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Graduation happiness

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A family member joined Ralph Cochrane on stage during his graduation ceremony on Oct. 12. Eight students from Peguis and Fisher River earned a Level 1 Piping Trades certificate through Assiniboine Community College.

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know

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Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home – and stop biting us

By Patricia Barrett

A non-native species of ladybird (or ladybug) that has become increasingly prevalent over the past few years is causing quite a sting in the Interlake.

The Asian ladybird beetle (*Harmosia axyridis*), one species of a small beetle family called the coccinellidae, has been getting a bad rap for its bite.

"They're becoming quite a pain and people are getting bitten," said Taz Stuart, entomologist and director of technical operations at Winnipeg-based Poulin's Pest Control. "People are asking, 'Is this a ladybug?' No, at this time of year it's the ladybird beetle."

Stuart said the beetles resemble our native ladybirds, but a tell-tale M or W behind their head gives them away. They can range in colour from orange and yellow to red. Some don't have any spots. Adults are oval-shaped and their larvae look like little alligators.

"They're a crop-pest predator and they really like the soybean crop," said Stuart. "The hypothesis out there is that far more farmers are planting soybeans, so you're getting a large increase of these ladybird beetles out in the field."

Native to China, Korea, Japan and

Russia, the beetle was imported to North America to prey on crop pests such as aphids. Between the 1960s and the 1990s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture brought them in to control insects on pecan and apple crops, releasing large numbers in several states, according to the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture. The beetles then spread across North America.

The beetles have few natural predators, apart from wasps. And they bite when provoked or threatened, leaving people to question the beloved ladybird of the 18th-century fabled nursery rhyme *Ladybird, Ladybird, fly away home*.

The beetles are most noticeable in the fall after the crops have been harvested, said Stuart. That's when they head for towns and cities looking for a cozy nook or cranny into which to lodge and spend the winter.

Stuart hypothesizes that a change in methods of agricultural pest management may be partly responsible for the beetle's burgeoning numbers.

"This is just an educated guess on the increase, but they're getting successful ... because people want to use native methods to control crop pests



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Asian ladybird beetles swarmed the beach, vegetation and cottages at St. Laurent last weekend.

versus the use of chemicals," he said.

He said he has not seen any evidence suggesting the Asian ladybird is overtaking our native species or fighting for the same territory the way grey and red squirrels do.

"I have no data or evidence to say that," he said. "They both have different places where they like to live. The regular ladybirds like trees and the Asian ladybirds like living out in crops."

St. Laurent was one of the spots inundated with Asian ladybird beetles a few weeks ago when warm temperatures brought them out in force. The beetles swarmed homes, cottages and vehicles (inside and out) as well as rocks and debris on the beach.

Stuart said the beetles release a "staining material" which can leave marks on household surfaces such as walls and ceilings.

The foul-smelling fluid — used as a defensive mechanism against predators — flows from their leg joints.

"It's not even funny how many calls we're getting. Last year at this time, we were getting inundated with calls, saying, 'Why are these ladybugs all over the place?' It was the end of September and it was still warm and there was a little mix of ladybugs and ladybird beetles present. This year, the ladybugs have already gone into hibernation and 99 per cent of those out there now are ladybird beetles."

One method Stuart recommends to dislodge them from crevices, window sills or ceilings is vacuuming. But if they get out of control in Interlake homes, Poulin's will come to the rescue.

"We have a couple of PMPs (pest management professionals) who do out-of-town routes," said Stuart. "We'll come in and do the vacuuming then spray cracks and crevices with residual contact insecticide to reduce the numbers that may not have been sucked up by the vacuuming process."

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Parent volunteers host Thanksgiving meal for students

By Jeff Ward

Hardworking parents voluntarily cooked and served more than 100 meals at Fisher Branch Early Years School's (FBEYS) Thanksgiving celebration earlier this month.

The Thanksgiving dinner took place during lunch hour on Oct. 5 at the school with 13 parents taking charge of the meal. School staff, parents and community organizations donated all of the food.

Principal Roger McCulley said that the Noventis Credit Union donated the turkeys. McCulley was grateful for and impressed by the volunteers who delivered a fantastic event that had students very excited. Parent volunteers have been doing this event for the last nine years at FBEYS, and McCulley said that students look forward to it each year decorating their classrooms in Thanksgiving artwork to set the mood for their meal.

The volunteers this year were Glenda Sumka, Tess Miranda, Kemi Chester, Mutya Lumasac, Fay Syrota, Cher-

isse Vandersteen, Melissa Sutherland, Kim Vandersteen, Lisa Fedyk, Lyndon Meilleur, Alexis Vieira, Candice Stodgell and Tannis Yuzwa.

"It's such a nice event done for the kids and, honestly, these parents are just amazing," said McCulley.

"The idea came from Mrs. Carla DesJardins, our Grade 1 teacher, to have a school dinner for our students each year. The goal is to give every child a Thanksgiving dinner because we know for some parents it's not an easy thing to do and can be financially out of reach."

McCulley explained that the parents who volunteer, like most volunteers, organize this event because they want to do something good. They want to bring a smile to a child's face and give them something to look forward to. There's probably no better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than by paying it forward like these parents did, said McCulley.

FBEYS teaching staff are not going to let an event like this go by without

trying to squeeze some educational value out of it. With students so excited about the meal, teachers harness that and direct it to studies based on that theme. McCulley said that events like this are always woven into the curriculum and the students have always been receptive to that kind of learning.

Another nice byproduct is that the parents who volunteer are setting a great example of volunteerism for the students. McCulley said that for many

of these students, seeing their parents or others freely giving their time and having a good time doing so is a rewarding lesson for them.

"After they see parents doing this event, they start to understand what volunteerism means and it translates when they go out and do the same. We have many students that come back to our school and volunteer at the breakfast program. Sometimes you just need someone to inspire you," said McCulley.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ROGER MCCULLEY

Thirteen parent volunteers cooked and served a full Thanksgiving meal to students at FBEYS a few weeks ago. From left: Glenda Sumka, Tess Miranda, Kemi Chester, Mutya Lumasac, Fay Syrota, Cherisse Vandersteen, Melissa Sutherland, Kim Vandersteen, Lisa Fedyk, Lyndon Meilleur, Alexis Vieira, Candice Stodgell and Tannis Yuzwa.



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Gimli Ford to hold final 2017 fundraiser for High School graduates

Ford Canada Drive One 4UR School event
Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Submitted

Gimli Ford is gearing up for its last test-drive fundraiser of 2017. The auto dealer hopes to raise up to \$6,000 for Gimli High School's 2018 graduating class.

Ford Canada is sponsoring the Drive One 4UR School program in which people can test-drive a new Ford vehicle. Ford will donate \$20 for each test-drive to the graduating class.

"We're excited to partner with Gimli High School to help raise funds for their grad. We know it can be expensive" said Karen Raemer, events planner and service consultant for Gimli

Ford. "The Drive One program is a great opportunity for us to help a local high school pay for an unforgettable grad while showcasing Ford of Canada's innovative technologies to parents, teenagers and other drivers."

Gimli Ford has raised almost \$4,000 from Drive One events this year.

The fundraiser takes place Saturday, Oct. 21 at the high school from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants must be 18 years or older and have a valid driver's license.

A barbecue lunch will also be offered with proceeds going to the grad celebration.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ford Canada and Gimli Auto are hosting the Drive One 4UR School fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the 2017 Gimli High School graduating class.

MPI opens new centre for automotive research and training

Submitted

Manitoba Public Insurance continues to keep pace with rapid changes in the design, construction, technology and reparability of motor vehicles with the opening of its new, state-of-the-art centre for automotive research and training at the J.W. Zacharias Physical Damage Research Centre in Winnipeg, Crown Services Minister Cliff Cullen announced last Monday.

"Changes in how vehicles are manufactured are having a significant impact on the reparability of new vehicles," said Cullen. "The opening of this new research and training facility will benefit vehicle owners and Manitoba's collision repair industry by ensuring that when vehicles are involved in collisions, they will be properly repaired back to original equipment manufacturer (OEM) standards."

The new research and training centre – located in the J. W. Zacharias

Physical Damage Research Centre in Winnipeg – will enable qualified technicians to work in collaboration with Manitoba's repair industry, as it adapts repair methods related to vehicles now being constructed of complex materials, including aluminum, carbon fibre, high strength and ultra-high-strength steels.

Training and research centre technicians will work closely with Manitoba's repair industry and Red River College to offer access to training on new and emerging vehicle repair techniques and equipment, resulting in significant savings for local collision repair shops that would otherwise have to spend thousands of dollars to send their autobody technicians to out-of-province training sessions.

"Manitoba Public Insurance recognizes that the auto manufacturing industry is creating significant change for the collision repair industry and

costs of repairs are increasing, which is why we are taking steps to save Manitobans money over the long-term," said Manitoba Public Insurance President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Guimond.

"This facility and the staff within it will ensure that the auto body technicians in Manitoba remain highly skilled and able to respond to rapidly changing vehicle construction and repair techniques. It's expected that by next year, half of the Manitoba fleet will represent vehicles with complex materials, many of which require specialized training, tooling, equipment and facilities to ensure these vehicles are repaired safely back to manufacturer standards."

Moving forward, Manitoba Public Insurance's new centre for automotive research and training will host technical training courses for the collision repair community, in addition to offering tours to Manitoba high school students who may have an interest in becoming auto repair technicians. Manitoba Public Insurance will also leverage its relationships with other collision research facilities around the world to investigate new and cost-effective vehicle repair techniques, tools and equipment for use by Manitoba collision repair shops.

New centre for automotive research and training site of global conference
Delegates from around the world will be converging in Winnipeg this week for the 2017 Research Council for Automotive Repair (RCAR) Conference.

"As the only Canadian member of

RCAR, Manitoba Public Insurance is proud to host this distinguished international forum," said Guimond. "This conference is specifically designed to facilitate the exchange of information on research findings and strategies for implementation of cutting-edge research in automotive technology. There is no better location than our new training and research centre to host this important conference."

RCAR is an international body of automotive research centres, whose primary goal is to reduce the human and economic costs of motor vehicle losses. This is done through research into improved vehicle damage resistance, reparability, security, and safety – all of which impact the cost of insuring and repairing motor vehicles. RCAR has members, spanning 20 countries and five continents: Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Australia.

A highlight of this year's RCAR conference is a Vehicle Technology Showcase, featuring exhibitors many of Canada's automakers. The showcase will focus on emerging technologies, including the latest trends in electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and vehicles featuring the latest in complex materials. The 2017 Showcase will also feature classic and collector vehicles, supplied by members of the Manitoba Association of Auto Clubs and Manitoba Classic and Antique Auto Club, to demonstrate the significance of changes to vehicle design, construction, automation, and reparability over time.

RELOCATION OF ERIKSDALE MEDICAL CLINIC

To make room for our newest physician (Dr. Sunu Thomas) and take advantage of a more modern facility, Eriksdale Medical Clinic is now located across the street in the Eriksdale Wellness Centre at 35 Railway Avenue. This move affects patients of:

- Dr. Ayman Soliman (accepting patients)
- Dr. Hakimeh Khazen (accepting patients)
- Dr. Sunu Thomas (accepting patients)

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letters

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

More hogwash from anti-hog activists

The writer of the article "Can government properly regulate hog barns, protect water?", published in the Oct. 12 edition of *The Express Weekly News*, goes on at length about a survey supposedly indicating public concern about hog barns. The reality is that people like the writer of that article, and other anti-hog activists, continuously and relentlessly put forward myths about the hog sector, without a basis in fact or science. But the truth doesn't seem to matter to the activists; they are simply obsessed with hogs and never engage in rational discussion. By the way, if you want an accurate portrayal of these activists, read Robert Arnason's piece in this week's *Western Producer* (Hog production protest misses the mark, Oct. 12, 2017), which exposes the reality of these groups.

In any event, let me clear up some of the myths for *Express Weekly* readers.

Myth 1 put forward by the anonymous writer is that amendments to legislation and regulations will "enable new and expanded barns to be built across the province." Wrong. The fact is that, as a result of an agreement between the previous NDP government and Manitoba Pork almost three years ago, it is and was already possible to build new hog barns in Manitoba without an anaerobic digester. In fact, several barns were planned and construction is under way on some now — before any changes to legislation. So

these proposed changes will make no difference.

More troubling than Myth 1, however, is Myth 2, which implies that the amendments in Bill 24 and the regulations will lead to damage to the environment. Wrong. The changes will do nothing to impact the environment. They will simply (1) remove redundancies and requirements that were unenforceable or had no good reason for being there; and (2) include minor technical amendments that will make the rules easier and more efficient to administer. There will be no environmental impact. None. Hog producers in Manitoba will continue to be subject to the strictest environmental standards in North America.

Myth 3 is that the winter spreading ban is being weakened and that the government has a secret agenda to end the ban. Wrong. The ban remains in regulation. The government has said it has no intention of removing it, and Manitoba Pork would never ask and has never asked for it to be removed. But again the activists try to scare people into thinking it will be somehow removed when no one is looking.

Myth 4 is the quote "No water quality data have been provided to demonstrate that more manure won't mean more phosphorus loading to Lake Winnipeg." Funny, since there has never been any evidence that phosphorus loading was ever caused by hog manure in the first place. But

anti-hog groups repeat it over and over again, thinking, no doubt, that if you say it enough times, no matter how false, people will begin to believe it. So let's turn it around and let the anti-hog groups provide science-based evidence that hog manure is getting in the lake. They can't do it, because there is no such evidence, since hog manure does not get in the lake and never has.

The anonymous writer did actually say one thing that makes sense: "To maintain long-term environmental sustainability, any expansion of the hog industry must be undertaken in a manner that safeguards Manitoba's water resources." It's hard to argue with that statement. And to protect our water resources, the fact is that almost all hog farmers now inject and/or incorporate manure into the soil — this essentially prevents runoff. Almost all liquid hog manure is applied at a rate that is about the equivalent of one-third of an inch of rainfall. To put this in perspective, if you had a rainfall of one-third of an inch and then walked out into your farm field a few hours later, you would likely not even know it had rained — most of it would have sunk in and/or evaporated. But, unlike rainfall which falls on the surface, hog farmers place liquid manure about 15 centimetres under the soil. So again, hog manure is spread very thinly and is placed into the soil — this prevents runoff. It is illegal for hog manure to run off. The anti-hog people never talk about this though; they talk about hog ma-

nure as though it were being directly poured into the lake. But the fact is the amount of phosphorus from hog barns getting into the lake is so low as to be unmeasurable.

As for the condition of Lake Winnipeg this summer, do the anti-hog groups think that the 10,000 cottages and homes around Lake Winnipeg have no impact on the lake? Residents and cottagers may well be fouling their own nest, but it is much easier for activists to blame hog farms many kilometres away. Everyone who flushes a toilet in Manitoba (and in fact in the whole million square kilometre watershed) is a part of the problem; to obsessively blame one industry for the lake's issues is unreasonable and just plain wrong.

Finally, it is also amusing how the writer extolls the accuracy of the Probe Research poll. It was an online survey, and anyone who knows anything about surveys knows that on-line voluntary surveys are almost meaningless. As well, the way the questions are worded greatly influences the type of answers returned. I've seen the survey questions and can tell that you some were very leading (not neutral) and would naturally have resulted in negative responses.

It would be nice if the anti-hog people would spend their apparently endless time, energy and money on something useful, instead of spreading falsehoods about an industry that employs 13,000 good people in Manitoba.

Rose Hand farms in southeastern Manitoba

Moosehorn flood protection project nearing completion following delay

By Jeff Ward

The completion of the Moosehorn flood protection project was discussed at last Thursday's regular meeting of council and the project, following a delay, is set to be completed in the next few weeks.

A fire in the warehouse that supplied project contractors, Fast Brothers Ltd. with culverts caused a delay in the timeline. Originally the project, which diverts water away from Moosehorn using a new diking system, was to be completed by Sept. 15. Grahamdale CAO Shelly Schwitek said that the delay was unfortunate as residents would like to see Jensen Road reopened. She said that the RM

office has received a few calls from residents who are upset with the delay as it does make the drive to the municipal waste disposal grounds longer.

"It's definitely frustrating to locals, but once we explained the situation, they've been understanding," said Schwitek.

The CAO said that there had also been a few rain delays which have added to the

extra time but explained that once the supplies are delivered, the job should be completed quickly. She said that

Continued on page 9

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Hi gang.
There's a nice little grassy riverbank area by the Red River a bit downstream from the spillway. That's where Steve Contois from Winnipeg took his dad fishing a few years back. He wanted to do something nice with Pop, but their hectic lives never had allowed them much time together. Charles was not a fisherman but jumped at the chance to spend some time with his son. Steve arranged everything, getting the gear together, and come one weekend, they wound up on that grassy spot sitting in folding chairs in the bright summer morning sun surrounded by rods, tackle boxes and travel cups filled with warm coffee in their chairs' holders. Life was good!

Steve opened their tub of minnows and baited their pickerel rigs. He closed the tub and set it on his chair's table. Standing up, his thin frame became rigid and his determined, fine featured face looked to the river. Like a true champion angler, he cast out in a wide sweeping arc. It was a beautiful cast! The line, hooks and weight gleamed in the sun, rocketing high and far with a trail of shimmering minnows and an empty minnow tub in tow!

In his haste to impress his dad, Steve had hooked the minnow tub as he cast out. To further deflate his ego, the minnows on his hooks choose to go their own way just before they hit the water! Dad silently, calmly, raised himself from his chair. He walked down the riverbank and Steve watched as he bought a small pickerel from a neighbouring angler. Charles returned, sat down, took out his knife, cut the fish up and rebaited his son's hooks. He hand-

ed the rod to Steve and said, "Maybe 30 feet out would be enough, sonny."

Last Friday, I was hanging out on the Gull Harbor Hecla pier shooting the breeze with the commercial fishers. Much like the commercial folks at Gimli, it came up that they were all getting a little tired of the constant strong south wind. When you're lifting and cleaning nets from the bow of your boat that's pointed into the wind, it's all upper body work and after a while it gets a little tough. Later, over at the village pier, I ran into Rosendo Carino from Winnipeg. Though dressed in a heavy parka, his frail physique was bothered by the cold yet he persevered, saying he was here a few days ago and saw a huge eagle dive onto the bay's water and snap up a pickerel. As it was flapping its gigantic wings hard to gain altitude, seemingly from nowhere a smaller eagle darted at him and, like an acrobat, flipped itself upside-down under the big eagle trying to steal the fish! Both birds filled the air in the harbor with screams of rage but the bigger bird prevailed, landing in a tall spruce tree where it could defend its food.

I was on the Winnipeg River bank by Powerview a number of weeks ago and came across Derek Henderson and Rick Anderson of Cooks Creek. It was a sunny, warm afternoon and Derek proved to be an engaging fellow talking of the low water levels because of the south winds. Suddenly our conversation was cut off in mid-sentence as his rod trembled and then bent over signaling a catch. Derek jumped up, his feet sliding around on the loose stones. He spread his stance while reeling in rapidly. Then just as a hooked fair-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL
Derek Henderson of Cooks Creek with his swimmingly successful catch at Powerview.

sized pickerel sprang from the water, it slipped off and nosedived into a cluster of rocks in the water's edge imprisoning itself. Derek dropped his rod and went after that fish. As he bent over to grab it, he slipped on the slimy rocks and fell rolling into the water.

Rick and I froze, thinking he would regain his feet. He just lay there, though, with water lapping over his body. Rick called to him, "Derek, get up. The water's cold!"

"Leave me be," Mister Independent called out. He tried to roll over on his stomach to get on his hands and knees but he couldn't get all the way over. Lying on his side, he slipped even further into the icy water. That did it. Rick and I waded, slipping and sliding into the water after him. We each grabbed an arm and helped him up. Just as we reached dry rocks, he struggled his arm loose from Rick and bent down grabbing his fish!

"It's not getting away," he muttered, soaking wet and grinning triumphantly!

See you next week. Bye.

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Cost of false alarms to be recouped by RM of Bifrost-Riverton

By Patricia Barrett

Residents and business owners in the RM of Bifrost-Riverton will be facing fines for false alarms that involve policing and fire department resources.

A new municipal bylaw for false alarms involving the fire department comes into effect this week, and a bylaw for false alarms involving the RCMP will come into effect next month.

RCMP Sgt. Rob Gray and Cpl. Dave Spakowski were delegates at council's regular meeting Oct. 11 to outline their concerns with false alarms and to encourage the RM to adopt a bylaw setting out fines for repeat offenders.

"We'd like to see the alarms get fixed," said Cpl. Spakowski, referring to the system at Westshore Marine and other businesses. "They're not bound to fix them. There have been 29 false alarm calls at Westshore Marine — though not all of them have been false because they've had break-ins."

The RCMP has to respond to each call because officers can't determine whether they're false or real alarms until they arrive on scene.

That results in high policing costs, which are passed on to the municipality.

"It could be six hours at time-and-a-half, or double time, depending on when we're called," said Cpl. Spakowski. "That's charged back to the municipality."

Sgt. Gray said false alarms used to be problematic in Gimli and Winnipeg Beach before the respective local governments implemented false alarm bylaws.

Council discussed a fine schedule then gave first reading to Bylaw 23-2017, False Alarm RCMP.

The fines are as follows: 1st false alarm: warning; 2nd false alarm: \$250; 3rd false alarm: \$500; 4th false alarm: \$500; 5th and subsequent false alarms: \$750.

Council also gave second and third reading to Bylaw 22-2017, False Alarm Fire Department.

The fine schedule is the same as above.

Council said it could revisit the fines if they fails to address the problem.

Deputy Reeve Dave Shott said the fines should serve as an incentive for people to get their alarms repaired and to refrain from purchasing the cheapest alarm on the market.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The RCMP has encouraged the municipality to pass a false alarm bylaw to fine people who don't repair their faulty alarm systems. Westshore Marine has experienced multiple false alarms, according to police.

Other council briefs:

- The municipality will be undergoing ward boundary changes and a reduction in councillors for the next election in 2018.

The RM will be served by seven councillors (there are currently eight) and Riverton will become a separate ward represented by one councillor.

Two councillors currently serve the Riverton area (Ward 7): Colin Bjarnason and Warren Ostertag.

Council gave first reading to Bylaw 24-2017, Ward Boundaries to enact the changes.

"Council's decision was to have a council of seven (six councillors and one reeve) and to use the ward system," said CAO Cindy Stansell. "Due to population changes, boundaries had to be modified as you must try to achieve equal representation of population in each ward."

"The former Village of Riverton will be now Ward 6 and be that of the current boundary for Ward 7. This will be represented by one councillor. The other five wards with similar population will be represented each by one councillor, and then a reeve will be elected at large."

- Coun. Donald Vigfusson reported that some of the roads in his ward (Ward 6) are in terrible condition.

"The grader's not been there," he said. "I asked people; they haven't seen a grader. There's quite a few roads."

Vigfusson said he expected the roads to be in better condition than they presently are because of the dry weather.

"We have farmers going out with tractor and bucket and filling in the holes," he said.

Shott said one grader operator is away on medical leave and the RM can't hire a short-term replacement because the employee could return at any time.

Reeve Harold Foster said part of the problem is the vast size of the municipality.

Vigfusson suggested the RM focus on main routes in his ward.

- The Riverton lagoon is experiencing some erosion on one of its three cells.

"The slope is way too steep and that's why I think we've got erosion," said Coun. Chad Johnson. "We have to riprap the banks to stop the erosion."

The RM will contact the engineer who designed the cell.

- The RM will hold a public hearing on behalf of BASIC to see whether it can implement a special tax on farmers in order to raise \$4 million for drainage work. The hearing will take place Nov. 16 in the Riverton Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Grahamdale CDC exploring child-care needs for present and future

By Jeff Ward

The Grahamdale Community Development Corporation (CDC) is now circulating a child-care needs survey to better understand the existing and future needs for that service with the municipality.

The survey, which can be found online at www.grahamdale.ca, is designed to take feedback from current parents using child care services and future parents who are exploring those services as they plan their families. The CDC plans to use the information gathered to better understand what the current needs are for child-care services and how they might expand over the next three years.

Lana Cowling-Mason is the temporary EDO for the RM of Grahamdale and is working on circulating the survey. She said that the CDC is very interested in understanding who is offering current child care services and what their capacity is. The data will be used to inform the future of child care in the municipality, which currently doesn't have a dedicated community-based facility. In the survey, there

are also questions about where residents would like the possible location for a dedicated child-care facility to be, the cost per day of that service, driving distance and operating hours, among others.

"One of the big things we're wanting to know is who the current providers are and how we can help support them," said Cowling-Mason.

"Is the future just supporting those providers and then connecting people who need those services when the time comes? Or is it finding ways to expand the services to accommodate a growing need?"

Cowling-Mason said that the survey will also inform the needs based on age range as well. Is there a need for a daycare service for children ages two to five or is there more of a need for before- and after-school programming? Questions like these are what the CDC hopes to answer once the data from the survey is analyzed.

In terms of communities along Highway 6, Grahamdale is the only municipality that doesn't have a

community-based daycare centre. Cowling-Mason said that it's not necessarily a bad thing but just a circumstance of the current needs. However, many families, she said, do tend to favour areas that have services like child care. If there are young married couples looking to start a family, they may not want to move to Grahamdale if there isn't a service available to them.

"And that's why it's important for us to get a better understanding of what the current situation is — who are the people providing child care and is it something they will continue to provide three years from now or longer," said Cowling-Mason.

This feedback is key in informing future planning on this issue and Cowling-Mason said she hopes that residents will take the survey so that the CDC can have the full picture going forward.

The survey needs to be completed and returned by Nov. 10 and for more information, you can reach Cowling-Mason at lane@westinterlake.com.

Johnson thanks rural volunteers in Legislature session

By Jeff Ward

During private members speech time last week at the Manitoba Legislature, Interlake MLA Derek Johnson took a moment to recognize hardworking rural volunteers who contribute to the quality of life in the Interlake.

Johnson spoke briefly about Eriksdale's Andrea Sweetland, who was recently honoured by Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan with a Canada 150 medallion and received the Award of Distinction at the Interlake Tourism Association Awards for her commitment to providing her community with fun events and historical preservation.

Johnson said that rural volunteers are the "glue that keeps our rural life cohesive" and that they do a great job bringing forward community passions. Johnson praised Sweetland for her dedication to bringing tourists to the Interlake as well as working on the Eriksdale Creamery Museum Board to preserve the history of her community. Johnson

brought up the board's recent celebration during Creamery Days when they unveiled their new community monument marking the location of Eriksdale's first settler.

"When memories fade, our history is stored in museums, books and projects like the Erikson monument as volunteers like Andrea store our memories and local history before our past is lost forever," said Johnson.

Sweetland said it was an honour to have her name come forth in the legislature and that she has always tried to do things that bring a positive awareness of her community. She added that the recent awards she's received are not just for her but for all volunteers.

"It says to all volunteers that they matter. Rewards are not only physical objects to display but a sense of accomplishment knowing that your community reaps the benefit of your work," said Sweetland.



EXPRESS PHOTO VIA MANITOBA PC CAUCUS
Interlake MLA Derek Johnson recognized Andrea Sweetland and thanked her for her years of dedication and volunteer service during Private Members Speech time in the Legislature last week.

E.M. Crowe Hospital Guild to host Halloween Tea fundraiser

By Jeff Ward

A Holter monitor and bedside tables for all rooms in the E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital are the most pressing purchases the hospital guild is looking to raise funds for next weekend.

The Halloween Tea Fundraiser takes place on Oct. 28 at the Eriksdale Memorial Community Centre from 1 to 3 p.m. The hospital guild hosts two tea fundraisers each year that helps them fund the purchase of items the hospital needs and that the staff

request. Hospital guild president Gail Holmes said that the group recently purchased 16 overbed tables for all rooms and that the next purchase that needs to be made are bedside tables and a Holter monitor. Holmes said that the event will feature free coffee and tea but will raise funds through a silent auction, door prizes, in-house raffle and a bake sale.

"People understand the importance of the guild and what we do, and they support us well," said Holmes.

"The bedside tables in each room have been there since the hospital opened in 1963 so they need to be replaced. The Holter monitor is another thing we've wanted to purchase for a while and are hoping to get there with this fundraiser."

Holmes said that, depending on how well the fundraiser does, purchasing those items could be done by the end of the year.

What's your gambling limit?

New campaign encourages Manitobans to set limits before they gamble

Submitted

Today, the Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba (LGA) launched a province-wide campaign to encourage Manitobans to set limits before participating in any type of gambling activity. Research shows that people who always set limits have a lower risk of experiencing gambling harm, such as overspending and negative impacts to family and well-being.

The LGA's new campaign is targeted at Manitobans 45 years and older, since they are the age group least likely to set limits on their gambling activities. The bilingual campaign features the tagline, "I had a talk with myself,

I know my gambling limit" and offers tips for setting spending and time limits. The campaign will run for six weeks and includes radio, online and social media, transit and public space advertising.

"We want to provide information to help Manitobans make informed choices," said Rick Josephson, CEO of the LGA. "We are encouraging those who are going to gamble, for example, at a casino, VLT lounge or bingo hall, to decide in advance how much money they want to spend and stop when they reach that limit."

For more information, please visit KnowMyLimits.ca.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
The Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba (LGA) launched a province-wide campaign to encourage Manitobans to set limits before participating in any type of gambling activity.

Liberals back down from proposed small business tax reform

Prime Minister Trudeau announces 1.5 per cent tax cut for small business

By Natasha Tersigni

Following the backlash from Canadians regarding the federal government proposed tax reform aimed at small businesses, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Finance Minister Bill Morneau kicked off Small Business Week on Monday by announcing a 1.5 per cent tax cut to small businesses.

During their Monday noon press conference held at a family-owned Italian restaurant in Stouffville, Ont., the Liberals used their announcement to also retract tax reform that was announced in mid-July. The policy change directly affected small incorporated businesses across Canada, in particular, those in the farming and fishing industries. The changes looked at restrictions on income sprinkling, use of private corporations to make passive investments and the ability of owners to convert regular income of a corporation into capital gains.

"The new nine per cent small business tax rate means that businesses will have up to \$7,500 more to invest in equipment or to hire more people to make their businesses even more successful," said Morneau.

"We are going to move forward in a way that addresses concerns raised by the middle class and small business owners and their ability to save for a debt, parental leave or even retirement. I will be visiting small businesses and meeting with farmers to discuss our proposal to make sure we don't affect the transfer of business to the next generation."

The government hinted at changes to passive investments and the ability to keep small businesses within the family but offered no concrete plans and said that information and announcements will be released throughout the week. One area where

the government is remaining strong is the changes to income sprinkling, the practice of transferring income to a spouse or child that will then be taxed in a lower income tax bracket.

"We know that it just isn't fair for some companies and some individuals to take advantage of income sprinkling when others cannot, whose kids are the wrong age or because they are not married. We believe in fairness in our tax system meaning everyone having the same kinds of opportunities. Of course, people who contribute to growing the business and continuing the business will be adequately compensated. We are trying to avoid a measure that has been used by a very, very small amount of people in ways it certainly wasn't intended to do," said Trudeau during the question period following Monday's press conference. He did not offer more details into what those changes look like or define what 'contribute to the business' meant.

"We are going to make sure there is a simple and clear framework through the tax code to define how people are contributing or not to the business. That will be made clear as we move forward."

Ahead of Monday's announcement, Selkirk -Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan held a town hall meeting on Oct. 13 in Stonewall to discuss with constituents the Liberal's proposed changes to the small business tax policy and how it will impact local families and small businesses.

"The biggest issue that all of us have is that the Liberals are designing a policy that is very much in line with their ideology, with their own philosophical views on how the country should function. They have now devised a plan on how to actually drive



EXPRESS PHOTO BY NATASHA TERSIGNI

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan held a town hall meeting in Stonewall last Friday to consult constituents on the tax reform changes the Liberal government has proposed.

everyone down to the lowest possible rung in the economic sectors," said Bezan.

"Overall, this is not just an attack on small businesses. This is not just an attack on rural Canada, which is highly dependent on small businesses. This is an attack on our families, our livelihoods and it will completely destroy the economy if they carry out what they intend to do here."

Bezan told the audience the best way to advocate for changes on the proposed tax reform would be to contact the Liberal government and tell them how these changes will affect families and businesses.

"We are asking

people to contact Bill Morneau directly, even though he has cut-off public consultations. Better yet, contact local MP offices in Winnipeg. When we stand in the House (of Commons) I can tell you that the Liberals' are not scared of us as Conservatives or the opposition but they are really scared of you guys (the public). They need to hear from each and every one of you."

> MOOSEHORN FLOOD, FROM PG. 5

the contractor expects those supplies to be delivered this week.

In other council news:

Letters requesting support for the RM in regards to the proposed Lake Manitoba outlet channel were sent out to neighbouring RMs and the Manitoba Minister of Infrastructure Ron Schuler. Council is asking those who received letters to pledge their support that the RM be compensated for their future loss of tax base, rate payers and more, after the outlet channel is built.

Schwitek said that the RM stands to lose quite

a bit when the outlet channel is completed and council feels that there should be a way to work through the impact to the municipality. She added that none of the councillors are against the channel and they all know it's very important, but the fact remains the project could be a big financial blow to the RM.

Council also awarded a tender for the Lakeshore Road Project, which entails repairing three sites along a 1/4 mile stretch of that road. Shoreline Excavating Ltd., a local company, was awarded the contract and Schwitek said that the repairs will be completed by Nov. 30.



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How to properly care for your gardening tools

Neglecting to care for your gardening tools (shovels, hoes, trowels, garden shears, etc.) before the colder season sets in is a surefire way to ensure their poor condition come spring. This fall, don't forget to follow these three essential steps to make sure your gardening tools are ready for duty once the warmer weather rolls around:

1. Clean

Wash your gardening tools with soapy water (if necessary, use a brush to scrub away dirt and grime), rinse and dry with a clean towel or cloth. For your cutting tools, you can

scrub the blades with a rag soaked in alcohol to eliminate stubborn filth.

2. Sharpen

Carefully sharpen all of your cutting tools with the help of a whetstone, metal file or grindstone. Pro tip: place your tool in a vice to ensure a steady hold while sharpening to reduce the risk of damage and personal injury.

3. Protect

Apply a protective layer of lubricant, oil or grease on your tools' springs and metal surfaces to keep them from rusting over the winter.

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A heart full of thanks



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Jody Ansell is back home in Stonewall where she is recovering from a gunshot wound in her right forearm.

By Jennifer McFee

Over the last few weeks, Jody Ansell has experienced a myriad of emotions, but one feeling emerges above the rest — gratitude.

The Stonewall woman is grateful to be alive after being shot in the arm during the incomprehensible mass shooting in Las Vegas on Oct. 1.

She is grateful for the love of her husband and two children, 18-year-old Desiree and 24-year-old Darren.

And she is grateful for the support from the community — and even from people she doesn't know who have reached out to connect with her.

"It's all been very overwhelming, but I just want to thank everyone for all their love and support," she said. "It's just been unbelievable. I'm so grateful."

Ansell, who is originally from Ontario, has lived in Stonewall for nearly five years after moving to the Inwood-Teulon area in 1990.

Along with her friend Jan Lambourne of Inwood, she attended the Route 91 Harvest Festival on the Las Vegas strip earlier this month. Amid a crowd of 22,000 people at the outdoor country music event, the two friends were caught up in the chaos

after gunfire erupted from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel.

Lambourne was also shot and is currently recovering in a Manitoba hospital.

Meanwhile, Ansell is at home in Stonewall, where she is recovering from her injuries and reflecting on the life-changing event.

"I did a lot of praying that night and thinking about how I had to get home to my kids," she said. "I recently lost my father in May; however, he was with me that night. I'm so grateful that my friend and I both made it out of there."

Now that she's back home, Ansell is still dealing with the aftermath of the situation.

Looking ahead, she will take the time she needs to heal physically and emotionally, but she doesn't plan to change her adventurous approach to life based on this experience.

"Everyone who knows me knows that I like to enjoy my life to the fullest," she said.

"People don't realize how short life can be. You've got to make the most of it because you never what's going to happen."

Province appeals ruling on North Dakota water project that could contaminate Manitoba waterways



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Zebra mussels washed up on the shore of Sandy Bar near Riverton.

By Patricia Barrett

The province appealed a recent U.S. court ruling giving the green light to a water diversion project that has the potential to bring disease and invasive species to Manitoba's rivers and lakes.

North Dakota's Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project will pipe water from the Missouri River into North Dakota to supply drinking water to the northwestern part of the state.

But the water — along with possible contaminants — will flow north into the Hudson Bay Basin, a drainage basin of over one million square miles that encompasses Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg.

"Manitoba's primary concern with the NAWS Project and other inter-basin water transfers in North Dakota has always been the serious ecological consequences that would result from the introduction of harmful invasive species and aquatic diseases from the Missouri River Basin into Manitoba's rivers and lakes," said Minister of Sustainable Development Rochelle Squires, confirming a notice of appeal had been filed.

Both Manitoba and Missouri were part of a suit heard in a District of Columbia court. The judge dismissed the claims Aug. 10, citing compliance with environmental protection rules.

"While we regret that further legal action is necessary," said Squires, "our priority is still to ensure that waters in Manitoba and Canada receive the highest possible level of protection as

the NAWS project moves forward."

The North Dakota State Water Commission began construction on NAWS in April 2002 and completed 45 miles of pipeline in 2009. It has been stalled by court challenges from Manitoba and Missouri. The province under the NDP launched a suit in 2002. The state of Missouri filed a suit in 2009, citing loss of water from the river, which is used as a shipping route.

The ruling in favour of North Dakota will now allow the state to move forward with construction on NAWS, pending appeal by Manitoba and Missouri, according to the North Dakota government's website.

The state will move water via a pipeline from the Missouri River to the Sheyenne River, which meets up with the Red River near Fargo.

Some of the diseases that could be introduced from the Missouri River into Lake Winnipeg include whirling disease, a parasitic infection of fish that causes them to swim in circles and eventually die. The disease could undermine commercial and recreational fishing in the province.

NDP environment critic Rob Altemeyer (Wolseley MLA) said the threat to Manitoba's waterways was raised by concerned citizens who contacted him, and that the government — until last week — has remained "silent" on the issue.

The court appeal came to light during question period Oct. 5 when Altemeyer introduced a resolution (No.20)

Continued on page 18

Manitoba Public Insurance releases second quarter financial results

Submitted

Manitoba Public Insurance reported a net income of \$42.3 million for the six months of its fiscal year ending August 31, 2017 – an increase of \$69.2 million over the same time period last year. This includes net income from the Basic insurance line of business of \$9.2 million in the first six months of the 2017/18 fiscal year.

Total earned revenues for the first six months rose by \$33.5 million from the same period last year, driven mainly by increases in motor vehicle premium revenue due to an increase in the number of motor vehicles insured and the value of these vehicles as well as the approved Basic insurance rate increase of 3.7 per cent effective March 1, 2017.

"The overall financial picture was affected by a decrease of \$63.6 million in total claims costs – including a \$28.5 million decrease in bodily injury claims caused mainly due to increases in interest rates and a \$40.7 million decrease in physical damage claims compared to the first six months of 2016," said Peter Yien, Acting Vice-President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Manitoba Public Insurance.

"Historically, the first six months of the Corporation's fiscal year generate positive financial results, which are then offset by an increase in claims costs during the winter months. As such, the financial results for the remainder of the fiscal year will continue to be closely mon-

itored and the Corporation remains committed to achieving its corporate goals and serving the best interests of our customers."

In June, Manitoba Public Insurance applied to the Public Utilities Board for an overall increase of 2.7 per cent in Basic insurance premiums for the 2018/19 insurance year. The proposed rate increase is linked to three factors affecting claims and claims costs; an increase in comprehensive claims costs, ongoing volatility in the financial markets, and changes to the design, construction and technological advances in vehicles that affect vehicle repair costs.

In addition to the 2.7 per cent overall rate increase, the Corporation is proposing changes to premiums charged under the Driver Safety Rating program to better align the premiums high-risk drivers pay to their actual claims costs.

To protect vehicle owners from future unpredictable rate increases, the Corporation is also committed to continue working collaboratively with the Public Utilities Board to establish an adequately-sized rate stabilization reserve that can be used to absorb variations in revenues, claims costs and ongoing volatility in the financial markets. The Corporation is optimistic consensus on this important issue can be reached through the General Rate Application process for the benefit of ratepayers and all Manitobans.

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FREE DRAWS

Peguis and Fisher River plumbing graduates inspire their communities

By Patricia Barrett

Peguis First Nation held a celebration Oct. 12 to acknowledge the achievements of eight students from Peguis and Fisher River who earned a Level 1 Piping Trades certificate through Assiniboine Community College (ACC).

Family, friends, elders, program staff and special guests gathered at the Peguis Community Hall to show their appreciation for the students.

"I'm so very proud of my son for graduating from the plumbing program," said Lois Mercredie, referring to Walter Daniels-Mercredie. "There was a lot of math and science involved, and I know he worked very hard to get the marks that he did. I'm so proud he completed the program."

The nine-month course taught students plumbing, gas, steam and pipe-fitting and marketing skills. ACC offered the course in Peguis so that students could stay close to home, work part-time jobs, care for family members and participate in community events.

The program began November 2016 with a high school refresher course then moved on to the theory portion of the program, which concluded Sept. 25. The students then completed a two-week practicum.

Daniels-Mercredie, who worked every morning before his 9 a.m. class, said he found the course content challenging.

"It was for sure challenging and a big commitment," he said before he took to the graduation stage. "I thought it was going to be easy. There was a lot of science behind it. And I didn't think there would be so much math."

He said he's hoping he can put his skills to use close to home.

"Hopefully, I can find a job out here and keep my family close, and to also work at my other job," he said.

Chris Stevenson said his brother Clayton joined the plumbing program after being out of school for a while.

"I'm really proud of him for going back to school after so many years," said Stevenson. "It's been good for him. If he can stay here, he will, but he'll work wherever he has to."

Peguis Councillor Annette Spence said Peguis is in need of more plumbers.

"We really need this service. We have over 1,000 homes and a lot of brand new homes that are coming into the community," she said. "We have tons of work and a lot of septic tanks that need to be put into homes. We have so many work orders in the area."

Pam Favel, program manager with Peguis Training & Employment – which coordinated the delivery of the training – also said the community has a shortage of qualified plumbers.

She thanked all the partners that worked with her organization: ACC, Peguis Surrender Claim Trust, Fisher River Human Resource Program, Indigenous and Northern Affairs (federal government) through its post-secondary partnership fund, and Manitoba Education & Training.

She paid her respects to the graduates for completing the program.

"We celebrate your commitment, your hard work and the sacrifices in achieving your certificate," said Favel. "You serve as role models to your families



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Plumbing graduates, left to right, Matthew Spence, Walter Daniels-Mercredie, Leslie Prince, Nicholas McPherson, Gilbert Stevenson, Ralph Cochrane, Sheldon Stevenson and Clayton Stevenson.



Keynote speaker Gerry Oleman commended the graduates for answering the call to take care of the community.



Peguis councillor Annette Spence said it was a proud day for Peguis.



Program manager Pam Favel of Peguis FN Training & Employment said the grads are role models for the community.

and your communities and we are extremely proud of you. Your community supports you, and it's our hope you will eventually pass along your knowledge by working and providing service in our community."

Clayton Stevenson provided the Valedictorian address, congratulating his classmates for their determination to see it through. He also thanked ACC instructors for helping them achieve success, the Peguis Surrender Claim Trust for helping fund the program and Peguis Training & Development for seeing their potential.

"I was raised to try my best at everything I do," said Stevenson. "As an adult I know now that everything I do sets an example for my children. I try to be a good example and this [program] in no way was an easy task. When I started this program, it was quite difficult going from hard physical labour to being... mentally exhausted. I was afraid I wasn't going to be able to do it, but the fear made me work harder."

Keynote speaker Gerry Oleman, who's a mem-

ber of St'at'imic Nation in B.C. and a counsellor and cultural consultant, spoke from the heart when he addressed the grads.

"Look at you – you've arrived," he said. "You make my mind and heart as one and strong. It feels good today for what you've done, and I don't even know you."

Calling the grads his nephews, Oleman encouraged them to pursue their dreams so that their children and the community as a whole will prosper.

"The meaning of life is to find your gift and to use it. And if you did not do that, nephews, you would suffer, you'd be poor," he said. "Put it in your mind that you're going to go further. You're going to own a company someday. You can be successful – put that in your mind. Why do that? So your children can have a good life and they can follow you."

"When you look behind you, little girls and boys are following you. You're going to lead them down the good path of success. They'll be like you, they'll be an echo."

Selkirk-Winnipeg bus fare increase upsets regular rider

By Lindsey Enns

A Selkirk man who relies on a bus service to take him to and from Winnipeg for work says he will soon have to find a new ride now that the rates are going up.

Last week, Kasper Transportation Service, which provides daily bus service from Selkirk to Winnipeg, announced they will be raising their rates.

Starting Nov. 7, it will cost a rider \$15 for a one-way adult ticket to Winnipeg or \$30 for a return if they purchase their ticket on the bus. If a rider purchases a ticket online, it will cost \$14 for a one-way and \$27 for a return.

Currently the cost for a one-way ticket is \$11 for an adult or \$10 for a student or senior. A return ticket is \$20 for adults and \$18 for a student or senior.

Selkirk resident David Borowski, who has used the Selkirk to Winnipeg bus service five days a week for nearly 15 years, calls the rate increase "ridiculous."

"I'm not paying that amount of money," Borowski said, adding he is now looking into other options. "A lot of people are car pooling now just simply because the cost of bus fare has been slowly escalating throughout the years.

"I'm looking into it ... trying to arrange something. I'm sure a lot of people are."

Kasper also announced last week



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Starting Nov. 7, Kasper Transportation Service will be raising their bus fare rates for their Selkirk to Winnipeg commuters. Kasper says they are hopeful the rate increase will ensure the service can stick around.

that starting Nov. 7, they will no longer be offering monthly passes or 20 packs.

"It's hard for me to fathom why they would want to turn away the regular customers that they're getting a steady investment in five days a week," Borowski said. "I can't see Kasper bus lines continuing after this. I really can't."

Maisie Hicks, general manager of Kasper's Manitoba and Ontario divisions, said they are now having to increase their rates simply so they can

turn a profit.

"We aren't making a profit what-

soever. We're losing money every month," Hicks said. "We had no choice. We didn't want to have to cancel the service but we had to make some kind of changes."

Hicks said although their buses are filling up, they have been transporting on average about 75 passengers per day.

"We knew we had to do something drastic to break even," she said. "We know we're going to lose riders because of the increase."

Hicks says depending on their ridership numbers over the next few months, they may have to decrease the amount of buses on the route.

She added they believe with the rate increase, they will break even and won't have to cancel the service in the near future.

Kasper is also finalizing plans to offer a freight option to their Selkirk to Winnipeg bus service as well as other plans to expand across Manitoba.

Continued on page 16



MALL IN THE HALL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

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10am to 3pm

All event proceeds support the growing arts, fitness and educational programming offered at the GAAC.
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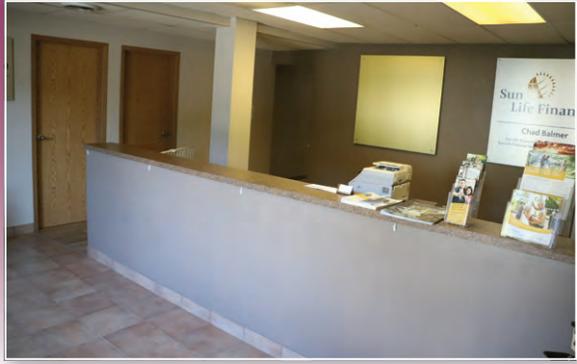
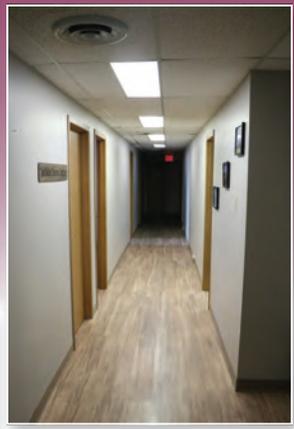
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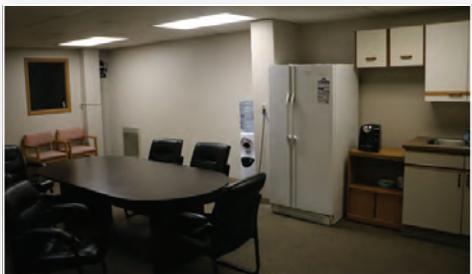
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CLANDEBOYE AVE in Selkirk

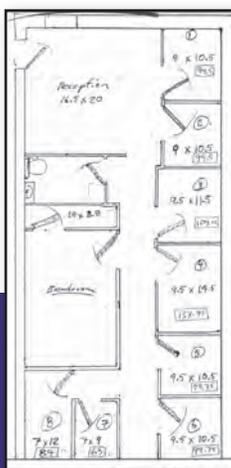
Executive Mall

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Total square Footage 1700, includes eight offices of various sizes, a board room and a front reception area. Current tenants include The Lord Selkirk Teachers Association and Sun Life Financial. The Selkirk Record and a new incoming tenant occupy separate space though their own private entrances. The building was upgraded in 2012. Both the reception and board room are shared, there are currently five offices available for lease.

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Tour sheds light on 'tragic' state of Netley-Libau Marsh

By Justin Luschinski

The "Netley Cut" of Netley-Libau Marsh was about the size of a small passenger boat in the 1900s. The area was filled with plants and wildlife.

Today the Cut is roughly 400 metres wide, and continues to grow, with almost no vegetation in sight.

Jordan Becker is a biologist who decided to come see the Netley-Libau Marsh for himself. As he got on a boat and sailed out to the marsh, and saw that there isn't much left of it, he said he felt like it was a tragedy.

"It's kind of tragic to see (the marsh) like this," Becker said. "I hope this is a call to action for a lot of people."

Winnipeg resident Damon Frey said he felt terrible about the state of the marsh.

"It's terrible. I can't believe it got this bad. It used to be a marsh not too long ago. Now it's just water," Frey said.

Frey and Becker took part in Marsh Day, presented by the Red River Basin Commission last Thursday. More than 50 people drove out to the Netley Creek, got on several boats and toured the Netley-Libau Marsh.

The marsh is one of the largest freshwater wetlands in Canada. It is a key filter for the large quantity of nutrients flowing through the Red River and into Lake Winnipeg. It acts as a sort of kidney for the water in the area. At one time it was filled with wildlife and fauna. Now, it's mostly a large body of water.

Gordon Goldsborough is a wetland ecologist who has studied the marsh for more than 10 years. He was on one of the tour boats, and as the tour reached an important location, the boats would all line up beside each

other.

Goldsborough said that he was surprised how quickly the marsh has degraded in the last few years.

"When I was last here, there was actually a strip of land just immediately west of us. It's all gone within the last I want to say 10 years, I'd have to think it's less than that, and I can't believe how quickly the western bank of Hardman Lake has just disappeared," Goldsborough said.

The tour started at Netley Creek, before moving up the Red River to the Netley Cut, travelling through The Forks (a three way split in the waterway up the Red River) and ended just past Hardman Lake, close to Lake Winnipeg.

Goldsborough said that a potential solution is to dredge the Red River and create "mini-marshes" near Hardman Lake.

"The project would involve a couple of engineers to advise us on how can you build those reefs in a way that's sustainable," Goldsborough said. "Once you get the plants on them, the plants will help take over because they will produce roots and hold the reefs together."

The pilot project would involve using Amphibex Dredger machines to dig into the Red River and create "mini-marshes" near Hardman Lake. This will allow marsh fauna to grow, which will help restore the water quality of Lake Winnipeg. Plants such as cattails can filter excess nutrients from the water, which will stop toxic algae blooms from forming.

For more information, visit redriver-basincommission.org.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

Gordon Goldsborough, a wetland ecologist, gives community and area members a tour of the Netley-Libau Marsh area during a Marsh Day boat tour event last Thursday.

CPAWS calls out the province on caribou recovery strategy

By Jeff Ward

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) Manitoba Chapter is frustrated with the lack of action from the provincial government in working to protect the declining Boreal Woodland Caribou.

CPAWS executive director Ron Thiessen said that the current PC government and former NDP governments have failed in establishing any significant action plans for over a decade. The number of caribou is in steep decline and estimates put the total population in Manitoba at approximately 2,500, although that data is widely considered by CPAWS to be insufficient.

Thiessen said that many of the population estimates haven't been updated in years and that things must change. The federal government asked the

province in 2012 to create plans for caribou recovery by October of this year, but the province instead plans to have their strategy for the recovery of caribou ranges in greater risk completed by next year with the remainder of ranges being completed by 2020. There are 15 identified caribou ranges in Manitoba and the woodland caribou was put on the Federal Species at Risk Act in 2003, and on the Manitoba Endangered Species Act in 2006.

"That the province has dragged their heels for over a decade on this is unacceptable," said Thiessen.

"Support from the public on this issue is overwhelming with more than 21,000 Manitobans signing petitions and sending letters demanding the government put forth strong efforts to protect and recover threatened wood-

land caribou."

More troubling for CPAWS and the woodland caribou is that the province recently opened a number of areas to mineral exploration permit applications, despite their overlap with caribou ranges. Red Deer Lake had 48,000 hectares of land opened to those explorations which is in the heart of The Bog caribou range. Thiessen explained that estimates have less than 100 caribou living in that area.

The effects of poor caribou population numbers reflect on the overall health of the boreal forest. Thiessen said that the caribou is considered a barometer of boreal forest health and that when the animals are thriving, so to is the forest.

"And in areas where the caribou population has vanished, like the Whiteshell for instance, it's an indi-

cation that the health of the boreal is bad. And these problems will signal bigger issues going forward because the boreal forest is such an important part of this province," said Thiessen.

The boreal ecosystem provides the province's best natural flood mitigation and water filtration. It's also the largest carbon store of any other place on the planet. So when the forest isn't healthy, the world suffers as well, Thiessen said.

It's not all bad news, though, as Thiessen said that the province has a great group of dedicated workers in their Wildlife Branch.

"There's just not enough of them and they don't have the resources to complete the plan in the timeframe given. The province needs to give more attention to this issue before it's too late," said Thiessen.

Eyes in the sky

Drones provide RCMP investigators with a new police work perspective

By Lindsey Enns

When it comes to car crashes, crime scenes or search and rescue missions, technology is giving RCMP another set of eyes in the sky.

Nearly six years ago, RCMP in Manitoba started to receive training to use drones, which the RCMP refer to as unmanned aerial vehicles or a remotely piloted aircraft system, for traffic investigations. Today, RCMP across Canada have access to nearly 200 remotely piloted aircraft systems and roughly 24 officers in Manitoba are fully trained to use them.

Cpl. Kenneth Pinsent, a forensic collision reconstructionist, has received extensive training to use the RCMP's newest tools and says the drones "are a good tool to have."

"We try to use them as much as we can," Pinsent said, adding they run off an app on an iPad or tablet and have a flight time of 20 to 25 minutes. He said he uses them about three to four times per month.

Following a plane crash near St. Andrews Airport in September, Pinsent said a drone was brought in to better assess the debris field.

"You can look around and see other stuff from a different perspective," he said.

Something new they have been experimenting with recently is what Pinsent refers to as "top-down photography." He says the drones can take several pictures of a crime scene or collision and then they place them together to form a panoramic picture.

"You can apply that to a diagram and

that's the scene," he said. "It's a good perspective from the air."

Along with helping RCMP officers reconstruct car crashes and survey crime scenes, the camera-equipped drones are now aiding officers when it comes to search and rescue efforts.

"One of our members came back recently from Duck Mountain and helped locate somebody using his (drone) video," he said. "When you can survey the ground from the air and fly it and land it, it's so much easier."

Pinsent said they are also cost effective.

"It's so much cheaper to put a drone in the air than it is to hire an airplane or a helicopter," he said.

Drone video footage and photos also help paint a better picture in court, Pinsent said.

"Anything you can provide the court like that will enhance the investigation ... without this stuff all they have is words in our reports," he said. "The more pictures we give them the better it is."

But Pinsent doesn't believe drones will replace their use of helicopters or airplanes anytime soon.

"Because they are smaller machines ... one of our rules is that they have to stay within eyesight, you can't lose visual sight of it," he said. "A helicopter or a plane, those things will cover a much larger area and you won't lose sight of it because you're in it."

When it comes to the public's use of drones, Pinsent admits enforcement won't be easy.

"There have been some complaints



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS
RCMP Cpl. Kenneth Pinsent, above, shows how to use two different remotely piloted aircraft systems, otherwise known as drones, during a stop in Selkirk recently. The RCMP has been trained to use drones for investigations for nearly six years.

to local authorities about neighbours flying drones over their properties," he said. "But catching them in the act

is key. "They do pose a big risk to other aircrafts."

Eriksdale Legion preparing to make poppies available for community

By Jeff Ward

Poppies will be available at 23 locations around Eriksdale beginning on the last Friday in October through to Remembrance Day.

Poppy Distribution Day takes place Oct. 27 and will be the first opportunity to purchase the red and black emblem of remembrance. Eriksdale Legion Branch #140 president Joyce Sewell said that there will be many places where people can purchase their poppy.

All of the money collected goes directly to The Royal Canadian Legion

to support veterans and their families. Last year, Sewell said that in Eriksdale alone more than \$1,000 was raised, which is the first time that a four figure mark had been reached. The Havakeen Lunch, Eriksdale Inn, E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital, Eriksdale Personal Care Home and many other locations will have poppy boxes.

"The poppy is very important to people and I know people want to do what they can to support," said Sewell.

"We get 175 people for our Remembrance Day Ceremony here in Eriksdale each year. It's a very important

time and it's always a nice moment when we start to see the poppy worn by people."

Sewell said that while a poppy can be purchased for very little money, there always seems to be people who will go above and beyond in their donation. She said that it's not uncommon to see \$10 and \$20 donations for a single poppy.

"We have people that seem eager to empty their pockets for a poppy and we are so grateful for them," said Sewell.



Government announces child welfare system reform

Submitted

The Manitoba government launched a new plan to end the crisis in the child welfare system and create better outcomes for children, Premier Brian Pallister and Families Minister Scott Fielding announced recently.

"We know we can do better for our children," said Pallister during a community event at Andrews Street Family Centre in the north end of Winnipeg. "The number of children in care has nearly doubled in the past decade and Manitoba has among the highest rates in the country. We made a promise in the 2016 Throne Speech and 2017 Budget to reform the system with a goal of fewer children in care, stronger partnerships with families and communities, better service co-ordination, and greater transparency and accountability across the system."

The Manitoba government committed to develop a comprehensive plan that acts on the many outstanding reports and recommendations from sources such as the Office of the Children's Advocate, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Indigenous or-

ganizations, the premier noted.

"Child and Family Services can't change alone; we must work in collaboration with government, Indigenous and community partners as we all share the same goal for our children's futures," said Fielding. "We want to keep children and youth safely within their family networks and home communities. We must reduce the number of children coming into care by supporting families, communities and neighbourhoods and inviting them to be part of the solution."

Fielding noted there are four essential areas of reform, which will guide the province to:

- develop a community-based prevention model that involves demonstration sites, co-ordination of cross-departmental services and increased alignment of federally funded services on reserve;
- create lifelong connections for chil-

dren through reunification and permanence, which includes improved emergency placement resources to shorten duration in care through early case planning and family reunification through a multi-disciplinary assessment team and availability of family group conferencing, as well as evidence-based permanency initiatives such as subsidized guardianship and modernized adoption;

- fund for results through initiatives such as block funding pilots to Child and Family Services agencies that fund based on outcomes, rather than provide incentives for larger caseloads and longer stays in care; and
- reform legislation, which includes the creation of a legislative review committee to modernize The Child and Family Services Act and support a shift in practice.

"Sandy Bay Child and Family Services is excited about the block fund-

ing pilot project and the unprecedented flexibility to support families in a way that was not possible before," said Richard De La Ronde, executive director, Sandy Bay Child and Family Services. "This government's child welfare reform takes into consideration the innovation happening within communities providing those services."

The minister said the province plans to complete a legislative review by the spring of 2018. It would look at amendments to support various permanency options, such as customary care for Indigenous children based on the unique customs and traditions of each community, review The Authorities Act to determine options for improvement, and explore options to increase openness and transparency. Fielding noted government departments must come together to provide more seamless access to supports for families to prevent the need for apprehension.

Information on Child and Family Services reform will be available at www.gov.mb.ca/fs/index.html.

"WE KNOW WE CAN DO BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN."

Gimli Lutheran Church commemorates Reformation 500

Submitted

The year 2017 marks the anniversary of the Reformation. On Oct. 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther nailed his famous "95 Theses" to his church door in Wittenberg, hoping to stoke discussion of the corruption of the medieval church. Instead, with the use of the newly created printing press, Luther's epiphany that Christians can't earn salvation but are saved by faith alone, spread, unleashing a storm of change which helped Europe leave the Middle Ages and enter our Modern Age.

A screening of the documentary "Luther and the Reformation" by Rick Steves will be held at Gimli Lutheran on Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m. All are in-

vited to attend. There is no admission charge and popcorn and soft drinks will be provided. Join us to learn more about this tumultuous time in history, and its reverberations for today.

A festival service with Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m. to commemorate the Reformation. New banners have been made for the sanctuary, and special music, including hand bells and brass, will contribute to the service. Martin Luther himself is expected to make a special appearance to speak to the children. The celebration will conclude with a potluck lunch after the service. All are welcome to attend the service and lunch.

> BUS FARE INCREASE, FROM PG. 13

"That is really, really exciting if everything goes through," Hicks said. "Kasper is really invested in the community and being involved in the community."

For more ticket information and the Selkirk to Winnipeg route schedule, visit gokasper.com.

Kasper Transportation Service took over the Selkirk to Winnipeg bus route on Sept. 5 shortly after Exclusive Bus Lines announced they would

be cancelling their commuter service.

Borowski said he has been riding the bus for so many years because it's both safe and convenient.

"The big thing is safety, especially in the winter time with stormy road conditions," he said.

Borowski said he's noticed the majority of riders are students, those commuting for work as well as seniors.

Manitoba partners with Atlantic to modernize apprenticeship program

Submitted

The Manitoba government has signed an agreement with the Atlantic provinces to develop a shared apprenticeship management system that will improve and modernize online services, Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart announced Oct. 13.

"Strengthening the services we provide for Manitobans is a priority for our government and we are pleased to take an important step forward to modernize the apprenticeship program," said Wishart. "This new system will improve services for apprentices, employers, journeypersons and training providers with modern, web-based technology. It will eliminate red tape by replacing the current cumbersome and time-consuming need to register for classes in-person with easy-to-use online registration."

The minister noted the current system has limited online client-service functions and is reaching the end of its useful life. The new apprenticeship management system will better meet the needs of apprentices, training providers and employers and will allow Apprenticeship Manitoba to ensure effective communication and enhanced reporting.

"Manitoba's apprenticeship system is built on strong partnerships between employers, educators and learners," said Wishart. "We are tak-

ing action to ensure this important part of our education system remains responsive to industry needs and supports the continued growth and development of Manitoba's economy."

Wishart confirmed the new system will allow apprentices, training providers and employers to complete forms, process payments and log hours online with self-service functions. Developing a shared system with the Atlantic provinces will also reduce implementation and maintenance costs, and will enable improved forecasting of training offerings, especially to meet regional demands, he added.

The shared system is partially funded by the government of Canada. In addition to funding from the federal government and the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the Manitoba government's investment of \$3.7 million over five years enables the acquisition of a state-of-the-art new system for only 14 per cent of the total cost.

"This partnership is a prime example of a strategic investment that not only will improve services for Manitobans but also provide value for taxpayer money," said Wishart.

The new, shared technology system is expected to be in place in 2019, he added.

Slow down and move over when passing emergency vehicles

By Jennifer McFee

The RCMP are reminding drivers to slow down and move over if they see an emergency vehicle on the side of the road.

Not only is this practice required by law, it can also save a life.

On Thursday, Oct. 12, the RCMP closed off a portion of Rosser Road to simulate the proper procedure for passing emergency vehicles and to show what a “close call” looks like from an officer’s perspective.

“As a reminder to all Manitoba drivers, when passing emergency service vehicles with lights activated, it’s the law that motorists must change lanes, if it is safe to do so, and to slow down,” said Insp. Ed Moreland, officer in charge of traffic services for the Manitoba RCMP.

“If the posted speed limit is 80 kilometres per hour and above, all passing drivers must slow down to 60 kilometres per hour. If the posted speed limit is less than 80 kilometres per hour, all passing drivers must slow to 40 kilometres per hour.”

On a two-way highway, drivers must wait and pass the emergency vehicle only when it is safe. If the highway has two or more lanes in the same direction, drivers must move to the far left lane.

The Slow Down, Move Over law came into effect in 2011. Drivers who break this law face a \$299 fine plus two driver safety rating points for the infraction. So far this year, RCMP have charged more than 400 people under this legislation.

“Some Manitobans are simply not mindful of this law,” Moreland said, “and it’s putting all emergency ser-

vice personnel who work on our highways at risk.”

Officers are trained to park in a way that partially overlaps with the parked vehicle to create a “safety pocket” so that the police car will be hit before the officer is struck. However, high speeds can still end in tragic results.

Last month, RCMP Const. Francis Deschenes was killed when a utility van collided with his police cruiser in Nova Scotia.

“Const. Deschenes did what our members do every day in Manitoba — he stopped to help a person in need. Sadly, as he was helping to change a tire, he was struck by a passing vehicle. His life was taken by a motorist who failed to slow down,” Moreland said.

“In Manitoba, I routinely hear stories from fellow RCMP officers about speeding vehicles that skim past only inches away.”

When a vehicle travelling 80 kilometres per hour hits a person, there is almost no chance of survival. At 45 kilometres per hour, the chance of survival is 50 per cent. At 30 kilometres per hour, the chance of survival increases to 90 per cent.

To test how many Manitobans follow the Slow Down, Move Over law, the RCMP placed a marked police vehicle with its emergency lights activated on Highway 59 near Birds Hill Park and tracked the response of motorists. In a span of 30 minutes, 192 cars passed the vehicle and only 13 slowed down and changed lanes.

“Folks, that’s only seven per cent of drivers in respect of the law,” Moreland said. “That’s simply not acceptable.”



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Insp. Ed Moreland spoke to the media about the importance of slowing down and moving over when passing emergency vehicles.



During a demonstration on Rosser Road, the RCMP explained that drivers need to change lanes and slow down when passing police.

In the past week, Manitoba RCMP officers have handed out 61 tickets to people breaking this law, and they will maintain an increased attention on the issue during the months to come.

“I plead for the assistance of all motorists to slow down and move over

for emergency service vehicles with the lights activated,” Moreland said.

“A few seconds of consideration could literally save a life.”

Community Futures East and West Interlake working together on employment

By Jeff Ward

Over the next few weeks, a survey designed to get a sense of short and long term needs of employers throughout the Interlake will begin circulating.

Community Futures West Interlake (CFWI) and Community Futures East Interlake (CFEI) have partnered on this venture to better understand the needs of employers. The survey asks employers what their next three years will look like in terms of job opportunities and expansions and what CFWI and CFEI can do to help employ more Interlake residents. Once data has been collected, Community Futures staff will determine where the needs are and then try to create training opportunities so that potential employees can be ready when those jobs

open up. CFWI general manager Lana Cowling-Mason said that this partnership should yield some very useful information.

“We want to know what employers needs are, whether it’s skilled labour or more entry-level labour,” said Cowling-Mason.

“For skilled labour, we need to understand how much demand there is and in what industry. If businesses say they need four journeymen electricians tomorrow, it’s just not feasible. But if the numbers are more significant and the timeframe is a few years from now, then we can absolutely work towards creating training opportunities to fill those future roles.”

The partnership between both sides of the Interlake is important in this endeavour as the more informa-

tion the groups can gather, the better they’ll be able to plan for the future. The survey asks employers what skills potential employees need to have to be considered. So, for instance, if a business needs entry-level job seekers, then training needs to be on basic computer skills, customer service and other areas in that vein.

CFEI community development coordinator Deanna Fridfinnson said that for more skilled labour in high demand, the focus will be on where, geographically speaking, that training could take place and who would pay for it.

“We have many businesses that send people out of province for training and that costs them quite a bit. So it would be a benefit to have training locally,” said Fridfinnson.

“We have such a diverse area here in the Interlake and getting this kind of up to date information is valuable. It’ll help us decide if we need safety training like WHMIS or first aid. Then based on that demand, we can start to look at how to bring that here.”

A region-wide survey like this, Fridfinnson said, has never been done before and she’s excited about the type of information Community Futures will get from it. The results will be extremely important in helping inform future strategies around small business and job creation.

Cowling-Mason said that their intention is to analyze and share the data before the end of the year and early next year the work with municipalities to create action plans on those findings.

Manitoba families encouraged to get flu shot this fall

Submitted

As influenza viruses begin to circulate, public health officials are encouraging Manitobans to get their free vaccine, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced today at the official launch of the 2017-18 influenza immunization campaign.

"The flu vaccine provides protection against this serious illness," said Goertzen. "Getting the vaccine will not only protect you, but your friends and family. I encourage Manitoba families to take the time to get immunized this fall."

Influenza, also known as the flu, can spread easily from one person to another through coughing, sneezing or by touching objects contaminated with the flu virus and then touching your mouth, eyes or nose. In addition to getting immunized with a flu vaccine every fall, Manitobans can minimize the risk of getting or spreading seasonal flu by covering coughs and sneezes, and washing their hands regularly.

"Last year, 150 Manitobans diag-

nosed with influenza were hospitalized and the virus contributed to the death of 12 Manitobans," said Dr. Elise Weiss, acting chief provincial public health officer. "This highlights just how important it is for all Manitobans six months of age and older to get immunized, preventing infection and protecting themselves and others."

The annual flu vaccine is available to all Manitobans, but is extremely important for people at increased risk of serious illness from the flu, along with their caregivers and close contacts. This includes:

- seniors 65 years of age and older;
- residents of personal care homes or long-term care facilities;
- children six to 59 months of age;
- individuals with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, anemia, obesity, cardiac or pulmonary disorders;
- pregnant women;
- health-care workers and first responders;
- regular caregivers of children up to five years of age; and
- Indigenous people.

Manitobans over the age of 65 should also get a pneumococcal (Pneu-P-23) vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine. The vaccine helps protect against pneumococcal disease including a serious type of pneumonia, blood infections and meningitis.

Both the flu and the Pneu-P-23 vaccine are offered at no charge for people aged 65 and older as well as to some people two years of age and older who are at increased risk of pneumococcal infection. Most people need only one dose of this vaccine.

As an alternative to the regular flu shot, some Manitobans may be eligible to receive the FluMist Quadrivalent vaccine in the form of a nasal spray. In addition, Manitoba is the first province in Canada to introduce a high-dose flu vaccine to better protect vulnerable residents of personal care homes from influenza.

To get a free flu vaccine and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine, visit local public health offices, nursing stations, doctor's offices, pharmacy ACCESS Centres or the nearest immunization clinic. Remember to contact providers

first to check for flu and/or Pneu-P-23 vaccine availability. Local pharmacists can provide immunization services to people seven years of age and older.

Regional health authorities will also soon begin immunization clinics. Check the Manitoba influenza website or contact Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 in Winnipeg or 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free) outside of Winnipeg for dates, times and locations.

The minister noted that while the vaccine benefits Manitobans by keeping them healthy, it also reduces strain on the health-care system.

"People who get influenza may get seriously ill and have to see a doctor or even end up in hospital," said Goertzen. "When people stay healthy, it reduces pressure on the health-care system by keeping people out of emergency rooms and clinics."

For more information about the flu, visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html.

> ZEBRA MUSSELS, FROM PG. 11

to protect Manitoba's lakes and rivers. That prompted a response from Interlake MLA Derek Johnson, who told the house the government was planning to file an appeal on NAWS.

Altemeyer said he is also "very concerned" with the government's silence on another North Dakota water project — the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, which will help alleviate drought. It, too, has the potential to contaminate Manitoba's waterways.

"It's good that the appeal has been filed [on NAWS], but ... where is this government's position on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project?" said Altemeyer. "Both of them pose just as much a threat to the health of Manitoba's waterways. Both projects will take water out of the Missouri River and that water will end up in

Lake Winnipeg, one project through the Assiniboine, one project through the Red."

The NDP successfully blocked the RRVWSP when it was in office, he said, but North Dakota redesigned the project to get around U.S. federal law.

The RRVWSP will mitigate against drought conditions that cause costly water shortages and will foster economic development through meeting municipal, industrial and rural water demands, according to the project website. Buried pipeline from the Missouri River near Washburn, N.D., will provide water to users in central and eastern North Dakota. Bidding will commence in 2018 and construction will continue until 2027.

Altemeyer said the RRVWSP is "pro-

ceeding full speed ahead." It could introduce foreign invasive species and result in declining water quality and increased nutrient loading.

"All of those threats exist in both projects," he said, "yet the Pallister government has said nothing, absolutely nothing about the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Why haven't they contacted the International Joint Commission? Why hasn't the federal government engaged the International Joint Commission in doing its work to resolve that threat to Manitoba's water?"

North Dakota is allegedly planning to implement a water-filtration system to prevent harmful contaminants from flowing into Manitoba, but Altemeyer isn't convinced it will be fail-safe.

"The only way Manitoba's waters will be protected permanently from aquatic invasive species is if ... that water treatment plant is designed perfectly, built perfectly and never fails," he said. "Ever."

North Dakota hasn't decided what level of treatment plant it will build and that it's looking at three possible options, said Altemeyer. The cheap option (\$23 million) will remove sand and silt, and the most expensive option (\$223 million) will involve ultraviolet disinfection.

"The future health of our lake hangs in the balance based on what North Dakota decides to do," he said, "unless our government actually steps up and does something useful."

Bantam Lightning blanked twice last weekend

By Brian Bowman

After coming out flying with three straight wins to start their regular season, the Interlake Lightning Bantam boys' hockey team has cooled off a bit with a pair of losses.

Interlake was shut out twice last weekend, losing 4-0 to the Eastman Selects on Saturday in Arborg and then 3-0 to the Wheat Kings in Bran-

don Sunday.

Against Eastman, Hayden Fast and Branden Thiessen scored in the first period and then Dawson Smith added a pair in the second.

Gavin White made 45 saves in the loss.

In the Brandon loss, both teams were scoreless until the 7:05 mark of the third period.

Nolan Wallace, on the power play, and Braden Keeble scored goals just 1:13 apart to put Brandon up two goals and then Deniz Ntelioglou made it 3-0 in the game's final minute.

Jackson Kummén faced 13 shots in goal for the Lightning, according to the league website.

Interlake's offensive drought last weekend is somewhat surprising

since the Lightning scored 23 goals in their first three games — all victories.

Interlake (3-2) played the Sharks (5-0-1) this past Tuesday but no score was available. The Lightning won't play another league game until Oct. 26 when they host the Monarchs in Stonewall. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Thunder outstanding in Bantam football playoff win

By Brian Bowman

To score 60 points in a football game is quite a feat. And to do it in a playoff game is much more impressive.

The Interlake Thunder played some very good football in a dominating 60-30 victory over the Fort Garry Lions in Bantam playoff action last Saturday. It was the most points that the Thunder had scored in a game all season.

"We had some big run plays," said Thunder head coach Ed deLaroque. "The (offensive line) opened up some pretty big holes and our running backs just ran with it."

The Thunder's offensive line is a big one. And they did a great job against Fort Garry.

"When they want to push, they're pretty hard to stop," deLaroque said.

Interlake started the game rather slow, with the first quarter being fairly tight between the two clubs. But the Thunder started to pull away midway in the second quarter.

The Thunder's defence had a huge interception that they returned for a touchdown and they also recovered a couple of fumbles.

Winning the turnover battle is a real good way to ensure a victory in the playoffs.

With that playoff win, Interlake advances to the league semifinal game against the St. Vital Mustangs this Saturday at 1 p.m. The game will be played in St. Vital.

St. Vital finished in first place in the Bantam "AA" division with a perfect 8-0 record. The Mustangs



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Thunder's Austin L'Heureux carries the ball during Interlake's 60-30 win against the Fort Garry Lions last Saturday.

outscored their opponents by a wide 309-74 margin. Interlake, meanwhile, was 5-3 during the regular season.

The Thunder will have a tough test against the high-powered Mustangs. But if the Interlake can hold St. Vital to field goals – and win the turnover battle – then they have a chance to pull out an upset.

"We'll have to shut down their passing game," deLaroque said. "They have a very good quarterback so we have to limit how much damage he does to us."

"We don't want to give up the big plays because the more chances they have the ball, the more chances that they have to make a mistake."

Arborg hangs on for win over North Winnipeg

By Brian Bowman

The Arborg Ice Dawgs almost learned the hard way that hockey is a 60-minute game.

Arborg led the North Winnipeg Satelites 7-3 late in their game Saturday but had to hold on for the Keystone Junior Hockey League win after giving up three power-play goals in a 1:02 span for a 7-6 home win.

Dalton Woodhouse led the Ice Dawgs with three goals while Cal Finnson, Derric Guley, Tyson Parker and Gordie Longbottom added singles.

Karson Collins had two assists for Arborg.

Braden Zamrykut (two), Nathan Jones, Parker Cassie, Nicholas Doerksen and Tom Moneyas replied for North Winnipeg.

Jarrold Smith made 35 saves for the win.

Last Thursday, Arborg defeated the visiting Lunder Falcons 5-4 in overtime.

Woodhouse scored the game winner in the extra frame. Lunder had tied the score at 4-4 with late goals by Brandon Worthing and Eric Miller.

Miller's goal came with just 13 seconds remaining in the third.

Lunder's Baily Proctor scored the only goal of the first period and then Longbottom and Woodhouse, on the power play, tallied in the second.

Arborg's Braydon Peterson and Proctor traded goals in the third before Guley tallied on the power play at 17:20.

Joey Fratantonio made 37 saves for the win.

Arborg's next action is this Sunday when they play the Fishermen at the Selkirk Rec Complex.

Lunder, meanwhile, hosted the Cross Lake Islanders on Saturday evening, winning 7-6 after scoring four answered goals to close out the game.

Proctor and Dennon Sichewski each had a goal and two assists in the win. Robert Farebrother, Brandon Worthing, Brett Jocelyn, Eric Miller and Zac Bone also scored for the Ice Dawgs.

Christopher Lesage made 27 saves for the win.

The Falcons' next game is Friday at 8 p.m. when they host the Peguis Juniors. Fisher River will then play Lunder on Saturday at 7 p.m.

Both games will be played in Warren.

Sunrise surprises Midget Thunder with first win of the season

By Brian Bowman

Any team in the Manitoba Midget Football League of Manitoba can beat the other on any given day.

The Interlake Thunder learned that lesson the

hard way against the Sunrise Coyotes last Sunday.

The previously winless Coyotes shocked the second-place Thunder 21-14.

"They're a solid football team and they seem to

have their best games against us," said Thunder head coach Mitch Obach. "I think we're pretty natu-

Continued on page 20

Lightning skate to shootout win over Hawks

By Brian Bowman

For the second Sunday in a row, the Interlake Lightning had a chance to celebrate a home-ice victory.

Interlake's second win of the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League regular season came against the Pembina Valley Hawks in Teulon.

The Lightning defeated the Hawks 4-3 as Bryce Krauter and Keenan McPherson scored for the Interlake in the two rounds of the shootout.

"We were full marks for the win," said Lightning head coach Dwayne Swanson. "Pembina Valley is a good squad but we felt we held our own with them. They just came off a win over the Thrashers and they are a team that we have to beat if we want to make the playoffs."

Krauter opened the game's scoring just 4:10 into the contest and then Corey Soorsma put the home side up two goals a mere 1:36 later.

Pembina Valley would come back to tie the score, however, before the first period ended with goals from Kolton Shindle, on the power play, and Tristan Day.

Day's goal came at 19:45 of the third period.

Soorsma notched a second-period power-play goal and then Pembina

Valley's Spencer Kaminsky tied the score at 3-3 at 8:16 of the final frame.

Riley Buhay made 41 saves for the win.

The Lightning started the weekend with a tough 10-3 road loss to the Winnipeg Bruins. The Bruins are a very good hockey team but Interlake made the game real easy for the Winnipeg squad.

"We just didn't come ready to play," Swanson lamented. "It started right from the beginning of the game and carried on right through to the end."

McPherson scored a first-period goal for the Lightning and then the Interlake's Jordan Wood and Gabe Odowichuk added power-play goals in the third.

Interlake's Dan Paseschnikoff, Soorsma, Krauter and Emmitt Farebrother had assists in the game.

Devin Bulloch and Corbin Mariash each had a hat trick for Winnipeg while Jayson Szun added a pair. Blake Burr and Kyle Lang also scored for the Bruins.

Interlake, now 2-4, will play a pair of Showcase games this weekend in Portage la Prairie. The Lightning will battle Southwest on Friday (7:30) and then will take on Central Plains Sunday (5 p.m.).



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Lightning goaltender Riley Buhay made 41 saves for the 4-3 win against the Pembina Valley Hawks this past Sunday.

The Lightning must play a team game and not worry about scouts watching them in the crowd.

"We talk about that every year before the showcase," Swanson noted.

"They have to do what's good for the team. If the team dose well, they'll do well."

> SUNRISE SURPRISE, FROM PG. 19

ral rivals so I don't think that's strange at all."

Interlake had good field position early and a couple of chances to put some points on the board but came away empty handed.

Interlake led 1-0 after the first quarter and 8-6 at the end of the first half courtesy of a Colton Nedotiafko second-quarter touchdown from about 15 yards out.

It was one of the Thunder's few big offensive plays in the first half.

"Our (defence) played solid but we had moments where the offence just couldn't sustain any good drives," Obach noted.

After a Sunrise TD in the second half, Nedotiafko broke a long 73-yard run for his second major of the game.

Tied at 14-14, the Coyotes then received a major break when the Thunder turned the ball over around their own 25-yard line with just minutes remaining in the second half.

The Coyotes took advantage of that turnover to score the game-winning TD.

Despite the loss, Obach saw a lot

of good things from the Thunder in all aspects of the game.

He will be hoping to have a similar effort from his club against the Falcons Football Club this Sunday at 3 p.m. in Stonewall.

It will be the regular-season finale for both Interlake (3-3) and the Falcons (2-4). The Falcons are coming off a 35-14 loss to the first-place St. Vital Mustangs last weekend.

"We're still in second and we have

the Falcons this week and that's all that matters," Obach said.

The Midget Football League of Manitoba playoff schedule had not been released at press time.

Peguis improves to 3-0 in KJHL season

By Brian Bowman

Most times when the Selkirk Fishermen and Peguis Juniors hook up, it's a pretty darn good hockey game.

And that's exactly what happened in Peguis on Sunday.

The Juniors edged the Fishermen 3-2 as Wyatt Bear scored the lone goal in the shootout.

Peguis' Quinton Flett and Selkirk's Brady Thompson traded first-period goals and then the Fishermen led 2-1 as Juliano Garcea tallied in the second.

Peguis tied the score at 2-2 as Shaydon Mousseau beat Fishermen goalie Riley Bannerman early in the third.

Bannerman made 32 saves in the game.

At the other end, Luke Penner made 32 stops for the win.

Last Friday, Peguis was solid in a 5-2 win over the Cross Lake Islanders.

Storm Swan led Peguis with two goals and an assist while Tyler Ross, Christian Cochrane, and Coulson Nepinak also tallied. Romano Paul had three assists while Tyrome Spence-Bair added two helpers.

The Juniors (3-0) will play twice this weekend, beginning with a game Friday (8 p.m.) against Lundar in Warren.

Peguis will then host North Winnipeg on Sunday at 4 p.m.

The Fisher River Hawks, meanwhile, had just one game last week, losing 13-1 to the St. Malo Warriors.

Brennan Cochrane scored an unassisted goal in the first period for the Hawks.

Gavin Pott (two), Tyler Cormier (two), Shaquille Houle (two), Tyrel Bueckert (two), Brady Allan, Chad Olfert, Haden Hildebrand, Dustin Wiebe and Jordan Lafantaisie replied for St. Malo.

Fisher River (0-3) will visit Selkirk this Friday (7:30 p.m.) and then will play Lundar in Warren on Sunday (7 p.m.).

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Notice of Proposed Work

Netley Harbour, Launch Ramp Installation

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is undertaking work on the launch ramp at Netley Creek Small Craft Harbour during the fall of 2017.

The construction is planned to occur from October 30, 2017, to November 15, 2017.

During construction, the launch ramp will be closed to the general public.

The project includes the demolition and removal of the existing launch ramps and the installation of a new launch ramp.

For inquiries, please contact:

Small Craft Harbours
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 (204) 984-7090



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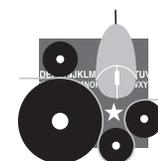
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For more information: call Rob @ 204-641-4260

Women's League starts Thursday, November 9, 2017
For more information,
call Donna @ 204-782-9694 or 204-376-2276

Ladies Registration Night: Thursday, October 19, 2017
at Arborg Legion - 7:30 p.m.

BAR Waste Authority Co-op Inc.

(Bifrost, Arborg, Riverton)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The BAR Waste Site will be operating on Winter Hours beginning November 1, 2017.

WINTER OPERATING HOURS - NOVEMBER 1 - MARCH 31

Tuesday	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED: Mondays and Thursdays ALL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

ECO-CENTRE

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE & SAVE WITH OUR USED OIL PROGRAM

The Bar Waste Authority Co-operative Inc. ran a successful promotion to encourage residents to recycle their used oil, filters and containers, and antifreeze and containers this past summer. The program saw approximately 300 \$5 oil coupons being given out to individuals who brought in used oil. Just a reminder - these coupons expire December 31, 2017. Check back next year for our Used Oil Program which runs from July to August.

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Parts & full trailer repair, trailer safeties & Autopac Trailer Repair. Sales, Leasing & Financing of flat-deck, dumpbox, cargo, gooseneck & utility trailers & truck beds. Kaldeck Truck & Trailer, Hwy #1 MacGregor, Mb. 1-888-685-3127.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Att: Vendors and Crafters - Black Friday Gift and Craft Sale, Selkirk, has tables still avail. Sat. Nov. 25, 2017 at Memorial Hall. Ph. 204-785-1618 or email recordoffice@selkirkrecord.ca for info.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

SALE OF LANDS FOR ARREARS OF TAXES

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE

Pursuant to subsection 367(7) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that unless the tax arrears for the designated year and costs in respect of the hereinafter described properties are paid in full to the Municipality prior to the commencement of the auction, the Municipality will on the 9th day of November, 2017, at the hour of 10:00 AM, at Rural Municipality of Gramhamdale, 23 Government Road, Moosehorn, Manitoba, proceed to sell by public auction the following described properties:

Roll Number	Description	Assessed Value	Amount of Arrears & Costs for Which Property May be Offered for Sale
33700	SW 1/4 3-23-6 WPM EXC PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 15172 SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L-\$31,800 B-\$58,600	\$4,378.89
272200	LOTS 4, 5 AND 6 BLOCK 3 PLAN 505 WLTO (P DIV) IN S 1/2 15-28-8 WPM	L-\$1,600	\$1,880.55
272300	PARCEL 1: LOTS 7 AND 8 BLOCK 3 PLAN 505 WLTO (P DIV) IN S 1/2 OF SE 1/4 15-28-8 WPM	L-\$1,100 B-\$5,100	\$2,164.59
274200	PARCEL TWO: ALL THAT PORTION OF THE SE 1/4 15-28-8 WPM TAKEN FOR STATION GROUNDS PLAN 418 WLTO (P DIV) EXC OUT OF SAID PARCEL TWO: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 2040508 WLTO.	L-\$6,200	\$2,586.71
274800	PARCEL 2: ALL THAT PORTION OF LEGAL SUBDIVISION 2 IN 15-28-8 WPM CONTAINED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING LIMITS: COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF NW LIMIT OF FIRST STREET NORTH PLAN 505 WLTO (P DIV) WITH THE PRODUCTION IN A STRAIGHT LINE NWLY OF SOUTH WESTERN LIMIT OF RAILWAY AVENUE PLAN 505 WLTO (P DIV) THENCE NWLY ALONG THE SAID PRODUCTION TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH A LINE DRAWN NW OF PARALLEL WITH AND PERP DISTANT 163.5 FEET FROM NORTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID FIRST STREET NORTH THENCE NWLY ALONG SAID LINE AND ITS STRAIGHT PRODUCTION TO THE SOUTH WESTERN LIMIT OF PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 497 WLTO (P DIV) THENCE SELY ALONG SOUTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID PUBLIC ROAD TO THE POINT WHERE SAID ROAD CHANGES ITS COURSE IN A SWLY DIRECTION THENCE SWLY ALONG NORTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID ROAD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH NORTH EASTERN LIMIT OF SAID RAILWAY AVENUE THENCE NWLY ALONG THE NORTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID RAILWAY AVENUE TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH NORTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID FIRST STREET NORTH THENCE SWLY ALONG THE NORTH WESTERN LIMIT OF SAID FIRST STREET NORTH TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT EXC OUT OF SAID PARCEL 2 PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 12572 WLTO SUBJECT TO THE EXCEPTIONS AND RESERVATIONS RESPECTING MINES, MINERALS, MINERAL OILS AND OTHER MATTERS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 715125 WLTO	L-\$1,900	\$1,830.92
329200	THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 4-29-9 WPM EXC ALL MINES, MINERALS AND OTHER MATTERS AS SET FORTH IN THE CROWN LANDS ACT	L-\$23,200	\$2,720.90
329600	THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 5-29-9 WPM SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L-\$16,600	\$2,502.02
392700	SE 1/4 10-31-10 WPM AS SHOWN UPON A MAP OR PLAN OF SURVEY OF SAID TOWNSHIP APPROVED AND CONFIRMED AT OTTAWA ON THE 19TH DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 1914 BY EDUARD DEVILLE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF DOMINION LANDS EXC PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 452 WLTO (P DIV) SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L-\$15,500	\$1,734.17
436200	LEGAL SUBDIVISIONS 9 AND 16 AND THE E 1/2 OF LEGAL SUBDIVISIONS 15 OF SECTION 26-32-9 WPM AS SHOWN ON A MAP OR PLAN OF SURVEY OF SAID TOWNSHIP APPROVED AND CONFIRMED AT OTTAWA ON MAY 31, 1923 BY THOMAS SHAWKS FOR THE SURVEY GENERAL OF DOMINION LANDS EXC OUT OF LEGAL SUBDIVISIONS 9 AND 16 ALL THAT PORTION TAKEN FOR PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 676 (P DIV) SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS AND PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN	L-\$14,500	\$2,126.47
484500	PARCEL ONE: ALL THAT PORTION OF THE NE 1/4 10-28-8 WPM TAKEN FOR RAILWAY STATION GROUNDS PLAN 418 WLTO (P DIV) EXC FIRSTLY: PUBLIC ROAD PLAN 9074 WLTO AND SECONDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 2040508 WLT	L-\$4,100	\$2,280.98

The tax sale is subject to the following terms and conditions with respect to each property:

- The purchaser of the property will be responsible for any property taxes not yet due.
- The Municipality may exercise its right to set a reserve bid in the amount of the arrears and costs.
- If the purchaser intends to bid by proxy, a letter of authorization form must be presented prior to the start of the auction.
- The Municipality makes no representations or warranties whatsoever concerning the properties being sold.
- The successful purchaser must, at the time of the sale, make payment in cash, certified cheque or bank draft to the Rural Municipality of Gramhamdale as follows:
 - The full purchase price if it is \$10,000 or less; OR
 - If the purchase price is greater than \$10,000, the purchaser must provide a non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$10,000 and the balance of the purchase price must be paid within 20 days of the sale.
- The risk for the property lies with the purchaser immediately following the auction.
- The purchaser is responsible for obtaining vacant possession.
- If the property is non-residential property, the purchaser must pay GST to the Municipality or, if a GST registrant, provide a GST Declaration.
- The purchaser will be responsible for registering the transfer of title in the land titles office, including the registration costs.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2017.
Managed by: **Shelly Schwitek**
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gramhamdale
Phone: (204) 768-2858
Fax: (204) 768-3374



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*Please note that phone calls will not be accepted.
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ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNIVERSARY



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary
Alfie and Ingeborg Fortin
 Please join us for a
Come and Go Tea
Saturday, October 28, 2017
 From 2 - 4 p.m.
 At St. Laurent Parish Hall
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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI
 PARKS AND RECREATION
 DEPARTMENT FULL-TIME
 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Facility Maintenance Operator

The Facility Maintenance Operator, under the direction the Manager of Parks and Recreation Services will assist in the operations and maintenance of the Gimli Recreation Centre and other municipal park spaces and buildings.

Duties:

- Operation and maintenance of a 180 ton ammonia plant complete with Indus automated motor control panel
- General facility cleaning duties
- Hockey and Curling ice maintenance
- Building maintenance on various public buildings throughout the municipality
- Development and maintenance of sports field, including grass cutting
- Maintenance and beautification of playgrounds, park and recreational spaces, including Gimli Beach

Qualifications:

- Must have, or be willing and capable to achieve, a Power Engineers Refrigeration Class W Certificate or higher, as issued by the Province of Manitoba
- Arena / Curling Ice Level I, Ice Making Certificate

Skills:

- Good communication skills, as this position deals with the public on a daily basis
- Ability to work well with others, have initiative and be flexible
- Ability to work alone and make decisions, with minimal supervision
- Wide range of skills to perform a variety of maintenance duties required for the position
- An understanding of sports, recreation and leisure services in the R.M. of Gimli
- Previous experience in Recreation, Public Works or Arena setting would be considered an asset
- Preference will be given to those with experience in the following trades: carpentry, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and ice making

Salary as per union collective agreement

Please submit resume with detailed skill set and references, by 4:00 p.m. October 27th, 2017, to:

Joann King CAO
 Rural Municipality of Gimli
 62 - 2nd Avenue, PO Box 1246
 Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
 Email: jking@rmgimli.com
 Fax: 204-642-6660

We thank all applicants for their interest; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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