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WEEKLY NEWS

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**Christmas is in the air**

Eight-year-old Lev Nikonov admires the Christmas tree and all the gifts at Home Hardware in Arborg last week. EXPRESS PHOTO BY DONNA GISLASON

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# Eriksdale hospital's month-long ER closure sparks rally set for Dec. 13

By Patricia Barrett

Eriksdale's E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital seems to be teetering on the brink as ongoing staff shortages have closed its emergency room for the second time in as many months.

And that's prompted a local health advocacy group to stage a rally next week to send a message to the provincial government.

Eriksdale's ER was forced to close in September because of a staffing shortage in the laboratory, which supports diagnoses required for emergency medicine, and will be closed for all of December, according to a notice from the provincial government's Shared Health organization, which oversees health care.

The closure of the ER is not the only concern on the mind of resident and Eriksdale Chamber of Commerce president Keith Lundale. The health-care system is running in "crisis mode" with a shortage of physicians, nurses and other health-care workers, and with staff ping-ponging from hospital to hospital in an attempt to plug never-ending staffing gaps.

"We've had an intermittent ER for probably over a year now and it hasn't improved; it has gotten worse," said Lundale, who is part of the health

advocacy group. "We've lost 2.5 doctor positions and we now only have a full-time and a part-time position in the Eriksdale clinic. Two of our lab techs went on maternity leave and another went on stress leave. Without enough doctors and lab and X-ray, you can't run a functioning ER."

Eriksdale was getting lab technician coverage from Ashern's Lakeshore General Hospital, but with influenza and other viruses making staff or their kids ill, Ashern can no longer support technician sharing, he said.

Lundale and others in the community are "very concerned" about the future of the Eriksdale hospital as the population in the Highway 6 area depends on its services, he said. They also require the services of Ashern's hospital farther north. The Eriksdale hospital serves residents from the municipalities of St. Laurent and Coldwell in the south, from the municipalities of Armstrong and Fisher in the east and parts of the RM of West Interlake. Construction companies such as Sigfusson Northern, with 1,500 people in high-risk jobs, also need the hospital as do farmers.

"We need both the Eriksdale and Ashern facilities. The regional health authority [Interlake-Eastern] also

## Diagnostics Temporary Service Change

Eriksdale - E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital

Due to staffing challenges, outpatient X-ray, ECG and Lab services will be temporarily unavailable for the month of December starting December 2, 2022. During this time, outpatient services are available at Ashern Hospital, 1 Steenson Drive. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



### PROVINCIAL SHARED HEALTH

A Shared Health notice states outpatient, X-ray, ECG and lab services are not available at the Eriksdale hospital in December.

knows we have six First Nations, including Pinaymootang, Little Saskatchewan, Dauphin River and Lake Manitoba, accessing the Eriksdale hospital at any given time of the year," said Lundale.

The shortage of physicians that forces ERs to temporarily close has made ambulance diversions a common occurrence and has delayed end-point

care.

"We're trying to tell the IERHA's senior leadership that people presenting with something like a heart attack can be diverted from hospital to hospital, resulting in treatment delays. If you're in Oak Point, for example, you'd be going to Ashern. If that ER is at capacity, you'll be re-routed upon

Continued on page 8



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# Riverton Christmas hamper program needs help

By Catherine Strong

Riverton District Friendship Centre staff members are determined to find a way to make Christmas happen for everyone.

The Christmas hamper program organized annually by the RDFC is in jeopardy. Executive director Tanis Grimolfson, though determined to provide hampers to families throughout the northern East Interlake region, is unsure how the organization will make that happen.

Several factors have come into play during the past year that have put pressure even on the regular monthly hamper distribution, influencing the centre's ability to raise the extra funds needed to provide Christmas hampers.

Among these are the familiar circumstances of the after-effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing worldwide results of the war in Ukraine. Prices are up; resources are dwindling, so people have less to spare. Owing to the inflation rate and the difficulties in the supply chain, almost everyone is cutting back budgets and hoping for better times ahead,

Donations, both private and corporate, are down. Several fundraisers put on by the RDFC have helped, but even they are not as successful as they have been in previous years. A turkey dinner fundraiser two weeks ago raised around \$2,000 but Grimolfson had anticipated it would raise double that amount.

Other factors putting pressure on the hamper program this year are a sharp increase in the number of requests, and the increasing costs of everything from food to clothing to toys. Additionally, the area has seen a recent influx of immigrants, not only from Ukraine but also from the Philippines, Belize, Bolivia and Paraguay. As a result, more people who were already under a financial constraint now face a choice between paying bills or providing a Christmas celebration for their families.

Grimolfson also speculated that the weather may have played a part in the late start to the giving season. With mild temperatures and little snow, it simply has not "felt like Christmas" to many people.

Grimolfson plans to reach out to local businesses throughout the region, as RDFC provides hampers to some of their staff and families on a year-round basis, not only at Christmas. She is very thankful that a number of churches in the area, including the Riverton Gospel Chapel and the Riverton Community Church of the Nazarene, provide as many as 10 hampers each through their fundraising efforts, which lessens the pressure on the centre's own staff and resources.

Meanwhile, the fundraising continues. The Christmas Market at the Riverton Hall took place on Friday, Dec. 2, in conjunction with a perogy supper. In addition, the Riverton Fire Department is planning to donate toys. Collection bins, for both food and new unwrapped toys, are located at the Co-op grocery store, and at the Interlake Insurance office, both in Riverton. Lastly, on Dec. 13, the annual seniors dinner will take place, with tickets still available, priced \$15.

Nevertheless, with requests for hampers up by almost 50 per cent over last year, and with more coming in every day, she is concerned that it is not going to be enough.

"RDFC has been providing Christmas hampers since, well, forever; I mean, as long as anyone can remember, at least 40 years. I refuse to accept that this may be the year we can't supply all the requests," says Grimolfson. "In a normal year, we might get requests for 40 hampers, but this year we are already at 100, and calls are coming in every day for more."

Asked what is needed, she replied, "Everything! Money, of course, but also food such as turkeys, packaged dressing, canned vegetables. We also try to include handmade gifts like hats, mitts and scarves, as well as a new toy for every child. There are 120 kids on our list this year."

The hampers will be delivered on Dec. 20 by teams of volunteers. Meanwhile, donations can be made in person at the centre, located in the heart of Riverton, at 53 Laura Ave. For those who prefer to give money, donations can be made online at [rdfc\\_bk@mymts.net](mailto:rdfc_bk@mymts.net) or, of course, in person; or call 204-378-2800.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED  
Shoppers search for the perfect gift while supporting local crafters at the RDFC Christmas Market in Riverton on Dec. 2.

Lots of  
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## Information for residents receiving care at Eriksdale's E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital



### Hospital remains open for inpatient care, Outpatient diagnostic and emergency department services are temporarily suspended as a result of staffing absences

Workforce shortages are affecting industries across the province. This includes health care, particularly in areas of our health region where we have historically experienced staffing challenges.

#### Accessing care in Eriksdale - the near term . . .

Eriksdale Hospital remains open for inpatient admissions and the two physicians at Eriksdale's clinic continue to see patients five days a week.

Following unexpected staffing challenges in Eriksdale's diagnostics department, diagnostics staff based in Ashern had been supporting outpatient (walk-in) lab services at Eriksdale's E. M. Crowe Hospital. This support has been temporarily discontinued due to staff vacancies in Ashern. People from Eriksdale and area who need laboratory services can access Ashern Hospital (approximately 25 minutes away).

Ashern diagnostic staff are continuing to travel to Eriksdale to provide diagnostic services to in-hospital patients as required.

Without immediate access to diagnostic services, we are unable to provide emergency department care in Eriksdale.

#### Accessing care in Eriksdale – in 2023. . .

We expect that outpatient diagnostic services and the emergency department in Eriksdale will resume operations in January, once two newly trained medical laboratory assistants begin working at the site. These staff, who already work at the Eriksdale hospital, are currently being trained at the lab in Ashern.

Additionally, more than 40 individuals from the Interlake area have expressed interest in being trained as medical laboratory assistants. The first intake for training is expected to begin in February in Arborg as part of a partnership with Shared Health, Fieldstone Ventures, Assiniboine Community College and Robertson College. Once training of these individuals is complete, Shared Health will have a broader pool of qualified individuals to draw upon to support diagnostic services in the region.

In previous meetings with elected officials and community members in Eriksdale, Dr. Abdi Sokoro, executive director, provincial laboratory operations, Shared Health Diagnostic Services, has conveyed Shared Health's commitment to working with its partners to develop the diagnostic workforce in Eriksdale.

*"We know that health-care staff are likely to remain in their positions longer if they have a personal connection to the communities they serve. That is why we have been working over the past several months with education institutions and community leaders to develop locally accessible training opportunities that will allow residents to pursue positions in diagnostics without having to leave home," says Dr. Abdi Sokoro, executive director, provincial laboratory operations, Shared Health Diagnostic Services.*

We are committed to building a health-care system where all the elements work together to ensure residents are able to access the services they need in a timely manner. But there is still work to be done. There are typically increased staff vacancy rates at this time of year and we are monitoring this closely in the event we need to implement additional temporary service disruptions in the region. It is essential that we use limited resources in a manner that benefits as many residents as possible.

Dr. Charles Penner, chief medical officer for Interlake-Eastern RHA, has identified the region's commitment to maintaining access to care.

*"It is our priority is to keep one emergency department open all the time along Highway 6. Right now, Ashern's Lakeshore Hospital will remain open 24/7. Because of the unexpected departure of a physician in Eriksdale, we are working to recruit an additional primary health-care provider to the area. We recognize the need to expand primary care in the community." Dr. Charles Penner, Chief Medical Officer, Interlake-Eastern RHA*

With cold and flu season is upon us, health care facilities across Manitoba are dealing with respiratory illnesses. We appreciate your efforts to stay healthy. Washing your hands regularly, getting your flu shot and staying home when ill all go a long way to easing pressures on our health care staff at this time.

Thank you.  
Marion Ellis

- You can check your ability to access a physician in an emergency department at [www.ierha.ca/emergency-department-schedules](http://www.ierha.ca/emergency-department-schedules) If you're experiencing a health care emergency, please always remember to dial 9-1-1 or your local 10-digit number for medical emergencies.
- If you are interested in pursuing a career in health care in Interlake-Eastern RHA, please visit [www.ierha.ca/Careers](http://www.ierha.ca/Careers)



# Gimli gets lit

From Dec. 1 to 26, join the community in a light show extravaganza

By Autumn Fehr

It's not Christmas if you can't drive through town and see a spread of Christmas lights lighting up the streets.

This month, homeowners are reminded to put up their Christmas lights to put on a show for the town and participate in a little healthy competition.

From Dec. 1 until the 26th, residents of Gimli can showcase their Christmas lights on their homes to create a tour for the community to enjoy.

"This is just an easy event that can be done on a community resident level where you don't need too much just to have something available for people to do," said Brittany Isfeld.

When Isfeld worked for the RM as the economic development and tourism co-ordinator for eight years, she put on the Light up Gimli event, an event almost identical to this one.

After she left, she watched all the events in Gimli and noticed that they weren't doing anything like it anymore, so she decided to organize something herself.

"I'm not in a position to offer prizes, but I figured it's a nice way to get all the community involved and out of their house and explore the community for free," said Isfeld.

An online photo scavenger hunt will add a little competition and more fun to the tour.

"I'm encouraging people, while out and about in the car, to take some pictures for the scavenger hunt and just make a day of it," said Isfeld.

The scavenger hunt winner will receive a handmade Gimli sign made by Isfeld.

The map will be posted by Dec. 15 in the Meanwhile in Gimli Facebook chat and will be updated as more homes get involved in the fun.

With COVID-19 still on the rise, the event is a safe way to get out of the house and enjoy Christmas as a family or with friends.

Now, as a mom, no longer involved with the town, Isfeld said she has shifted from wanting concerts on the beach to wanting to be involved in these types of events.

"I love Gimli. I've worked for Gimli for years. ... I have a passion for Gimli and trying to make it great for everyone that lives here," said Isfeld.

To get involved, residents can submit their address to be added to the list of homes "getting lit."

Isfeld said she's got tricks up her sleeve for future events in the community. She welcomes any volunteers who want to get involved in creating events for the community that don't include much work on the back end to contact her through Meanwhile in Gimli or her personal account.

"I'M ENCOURAGING PEOPLE, WHILE THEY ARE OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CAR, TO TAKE SOME PICTURES FOR THE SCAVENGER HUNT AND JUST MAKE A DAY OF IT."

# Lundar Trap Club recognized as role models for the youth of the community

By Autumn Fehr

Passing down knowledge in firearms handling and safety is essential and handing it down through the generations in a youth club is a great way to grow interest.

The Lundar Trap Club plays a significant role in modelling these practices for the youth in the community to keep traditions alive.

On Nov. 17, in the opening remarks at parliament, Derek Johnson, MLA for Interlake-Gimli and Minister of Agriculture, honoured a team of three boys from the Lundar Trap Club that won the provincial team championship at Winnipeg Trap and Skeet Club earlier in the year.

Don Law, president of the Lundar Trap Club, said Johnson wanted to celebrate the boys for a job well done but also recognized the Lundar Trap Club as a role model organization for young kids in the community in demonstrating proper hunting practices and protocol.

"Being a part of the Lundar Trap Club gives the kids something to do, and it brings people to town. ... It's good for the kids and the community because it teaches kids respect for a firearm and safety because this is a hunting community. Everybody hunts here, so if they are taught these things, it can sharpen their skills, which makes them better all around," said Law.

"We want to get youth involved so that sport can continue. ... You have

to teach them and bring kids into the shoot."

The boys were a part of the Lundar Trap Club, which meant their points from their respective shoots were gathered as a whole and, in the end, they came out as the winning team.

In addition to winning the provincial team championship, the boys were also placed in their respective categories.

Logan Halldorson-Bruce won first place in Novice, 13 and under; Zachary Halldorson won second in the Open 18 and under; and Matty Law won first in the Open 15 and under.

In addition to this event, the Lundar Trap Club holds one annual competition event called the Goose Country Open in June, with approximately 25 people attending.

The club has about 35 members annually, and they practise every Wednesday night, usually at 6 p.m., from mid-May to the end of September.

Every four years, they hold the provincial junior event, which was on July 10 of this year, celebrated in November by Johnson.

The Manitoba Junior Shotgun Association organizes the event.

Besides the three boys specifically recognized by Johnson, many other kids won in their age categories.

This year, in the provincial shoot, the Lundar Trap Club won seven out of approximately 15 trophies at the event.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Derek Johnson presenting a winning provincial team with certificates at parliament. From left to right: Zachary Halldorson, Logan Halldorson-Bruce, Derek Johnson and Matty Law.

We always come back with many trophies, and we are so proud of our kids because that's pretty impressive," said Law.

Easton Einarson won in the Novice 13 and under, Holden Bierri won third in the 13 and under, Blain Christenson won second in Novice 15 and

under, and Graidie Bierri won first in the Open 13 and under.

Law wants to thank the Manitoba Junior Shotgun Association for organizing the provincial junior shoot and for their support to the Lundar Trap Club.

# Town of Winnipeg Beach receives \$40,000 in federal funding for infrastructure plan

By Patricia Barrett

The federal Liberal government provided funding to the Town of Winnipeg Beach last week to help it develop an asset management plan for infrastructure.

The town received \$40,000 under the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) to develop a plan that will help it better understand the current state of its infrastructure, what needs improvement, associated costs, levels of service and risks.

Federal minister responsible for PrairiesCan [Prairies Economic Development Canada] Dan Vandal and Federation of Canadian Municipalities president Taneen Rudyk made the announcement.

"The Municipal Asset Management Program supports

projects that help communities acquire funding, training, and resources needed to manage assets more efficiently," said Vandal in a Nov. 30 news release. "Investments like the ones announced today for Manitoba are vital for growing local economies and strengthening communities big and small, ensuring their resiliency for years to come."

Continued on page 10

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**DEVOTION** FRI-THURS DEC 9 - 15  
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*Coarse Language; Violence* **PG**

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**VIOLENT NIGHT** FRI-THURS DEC 16 - 22  
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## Manitoba Conservation Officer service encourages safe snowmobiling

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development is encouraging all snowmobilers to sled safely this season and advising that conservation officers will be conducting snowmobile patrols to help ensure public safety.

Recreational snowmobilers are reminded that a Snopass permit is required to ride on trails managed by Snoman. A Snopass costs \$150 for an annual permit or \$75 for a seven-day permit and can be purchased through Manitoba Public Insurance. More information is available at <https://snoman.mb.ca/snopass>.

Manitobans are reminded the following actions can result in provincial fines:

- operating a snowmobile without a Snoman permit (\$486 fine);
- operating an unregistered off-road vehicle (\$174 fine);



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY NORTH MOUNTAIN RIDERS

Snowmobilers are reminded to purchase Snoman permits, register their snow machines and always wear a helmet when operating.

- failure to wear a helmet (\$174 fine); and

- public consumption of alcohol (\$672 fine).

Impaired operation of a snowmobile carries with it the same consequences as driving a vehicle while impaired.

Penalties can include significant fines, impoundment of the snowmobile and a conviction resulting in a criminal record.

Conservation officers and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police play a critical role in monitoring trails for impaired driving offences.

## Manitoba Métis Federation Gimli Local re-established in the community

By Autumn Fehr

After a few decades without a local chapter, Gimli welcomed a local Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) representative for their community this year.

Gimli once had an active MMF chapter in the 1990s, but participation fizzled out.

On March 11, 2022, Gimli again had an MMF local back in their community to support and represent the Red River Métis people.

"It's going to bring different opportunities for the Métis citizens. They'll be able to start looking into their heritage. They'll be able to access the different programming that the MMF puts on," said Donna Austfjord, chair-

person of the new MMF Gimli local.

Austfjord has worked closely with the MMF as a construction safety officer for N4 construction on the Manitoba Hydro Bipole 3 Transmission Project.

When she moved to Camp Morton in 2021, community members discussed the need to bring back an MMF local to the community. Knowing her past with the MMF, they came to her as they knew she could do something.

After hearing the need to bring back a local MMF, Austfjord contacted the MMF to re-establish the MMF Gimli Local.

"In this area, we needed to be represented," said Austfjord.

On March 11, 2022, a meeting was

held with approximately 35 Métis citizens in attendance, where an election was held for the executive board positions. Elected were Austfjord as chairperson, Alison Lubinski as vice-chair, and Nicole Mackie as secretary/treasurer. Volunteer board members: Asia Knutson, Dylan Collins, Damon Hokanson, Ed Crave, Nicole Combot, Mark Sewell.

The local was formed to bring Métis citizens in the community together and to celebrate their rich Métis heritage. MMF Gimli will bring a new and exciting aspect to its rich cultural community.

The local will provide Métis citizens, within the community, with informa-

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# Manitobans continue to die from COVID

By Patricia Barrett

Sixteen more Manitobans died from COVID, according to the provincial government's weekly respiratory surveillance report for the period Nov. 20-26 (reporting Week 47). There were 16 deaths reported the previous week.

There were 82 new hospital admissions for COVID in Week 47, including 19 people needing intervention in the intensive care unit.

There were 281 new COVID infections diagnosed by PCR lab testing. Provincial data is an undercount of the true number of infections as the government restricts PCR tests and rapid antigen tests aren't tracked.

The provincial government changed the way it reports cumulative deaths and hospitalizations. The government started presenting data from Week 27 (July 3-9) of this year, showing 191 cumulative deaths. Manitoba's death toll — from the start of reporting in 2020 to Week 44 (Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, 2022) was 2,256.

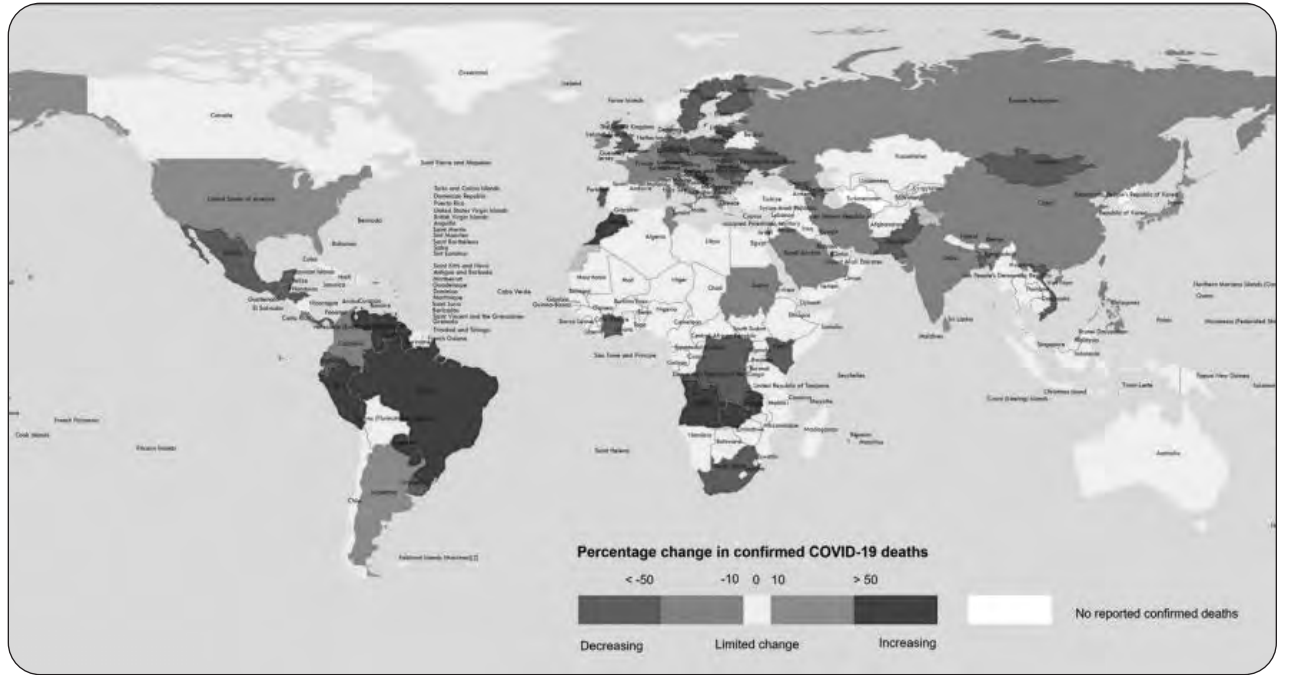
The change in the way the province now presents COVID data makes it difficult to assess the death toll from the virus. The federal government's COVID website shows Manitoba's death toll having reached 2,277 as of Nov. 19.

The provincial government stopped providing in its surveillance reports the names of personal care homes and hospitals experiencing COVID outbreaks.

Influenza cases have increased over the past five weeks. Week 47 saw influenza A test positivity increase to 21.4 per cent and 207 new cases. There were zero cases of influenza B.

"Up to Week 47 this season, children below the age of five years are at the highest risk for influenza infection," states the report. "This age group accounted for 15% of all influenza cases and 25% of associated hospital admissions."

Other health news:



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COVID-19 WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATE**

There has been limited change in the number of new COVID infections in Canada while infections are on the upswing in the U.S. and parts of South America.

- The COVID outbreak declared Nov. 4 at the Selkirk Betel Personal Care Home continues, according to the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's website (viewed Dec. 3).

- Canada saw 15,085 new cases of COVID for the period Nov. 13-19, according to federal data.

- Globally, there were just under 2.7 million new COVID cases and over 8,400 deaths reported the week of Nov. 21-27, according the World Health Organization.

WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the number of deaths over the course of that week is "not acceptable."

The highest numbers of new weekly COVID

deaths were reported from the United States (increase of 16 per cent), Japan (increase of 42 per cent), Brazil (increase of 113 per cent), Italy (decrease of 22 per cent) and China (decrease of 17 per cent).

There have been over 637 million cases of COVID reported to date along with more than 6.6 million deaths.

- The Canadian Red Cross has stepped in to support a children's hospital in Ontario as a surge of respiratory viruses among children and youth overwhelm the system, and children's hospitals in Alberta are above or at capacity. Doctors are asking the public to wear masks.

## > MÉTIS, FROM PG. 6

tion regarding health, education, heritage and youth programming.

Now that Gimli has its own local, it will make a difference in how Métis citizens can access the resources and information they need, said Austfjord.

The main issues in the Gimli area that the new local wants to focus on are collaborating with Métis citizens and the community and forming a partnership to share culture and heritage.

"We want to focus on the Métis citizens to ensure they have what they need to build solid foundations for their families," said Austfjord.

On Nov. 23, a "meet and greet" was held at Minerva Hall. In attendance were approximately 50 Métis citizens, with guests from the MMF Interlake regional office, including Minister Jack Park, Minister Alfred Anderson and Minister Mona Bours.

MMF Health Department Local representatives were also present: Mayor

Kevin Chudd, Coun. Kurt Reichert and Coun. Andy Damm.

The MMF Gimli Local citizens shared heartwarming stories of their rich culture as proud Red River Métis.

MMF Gimli Local will be hosting the annual Interlake regional meeting, which will include citizens and board members from the Interlake area. The meeting will take place in the fall of 2023, where approximately three hundred citizens can enjoy Gimli for the day.

"We don't want to be separate from the community. We want to join in with the community. We want to be a part of the community and help enhance the community with different things," said Austfjord.

Since the MMF Gimli local is still relatively new and rapidly growing, the number of Métis citizens in the area are members.

There are many exciting opportunities for the membership to grow, partnering with community events and non-profit organizations within Gimli



**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED**

From left to right: Vice Chair Alison Lubinski, Minister Jack Park, Chair Donna Austfjord, Minister Alfred Anderson, secretary/treasurer Nicole Mackie at the "meet and greet" on Nov. 23 at Minerva Hall. Missing from the photo Mona Buors.

and the RM of Gimli.

To join the MMF Gimli Local, download a membership application on the MMF website at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca).

If there are any questions regarding

membership, contact [mmfgimlilocal@gmail.com](mailto:mmfgimlilocal@gmail.com) or head over to the Facebook page at MMF Gimli Local.

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 11, 2023, at 7 p.m. at Minerva Hall.

## > RALLY, FROM PG. 2

arrival or diverted en route and sent to Arborg or Stonewall," said Lundale.

"But if the ERs there are not available because of physician shortages, the ambulance will go to Winnipeg or Selkirk. This happens more often than people are aware of. So now you've travelled over an hour to a site only to be redirected and you're no further along the treatment plan; you're back to square one. That's why we need both our hospitals functioning at full capacity."

A man who lived near the Eriksdale hospital suffered a heart attack and died when transferred to Ashern, said Lundale, and a woman was diverted three times before being taken to Winnipeg.

"We really need our hospital," said Lundale. "We will have an erosion of population in our smaller communities if we don't have health care."

Even with the provincial government's announcement in February to expand the Ashern's hospital with "up to 12 inpatient beds," both Ashern and Eriksdale are destined to become "triage hospitals," said Lundale. That means patients will be sent to Winnipeg or Selkirk for advanced care.

"We're quite happy the government's going to expand the Ashern hospital, but we don't feel it'll be the solution to our problems. For one thing, we can't even staff what we have right now so where are we going to get that additional staff?" he said. "And we were told in a meeting with the IERHA, Shared Health and the RM of West Interlake that we can ex-

pect Eriksdale and Ashern hospitals to become triage centres. You'll come in, they'll triage you (assess medical needs) and send you to Winnipeg or Selkirk for advanced care because that's where the specialists are."

If the two hospitals are to become triage centres, Lundale said he questions why the bed expansion in Ashern is necessary given there aren't enough staff to look after more beds. And beds are filled with long-term care patients who should be in a personal care home, something local communities recognize and have been trying to rectify.

"The fact is the government has had PCH proposals from three different sites in our area — one of them from Arborg for an 80-bed PCH — and it hasn't acted on any of those," said Lundale.

The government's attempts to plug the staffing breach with training courses currently being offered in the Interlake to attract homegrown health-care staff has come too late and should have been done years ago, he said, with promotional efforts aimed at local high school students and financial or other supports offered to health-care staff — especially those in their 30s and 40s — wanting to move to up the career ladder.

With the system functioning as it is presently, anyone looking a career in health care would think again because it has a "black eye," he said. When COVID hit, staff were pushed to the breaking point.

"I think our medical staff got treated very poorly by the government and by the IERHA's senior leadership because they expected them to do more and more and more. Do you get mandated to stay at work when you fin-

ish an 8- or 12-hour shift?" he said. "The health-care system was under duress. We have senior leadership in some areas that shouldn't be there because they don't see the bigger picture; they're in crisis mode and I don't know if we're going to get out of this anytime soon."

To address the dysfunction, the advocacy group will be holding a rally next Tuesday at Eriksdale's community hall. Lundale said both local and provincial politicians, First Nations' leaders and health-care advocates have been invited.

"The plan is to bring awareness to this situation and to put pressure on the government to formulate a plan with us as to what we can accomplish," said Lundale. "We're already working with the regional health authority."

West Interlake reeve Arnthor Jonasson said both Ashern and Eriksdale are currently grappling with staff sick from influenza. Ashern had been sharing staff with Eriksdale, but Manitoba's surge in influenza cases has had an impact.

"Shared Health has been working to try to staff both hospitals, using staff from one hospital for the other, but it's a problem with the flu. Either the staff are sick or their kids are sick and they have to stay home," he said. "It got to the point where the staff from the Ashern hospital were going down to Eriksdale to try to keep diagnostics going there and keep the hospital open for in-patient lab work. But they can't keep the emergency department open; it's too much for them to handle."

Jonasson said the Eriksdale hospital was also sharing staff with Arborg's hospital but wasn't able to maintain

that. It all comes down to a shortage of physicians, nurses and lab technicians.

"This is a province-wide problem and it was recognized a while back," he said.

Staff in all hospitals are working flat out to meet the needs of residents in the region and they deserve recognition for their efforts.

"I want to stress that a lot of our hospital staff — and in Arborg as well — are going above and beyond to try to fulfil the need of our residents. But at some point, they just can't do it all. You don't want to burn out the staff you have," said Jonasson. "And it has been a terrible flu season so far. We've got high absenteeism rates. In some of the schools, classes have two out of 15 students in attendance and the rest are out sick. Staff have done a very good job trying to keep both hospitals open. We've got to give them kudos for that."

Shared Health is currently working with Fieldstone Ventures, an Ashern-based training facility, to offer a course for medical lab assistants and courses to address the nursing shortage, he said.

And there's hope the Eriksdale ER will stabilize in the new year as two staff members from the Eriksdale hospital are currently being trained in the Ashern hospital's laboratory for service in Eriksdale. They may be ready to start in January, he said.

He's happy the Ashern hospital is being expanded, he said, but he doesn't know if that will be enough to serve the area's population as well as all the First Nation communities.

"Our region needs more [beds]. In fact, I don't know if the expansion in Ashern will be enough to meet the needs of the residents in the northwest region of the IERHA," said Jonasson.

Health-care training for people who live in the region is needed in order to address long-term recruitment and retention problems. That includes promoting health-care careers and encouraging local students to consider entering medicine.

"I think the key here is to try to make sure we can train people within our region and our towns who can do these jobs so that we don't have to count on people driving in from other areas to work," he said. "And Shared Health is trying to offer that training but it doesn't happen overnight."

Jonasson said he'll be attending the rally in Eriksdale.

"We have to address this issue, but there are no easy answers," he said.

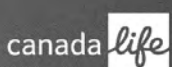
The rally to save the Eriksdale hospital starts at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Eriksdale Community Centre, just off Highway 68 at First Avenue.

# IN 2023, LEAVE SMOKING BEHIND



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# Gwen Fox Gallery hosts all members show in December

By Katelyn Boulanger

This holiday season the Gwen Fox Gallery is a great stop for getting a gift for the art lover in your life. With paintings, multi-media work, fibre art and more, and all of the gallery's members having the opportunity to show in their all members show, there are a huge variety of options for everyone on your list.

Though it would be impossible to feature every artist in the show, this month the *Express* caught up with three that you may not have heard of before to talk about some of the work on display and free to see starting this week.



Terry Hollier

Hollier is a recent addition to the Gwen Fox Gallery's membership. This month she has brought in two examples of her vibrant and pretty watercolour paintings.

"I am training and working towards being a watercolour artist. I'm fairly new to the medium. I took it up when I retired from teaching 10 years ago," she said.

One of the big reasons that she started her artistic journey was inspiration from her family. Despite working in other fields, her father was a trained oil painter and her mother took classes from various groups and community clubs. This stoked Hollier's artistic tendencies, along with winning a large art competition as a child, which encouraged her even when she took time away from art to have a career as a teacher and to raise her family.

"I consider myself very much a be-

ginner. But I'm very proud and excited when something turns out well enough that I'm brave enough to share with others," she said.

She likes watercolour as a medium because it's a relatively clean way to pick up painting and is very space efficient with the painting being done on paper so you can work on multiple paintings at once and experiment as you go.

"You don't need a whole studio. You don't need an easel. You don't need much. You need a paintbrush," she said.

Hollier actually was a member of the Gwen Fox Gallery but the pandemic caused her to let her membership lapse. She says that one of the reasons that she decided to rejoin the community is because she wanted to be back in a place where she could take inspiration from others.

Her best advice for artists that are finding their creativity for the first time is to put themselves out there.

"Try your best and then just know that they're not all going to turn out. If it's awful, don't say, 'Oh, I'm no good at this. I give up.' Every once in a while your muse will be with you. Secondly, paint every day or even once a week, just so that you're getting back to it. And thirdly, paint with others. It's kind of hard to do, but it gives you so much support and inspiration and the trading of ideas keeps you moving forward as well," she said.



Rosemary Miguez

Miguez has two examples of her textual multi-media art pieces that incorporate light and shadow into beautiful landscape pieces on display.

"I like to use sand because it comes

from rock and rock comes from mountains. And, for many cultures in the world, the rock represents memory. It holds the memory of the earth and all of its changes. So, I really love to use that and I always wonder what memory was there. Was there a dinosaur that walked on here? You know, like, what walked on that rock and where was it? And how did it get crushed down?" she said.

To keep the sand adhered to the painting's surface, she mixes it with gesso, which is an acrylic medium, and builds the surface of the painting up so that you can feel the artwork if you were to run your hand over it. One example of her work that she brought in to the gallery this month has colour but the other, which has an accompanying poem, is a white piece that utilizes the shadows cast by the structural elements to allow you to see its dimension.

Her initial forays into art came from spending time with her grandmother, who was an oil painter. Her grandmother encouraged her to sketch, but she struggled to connect with art at school because it was so different from the way she experienced it with her grandmother. Because of this, she didn't come to painting until later in life, first trying out oil paints and then giving watercolours a whirl.

Though she lives in Dunnottar, she decided to come to Selkirk to check out the gallery after some friends recommended it.

"It made me feel like I want to be part of the community and part of this Interlake experience. And like I said, I had heard such positive news about it that I just joined," she said.

For people who might want to try creative mediums for the first time, Miguez encourages them to go for it.

"I just feel that there are very few people that don't have art [in them]. We're all influenced by art. Look, at the way we're dressed. If it wasn't for art, we would all be wearing the same shift and the same shoes and the same glasses. So, I just like to encourage anybody, especially, especially younger people, to just find something that's within you," she said.

Arlene Rattai

Rattai is a long-time member of the gallery and one of the few members that does oil painting on porcelain. This medium gives her art a beautiful depth and allows her to use iridescent paints, making it very difficult to capture how beautiful they truly are on film.

This month, in addition to a porce-



Arlene Rattai

lain piece, she has brought a colourful watercolour piece for the all members show.

"In 1995 was when I started painting. I was kind of looking towards retirement and I thought I just can't be retired and do nothing. So, I decided I'm going to start painting. And I had run across the porcelain because I had my own business," she said.

From there, she found the artist who had originally inspired her and decided to take a painting class.

"Painting on porcelain is very different than just painting because, with porcelain, you have to fire it. So, you need a kiln and the paint stays wet until it's kiln-dried. So, the thing is, it's also a longer process than just painting with oils or watercolours because sometimes you have to fire your piece [many times]. Some pieces I've fired up to eight times," she said.

Her art is inspired by many things but as a more realistic painter Rattai says that she is largely inspired by her travels.

"I've painted portraits. I've painted animals, I painted nature scenery, you know, also, you know, just all kinds of things," she said.

Her best advice for beginner artists is to take some art lessons with a number of different teachers and to try out different mediums until one clicks with you.

"Certain mediums right away click with some people but not everybody knows exactly what they want to paint with like I tried acrylics and forget it," she said.

She also encourages residents to check out the gallery this month if they are considering buying themselves or others a piece of art.

"It is much nicer to have an original hanging on your wall than a piece that's reproduced," she said.

The Gwen Fox Gallery is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

> FEDERAL FUNDING, FROM PG. 2

MAMP assists Canadian municipalities in making infrastructure investment decisions based on reliable data and sound practices, states the release. MAMP provides asset management training, funding and information sharing to enable municipalities to access the data needed to plan effectively.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is delivering the \$110-million program. So far, \$65 million representing 1,538 projects has been invested.

"From roads and bridges to buildings and wastewater systems — strong asset management is key to building stronger communities," said Rudyk. "That's why FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program helps communities in Manitoba and across the country develop sound asset manage-

ment practices and conduct data collection and analysis to make better investment decisions."

The federal government invested a total of \$224,011 in five Manitoba communities "to strengthen data-driven decision-making about key infrastructure and ensure long-term infrastructure performance," states the release.

In addition to Winnipeg Beach, the Municipality of Roblin received \$40,000 to develop its first asset management strategy, and the Municipality of Cartwright-Roblin received \$50,000 to develop an asset management policy, strategy and plan.

The Town of Winnipeg Beach didn't respond to a request for comment.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

After a winter and spring bringing excessive amounts of moisture, the bridge over Prospect Street at the Boundary Creek Marina had to be ripped out by the town in May to prevent water backflowing and flooding properties near Lake Winnipeg.




# UPCOMING EVENTS

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CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL

## Paint Night!

Create a winter scene on canvas with acrylic paint!

Friday, December 9th  
6:30-8:30pm  
at From Farmhouse to Yours Cafe & Bakery

\$30.00 Member fee / \$35.00 Non-member fee  
All supplies included

Email [gaac@mymts.ca](mailto:gaac@mymts.ca) (Subject: Adult Art) by December 7th to register





Generously funded by:

## Pysanky Classes

CHRISTMAS KEEPSAKE TREE ORNAMENT WITH JANET PALIN

Learn how to make a beautiful Christmas Ornament

**\$30.00 Per Person** Minimum 10 people per class. Maximum 15 people per class.

Green Acres Art Centre - 1 Green Acres Park Road - Teulon, MB

Children under 12 will require parental supervision due to working with a candle flame. Take-home kits available for purchase for students.

Available Classes  
Saturday December 17th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
Monday December 19th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

To register for classes email - [gaac@mymts.net](mailto:gaac@mymts.net)

\$35 Take-home Kit Available Includes: 2 kistkas (1 med, 1 heavy), Beeswax & 8 Dyes





## Community Christmas Caroling

Come Join Us  
Spread Some Seasonal Cheer  
Wednesday December 14  
Everyone Welcome!

Anglican Church  
Meet 6:15 \* Start 6:20

Planned Visits to Local Senior Homes  
Hot chocolate will be served along route




### Little Stars Dance Ages 3 & 4

Save \$50.00 if register by December 15

### Musical Theatre Ages 5 - 17

Free Registration

### Aspiring Youth Ages 10 - 15

8 different workshops

### Aspiring Adult Ages 16+

8 different workshops

### Aspiring Families Parent & Child

4 different workshops

### Community Choirs

Junior, Intermediate & Senior Choirs

Programs & Workshops Email Stacey at [gaac@mymts.net](mailto:gaac@mymts.net) to receive information on programs & workshops

### Children & Youth Activities

#### Fun Art - Ages 5 - 17

12 weeks - creating a variety of art genres

#### Drop In - hang with friends - listen to music, Xbox games, card & board games, drawing & much more

#### Events - Movie Nights, Lego Challenges & much more

#### Adult & Senior Activities

Pickleball  
Floor Shuffleboard  
Floor Curling  
Cards & Board Games

Activities Email Amanda at [gaacevents@mymts.net](mailto:gaacevents@mymts.net) to receive information on activities







## Annual General Meeting

rescheduled for  
**Monday December 12**

**6:30pm at the**  
**Green Acres Art Centre**

Want to be instrumental in making a difference?  
New board members (all ages) welcome to join our amazing team.  
Email [gaac@mymts.net](mailto:gaac@mymts.net)  
Meetings are once a month

# The Family Advocacy Network of Manitoba (FAN) hosts its first event in Gimli

By Autumn Fehr

The Family Advocacy Network of Manitoba (FAN) is coming to Gimli!

FAN is a grassroots organization that provides peer support for individuals caring for persons with disabilities.

Individuals with family members with either an intellectual or developmental disability entirely run the program.

On Dec. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Gimli Recreation Centre, FAN is hosting a Gimli and area event for parents of persons with disabilities.

"We would like to help people locally in different areas. We want to find people with a loved one with a disability and bring people together. We hope we can help support a local group in Gimli and the area," said Rachel Smith, family networking co-ordinator for FAN.

The event is for any non-paid caregivers who have a loved one with a disability.

It will be a space where caregivers can connect on what's going on in their lives — the good and the bad.

Refreshments and coffee will be available during the event.

FAN was formed almost five years ago out of the need for peer support for families needing to talk with other families going through the same struggles, dealing with the same issues, and advocating for the same things for their family members.

"We kind of formed around that premise, and we wanted to offer peer support for each other, but we also really liked the idea of, let's figure out what are the things we want to make our loved one's lives better, and let's advocate for them together because our voices are stronger when we all

advocate together rather than everybody fighting the fight alone," said Smith.

"It isn't always easy, even when you've got a big family around to support you. It's other people who know what you are going through that get it."

According to Statistics Canada, more than one in 10 youth have one or more disabilities.

With these numbers, groups like FAN are needed to make a difference in parents' lives who need support.

Smith said they have a closed Facebook group with close to 700 members and a mailing list of about 370 people.

"There's such a need for peer support. ... We've got many families that have come together to help each other out," said Smith.

FAN's goal is to be a provincial organization, so they are travelling around the province to spread the word about what they are doing.

They have been to Stonewall, Selkirk and Winkler in the last couple of months.

Smith said they plan to go everywhere in the province, such as up north, The Pas, Thompson and across the region.

"We wanted to get to places outside Winnipeg and find the families that live in those places and help them connect. We want to be a big provincial group so that when we need to advocate and come together on bigger issues, we can do that," said Smith.

The provincial government funds FAN through the department of families through a pilot project, which helps them get out around the province to reach families and help form networks of support for them.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Members of the core committee are doing strategic planning for FAN. From left to right: Scott Smith (co-VP), Laura Schnellert (core committee member), Sandra Goff (co-VP), Rachel Smith (core committee, family networking co-ordinator) and in front is Rachel's son Ryder Smith.



Deb Roach (president) and Laura Schnellert (core committee member) at a Beyond Limits Conference.

# ESD survey asks community to prioritize programs, 6 per cent funding deficit

By Patricia Barrett

The Evergreen School Division may have to cut division-funded programs in its 2023-2024 budget given provincial government funding deficits, and it's asking the communities it serves for feedback.

The division is inviting parents, community members, staff members and students from Arborg, Riverton, Gimli and Winnipeg Beach to prioritize the programs they most value through an online survey.

"The provincial government has eliminated the board's ability to levy tax revenue, which has consequently put some of our local programming at risk," states the survey.

Those programs include junior kindergarten (\$80,000 estimated cost), additional kindergarten (\$63,000 estimated cost to fund three days a week), band core programming for middle years (\$32,000), small high support for shared band programming (\$47,000), division-subsidized supplies and activities for K-12 students (\$65,000) and transportation for extra-curricular activities and field trips (\$109,000).

Assistant superintendent Scott Hill, who will become superintendent in the new year, said about 200 respondents so far — the survey is available until winter break — have completed it and their overall message to the division is to continue supporting the programs.

"Most people value the programs that we've been able to offer through our former ability to levy local taxes. Respondents largely view these programs positively and most would prefer that we continue to support all of them," said Hill last week. "So the continued reduction in provincial funding has been disappointing. Our board hopes that this year's funding announcement will provide sufficient funds for us to continue a good range of programs for our students."

The division is seeing "significant support" for maintaining the kindergarten program at the enhanced level, he said. And another survey question

invites respondents to share their ideas with regard to repurposing funds to support programming.

"Most respondents used this section of the survey to confirm their appreciation for programming, especially for the increased level of kindergarten that we have offered," said Hill.

At this point, the division doesn't know how many programs it may have to cut from the budget, said Hill, and it's hoping the provincial funding announcement — typically made in February — will mean the division won't have to pare its programs.

"The school board is hopeful that the province will begin to offer funding for school divisions that is predictable year over year — funding that increases with growing costs and funding that is commensurate with the growing complexity of student needs," said Hill.

NDP education critic Nello Altomare said the provincial Conservative government is forcing the hand of Interlake school divisions through successive funding reductions.

"Every child in Manitoba deserves access to quality education. That means special high school courses, Junior Kindergarten, field trips, band and extra-curricular activities," said Altomare in a news release. "These programs are an essential part of a well-rounded education. But unfortunately for students in the Interlake, these programs are in danger because the PCs continue to underfund education. It's shameful that the government would put their bottom line ahead of our kids while they continue to make cuts."

Years of Conservative funding cuts have reduced the provincial share of education funding by six per cent and that's "taking a toll," states the release.

NDP leader Wab Kinew said the Conservatives can't be trusted to provide essential services such as education and health care.

"Families in the Interlake deserve quality education for their kids and a hospital that has [a] doctor who can see them in an emergency," said Kinew in the news release. "These are basic, essential servic-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Grade 7 band students perform Cool Cross Buns during a 2016 Christmas concert. Band is a popular program with middle years students, but the program costs the division \$32,000 and is now at risk of being eliminated because of provincial underfunding.

es that every community needs to thrive, but the PC government can't be trusted to provide them. Just like we fought Bill 64 [education bill], our NDP team will fight back against PC cuts to education and health care in the Interlake so families can get a good education and quality care in their home community."

ESD's survey is available until the winter break. Visit [www.esd.ca](http://www.esd.ca) and click the link for the survey.

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### Community Support Service

#### Al-Anon Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

Meeting place  
17B North Colonization Rd.  
Gimli (Next to the New Horizons)

Meetings are Wednesdays  
between 7 and 8 p.m.

Contact 204-389-4777

#### AA Winnipeg Beach

Lady of the Lake RC Church  
Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,  
Winnipeg Beach

Meetings are Saturdays  
between 7 and 8 p.m.

Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

#### Gimli Group AA

Bldg 18 Municipal Rd  
Industrial Park

Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm  
Womens Mtgs Thurs at 10:30 am

# Local flower farm loses all its birds to avian flu

By Jennifer McFee

Avian flu has devastated a local family that lost 32 birds to the disease.

Jodi Friesen runs Miss Millie's Flower Farm, located 10 minutes north of Elie on Highway 26, along with her son oldest Kirby and daughter-in-law Victoria. The local company offers you-pick flower experiences and florist wholesaling, while also serving as a picturesque event venue.

The family also enjoyed sharing their space with 30 chickens and two ducks until the avian flu struck.

"They were a hobby that we started only two years ago. They all had names and were a big hit with our flower-picking customers," said Kirby, who serves as operations manager for the family business.

"Little Zippy was especially a favourite. We lost them all. Zippy went last."

They were taken aback when they figured out their birds had the avian flu, a contagious viral infection that can affect many species of food-producing birds.

"There were no early symptoms at all," Kirby said. "As soon as the weather went below zero, they started dropping dead over a week."

Around Nov. 8, they started losing chickens. They sent a sample for testing on Nov. 13 and received positive confirmation of avian flu on Nov. 17. By the next day, they lost the last of their birds.

"We won't replace them right away, maybe before we open to the public in July," Kirby said.

"Apparently avian flu can survive the winter, so we want to make sure the coop is completely safe before we get more chickens."

Based on their experience, Kirby also offers a few words of advice other bird owners.

"I'd encourage people to report it," he said. "It is extra work you have to do for the government and they don't fully compensate your time. But they are helping with most of the cleanup cost and the people I dealt with have been helpful and nice."

At the same time, he shares grati-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Miss Millie's Flower Farm lost all its birds to the avian flu.

tude with others who appreciated meeting their birds while wandering through the flower farm.

"Thank you to all our customers from last season," he said. "You guys enjoying and caring about the chickens makes it worth having them."

More information about the avian flu is available on the Province of Manitoba website at [www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/avian.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/avian.html).

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# Gimli council's proposal to abolish question period, change meeting times alarms resident

By Patricia Barrett

The Rural Municipality of Gimli's new council has set in motion a proposal to abolish question period at its public meetings, a move that could prevent taxpayers and the media from directly questioning the mayor and councillors about decision-making.

Previous iterations of council set aside time at the end of each meeting to take questions on issues ranging from spending and tax levies to residential development and the wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

The proposal to axe question period is contained in a new Council Organizational & Procedures Bylaw, which governs council and its committee, regulates their conduct and sets out rules of procedure. The new bylaw, No. 22-0014, was marked up with changes and posted online under council's Nov. 24 agenda. It has yet to pass.

Abolishing question period doesn't sit well with municipal resident Gail Mastin, who views it as a strike against democratic freedom and open and transparent government.

Mastin said she was "alarmed" when she saw question period struck off the agenda, and she reached out to people on social media to alert them so that they could voice their opposition.

"Stopping the public from asking questions is one of my main concerns with this new bylaw," said Mastin last week. "We had candidates over the course of our recent election talking

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- 17) Question Period
- 18) Adjournment

Additions to or deletions from the agenda of the distributed, may be done only with unanimous Council or Council Portfolio Committee presence

The new Council Organizational & Procedures Bylaw No. 22-0014, which has yet to be passed, shows question period being struck off council meeting agendas.

about open government and transparency and all that. To me, this is a 180 where they're not allowing people to ask questions at a council meeting. We're going backwards with this. We won't have the opportunity to ask any questions if the bylaw passes."

Mastin said she attends council meetings quite often and likes the freedom of asking a councillor or the mayor questions about their decisions, as well as obtain more information about the way the RM is being run.

The new organizational bylaw also



EXPRESS PHOTOS RM OF GIMLI

The newly elected Gimli council, left to right, Richard Petrowski, Kurt Reichert, Kevin Chudd, Thora Palson and Andy Damm.

contains an amendment to the times and dates of council meetings. Whereas council meetings are typically held twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesdays starting at 6:30 p.m., the new bylaw proposes holding council meetings on three consecutive days, the second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month starting at 4 p.m.

The bylaw also moves delegations to 5 p.m. They used to be scheduled at 7 p.m.

Mastin said she's concerned by the proposed changes to meeting times as she thinks they'll either deter people from attending or make it impossible for them to attend.

"I don't know why they're thinking of doing that. I haven't got enough time to go to three meetings in a row," said Mastin. "And people were saying to me that they don't get off work until 5 p.m. or they travel to Gimli and

don't get home until 6 p.m. and won't be able to attend a delegation. Others work an hourly wage and can't afford to take time off. It's a concern they're bumping up the times. To me, it seems they're making it more difficult for people to attend meetings."

Mastin also raised concern about new mayor Kevin Chudd having no telephone number listed on the RM's website so that taxpayers can call him with concerns. The four councillors — Thora Palson, Richard Petrowski, Kurt Reichert and Andy Damm — have a telephone number listed.

"The previous mayor had a cell phone listed; the RM of Gimli gives each mayor and councillor a phone to use for municipal business. I'm wondering, 'Where is the mayor's phone number?' I'm questioning that," she said.

Continued on page 15

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# Manitoba Hydro upgrading voltage in Gimli area

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba Hydro is currently working on a voltage conversion in the RM of Gimli that will improve the grid's reliability and leave room for electrical expansion in the area.

Hydro began upgrading the voltage from 8 kilovolts to 24 kilovolts in the fall.

"The system will be more reliable because we're replacing old equipment and trimming problem trees — both will reduce the number and length of power outages — and the extra voltage will provide more headroom for new electrical connections," said Hydro spokesperson Riley McDonald. "It's two birds with one stone: improved reliability for existing customers and planning ahead for future customer growth."

Crews are replacing wooden poles, some of which were installed in the 1950s and are at or nearing the end of their lifespan, re-stringing lines,

replacing insulators on the lines and changing transformers, he said. Hydro is working with professional arborists to trim some "problem trees" in the area. Lines making contact with trees is a leading cause of power outages especially during wind storms.

"We'll have to take a few outages to do some of this work, but they've all been scheduled well in advance and we've done a lot of pre-outage communication with residential and commercial customers," said McDonald. "All affected customers will be given advanced notice when we need to take an outage, and there will be no planned outages over the holiday season. There also won't be any planned outages for this work between January and March of 2023 (the winter months)."

The town of Gimli conversion will be completed by about Dec. 20. A second segment between Gimli and Winnipeg Beach will resume in April,



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Hydro crews connect wires to a new pole near Poplarfield in 2018. Hydro is currently working on a voltage conversion in the RM of Gimli.

he said. The bulk of the conversion is expected to be completed by next summer.

## > QUESTION, FROM PG. 14

The new bylaw "will affect the whole of the RM" when it comes to questioning decisions, said Mastin. Residents need an open government so that they know what's going on and how the RM is spending their tax dollars.

"One has to fight for democracy," said Mastin. "To me, I want an open and transparent council, but it doesn't seem that we're going in that direction."

The Express reached out to the municipality and council, asking whether council intends to abolish question

period and why the mayor cannot be contacted by phone, but no one responded by deadline.

### Other council news:

At its Nov. 24 meeting, council reviewed a request to increase the building heights of a proposed new assisted living facility and a personal care home that developer Nordic wants to build on Centennial Road close to Highway 9.

Council approved the project in September 2020. But more "advanced drawings" were completed since that time, which resulted in the developer seeking a variance for changes to the

buildings' heights.

The maximum height allowed in the zone is set at 30 feet "to protect neighbouring property." Nordic wants permission to increase the height of the assisted living facility from 30 feet to 54 feet and increase the height of the personal care home from 30 to 40 feet. It also wants to increase the maximum allowed size of a sign that will identify the facilities.

There was no response from the RM to a question regarding its decision on Nordic's request nor to questions regarding a resolution made on reconciliation, short-term rentals in the municipality.

**Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board**

Once again, the Arborg & District Christmas Cheer Board is preparing Christmas hampers. To request a Christmas hamper, please contact Brynn at 204-641-8490.

The deadline for requests is Wednesday, December 14th and the Christmas hampers will be available for pick up or delivery on Wednesday, December 21st.

Monetary donations can be sent by e-transfer to ADcheerboard@gmail.com, mailed to Box 185 Arborg MB ROC 0A0, or may be deposited at the Arborg branches of Access Credit Union or CIBC. Non-perishable food items and new toys can be dropped off at participating local businesses.

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# Ma and Pa shop builds community in Fraserwood

By Autumn Fehr

An up-and-coming Ma and Pa restaurant/pub in Fraserwood welcomes customers with a smile and serves authentic meals that have become fan favourites.

Cindy and Reggie Campbell opened Fraserwood Country Pub on April 1, 2021, amid the pandemic, and it is the only restaurant in the community.

Their family-friendly atmosphere has made them popular not only in Fraserwood but with other communities passing by, like Winnipeg and Fisher Branch.

"To get the community together after COVID was what we were focusing on because there's nowhere to eat in Fraserwood, and it just kind of came together for us," said Cindy Campbell, one of the restaurant's owners.

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020, Cindy said she and her husband Reggie thought they had to do something. Reggie was retired then, but Cindy was too young to retire.

At a time when government regulations were constantly changing, restaurants had to always fluctuate in how they did things and adapt to the rules at play.

Fraserwood Country Pub was switching from being open, then closed, shifting to take-out only for a long time, so they could continue to generate some income.

"We just kept adding new things to the menu and creating a simple menu, but now we have quite a few things on the menu," said Cindy.

Fraserwood Country Pub offers breakfast, lunch and dinner, with various appetizers, burgers and daily soups and sandwiches.

Some fan favourites are Reggie's special (pizza) and the burgers.

It was scary when they first bought the place because nothing worked in the building. Slowly, they fixed what was broken during the pandemic and brought it up to date, said Cindy.

"Regulars started to come in, and then a few more. Then we put a new jukebox in, and then we tried to get a few bands in, now and then, but I think mainly it was our burgers. Everybody comes in for the burger; it seems to have been a hit right from the beginning," said Cindy.

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 toying with their business, it was repeat customers that kept them afloat, said Cindy.

When COVID slowly started to cool down, one of their biggest challenges as a new restaurant was trying to get a foot in the door within the community.

"We had to prove ourselves because we were new," said Cindy.

Something that sets the pub apart from other restaurants is its meat draws. It was a way they could give back to a community that gave to them when they needed it most.

Every Saturday of the month, they have five draws per hour, one at 3 p.m., one at 4 p.m. and one at 5 p.m., donating the proceeds to a worthy cause.

Last year, they donated to the Firemen of Fraserwood, and this year they contributed to the animal rescue in Fraserwood.

The donations from December will go towards putting together Christmas hampers for four community families to ensure they have food and toys

for Christmas.

"I want to pull this community together. COVID did a lot here. Fraserwood's not very big," said Cindy.

In December, they will have five draws every half hour for a total of 35 draws.

"We try to bend over to help people. That's what we were all about when we started this. Let's bring people in this community back together again," said Cindy.

Fraserwood Country Pub is also family-friendly, as they are a pub, not a bar, so families can have their kids there up until 9 p.m., playing pool or watching TV. If there is a band playing or karaoke, it makes for a fun evening for the kids too.

Formerly known as the Tourist Hotel for almost 100 years, the Campbells turned it into a pub so it would be family-friendly.

"We want everyone to get together in the neighbourhood," said Cindy.

Even though it's been hard work, Cindy said she feels like she has a purpose in the business that they've built.

"To see them smile. They come in and are happy when they leave," said Cindy.

"The only way we are making it is because of the community supporting us. I don't think we could make it without the community."

Next time you are in the area, stop by Fraserwood Country Pub shop for a tasty burger or Reggie's special and support the local Ma and Pa shop.



**EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED**  
Fraserwood Country Pub and family-friendly restaurant owners Cindy and Reggie Campbell are known for its burgers and Reggie's special (pizza).



Fraserwood Country Pub opened on April 1, 2021, in Fraserwood during the midst of the pandemic.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Dunstone and Ackland rinks win DEKALB Superspiel

By Ty Dilello

The Matt Dunstone rink based out of Winnipeg and featuring Gimli's B.J. Neufeld and Colton Lott were the champions of the 2022 DEKALB Superspiel in Morris this past weekend.

Team Dunstone earned \$10,000 in prize money after dismantling Reid Carruthers of Morris 7-2 in five ends in Monday afternoon's championship final. To get to the final, Dunstone defeated Ryan Wiebe of Fort Rouge, while Carruthers knocked off U.S.A.'s John Shuster.

Dunstone and Carruthers are now off to Oakville, Ontario, this week to take part in a Grand Slam of Curling event that will be broadcast on Sportsnet.

On the women's side, it was Abby Ackland and her Assiniboine Memorial rink of Meghan Walter, Mackenzie Elias and Sara Oliver (from Marquette) who were victorious at the Superspiel.

In the final, Ackland defeated Sas-

katchewan's Nancy Martin 7-3. To get to the final, Ackland knocked off Vancouver's Clancy Grandy, while Martin defeated Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones (featuring Altona's Emily and Mackenzie Zacharias).

There was also a Manitoba Junior Curling Tour event last weekend at the Selkirk Curling Club that featured many of the top junior curlers in the province.

On the girls' side, Winnipeg's Katy Lukowich defeated Manitou's Cheyenne Ehnes 11-1 in the championship final. Altona's Dayna Wahl went 2-1 in the round robin and qualified for the playoffs, where they fell to Ehnes in the quarterfinal.

In the boys' event, Virden's Jace Freeman took home the Selkirk MJCT after defeating Winnipeg's Luke Robins 8-2 in the final. Zach Norris of the Morris Curling Club went 3-0 in the round robin but fell to Robins in the semifinal.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Matt Dunstone rink including Colton Lott, Ryan Harnden, B.J. Neufeld and Matt Dunstone, was victorious at the 2022 DEKALB Superspiel in Morris, winning a cool \$10,000.

## U18 AAA Lightning teams playing well

Staff

The Interlake Lightning U18 AAA male hockey team was edged 2-1 in a shootout by the Pembina Valley Hawks in Morden last Friday.

The Hawks' Ty Love and the Lightning's Nic Leclair traded third-period goals. Leclair's goal tied the game at 14:45.

Last Wednesday, the Lightning shut out the Winnipeg Thrashers 3-0.

Morgan Mantik, Nicholas Carlson, and Brandon Burak (short-handed) scored third-period goals for the Interlake.

Alex Myers stopped 34 Winnipeg shots for the win.

Interlake, now 9-13-0-2, will host the Winnipeg Bruins on Wednesday (8 p.m.) in Teulon and then head north to Thompson to battle the Norman Northstars Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday (1:30 p.m.).

Meanwhile, the Interlake Light-

ning AAA female hockey team participated in a U18 AAA/Sports School Showcase, finishing with a 2-1 record.

Interlake started play Friday with a 9-0 loss to Balmoral.

On Saturday, the Lightning defeated Pilot Mound Academy 5-2 and Central Plains 4-0.

Against Pilot Mound Academy, Interlake's Georgia O'Neill scored twice while Brooke Barylski added a goal and two assists.

Camryn Falloon chipped in with a goal and an assist. The Lightning's other goal was tallied by Ireland Tymchak.

June Sugimoto earned the win in goal.

In the shutout over Central Plains, Kylee Emms-Finnsen, Tessa Stewart, Falloon and Veronica Asquith scored for the Lightning.

Rachel Halldorson posted the shutout.

## Commemorating 100 years



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The first printing of The Home of Champions, a pictorial history of the Sandy Hook Golf Club and course, written and designed by local author Ken Porteous, sold out shortly after its launch on Canada Day. Ken has decided to do a second printing in time for Christmas. These too will go fast. If you're interested in purchasing a copy, email Ken at kcporteous@me.com. This full-colour 8x11 hard cover book is 50 pages in length and includes over 100 photographs and 20,000-plus words.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Interlake Lightning's Ashton Baldwin scored a first-period goal against the Pembina Valley Hawks in U15 AAA male action last Thursday in Stonewall.

## Lightning, Thrashers' U17 AAA game postponed

### Staff

The Interlake Lightning U17 AAA hockey team's game against the Winnipeg Thrashers was postponed on Sunday.

Last Thursday, Interlake was defeated 7-5 by the Winnipeg Wild.

Troy Johannesson, Jayden Edwards, and Justin Braid scored for Interlake in the second period and then the Lightning's Austin Loewen and Cole Swanson tallied in the third.

On Nov. 27, the Lightning played to a 3-3 tie with the Westman Ice Bandits.

Johannesson, Evan Deprez and Dainen Jacobson scored for the Lightning.

Lightning netminder Braedan Cormack made 37 saves.

Interlake will host the Bruins Friday (7:30 p.m.) in Warren and then will visit the Wild Sunday (12:30 p.m.).

In U15 AAA action, the Lightning lost 12-3 to the Winnipeg Wild Red last Friday in Warren.

Interlake goals were scored by Tallon Sutherland (two) and Brody Slatcher.

The previous evening, Interlake was downed 5-1 by the Pembina Valley Hawks in Stonewall.

Ashton Baldwin scored a first-period goal for the Lightning.

Interlake will host the Thrashers White on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Stonewall.

Interlake will then hit the road to battle the Rangers Friday (7 p.m.) in Russell and then take on the Chiefs Saturday (4:30 p.m.) in Shoal Lake.

## Ice Dawgs shut out Falcons

### Staff

Ice Dawgs' goaltender Tre Strachan made 23 saves as Arborg shut out the Lundar Falcons 3-0 in Capital Region Junior Hockey League action Saturday evening.

Kaydyn McMahon and Noah Johnson scored second-period goals and then Jake Plett tallied in the third.

Tyson Barlyski had two assists in the game.

Last Friday, the Ice Dawgs were defeated 8-1 by the Warriors in St. Malo.

Austin Adair scored a first-period power-play goal for Arborg.

St. Malo goals came from Damon Johnson (three), Brady Gregoire

(two), Mikka Lambert, Cole Holdnick and Samuel Frechette.

On Nov. 29, Arborg lost 6-4 to the North Winnipeg Satellites.

Ashton Fisher, Barylski, Brody Maxwell and McMahon scored for the Ice Dawgs.

North Winnipeg goals were netted by Damian Aikman (two), Daniel Valente, Max Goulden, Darien Meyer and Daniel Gutknecht.

Arborg will play at Lundar on Friday. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Falcons will then battle the Warriors in St. Malo on Saturday (7:30 p.m.).



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Arborg goaltender Tre Strachan made 23 saves in the Ice Dawgs' 3-0 win Saturday evening.

## Gimli hosts boys' volleyball divisionals

### Submitted by Patricia Witzke

On Nov. 30, the boys' volleyball divisionals occurred in Gimli at Dr. George Johnson Middle School.

The schools which participated were Gimli, Winnipeg Beach, Ar-

borg and Riverton. The Winnipeg Beach team won the Grade 7 boys' tournament over the Arborg one.

The Grade 8 boys' team from Arborg defeated the Gimli Blue team.

Mrs. Rachele Burak said, "The

Arborg Grade 8 boys were a hard-working group who played well together as a team."

The Winnipeg Beach coach was very pleased with his Grade 7 team, too.

The coaches would like to congratulate all of the teams for playing and for displaying good sportsmanship throughout the divisionals.

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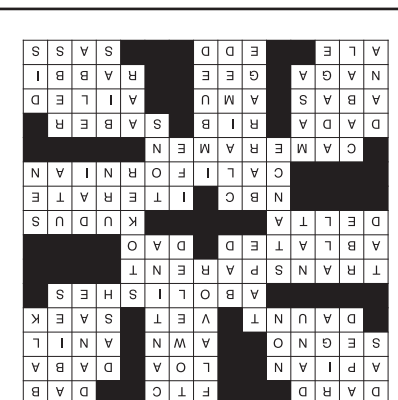
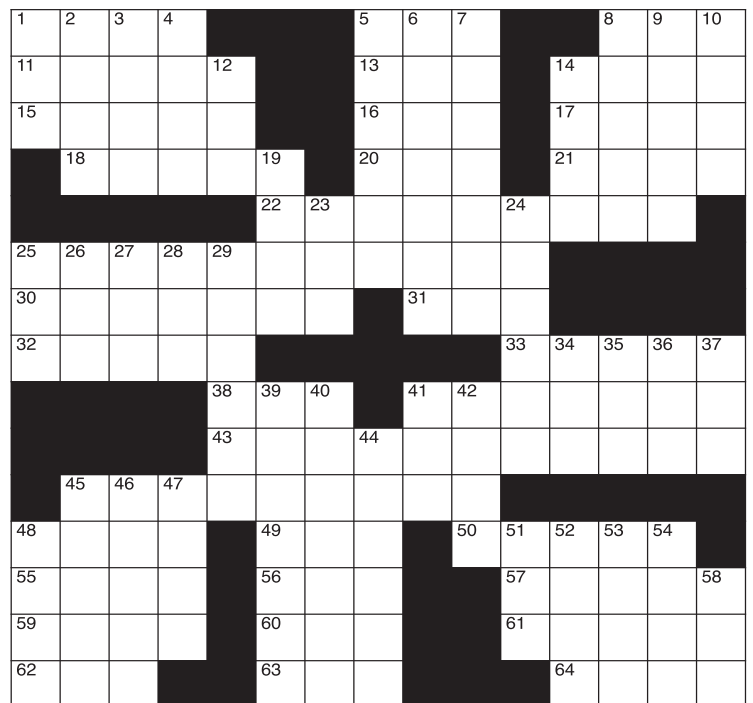
- A people of Eastern Afghanistan
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Touch lightly
- Relating to bees
- Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- Mosuo culture religion
- Italian village
- Stiff bristle
- Wealthy enclave in Rio
- Cause to lose courage

### 20. Examines animals

- Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- Gets rid of
- Having easily perceived thoughts
- Removed surgically
- Principle underlying the universe
- Popular airline
- Antelopes
- Peacock network
- Utter repeatedly
- One from the Golden State
- Photographers
- Father
- Popular BBQ dish
- Cavalry sword
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Atomic mass unit
- Afflicted in mind or body
- Indian mythological figure
- Mild expression of surprise
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Brew
- Doctor of Education
- Impudence

### CLUES DOWN

- State attorneys
- Imitated
- Latvian capital
- Irish goddess
- Taste
- Dried
- Spanish saloon
- Mother of Perseus
- Evergreen coniferous trees
- Refuse to comply
- Negative
- Hyphen
- A way to record
- Not good
- One who tends the furnace
- Small amount
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- The whole quantity
- \_\_\_ King Cole, musician
- One's opinion
- Holds ashes
- Stablecoin cryptocurrency
- Side-blotched lizards genus
- Legislator (abbr.)



Crossword Answer

- Concentrated bombardment
- Took for oneself
- Nigerian City
- Thousands of pounds
- Inspired
- Secret clique
- Expression
- Dough made from corn flour
- Comedian Carvey
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- Actor Idris
- Resistance fighters
- Criticize

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### AURORA RECOVERY CENTRE *Office Bookkeeper*

**Qualifications: Relevant Skills and Knowledge**

- Basic accounting knowledge
- Understanding accounting best practices
- Data entry skills
- High attention to detail
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel
- Produce work with a high level of accuracy
- Professionalism and organization skills
- Associates degree or at least one year of experience
- Knowledge of Quickbooks

**Job Duties and Responsibilities**

- Maintain an accurate record of financial transactions
- Update and maintain the general ledger
- Reconciliation of entries into the accounting system
- Recording of debits and credits
- Maintain the trial balance, by a reconciliation of general ledgers
- Account reconciliation to assert the accuracy of transactions

If this type of work interests you please send Resume to:  
Ashley Boychuk, Exec. Asst to CEO  
[ashley@aurorarecoverycentre.com](mailto:ashley@aurorarecoverycentre.com)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### AURORA RECOVERY CENTRE *Client Care Specialist (CCS)*

**Qualifications: Relevant Skills and Knowledge**

- Active participation in 12 step programming for addictions either as a person in recovery or affected person (also in recovery) and/ or employment experience dealing with the public.
- Awareness of the concepts of resistance, engagement, and resilience as these relate to people with addictions and co-occurring mental health disorders.
- Possess an empathic presence balanced by assertiveness and willingness to probe.
- Demonstrated experience with goal setting and problem solving.
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to work as a team member.
- Be committed to supporting the philosophy and intent of ARC.

**Job Duties and Responsibilities**

- Be available on an as needed basis to clients seeking assistance.
- Seek consult regarding problems related to client's addiction and co-occurring mental health disorders that may be unfamiliar.
- Screen/assess for self-harm/risk factors and ensure Counselors are made aware of risks.
- Facilitate individual work with client's in Transitional Care as per Counselor direction.
- Escort clients to off-limits areas of the facility and to community AA meetings as required.
- Monitor client activity, identify needs of clients, and ensure managers and co-workers are aware of the same.
- Provide conflict resolution and problem solving for clients.
- Provide support and advocacy for clients.
- Determine need for additional supports and ensure this information is provided to Counselors
- Complete a written summary of shift activities in accordance with ARC policies and procedures.
- Work collaboratively with all team members and in the best interest of the clients.
- Attend team meetings, clinical supervision, and staff training as directed.

If this type of work interests you please send Resume to:  
Ashley Boychuk  
Exec. Asst to CEO  
[ashley@aurorarecoverycentre.com](mailto:ashley@aurorarecoverycentre.com)

## RENTAL SUITES

Interlake Housing Co-op (Teulon) - Farview Place is seeking applicants for upcoming available suites and for the wait list in our 55+ building in Teulon. One and two bedroom suites currently available starting at \$680 per month. Close to amenities.

Please call 204 886-2760 or email [farview@mymts.net](mailto:farview@mymts.net) for more information.

## FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION

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## EBN will be closed for Warehouse Donations from November 28 until January 3

We will continue to accept food, monetary and new unwrapped toy donations for the Christmas Hamper Program.



### Rural Municipality of FISHER

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

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given, under Clause 8.4 of the Rural Municipality of Fisher Procedures By-Law No. 1133/10 that the Regular Committee Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 9:00 AM. has been **CANCELLED**.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on **December 12, 2022 at 9:00 AM**

**Dated** at Fisher Branch, Manitoba this 2nd day of December 2, 2022.

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA  
Chief Administration Officer  
Phone: (204) 372-6393 Ext 4  
Fax: (204) 372-8470  
Email: [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)



## EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION

Invites applications for the following positions, effective ASAP:

- 22.OP.15 **Licensed Mechanic Regular** (8.0hr/day), Gimli Bus Garage, 234 Anson St.
- 22.OP.16 **Bus Driver Temporary** – Arborg area (approx. 4hr/day)
- 22.OP.17 **Bus Driver Indefinite Term** – Gimli area (approx. 4hr/day)

See website for details and application procedures:  
[http://www.esd.ca/Employment under Support Staff](http://www.esd.ca/Employment%20under%20Support%20Staff).

**CLOSING DATE: December 12, 2022 (3:30 pm)**

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks. Evergreen School Division may contact former employers.



## ATTENTION FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Plan to attend the following bred cow sale At the Ashern Auction Mart

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

**Complete dispersal for Archie Thompson**  
330 head on offer –  
220 Charolais, 110 Red  
30 Red 2nd Calvers bred Black Angus  
30 Red Cows bred Black Angus  
30 Charolais 2nd Calvers bred Red Angus or Charolais  
Remainder: Charolais 4-10 yrs old bred Red Angus or Charolais  
Full Herd Health Program  
Closed Herd  
Start calving mid March 2023  
**Bred Cow Sale starts at 1 PM**  
Please contact for more information  
Ashern Auction Mart 204-768-2360  
Buddy Bergner 204-768-0018  
Kirk Kiesman 204-768-0019  
**View pictures on our website**  
[www.ashernauctionmart.com](http://www.ashernauctionmart.com)  
License #1128

## Reporter/Photographer Wanted

Are you a natural born storyteller with an eye for photography and a passion for community news? Carman-Dufferin Standard is currently seeking a full-time reporter and photographer to join its multi award-winning weekly community newspaper.

We are looking for someone who is both motivated and passionate about being the best outlet of interesting and breaking news stories and event coverage in the Carman-Dufferin area and surrounding area communities.

**Qualifications:**

- A post-secondary degree/diploma in journalism or equivalent experience in a related field
- Strong photography and writing skills with an interest in social media
- Self-starter with the ability to exercise solid news judgement
- Ability to establish professional relationships to consistently source and write a wide range of stories and cover events in a fair, balanced and accurate manner
- Able to work both independently and as a team on a flexible work schedule including both evenings and weekends to meet our weekly editorial deadline
- Experience covering council and school board meetings
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an asset

**Please forward your resumé along with three writing and photography samples to:**

Lana Meier  
Email: [news@stonewallteulontribune.ca](mailto:news@stonewallteulontribune.ca)



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info@eddiesgravel.com  
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Info@eddiesgravel.com  
102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

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204-467-5836



### To Give Away - a great Christmas gift



We are looking for a fur-ever home for our three kittens born August 1. (Can be separated). If you have the PERFECT home and would like an addition to your family, our three musketeers (one male and two females) are cute, cuddly and fun loving. Good with dogs and children. Call or text 204-292-2128.

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### Permanent Full-Time Employment Opportunity!

Freedom West Insurance Solutions is seeking a committed, motivated, adaptable individual to join our team as a **General Insurance Broker**.

**Where: Fisher Branch, Manitoba**

**Potential Start Date: February 1, 2023**

**Responsibilities Include but are not limited to:**

- Under the direction of management, to service an existing book of business including Personal Lines, Farm, and Commercial Insurance, among others.
- Procuring new business across all lines.
- Travelling between locations for work when required, including site visits to clients' premises.
- Completing Autopac transactions when required.

**Skills & Requirements:**

- A valid class 5 Driver's Licence and access to a vehicle.
- An aptitude for learning.
- A punctual, professional demeanor and a high level of personal integrity.
- A valid level 1 Insurance Broker's licence is preferred, but not required. A commitment to obtaining a level 2 Insurance Broker's licence in a timely fashion will be required.
- Experience working within a customer service-based industry, office, or sales environment is preferred.
- Fluent with Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel) and other Windows based programs, as well as experience troubleshooting computer/networking issues.
- A criminal record check will be required.

Freedom West Insurance Solutions would like a new member who enjoys small town life and is eager to serve their local community by joining our family run and team-based brokerage. We offer competitive wages and mileage reimbursement for site visits, with paid holidays and sick days included as well. We are willing to work with new hires to help you obtain pertinent licensing and begin your career in the insurance industry! For more information on our brokerage, please visit our website at [www.freedomwestinsurance.com](http://www.freedomwestinsurance.com). If you believe yourself a good fit for this position, please submit your resume to [dsmith@freedomwestinsurance.com](mailto:dsmith@freedomwestinsurance.com).

Dwayne Smith - Owner/Manager

Deadline for applications: December 31, 2022.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those under consideration will be contacted.

## Shoreline Protection for Lake Winnipeg

Call the professionals that have been serving the Interlake and Manitoba for over 76 years.

**Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd.**  
**204-389-2023**



## Utility Locator -Telecom

You are a Utility Locator who takes pride in accurately locating underground facilities. You have experience working independently and enjoy working outdoors. Please note that this is a fixed term job role.

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### Essential Responsibilities:

- Interprets job order tickets
- Reads blueprints and maps
- Plans travel routes between urban and rural areas
- Operates testing equipment to pinpoint the location of underground utilities
- Monitors equipment (excavators etc.) to ensure facilities are not damaged
- Creates drawings using Visio
- Other duties as assigned

### Qualifications:

- Experience locating underground facilities or working with outside plant fiber optics is an asset
- Self-Motivated, ability to prioritize and organize workloads with little direction
- Experience with telecommunications and wiring is an asset
- A positive, "can-do" attitude and customer focused approach that will enable you to deal with challenging situations with integrity, empathy, and sincerity
- Strong desire to learn new technologies
- Team player with both excellent communication skills both written and verbal
- Adhere to Ledcor's strict safety practices in a "Think Safety, Work Safely" environment
- Must be a computer savvy, able to manage multiple computer applications
- Maintain a valid provincial driver's license (Class 5) and must provide a driver's abstract
- Ensure vehicle, test equipment and tools are maintained in excellent condition
- Must be fully vaccinated and provide valid COVID-19 vaccination record (unless you have a legitimate recognized medical or religious reason for not getting vaccinated)

### Work Conditions:

- Van and major tools supplied
- Occasional on-call, including some overtime and weekend and/or holiday work may be required
- Work environments include diverse types of terrain (grass, gravel, ditches, etc.) in and around construction zones and residential, commercial, industrial and rural areas
- Able to meet the physical requirements of the position which involves sitting, standing, bending, in all types of weather conditions

**Contact: John Colville, Senior Recruiter-Ledcor**  
**john.colville@ledcor.com**



## VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR - Municipal Clerk Position

The Village of Dunnottar invites written application for the position of Municipal Clerk. The municipal office is located in the southeast Interlake, on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Under the direction of the CAO, the Municipal Clerk is responsible for secretarial support for the Municipal Office.

The successful candidate will possess the following:

- Computer experience with Microsoft Office, the Internet and website maintenance. Experience working with All Net Municipal Solutions considered an asset.
- General Accounting knowledge
- The ability to communicate effectively with the public, employees and external stakeholders.
- Graduate of or enrollment in the Manitoba Certificate program for Municipal Administration.
- Salary range is dependent upon qualifications and experience. An attractive benefit package is also provided.

Applications should be marked "Application for Municipal Clerk" on the outside and should contain a full resume with three references. Applications to be forwarded to the undersigned no later than 4:00 p.m. on December 9, 2022.

Sarah Palson - Administrator  
Village of Dunnottar  
P.O. Box 321  
Matlock, Manitoba  
R0C 2B0

Phone: 389-4962 Fax: 389-4966 E-mail: [info@dunnottar.ca](mailto:info@dunnottar.ca)

We thank all applicants in advance, however, only those considered for interviews will be contacted.

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

# Classifieds Announcements



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## CARD OF THANKS

Where do we start? To our dear friends and family, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your many expressions of sympathy and support through cards, flowers, gifts, gift cards, food, baking, and fruit basket. We also appreciated the many phone calls, visits, messages, remembrances and memorial donations. A difficult time was eased by the gifts of kindness, guidance and compassion from Eirik and Mona of MacKenzie's Funeral Home. The many acts of love and support shown by all will never be forgotten.

-Love from the family of George Hibbert

**Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the**

Call 204-467-5836 or [classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca)

## IN MEMORIAM



**Tom Stocki**  
November 14, 1943 - December 6, 2021  
husband, father, grandfather

We remember you with love today,  
And are thankful for the time we shared.  
We know you are watching from above,  
And sending us your light and love!  
"Always in our Hearts"

-Loved and missed by your wife,  
sons, daughters-in-law, your grandchildren  
and your friends

## OBITUARY



**Elizabeth Marion Nuttall**

It is with great sadness that the family of Elizabeth Marion Nuttall announces her passing on Friday, November 25th, 2022 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre in Selkirk, MB.

Elizabeth was born on February 17th, 1937 in Fort Frances, Ontario to Leonard Francis and Sarah Eileen Williams. As a young woman, she moved to Minneapolis with her first spouse Gary, where she enjoyed working as an Executive Assistant with an architecture firm. Her next stop was Winnipeg, where she lovingly raised her four children, Greg, Mark, Dale and Laurie. She also obtained a Fine Arts Degree from the University of Manitoba and enjoyed painting and pottery, artistic skills she occasionally put to professional use doing freelance design. Discovering her entrepreneurial spirit, she moved to Winnipeg Beach, becoming the sole owner and proprietor of the Lone Oak Motel, which she successfully operated for many years, making lifelong friends in the process. After supposedly "retiring", Liz was not someone to sit still long, and continued to work into her 80s! She most recently enjoyed working as a personal support worker, providing special care to her clients, many of whom faced great challenges.

Elizabeth loved the water and swimming, as well as cross country skiing, playing the organ, baking, gardening, crossword puzzles, games, reading, poetry, and spending time with family. She was so proud of all her grandchildren. Her homemade cookies and jams were eagerly awaited. A lifelong learner, she remained open to new experiences, to trying a new activity or sport, and was keenly engaged with current events and political and financial news her whole life.

Elizabeth was united in marriage to her beloved spouse, and fellow entrepreneur, Brian Matthew Armstrong on February 11th, 2005. They enjoyed living in the country at the Sundown Ranch with their horses, going on trail rides, playing games with friends, sampling each other's delicious cooking, gathering with family, and dancing, including square dances and their favourite, the "Midnight Waltz". They liked to travel to Arizona in the winter, but mainly spent their time in the beautiful Interlake area. Most recently they had returned to Winnipeg Beach where they enjoyed relaxing in their cozy home together in front of the fire.

Elizabeth will be greatly missed by her beloved husband Brian; her children Greg (Heather), Mark, Laurie (Donald); her brother Richard Williams (Peggy); sisters-in-law Antonia Williams and Lenore Williams; daughter-in-law Sylvia; four stepdaughters, their spouses and family. Grandchildren Ace, Max, Blake, Jack, Aria and numerous step grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son Dale, her parents Leonard Francis and Sarah Eileen Williams, stepdaughter Jean Armstrong, and brothers Herbert and John Williams.

Interment will take place at a later date at Fort Frances Cemetery in Fort Frances, ON.

If friends so desire in memoriam donations may be made to the Cancer Society and MS Society or a charity of your choice.

Friends and family are invited to visit Elizabeth's memorial page @interlakecremation.ca, where memories and condolences may be shared.

Arrangements entrusted to



## OBITUARY



**Kristine Gislason (Kristinnson)**

November 27, 1921 - November 30, 2022

Peacefully on November 30, 2022 at the Arborg Personal Care Home, Kristine (Stina) passed away at the age of 101 years.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Alfred (Joy), Elma (Ron), Birdeen (Lawrence), Miles (Donna); grandchildren Nadine (Wes), Bryan (Lisa), Janice (Richard), David (Karen), Ian (Cindy), Lyle (Lisa), Shawn (Jenna), Lauren (Steve), Brent (Kerri) and Alyssa; also 17 great-grandchildren. Also survived by her sister Beatrice and sister-in-law Vera.

Predeceased by her husband Njall, parents, brothers, sister, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and son-in-law Steve.

Stina was born and raised in Geysir, MB. On April 3, 1948, she married Njall and they raised their four children in the family home in Framnes. Family was very important to her. She loved to bake vinartertas, ponnukokur, cookies and cakes and have her family come for coffee get together. She knit and crocheted many items for her family. Mittens galore were given at Christmas with a gift of money tucked inside. She kept her mind active with these activities and loved her search word puzzles as well as watching her soap and Coronation Street.

The family would like to thank the Arborg Personal Care Home staff for the wonderful care and respect she was given. We would also like to thank Arborg Assisted Living for the wonderful care she received there.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Arborg Personal Care Home or Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME ARBORG  
(204) 467-0024 • [info@mackenziefh.com](mailto:info@mackenziefh.com)



## OBITUARY



**Donald Edward Anniuk**  
1956 - 2022

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Don on October 15th, 2022, at his home in Matlock, Manitoba.

Don was predeceased by his parents Natalie and Edward Anniuk and his beloved sister, Beverly Stevens.

He will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Kari; grandchildren Ella and Eden; and nieces Tracy and Alicia.

Don was born in Gimli, Manitoba and grew up in Matlock where he felt most at home.

Don lived a simple life on his scenic property in Matlock, which was a subsection of the farmland cared for by his parents for many years. He collected all sorts of items big and small. Don enjoyed time with his friends and family and will be remembered by his daughter for his joyous laugh, strumming of Willy Nelson tunes on his guitar and rides around town in the back of his pickup truck.

A private family interment will take place at St. Williams Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Gimli Humane Society in Don's memory.

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Thank You for Your Patronage!  
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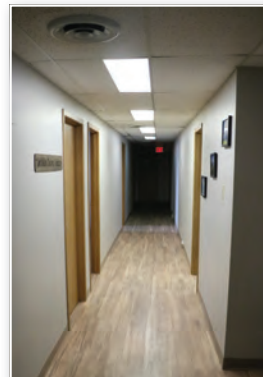
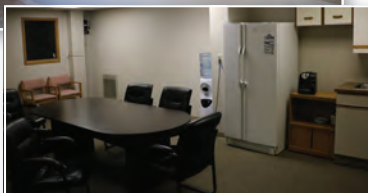
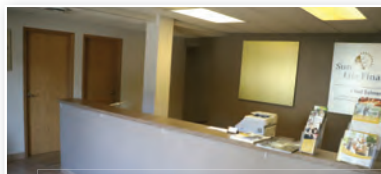


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