawson Gard	UK Farmers Coop	Furthering Education (they pick)
	Lakeshore Teachers' Association	Furthering Education working with kids
Elyssa Agellon	Interlake Pollination System Canada Inc.	Furthering Education
	FB WI	2nd place grad
	Ben Grocholski Memorial Fund	Volunterism
	Highest in Gr 12 Applied Math	Medal
	Chaika Dance Club	graduating member
	The University of Winnipeg	Special Entrance Scholarshkp
	Patti Witzke	in memory of Keneth Carson
	Winnipeg Foundation	Olga Grouch Fund - FBWI
	Dr. Sonja Bruin	Furthering Education
	UK Farmers Coop	Furthering Education (they pick)
	Anonymous	Furthering Education
	FB Filipino Community	member graduating
	Highest in Gr 12 ELA Comprehensive	Medal
	Winnipeg Foundation	Olga Grouch Fund - FBWI
	FB Health Center	Furthering Education
The University of Winnipeg	Special Entrance Scholarshkp	
Keara Barrett	Interlake Metis Association INC	Metis graduating student
	Joanne Smith	Former Music Student
Paul Emms	UK Farmers Coop	Furthering Education (they pick)
	Annette Holowka	furthering education
Pierson Yuzwa	Highest in Gr 12 Essential Math	Medal
	Interlake Metis Association INC	Metis graduating student
Ryan Roschuk	Poplarfield Community Center	Furthering Education from Poplarfield
	William Zabatiuk	Most Improved Graduate
Walker Lappage	Broad Valley Catering	Furthering education in trades
	Patti Witzke	in memory of Keneth Carson
Zeb Novak	UK Farmers Coop	Furthering Education (they pick)
	Interlake Honey Producers LTD	Furthering Education
Yana Lumasac	Smith's Autotech	Furthering Education as an Apprentice
	Rm of Fisher	Skilled Trade
	Sig n' Al Simmentals	Furthering education in trades
	Winnipeg Foundation	Olga Grouch Fund - FBWI
	Shactay Sales & Service	Furthering Education
	Michelle Smith	Humanitarian in memory of Nancy
	FB Filipino Community	member graduating
	University of Manitoba	UM Guertin Centennial Entrance
	Mihn's Restaurant	furthering ed as picked by donor
	Patti Witzke	in memory of Keneth Carson
	Interlake Metis Association INC	Metis graduating student

Arborg's Class of 2021 perseveres pandemic year

By Tyler Searle

Brooding clouds and gusting winds threatened rain during the Arborg Collegiate Institute's (ACI) graduation ceremony, but the graduates marched on undeterred.

The weather was emblematic of the uncertainty which dominated this year, said Principal Randy Semenek during his opening address.

Questions of whether there would be a grad, what it would look like, and who could attend have been top-of-mind for graduates, faculty, and family, he said.

In the end, the ceremony was a go. It took place on June 23.

At 2 p.m., the 19 graduates in ACI's Class of 2021 took their seats in the open field behind the school.

Twenty vehicles with up to four passengers a-piece parked on school grounds. Some remained in their cars, while dozens pitched lawn chairs outside to watch the ceremony.

Teachers, family, and community members who could not attend in person due to provincial restrictions tuned in to 101.1 FM to hear a live broadcast of the proceedings.

ACI intended to live stream the event via YouTube, but its internet failed twenty minutes before the ceremony began.

The threat of rain and faulty WiFi were merely a few more obstacles for ACI's graduating class to overcome and, given all they had accomplished, minor ones, Semenek said.

A few drops fell, but the ceremony remained undisturbed, and the grads celebrated with the customary hoops, hollers, and speeches of a Grade 12 graduation.

Every person who spoke commended the tenacity and resilience of the graduating class.

Teacher Scott Stadnek gave a speech at the behest of students, addressing many directly and sharing anecdotes or fond memories with the small crowd.



Keely Emms-Finnson received \$5,000 in scholarships and bursaries.

He left his students with parting advice:

"Do not forget the people and places that made you who you are."

Assistant Principal Krista Borgfjord called each student up to the podium to receive their diplomas and announced the various scholarships and bursaries.

Eleven students earned 31 different awards. There were no athletic awards because COVID-19 halted organized sports early in the school year.

Notably, Brooke Blahey won \$1,500, Keely Emms-Finnson won \$5,000, and Sonja Friesen won \$7,350 and the Governor General's medal.

Friesen and fellow valedictorian Logan Pearce closed the ceremony with a joint speech addressing their classmates.

The pair reflected on their time at ACI and the unique personality traits that comprised their class.

"I encourage everyone here today to remember all the good things about this journey. One year of challenges should not be allowed to erase all the happiness of past years," Friesen said.

"I know that everyone here will find their place in the world, whether this be moving away, staying here and raising a family, or travelling to the four corners of the earth. Whatever you do, it is my sincere hope that you will enjoy life to the fullest."

Continued on page 7



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARA URUSKI, TYLER SEARLE, MELANIE PEARCE
Arborg Collegiate's 2021 Valedictorians Logan Pearce and Sonja Friesen.



Delaney Yarema received a Manitoba Metis sash and Bursary.



Sonja Friesen was the recipient \$7,350 in scholarship money as well as the Governor General's medal.

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Graduates

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ARBORG

GRADUATION 2021



Arborg Collegiate graduates celebrate the end of their high school career with the ceremonial cap toss.

> ARBORG, FROM PG. 6

Friends, faculty, family, and peers applauded before the graduates flung their caps in the air and bid farewell to their high school careers.

Following the ceremony, students and their families converged at the Arborg & District Arena to prepare for a parade through town.

Grads milled about the lot and mingled with one another, posing for photos, checking out the rides, and exchanging congratulations.

At 4 p.m., they formed a convoy and set off. Members of the local fire department led the troupe through town.

ACI's graduating class of 2021 was met with fanfare on the streets of Arborg.

Residents from the Assisted Living Centre waited for the youth outside the facility. One graduate called out to her grandmother as she passed—the woman met her with a buoyant grin.

Hundreds of community members lined the walks, boulevards and bridges and cheered on the parade. Families embraced each other in the streets.

Grads and their guardians organized the parade independent from the school, and fundraising was supported entirely by the community, said Logan Pearce's mother, Melanie Pearce.

The graduating class is incredibly close, and most have

been together since kindergarten. Planning wasn't always easy, but they did it together, Pearce said.

As early as September, groups of parents and students were meeting to discuss graduation. The ever-changing Public Health orders meant the organizers prepared a variety of contingency plans.

Through it all, the students' enthusiasm never waned, said Gerrey Emms, mother of Keely Emms-Finnsson.

"They were so thankful for the simple fact that they could be together," Emms said.

This was not the grad they anticipated, but as the Class of 2021 paraded triumphantly through town, there was hardly a person without a smile.



Residents from the Arborg Assisted Living Centre greeted the parade with signs and applause.



Brittany Waldner drove a side-by-side through the streets of Arborg during the parade.



Melanie and Logan Pearce pose for a photo while the graduation convoy assembles.



Pictured left to right, Garrett Zuk, Zack Leochko, Keely Emms-Finnsson, Logan Pearce and Braeden Karatchuk.

CONGRATULATIONS

As you turn the page to the next chapter, the future is yours to write. Fill it with new experiences, good people and rewarding choices that help make the world a better place.

Best wishes to all of the dedicated seniors who are celebrating their graduation this year!

Rita, Mike and staff

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Congratulations!

Town of Arborg
Mayor, Council
and Staff

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Arborg ROC OAO
BRANCH 161
ARBORG

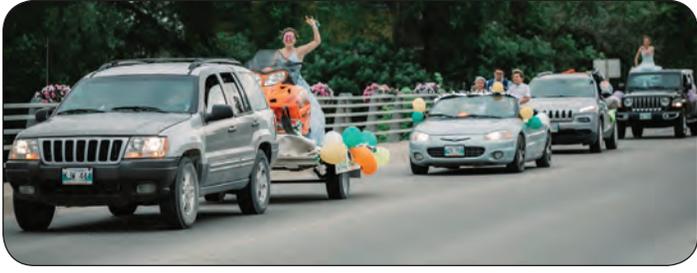
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Graduates
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ARBORG

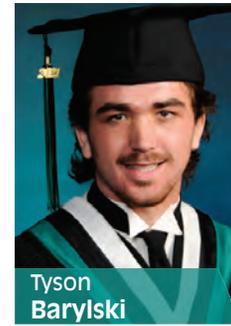
GRADUATION 2021



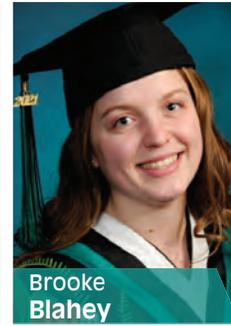
Graduates parade through the town following their ceremony.



Delaney Harper rides in style.



Tyson Barylski



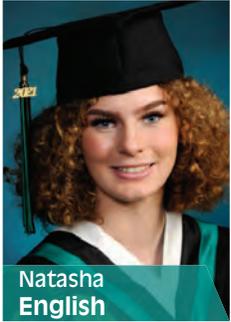
Brooke Blahey



Skyenne Dueck



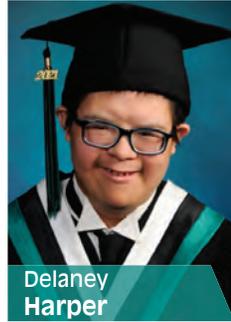
Keely Emms-Finnsson



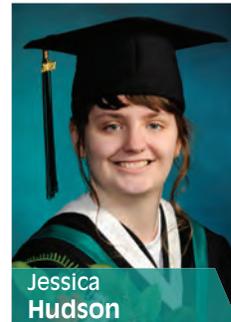
Natasha English



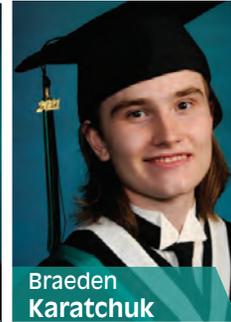
Sonja Friesen



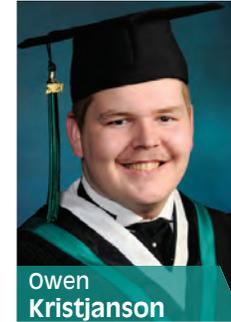
Delaney Harper



Jessica Hudson



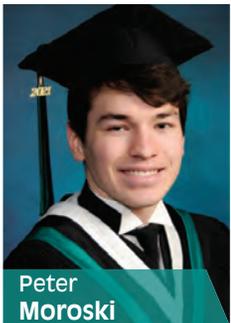
Braeden Karatchuk



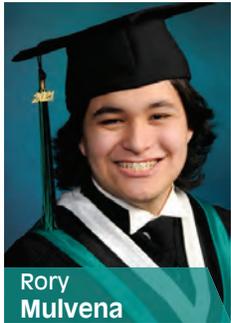
Owen Kristjanson



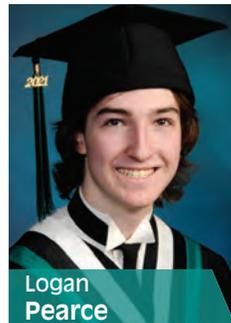
Zak Leochko



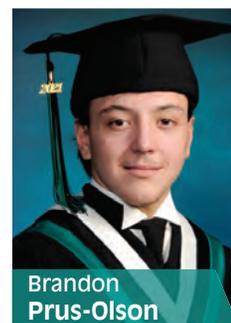
Peter Moroski



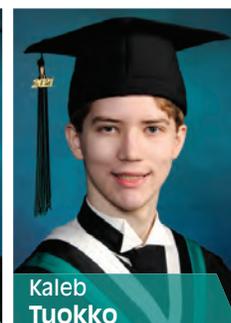
Rory Mulvena



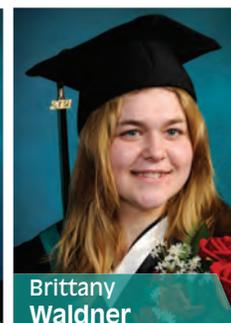
Logan Pearce



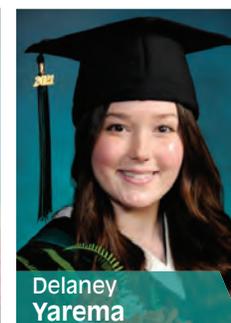
Brandon Prus-Olson



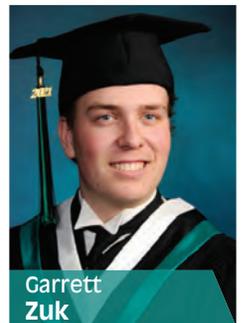
Kaleb Tuokko



Brittany Waldner



Delaney Yarema



Garrett Zuk

Arborg Collegiate Awards and Scholarships

- Tyson Barylski** Royal Canadian Legion Branch 161 Bursary Award
- Brooke Blahey** Arborg Agricultural Society Award, Arborg Legion Ladies Auxiliary Award, Interlake Co-Op Scholarship
- Keely Emms-Finnsson** CUPE Local 3164 Award, Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship, Noventis Credit Union Scholarship, Friederici Farms Agriculture Scholarship, University of Manitoba Hogg Centennial Entrance Award, Red River Exhibition Foundation 50th Anniversary Farm Family Scholarship
- Natasha English** Evergreen Teachers' Association Award, Margrét Bjarnason Memorial Scholarship
- Sonja Friesen** Town of Arborg Award, Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship, Arborg and Riverton Band and Choral Post-Secondary, Scholarship, Evergreen School Division Award, Noventis Credit Union Bursary, Icelandic River Health Clinic, Derek Johnson Citizenship Scholarship, University of Manitoba Chown Centennial Scholarship, University of Manitoba Queen Elizabeth II Entrance Scholarship, Governor General's Medal
- Jessica Hudson** Manitoba Metis Federation Award
- Peter Moroski** Evergreen School Division Award, Municipality of Bifrost Riverton Bursary
- Brandon Prus-Olson** Manitoba Metis Federation Award
- Kaleb Tuokko** Royal Canadian Legion Branch 161 Bursary Award, Association for Community Living Award
- Delaney Yarema** Manitoba Metis Federation Award
- Garrett Zuk** Arborg Family Dental Award, Great Plains Mobile Repair Trades Bursary

★ ★ ★ **Congratulations to the Class of 2021** ★ ★ ★

LUNDAR

GRADUATION 2021

Lundar Collegiate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

- Connor Bishop** - Allan Forsyth Foundation Scholarship, Brendan Moman Memorial Scholarship, Eriksdale Legion Scholarship and Bursary, Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship, Governor General's Bronze Medal Award, Interlake Coop Scholarship, Little Lady's Scholarship, Lundar School Scholarship, Noventis Credit Union Scholarship, General Proficiency
- Sidney Carrette-Priemski** - Fjola Johnson Scholarship, Lundar Elks Scholarship, Lundar Legion Scholarship, One Insurance Bursary
- Rayna Gleich** - Allan Forsyth Foundation Scholarship, Eriksdale Legion Scholarship and Bursary, Ladies Aid Bjork Scholarship
- Zachary Halldorson** - David Sigfusson Memorial Scholarship, Raymond "Shady" Monkman Scholarship
- Lloyd (Lou) Holm** - David Sigfusson Memorial Scholarship, Raymond "Shady" Monkman Scholarship
- Paige Law** - Lakeshore Teacher's Association Scholarship, Lundar Elks Scholarship
- Austin Magnusson** - Coldwell Community Foundation Inc. Scholarship, Lundar School Scholarship
- Cara Marttila** - Al Hummel Memorial Scholarship, Lundar Legion Scholarship, Noventis Credit Union Scholarship
- Deidra Olafson** - Vocational Teacher's Association of Manitoba Award of Merit, Alexander Ryden, Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation's Cal & Dorothy Bennett Memorial Scholarship, One Insurance Bursary
- Brooklyn Wirgau** - Chown Centennial \$1000 Entrance Scholarship, Derek Johnson Citizenship Scholarship, Grettir Co-operative Amateur Athletic Association Scholarship, Gudjon Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Taylor Joseph Christensen Memorial Scholarship

Lundar's Class of 2021 officially graduates

By Jo-Anne Procter

Lundar Collegiate graduates were honoured and celebrated June 25 in front of limited family members. Following the official ceremony, the students then paraded down the centre of Main Street led by the local RCMP for the community.

The 2021 graduates had quite a high school experience, with the last two years being the most challenging as they navigated their senior years through a worldwide pandemic.

"Someday you will tell your grandchildren, instead of walking uphill both ways in the snow to school, you will tell tales of sitting six feet apart, wearing face masks, having no school sports, assemblies, or field trips," emcee and teacher Amy Tycoles told graduates.

"Although your experience has been different, it has been an honour to share the last four years with all of you,"

Principal Lawrence Grzenda, addressed graduates via pre-recorded video on the giant video screen that displayed the graduation ceremony.

"You have worked hard growing into what we call a graduate," he said. "Each of you has a different set of traits that allow you to get to this



Lundar graduating class of 2021

point. These are the traits that will allow you to be successful regarding whatever goals you choose to pursue." My advice to you is to use these traits that you have developed."

The Lundar high school staff is proud of their graduates, and as they continue on their life's journey, they have one wish.

"That is for you to find harmony in your life, figure out what makes you feel successful about yourself."

Valedictorians Austin Magnusson and Sydney Carrette-Priemski each

took a turn at the podium.

An emotional Magnusson was honoured to address his peers and highlight the last 13 years of their lives. He shared stories and memories about each graduate.

"You guys taught me what it means to laugh, what it means to make memories; you are really a stand-out class," he said. "Wherever my class is, is where I wanted to be. We have so much ahead of us, but we will never forget what is behind us, and we have each other to thank for that."



Graduate Connor Bishop was the recipient of the Governor General's bronze medal for highest academic standing as well as the Lakeshore Proficiency Award.

Change is inevitable, is the angle that Carrette-Priemski took for her valedictory message to fellow graduates.

"As you move into life beyond our small hometown high school, change will still be inevitable," she said. "It is inevitable and indeed gratifying to see that our graduating class of 2021 somewhat matured and became field proficient ready to tackle and further lifelong education."

"It is inevitable that structure, processes and relationships will change

Continued on page 8

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Best wishes to our graduates as they continue their journey to make the future a brighter place, one step at a time.

LAKESHORE SCHOOL DIVISION



Valedictorians Sydney Carrette-Priemski and Austin Magnusson addressed their fellow graduates.

> LUNDAR, FROM PG. 7

in your day to day lives. It is inevitable that you will face new challenges, and it is inevitable that things may seem a little different in the years ahead."

"To my dear, terrified graduates, the path has brought you and me many questionable and somehow beautiful memories."

"Remember to stay true to yourself, hold on to your value system, your work ethic, and most importantly, your humility." She continued, "it is these qualities that will push you forward in the journey you will embark on."

"Life is a remarkable gift and I have no doubt that you guys will make the most of it."

Carrette-Priemski closed by thanking all staff, parents and students for the guidance and the beneficial role

each played in shaping the graduates. Connor Bishop was the recipient of the Governor General's bronze medal for highest academic standing and the General Proficiency Award.

Following the presentation of diplomas, graduates tossed their grad caps and proceeded to their parade down Main Street. Graduates finished their route at the Lundar Senior's Home where a group of residents sang 'For he's/she's the jolly good fellow'.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Graduates jump for joy following their official graduation ceremony. Pictured left to right; Brooklyn Wirgau, Hannah Lussier, Emily Hordal, Danielle Loewen and Rayna Gleich.



Graduates were treated to a special song from residents of Lundar Senior's Home following the parade.



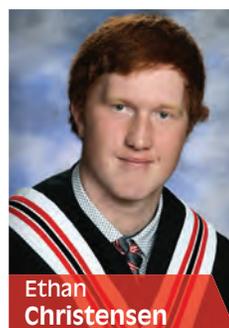
Connor Bishop



Courtney Burke



Sidney Carrette-Priemski



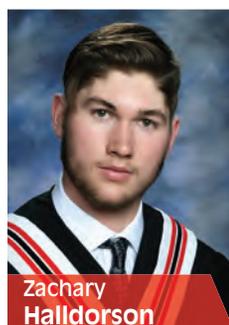
Ethan Christensen



Rayna Gleich



Mikayla Goodman



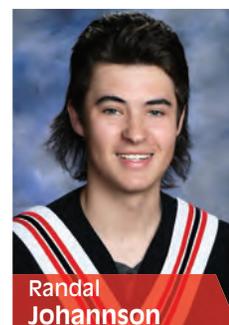
Zachary Halldorson



Lloyd (Lou) Holm



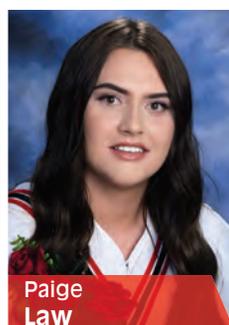
Emily Hordal



Randal Johannson



Talena Johnson



Paige Law

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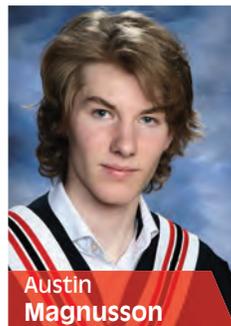
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Danielle Loewen



Hannah Lussier



Austin Magnusson



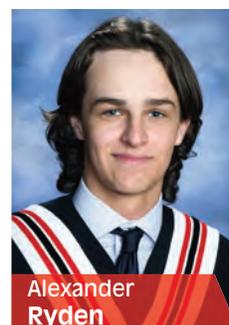
Cara Marttila



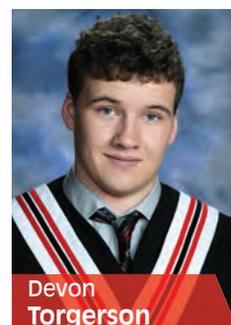
Andrew Mason



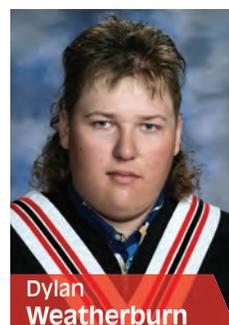
Deidra Olafson



Alexander Ryden



Devon Torgerson



Dylan Weatherburn



Brooklyn Wirgau

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LUNDAR

GRADUATION 2021



Austin Magnusson and Danielle Loewen share a tearful embrace following the ceremony.



Paige Law helps Hannah Lussier with her grad cap.



Lundar graduates paraded up Main Street for the community.



Zac Halldorson and Deidra Olafson before the ceremony.



Dylan Weatherburn enjoying his graduation ceremony.



Randal Johannson tosses his grad cap at the end of the ceremony.

**Congrats
All Around!**

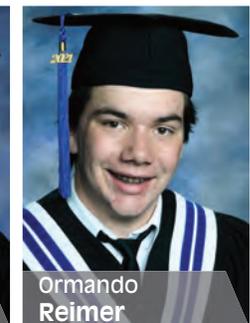
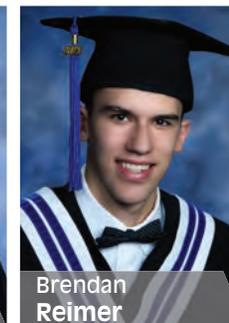
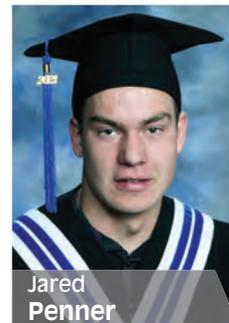
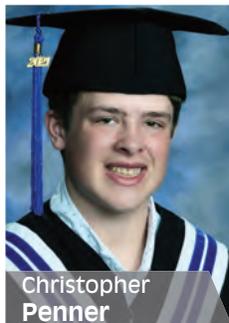
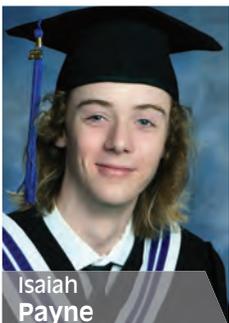
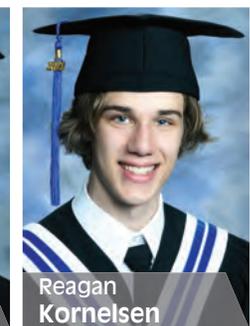
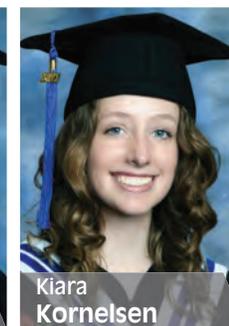
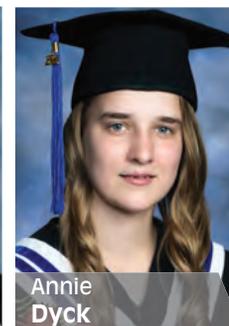
We wish each and every one
of you a happy graduation!



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MORWEENA

GRADUATION 2021



Congratulations to the Graduates!

**Congratulations
2021 Graduates**

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Shaping the future: Gimli High School's class of 2021 resilient and triumphant

By Patricia Barrett

COVID-19 may have disrupted their entire school year, but Gimli High School's graduating class of 2021 didn't waver from achieving their academic goals.

To celebrate their success, the high school held five outdoor graduation ceremonies on June 23, 24 and 25. Each ceremony had small numbers of graduates in order to meet the province's public health restrictions.

Organizers decorated a school doorway and rolled out the red carpet for the grads' processional. School trustees, guests and community members had to miss out on the ceremonies because of COVID protocols, but parents and guardians were allowed to watch from their vehicles.

Valedictorians Emma Gray and Tommy Pitman said COVID "overshadowed" much of their Grade 11 year and their entire Grade 12 year. Dozens of activities such as playing music, field trips and sports had to be cancelled. Despite those disappointments, grads adapted well to an "ever-changing idea" of what normal was.

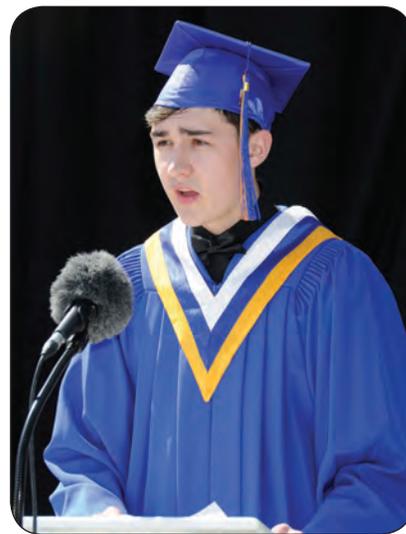
"We cannot express in words how proud we feel to be amongst this class of incredibly resilient people," said Gray. "We Lakers have accomplished one of the biggest milestones in our lives and our journey here was nothing like what we expected."

They paid tribute to their teachers, who had their backs "100 per cent of the way," as well as to their classmates, who helped shape them as people, encouraged them to fight

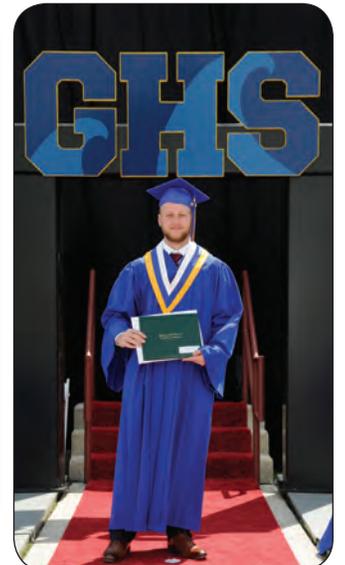
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EXPRESS PHOTOS BY ANDERS KUUSSELKA
Gimli's Class of 2021 at their graduation ceremony.



Class valedictorians were Emma Gray, left and Tommy Pittman.



Nicholas Auer poses with his diploma.



The Pelletier family took in Kaylee's graduation self distanced.



Keenan Park was happy to be done high school.

YOU DID IT!

You worked hard. You persevered. You graduated! Congratulations on this wonderful achievement. We hope your big day is special in every way, and we wish you happiness and success as you follow your dreams into the future.

Rural Municipality of Gimli Council and Staff

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> GIMLI, FROM PG. 10

for what they believe in and demonstrated the importance of community support.

"Although we learned lots in our high school experiences, it is not the classes or the homework assignments that we learned the most from. We have learned the most from each other," said Pitman. "We came into each other's lives as immature and young kids. Together we have grown up into thoughtful young adults. The years we have spent with the people around us have taught us valuable lessons."

Superintendent Roza Gray said the class of 2021 missed out on so much of what makes high school special and didn't imagine being stuck at home with their parents as the pandemic continued. But they fill her with hope as they step into the world and make their own decisions.

"We leave you with a world that is desperately in need of your courage and your kindness. It may be both intimidating and inspiring to realize it is your generation's turn to shape the future. This is how it has always been," she said in a pre-recorded audio message that was played during each ceremony. "You are Generation Z. You have the skills and passion required to overcome the barriers my generation created to a sustainable and healthy planet. While growing up you have already learned some of the lessons that will be necessary to disrupt and reshape the world."

Local community organizations, municipalities, churches and businesses sponsored scholarships to help the grads with post-secondary studies. Among the sponsors were

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the Evergreen School Division and its teachers' association, Noventis Credit Union, the Westshore Community Foundation, Lakeside Lions, the Kiwanis Club, the Town of Winnipeg Beach, the RM of Gimli, the RM of Armstrong, the Gimli Art Club, the Winnipeg Beach Royal Canadian Legion and the Gimli Royal Canadian Legion. Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson also sponsored a citizenship award in his name.

Graduates were also the recipients of family-sponsored awards such as the Evan King Memorial, the Hailey Dugay Memorial, the Ted Jeremy Memorial, the Kristine Kristofferson Memorial and the Tim & Delphine Arnason Award.

Lin Howelko earned the Governor General's Medal, which is awarded to a student with the highest grade-point average.



Signey Goodman had her own cheering squad.



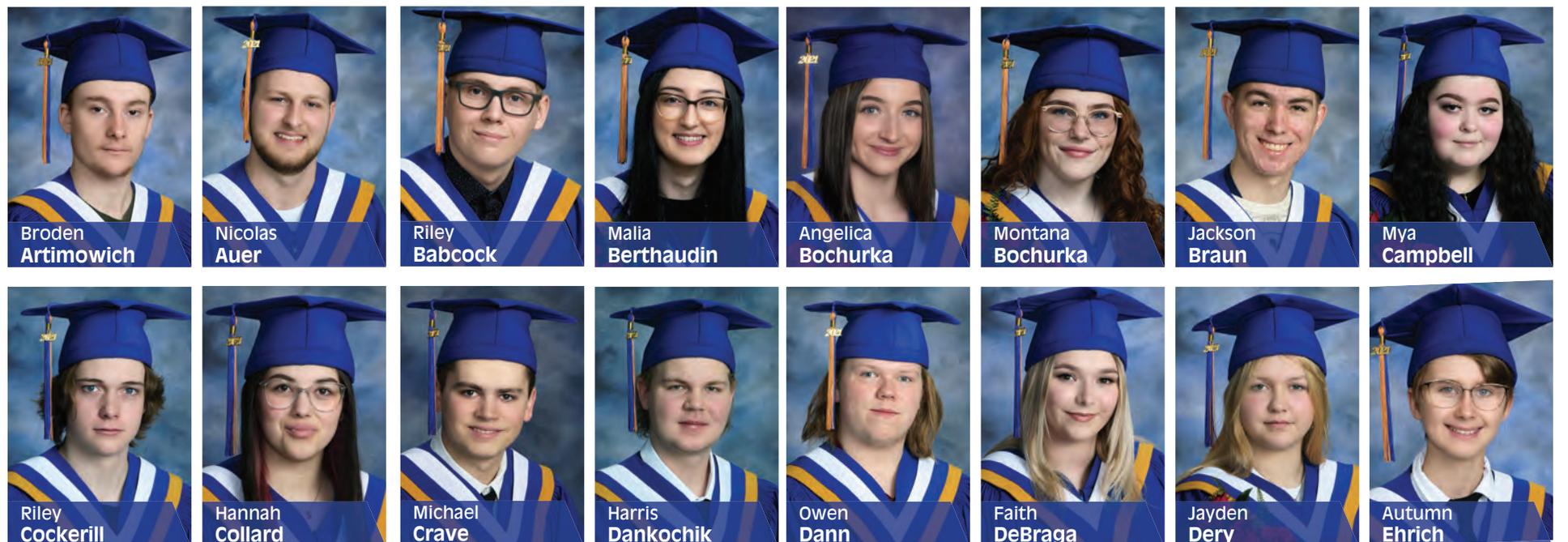
Johannah Thordarson received the Evergreen Student Voice Award.



Angelica Bochorka received the Gimli District Health Award.

Gimli 2021 Scholarship Recipients

- Malia Berthaudin** Kiwanis Matching Post-Secondary, RM of Gimli, CUPE Local #3164
- Angelica Bochorka** Gimli District Health Authority
- Michael Crave** Royal Canadian Legion Gimli Branch #182, Viking Lodge No. 175
- Autumn Ehrich** Lakeside Lions Winnipeg Beach, BBP Scholarship, Albert Kristjanson
- Sydney Gislasen** Town of Wpg Beach
- Signy Goodman** Commstream Award, Hannes Kristjanson, Camp Morton Ladies Aid, University of Toronto Entrance Scholarship
- Emma Gray** Derek Johnson Scholarship, RM of Gimli, Kiwanis Matching Post-Secondary, St. Michael's Catholic Church Women's League, Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship
- Lin Howelko** Skuli Johnson English, Noventis Credit Union - Winnipeg Beach, Evan King Memorial, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Indiana Humniski** Evergreen Teachers' Association, Evergreen School Division Scholarship, Lifetouch Canada Award, Noventis Credit Union - Gimli, Kiwanis Mel Osborne Scholarship, Evan King Memorial, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Alexis Irving** Sigurbjorg Stefansson, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Erik Isfeld** Canada Iceland Foundation - Margret Bjarnason Memorial, Evergreen Band Boosters Scholarship, Evergreen School Division Scholarship, Simon Fraser University
- Riley Kennedy** Viking Lodge No. 175
- Samantha Kmet** Hailey Dugay Memorial
- Luke Michaluk** Westshore Community Foundation Inc, Town of Wpg Beach, Nicholas Melnychuk, Evergreen School Division Scholarship
- Athan Nadon** RM of St. Andrews, Commstream Award, Lakeside Lions Winnipeg Beach, Winnipeg Beach Legion No. 61 Ladies Auxiliary, Winnipeg Beach Legion Branch #61, Evan King Memorial
- Tommy Pitman** Noventis Credit Union - Winnipeg Beach, RM of Gimli, Royal Canadian Legion Gimli Branch #182, Ted Jeremy Memorial, Gimli Lutheran Church Award
- Avery Porteous** Kristine Kristofferson Memorial Award, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Kenna Sahaidak** Gimli Seniors Resource Council, Viking Lodge No. 175
- Lexy Sorokowski** Knights of Columbus, Gimli District Health Authority
- Shayne Sveinson** Westshore Community Foundation Inc, RM of Armstrong, Camp Morton Ladies Aid, Everett Lloyd Memorial, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Taylor Stevens** Westshore Community Foundation Inc., RM of Gimli, Kiwanis Matching Post-Secondary, Larry & Helen Award, Hnausa Harbour Authority Scholarship, BBP Scholarship, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Johannah Thordarson** Noventis Credit Union - Gimli, Peter Froese Legacy Award, EBN Service Award, Chown Centennial Award, Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship, Skuli Johnson - Math, Harold AC Johnson - Chemistry, U of M Entrance Scholarship
- Jordin Yabolonski** Evergreen Student Voice Award, Evergreen Band Boosters Scholarship, Tim & Delphine Arnason Award
- Karsen Karish** Automobile Services of Gimli - Power Mechanics
- Mikayla Lywak** Evan King Memorial
- Harry Peterson** Evergreen School Division Scholarship
Gimli Art Club



Brodin Artimowich

Nicolas Auer

Riley Babcock

Malia Berthaudin

Angelica Bochorka

Montana Bochorka

Jackson Braun

Mya Campbell

Riley Cockerill

Hannah Collard

Michael Crave

Harris Dankochik

Owen Dann

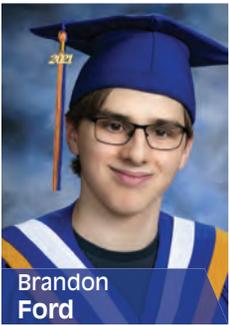
Faith DeBraga

Jayden Dery

Autumn Ehrich

GIMLI

GRADUATION 2021



Brandon Ford



Nathan Gauthier



Sydney Cislason



Signy Goodman



Jasmine Crabish



Emma Gray



Alexa-Lee Hordeski-Bain



Lin Howelko



Indiana Humniski



Alexis Irvine



Ashley Isfeld



Erik Isfeld



Dylan Johnson



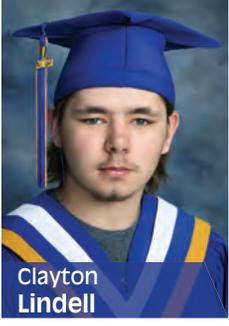
Karsen Karish



Riley Kennedy



Samantha Kmet



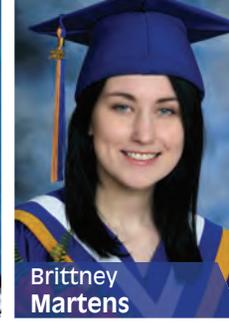
Clayton Lindell



Karmyn Lindell



Mikayla Lywak



Brittney Martens



Eric McKelvey



Luke Michaluk



Michael Moir



Athan Nadon



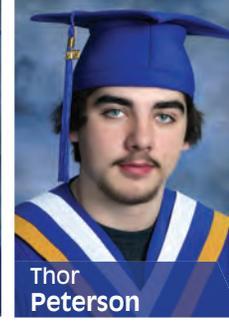
Keenan Park



Kaylee Pelletier



Harry Peterson



Thor Peterson



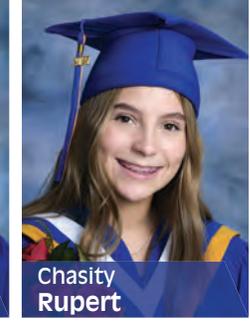
Tommy Pitman



Avery Porteous



Riley Roberts



Chasity Rupert



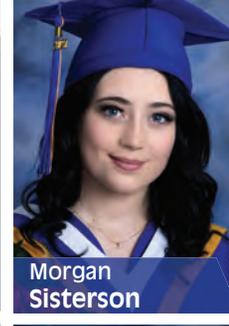
Kenna Sahaidak



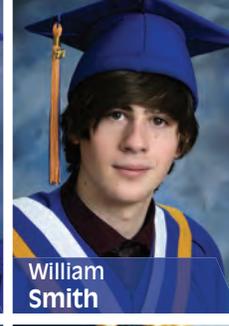
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Morgan Sisterson



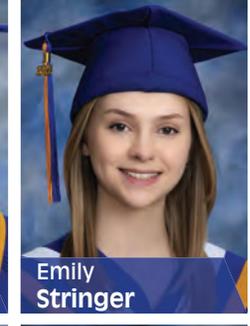
William Smith



Lexy Sorokowski



Taylor Stevens



Emily Stringer



Shayne Sveinson



Corbin Symynshen



Johannah Thordarson



Madison Thordarson



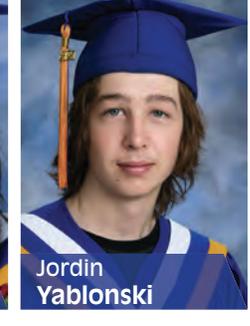
Colten VanGompel



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THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS
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Ashern Central School graduates celebrate an important milestone

By Jules Stevenson and Sydney Lockhart

The 2021 Ashern Central School graduates walked across their outdoor stage on June 24 to celebrate their achievements with their small class and close family members.

Seventeen graduates sat with their families next to their vehicles at the drive-up event where only immediate family was invited. The students all had the opportunity to cross the stage one by one, walking up the red-carpet that they asked the school to put out for them.

Many graduates were honoured with scholarships, but Halle Meisner was the top student of the year. Meisner was awarded numerous awards and scholarships for her academics and citizenship, including the Governor General Award, the Lakeshore Proficiency Award, Top Academic Award, and the Queen Elizabeth Entrance Scholarship, Tier 1.

Teachers and school division members sent their congratulations virtually, with pre-recorded videos, photos, and written messages and quotes for the graduates, expressing their excitement for the graduates to be taking the next big steps in their lives.

Valedictorians Rayanne Nickel and Kaden Sigfusson both recounted their memories and mishaps throughout the years.

Nickel thanked the parents, friends, and peers of her graduating class and expressed her wish for the people watching online to be able to be sitting in front of her.

"These past two years of our high school careers have definitely not been smooth sailing, but we have been trying to make the best out of it. We make compromises where possible, and when not, we tried to make the best of the situation. Although there have been disappointments and adventures we had to miss out on, there have still been many highlights," they said.

Nickel, who had the second-highest academic scores in her class, remembers running down the halls wearing ghost costumes, using whiteboards as drawing easels and switching seats in biology. She also shared a quote from the book *Invisible Monsters* by Chuck



Valedictorian Rayanne Nickel as she receives her diploma.



Valedictorian Kaden Sigfusson giving his part of the valedictorian address.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY MELANIE PEARCE

Halle Meisner was the recipient of both the Lakeshore Proficiency Award and the Governor General's Medal.



Jonah Marsden sits with his family at the drive-in event.



Katrina Drouin walks down the red carpet after receiving her diploma.



Graduate Cerenity Woodhouse walks to accept her diploma.

Palahniuk.

"There's no escaping fate; it just keeps going. Day and night, the future just keeps coming at you," said Nickel.

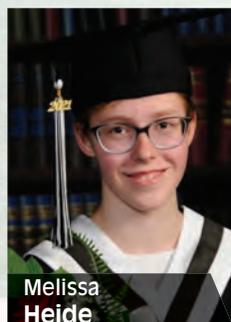
Sigfusson received the award for Top Male Athlete this year. He shared the

importance of his friend group and how they kept the teachers on their toes. He said their class was a "scrappy group of

Continued on page 14

Congratulations 2021 Graduates!

Interlake Mennonite Fellowship School - Okno



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Leticia Penner



Susie Wiens



Freddy Hildebrand



Markus Fehr

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Raelene Lucier	ELA Transactional Focus 40S
Anna Osmond	Physics 40S
Ashton Berg	Vehicle Systems Part 2 40S
Logan Gunther	Essential Math 40S
Cole Broustal	Merit Award
Katrina Drouin	Achievement in the Arts
Tristan Kehler	Derek Johnson Citizenship Award
	Merit Award
	Entering College/University
Halle Meisner	Lakeshore Proficiency Award, Top Academic, Psychology 40S, French 40S, Biology 40S, ELA Comprehensive Focus 40S, Music: Band 40S, Pre-Calculus 40S, Top Female Athlete, Citizenship Athletic Award, Musical Achievement Award, Drug & Alcohol Abuse Awareness Award, Entering College/University, National Book Award, Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship, Queen Elizabeth Entrance Scholarship – Tier 1, Governor General Award
Faith Nickel	Student Leadership Award, Musical Achievement Award, Deserving Student, Scheske Family Award, Citizenship Award, Foods & Nutrition 40S
Rayanne Nickel	Valedictorian - Ashern Elks, Valedictorian - Lifetouch, Second Highest Academic, Music: Band 40S, Visual Arts 40S, Entering College/University, Audrey Lute Arts Bursary
	Second highest standing in French 40S, Achievement in the Arts
Robin Park	Arts
Halo Pelletier	Metis Federation Award
Cerenity Shorting	Entering a helping profession, Entering College/University
Kaden Sigfusson	Top Male Athlete, Valedictorian - Ashern Elks, Valedictorian - Lifetouch
Marcus Sumner	Most Congenial
Damon Tritthart	Applied Diagnosis Strategies 40S, Vehicle Systems Part 1 40S, Automotive Technology Deserving Student, Top Academic in Automotive Technology, Entering a Business, Vocational Excellence
Sadie Tucker	Woodworking 40S, Deserving Student

> ASHERN, FROM PG. 12

kids who brought attention to Ashern Central School." He finished off by sharing advice his mother had given him,

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice. Be kind, make good choices, be a good person, and don't be stupid," said Sigfusson.

As the speeches continued with Mr. Bobby Willis as the master of ceremonies, the wind picked up, and the rain started to fall, but it didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the new grads who crossed the stage with smiles on their faces.

"Everyone was super resilient, and we were thankful for the rain," says Jennifer Bjornson, a teacher at Ashern Central School.

Students in their caps and gowns watched through a final downpour just as the ceremony ended with lots of honking from the graduate's families.

Before graduates went their separate ways to celebrate their great achievements with their families, they paraded through town. Bjornson said the fire department and natural resources escorted the grads, many of whom were in the backs of trucks.

"We felt that under such difficult circumstances, it was a lovely day," says Bjornson.

Ashern's 2021 graduating class included Cole Lorne Broustal, Jesse Roman Budge, Logan William Carmichael, Katrina Patricia Drouin, Tristan Ray-Lee Kehler, Jonah, Robert Marsden, Halle Bryn Meisner, Faith Kristinn Nickel, Rayanne Della Nickel, Nikolaas Kitchener Olson, Rebecca Muriel Park, Halo Sydney Dante Pelletier, Cerenity Darlene Shorting, Kaden Allen Jonas Sigfusson, Leslie Marcus Wilson-Sumner, Damon Michael Charles Arthur Tritthart and Sadie Dawn Tucker.



Sadie Tucker poses after the graduation ceremony.



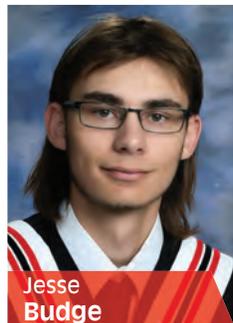
Graduate Robin Park in her grad dress and gown.



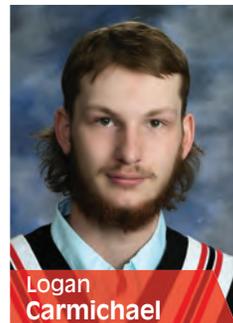
Marcus Wilson-Sumner receiving his diploma before the rain started on graduation day.



Cole Broustal



Jesse Budge



Logan Carmichael



Katrina Drouin



Tristan Kehler



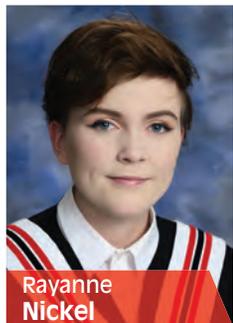
Jonah Marsden



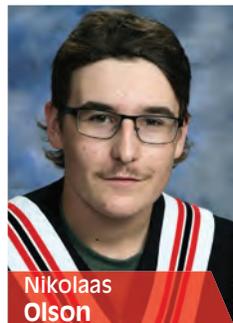
Halle Meisner



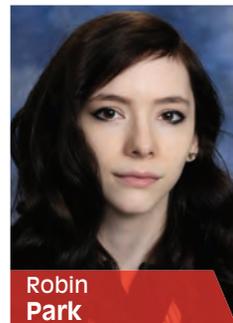
Faith Nickel



Rayanne Nickel



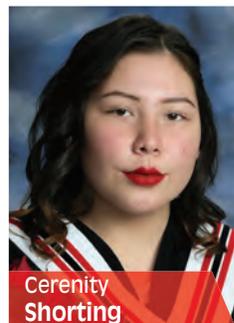
Nikolaas Olson



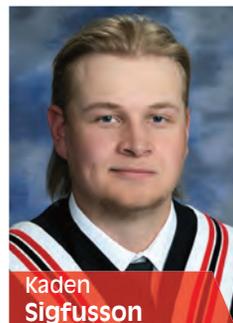
Robin Park



Halo Pelletier



Cerenity Shorting



Kaden Sigfusson



Marcus Sumner



Damon Tritthart



Sadie Tucker



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Riverton Collegiate's class of 2021 celebrates unlimited potential

By Patricia Barrett

Despite the challenges of learning while the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, Riverton Collegiate Institute's class of 2021 prevailed and were honoured on June 25 for achieving a scholastic milestone.

For the second year in a row, the high school held an outdoor, socially distanced graduation ceremony in front of the school. A backdrop of festive blue balloons and a small podium on which the 17 grads received (in turn) their diplomas and awards set the scene. They were cheered on and honked at by their families and guardians, who were allowed to watch from their cars.

Valedictorian Karis Park said although the pandemic resulted in a disappointing loss of senior sports seasons, field trips and other extracurricular opportunities, it also showed them the importance of adapting to new situations, rising to challenges and effecting change.

"This graduation has already proven how capable we all are of accomplish-

ing our goals when we commit ourselves to them. I hope all of us here today can take this personal accomplishment as an example to show our unlimited potentials hidden in us," said Park. "As we all continue on in our lives, let us take each new problem on with confidence, knowing that we have achieved great heights and are equipped with the necessary tools to tackle our future. The future is always uncertain, but now all the more I believe we are equipped to take on whatever challenges life may throw at us."

Calling them supportive, encouraging and reflective young adults who are destined to make the community and the world a better place, principal and teacher Erin Furgala acknowledged their ability to overcome the unwelcome disruptions and uncertainties the pandemic delivered. As disconcerting as those experiences were, they had an upside as far as equipping the grads with life skills.

"This past year you have experienced a rockslide of stones thrown at



Valedictorian Karis Park received the Governor General Medal.

you, and as you move forward, life will consistently present itself with new challenges, which is why it is so important to know how best to respond to them," said Furgala. "You see, we do not get to decide which stones life throws at us or when, only what we will choose to do with them."

Although it will take some effort to appreciate the challenges they faced and will continue to face, she added, grads should embrace the learning opportunities inherent in such struggles.

"As you allow these stones to build you from the bottom up into the vision you see of your future self, you will not only experience greater success in your life, but you will also experience greater joy," said Furgala. "Be grateful for every one of your challenges, because they have helped make you into the person you are today."

Community organizations, businesses and local governments sponsored scholarships to help the grads intending to pursue post-secondary education. Among them were Noventis Credit Union, the Evergreen School Division (ESD) and its teachers' association, Riverton Elks, Riverton Co-op, Vidir Storage Solutions, the Interlake Metis Federation, Berens River First Nation, the Arborg Royal Canadian Legion, Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, Hnaua Harbour Authority and the Westshore



Rena Gislason received the Berens River First Nation award.

Community Foundation. Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson also provided a scholarship award for good citizenship.

Individual families sponsored a number of awards, including the Katelyn Friesen Memorial Scholarship, the Margaret Johnson Memorial Bursary and the Sophie Hurdal Memorial Bursary.

Karis Park was presented with the Governor General's Medal, which is awarded to a student with the highest grade-point average.

ESD superintendent Roza Gray paid tribute to the grads' tenacity, skills and passion for social justice in a pre-recorded speech that was played during the ceremony.

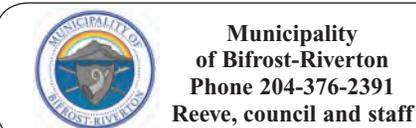
"You know how important it is to be connected to each other and that no one does big things by themselves," said Gray. "To create a world for all us, you will work together, be alive to the struggles of others and stand up for one another's rights to set the world on a different path."

Assistant principal and teacher Rob Jantz, who hosted the event, thanked the grads' families for raising "loving, competent souls."

"We are proud of the young people you've become and that you are becoming," said Jantz at the close of the ceremony.

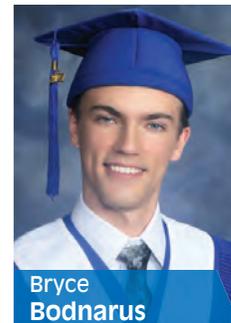
Riverton Collegiate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

- Taylor Lee** Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton Bursary, Noventis Credit Union Scholarship, Evergreen Teacher's Association Scholarship, Riverton Elks #530 Bursary Evergreen School Division Award
- Abbygail Eastman** Riverton Co-op Bursary, Interlake Métis Federation Award
- Mac Dyck-Hudson** Berens River First Nation Award
- Kennedy Toderan** The Canadian Iceland Foundation - Margrét Bjarnason Memorial Scholarship, Jared Gislason Award for Sustainable Community Development, Interlake Métis Federation Award, Evergreen School Division Award
- Bryce Bodnarus** Jared Gislason Award for Sustainable Community Development, Arborg/Riverton Band & Choral Award
- Rena Gislason** Berens River First Nation Award, Katelyn Friesen Memorial Scholarship
- Karis Park** Sophie Hurdal Memorial Bursary - Winnipeg Foundation, Stefan V. & Runa Sigurdson Scholarship - Winnipeg, Foundation, CUPE 3164 Scholarship, Noventis Credit Union Scholarship, Vidir Solutions Inc. Scholarship, University of Manitoba - Chown Centennial Scholarship, Governor General - Bronze Medal
- Miya Comeau** Hnaua Harbour Authority Bursary, Westshore Community Foundation Inc. Award, Interlake Métis Federation Award
- Lloyd Courchene** Derek Johnson Citizen Scholarship
- Jane Selkirk** Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton Bursary, Margaret Johnson Memorial Bursary, Erosion Control Blanket Award, Arborg Royal Canadian Legion #161, Interlake Métis Federation Award
- Faith Everett** Berens River First Nation Award



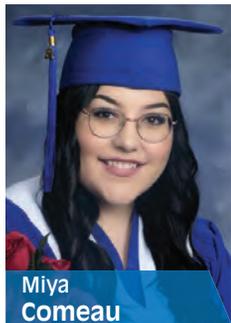
RIVERTON

GRADUATION 2021

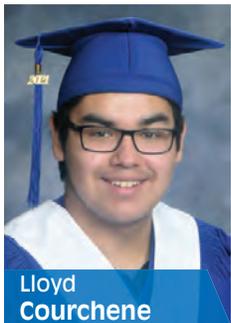


Bryce Bodnarus

Graduates toss their caps in the air to signify the end of their high school ceremony.



Miya Comeau



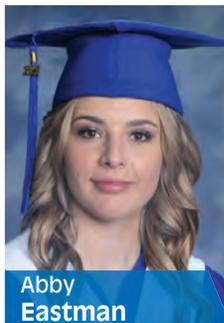
Lloyd Courchene



Timofey Dorogin



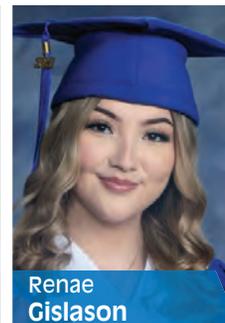
Mac Dyck-Hudson



Abby Eastman



Faith Everett



Renae Cislason



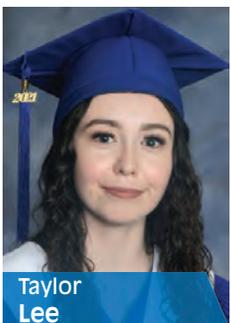
Derrien Johannesson



Hannah Keeper



Alyssa Kennedy



Taylor Lee



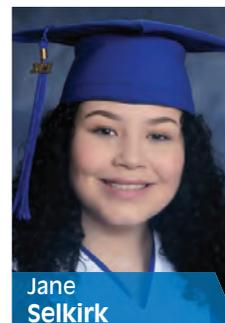
Gracyn Melsted



Bethany Nordal



Karis Park



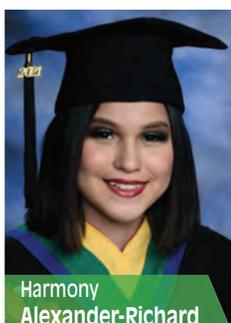
Jane Selkirk



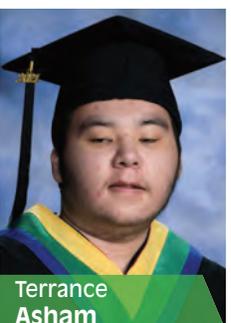
Kennedy Toderan

PEGUIS

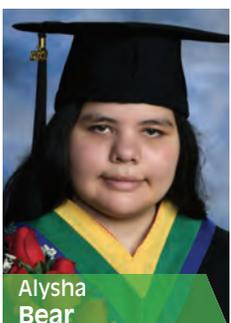
GRADUATION 2021



Harmony Alexander-Richard



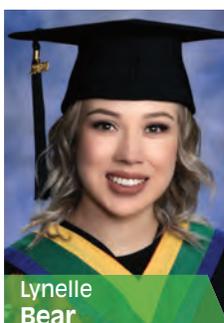
Terrance Asham



Alysha Bear



Layne Bear



Lynelle Bear



Nolan Bear



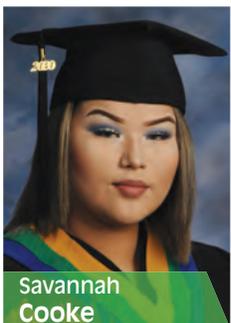
Shane Bear



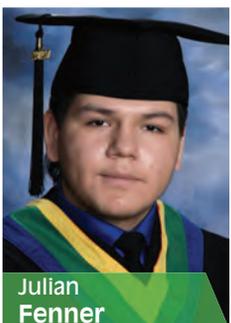
Jolene Cook



Kiarra Cook



Savannah Cooke



Julian Fenner



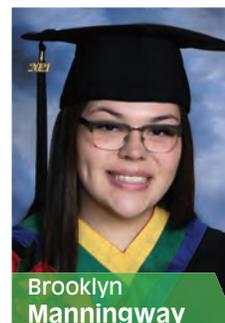
Avory Flett



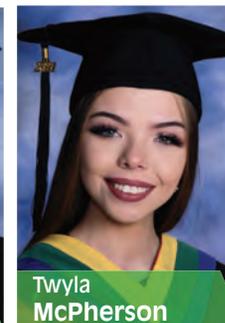
Dempsey Flett



Josiah Harris



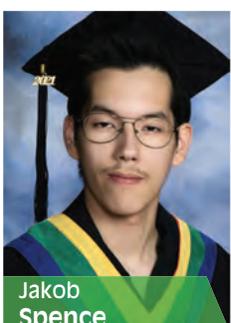
Brooklyn Manningway



Twyla McPherson



Andrew Sinclair



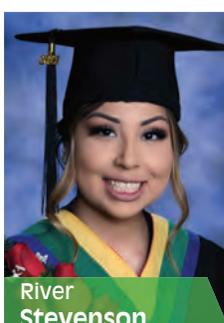
Jakob Spence



Andrew Stevenson



Brayden Stevenson



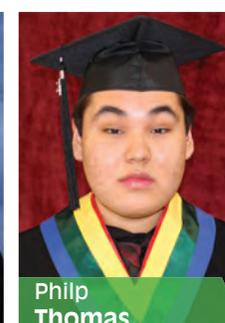
River Stevenson



Elliot Sutherland



Zachary Sutherland



Philp Thomas

"Always remember your roots. They are the foundation of your life and the wings of your future!" Congratulations Peguis Central School Class of 2021

Peguis Central School Class of 2021 Awards

Elliot Sutherland
Land Base Education Award
Josiah Harris
Business Award

Kianne (Jolene) Cook
Brian Bear Memorial Award
Andrew Sinclair
Brian Bear Memorial Award

Twyla McPherson
Cassius Stevenson Memorial Award
Julian Fenner
Cassius Stevenson Memorial Award
Brooklyn Manningway - Athlete of the Year

Andrew Stevenson - Athlete of the Year
Lynelle Bear - Highest Academic
Josiah Harris - Highest Academic
Emma Bear - Undergrad

Credit unions partner to bring Inuit art to rural communities

By Nicole Brownlee

Manitoba 150 has partnered with Manitoba credit unions to share Inuit art across the province.

"The Manitoba 150 Host Committee has been, from the very beginning, looking for ways to engage all Manitobans in this acknowledgement of our 150 anniversary," said Monique LaCoste, co-chair of the Manitoba 150 council.

Alongside the Winnipeg Art Gallery, Tour 150 will showcase several pieces from the Qaumajug Inuit art centre through municipalities across the province, stopping at a credit union in each town.

"We tried to think of organizations that are firmly embedded in rural communities, so of course credit unions are a perfect fit," said LaCoste. "They're the backbone of rural Manitoba."

Tour 150 will be stopping in Fisher Branch, Gimli, Selkirk, Riverton and Arborg at several Noventis and Cambrian Credit Unions in the Interlake.

"Supporting our communities is a big part of our vision and mission," said Kevin McNight, CEO of NCU. "This is an exciting way to that."

Brigitte Burgoyne, communications and community engagement director at CCU, said the organization is honoured to be a part of Tour 150.

"I think this is just a really nice opportunity for more Manitobans to learn about contemporary art... and

Canadian history," said Burgoyne. "Especially in some of the more remote communities... we're extremely proud to be able to have a part in facilitating."

A retrofitted tour vehicle, named Nakatamaakewin, which means "to leave something behind" in Michif, will house the artwork and act as a portable exhibit for visitors to explore.

Riva Symko, the head of collections and exhibitions at the WAG and a curator of Canadian Art, said the gallery wanted to choose pieces that showcase the diversity and variety of Inuit art.

"I think people, you know, generally think of Inuit art as carving almost exclusively," said Symko. "We have carvings represented in the van as well, but we also have textiles, wall hangings... dolls made out of felt and a range of materials."

They also worked closely with the learning and programs team to create educational material about Inuit culture, Inuit voices included in the artwork and engaging stories about the pieces.

"We've been really thinking about, like, how do we make our collection of Inuit art accessible to audiences in the north as well as the south. Or how do we reach audiences that aren't necessarily in Winnipeg," said Symko.

The van, decorated with Inuit artist Kailey Sheppard's designs, became a way for the WAG to share artwork



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and Tour Team member Albyn Carias check out prints, wall-hangings and sculptures inside Nakatamaakewin, the Tour 150 van.

some communities otherwise would have never seen.

"The van sort of represents part of that larger objective in being able to bring art or make art accessible to these audiences," said Symko. "We're the Winnipeg Art Gallery, but in a lot of ways, we represent all of Manitoba too."

"When we live in small towns, we don't always have the opportunity to be in touch with art on a daily basis, and certainly not Inuit art," said LaCoste. "We hope people will really take advantage of the opportunity."

LaCoste said she also hopes the accessible art will also spark conversations about Manitoba's culture and history.

"We really hope that people have an opportunity... to be proud of who we are as Manitoban. To be in awe of our province's beauty. To, you know, look at our past, which is not an easy one, but to have conversations around it and appreciate the culture that surrounds us," said LaCoste.

To find a tour stop near you, visit <https://manitoba150.com/en/programs/tour-150/>.

Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club celebrates dancer's graduation

By Patricia Barrett

Members of the Gimli Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club honoured one of their dancers a few weeks ago with a socially distanced walk-by parade in front of her house.

Dancer Samantha Kmet graduated from Gimli High School last month, and some of the club's executive, instructors, dancers and families swung by her house, carrying Ukrainian-themed signs to congratulate her on her educational achievement.

"Samantha has been a dancer for many years and in recent years an instructor's assistant. Her brother Lucas also dances in our club," said past president Samantha Michaluk. "As a family, they are an integral part of our club and honour the Ukrainian culture."

The club presented Kmet with a Tryzub charm (the coat of arms of Ukraine in the shape of a trident), said Michaluk. Normally, they would have presented the gift at Barvinok's annu-



Barvinok Ukrainian dancer Samantha Kmet (left) was presented with a Tryzub from the club.

al spring concert, but the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented dance clubs



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAMANTHA MICHALUK

Samantha Kmet (left) was congratulated on her graduation

from performing.

"We are hoping to be back in action for as close to a regular dance season

as possible to celebrate the club's 40th year since it was started," said Michaluk.

Lindsay joins Trinity Western University

By Brian Bowman

Drake Lindsay will have a new home this fall. Lindsay will be playing hockey and attending school at Trinity Western University, located in Langley, B.C.

"I have decided to join the Spartans' program because I feel it is a great opportunity to continue my hockey career while giving me the ability to complete my MBA," said Lindsay on the TWU website.

"The culture of the team and athletics program as a whole is what really sold me on TWU. I am excited to develop on and off the ice this upcoming year."

Lindsay played four seasons of USports hockey with the Nipissing University Lakers in North Bay, Ont.

He scored 10 goals and collected 30 points in 69 games from 2016 to 2020.

This past season was wiped out due to CO-

VID.

The former Interlake Lightning forward from Grosse Isle also played in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League with the Neepawa Natives (now called the Titans) and in the North American Hockey League with the Corpus Christi Ice Rays.

In his lone season in Corpus Christi, Lindsay led the team with 38 points in 56 games.

The Spartans are really looking forward to Lindsay joining their team.

"Adding experience and depth to our forward group is going to be critical for us to build our foundation this year," said Spartans' head coach Barret Kropf. "Drake brings us speed, game sense and a sweet shot and those are some great tools that we can integrate into our team. I look forward to seeing him fit into our program and help us continue to build a winning culture."



EXPRESS PHOTO TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Grosse Isle's Drake Lindsay will be attending school and playing hockey for the Trinity Western Spartans this season.

Peake, Kuntz, and Ross lead after junior championships' first round

Staff

Clara Peake, a Golf Manitoba Public Players Club member, was the first-round leader at the Manitoba Women's Junior Championship at the Shilo Country Club.

Peake carded a 12-over par 82 on Monday to lead Swan River Golf & Country's Crystal Zamzow by a single stroke.

Rounding out the top five placings in the 11-player field were St. Charles Country Club's Addison Kartusch (87), Elmhurst Golf & Country Club's Armaan Dhillon (89), Golf Manitoba

Public Players Club's Cala Korman (90), Clear Lake Golf Course's Jeri Lafleche (90), and Glendale Golf & Country Club's Payton Oakden (90).

Meanwhile, Breezy Bend Country Club's Braxton Kuntz and Rossmere Country Club's Trey Ross were the first-round leaders at the junior men's championship in Shilo after firing even par 72s on Monday.

Rounding out the top five after Day 1 were Golf Manitoba Public Players Club's Jose Mekish-Lacquette (74), Pine Ridge Golf Club's Noah Fiks (76), and Golf Manitoba Public Play-

ers Club's Feanor Valaquenta (76).

Action for both junior tournaments continued Tuesday and Wednesday of

this week but no scores were available at press time.

MJBL season gets underway this week

Staff

Baseball is finally back.

The Manitoba Junior Baseball League's season officially gets underway Wednesday with three games on its schedule.

One of those games features the Interlake Blue Jays hosting the Carillon Sultans for a 7:30 p.m. game at Fines Field in Stonewall.

But the current provincial health guidelines still present a long list of challenges to sport organizers and coaches in Manitoba.

The current rules, which came into effect June 26, allow for outdoor organized sports and recreation activities for groups up to 25 people.

That poses a problem for older-aged

teams, specifically the MJBL, which voted on expanding its rosters to 20 players for this season.

The MJBL has been discussing the scenario of having home teams with 13 players each game and the visiting clubs only 12.

The group of 25 doesn't include coaches or officials and a maximum of 25 spectators are also allowed if they can be physically distanced by at least two metres.

The MJBL schedule has been reduced to 18 games this season. The St. Boniface Legionaires were not able to field a team this year so the league is down to seven teams this year.

At press time, the playoff format had not been announced.

2021 Baseball Manitoba provincial championships cancelled

Staff

Baseball Manitoba has made the difficult decision to cancel all provincial championships in 2021.

The announcement was made on Baseball Manitoba's website on June 29.

"The decision was made with the safety and development of our members as the top priority," read a statement. "Provincial championships create environments with large gatherings with people from across the

province. Also, by cancelling provincial championships, we believe that there is more opportunity for a longer season for more players, as they compete late into summer within their regions.

"Baseball Manitoba would like to thank our 2021 championship host groups for all the work they have done this year. We will be working with each host, as we plan our 2022 provincial championships."

Silver Knights sign Loewen



EXPRESS PHOTOS FROM TWITTER/HENDERSON SILVER KNIGHTS

The Henderson Silver Knights have signed forward Jermaine Loewen to an American Hockey League contract for the 2021-22 season. Loewen, 23, returns to Henderson after tallying one assist in 22 contests during the 2020-21 season. As a rookie in 2019-20, the former Interlake Lightning forward, who grew up in Arborg, scored a goal and added an assist in 31 games with the AHL's Chicago Wolves. A native of Mandeville, Jamaica, Loewen was a seventh-round choice by Dallas in the 2018 NHL Draft, becoming the first Jamaican-born player ever selected.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DRIVER

The Stonewall & Area Mobility Services (SAMS) is seeking applications from qualified individuals for a casual Driver Position.

Reporting to the SAMS Coordinator, the Driver will perform the duties and responsibilities necessary for the handi-transit service for the area, based on the needs of the entire region.

The preferred applicant will require a valid Class 4 Driver's Licence and be able to produce an acceptable Driver's Abstract, Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Check.

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Qualified persons are invited to submit a detailed resume including three professional references to the undersigned.

Stonewall & Area Mobility Services
Attention: David Underwood
293 Main Street, Box 250
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
SAMS@stonewall.ca

Deadline for applications:
4:00 PM on July 23, 2021

Start date: To be determined

We thank all those persons who apply, however only those granted an interview will be contacted.



Rural Municipality of FISHER

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

INVITATION TO BID

The Rural Municipality of Fisher Request for Tenders Road Rehabilitation Project 2021-01 Road 1W between Road 129N and 131N Tender packages are available at the Municipal Office or through email

Sealed Tenders to be accepted by July 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. clearly marked

"Road Rehabilitation Project 2021-01"

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Fisher



Rural Municipality of FISHER

NOTICE OF TENDER FOR DEMOLITION OF 18 TACHE STREET, FISHER BRANCH, MANITOBA

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites tenders for the demolition, removal of building, concrete foundation, and adjacent concrete foundation. Property must be backfilled and topped with gravel. Prefer to not have building taken to disposal site. Tender must be completed within 1 month of award.

Submit sealed envelope marked "Tender for Demolition 18 Tache Street" to: Rural Municipality of Fisher Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB, R0C 0Z0 Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Deadline for tenders is July 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. For further information please call the RM of Fisher Office at (204) 372-6393



EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION
Evergreen School Division is seeking applications from skilled managers for the following position:

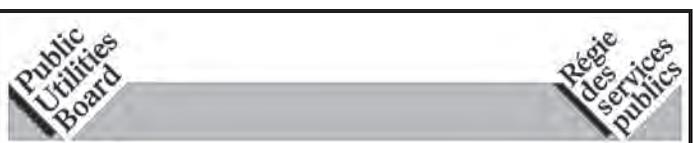
Transportation Manager

See www.esd.ca under Employment & Human Resources/ Professional Staff Postings for detailed information on qualifications and application procedures.

Closing Date: July 16, 2021 (3:30 p.m.)

** Only those applicants short-listed will be contacted for an interview, to be held the week of June 19, 2021. **

Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks.



NOTICE OF APPLICATION RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI REVISED WATER RATES GIMLI AMALGAMATED WATER UTILITY

June 8, 2021

The Rural Municipality of Gimli (RM) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised water rates for the Gimli Amalgamated Water Utility (Utility) as set out in By-law No. 21-0003 read the first time on February 24, 2021.

Rates were originally set for the amalgamated water utility in Board Order No. 5/21, effective April 1, 2021. The By-law includes wastewater rates for the Gimli Wastewater Utility that were approved in Board Order No. 111/19. This application does not propose any changes to the Gimli Wastewater Utility rates.

The current and proposed water rates are as follows:

	Current Rates		Proposed Rates	
	By-Law - 21-0002	By-Law 21-0003 Year 1	By-Law 21-0003 Year 2	By-Law 21-0003 Year 3
Quarterly Service Charge	\$ 25.07	\$ 24.67	\$ 25.28	\$ 25.91
Water (per cubic meter)	\$ 1.85	\$ 1.56	\$ 1.55	\$ 1.57
Minimum Quarterly Charge*	\$ 50.05	\$ 45.73	\$ 46.21	\$ 47.11
Flat Rate Commodity Charge per REU**	\$ 100.36	\$ 84.63	\$ 84.09	\$ 85.17
Flat Rate Quarterly Bill***	\$ 125.43	\$ 109.30	\$ 109.37	\$ 111.08
Bulk Water Sales (per cubic meter)	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.83

*Based on 13.5 cubic meters

**Residential equivalency unit, based on estimated volume of 217 cubic meters per year

***One REU plus service charge

Details of the RM's application are available for review at the RM's office or the Public Utilities Board's office. Any questions concerning the application for revised rates, or the operation of the Utility, should be sent directly to the RM.

If you have concerns/comments regarding the RM of Gimli's application for water rates please go to www.pubmanitoba.ca and provide your comment. Please note all comments will be forwarded to the RM.

Questions or comments should be sent on or before July 8, 2021.

The Public Utilities Board is the provincial regulatory agency that reviews and approves rates for water and wastewater utilities in Manitoba, with the exception of the City of Winnipeg. The Board's review process involves:

- the Utility filing a rate application to the Board,
- a public notification of proposed rate changes,
- the Board's review of the application through a public hearing or paper review process, and
- the issuance of an Order which outlines the Board's decision on the rate application and the rates to be charged.

The Manitoba Ombudsman has privacy guidelines for administrative tribunals. The Board is mindful of its obligations under those guidelines. Its decisions in respect of the application being considered will be sensitive to the guidelines. Personal information will not be disclosed unless it is appropriate and necessary to do so. However, the Board advises participants that these proceedings are public and that as a result, personal information protections are reduced.

The Board will then decide whether any further notice is required and whether to proceed with a public hearing or paper review process. All concerns received by the Board will be considered in the Board's decision on rates to be charged.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE APPLICANT.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

Jennifer Dubois
Jennifer Dubois, CPA, CMA
Assistant Associate Secretary
Manitoba Public Utilities Board

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BARBARA ANN SKAD-SHEIM, late of the R.M. of Gimli, in Manitoba, Deceased.

ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 9th day of August, 2021.

DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 7th day of July, 2021.

BAKER LAW CORPORATION SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTRICES

Attention:
 Grant D. Baker

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF: The Estate of Marie Dolores Schroeder, late of the Postal District of Gimli, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, P.O. Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0 on or before the 11th day of August, 2021.

DATED at Stonewall, Manitoba this 30th day of June, 2021.

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Bidding Closes Thurs July 15 th @ 7:00 PM

- Riverton, MB
 Junction 329 & 8 - 2 Miles West on Hwy 329 Then 3 Miles North on Road 17 E
 Contact: 1-204-806-0987
- Case IH 9330 4WD Tractor PS, 4364 Hrs * JD 8440 4WD 1000 PTO, 4880 * Case IH 585 Dsl 3PH, FEL, 3500-4000 Hrs * CO-OP Volvo 650 Dsl, 7420 Hrs w FEL * CO-OP Volvo 800 Dsl, 6692 Hrs * Case VA - Motor Siezed * Hesston 8100 Dsl Cab Swather 21' -919 Hrs * AC Gleaner L2 4WD Dsl Combine * NH TX68 Combine * GMC Top Kick Gas 6.0L w Grain Master 16' B&H , 25,000 True KM's w Safety * 3 More Older Trucks * JD 635 Tandem Disc 28'W* Harmon Rock O Matic 5800 Stone Picker * Rite Way RW120 12' Rock Rake * Allis Chalmers HD5 Crawler * Int TD6 Crawler * Flexi Coil Air Seeder 800 36' Cultivator & Flexi Coil 1610 Tank * 35 Pc Medium Size Grain Equip * Smaller Haying Equip * 3PH Equip * Granaries * Quad * Snowmobiles * Vehicles * Antique Equip * Farm Misc * Tools * Some Household *

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Rural Municipality of GIMLI

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL 2021 PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MAILED.

Any property owner who has not yet received a tax statement should contact the Municipal Office at 62 2nd Avenue, or telephone 204-642-6650.

New property owners are reminded that they are responsible for payment of the 2021 taxes, whether or not they receive a tax notice in their name.

2021 property taxes are due and payable on or before August 31st, 2021.

In the event of a Postal disruption, please contact the Municipal Office regarding correspondence and Utility Bills sent out of this office.

Kelly Cosgrove
 Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
 Rural Municipality of Gimli

Rural Municipality of GRAHAMDALE

www.Grahamdale.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Public Works Manager

The R.M. of Grahamdale is accepting applications for a full-time permanent Public Works Manager.

Under the general direction of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Public Works Manager is responsible for the planning and management of activities and operations in the areas of Public Works, Transportation, Drainage and Landfill operations. Coordinates the resources, including personnel, contractors and equipment to ensure the efficient maintenance of the Municipality's infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, roads, trees, buildings, other public property, lagoons and waste disposal sites. Work to be performed under minimal supervision with considerable independent judgement and action required in matters which are within the framework of established procedure.

Applicants must possess a valid Manitoba Class 3 driver's license or be willing to obtain one before the end of the three month probation period. Applicants must be familiar with Microsoft Office.

Please apply in writing to "Public Works Manager Position", R.M. of Grahamdale, PO Box 160, 23 Government Road, Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0 or email to rm606@grahamdale.ca giving full particulars as to education, experience and salary expectations and must include two references. **Application deadline is 12 Noon, Friday, July 23, 2021.**

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those considered for interviews will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Teulon invites applications for the following positions:

- Operator of Parks and Recreation Facilities/Working Supervisor
- Custodian of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Interested applicants may view details online at www.teulon.ca

Government -> Career Opportunities

Deadline for Applications: These positions will remain open until filled.

Applications may be submitted to info@teulon.ca to the attention of Andrew Glassco, CAO.

These positions are to commence as soon as possible.

We thank all who apply, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Johnson Seeds is accepting applications for the permanent full-time position of:

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Duties will consist of general accounting functions including data entry of accounts receivable and accounts payable, grower settlements, creating and updating spreadsheets, and various administrative tasks.

The successful candidate must have basic accounting experience, possess strong organizational skills, be accurate with a focus on attention to detail, have excellent interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills, and be proficient in MS Word and Excel.

Johnson Seeds offers a competitive salary dependent on qualifications and a benefits package.

Please send resume to:

S.S. Johnson Seeds Ltd.
 Box 3000
 Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
 Fax: (204) 376-2201
 Email: linda@johnsonseeds.com

We thank all who apply but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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OBITUARY



Charmaine Evyonne Wilson (nee Lemoine)
December 15, 1933 – June 27, 2021

On Sunday, June 27, 2021 Charmaine passed away peacefully at The Convalescent Home of Winnipeg.

Charmaine was predeceased by her parents Sybil and Tim Lemoine, brother Jim Lemoine and husband Mickey Wilson.

She will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her children Tim (Lori) Nicholson, grandchildren Sara (Andrew), Amanda (Luke), great-grandchildren Nash, Nola and Nev, Zach and Luke (Sara); Crystal (Paul) Degelman, grandchildren Ashley (Terra), great-grandchildren Connor, Avery, and Liam, Chelsey (Andreas) and great-grandchild Lyla; Darryl (Kate) Nicholson, grandchildren Liam and Erin; and her dearest lifelong friend Olga MacIntyre. Charmaine and Olga were jokingly referred to as Thelma and Louise based on stories of their travels to Vegas, Palm Springs,

Alaska, Europe...and parts unknown.

Charmaine was born in Selkirk, Manitoba and raised in Winnipeg Beach. Following high school, she attended Success Business School, worked at the Gimli Air Base, and was the secretary at Winnipeg Beach School for 25 years, retiring in 1996. She was active in the community, a member of the Winnipeg Beach Art Club, Winnipeg Beach Legion, Gimli Bowling League, Winnipeg Beach Curling Club, Gateway Foundation, and St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church.

In 1981 she began a new chapter in her life, marrying Joseph (Mickey) Wilson. They shared many fun times travelling across both sides of the country when circumstances allowed. Most of the time setting a destination which had family or friends, as it was something very important to both. Charmaine was a dedicated wife, daughter as well as a friend to many. Much of her lifetime was spent unselfishly caring for her great-grandfather William Howes and mother Sybil Lemoine. Quiet, independent, made the best shortbread and meatloaf, loved to dance (especially polkas) and always had a smile. Most of all she was an amazing, supportive, loving mother who raised three kids as a single parent while also caring for family.

Unfortunately, in 2016 her health and memory began to decline which required daily homecare services. Charmaine moved to the Seine River Retirement Residence in 2017 and to the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg in 2019. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the nurses, doctors and staff of Gimli Homecare, Gimli Hospital, Seine River Retirement Residence, Concordia Hospital, Cancer Care Manitoba and the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg for the excellent care, compassion and respect shown to Charmaine over the last five years.

A private family Celebration of Life will take place.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the MB Ostomy Society, Cancer Care Manitoba or The Convalescent Home of Winnipeg.

"A Mother is someone who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can replace."

-Love you forever and always, Mom

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Jamie Yablonski
May 19, 1982 – June 28, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of James Yablonski, our beloved father, son, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend.

Jamie was born on May 19, 1982 to the parents of Patricia and Peter Yablonski, he was the youngest of five children. Jamie leaves behind his three children Jenifer, Landon, and Ryder (mother Amanda McMahon). Jamie also leaves behind his mother, Pat, his brothers and sisters, Robert (Andrea), Vicky (Ron), Diana (Roger) and Brian (Tracy), his nieces and nephews Amanda (Ron), Michael (Kara), Nicole (Nicholas), Kerstin (Tyler), Alex (Annie), Braden, Matthew, Ethan, and great niece and nephews Kelly, Kody and Westyn. Jamie was predeceased by his father, Peter, and nephew, Steven Yablonski.

Jamie graduated Gimli High School in 2001 and then went off to Assiniboine Community College in Brandon to complete his Diploma in Agribusiness, his passion. He held various jobs until he found his dream job driving a John Deere tractor, a model 6130, for Berger Peat Moss as Lead Peat Moss Harvester for the last eight years.

Those who knew Jamie, knew he was a kind, selfless and loving soul. He made everyone feel special. Jamie lived for his kids and had endless patience; he loved playing with them no matter what they did. In his younger years, he had a love for science fiction and hanging out with his nieces and nephews who were like brothers and sisters to him. Jamie was close in age to his nieces and nephews, whom he strongly encouraged to call him Uncle, if he felt they were acting out of line.

A private funeral service was held for Jamie at the Precious Blood Roman Catholic Cemetery in Fraserwood.

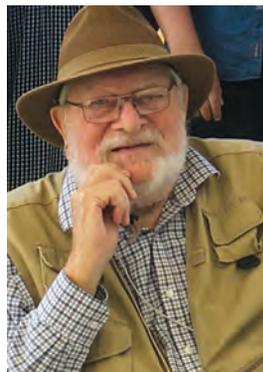
In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to make a donation towards Jamie's kids future needs may visit CIBC in Gimli.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Professor Philip Kenneth Isaac

Born January 23, 1928, in Brantham, East Suffolk, England, died June 25, 2021, Camp Morton, Mb, Canada.

Dad loved Lake Winnipeg and the Interlake region. He sailed on the lake from 1969-1988 on a rebuilt ketch named "Triskele", formerly the "St. Peter" of the St. John's Cathedral Boy's School in Selkirk.

He navigated and explored the North and South basins and their shores with his loving wife and First Mate, Lyn (73 years together), his four children, Peter (Natalie Antonenko), Jane (Craig Mackie), Wendy (Mark Block), Sarah (Cary Chapnick), his grandchildren and many friends.

Dad and Mum cherished their seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Often at family gatherings, Dad was renowned for his dedication to demonstrating how to make a proper white sauce, reciting poetry, and telling of humorous and interesting stories. It is said that, "some people know a little about everything." Our Dad, knew a lot about everything, and if he didn't, he would turn to his treasured books.

Dad was a humanist, an optimist, and a naturalist and these ideals have been passed on to the family. Dad had a passion for farm auctions, Camp Morton Heritage events, and the Gimli Wildlife Federation Fall shoots. He was a founding member of the Gimli Yacht Club, and a Director for many years with the Selkirk Marine Museum.

In his Grammer School years, he was self-taught as his teachers were sent off to war. But, despite this, he excelled in his studies and eventually achieved a PhD at the Imperial College in London, UK. One of his achievements was participating in the Reading Cup as a team member of a rowing 8, in the bow seat, well suited for the role as he was skinny and tall. When in Canada, he trained with the Winnipeg Rifles as a Reservist, then changed to the 17th Medical Corps, and represented Canada for the Bisley Rifle Team, with his Enfield 303.

Professionally, he was a botanist, mycologist, and microscopist. He worked at the University of Manitoba Science Department for 36 years from 1952-1988. He was proud of building one of Canada's first Electron Microscopes for his research. He also designed and lectured a Masters course in Microscopy for many years.

Dad's passing has left a huge void in our lives, but is filled with love, respect and many happy memories.

The family would like to thank the Interlake-Eastern RHA Home-care for their incredible care and dedication, especially Sarah, Lisa, Jocelyn and Peggy, and all the others. We also give thanks to Dr. Fulmore, Dr. Torri, Dr. Clarke, Palliative Nurse Melanie, nurses Julie, Christina and Kristy, and all the angels at the Gimli Johnson Memorial Hospital.

There will be no funeral service according to Dad's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to a charity of your choice.

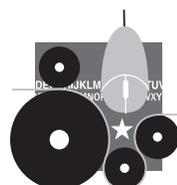
Condolences and memories may be sent to www.gilbartfuneralhome.com.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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IN MEMORIAM



Crystal Layne Kohler
February 21, 1986 – July 8, 2006
In loving memory of our dear daughter and sister

There's a bridge of memories,
From here to heaven above;
That keeps you very close to us,
It's called the Bridge of Love.
As time goes by without you,
And days turn into years;
They hold a million memories,
And a thousand silent tears.
-Forever loved and in our hearts,
Your family XOX...

IN MEMORIAM



George Kowalchuk
May 5, 1917 - July 8, 2003

No matter how life changes,
No matter what we do,
A special place within all our hearts,
Is always kept for you.
- Loving you, Eddie and Tom always
and missing you everyday,
your wife, Mary
and your children,
Rosalie (and Mike),
Lucy (and Terry),
(Chris) and (Patty),
and their families.

OBITUARY



Jonina Benson (nee Stefanson)
October 9, 1924 – June 29, 2021

It is with great sadness we announce the June 29th passing of Jonina Lovisa Benson (nee Stefanson) born October 9, 1924.

She was predeceased by her husband, Gunnlauger (Louis) Benson and her son Roger, her parents Gudjon and Gudrun Stefanson, her brothers and Louis' siblings.

She is survived by her daughter, Laureen (Gregory) Palsson, grandchildren, Sean Palsson (Krystyn) and Erin (Mike) George, her daughter-in-law Doris Benson, grandchildren, Leanne Benson and Boyd (Tracy) Benson, and her sister Anna Johnson. Amma Hecla, as she was fondly called, loved being a great-grandmother to Maddy (Garett) Turbett, Emily Bouvier (Keith), Kelsey Benson, Kyle Benson, Mickela (Julian) Franz, Rochelle Palsson (Joey), Hailey Palsson, Floki Palsson, Dylan George, and Taylor George.

She even had the joy of being a great-great-grandmother to Danika and Benjamin Franz, Joseph Palsson and steps Connor and Leah. Because she had so much grandmotherly love to share, she also 'adopted' Tracy Chambers, Terri Kempin, Jodie Speechley (all nee Thompson), and Siobhan Price Cormier as honorary grandchildren. There is not enough room to list all the people who thought of her as their Amma Hecla.

Jonina grew up in Vidir, MB. She became a teacher. Her teaching career took her to Hecla Island, where she not only fell in love with the island, but also a handsome fisherman named Louis. They married on March 23, 1946 and settled on Hecla Island, where they lived until Louis' death in 1979.

Jonina moved to Arborg and started a new career as an educational assistant. Many students were more successful in school because of Mrs. Benson's help. Jonina loved to knit, from fisherman's mitts to blankets and sweaters, sometimes creating intricate patterns on her own. In her later years, she loved spending summers on Hecla Island, where she always had the coffee ready for company. Her homemade bread was legendary to her grandkids – toast and hot chocolate always followed a dip in the lake.

Thanks to all the Home Care staff at Sunrise Lodge, the doctors and staff at the Arborg Hospital, and the staff at the Arborg Personal Care Home for your kindness and care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

A private graveside funeral will be held at a later date.

Don't think of her as gone away, her journey has just begun.

Life holds so many facets, this earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting, from the sorrows and the tears,

In a place of warmth and comfort, where there are no days or years.

Think how she must be wishing that we could know today,

How nothing but our sadness can really pass away.

And think of her as living in the hearts of those she touched,

For nothing loved is ever lost, and she was loved so much.

Goda Nott, Elskan.



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Ukrainian Farmers



DIRECTORS WANTED

Ukrainian Farmers Co-operative Ltd. Invites nominations for the position of Director, to be elected by ballot in 2021.

Nominees must meet the qualifications and nominations must meet the requirements specified in the Co-op's by-laws.

Preferred Competencies

- *Basic knowledge of co-ops
- *Working knowledge of democratic environment
- *Strategic thinking & long-term planning skills
- *Ability to understand cash-flow & financial statements
- *Experience in risk assessment & management
- *Flexibility and independent thinking
- *Comfortable in team approach to decision making and problem solving
- *Time commitment
- *Good interpersonal skills

Details of the Director qualifications and nomination forms are available at the Ukrainian Farmers Admin Office.

Nominations must be submitted no later than July 16th, 2021 to:

The Nominating Committee
Ukrainian Farmers Co-operative Ltd.
P.O. Box 160 Fisher Branch, R0C 0Z0



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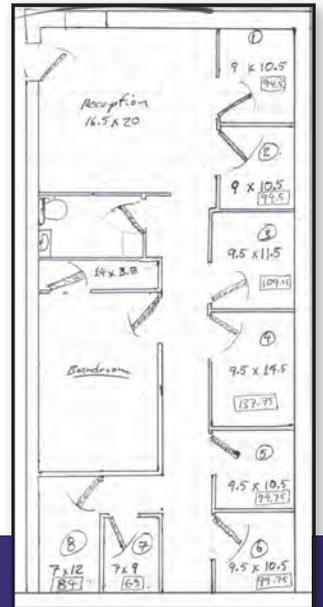
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