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WEEKLY NEWS

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Christmas Eve is coming soon

EXPRESS PHOTO BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

Despite the rain, wind and snow through the night last Saturday, Santa made it to the Interlake on icy roads to attend the Fisher Branch Care-A-Lot Breakfast with Santa to visit Andrew and Clara Gulay.

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Fisher Branch celebrates the magic of the holiday season

By Lana Meier

Last Saturday, the tightly knit community of Fisher Branch gathered for the 23rd annual Breakfast with Santa, and what a fantastic day it was. The event brought the community together for a jolly good time filled with laughter and holiday cheer.

From glitter tattoos to heartwarming moments with Old St. Nick himself, it was a day filled with joy, laughter and cherished memories. There was no shortage of fun activities for everyone to enjoy. Some children built Lego and made crafts, while others decorated cookies. All ages even had the opportunity to try their luck at the door prizes and raffles.

Volunteers worked tirelessly to serve 150 delicious pancakes and sausage breakfasts at the Ukrainian National Hall.

Fisher Branch Care-A-Lot employee Tami Karsin was very happy with the feedback and the turnout.

"Many people mentioned what a perfect venue it was for this event — a full kitchen, lots of seating, space for the kids to play and join the activities."

Karsin is grateful for how the community came together for this special day and expressed her thanks to the community volunteers, parents, local



business and especially their staff.

Professional photographer Sara Uruski captured memorable Santa photos for families to treasure for years.

Karsin looks forward to continuing the tradition and hopes to see everyone next year.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

Santa Claus stopped by the Ukrainian National Hall last Saturday to visit with all the girls and boys that attended the Fisher Branch Care-A-Lot Breakfast with Santa.



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2nd Annual Gimli Ice Fishing Derby offering \$60,000 in cash and prizes

By Patricia Barrett

With \$60,000 in guaranteed cash and prizes, the lure of the 2nd Annual Gimli Ice Fishing Derby in a few months' time may prove to be irresistible to anglers from across the Interlake and beyond.

The winning catch will be rewarded with \$15,000 cash and there will be plenty of ice action, food and fun for the whole family on Lake Winnipeg.

After a successful inaugural derby held this past March during the Gimli Ice Festival, the two charities behind the angling fundraiser — Marymount and Fish Futures — are gearing up for a “bigger and better” derby in 2024.

Marymount's director of operations and fund development Mardy Yager said last year's derby was a lot of fun, with 1,100 anglers hitting the ice and net proceeds of \$36,000 that was split between the two charities to help support their respective missions.

“It was a fabulous day. The weather was great and the atmosphere was palpable. It was a great family event. There were prizes for kids given out randomly,” said Yager. “The community of Gimli loved it and there were lots of spinoff benefits, including the promotion of Gimli as a four-season

destination. There were lots of hotel rooms rented, people packed into restaurants and bought groceries. It was a great event for the community.”

Yager said they're hoping to see around 1,500 participants register for this year's derby, which will take place on the ice near Gimli's South Beach neighbourhood during the Gimli Ice Festival weekend.

“We'd like to thank Gimli Ice Festival chairs Peter and Susan Holfeuer, who've been supportive and easy to work with on our derby. They're real Gimli boosters and it has been a pleasure to work with them,” said Yager.

Half the proceeds from the derby will go towards supporting Marymount, a social services organization that helps children and families across Manitoba. Marymount operates a school in Winnipeg for children struggling in the public system due to challenges such as family breakdowns, mental health or sexual abuse. The organization also has an off-campus school called Pathways, which helps older adolescents and young adults obtain their Grade 12 diploma.

“The money that Marymount raises goes directly to programs for the kids we work with here. We might need



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT

The first-place winner of the inaugural derby in March 2023 is shown with his cheque for \$15,000.

something extra for the kids whether that's a piece of sporting equipment, registration to an extracurricular activity, supplies for our cultural program or hamper supplies for our community hamper up in Thompson,” said Yager. “Wherever we see

shortfalls in funding, our fundraising dollars fill in those gaps.”

Fish Futures is the recipient of the other half of the derby's proceeds. The organization is dedicated to the

Continued on page 5



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German linguistic researchers studying Icelandic community to detect language influences

By Patricia Barrett

Linguistic researchers from two universities in Germany have been studying the way people of Icelandic descent in the Gimli, Riverton and Arborg areas speak to determine the extent to which English and Icelandic influence each other.

Co-principal investigators Christiane Ulbrich from the University of Cologne and Nicole Dehe from the University of Konstanz, along with their PhD student Meike Rommel from the University of Konstanz, spent a few weeks in the area where they had 29 participants from Gimli, Riverton and Arborg take part in a number of sessions that took about six hours to complete.

Research on heritage languages, defined as the language of one's ancestry or as a minority language learned by children at home, provides insight into how languages can influence each other and whether a heritage language can eventually become moribund (endangered).

Dehe said she and her colleagues were delighted to get so many participants, and that they were willing to "spend so much time with us." They're interested in the Icelandic spoken in this region of Manitoba and will be comparing it to modern

Icelandic currently spoken in Iceland. They chose to study Icelandic speakers here — as opposed to places such as North Dakota or Minnesota — because of the history of New Iceland in Manitoba.

"Right now we're interested in one particular group of speakers, those who we call the moribund speakers, those who grew up with Icelandic until school age and either continued [speaking it] or didn't but then had English become dominant," said Dehe. "We are interested in the comparison between the varieties, the influence that English has on the Icelandic spoken here and the other way around, the influence of Icelandic on English in the speech of the speakers who have both languages. And in the long run, there will be implications for the way certain speech phenomena are stored in the brain and learned or acquired by children."

The study will also look at "learner Icelandic," or language that was not acquired when the speakers were children but was learned as a second language later in life, say in university.

Dehe said they are focusing on two particular linguistic phenomena: word stress and pre-aspiration (a phonetic feature that uses the expul-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JULIANNA ROBERTS

From left: linguistic researchers Christiane Ulbrich from the University of Cologne and Nicole Dehe and Meike Rommel from the University of Konstanz in Germany. The researchers are trying to determine the degree to which English and Icelandic influence each other. Twenty-nine participants from the Gimli, Riverton and Arborg areas took part in the study.

sion of air) to see whether heritage Icelandic speakers who've grown up in a dominant English-speaking environment maintain characteristic elements of their ancestral language.

In word stress, English and Icelandic speakers typically put a different emphasis on the same word. For example, the stress on the word "professor" when spoken by Icelandic speakers falls on the first syllable in which the "pro" is emphasized. The word "America" spoken by Icelandic speakers would typically have the stress also fall on the first syllable in

which the "ahh" is emphasized.

"We are interested in the way one language influences the other," said Dehe. "We want to know whether Icelandic speakers [keep] their stress on words that are stressed differently in English. Maybe the Icelandic speakers here don't say 'Ahh-merica' anymore, but they say 'America' when they're speaking Icelandic. It can happen the other way around, too."

The other phenomenon they're interested in is pre-aspiration in which

Continued on page 8

Difficulties Getting Those Fingers Going?

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Westshore Foundation provides \$5,000 grant to Gimli Lawn Bowling

Submitted by Jerry Jonasson

The Westshore Community Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant to the Gimli & District Lawn Bowling Club this year, which will enable the club to upgrade its facility near the Gimli sports field in the north end of town.

The club was able to purchase a new sprinkler system and a reconditioned mower for its bowling greens.

“Without help from Westshore’s Community Grants, the club would have been hard-pressed to fund the new watering system and mower,” said club president Jerry Jonasson.

Vital to the health of the playing surface is a dedicated watering regime throughout the summer. The major purchase this summer was the new sprinkler system. This replaced the infrastructure that has served the club for over 25 years and was sorely in need of renewal. Additionally, the club was able to purchase a reconditioned specialty greens mower.

Careful maintenance of the green is vital to the game. The lawn has to be very carefully managed in order to provide the best possible playing surface for the bowls games. This means that a dedicated group of club members give their time and efforts



Westshore Community Foundation director Tim Arnason (right) presents a \$5,000 cheque to Gimli & District Lawn Bowling Club president Jerry Jonasson.

each week to keeping the playing surface and surroundings groomed and mowed.

The installation of the new irrigation system was done in-house by the club’s members. With that saving, they were able to purchase the mower, as well as a new storm door for the clubhouse.

The lawn bowling club had a good 2023 season. All the work for putting the green into dormancy for the winter has been done, and the club is looking forward to the 2024 season.

For more information about West-



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY JONASSON

Members of the lawn bowling club's maintenance crew installed a new irrigation system for the bowling greens.

shore and a full list of its 2023 grant recipients, visit the foundation online at westshorefoundation.ca The Gimli

& District Lawn Bowling Club is on Facebook.

> \$60,000, FROM PG. 3

conservation and enhancement of freshwater fisheries through activities such as research sponsorship, including support for the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and the Namao research vessel, habitat preservation and public education that promotes catch and release.

Deanne Evans, Marymound’s training and marketing manager, said Gimli businesses are on board with the derby because they saw the success of the first derby and “now want in.” And the two organizations are hoping to round up volunteers to drill holes in the ice and help with on-ice parking for about 700 cars.

“Businesses in Gimli want to be part of the derby because they loved the buzz in the community. We’ve had some businesses reach out to us to ask how they can get involved,” said Evans. “Because it’s growing, we’re going to need volunteers. We didn’t know how big it was going to be for the first derby. If there are groups in the community that’d be willing to volunteer their time and help out either on the Friday before [to prep for the derby] or day of the derby on Saturday, we love to hear from them.”

Yager said their lead sponsor for the upcoming derby is Home Hardware in Gimli and Winnipeg Beach, as well as

Stringer Rentals & Power Products in Gimli.

Danny’s Barbecue & Smokehouse will have a food truck on the ice, Marymound will be bringing its hotdog cart and Gimli’s Flatland Coffee Roasters will be brewing up lattes and hot chocolate.

The 2nd Annual Gimli Ice Fishing Derby (catch and release) will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Holes open at 9 a.m. with the derby running from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. First prize is \$15,000 cash, second prize is \$3,000 and third prize is \$2,000, plus the remaining \$40,000 in cash and prizes. People looking for a Christmas stocking stuffer for the angler in their family can purchase a ticket now.

Visit <https://buytickets.at/gimliicefishingderby> for derby rules and to buy tickets online. Tickets can also be purchased at Home Hardware in Gimli and Winnipeg Beach, the Gimli RONA store, Kast King in Gimli and at Harvest-er Outdoors in Selkirk.

Follow the Gimli Ice Fishing Derby on social media.

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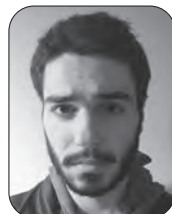
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HINDSIGHT ... the boy, his brother and Four Strong Winds

By Av Olson

The boy was lucky enough to be born and raised on the family farm in Manitoba's Interlake. His mom was a total farm wife in that she milked cows, drove tractors, pitched hay and still did the cooking and cleaning.

One of her challenges was trying to maintain civility inside the house, and keep as much of the farm as possible outside the house. Her aspirations went beyond cleanliness: the yard fence was kept painted, the lawn was kept mowed and they even had a few lawn ornaments. It was not easy for her, but she was determined, and the place looked nice because of it.

Her next, and greatest, challenge was getting some kind of art or culture beaten into the kids.

The boy's brother was five years older than him. He had an uncanny ability to learn how to do something by reading a book about it and then trying it. He wanted to learn guitar, so bought the book, bought a guitar and learned. The boy's path to future stardom was not so easy.

The boy's musical skills had advanced to the point where he could jump up and down like a monkey and beat a rock with a stick with some kind of regularity. Undaunted, he asked for lessons and a guitar. His mother felt this might make him less of a savage, so looked him in the eye, mentioned violent death if he quit the lessons, and said "OK."

The lessons were group lessons, held in the local community centre. There were a dozen or so kids of varying ages, all in the same room, learning either guitar or accordion. The instructor was from the city — he drove out to towns on the weekends to give lessons. I assume his weekdays were spent contemplating suicide.

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Voice.

Group lessons tend to be aimed at the lowest common denominator, and that was what they were. If they had formed a band, Lowest Common Denominator would have made a fitting name.

This was made better (or worse) by the boy's pal, Red. Red could play the accordion. I mean, really play. While the rest of them were laboriously trying to hit all six strings on a C chord, Red would sit in the corner and make music. The good news was that he had no ego and when he played down to their level, he made them sound good. The bad news was they all knew they were banging a stick on a rock, compared to Red. At least he gave the teacher a reason to live.

The culmination of their musical training curriculum was the recital. The hall in town was booked and tickets sold. Attendees were pretty much all direct relatives of students, plus a smattering of grandparents, some relatives with nothing to do and maybe a couple of people who just wanted to get out of the rain.

Everybody got a solo, whether they wanted it or not. The boy chose some odd piece with a classical name; it had "étude" in it somewhere. It looked hard, but he chose it because nobody else had ever heard it and wouldn't be able to tell if he screwed it up. He plowed through it the way a D9 Cat plows through a poplar bluff, but he got through it.

The last two songs on the program were for the whole group. This was wise because the group's playing masked any individual errors, and as a group they sounded good to the eager, untrained ears of their loved ones. The teacher was wise enough to put their only microphone in front of Red as extra added insurance. Red



Av Olson and his siblings.

could play the two songs backwards with his feet in his sleep, so they all sounded good, and everybody went home happy.

Then it was over — thank God.

Except it wasn't.

The boy's big brother had turned down the lessons; he was teaching himself rock and roll. Their mom had said that she would love to hear her two boys play something together. They had practised in secret and sat her down and played "Four Strong Winds" by Ian Tyson. It is a sweet tune that lends itself well to two guitars being soulfully strummed. Their singing voices were the kind that only a mother could love, but she was their mother, and she did love them.

The tear in her eye made it all worthwhile.

HINDSIGHT is a new monthly feature written by a long-time Interlake resident who writes under the pen-name Av Olson. While each story is based on real events, minor creative liberties have been taken and names have been changed.

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Brothers celebrate Ukrainian Christmas traditions through dance

By Kaitlin Vitt

Two brothers from St. Andrews will take the stage with their dance ensemble in December to showcase Ukrainian Christmas traditions.

Nick and Lukas Skromeda, who dance with Anola's Selo Ukrainian Dancers, will perform in the production *Keeping the Spirit: A Ukrainian Christmas Celebration*, a collaboration between Selo and the O. Koshetz Ukrainian Choir of Winnipeg on Dec. 16.

The show follows the story of a Ukrainian family who moves to Canada just as the holiday season arrives. Through song and dance, *Keeping the Spirit* will share about the Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian Christmas traditions the family takes part in during their first Christmas in Canada.

"It's a great outlet for people during the Christmas season to see all aspects of Ukrainian heritage come together, not just traditions but also the dance, the music, all of it," said Lukas, 25. "It's going to be a really, really great show for people to come see."

To prepare for the show, the dancers have been practising four to six hours a week, both on their own and having some joint rehearsals with the choir.

"A big part of it is not just making sure we know our dances but understanding the meaning behind those dances," said Lukas. "It's knowing how to portray those traditions through dance and being able to ensure that the audience, whether they're Ukrainian or not, is able to understand what's happening on stage and how important it is to us."

Nick, who is a teacher, and Lukas, an accountant, danced with Selo growing up and continued dancing as adults with various ensembles. They haven't Ukrainian danced for about five years, but when one of Selo's instructors asked them if they'd dance with the ensemble for the show, they both agreed right away.

"It's a natural way to express your culture, but then you realize it's kind

of a responsibility ... to keep Ukrainian culture alive," Nick said. "It's us Ukrainian people, with our strong spirits and our love of Ukrainian culture — it's up to the people to make sure that Ukrainian culture lives on."

The brothers with their family celebrate many of the traditions that will appear in *Keeping the Spirit*, such as serving the 12 meatless dishes on Christmas Eve, inviting carollers to sing between courses and setting an extra place setting at the table to honour the family's ancestors.

"We are so thankful to [our ancestors] for helping us preserve the heritage and bringing along these traditions to Canada from Ukraine," Lukas said.

Nick said some of his favourite memories were made while celebrating Ukrainian Christmas at his great-grandfather's house.

"We affectionately called him Old Gigi — we had Younger Gigi (grandfather) and Older Gigi," said Nick, 29. "His parents came from Ukraine. He grew up on the farm. He didn't have much, but his whole life, he established this amazing farm right off Old McPhillips, kind of between Lockport and Selkirk."

At Christmas, all the grandkids would gather in the basement, singing carols and playing cards, and Old Gigi would sit at the end of the table at the bar, looking over them all.

"It's very emotional to think about now because he's gone but that's what he worked for," Nick said. "Those memories will always be some of the most special memories that I'm ever going to have."

Celebrating Ukrainian traditions, including through dance, has always been a family affair for Nick and Lukas.

"Ukrainian dance and family are quite synonymous," Lukas said. "It's just how it's always been."

In addition to dancing alongside each other, Nick and Lukas dance with one of their cousins, plus an-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NICK SKROMEDA.

Lukas (left) and Nick Skromeda will perform in *Keeping the Spirit: A Ukrainian Christmas Celebration* on Dec. 16.

other cousin, Hannah Picklyk. Her parents, Bonnie and Rod Picklyk, are Selo's instructors.

"You're Ukrainian dancing to promote your Ukrainian culture, which comes from your family, your actual blood family, and I would consider all of my best friends from Ukrainian dance family as well," Nick said. "I don't know if I could Ukrainian dance without it feeling like family, to be honest."

Nick and Lukas said *Keeping the Spirit* will not only entertain and educate the audience but also highlight the strength of Ukraine and Ukrainians, something they said has felt especially important because of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Through dance, as beautiful of a thing as it is, I think it's also a great

way to showcase strength," Lukas said. "It might not be directly helping the frontlines, but it's a way to show everyone that Ukraine is willing to continue to be strong and have a united front."

"Ukrainian culture isn't a piece of land — it's people," Nick added. "In dancing and doing what we're doing ... that is how Ukrainian culture stays alive, people continuing the traditions."

Keeping the Spirit takes place Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre in Winnipeg. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. To stay up to date with Selo as the ensemble prepares for the show, people can follow along on Instagram (@seloukrdancers) and Facebook (@selodancers).

Don't be mad but I bought you Prairies and Parklands

Submitted

As the holiday season approaches, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is offering a meaningful solution to gift-giving woes with the gift of nature. By symbolically adopting a species or landscape, the 28th annual green gifts program is an opportunity to give back to nature across Canada, while bypassing the stress of holiday shopping.

For over 60 years, NCC has leveraged its expertise to protect and conserve the plants, animals and over 15 million hectares of natural land-

scapes that need it most.

Through the symbolic adoption of a species or landscape, people are supporting NCC to conserve critical habitats and ensure a future for species at risk. Funds will also build healthier, more resilient ecosystems that provide important services to people and communities, like water filtration, flood mitigation and carbon storage, while countering the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Continued on page 10



Fantastic fishing for Walleye at Narrows Sunset Lodge



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> LINGUISTIC, FROM PG. 4

there is an expulsion of air when pronouncing certain words. For example, Icelandic speakers may pronounce the word pot (kitchen utensil) as “pot-ahh.”

The way one language influences another will tell the researchers about how languages are acquired and how they are stored in the brain, said Dehe.

NIHM executive director Julianna Roberts said the researchers contacted the museum for assistance in finding volunteers to interview. Gimli resident Elva Simundsson also helped get things set up for the organizers. She and Roberts created a list of Icelandic speakers and Simundsson phoned them to organize the first round of interviewees.

The museum also provided the researchers with space to conduct their interviews

“This is the fifth time that linguists from around the world have come to study the Icelandic that is spoken

here as it is a heritage language and is unchanged since the Icelanders came over in 1875,” said Roberts. “These researchers plan to come back in March as they were so pleased to have found such a great amount of speakers to study.”

Gimli resident Shirley MacFarlane, who grew up in Riverton, was a participant in the study and said she found it very interesting to learn (afterwards) about the purpose of the study and the influence of English on Icelandic, which was her first language at home.

“We lived on the homestead with my grandfather who had come here [from Iceland] in 1886. He knew some English before he moved here, but I don’t remember him speaking English,” said MacFarlane. “My father and aunt also spoke Icelandic and we were expected to answer them in Icelandic. I didn’t know much English before I started school in Riverton.”

One of the exercises entailed naming objects such as coat hangers and clothes pins.

“They had me looking through a picture book with two pictures on a page and I had to tell them in Icelandic what the objects were,” she said. “In another session we had to do the same thing but answer in English. And they were recording our voices in all the answers to the pictures and studying our voices.”

MacFarlane said after the exercises wrapped up, the researchers explained what they were studying and pointed out some differences such as rising inflections [or upspeak] on some words.

“[The researchers] said they’re finding that English is sort of creeping into the Icelandic language, which really makes sense in the case of my grandparents and a lot of other people who immigrated here,” she said.

There are slight accent differences among Icelandic speakers from Arborg, Riverton and Gimli, and some people can pinpoint where someone grew up, said MacFarlane. She has

been told by other Icelandic speakers that they can tell she grew up in Riverton because of her “Riverton accent.” She asked the researchers whether they could detect accent variations; they said they didn’t hear those differences.

MacFarlane said she takes part in social gatherings on Wednesdays at the New Iceland Heritage Museum where people converse in Icelandic in order to “keep the language alive.”

“A lot of times English will creep into our speaking because you might be attempting to say what you did last week but then you run into words you don’t know in Icelandic and you insert English words in there.”

Gimli resident Ingrid Roed also took part in the study, saying she was exposed to Icelandic as a child and picked up a few words but didn’t learn to speak it fully until later in life. She qualified for the study because she learned the language in Gimli.

“I have fair bit of Icelandic now and I can carry on a simple conversation, but I don’t consider myself fluent,” said Roed. “But the Icelanders who hear me say I speak quite well.”

In addition to identifying pictures and telling the researchers in both Icelandic and English what they were, Roed said there was a story-telling exercise — based on a series of images — the participants took part in.

“The researchers gave us a little description or summary so that we understood what was going on. Then we were to tell them a story of what was going on. We did it in Icelandic and we did another session in English,” said Roed. “What they were looking for was not so much if we knew Icelandic words and how well we speak either language but how we pronounce words and whether the Icelandic influences our English pronunciation or the way we say things, or whether English influences our Icelandic pronunciation and our style of speaking.”

Like MacFarlane, Roed said there are subtle differences between Ice-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE DEHE
After participants completed their exercises, linguistic researcher Nicole Dehe explained the aims of the study.

landic speakers in Gimli, Riverton and Arborg, and that some people, like her aunt, can tell just by listening what town someone is from.

The study, which is titled “Cross-linguistic influence in phonology: the case of heritage Icelandic,” is being funded by the German Research Foundation for a period of three years, said Dehe. They have a number of publication options, including international linguistic journals, journals focusing on second-language research or journals dedicated to Scandinavian languages.

Based on the large datasets they’ve gathered in Manitoba and in Iceland, Dehe said she expects she and her colleagues will be able to publish more than one paper. PhD candidate Meike Rommel, for instance, intends to complete her thesis based on part of the research.

Dehe said they’re planning to return to Manitoba in February or March to study Icelandic speakers who learned the language much later in life. They’ll be reaching out to the University of Manitoba’s Icelandic department for assistance.

Anyone interested in participating in that leg of the study is encouraged to get in touch with the linguistic researchers at their respective German universities in Koln (Cologne) and Konstanz.

Community Support Service

AA Meetings in Ashern

Open Meeting

Time: 6-7pm Fridays

Starting Friday March 3rd.

Location: #11 2nd Ave North

-Pioneer Manor

(beside the main door entrance of Pioneer Manor)

Contact AAMBCO@mts.net

AA Eriksdale

Eriksdale United Church building

#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)

Meetings are Mondays

at 6:30 p.m.

AA Winnipeg Beach

Lady of the Lake RC Church

Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,

Winnipeg Beach

Meetings are Saturdays

between 7 and 8 p.m.

Contact Ann J 204-389-3417

Gimli Group AA

Bldg 18 Municipal Rd

Industrial Park

Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm

AI-Anon

Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

Join us at 17B Loni Beach Road, next to New Horizon building... Gimli at 7:00 pm Wednesday evenings for an hour of support, strength, guidance and Hope. Contact 204-389-4777.

All ages welcome.

AA Riverton Group

12 Main St. at the

Riverton Senior Centre

Mondays 7:30 p.m.

Gimli woman spreading cheer with Christmas carolling

By Becca Myskiw

A local Gimli woman is hoping to spread Christmas cheer by carolling this weekend.

Brittany Jade loves Christmas, and she’s planning to share her love for the holiday with the community this Saturday.

After trying to get a group of carollers together last week, Jade found she didn’t quite get the word out like she wanted to. So she’s decided to try again and is asking community members to go Christmas carolling with

her this weekend.

“I have always been extremely passionate about both my community and Christmas,” she said. “I just thought it would be a fun, inexpensive way for some community togetherness.”

Jade’s plan is for everyone to meet at Kast King (30 Centre St. #28) Gimli at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16. There, people can pick up their lyric books for the carolling excursion. Once it seems like everyone’s showed up who wanted to, the group will set out

to go carolling around town.

“It’s just wanting to get into the Christmas spirit and spread cheer all the while bringing the community together and encouraging them to meet their neighbours,” said Jade.

To join the carollers this weekend, just show up to the venue around 6 p.m. All are welcome to participate. Jade is working on getting a trailer with hay bales for the carollers to ride on Saturday.

Arborg Minor Hockey honours long-standing board members

Former president, registrar instrumental to success

By Becca Miskiw

After 13 years on the Arborg Minor Hockey board, Keith Johnson was honoured for his years of service.

In 2005, Johnson's daughter started playing hockey in Arborg, so as she aged up in the program, he decided to move on from coaching and get more involved.

In 2008, he joined the minor hockey board. After just two years, he became board president and stayed in that role until the spring of 2020.

Johnson stayed on the board for one final year until the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the season.

The Arborg Minor Hockey board has up to 10 members at a time.

During his tenure, Johnson saw registration dates move from the fall months to June, so the region could get its numbers in sooner and avoid late registrations.

As president, he then took those numbers to Interlake Minor Hockey, which used them to create leagues

and game schedules. Those meetings, and ones like it, were Johnson's favourite part of being on the board.

"I enjoyed seeing the organizations and seeing what's involved," he said. "You sit beside someone different at each meeting. ... I liked getting to make those relationships."

Johnson also spent his time on the board ensuring each game had time-keepers and referees, the ice was paid for, uniforms were paid for and that everything went as smoothly as it could.

"You try to keep it very affordable for the young players," he added. "So you have as much participation as possible."

Johnson knows Arborg Minor Hockey wouldn't exist without community participation and support. Local businesses sponsoring teams and parents volunteering to coach made the seasons possible, he said.

Now that Johnson has been off the board for a couple years, he can reflect fondly at his time at its helm. Though any organization goes through peaks and valleys, registration in Arborg has remained fair since Johnson was president, and he said seeing those numbers remain proves to him he did



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Keith Johnson, left, was honoured for his time with Arborg Minor Hockey. Cory Koomen, right, is pictured with him.

a good job.

"That gives you good satisfaction because you were involved for those two years or more and keeping things rolling at that time. ... You get a bigger sense of satisfaction seeing it stay

strong and have some vitality and energy," he said.

Arborg Minor Hockey also honoured Krista Borgfjord for her nine years as registrar on the board. The 2022-23 season will be her last one.

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Riverton lighting up the season, preparing for holiday party

Riverton & District Friendship Centre's Kids Christmas Party on Dec. 17

By Jo-Anne Procter

With Christmas right around the corner, the Riverton Friendship Centre and the Riverton-Bifrost Parks & Rec have teamed up to spread festive joy throughout their community.

Children and their families are looking forward to the annual Riverton & District Friendship Centre's Kids Christmas Party on Dec. 17. The party will take place at the community hall where there will be inflatables, an elf Zumba party, Santa's Workshop, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, Frosty's Snack Shack, other special guests, games and guaranteed fun. To register attendance, contact 204-378-2800.

Riverton Co-op is also collecting a tin or toy for the bin for Christmas hampers that allow a ballot for each item donated and an opportunity for a chance to win prizes donated by Riverton Co-op. The store will have several in store specials and sales on toys and hardware merchandise and again will be providing its members with a cash repayment of over \$54,000.

Last Friday, as part of Riverton's Moon Light event, the community Christmas tree was officially lit while families enjoyed free hot chocolate and took in the market at the community hall. Many businesses extended their hours and offered in-store and restaurant specials as well as free draws for prizes.



Earlier in the week, a dance recital organized by Tracy Bjornson-Collins and Averie Kristjanson took place along with a pancake breakfast and a fundraising cake walk.

On Dec. 5, seniors enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner that included, turkey, lazy cabbage rolls and all the fixings and dessert, followed by entertainment by the band Country Pride.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

Riverton & District Friendship Centre Seniors Christmas dinner was a packed house and the music by Country Pride was enjoyed by all.



> DON'T BE MAD, FROM PG. 7

People can select from nine species, some of which are designated as threatened or endangered like swift fox, monarch butterfly or Blanding's turtle. Eight diverse habitats are also on offer, which include grasslands, the most endangered yet least protected habitat on the planet. Over 80 per cent of Canada's native Prairie grasslands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been lost to conversion and human activity.

Gift recipients will receive a full-colour certificate, a 2024 NCC calendar filled with stunning photos of NCC-protected species and properties, and a 10-page booklet about the chosen species or landscape. Paperless gift options include a digital full-colour certificate, a digital landscape or species booklet and an informational

video. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for all green gifts program purchases.

Over the last 28 years, more than \$3 million has been raised through this holiday program in support of NCC's critical conservation work across the country.

"This type of gift extends way beyond the holiday season. It's an investment in our collective well-being and future and celebrates the myriad benefits that nature provides year-round, now and for generations to come," says Catherine Grenier, NCC president and CEO.

The green gifts program information, including the full list of species and landscapes, can be found at giving.natureconservancy.ca.

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Evergreen Basic Needs kicks off successful Christmas Toy Drive

By Gloria Thomas

With the help of Gimli's own "Elvis," Adam Tarnowski, Evergreen Basic Needs (EBN) hosted its 10th annual Christmas Toy Drive on Dec. 4 to collect gifts and monetary donations for those in need this holiday season.

The Toy Drive began in 2013 because EBN was short on toys. Radio host and Elvis impersonator Tarnowski offered to do a free toy drive show, explained EBN executive director Karen Bowman,

According to Bowman, this event has been a yearly occurrence and has greatly benefited families in need with essential items and financial contributions.

Hamper week is Dec. 11 to 15, but EBN accepts toys until Dec. 14.

Bowman explained the weekly routine involves setting up hampers on Monday and Wednesday. Then on Tuesday, Diageo drivers distribute the hampers to the community, while Thursday is designated for pick up by those who are able. Friday is when toys are sorted by age group, and on Saturday parents select two gifts per child.

"All of our hampers are brand new, and the monetary donations in order to provide these have never been more appreciated," Bowman added.

Last year, according to Harvest Manitoba, one hamper cost approximately \$125 to put together. This year, hampers are costing closer to \$175 each. EBN will be delivering 180 hampers this year.

"We are grateful for all donations. Food donations at this time of year are used in the new year. Monetary dona-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY GLORIA THOMAS
Gimli's Elvis impersonator Adam Tarnowski.

tions are used to provide the hampers, and without those, many homes may not have a Christmas dinner together. Toy donations ensure every child has something to open Christmas morning," said Bowman.

EBN has 35-40 volunteers, with 10 working on any given day. There are five full-time staff and 10 part-time.

"Miles (Lepine) is considered the 'Teen Advisor' on toys. He knows what the kids like at what age. He keeps track of how many kids there are in each age group so that we can be sure to provide all ages equally," said Bowman.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY GLORIA THOMAS
EBN executive director Karen Bowman and Adam Tarnowski helped collect donations for the 10th annual Christmas Toy Drive.

This year, the Toy Drive event brought in approximately \$700 and carts full of toys.

"We've had a fantastic turnout. We received tons of toys and some great monetary donations. This has been our 10th anniversary and it turned out fantastic. The place is packed and it's been great. That's all I can ask for," Tarnowski said after a quick costume change.

Singing many songs from Elvis Pre-

sley's Christmas album and covers of other Christmas classics, mixed with covers of many Elvis hits, Tarnowski entertained the full house for two hours. EBN provided the crowd with coffee and cookies during a break between sets.

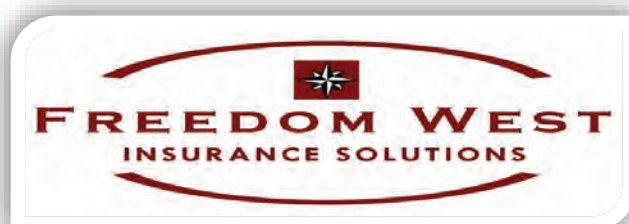
Tarnowski even donated a four-kilogram bag of sugar, which he auctioned off for \$25 at the end of the evening.

Rocking for charity



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Fraserwood Country Pub owners Reg and Cindy Campbell hosted a Hamper Drive fundraiser for Madeline's Closet last weekend. The Campbells donated the cover charge from the classic rock band, Reckless Age, to the organization.



As the Holiday season is upon us, we take joy in extending a sincere 'THANK YOU' to those who have helped to shape our business in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a safe and Happy Holiday season along with a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Season's Greetings

From Dwayne Smith & Staff at the Fisher Branch and Eriksdale offices.

Holiday Closures:

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Jan 2nd, 2024 – Regular hours resume

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Around the world: Mulvihill man on mission to see 100 countries

By Patricia Barrett

A Mulvihill resident who's on a mission to see 100 countries will be edging closer to his target this month when he packs up and heads to South America.

Garry Steinthorson, who's in his 60s, said his goal to see 100 countries doesn't entail a quick visit and a few selfies but extended stays to really get to know the world beyond Mulvihill.

"Since I was a young fellow, I've been wanting to travel. Reaching a goal of 100 countries got into my blood over the last 20 years," said Steinthorson, who's now been to 92 countries. "At one point in my life, I sold everything I owned and went travelling around the world for four years. I had pretty good jobs and I worked really hard. And it's easy to do when you're selfish and irresponsible!"

Steinthorson said he's scaled mountains, travelled on cargo boats in the Amazon, sailed down the Nile River in Egypt, kipped in caves, biked around Mount Vesuvius (volcano) in Italy and visited some of the world's ancient wonders along the way.

He has taken a bike with him on some of his trips in order to travel off the beaten path and even took jobs for months at a time in places like Australia and Iceland to help fund his adventures.

"I mountain climbed on some of the highest mountains in Canada and other mountains such as in Ethiopia, which was over 15,000 feet. I skied in France for two seasons. I've been in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt and sailed down the Nile River on a felucca [a riverboat with sails] for three nights back in the 1980s," he said. "I cycled 2,000 kilometres across South



On a river trip in Sri Lanka, alligators were abundant.

America from Buenos Aires [Argentina] across the pampas and over the Andes to Chile and then down to the Pacific Ocean."

On a seven-week bike trip to northern Europe, he cycled 3,700 kilometres from the Netherlands to Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway then jumped on a ferry to Iceland. From there he went to the Faroe Islands, Shetland and Scotland.

But it wasn't always smooth sailing. He had his passport stolen at a bus station in Morocco — he got it back later but not his travellers' cheques and money — and was rounded on by people in one town who objected to him and his friend staying for free with a local woman and her family.

"The hotel owners were angry. The police tried to get our passports but we wouldn't hand them over. So they took the woman away for questioning. Then a group of kids started throwing rocks at us. It was a rough night."

In Amsterdam he and a friend were confronted by muggers armed with knives and a hypodermic syringe.

"They were threatening to stab my buddy and I started talking a mile a minute. They had my buddy against the wall and I was pushing them back and telling them they're going to get in trouble and that we had no money," he said. "After a while they gave up. They probably decided they couldn't listen to me anymore."

When he hiked 120 kilometres up and down a mountainside in Ethiopia, he and a group of other hikers hired a mule driver and "two guys with guns" to protect them from bandits wandering around in the highlands.

"When we got up in the morning and got ready to leave, our two guards ran up to a stone wall and started popping off a couple of rounds up the



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARRY STEINTHORSON

Garry Steinthorson at Petra in the Jordan desert. The archeological site contains temples and tombs carved into rose-coloured sandstone cliffs.



Steinthorson visited India's Taj Mahal on his first cycling trip.

mountain. That scared the hell out of us. Later on, we met a group of men armed with Russian Kalashnikovs [assault rifles] but our guards knew them," he said. "Dangerous situations like these didn't deter me from wanting to explore countries."

In addition to seeing a lot of places around the globe and experiencing things most people haven't, Steinthorson said he made friends with people who welcomed him back.

"I found a place to ski-bum in France for two seasons after I became friends with a Swedish group that were all ski-bumming up there," he said. "I was able to ski for five months each season."

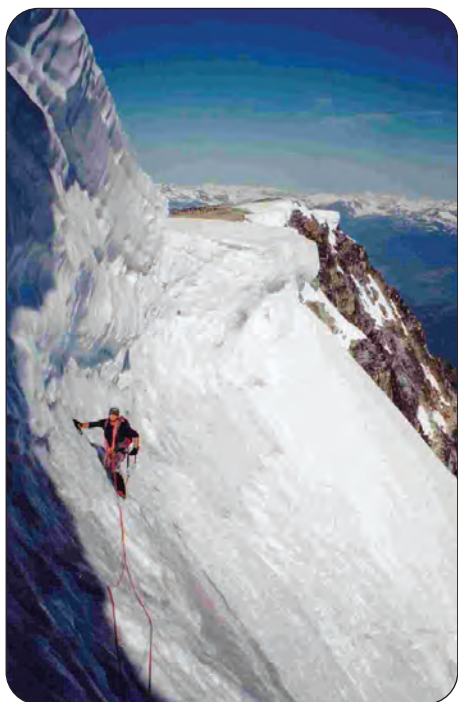
His last trip took him 3,000 kilometres across southern Europe in 10 weeks. He biked from Paris to the Pyrenees where he dropped down

into Spain and eventually made his way to Corsica, an island in the Mediterranean Sea, where French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was born. Then he caught a ferry to the islands of Sardinia and Sicily, where he visited the town of Corleone that was made famous in the movie *The Godfather*.

Panama in Central America and Colombia and Peru in South America are next on his list.

When he reaches 100 countries, does he plan to stop? Doesn't sound like it.

"I'm going to go back to a few places I've been before. I won't worry about getting another country after I reach 100," said Steinthorson. "At first, I wanted to see every country in the world, but that would mean having to do all the island countries and see even more beaches. I eventually got bored with paradise."



Climbing Wedge Mountain in British Columbia

Fishers fight on against pollution, Gimli opposes sewage lagoon on its doorstep

By Patricia Barrett

Being an environmental whistleblower is a thankless job, but two Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers are determined to get the provincial government to take action on pollution in Lake Winnipeg.

The south basin of the lake and some of its tributaries along the west shore were hit by foul-smelling, extensive algal blooms this fall, and commercial fishers in the Hecla-Grindstone region were also beset by a series of thick blooms. One fisher said he collected water samples in October after he encountered — yet again — a large mass of fecal matter in the water along with algae.

That the fishers are now fighting another front in the form of a sewage lagoon that a Hutterite colony proposes to build in the RM of Armstrong comes as no surprise; the lagoon is to be drained into Willow Creek, south of Gimli, and flow straight into Lake Winnipeg.

Commercial fisher Robert T. Kristjanson, who turned 90 last week, said he's been trying to engage the new provincial environment and climate change minister on the continuing degradation of the 11th largest freshwater lake in the world after he and

other fishers were inundated with blooms during the fall commercial harvest. He's hoping the NDP, which formed government in October, will stop the continuing eutrophication of the lake.

"The lake is now frozen over and all the pollutants are hidden under the ice where people can't see it," said Kristjanson, who earned the Order of Manitoba in 2018 for raising awareness of algal blooms. "What do we do? I went to the legislature on open house day [Dec. 2] and I couldn't get in the [environment] minister's door. How are we going to be able to get through to our elected representatives about the pollution in the lake and the lagoon they want to build on Willow Creek?"

Kristjanson said he asked Gimli's mayor and council to "get some answers" regarding the proposed lagoon that will be built on the Armstrong-Gimli municipal border.

"It's only five miles to where [the colony] could put their waste into Gimli's sewage plant. This sewage doesn't have to go as far as the moon," said Kristjanson. "You can't accept this proposal where they're going to be putting up to 250 people on the land then dump their waste into a

cesspool. The days of sewage lagoons are gone."

Kristjanson said he had reached out to the provincial minister of environment and climate change weeks ago to ask her for a discussion about the proposed lagoon and the state of the lake, but he didn't receive a reply.

"I went to the government with an open hand. We have every single solitary pollutant being dumped into the lake right now and we can't find a government inspector to look at it,"

he said. "We've got [agricultural] nutrients going into the lake off the land. We can't seem to get people to stop polluting this lake. I want my grandchildren to live to be my age."

Commercial fisher Bill Buckels is also continuing to pressure the government to protect the environment.

In 2018 Buckels took the *Express* on the lake to show the paper a mass of

Continued on page 17



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BILL BUCKELS

Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Bill Buckels gathered water samples from his nets in mid-October when he says he encountered a mass of fecal matter and algae. The brown water in the bucket is what the water looks like under the surface of the lake. He couldn't get any water agency or the province to test the lake or his water samples.

2023 Holiday Events

Thurs. Dec. 14	Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School Winter Concert	1:45pm and 7:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 14	Winter Band Concert – Riverton Hall	7:00pm
	Arborg Collegiate & Early Middle School	
	Riverton Collegiate & Early Middle School	
Thurs. Dec. 14	Alf Cuthbert School Christmas Concert	7:00pm
	Moosehorn	
Mon. Dec. 18	Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School Winter Concert	
	Gimli	1:45pm and 7:00pm
Mon. Dec. 18	Ashern Central School Christmas Concert	7:00pm
Tues. Dec. 19	Ashern Early Years School Christmas Concert	7:00pm
	Ashern Centennial Hall	
Tues. Dec. 19	Inwood School	6:30pm
Tues. Dec. 19	Dr. George Johnson Middle School Winter Concert	
	Gimli	2:00pm and 7:00pm
Tues. Dec. 19	Arborg Early Middle School Winter Concert	6:00pm
Wed. Dec. 20	Fisher Branch Early Years School Christmas Concert	1:30pm and 7:00pm
Wed. Dec. 20	Lundar Early Years School Christmas Concert	6:30pm
Wed. Dec. 20	Winnipeg Beach School Holiday Concert	1:30pm and 7:00pm
Wed. Dec. 20	Arborg Early Middle School Winter Concert	6:00pm
	Kindergarten – Grade 2	
Thurs. Dec. 21	Eriksdale School Christmas Concert	7:00pm

Christmas cheer abundant in Gimli with slate of holiday events



Moonlight Madness occurred on Nov. 24 with businesses throughout Gimli staying open late and offering deals to customers until 10 p.m.

By Gloria Thomas

The town of Gimli has been a buzz with many festive events over the past few weeks.

Moonlight Madness occurred on Nov. 24 with businesses throughout Gimli staying open late and offering deals to customers until 10 p.m. Christmas carols could be heard throughout the establishments as shoppers checked gifts off of their



Santa and Mrs. Claus helped spread Christmas cheer throughout Gimli.

lists.

The lighting of the Christmas tree took place the same night, with Mayor Kevin Chudd welcoming the community and thanking all of the hard-working volunteers involved. As Santa arrived, Chudd also introduced former mayor William Barlow and his wife Jocelyn.

"Gimli has always been about togetherness," Barlow said, as he spoke warmly to the crowd of townsfolk.



The Gimli Kiwanis hosted a pancake breakfast.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

Gimli Mayor Kevin Chudd looks on while former mayor William Barlow speaks at the Gimli tree-lighting ceremony.

Barlow then led the countdown and the tree was lit amongst a cheering crowd at the Gimli Harbour. Performances from Dr. George Johnson Middle School students and others provided an enjoyable evening of Christmas carols and holiday fun, despite the biting cold winds.

On Dec. 2 the Kiwanis Club hosted

a Pancake Breakfast with Santa at the Gimli Rec. Centre, followed by a two-storey craft sale and free public skate throughout the afternoon. Then there was the Santa Claus Parade in the evening, with many local businesses and volunteers touring Centre Street and First Avenue, all lit up with holiday spirit.

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Women's Institute celebrates successful year, looks ahead to future

By Debra Barrett

The Fisher Branch Women's Institute began its new year with a Christmas gathering where it recognized three dedicated members for their years of service.

Lori Smith, Bernice Enstrom and Rosie Barrett were celebrated for dedicating 26, 44 and 68 years, respectively, to the institute.

The next course of business was the installation of the new executive and board of directors, followed by fun, fellowship and a delicious supper at the Fisher Branch Golf Club Chinese Restaurant.

The institute's efforts in community development are instrumental in maximizing the positive outcomes of Fisher Branch events and strengthening the vibrancy of the community.

For 75 years, the institute has provided services and programming to families and youth in the community.

In 2023, its programming was funded by members and volunteers who helped develop, strengthen and maintain the following:

- Purchasing of sports equipment as required by the RM recreation program
- Scholarships to numerous graduating students going into post-secondary educational programs
- Provision of an annual community barbecue and picnic with children's activities
- Funding of buses required to transport students from the schools to the recreation centre to participate in skating, curling and physical education programs
- Support of the musical programs of the Fisher Branch Festival of the Arts
- Purchase of heart defibrillators (AED) for the



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Fisher Branch Women's Institute has remained a community staple for 75 years, recently welcoming the addition of its new board of directors and celebrating the contributions of long-time members.

- golf course and community hall
- Purchase of the AED battery and chest pad replacements, as required
- Fire safety programming in the school
- Participation in the school's "I Love to Read" programs
- Funding of medical treatments for specialized needs of area children
- Helping prepare and donate to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program

As a member of the Manitoba Women's Institute provincial body, the Fisher Branch group participates in the Made in Manitoba Projects by co-ordinating projects within its community and area. Recent initiatives have included:

- Provision of supplies required for the care of domestic abuse victims and their children at Nova House in Selkirk
- Collecting and funding for household and personal items for Ukrainian immigrants
- Collection and funding of food hamper sup-

plies for the food bank used by RM of Fisher residents

- Provision of backpacks with school supplies for children to assist them in attending school
- Coordination and funding of an annual recreation fair to promote child, youth and family programming in the community.
- Participation on community boards, including the adult senior resource and meals program, community centre and Chamber of Commerce

The institute welcomes the participation of all women who would like to share their ideas and energy in strengthening the community.

Group members meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the chalet community room. For further information, email mbwi@mymts.net or follow on the Fisher Branch Community Events Facebook page.

Stay tuned: the institute has many new events being planned for 2024.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ... AND TO ONE A NEW DENTURE!

Brock Vador
Denturist

It was 2010, I was a fresh denture school graduate and had suddenly taken over my dad's denture clinic due to health reasons. My only employee was my mom, who I convinced to come out of retirement (but, of course, if you ask her, it was her idea to come and be with her son).

Christmas was coming and Dennis, the local newspaper salesman came into the office and said, "Brock, your dad always liked to put some sort of Merry Christmas wish in the paper. Would you like to do that too?" "Of course, I would love to put something in the newspaper, but let me think about what", I replied, wanting my very first newspaper Christmas wish to be great.

Dennis, my mom, and I thought about it for a few minutes; and I couldn't help but think, 'I am a Denturist, I now own a denture clinic, wouldn't the best Christmas gift we could give be a denture?' "I want to make someone smile for Christmas," I said. "We could do a Merry Christmas denture



giveaway!"

"I love it, it's like the song 'All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth', Dennis laughed. So my mom and I posed for a picture, and Dennis' team edited some garland and bows around us, and the annual denture contest was born!

We used a Christmas story trivia question as the ballot, put all the entries into a box and when we picked the winner, it was a lady named Jean. When we called her to say she had won, she was in tears. She not only wanted (and needed) teeth for Christmas, but for many years. I still remember when she came in. She had a brilliant white coat that I had no idea how she kept it so white! We made her a beautiful

white smile to match.

For going on 14 years now, even though the days of just my mom and I as the only employees are long gone, we continue the Christmas contest. What is amazing is that every year we have such an amazing winner. Spending time with them, sharing stories, giving gifts - it's what Christmas is all about! It's like we expand our families just a little bit more. We could never pick a winner, so we do a draw to make it fair. There are no strings attached, just a gift in honour of the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Which brings us to this year's trivia question: see ballot.

How to enter:

- Call us at (204) 482-6698 with your answer.
- The deadline for entering the draw is December 18th @ 4pm.
- The draw will be held on December 18th @ 5pm.

BALLOT

The greatest gift of all had no ribbons or bows!
The greatest gift of all was wrapped in _____.
What are the missing words? Hint : answer found in Luke 2:7

VANDOR • DENTURE • CENTRE

A PASSION FOR INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1971

Local RCMP welcome students to create latest local mural

Mural recognizes history while celebrating present and future connections

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Selkirk RCMP headquarters is now home to the community's latest in a long line of beautiful murals that make our community a little brighter.

The mural, Reconciliation by Rita Bennet was made by the collaborative effort of Rita Procyshyn (nee Bennet) who teaches art and social studies at East Selkirk Middle School; ESMS students; and Jaqueline Bercier, who is the cultural proficiency lead teacher for the school division.

"Today we have an unveiling of a mural that I had the idea for, like, 10 years ago. I wanted to bring the community back into the detachment in one way or another. So, during the RCMP 150th year, we're doing different things: you can see an RCMP 150 flag posted right here, and we have an RCMP 150 quilt made by the River City Quilters around the corner. But I wanted to take it one step further. We have incredible artists in this community in and around our RMs and I wanted to bring that inside the detachment," said community policing officer Paul Human.

Human made the connection that saw this happen when he was at ESMS. He connected with Rita Procyshyn and, as the school has worked on many of the murals in the community in the past, they were able to work collaboratively to make a mural in the RCMP building.

"When you go see the mural, you'll see the focal point right away is an RCMP Mountie in his Red Serge of-



fering tobacco to a woman who's in her powwow regalia passing the pipe to him. The seven grandfather teachings are represented on the mural and the sacred medicines are represented on the mural," Procyshyn said at the unveiling.

The many elements of the mural represent reconciliation between the RCMP and Indigenous people (the bridge), our area's colonial past (the railroad) and the work that must be done by having truthful and respectful conversations (the holding of a sacred pipe and offering of a tobacco tie).

At the unveiling ceremony, Human presented Procyshyn and student artists Alex Soche, Lynne Graham and Joseph Holder with a patch as well as East District Challenge coins recog-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Rita Procyshyn with students, Alex Soche, Lynne Graham and Joseph Holder and Paul Human at the unveiling. Below: The mural and explanation of the many elements.



nizing their contribution to this project.

The students said that they learned a lot from participating in the project, particularly how much math is involved with creating a large-scale piece of art. They said it was a pretty cool project to be involved in.

Human is glad this project that he's been envisioning for years is now a reality.

"It's awesome. It is something that,

as a community policing officer, I wanted to have done for years because it brings elements from all the different communities that we belong to or we serve into the building every time you walk by that here. As a member, you walk by that mural to get your uniform on and go get your stuff ready for the day. That way, you see our past and present and how you're moving into the future," he said.

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> POLLUTION, FROM PG. 13

fecal matter swirling off the coast of the tourist-heavy Hecla-Grindstone region. He had taken water samples and paid a laboratory to analyze it; it tested positive for fecal coliforms. The lab was unable to provide DNA testing to determine if the feces was human or animal.

In October of this year, Buckels said he once again encountered a considerable load of feces in the water. He gathered several samples and reached out to provincial staff and water-related agencies. No one would come out to test the water or agree to test his samples.

"I phoned EIWD [East Interlake Watershed District] and the staffer who answered the phone told me water testing is not their job. So I asked for a water sample bottle and they said we don't have them and we don't do that. I had been in contact with the Namao [research vessel] but there was no response to my request to have my samples tested. I asked the Lake Winnipeg Foundation. And I spoke to the scientist at the government's water science branch. Even though the water is full of shit, the province considers it safe — that's what she said. For her to tell me that I don't understand when I stood in shit every day, I find that more than insulting," said Buckels.

"It seems the government and these agencies are apologists for polluters. They are, in effect, part of the cover-up. During a major shit event, why aren't they out there? Why isn't the EIWD out there? They can drop by several times a day because their office is in Gimli. When they get reports of these harmful environmental events occurring — such as the one I reported in October — why do they refuse to test?"

Buckels said the outgoing provincial Conservative government "tightened up" citizen involvement on Manitoba's watershed district boards "ex-

cept through the politically correct farmer channel" because, apparently, they can decide what's "best for the water" rather than environmental organizations and citizens.

"But agricultural operations are polluters of Lake Winnipeg. That's a fact. The [previous] government gave us a corrupt piece of watershed legislation that should be revisited now that we've had a change of government," he said. "And it's not just farmers polluting this lake. It's sewage plants and lagoons and the rest of us. It's time for all of us to clean up our act. And for some reason, no one wants to talk about shit [feces] in the lake. They'll test clean water, but they don't want to test water with shit in it."

In the fall when thick blue-green algae blanketed the shoreline, harbours and tributaries in communities such as Winnipeg Beach, Gimli and Arnes, Buckels said he was disturbed by the province's lackadaisical response.

"There really are algal blooms on this lake even if the province claims it can't find them," said Buckels. "They're the result of climate change, in which the lake temperature has remained warm late into the fall, and the result of a steady injection of nutrients flowing into the lake from agricultural operations, including pigs and cattle, and from wastewater. Why does our government continue to allow phosphorus to pour into Lake Winnipeg, which is already suffering from high nutrient levels and algal blooms?"

Water bodies around the globe are degrading from nutrient overloading. An overabundance of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen flowing into lakes and oceans cause algal blooms and eutrophication, which in turn lead to oxygen-depleted water. That causes ecosystem failures that can take the form of fish die-off events, acidification and contaminated water supplies. Eutrophication

affects 54 per cent of lakes in Asia, 53 per cent in Europe, 48 per cent in North America, 41 per cent in South America and 28 per cent in Africa, according to the 2022 publication "The Global Assessment of Private Sector Impacts on Water."

Buckels said the provincial government shouldn't make matters worse for the lake by allowing the proposed construction of the sewage lagoon in the RM of Armstrong to proceed. The lagoon's human and animal slaughter waste will only add more pollutants to the lake. He'd like to see the waste trucked to the Gimli sewage plant.

"I believe the government is just not going to do anything about pollution going into the lake. There's been a concentrated conspiracy to leave Lake Winnipeg as the super sewage lagoon that it has been over the course of my lifetime," he said. "We're just going to trot along behind the polluters like lemmings over a precipice."

EIWD manager Armand Belanger said the watershed district, which like all districts is a partnership between the province and local governments, does sample water on occasion and is open to more sampling in the future.

"While we don't actively monitor the water quality and nutrient loading of the lake, we've been able to sample water on occasion with the help of our partners at the Province of Manitoba Water Quality Monitoring Program and the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network. We're open to sampling water in the future, but we'd need a plan in place to verify our capacity, protocol and partner responsibilities," said Belanger. "The EIWD is committed to improving the overall health of the watershed and actively works with people in the watershed and project funders to encourage sustainable use of land and water resources."

In response to the proposed construction of the sewage lagoon in Armstrong, the RM of Gimli posted a

notice of objection on its website, saying it retained a third-party consultant to review the [colony's] application under the Environment Act.

"On December 8, 2023, the Rural Municipality of Gimli provided the Department of Environment and Climate Change's Environmental Approvals Branch with its written comments, along with a review report prepared by its third party consultant," says the statement. "The Rural Municipality of Gimli objected to the proposed construction of the lagoon given the lack of adequate due diligence and proper public consultation. The Rural Municipality of Gimli has requested that a public hearing be held as a consequence of the foregoing. The Rural Municipality of Gimli understands that the Environmental Approvals Branch's review process is ongoing."

The statement also says that the RM spoke with the RM of Armstrong to understand what steps it has taken and will be taking "to ensure that due diligence and public consultation takes place."

A spokesperson for the provincial department of environment and climate change said the proposed lagoon is in the process of being assessed.

"The department is aware of the concerns surrounding the proposed lagoon, and the project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment under the Environment Act," he said. "The environmental assessment includes a robust review of all aspects of the proposed lagoon to ensure the lagoon, if licensed, is operated in a manner that protects public health and the environment."

As for Kristjanson's attempts to speak with the environment minister, the spokesperson said the department was in contact with him in mid-November, "appreciates and values" his expertise on the lake and "confirmed they would be pleased to talk to him at any time."

Gypsumville RCMP respond to report of forcible confinement

By Lana Meier

At approximately 7 p.m. on Dec. 2, Gypsumville RCMP was called to a report of a woman being held against her will.

After further investigation, authorities arrived at a home on Pinaymootang First Nation, where they discovered a wounded adult woman. The individual was transported to the hospital for treatment of severe injuries that were not life-threatening.

Police took a 25-year-old male into custody and charged him with assault with a weapon x2, assault causing bodily harm, forcible confinement, uttering threats, mischief,

and breaching a recognizance x2. He was remanded into custody.

The Gypsumville RCMP is investigating.

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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

U18 AAA male Lightning sweep the Chiefs

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Lightning continue to play some very good hockey.

Interlake swept the Yellowhead Chiefs in Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League action last weekend in Shoal Lake.

Interlake defeated Yellowhead 4-1 on Sunday afternoon.

Ian Buors and Blake Farthing scored for the Lightning in the first period and then Farthing and Jake Keryluk tallied for the Lightning in the third.

Farthing and Buors each had three points in the game.

The Chiefs' Bo Tibbetts scored for the Chiefs in the middle frame.

Interlake netminder Alex Myers was solid in goal, making 34 saves.

On Saturday, the Lightning doubled the Chiefs 4-2.

Interlake snapped a third-period tie with power-play goals from Drew Russell and Talon Hogg.

Cole Swanson scored for the Lightning in the first period and then Buors tallied in the second.

Farthing finished the game with two assists.

Cole Hunter scored twice for Yellowhead as Dylan McFadyen stopped 32 Chiefs' shots for the win.

Last Wednesday, Interlake dumped the Eastman Selects 5-2 in Beausejour.

Morgan Waddell had a great game for the Lightning with a hat trick while Farthing and Swanson also tallied.

Job Peters and Calyb Moore replied for Eastman.

Myers made 35 saves for the win. Meanwhile, Russell was named the

CCM Hockey Player of the Week for the period ending Nov. 26.

In two games, Russell had two goals and two assists.

The Grade 11 student, in his first year of U18 AAA with the Lightning, is a prospect for the Selkirk Steelers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Interlake has had a fantastic start to the season with a wicked 14-7-1 record to sit in third place in the 12-team league and will host the Winnipeg Bruins this Saturday (7:30 p.m.), the Brandon Wheat Kings Sunday (1:30 p.m.), and then Eastman on Dec. 20 (7:30 p.m.).

All three games will be played in Teulon. People should come out and support the team — they're really good.



Drew Russell

Viterra and Scotties regional berths awarded over the weekend

By Ty Dilello

The Viterra Championship and Scotties Tournament of Hearts regional playdowns were played this past weekend across the province.

At the Interlake Viterra regionals in Gimli, Emerson Klimpke of Stonewall was a 9-3 victor over Justin Richter of Beausejour to earn a berth, while Justin Reynolds of Winnipeg Beach won 7-2 over Wayne Ewasko of Beausejour to claim another Interlake berth to provincials.

Joey Witherspoon (Assiniboine Memorial), Daniel Birchard (Pembina),

Thomas McGillivray (St. Vital), Steen Sigurdson (Deer Lodge), Hayden Forrester (Fort Rouge), Darren Perche (Charleswood) and Devon Wiebe (Charleswood) won the seven Winnipeg Viterra Berths that were available.

Jeremy Sundell (Holland) won the first of the available berths in the Central zone in Clearwater. Sundell will go on to skip the first provincial entry from Holland in many years after a win over Dean North (Carman) in an A-Side berth final.

Other Viterra berths over the weekend were awarded to Steve Irwin

(Brandon), Cale Dunbar (Brandon), Jace Freeman (Virden), Glenn Toews (Dauphin), Grant Brown (Thompson), Greg Todoruk (Dauphin), Justin Richter (Beausejour) beat Wayne Ewasko (Beausejour), Dean North (Carman), Jesse Janz (Baldur), Mark Lowdon (La Salle) and Jeff Stewart (Gladstone).

The berth winners from this past weekend have now advanced to compete at the 2024 Viterra Championships, which will be held in Stonewall from Feb. 6 to 11.

In Scotties' regional action, Carman's Shaela Hayward won a berth

to provincials after winning both games of a best-of-three showdown with Manitou's Rhonda Varnes in the central zone.

Other Scotties berths awarded over the weekend went to Tiffany Armstrong (Dauphin), Zoey Terrick (Heather), Rachel Kaatz (Assiniboine Memorial), Emily Cherwinski (Assiniboine Memorial) and Emma Jensen (Heather).

The Manitoba Scotties Tournament of Hearts will be held from Jan. 23-28 in Morden.

Falcons defeat first-place Fishermen

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar Falcons picked up a huge road win over the Selkirk Fishermen on Sunday afternoon.

Zachary Halldorson scored the game winner in a 5-4 overtime victory.

The win was a big one.

Lundar's other goals were scored by Cayden St. Laurent, Kade Laughlin, Riley Zdan and Troy Johannesson.

Kasen Andrushko, Dawson Bergagnini, Gaige O'Neill and Peyton Monyas replied for Selkirk.

Nigel Taylor was solid in goal, making 40 saves for the win.

Lundar, in third place with 22 points, will be busy this week. The Falcons will play at the Arborg Ice Dawgs on Wednesday (8 p.m.), host the North

Winnipeg Satellites (7 p.m.) Saturday and then take on the Warriors in St. Malo Sunday (2:30 p.m.).

Arborg, meanwhile, was downed 7-3 by North Winnipeg 7-3 in Warren on Dec. 5.

Ice Dawgs' goals were scored by Tyson Barylski, Mitchell Wilson and Dainen Jacobson.

Wilson and Jacobson each had two points in the game.

North Winnipeg goals were scored by Jack Speechley (two), Bryce Raven (two), Daniel Valente, Cody Grimstrup and Kayden Buffalo.

The Ice Dawgs will visit the Fishermen this Sunday at 3 p.m.

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Dwayne Smith - Owner/Manager

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

THANK YOU

The Chatfield Community Club would like to thank all those that participated in the Halloween Social, Halloween Party for the Children and the Buck Night. The participation was through donations, attending the events and helping with the events. This participation made our events very successful. The proceeds of these events will go toward the maintenance and upkeep of the Chatfield Hall.



Rural Municipality of
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Duties to commence Wednesday December 27, 2023 Sealed envelopes marked "Caretaking Municipal Office"

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Ron Hahlweg, C.E.T.
Director of Operations
Rural Municipality of Gimli
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					8			
1			9	7		3		
	9	5		3				
4	1		2					6
		6					8	4
			1					
				9	8		2	
				7			5	
	5	3		2	6			9

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	1	4	9	2	8	3	5	7
5	3	9	7	1	4	8	2	6
2	7	8	6	5	3	1	4	9
3	2	7	4	9	1	6	8	5
4	8	1	5	6	7	9	3	2
6	9	5	3	8	2	7	1	4
7	4	2	1	3	6	5	9	8
8	5	3	2	7	6	4	9	1
1	9	6	8	4	5	2	7	3

Sudoku Answer

S	D	D	A	H	E	Z	D	V
T	E	E	L	V	T	E	E	N
V	N	E	R	V	I	S	T	I
L	O	R	M	E	S	E	V	H
O	G	N	I	W	O	B	S	E
E	V	S	S	A	V	L	U	B
E	A	P	E	T	E	S	N	E
S	E	T	E	D	E	S	S	N
D	D	D	V	A	V	I	V	G
D	E	V	C	V	L	E	G	V
W	H	S	P	H	O	R	H	C
A	C	P	A	V	P	X	V	M
T	C	V	D	A	V	E	A	V

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

	1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		
		10			11				12				
13	14				15				16		17	18	
19				20		21	22						
23							24						
			25				26						
27	28	29					30			31	32	33	
34									35				
36			37	38	39	40		41	42	43	44		
				45				46					
47	48	49						50			51	52	53
54								55					
56						57	58			59			
	60					61			62				
	63					64			65				

CLUES ACROSS

- Mimic
- Payroll firm
- Perform in a play
- Opine: ___ philosophical
- Crony
- Political action committee
- 1991 Wimbledon winner
- Affirmative
- Exclamation of disgust
- Action of connecting
- A way to calm
- Especially fine or decorative clothing
- Walked proudly
- Group of people related through male heir
- Supplemented with difficulty
- Soft touch
- Erases
- Spanish river
- A princess can detect it
- Clouds of gas
- A way to get through
- Part of a book
- Southwestern US state
- Fields where rice is grown
- Area in Ghana
- Sayings
- Involve deeply
- Compels to act
- "Ignore all rules"
- Indoor entertainment space
- Born of
- Back muscle
- Sea dweller
- Tools that resemble an axe
- Prefix denoting class or kind
- Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- Inspiring
- Put into a box
- Breathes out
- Pacify
- Patriotic society for women
- Fell down
- Clothing
- Dishwasher detergent brand
- Former French republic
- Single lens reflex
- Men's fashion accessory
- Consumed
- Marry
- ___ up: intensifies
- Body of water
- People of southern Benin
- Decorate a cake with frosting
- Snag
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Records brain activity (abbr.)
- Car mechanics group
- Brought up to snuff
- ___ faire: Economic approach
- Phil ___, former CIA
- Affixed
- Period of adolescence
- Substance
- Danced
- Baked without its shell
- Parts per billion (abbr.)
- Satisfaction
- Balkans river
- Christmas carols
- Partner to tonic
- "The Godfather" character
- Swiss river

Classifieds Announcements



BIRTHDAY



Olive Sielski
 Ninety-three (93) years young
 on December 16!
 Wishing you a very Happy Birthday Mom!
 You look amazing!
 -With love from
 your family and friends!

ANNIVERSARY



If you see this young couple
 playing in Louisiana, Vegas, Hinton or Arborg
 wish them a
 Happy 60th Anniversary!
 -Love from, "The Guess Who"

IN MEMORIAM



**In Loving Memory of
 Owen Eyolfson**
 April 8, 1985 - December 16, 2022
You Can Shed Tears
 You can shed tears that he is gone
 Or you can smile because he has lived
 You can close your eyes and pray that he will
 come back
 Or you can open your eyes and see all that he
 has left
 Your heart can be empty because you can't
 see him
 Or you can be full of the love that you shared
 You can turn your back on tomorrow and live
 yesterday
 Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of
 yesterday
 You can remember him and only that he is
 gone
 Or you can cherish his memory and let it live
 on
 You can cry and close your mind, be empty
 and turn your back
 Or you can do what he would want: smile,
 open your eyes, love and go on.
Written by David Harkins
 I know this would be Owen's wishes for all
 his dear family and all his dear friends. I also
 know he's "dancing and singing in the sky."
 We will love you forever, miss you always and
 never forget you, our dear, dear Owen.

-Love from,
 Your family ❤️

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

OBITUARY



Colleen Borlase (nee Joseph)
 It is with heavy hearts that the family of Colleen Borlase of
 Winnipeg Beach, formerly of Victoria Beach, announce her passing
 on December 4th, 2023 at the age of 71 years at the St. Boniface
 Hospital with her husband by her side.
 Colleen leaves to mourn her beloved husband of 50 years,
 Don; her son David; daughter Cynthia (Trevor); grandchildren,
 Daly, Brooklyn (Brett), Dillon (Camryn), Ayden, Thomas; sisters,
 Diana (Don), Debbie (Anthony) and Verna; brothers-in-law Laurie
 (Corinne) and Sonny; sisters-in-law Valeria (Doug), Janice and
 Barb as well as many nieces, nephews and friends who she loved
 dearly.
 She was predeceased by her parents Clifford and Mary Joseph;
 brothers Tommy, Brian, Bradley, Ray and Clifford Jr.; sister Marcia,
 and brothers-in-law Tony, Ric and Bill.
 Colleen was born October 11, 1952 in Victoria Beach. She grew up in a fisherman's household
 and was extremely proud of her family roots in Victoria Beach. She went to Victoria Beach school,
 later attending Selkirk Composite High School where she was active in curling. For many years
 she worked at the bakery in Victoria Beach until moving to Winnipeg in 1971 to live with her sister
 Debbie where she later worked in the bakery department at Safeway in 1972. It was at this time
 she met Don through her sister Debbie and brother-in-law Anthony and were married in 1973.
 Colleen and Don lived in Transcona and welcomed their first child, David in 1976 and daughter
 Cynthia in 1981. Colleen was an active community member assisting in Beavers with David and
 was an active member in the slow pitch ladies league and mixed bowling league. In 1985, Colleen
 and Don purchased Beachside Service in Winnipeg Beach later known as Interlake Service which
 they owned and operated together for 35 years. Even after moving to Winnipeg Beach, Colleen
 would travel back to Transcona to play on her slow pitch team. When she wasn't running with
 her children to various sporting or extracurricular events, or jumping to the pump, she could be
 found handing out candy to children who came in to the garage. She was always ready to work
 the Halloween shift!

Colleen can be remembered for her many years running both the Winnipeg Beach Curling Rink
 and Arena Canteens where she would occasionally offer "fancy sandwiches" as a menu item and
 would boast about her French Fries which were "the best in the Interlake".
 She loved her BINGO, Shooting Star and South Beach trips and was an avid sports fan. She
 was so happy to be able to see her Blue Jays in both Toronto and Minneapolis in the most recent
 years. Colleen never missed an opportunity to brag about a Stampeder win and although she
 was a Jets fan, a part of her heart would always be with the Maple Leafs just like her dad.
 She enjoyed travelling with her friends and was able to experience trips to Las Vegas, Barbados,
 Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba as well as multiple cruises. She loved music and made sure
 all of her grandchildren knew how to jig at a young age.
 More than anything, Colleen loved her grandchildren. She was a proud "nana" who couldn't
 wait to play a joke or prank, entertain and spoil her babies. She took pride in helping them learn
 and encouraged academic achievement in all of them.
 Colleen was a generous person and was always willing to lend a helping hand whenever she
 could, including local fundraisers in and around Winnipeg Beach such as the annual Halloween
 event, meat draws and assisting at Minerva Hall to name a few. She never turned down an
 opportunity to help another person and always felt it was better to give than receive. She was the
 last person to need recognition and was the first to offer it to another.
 The family would like to thank the staff at Gimli, HSC and St Boniface hospitals for the care
 over the past few weeks especially the exceptional care received at the Palliative Care unit at
 St. Boniface.
 A celebration of life will be held in her honor on Saturday, December 16th at 2:00 p.m. at the
 Winnipeg Beach Legion.
 Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Evangeline (Eva) Palm
 June 8, 1943 - December 6, 2023
 Eva passed away on December 6, 2023 after a very sudden decline in her health.
 A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 18, 2023 in the Moosehorn
 Hall officiated by Pastor Rick Bettig, followed by lunch. Eva will be laid to rest in the Hilbre
 Cemetery next to her mom.

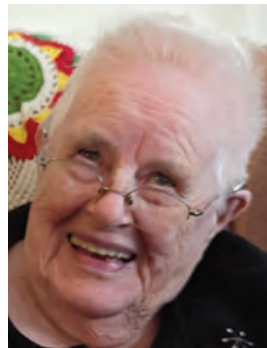
Arrangements by
ARNASON FUNERAL HOME
 Ashern - Lundar
 1.204.768.2072
 1.866.323.3483

OBITUARY

CHANGE IN SERVICE
Wayne Otis Thage
 The service planned for December 17, 2023 for Wayne Thage is now POSTPONED for a later
 date.

Arrangements by:
 Arnason Funeral Home
 Ashern - Lundar
 1-204-768-2072

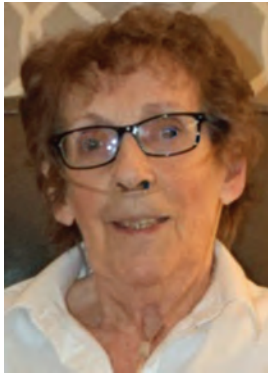
OBITUARY



Thelma Lillian Sigfusson (nee Thorgilsson)
 October 10, 1924 - December 4, 2023
 We are sad to announce the passing of Thelma Sigfusson (widow
 to the late Arthur Sigfusson), aged 99 years young. She passed
 peacefully with family by her side. She will be missed as a loving
 Mother, Amma, Lang Amma, Aunt and Friend. She was the last of
 the Thorgilsson and Sigfusson families of her generation.
 Mom was a wise, kind, loving and gentle woman who was always
 thinking of others. She loved doing puzzles (all kinds), playing
 cards and getting together with family and friends. Her memory
 was astounding, and her faith kept her strong through many of
 life's struggles. Although Mom was a woman of few words, she
 had a wonderful sense of humour. When she was joking and
 teasing you could see the twinkle in her eye. She will be missed
 dearly by all those who knew and loved her.
 Our family wishes to thank the staff at the EM Crowe Memorial Hospital, Eriksdale, MB for their
 compassionate care. Special thanks to friends for their support with visits and phone calls.
 Cremation has taken place and a celebration of her life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday,
 October 11, 2024 in the Lundar Legion Hall with Dwight Sander officiating.

Arrangements by:
ARNASON FUNERAL HOME
 Ashern - Lundar
 1.204.768.2072
 1.866.323.3593

OBITUARY



Lucille Grace Freeman (nee Waranuk)
October 14, 1942 – December 6, 2023

Lucille left this world peacefully on December 6th with family by her side.

Left to remember her fondly is her husband Jim; daughter Jackie (Art); son Morley (Jen); grandchildren Bjorn (Jenna), Erika (Jevon), Stefan (Tatianna), Brynn (Coralie), Brett and Brock; great-grandchildren Bryce, Blair and Hank.

Mom was born in Rainy River, Ontario on October 14, 1942. She grew up in Atikokan, Ontario where she graduated from high school. After school she moved with some friends to Winnipeg where she met Jim. They were married on May 30, 1964. Mom and Dad lived in Winnipeg for a number of years where she worked at various banks. They bought numerous houses in Winnipeg fixing up each one then selling it to buy another to work on. Both Jackie and Morley were born in Winnipeg but the family moved to Grosse Isle when Morley was a baby. They lived there for two years and then moved to the farm where they lived for the next 41 years raising cattle and their kids. Mom was never a farm girl growing up but she made the best of her new life. She looked after the bookwork, made meals for everyone in the busy seasons and even helped out during calving season. She was actively involved in the Siglunes Community Club especially during the curling club years. She was involved in the 4H program and drove a lot for Morley's hockey games. She became the postmaster in Vogar and enjoyed working there for several years. She loved to visit with everyone who came to pick up mail. After retiring from the farm Mom and Dad went commercial fishing for a few years. They bought a new camper and went on many fishing trips in the summer. They also loved going to auction sales to gather numerous "treasures". She had a large collection of teapots and the auction sales were a great place to find them. In 2018, Mom and Dad moved to Winnipeg to be closer to doctors and amenities. They bought a condo and enjoyed the last few years there. Mom was a strong-willed woman and anyone who knew her can attest to that. We will always remember her for a few of her quotes especially with the kids. "Behave or I'll get out the willow!" "Don't touch that!" "You brats better smarten up or I'll skin you alive!". Of course, we all knew her bark was worse than her bite. Mom liked her time alone too. She loved her smoking room where she would read and do crosswords. Her health started to fail in the last few years but she still enjoyed visits from the kids. She spent the last couple of years in and out of hospital and spent the last couple of months at the Grace hospice.

As per Mom's wishes, she will be cremated and a graveside service will be held next spring for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Vogar Cemetery Fund, c/o Teresa Johnson Box 6 Vogar, MB ROC 3C0.

Rest easy Amma Doodoo.

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Classifieds Announcements



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OBITUARY

Jenny Frances Cholette

Peacefully, with her husband by her side on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at the Betel Home in Gimli, Jenny Cholette, aged 83 years passed away.

Jenny is survived by her beloved husband of over 65 years, Art; brothers Ronnie and David as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the Gilbart Funeral Chapel in Gimli, Manitoba. A viewing will be held prior to the service.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



Roger Clement Tinguely

We're sad to announce that our father Roger passed away peacefully on December 1, 2023 at the Betel Home, Gimli, Manitoba.

In the early 1920's his father, Jules Tinguely, had emigrated from Switzerland, and his mother Marie Augert emigrated from France. Roger was born in Notre-Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba on December 14, 1929. He graduated from high school in 1948. After a short stint of teaching, he served in the Canadian Armed Forces from December 29, 1949 to September 17, 1980. He met the love of his life, Mabel Sigurdson, in Gimli, and married her on April 26, 1952. His career took his family to postings in Lahr Germany, Saskatoon, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Winnipeg, Kingston, Ottawa, and Petawawa. Following his retirement, he and Mabel returned to Manitoba. They lived for a few years in Brandon before settling in

Gimli.

Roger had a longstanding love of nature, and in his spare time and during his retirement years, he and his wife shared an interest in the outdoors, skiing in the winter (both downhill and cross-country) and bicycling in the summer. In the 1950s they travelled together throughout Europe, and they later visited Iceland, Portugal, the United States, Cuba and Mexico. Their skiing trips took them to many slopes across Canada, in Europe and the United States. They were well-known and loved by many residents of Gimli.

Roger is survived by his brother Raymond and sister Laurette, by his wife Mabel, his three children Antoinette, Gregory and Vincent, and his grandchildren Sarah and Eric.

The family would like to thank the staff at Betel Home for their tireless and compassionate care. A memorial will be arranged at a later date.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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