



NORSEMEN AUCTION

Gimli, MB 204-651-0008
1 mile north and 1 mile west of Chudds Esso

norsemenauction.com

THE EXPRESS

www.expressweeklynews.ca

VOLUME 9 EDITION 50 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022

WEEKLY NEWS

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY



Gift Giving Ideas

Yard Machine 2x24 24"
208cc e/start
2 yr warranty
\$999⁰⁰

2023 Honda TRX420FM
420cc toe shift
1 yr warranty
\$8,649⁰⁰
PLUS PDI

2023 Honda CRF50
Air cooled single-cyl.
49cc
\$2,149⁰⁰
PLUS PDI

STIHL GTA 26 Pruner
Compact battery pruning saw
\$199

SHACHTAY SALES & SERVICE
Arborg, MB
204-376-5233



Support for basics

EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN BOWMAN
The Kiwanis-led Gimli High School Key Club delivered a cheque for \$1,000 to Evergreen Basic Needs to help support families during the holiday season. From left: Karen Bowman, Elaine Gibbs with Key Club vice-president Emily Friesen, president Mitchell Baker and Kiwanis advisor Frances Petrowski.

SERVING LUNDAR, ASHERN, ERIKSDALE, MOOSEHORN, FISHER BRANCH, RIVERTON, ARBORG, GIMLI, WINNIPEG BEACH, ARNES, MELEB, FRASERWOOD

Countryside Home building centre

WISHING YOU *Happy Holidays* AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

Lot 1, Hwy 17 S, Fisher Branch, MB
204-372-8501

Camp Morning Star hosts successful winter visit with students



Students took a walk through the forest to learn about the ecosystem and to tie ribbons around trees, which symbolizes protection.

By Patricia Barrett

After an attack that saw parts of their camp burnt down and items trashed and stolen, members of Camp Morning Star hosted about 55 students from the Seven Oaks School Division on Nov. 29 to teach them about the

land, the threats to it from a nearby sand mine and share Indigenous teachings and food.

Camp Morning Star, located on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg near Seymourville and Hollow Water First Nation, was set up in 2019 to



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

About 55 students from Winnipeg's Seven Oaks School Division visited Camp Morning Star on Nov. 29 to experience the forest, learn about the land and Indigenous traditions and share Indigenous food.

provide educational sessions to the public about the importance of environmental protection and to peacefully oppose the operation of a silica sand mine that Alberta-based Canadian Premium Sand wants to operate. CPS announced in September it had entered into an option-to-purchase agreement with the City of Selkirk for 121 acres of land near the junction of

highways 4 and 9A for a solar glass manufacturing plant. Sand from its mine will be used to make the glass.

Camp Morning Star organizers are planning to resume overnight camps in the spring as the demand from schools are growing, said a camp affiliate, as well as an awareness event in Winnipeg, the date of which will be announced.



Westshore
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC

Invites you to join us for an evening of celebration.

New Year's Eve 2022

Dinner & Dance

Lakeview Gimli Resort Ballroom

Cocktails 6:00pm Dinner 7:30pm

Complimentary Prosecco 11:45 pm


Dance to **the CRACKED** 50's-80's Classic Rock



Tickets \$85.00

Meals for dietary restrictions available when requested with reservation.

Please contact:
Westshore Community Foundation Board Members listed at westshorefoundation.ca
Lakeview Gimli Resort – Amber Reykdal 204-642-8565
Westshore Community Foundation Administrative Coordinator – Krista Narfason
204-642-9796 or admin@wcf-foundation.ca
Payment may be made by Cash, Cheque, E-transfer, Mastercard, Visa or Debit



Baker Law

CORPORATION

Do you have a current will?

Protect your family by having a current will, power of attorney and health care directive. Call us or stop in for more information and find out how we can help you.

Grant D. Baker

Barrister, Solicitor and Notary

Providing full time legal service to families and small businesses in Gimli and the Interlake.

GIMLI LOCATION 72 Centre Street, Gimli, MB Our office is open 9-5 Mon to Fri 204-642-8681 or 1-866-487-5688	RIVERTON LOCATION 33 Main St. Riverton MB Open Mon & Wed 9:30-4:30 204-378-5427
---	---

Kids helping kids: Red River Co-op Kid's Cookbook raises money for the Children's Hospital

Submitted

Red River Co-op launched the sale of their *Kid's Holiday Favourites Cookbook* in support of the Children's Hospital at all nine food store locations last Saturday. Children's Hospital volunteers and Champion Kids were at select food stores to help sell the cookbooks. All proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Child Life Program to help make the hospital a little less scary for the 130,000 sick and injured kids and their families who depend on the hospital each year. The cookbooks will be sold for a minimum donation of \$5 each until supplies last.

The Children's Hospital Foundation supports families throughout Manitoba.

"We are so pleased with the support of Red River Co-op and have enjoyed working closely

with them to develop the cookbook, which features several of the foundation family children who have needed care at children's hospital," says Stefano Grande, president and CEO of Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. "We hope everyone will enjoy the holiday favourites the kids have shared and know that every purchase of the recipes book will help support sick and injured kids in your community."

"The Child Life Program is an important program that provides kids and their families fun and purpose through a difficult time. Red River Co-op is proud to continue supporting a program that helps bring comfort to children and families," said Doug Wiebe, CEO of Red River Co-op.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Corinne and Brady Bobrowich were promoting the Kid's Holiday Favourites Cookbook in support of the Children's Hospital Foundation at the Selkirk Co-op Food Store this past Saturday. Brady been an ambassador, the foundation's Champion Child for two years. This energetic young man has spoken at more than 40 virtual events to advocate for children's hospitals across the country.



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:
Dec. 26, 27 & Jan 2

**For regular operating hours, please visit www.freedomwestinsurance.com **



FREE DELIVERY
on all lift chairs and scooters until 2023

RELIABLE MOBILITY

Savaria K2 Stairlift installed starting at \$2900

1046 Portage Ave., Wpg., MB R3G 0S2
info@reliablemobility.com

GREAT Holiday GIFT IDEAS

GTA 26 BATTERY PRUNING SAW
AS 2 • ALT • 28 WH
• 1.2 KG/2.6 LB ①

BG 50 GAS HANDHELD BLOWER
27.2 CC • 0.7 KW
• 3.6 KG/7.9 LB ①

HSA 26 BATTERY SHRUB SHEARS
10.8 V LI-ION • 28 WH
• 0.8 KG/1.6 LB ②

MS 170 GAS CHAIN SAW
30.1CC • 1.3 KW
• 3.9 KG/8.6 LB ④

\$219⁹⁹
MSRP

SAVE \$30
\$199⁹⁹
MSRP \$229.99

\$179⁹⁹
MSRP UNIT PRICE WITHOUT BATTERY AND CHARGER \$129.99

SAVE \$40
\$249⁹⁹
MSRP \$289.99 WITH 16" BAR

Battery Power. Made by STIHL.

LIMITED TIME OFFER SAVE \$70
WOOD PRO KIT NOW ONLY \$29.99 WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY ELIGIBLE STIHL CHAIN SAW®

Kit includes Woodsman® Carrying Case • OILOMATIC® Chain • STIHL Hat

STRINGER RENTALS & POWER PRODUCTS

www.stringerrentals.com

99 7th Ave Gimli MB
204-642-7490

Matlock Recreation Club's breakfast with Santa attracts a sizeable crowd

By Patricia Barrett

The Matlock Recreation Club hosted a free breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus last Saturday that drew hundreds of people from across the Interlake.

The club's recreation co-ordinator Crystal Thordarson said the event had double the number of attendees it had last year, with about 300 people from areas such as Dunnottar, Winnipeg Beach, Gimli and Selkirk registering in advance.

"There's no charge for the breakfast. We supply a pancake breakfast as well as coffee, tea and juice," said Thordarson days before the event. "We're also giving away a gift to every single child. Right now, we have 140 or so kids attending the event. Each child gets a goody bag and we have an area where people have their pictures taken with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves."

The club organized three different time slots for the breakfast so that there weren't 300 people in the build-

ing at one time. And the 10 minutes between each seating was reserved for cleaning and sanitizing tables and chairs to help keep people safer during the respiratory season.

The breakfast was sponsored by people in the community who either helped raise money for the event by taking part in raffles and by local businesses, which generously supplied some of the food.

"The club puts on a bingo every Friday night and people have been donating items for a raffle. We raffle off the items at the bingo and all the money from that goes to support the breakfast. We have people who donate money towards the breakfast, too, and some businesses in the area are donating items such as the juice boxes, pancake mix and syrup," said Thordarson. "So it all comes from the community."

The club asked people to donate a tin for the bin for the Matlock Fire Department's food hamper drive. The club also accepted a silver donation at



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

People got to tell Santa and Mrs. Claus what they wanted for Christmas.



Parents and kids enjoyed the recreation club's free breakfast.

the door to help cover the costs of the breakfast.

"There will be food hampers put together for people in the Matlock area because Evergreen Basic Needs and

Winnipeg Beach do their own hamper programs," said Thordarson. "If there's anything left over, it would go to EBN or Winnipeg Beach if they needed it."

Flight Training

START YOUR CAREER AS A PILOT!

Becoming a pilot can be a rewarding career

LAKESIDE FLIGHT SCHOOL IS THE MOST AFFORDABLE IN CANADA. RECREATIONAL, PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL LICENCE. AUTHORIZED TRAINING FOR COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE, FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR RATING, NIGHT RATING, PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE, RECREATIONAL PILOT PERMIT AND VFR OVER-THE-TOP RATING

Want to learn to fly?

RECREATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM is the best way to get started. Must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger. Can easily add float rating to permit.

LS AIRWAYS FLIGHT ACADEMY

LS Airways Flight Academy | 311 Anson St, Gimli, MB | 204-642-4799

Christmas Eve

SERVICE

THIS CHRISTMAS EVE, JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR!

December 24, 2022 | 7 - 8 pm

☎: +1 (204) 376-3467

✉: OFFICE.FWC@GMAIL.COM

WWW.FREEDOMWORSHIPCENTRE.CA

LOCATION: 129023 MB-326
(JUST NORTH OF THE ARBORG FIRE HALL ON HWY 326)

Gimli High School's Kiwanis Key Club raises \$1,000 and vegetables for EBN food bank

By Patricia Barrett

Students who are part of Gimli High School's Key Club are ensuring struggling residents get a better Christmas through a donation of \$1,000 and fresh vegetables to Evergreen Basic Needs.

Students in the Gimli Kiwanis-led Key Club launched a Farm-to-School fundraiser in which people could order vegetables such as cabbages, onions, parsnips, carrots and potatoes.

EBN's co-executive director Karen Bowman said members of the Key Club delivered the cheque last Tuesday.

"I want to thank the Gimli High School Key Club for the donations of vegetables as well as the cash donation," said Bowman. "The donations will go a long way to help our clients enjoy a merry Christmas."

In addition to the funds, EBN also received produce that people had ordered specifically for the food bank through the Farm-to-School program.

"People could order vegetables through the program for themselves or they could send a package to a charity of their choice," said Bowman.

"Not only did we get 50 per cent of the sales of the produce, but we also got produce that people donated to us."

EBN's food bank provides residents in the RM of Gimli, Town of Winnipeg Beach, Dunnottar and RM of Armstrong with monthly hampers and also supports First Nations, schools, daycare centres and women's centres.

The Key Club's Kiwanis advisor Frances Petrowski said the students had a busy year and congratulated them on their successful fundraiser.

"The students did a fantastic job this year with the Farm-to-School program and sold enough veggies to be able to donate \$1,000 to Evergreen Basic Needs," said Petrowski. "Well done!"

The Kiwanis Club of Gimli & District hosts a number of programs for local schools including the Key Club for high school students, the Builders Club for middle school students and the K-Kids Club for elementary students. Students are given opportunities to provide service to their communities, build character and develop leadership skills.



Gimli High School's Key Club students, with Kiwanis members, launched a Farm-to-School fundraiser in which they sold vegetables such as cabbages, onions, parsnips, carrots and potatoes.



Some of the fresh vegetables donated to Evergreen Basic Needs' food bank through the students' project.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANCES PETROWSKI AND KAREN BOWMAN

Gimli High School's Key Club students, with Kiwanis members, donated \$1,000 to EBN.

"THE STUDENTS DID A FANTASTIC JOB THIS YEAR WITH THE FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM AND SOLD ENOUGH VEGGIES TO BE ABLE TO DONATE \$1,000 TO EVERGREEN BASIC NEEDS," SAID PETROWSKI. "WELL DONE!"

Take care of details so they don't have to. **Just ask Ken.**

kl
KEN LOEHMER
FUNERAL SERVICES

55 Main St, Teulon Call 204-886-0404 or visit www.klfuneralservices.ca

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at news@expressweeklynews.ca or Phone 204-467-5836

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

THE Flicks CINEMA

319 First Street E., Stonewall, MB

SHOWTIMES:
Please check individual listings
Due to various picture lengths showtimes vary

204-467-8401
PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
Cash only

VIOLENT NIGHT

FRI-THURS DEC 16 - 22
CLOSED TUESDAY
at 8:00 pm Each Night

Coarse Language; Violence **14A**

BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER

FRI-THURS DEC 23 - 29
CLOSED DEC 24 & 25
at 7:30 pm Each Night
OPEN Dec 23, 26, 27, 28 & 29

Coarse Language; Violence **PG**

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS



PUBLISHER
Lana Meier



SALES
Brett Mitchell



SALES AND MARKETING
Laura Platt



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennifer McFee



SPORTS EDITOR
Brian Bowman



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Patricia Barrett



ADMINISTRATION
Corrie Sargent



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Autumn Fehr



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Ty Dilello



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown



PRODUCTION
Debbie Strauss



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta



ADMINISTRATION
Jo-Anne Procter



ADMINISTRATION
Allana Sawatzky

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



PRINT
Dan Anderson

get informed

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



Call Patricia Barrett
1-204-407-6099
patricia@expressweeklynews.ca

Eight more Manitobans succumb to COVID; RSV outbreak in Arborg PCH

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba continues to rack up COVID deaths, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) has caused an outbreak at the Arborg Personal Care Home.

Another eight people succumbed to COVID, according to the provincial government's weekly respiratory surveillance report for the period Nov. 27 to Dec. 3 (reporting Week 48). There were 16 deaths reported the previous week.

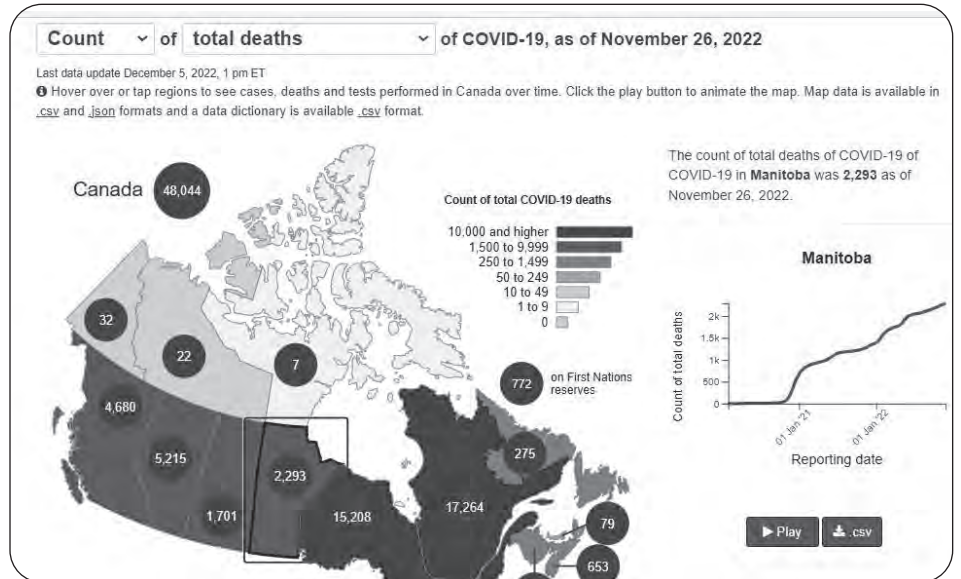
There were 76 new hospital admissions for COVID in Week 48, down six from the previous report showing 82 admissions. Included in the hospital admissions were seven admissions to the intensive care unit, down 12 from the previous report that showed 19 ICU admissions. The government doesn't provide in its report the total number of people in hospital with COVID on any given day or week.

The government diagnosed 251 new COVID infections by PCR testing. Provincial data is an undercount of the true number of cases as the government restricts PCR testing. Rapid antigen tests aren't tracked. There were 281 new infections reported the previous week.

Wastewater surveillance data to Dec. 1 shows "sustained activity" of COVID in Winnipeg and Brandon, according to the report.

The provincial government changed the way it reports cumulative deaths and hospitalizations. It started presenting data from Week 27 (July 3-9) of this year, showing 199 cumulative deaths to date. Manitoba's death toll from the start of reporting in 2020 to Week 44 (Oct. 30 to Nov. 5, 2022) was 2,256.

The change in the way the province now presents COVID data makes it difficult to easily assess the death toll from the virus. The federal government's COVID website shows Mani-



EXPRESS GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Manitoba's COVID death toll has reached 2,293 as of Nov. 26, according to the federal government. The number of deaths from the virus has continued to climb since December 2020 when omicron unleashed an unprecedented number of infections.

toba's death toll having reached 2,293 as of Nov. 26.

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

Influenza numbers for Week 48 are lower than expected because the government is experiencing a delay in reporting.

"Due to an influx of influenza laboratory reports this respiratory season, Manitoba Health is experiencing delays in the documentation of laboratory results within the provincial Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS)," states the government's surveillance webpage. "As [a] result, the influenza case counts for week 48 are lower than expected. We anticipate an update to these data in next week's report."

The Week 48 report shows 120 new influenza A cases, zero influenza B

cases and 80 RSV "detections."

"Up to Week 48 this season, children below the age of five years are at the highest risk for influenza infection. This age group accounted for 12% of all influenza cases and 20% of associated hospital admissions," states the report. "At the same time, other respiratory viruses continue to co-circulate. RSV test positivity increased to 4.0% in Week 48 from 2.2% in the previous week."

Other health news:

- The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority declared on Nov. 30 an RSV outbreak at the Arborg Personal Care Home.

Arborg mayor Peter Dueck said the town contacted the IERHA with concerns about the outbreak as well as having no emergency room service at the Arborg hospital from Dec. 16 to

Continued on page 8

ADVERTISING OR PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION

Lana Meier 204-292-2128
ads@expressweeklynews.ca
Laura Platt 204-641-4104
ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca
PHONE 204-467-5836
FAX 204-467-2679

> EMAIL US

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca
Classifieds: classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca
News: news@expressweeklynews.ca
Print: igrphic@mymts.net

OUR EDITORIAL STAFF

Brian Bowman Sports Reporter
sports@expressweeklynews.ca
Patricia Barrett - Reporter/Photographer
Cell 204-407-6099 patricia@expressweeklynews.ca
Autumn Fehr - Reporter/Photographer
204-998-1993

PAPER DELIVERY OR FLYER CONCERNS

Christy Brown, Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

The Express Weekly News is published Thursdays and distributed through Canada Post to 11,396 homes. Republishing in whole or in part without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed in Canada by Prolific Printing.

This newspaper is supported 100% by advertising dollars. If you enjoy the paper and would like to see the newspaper grow and prosper visit any of the advertisers and businesses in our rural communities. - Keep your dollars working at home and shop local. Our commitment to you, the reader - we connect people through stories to build stronger communities.

Advertising Deadline: Monday 4:00 pm
prior to Thursday Publication

View the Express Weekly News online at
www.expressweeklynews.ca



ADDRESS

74 Patterson Drive, Stonewall Industrial Park
Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0



get informed

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



EXPRESS PHOTO BY KALE MCDONALD

Leanne Differ and Nathan McDonald did a little hard water fishing last Sunday at Lundar Beach. Differ caught three Walleye including one that measured 25" and one perch. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: weather@expressweeklynews.ca.

Serious harms from COVID vaccines downplayed, under-reported, says new study

By Patricia Barrett

An assessment of COVID-19 vaccine studies has found that serious harms from the vaccines have been ignored, downplayed and at times deliberately excluded.

Medical researchers from the Denmark-based Institute for Scientific Freedom — which focuses on performing systematic reviews and doesn't accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry — say vaccine harms were under-reported in medical trials that were published in high impact journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *The Lancet*.

The Danish study titled "Serious harms of the COVID-19 vaccines: a systematic review" was released as a preprint, which has not been certified by peer review and should not guide clinical practice. It was published Dec. 7 on the medRxiv health sciences server.

The mRNA COVID vaccines increased the risk of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle), with a mortality of 1-2 per 200 cases, the researchers wrote, while the adenovirus vector vaccines increased the risk of venous thrombosis (blood clots) and thrombocytopenia (low blood platelet count). The researchers also found evidence of neurological harms.

"We also found evidence of serious neurological harms, including Bell's palsy [unilateral facial paralysis], Guillain-Barre syndrome [pe-

ripheral nervous system weakness or paralysis], myasthenic disorder [muscle weakness] and stroke, which are likely due to an autoimmune reaction, as has been suggested also for the HPV vaccines," the researchers wrote. "Severe harms, i.e. those that prevent daily activities, were hugely underreported in the randomized trials. These harms were very common in studies of booster doses after a full vaccination and in a study of vaccination of previously infected people."

The researchers performed a systematic review of published vaccine studies worldwide to analyze the risk of serious harms. A systematic review is a critical assessment of all the evidence on a medical topic and a synthesis of the results.

The Danish researchers based their findings on 17 systematic reviews, 14 randomized trials and 31 other studies with a control group (which establishes causality). They found most studies were of poor quality. The most reliable study was a systematic review of regulatory data on two randomized trials of mRNA vaccines, which found significantly more serious adverse events (SAEs) from the vaccines. The "excess risk was considerably larger than the benefit measured as the risk of hospitalization." The researchers excluded vaccine studies that were based on questionnaires, that didn't have an adequate control group and those with fewer

than 1,000 participants.

A serious adverse event (SAE) is defined by the European Medicines Agency as an event that results in death, is life-threatening, requires hospitalization or a prolongation of existing hospitalization, results in persistent or significant disability or incapacity, or a birth defect.

The first COVID vaccines were authorized under emergency or conditional use in December 2020 by regulators such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency.

The fast-tracking of the vaccines entailed a lower burden of proof for their efficacy and safety than would be required during traditional approval pathways, the researchers wrote. And independent researchers were denied access to raw trial data by the vaccine manufacturers and the drug regulators. The FDA was sued and access to the data was granted by a court.

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's mRNA COVID vaccines, along with AstraZeneca and Janssen's (Johnson & Johnson) vector vaccines, are approved for use in Canada.

For a number of vaccines, the Danish researchers found months of safety data missing, deaths within 28 days of vaccination, vaccine trials with a majority of researchers from the vaccine company itself and adverse events considered to be related to vaccination. In a trial of Janssen's COVID

Ashern RCMP respond to robbery

Staff

RCMP responded to a robbery in progress at a business on Highway 6, in Ashern on Dec. 5, at approximately 3:50 a.m.

While officers were enroute, they received a second 911 call, advising that the suspect was now fighting with employees.

Officer arrived and placed the suspect under arrest.

The initial investigation determined that the male suspect entered the business, brandished a knife and a stick and demanded money and cigarettes. While the suspect was grabbing money and items, an employee entered the business, startled the suspect, and the suspect began punching the employee. The other employees intervened, and the suspect was held until police arrived.

One of the employees received minor physical injuries.

Braden McIvor, 22, of Ashern, has been charged with: Robbery x2, Assault with a Weapon, Assault, Fail to Comply x2. He was remanded into custody.

vaccine, for instance, SAEs such as

Continued on page 8

AL-ANON GIMLI & WINNIPEG BEACH

It takes great courage to go to that first Al-Anon meeting. It isn't easy to go against old beliefs and fears and reach out to other people for strength, guidance, and support. When we finally realize that we are sick and tired of being sick and tired, we open a door to unlimited possibilities for change, for hope, and for a happier and richer life.

Reaching out for help in Al-Anon is unlike asking for help in most other places. In Al-Anon, we do not give advice. Nobody tells anyone else what to do about their own private situation. We don't know what's best for another person. Alcoholism is a family disease. Friendships, employment, childhood, parenthood, love affairs, and marriages all suffer from the effects of alcoholism and that's why attending Al-Anon meetings is so important. Having suffered alone with the effects of this brutal disease, the Al-Anon meetings fellowship is an unexpectedly rich and nourishing source of compassion and support.

Please join us at 17B North Colonization 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.

> COVID, FROM PG. 7

tinnitus, urticaria (hives), convulsion, pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis occurred within 28 days after vaccination.

“Our systematic review demonstrates the difficulty of determining vaccine related SAEs in published trial data. Theoretically, systematic reviews of randomized trials should be the most reliable source of evidence, but serious harms are vastly underreported, if reported at all, in published drug trials,” they wrote.

“The underreporting seems to be particularly pronounced in vaccine

trials. For the COVID-19 vaccines, there is the additional problem that, within weeks of the vaccines receiving an emergency use authorisation, when far too little time had elapsed to identify late occurring or diagnosed harms, the unblinding of trials commenced and placebo recipients were offered the vaccine. The safety of vaccines is important because they are preventive, but editors of our most prestigious journals chose to relegate the data on serious harms to supplements, which few readers will access....”

Under-reporting is a problem, particularly when doctors have been “reassured by authoritative messages

that vaccines are safe,” they wrote. And there is fear among doctors that they can be threatened with disciplinary action if they undermine a government’s COVID vaccine rollout.

The researchers don’t state any limitations to their systematic review but say further study regarding the harms and benefits of COVID vaccines is needed as authorities recommend that nearly everybody get vaccinated and receive booster doses.

According to the Canadian government’s COVID vaccination side effects webpage, there have been 93,171,073 vaccine doses administered in Canada as of Nov. 11. There have been 52,203 adverse events (6

out of every 10,000 people) reported, of which 10,361 were considered serious and 41,842 were considered non-serious.

A total of 389 deaths following a COVID vaccination have also been reported although the federal government states “they are not necessarily related to the vaccine” because of missing information and changes to a causality classification system.

“Evidence indicates that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines continue to outweigh the risks of the disease,” states the website.

> HEALTH, FROM PG. 6

31.

“We are aware of these concerns and have reached out to the IERHA,” said Dueck last Wednesday. “We are hopeful that we will be back to three full-time doctors in January, and then we need to build from there.”

A spokesperson for the IERHA said appropriate control measures are implemented in a timely manner when outbreaks are identified early. There is also adequate staffing at the Arborg PCH and support from hospitals in the region should any residents require hospitalization for RSV.

“The IERHA has adequate staffing in place in Arborg PCH. If needed, the site will enact incident command to address any staffing challenges that may arise,” said the spokesperson. “Arborg PCH has medical support at all times and should hospital admission be required, arrangements would be made for a resident to be admitted to the most appropriate hospital for care (this could include Arborg hospital, another hospital in the region or a Winnipeg hospital if medical conditions require).”

The spokesperson wouldn’t say how many patients are infected with RSV, the impact on staffing, whether other

viruses such as COVID and influenza are circulating in the care home and whether there have been any deaths from RSV.

“There are many types of outbreaks that might occur in health-care facilities such as respiratory, gastrointestinal, MRSA, scabies and some are expected every year like influenza,” said the spokesperson. “The definition and number of cases of illness required to call an outbreak may be different between the different types of disease.

“For example, a COVID outbreak is called when two or more patients, who are not roommates or tablemates or do not share a bathroom between two patient rooms, acquire health-care-associated infections attributed to a unit, within 10 days of each other. A respiratory outbreak is called when two or more health-care associated infection cases of respiratory illness with similar symptoms, who are not roommates or tablemates, occurring within a seven-day period in an institution/unit. Ideally this includes at least one lab-confirmed case, but this is not necessary.”

- A COVID outbreak that was declared on Nov. 4 at the Selkirk Betel Personal Care Home continues, according to the IERHA’s outbreak

webpage (viewed Dec. 11).

- The IERHA declared a COVID outbreak on Dec. 7 at Pinawa’s hospital, whose ER is also affected by ongoing temporary closures.

- Canada has had over 48,000 COVID deaths reported as of Nov. 26, according to federal data.

- Worldwide, there have been over 6.6 million COVID deaths reported as of Dec. 9, according to the World Health Organization.

- The IERHA’s two-week emergency room schedule for the period Dec. 16-31 shows no ER availability at both the Eriksdale and the Arborg hospitals. Residents who can get themselves to emergency have the option of going to Ashern, Gimli or Selkirk, whose ERs currently show 24-hour availability for the period, or to Stonewall whose ER is open for most of the period apart from a few days of temporary shutdown near the end of the month. The ER schedule is posted online and is subject to change.

- Medical associations from across Canada have called on provincial and territorial governments to work with the federal government to fix the health-care system crisis and to enter an agreement to increase health funding.

Fourteen associations, including

Doctors Manitoba, jointly penned a letter to first ministers, asking them to show leadership to address the crisis.

Doctors across the country are “gravely concerned” that patients have long wait times, lack of access to primary care, delayed diagnostic services and cancelled procedures, all of which indicate “negative trends” in access to health-care in Canada, they state on behalf of doctors.

“Health care is in crisis in every province and territory in Canada. On behalf of Canada’s doctors, we are writing to urge you, as First Ministers, to chart the path out of this crisis with commitments to significant funding increases, pan-Canadian collaboration and accountability to patients,” states the Dec. 6 letter.

Doctors Manitoba reiterates in a Dec. 7 news release on its website that physicians are disappointed there’s no additional health-care funding and that the medical system in every province and territory is in crisis.

“Patients cannot access the care they need in a timely fashion and physicians are rapidly burning out,” states the release.

IN 2023, LEAVE SMOKING BEHIND



WITH THE HELP OF YOUR MANITOBA PHARMACIST



Find your nearest participating pharmacy at
www.QuitSmokingMB.ca



Countdown to Riverton's kids Christmas party

Kids Christmas Party on Dec. 18

By Autumn Fehr

Grab your kids and head down to the Riverton Community Hall for a party!

For the first time since 2019, the Riverton and District Friendship Centre (RDFC) will host its annual Kids Christmas Party, a family-oriented event they have been hosting for the past 15 years.

On Dec. 18, from 1 to 3 p.m., families are welcome to enjoy a hot lunch and various Christmas activities.

The light lunch includes hot dogs, deckers, fruit, veggies and dainties and is free for all the kids and

their families.

"This event is a way we can give back to our community and surrounding areas with some holiday spirit. ... It's for everybody to have a fun afternoon with no barrier of cost," said Desarae Bilinski from the RDFC.

Activities are available for kids and their families to enjoy, such as inflatables, a crafter's corner, letters to Santa, storytelling with Mrs. Claus, Christmas bingo and an elf dance party.

Special guests including Paw Patrol, Santa Claus, and Mrs. Claus will be there to party with the kids and participate in activities.

The event isn't just for kids. All families are welcome for an afternoon together at no cost.

Registration for the event can be done in person at the Friendship Centre, by calling them at 204-378-2800, or by messaging them on Facebook or any of

their socials.

The RDFC encourages everyone to bring a tin for the bin for the food bank to support others in the community to have food on the table this Christmas.



Medical lab assistant program expected to start in February in Arborg

Eriksdale hospital lab expected to be up and running in the new year

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government's Shared Health organization said over 40 people have expressed interest in a medical laboratory assistant training program that's expected to start in 2023, and will result in a broader pool of lab technicians to support diagnostic services in the Interlake.

In the interim, there should be two newly trained assistants ready to start working in the laboratory at Eriksdale's E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital in the new year.

Shared Health suspended laboratory services at the hospital this month after a staffing issue arose. Eriksdale's emergency room, which depends on lab services to support diagnoses and care, also had to temporarily close for the month.

"Shared Health is committed to developing its diagnostic workforce throughout the province, including in Eriksdale and the broader Interlake-Eastern health region," said a Shared Health spokesperson responding to questions sent to the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority. "In Eriksdale, diagnostic services are expected to resume next month once two newly trained medical laboratory assistants begin working at the site. These staff, who already work at E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital, are

currently being trained at the lab in Ashern."

The need for medical lab assistants is "fluid" and "changes on a weekly basis" throughout the Interlake and the province, said the spokesperson in response to a question about how many medical laboratory assistants the IERHA needs to hire.

A quick scan through about a dozen pages of all the IERHA jobs posted online didn't turn up any postings for medical lab assistants.

"When training of these individuals in Arborg is complete, Shared Health will have a broader pool of qualified individuals to draw upon to support diagnostic services in the area," said the spokesperson. "This is operationally important to making the service more sustainable with fewer service interruptions, as we recognize that staff are likely to remain in their positions longer if they have a personal connection to the community or communities they serve."

A question about how many students have registered in the upcoming lab assistant program in Arborg went unanswered. But the spokesperson said over 40 people from the Interlake have "expressed interest" in the program, and the first intake is expected to start in February. The program is being offered as a partnership between Fieldstone Ventures, Shared Health, Assiniboine Community College and Robertson College.

The Express reached out to Ashern-based Fieldstone Ventures last week for more information about the lab assistant program but didn't hear

back by press time.

The Government of Canada's Job Bank website shows medical laboratory assistants' hourly wages in Manitoba, as of mid-November 2022, ranging from \$14.30 on the low end of the scale to a median wage of \$24.30 to a high of \$30. Hourly wages for the Interlake-Eastern and other health regions are not provided.

Think you're registered?
THINK AGAIN!

Many of us carry a blue paper donor card in our wallet. But did you know the registry has moved online? All Manitobans are encouraged to go register at signupforlife.ca. It's time to upgrade, even if you still have a signed paper card.



Manitoba

Shared health
Soins communs
Manitoba

**SIGN UP
FOR
LIFE.CA**

Stonewall alum earns MADD Canada award

By Jennifer McFee

A man with local roots is a dedicated volunteer who helps people during their darkest moments, and now he's being recognized for his compassionate efforts.

Amar Manning earned the 2022 National Victim Services Volunteer of the Year by MADD Canada. Also known as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD Canada aims to stop impaired driving while also supporting victims of this violent crime.

Manning, who graduated from Stonewall Collegiate Institute in 2014, began volunteering with MADD five years ago.

"I was finishing up my last semester at university so I was going to have some extra free time on my hands. I wanted to get involved with an organization where I could make an impact," he said.

"I looked at different options that were available and MADD interested me. I reached out to the MADD Winnipeg chapter and next thing I knew I was a board member. It happened very quickly."

After becoming a board member in December 2017, Manning expanded his scope and also became a victim services volunteer in November 2018.

"In the victim services capacity, I facilitate monthly support groups. I help people who have been victims of impaired driving," he said.

"It's a place for them to speak to one another and process what's been happening. I'm a lucky one because I'm not a victim. I've never experienced loss like that but I can only imagine what they are going through."

For Manning, the creation of this safe and supportive group remains his biggest accomplishment with the organization.

"What I'm most proud of is building a stable and consistent group where people can attend and talk about how they're feeling. I believe the strength comes from the people within the group and not myself," he said.

"Some of the members have faced the biggest tragedy and lost a loved one to a selfish decision someone else made. It takes a strong person with extreme resilience to attend and be a part of such meetings. I really admire everyone who's part of the group."

Last month, Manning travelled to Toronto to attend a MADD leadership conference. While he was there, the national organization hosted an awards

ceremony for volunteers and highlighted achievements from across Canada.

"I was absolutely honoured and humbled to be the recipient of this award. As my name got called out, I was very surprised. I literally had no idea," he said.

"I'm proud to be the winner of the award this year, but my involvement with MADD has never been about receiving any sort of recognition."

He also noted that Trevor Ens, president of the Winnipeg chapter, also deserves recognition for his important work.

Meanwhile, Ens explained that victim services goes to the heart of what MADD is all about — and Manning has made a huge difference in that capacity.

"This is providing a service to people that have either lost a loved one or have had one injured. When tragedy has struck a family or a person, Amar is the individual that we send to deal with that. He's been doing outstanding job," Ens said.

"He's the first point of contact with families and individuals when they're stricken with a tragedy and a violent crime like impaired driving. It's not just being heartfelt, understanding and empathetic, but it's also having a knowledge base for connecting people. If he isn't able to specifically deal with their needs, then he has knowledge on how to get someone who does."

Beyond treating people with compassion and respect, Manning truly gets to know individuals on a deeper level.

"Unfortunately, we have a long list at the Winnipeg chapter of people who have lost loved ones and he knows them all off by heart. He knows their story and he knows their loved one's story," Ens said.

"He's there for them on specific landmine dates, whether it's a birthday or anniversary or Christmas time. He's there reaching out to individuals to comfort them and to see them through those troubling times."

Based on his experience, Manning shares some sage words about impaired driving that he hopes people will take to heart, particularly with the holiday season approaching.

"There never has been an excuse to drink and drive and there never will be. There are many options to get around safely and it's up to the people to use them. I'm not against having a good time, but it's easy to do it in a responsible manner," Manning said.

"You never choose to be a victim. I know too many people who have lost their loved ones to impaired driving, something that is 100 per cent preventable."

With five years of volunteer experience, Manning



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Amar Manning, middle, received the 2022 National Victim Services Volunteer of the Year Award from MADD Canada.



is glad he got involved with MADD — and he encourages others to consider doing the same.

"I would always recommend volunteering for MADD. For me, it's been a good experience," he said.

"Overall, it's a very rewarding organization to be a part of and it's a great place for people who genuinely want to help."

For more information about MADD's Winnipeg chapter, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, email madd.wpg.mb@gmail.com or call 1-800-665-6233.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
December 22nd, 2022 - January 1st, 2023
Opening January 2nd, 2023

There will be NO newspaper printed December 29th,
but we will continue to distribute our flyers,
so please watch for them in your mail and distribution boxes.

*Merry Christmas &
A Happy New Year*

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

If you have a news tip or are interested in advertising please contact
News Tips: news@expressweeklynews.ca
Advertising: ads@expressweeklynews.ca

Marvellous Bonspiel pays tribute to prominent community members

By Autumn Fehr

For five years, Shawn Magnusson, his brother Aaron Magnusson, and their wives Della and Crystal, along with their kids, have run the Marvellous curling bonspiel in Riverton, in honour of their parents.

The family started hosting the event shortly after their dad, Marvin Magnusson, died in 2015, in memory of him.

Later, in 2019, their mom, Roberta Magnusson, died, and the bonspiel was held in honour of both of them.

The event helps the curling rink make some money, but most importantly, the social aspect of it makes it a place where the community can get together, said Shawn.

The Marvellous Bonspiel is run like a regular bonspiel, with four sponsored events. After three games, the team with the most points wins their bonspiel pool, and each winning team receives a cash prize.

The bonspiel isn't about winning prizes; it's about getting together. It's a weekend where friends, family and the curling community can get together, have some fun, support the community and curl, said Shawn.

Curling has been a part of Shawn's life since he was young. His parents were very involved with the Riverton Curling Club, so as kids, he and his brother were down there all the time.

He started curling when he was five or six; from there, his relationship with curling and the curling community took off.

Shawn and Aaron have been a part of the Riverton Men's league since they were 12 and have been involved, in some role, with the curling board since they were 18.

At some point, both of his parents were presidents of the club, and they brought a lot of new curlers into the building.

Marvin ran the men's bonspiel in Riverton for many years. He ran as a councillor for over 30 years and was



Marvin and Roberta Magnusson were important members of the curling community in Riverton and worked tirelessly to make the Riverton Curling Club a welcoming space for everyone.

very community oriented.

Roberta was a school board trustee, so she was very involved in the community in all aspects.

"They were very involved in the day-to-day operations of the curling rink and driving us kids around for our curling bonspiels," said Shawn.

When his dad died, it was natural for Shawn to take over and run a bonspiel in Riverton to remember his dad and his involvement in the curling community and community as a whole.

"When we decided to put on the bonspiel for the first time when my dad passed away, the support from the community was overwhelming, just how much people appreciated them," said Shawn.

Since he first started the Marvellous Bonspiel, his mom has died. Now, the bonspiel is run in memory of them both.

"It keeps their memory alive in our kids. It's pretty heartwarming when you see people talking to your kids about our parents," said Shawn.

Two years ago, they started giving out an award in honour of their mom, called the Behind the Scenes award.

The award is meant to recognize the moms out there that are involved in their kids' activities.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY DONNA GISLASON

First event - sponsored by Magnusson family, presented by Shawn Magnusson to Wes Jonasson, Donna Gislason, Les Gislason and Luke Jonasson.

"They're the ones that support the kids by driving them around, being involved in the curling rink, and making sure the kids get to their games and give up their weekends. It doesn't seem like those people get the recognition as much as they should," said Shawn.

Bev Sigurdson was recognized for the Behind the Scenes award in this year's bonspiel.

On Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec.

3, the Magnussons and their families hosted their fifth annual bonspiel in memory of their parents and grandparents at the Riverton Curling Club.

"It's a weekend to remember them and what other people thought of them and all the stories," said Shawn.

The Magnussons plan to host the bonspiel to keep the memory of their parents alive, and their kids can grow up with them in their hearts with curling a part of their lives.



Second event - sponsored by Vigfusson Farms presented by Shawn Magnusson to Kevin Vigfusson, Kylee Vigfusson, Karl Kroeker and Kadence Vigusson.



Fourth event - sponsored by Loewen Farms presented by Shawn Magnusson to Eric Loewen, Meagan Bjarnson, Kris Bjarnason and Aubrey Eyolfson.



Third event - sponsored by Daren and Kim Sigurdson presented by Shawn Magnusson to Derrick Anderson, Brittany Anderson, Chris Sigurdson and Angie Collins.

Your FARM



Lots for producers to consider as tax season looms

By Lorne Stelmach

Tax season is upon us with the year-end approaching, and it can present agricultural producers with a lot to consider in making sound tax and financial decisions.

There are myriad annual tax issues to consider with producers aiming to ensure they are minimizing the tax they pay. Some of the pillars of tax planning can include income tax deferral, income splitting and ensuring you use all available tax incentives.

"There's no way to avoid the tax; it's only a matter of postponing it and putting it off," said Lance Stockbrugger, a chartered accountant who had dealt mostly with farm clients until he turned his attention full-time to farming while still doing some consulting in areas including transition planning, tax planning, corporations.

"In the old days, a lot of people used to try to stay in that lower tax bracket and pay the minimum amount of tax. ... Farmers can do that by avoiding to take income ... and making sure all of their expenses are paid by year end," he said.

"I've been advising people for many, many years now that probably the minimum, the low tax bracket isn't enough. If you're running a decent business ... and we've had very successful years ... paying tax at the low tax bracket probably isn't enough.

You need to be probably paying upwards of closer to \$100,000, depending on your business, obviously."

So Stockbrugger emphasizes "making sure you're paying enough tax anyway and that you're not creating a big problem because farmers typically will create a problem for themselves by not paying a lot of tax, deferring as much as they can, pushing off income and not delivering grain or selling cattle ... and then prepaying expenses to create this big balloon problem that the tax has to get paid."

A lot of the discussion revolves around whether cash or accrual accounting is better for a farm business.

In cash accounting, you record a sale or expense only when the cash is received or paid. Inventory is not included in the calculation of income. With accrual basis accounting, you record income and expenses when a sale or purchase is made, even if the money hasn't changed hands yet.

Stockbrugger also talks about monitoring the amount of income that you've taken in and looking at the expenses that you've paid. And this time of year, if your year-end is Dec. 31, then doing some planning around your year-end can allow you to reduce your taxes, hopefully to a manageable level.

"The key thing, which is not news to anybody, is to make sure that you've

got good records so that your books are up to date and you've done a good job of recording all of your income and expenses," he said, "so if you are going to see your advisor or your accountant at year end that they will have decent numbers to formulate a plan for you."

Unincorporated businesses, sole proprietors and partnerships would all be subject to the graduated personal tax rates, Stockbrugger noted, so you're going to want to be monitoring your level of income that you have based on those tax brackets.

"Another thing to think about is income splitting, utilizing as many tax returns as you can," he continued. "So if that's between husband and wife, you split your income and maybe even split your income with your children if your children are working on the farm."

If that is the case, though, it is crucial to ensure they are being paid a wage with all of the necessary deductions for proper reporting, he added.

If they are incorporated, Stockbrugger emphasized that producers need to consider what type of income they going to take personally from the corporation.

"Is it going to be wages? Is it going to be land rent? ... Is it going to be dividends?" he asked. "Those personal incomes need to match or probably

exceed the drawings that you've taken out throughout the year to live on, so all of your personal expenditures."

If it is wages, you need to ensure you take all the deductions like CPP but not EI because you are the owner of the business.

"The wages are deductible to the corporation and fully taxable as normal income on your personal tax return."

The option of land rent is only available if you own your farm land personally outside of your corporation, so you pay yourself land rent.

"The reason you might want to pay yourself land rent is because you don't want to pay into the CPP. Maybe you've got other sources of income that you're already paying into the CPP or you feel you've already paid enough in," he said.

"The stickler is, first of all, you have to own the land personally, but you also have to charge your corporation GST. ... You'll collect it personally and you'll claim it back in the corporation."

In the option of taking a dividend, it won't involve the deductions like CPP or EI.

"That is not deductible by the corporation. ... You will pay personally a lower rate of tax; however, what happens with a dividend is you get credit for the taxes that have already been paid by the corporation," Stockbrugger explained.

"Whatever you take out as a dividend is not deductible to the corporation. ... When you file your tax return and you report that dividend, you'll get credit for the tax the corporation has already been paid, and you just pay the difference."

The government is still getting their share of taxes; it's just coming from different sources.

"A lot more have been incorporated now ... but you need to treat them for what they are and treat them as a tax deferral, not a tax saver," said Stockbrugger, who noted the bottom line is to be prepared and plan ahead.

"You can set yourself up and plan for 2023. These are usually the times when you should be sitting down with your advisor and looking at is a partnership or a sole proprietor, an unincorporated business, is that still viable for you to run your business, or should you be looking at possible incorporating?"



JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL PRE-CHRISTMAS AUCTION

VIEWING DAYS ARE DECEMBER 12TH - 14TH 9AM TO 5PM
 BIDDING STARTS DECEMBER 12TH AT 9AM AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 15TH AT 5PM

Pickup Days are December 16th 9-5 & December 17th from 9am to 3pm 19th, 20th and 21st from 9am to 5pm













SPECIAL WILL CONSIST OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE AS WELL AS A SPECIAL FEATURE OF MOSTLY NEW TOOLS! CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE ITEMS FOR SOME LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS! THIS IS AN ONLINE BIDDING AUCTION ONLY! IF YOU REQUIRE HELP OR DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS CALL 204-434-6519 OR 204-346-2440

Call Today if you would like your items Consigned! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 • Ed Pylypjuk (204) 392-8442 • Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM, WITH NO WARRANTY.



All
from
a good
place

**DAIRY
FARMERS**
EST.  1974
OF MANITOBA

Christmas spirit prevails in Fisher Branch

By Patricia Witzke

On Friday, Dec. 2, Fisher Branch hosted a festive parade to commemorate the holiday season. Aaron Plett, the parade marshal, did an excellent job organizing the 27 floats.

Longtime resident Richard Baril was impressed with the spirit of the townspeople supporting the local parade in frigid weather.

Many businesses and community groups participated in the parade, including the Ukrainian Co-op, Access Credit Union, Fisher Repair, Fisher Powersports, Countryside Homes, Fisher Branch Care-A-Lot for Tots, Health Centre, Interlake Honey Producers, All Square Framing Inc., staff of the RM of Fisher, Percy E. Moore Hospital, RCMP and Design Canada.

Organizations, churches and charity groups who also took part were the Chaika Ukrainian Dance Group, Hodgson Bible Church, the Filipino community, Fisher Branch Women's Institute, Fisher Fire Department,

Handivan and the Fisher Air Cadet 52nd Squadron.

Stuart Letexier, a go-cart enthusiast, brought his latest creation.

He laughed and shared, "I just want to have some fun."

Besides having a float, the Fisher Air Cadet squadron marched in the parade. One of the young members mentioned how excited he was to be part of it.

The young dancers were excited to be on the Chaika Dance float, even though it was chilly outdoors.

Candy was distributed to those watching the parade. The children were thrilled to receive the special treats.

Parade volunteers walked along the route, keeping the crowd at bay. The people attending the special festivities watched enthusiastically. They were impressed with the beautiful floats, knowing how many people had worked hard on them.

The evening was capped off with a



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA WITZKE

spectacular fireworks display.

Amanda Brown exclaimed, "I think this was the best one we've ever had."

Fisher Branch continues to ensure

that they specially celebrate the holidays. Traditions are a hallmark of Fisher Branch and its people.





December 2022 Newsletter | esd.ca | @ Evergreen_SD | Learning Today to Improve Tomorrow

Message from Chairperson Helgason

We are in a time of transition in education in Manitoba. Schools are responding to the emerging needs of children and families post-pandemic whilst simultaneously implementing provincial and local initiatives as priorities in Evergreen's Education Plan. The Board and senior administration are preparing for what is expected to be another difficult budget year, following five years of provincial funding cuts.

In preparation for the additional reductions which we anticipate will be necessary, the Board proactively made the decision to reduce from a Board of nine to seven. Further, with the retirement of Superintendent Gray, the Board has restructured to reduce a senior leadership position. This is in keeping with previous efforts to insulate classrooms from funding cuts. However, depending on the provincial funding provided to Evergreen, it may be necessary to look at reducing some programs and services.

In keeping with our commitment to engage with the public, the Board has developed and shared a Budget and Programming Consultation Survey. We'd like to hear from you. The survey is available on our website until Dec 21, 2022. The Board will share information from our consultations in the new year with further information on the budget.

Message from Superintendent Gray

Where we've been...

Every day in our classrooms, students and staff are engaged in learning so that they can continue to develop and contribute to the community around them. As our world

grappling with accelerated change brought on by the climate crisis, economic downturn, ongoing health challenges, a divisive political climate and increased reliance on technology, it is critical that students see themselves as capable lifelong learners who can make a positive impact on the world around them.

This annual community report is evidence of the progress we have made in student learning and well-being as we emerge from the disruption and challenges of the pandemic. We are proud that Evergreen School Division's strategic investments to support students have made a positive impact.

- With the resources and support provided by the Division, together with the commitment of our highly dedicated staff, we have seen a **steady increase in student achievement** in literacy and numeracy since the implementation of our current education plan
- We continue to work with students to **develop capacity related to well-being**. Our students' survey results report increased interest and motivation to learn, and greater feelings of safety at school, especially noteworthy given COVID-19.
- Our intervention supports have **increased equity** in Evergreen; greater numbers of our Indigenous students are scoring at or higher than provincial average, with the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students decreasing.
- Further, our four-year **graduation rate** has increased by 20% (from 2016 to 2021). We will build on these successes with our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for education renewal.

In Evergreen, staff observations and evidence of student academic progress and well-being suggests that our students have not been as negatively impacted by the pandemic as is true in other jurisdictions. This is a result of the extraordinary efforts of staff to keep children in schools and learning as much as possible through the pandemic.

Vision

Learning Today to Improve Tomorrow

Mission

Evergreen School Division will engage students in learning to become contributing citizens of a democratic society

Land Recognition

We acknowledge the traditional territory Evergreen School Division resides upon as Treaty One and Treaty Two territory and the Metis homeland. We honour our partnership with Indigenous peoples and respect their gifts of history, culture and language. We commit to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous peoples and communities in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

Message from Superintendent Hill

Where we are going...

One of the core value statements in Evergreen is that **Public Education Serves the Common Good**.

"Public education is essential for a vibrant democracy and a sustainable future. It prepares citizens to work toward the betterment of their family, community and the world. Public education is a shared responsibility of the home, school and community. It requires balancing academic, social-emotional and physical development."

As we emerge from the pandemic, and as we face economic and social challenges, our school division has strong foundations to build upon and clear statements of value to guide us.

We have talented, caring staff dedicated to the learning and well-being of all students, supportive parents and communities, and a dedicated Board of Trustees.

As we renew our plans for the next 3-5 years, our current educational priorities include:

- **Student Achievement:** Literacy, Numeracy and Core Subject areas – We continue to build on our staff's excellent work, teaching and providing extra support to students in reading, writing and math. We will continue to identify essential learnings in core curricula and collaboratively develop common assessment tools to help teachers and students plan next steps. We will also continue to work with Manitoba Education's new Framework for Learning, as it is released gradually over the coming months and next few years.
- **Well-Being:** We have begun to work more intentionally at Social Emotional Learning - a term that references the core competencies that help students to transition well into adulthood, no matter what their specific goals are after Grade 12.
- **Indigenous Education:** We are learning about Manitoba Education's new Indigenous Education Policy Framework, *Mamàhtawisiwin - The Wonder we are Born With* - this will support our ongoing commitment to Indigenous learning and reconciliation.
- **Instructional Leadership:** We will continue to invest in staff development and strive to create meaningful growth and learning opportunities for our staff.

We look forward to holding community conversations about our education plan priorities in each of our school communities in the spring.

On an operational level, we aim to ensure that our resources and structures are aligned with our Mission, Vision, Values and Priorities, and we will continue to work on current challenges related to staff shortages and annual funding reductions.

Weather and Cancellations

**When are buses cancelled?
When are schools closed?**

- School recess is moved indoors when the temperature or wind chill exceeds -27°C
- All school bus transportation is cancelled, and all Evergreen schools are closed when the temperature reaches -40° and/or wind chill reaches or exceeds -45°C at 6:30 a.m. that day

- When extreme temperatures (ambient temperature of -35°C) continue for a number of days, the Division may cancel transportation if the ambient temperature at the Gimli environment weather station is -37°C or colder

How will I know if buses are cancelled, or schools are closed?

- You will receive a phone call and/or text message if you signed up
- Local radio stations and CTV Television will announce school closures and bus cancellations
- The School Division website (www.esd.ca) will have an announcement

YOU CAN REACH US AT esd.ca | @ evergreen_sd
@ Evergreen School Division

• Parents/Caregivers, if you wish to sign up for text messages from the school, please text YES to 97833

• To activate your Edsby account, please contact the school

WINTER CONCERTS

DEC 12 - WINNIPEG BEACH SCHOOL @ 1:30PM / 7:00 PM

DEC 14 - GIMLI HIGH SCHOOL @ 7:00PM

DEC 15 - ACI/RCI @ 7:00 PM RIVERTON HALL

DEC 19 - RIVERTON EARLY @ 1:50 PM & 7:00 PM

DEC 19 - SSES @ 1:45 PM / 7:00 PM

DEC 20 - DGJMS @ 1:30 PM / 7:00 PM

DEC 20 - AEMS GRADES 2-3 & GRADES 3-4 @ 7:00 PM

DEC 21 - SSES @ 1:45 PM / 7:00 PM

DEC 21 - AEMS K & GRADES 1-2 @ 7:00 PM

EDUCATION PLAN

Student Learning

Numeracy ▼

- On par with provincial average on Grade 3 and 7 provincial math reports
- Higher than provincial average in Grade 9 Math credit acquisition and increase in marks above 60% from previous 5-year average

Evergreen has invested in building teacher capacity through professional development across K-12. Residency work from consultant Carole Fullerton (Grades K-8), Numeracy Achievement Project (Grades 4-9), and workshops by consultant Peter Liljedahl (Grades 9-12) have equipped teachers to deliver high quality numeracy instruction. Teachers in ESD have a solid understanding of the pedagogy of The Strands of Mathematical Proficiency. Teachers have been provided resources in the form of books, manipulatives, and classroom mentorship by our Numeracy Consultant.

While the Department of Education has stopped administering Grade 12 provincial tests, we have developed common assessments for all high school math courses, and teachers use these to reflect on and enhance their instruction. Student achievement has improved significantly over the last 5 years in ESD. In the last year of Provincial testing (2019), we scored above Provincial average.

Literacy ▼

- Above provincial average on the Grade 3 and Grade 8 provincial reading reports
- Above provincial average in Grade 9 English Language Arts credit acquisition

We are proud to be current on reading research and to employ instructional strategies that support the literacy development of all learners. All teachers in K-8 have had training in structured literacy and understand the importance of explicitly teaching decoding and oral language at the classroom level.

Beyond the classroom, all K-8 schools have dedicated literacy intervention time for students who require additional supports. Evergreen teachers are supported in their literacy instruction and interventions by our Speech Language Pathologist and Literacy Consultant.

In writing, teachers use division-created continuum, rubrics and exemplars modelled after Lucy Calkin's work on Units of Study in opinion, information, and narrative writing.

Well-Being ▼

- Graduation rate has increased by 20% since 2016

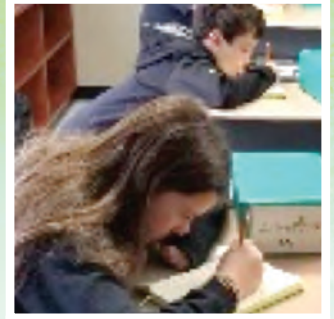
Evergreen supports student well-being through a tiered approach to Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and positive behaviour, Indigenous Education (promoting cultural awareness/identity) and other specialized supports through our student services department.

An increase in Occupational Therapy in ESD allows us additional time to support SEL initiatives at the tier 1 classroom level. Evergreen schools use a PBIS (Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support) approach to school-wide behaviour management, as well as supports new teachers through mentorship in classroom management.

ESD has Indigenous Education Consultants and a Knowledge Keeper who provide support to staff and students in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. Opportunities are provided for students and staff to participate in Indigenous ceremony. The ESD Clinical staff use collaborative team school visits to provide comprehensive tier 3 (specialized) support and recommendations to school teams.

Arborg Early Middle School ▼

Grade 3-8 teachers at Arborg Early Middle School implemented Thrival Kits with their students this year. These are shoebox sized kits that students fill with small, meaningful items as they complete classroom challenges and activities throughout the year. This project was created by the Canadian Mental Health Association to promote mental well-being for children. The goal of the project is to show children how to develop positive coping strategies that help them understand what makes them special and unique, and helps them develop tools to deal with life events and emotions.



Dr. George Johnson Middle School ▼

Students engaged in a variety of teachings, activities and events that focused on well-being this year. Random acts of kindness week had students recognize their peers' kind acts. In class, students received career education, worked on goal setting, and made plans to achieve their goals with a focus on building hope. DGJMS held our annual career fair in person this year with a great turnout. We hosted community

Zumba for families to participate in together while receiving a nutritious snack after. Students were able to participate in sports again this year and we look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities in the future.



Riverton Early Middle School ▼

As restrictions eased after the Winter break, students were able to resume some activities such as attending assemblies, participating in sports, joining clubs and working with others both in and out of their cohorts. It was wonderful to once again take students on field trips and showcase what excellent citizens we have at REMS. This year some of the trips/activities included bowling, skating, The Manitoba Museum, the Aviation Museum, a school-wide activity day and Indigenous Day activities at RCI.



Students were able to attend presentations on mental health and internet safety. REMS Staff also participated in the Pan-Canadian Joint Consortium for School Health (JCHS) Survey. This survey allows schools to view their progression against 5 benchmarks of Positive Mental Health. The results of this survey have helped REMS identify areas of strength, areas of growth and make next steps as it relates to mental health in the school.

Gimli High School ▼

Improving student well-being continued to be a focus. As is true for most schools, GHS struggled with attendance and student engagement throughout the year. With extra-curriculars (field trips, sports, music performances, and clubs) back on the table in the latter part of the year, a sense of optimism was felt by both students and staff. Guidance teachers supported students with well-being strategies in the classroom, in small groups, and in 1-on-1 settings. With the efforts of the GHS student council, the school held several spirit weeks and grade war activities throughout the year. GHS completed the Healthy School Planner Survey from the Joint Consortium for School Health Toolkit to determine next steps for school well-being.



Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School ▼

The wellness model at SSES incorporated teachings from the Medicine Wheel, with a specific focus on virtues of the Seven Sacred Teachings (love, courage, respect, honesty, humility, wisdom and truth). Students learned ways to balance needs in mind, body, emotions and spirit. We wove a connection to identity and community through traditional drumming, singing, storytelling and visits from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Virtual assemblies between SSES and WBS extended our sense of belonging beyond our home community. We emphasized the importance of reconciling with our neighbours and the understanding that taking care of Mother Earth is a responsibility we all share.



Arborg Collegiate ▼

ACI continues to invest in the well-being of students. We were able to return to programming for physical well-being with daily lunch hour intramurals and a return to organized sports including volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track and field. Well-being was also supported by our student-organized Breakfast Program, which offered healthy morning snacks to all students. The ACI student ACTION group worked throughout the year to organize events promoting positive school culture - these included "Spirit" days, Grade challenges, and whole-school activities such as our Kindness Campaign. ACI also completed the Joint Consortium for School Health Survey to determine and began developing next steps for school well-being.



Winnipeg Beach School ▼

At WBS we foster an inclusive environment which is based on the belief that we celebrate, encourage, and learn from one another while also working together for the greater good of our school, our community, and our impact on the world. Some of our special projects included our Jordan's Principle Fundraiser, Christmas Food drive for Evergreen Basic Needs, Ukrainian Fundraiser, and fundraiser for Black Bear Rescue Manitoba. We also continued to learn about the Medicine Wheel with a focus on the Seven Sacred Teachings and are grateful to the Knowledge Keepers. These connections and projects brought us together as a community and added to our understanding of Indigenous knowledge and enhanced our well-being.



Riverton Collegiate ▼

RCI practices a trauma-informed, relationship-focused approach to our interactions with each other and the wider community. We continue with the circle of care approach for students including culturally affirming and inclusive supports and a commitment to meeting each student's current individual needs. Moving forward, we will continue to work towards school well-being by increasing staff capacity and improving instructional practices to support well-being. We will also expand our growth mindset about competency, capability, and confidence.



Evergreen is looking for BUS DRIVERS!

WE REQUIRE CARING, SAFE DRIVERS TO BE BUS DRIVERS FOR OUR STUDENTS.

FREE 2-day Training Session

held

January 7 & 8, 2023

from 9am to 4pm,
Tec Centre
(234 Tudor Lane)



PRE-REGISTER BY JANUARY 4

(204) 642-6263 or transportation@esd.ca

GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

Governance

The advocacy for local voice and maintaining local democratic decision making resulted in the withdrawal of Bill 64. This review of governance in education inspired a vigorous election process in Evergreen. The new Board of seven trustees is as follows:

Back Row (L-R): Dianna Auer – Vice-Chairperson (Ward 2), Gladys Kohler (Ward 2), Amanda Senkowski – Secretary-Treasurer, Scott Hill – Incoming Superintendent/CEO, Roza Gray – Superintendent/CEO (retiring), Penny Helgason – Chairperson (Ward 1), Colette Banks (Ward 3)
Front Row (L-R): Sandra Davies (Ward 1), Amanda Mosher (Ward 3), Jillian Yorga (Ward 2)



Infrastructure

The majority of our efforts related to infrastructure over the last two years have been focused on improving air quality and creating safe spaces for students as per pandemic safety protocols. The Division had all ventilation systems inspected to ensure they were functioning at optimal capacity, increased the filter change schedule to exceed the requirement, and tied all ventilation units into the automated controls to maximize fresh air intake. While awaiting funding approvals from the Province, the Board recognized the need for quick action and approved \$250k to have duct cleaning performed in all schools across the Division.

An increase in fresh air intake led to additional challenges for mechanical systems. The Board addressed these challenges by paving areas such as bus loops, which contributed to dust intake in our schools. Further, increased inspections and maintenance continue to maximize fresh air quality. Boiler replacements are also being pursued. The Board approved the purchase of single desks for all of the Evergreen classrooms so that physical distancing could be increased. This was an enormous undertaking as it included removing and storing the classroom furniture and then reconfiguring those classrooms for the following school year based on new classroom enrolments.

Transportation

Our current reality, similar to school divisions across the country, is that we continue to have a shortage of bus drivers. As we have for several years, Evergreen continues to actively, constantly and continuously recruit and train new drivers so that we can meet our operational needs. In the last four months alone, we have run three driver training courses; yet, less than half of those who expressed interest in becoming a driver were successful in passing the safety protocols and driver testing that is required to drive a bus filled with children. Being a bus driver is challenging work not everyone is willing or able to do.

We acknowledge and appreciate the drivers we have, and we are continually looking for people who love being with children, are safe drivers, and are willing to work five days a week from

7-9 am and 3-5 pm. We are also seeking people to work casually or part time.

We know that families need more consistent and reliable service than we are able to currently provide. We are sorry for the inconvenience and frustration this causes for families. We are doing the best we can right now; yet we know our present capacity isn't to the standard that families need from us. Looking ahead, we have reason to be optimistic regarding developing our pool of drivers. As always, if you know someone who might be interested in this rewarding work, please contact transportation@esd.ca.

We recognize this explanation doesn't alleviate the significant inconvenience of transportation cancellations. Yet, we are hopeful that families will understand that we are providing the best service we are able. Thank you for your grace and patience.

Budget

Even though Evergreen School Division no longer has the ability to raise local taxes, the Board was able to maintain investments in local programming, while responding to the additional needs that resulted from the pandemic in part due to a one time funding increase. This Provincial Safe Schools funding was allocated towards the Divisional well-being

priority and additional learning supports. The Board chose to make investments in music and band, as this is highly valued in the Evergreen community. This includes universal band programming at grades 7 and 8 across the Division. In order to increase student access and equity, the Board purchased instruments



so that all students can be provided an instrument or rent one at a reduced price. This approach is consistent with other equity initiatives in the Division such as the low-cost annual school supply fee for K-8 students.

In keeping with the Board's ongoing commitment to insulate schools from programming reductions, the Board continues to look for other efficiencies. The Board

consulted with the public and sought ministerial approval to reduce from nine to seven trustees. Further, the Board recently made additional reductions in administration in anticipation of another year of funding cuts.

Please visit our website to provide your feedback for the upcoming budget preparation.

If your child was transported by a school bus today, THANK A DRIVER!
 Please join us in acknowledging our valued bus drivers

Stacey Bursey
 John Kornelson
 Larry Patteson
 Yvan Cyr
 Percy Marks
 Steve Schofield
 Dennis Sigurdson
 Tony Willmott



Irwin Schellenberg
 Angela Aspen
 Larry Banks
 Roland Friesen
 Cliff Beber
 Bert Burdett
 Keith Irvine
 Karen Crotty



Christina Ambrose
 Amanda Flintoft
 Sarah Boyechko
 Dawn Cross
 Richard Howard
 Dale Naylor
 Karl Wiebe
 Craig Peiluck



Greg Klyne
 Fokke Hoekstra
 David Young
 Grant Duggan
 Will Strachan
 John Hollands
 John Gallagher

Thank you!



Provincial government's water management strategy gets failing grade from critics

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial Conservative government released a water management strategy last month to address Manitoba's future water challenges, but it has raised concern among critics.

The strategy lists 11 focus areas to be addressed. They include efficient water use, protecting the aquatic ecosystem, building resilience to changing climate, protecting groundwater, meeting the water supply needs of future generations, improving the quality of surface water and involving Indigenous peoples in the management of water.

"This strategy charts a course for water that balances our economic, environmental, and social needs, a course that focusses our efforts and energies on addressing these challenges and making the most of the remarkable water resources that define Manitoba. It is a statement of the principles we hold, the values we espouse, and the priorities we pursue," states a message from premier Heather Stefanson and environment, climate and parks minister Jeff Wharton.

There are no concrete actions associated with the strategy; a water action plan is slated for release next spring.

Excess nutrient loading is a key issue and one of the major factors contributing to algal blooms on waterbodies including Lake Winnipeg, says the strategy. Half of the nutrients originate from "outside Manitoba," but work is "underway across the transboundary Lake Winnipeg watershed to reduce nutrient contributions from all sources." That work refers to establishing nutrient loading targets for four major rivers that flow into Lake Winnipeg and targets for total phosphorus and total nitrogen, nutrients that contribute to algal blooms.

Commercial fisher Robert T. Kristjanson, who has been fishing for over 70 years on Lake Winnipeg and has been a witness to the lake's steady decline, said he's fully aware of what's happening to water quality in the lake and he's not impressed with the Conservatives' track record on protecting it.

"This government for the past seven years that they've been in power has accomplished absolutely and completely nothing on water protection," said Kristjanson, who was honoured with the Order of Manitoba in 2018 for raising awareness of the frequent and extensive algal blooms occurring on Lake Winnipeg.

Kristjanson said there are things the government can do to stop the further degradation of the lake: deal with the wastewater and raw sewage discharged from Winnipeg. He's tired of waiting for the government to com-

pel the City of Winnipeg to reduce the nutrients it releases from its North End Wastewater Treatment Plant. And he also wants to government to get on the city to fix its combined sewers, which discharge raw waste and nutrients straight into rivers that flow to the lake.

In November alone, the city discharged over three and a half million litres of untreated sewage into the environment. On Nov. 9 approximately 2.64 million litres of raw sewage were sent into the Red River for 16 days while crews were sent out "multiple times" to try to figure out what had triggered an alarm. A few weeks later, about .62 million litres were discharged into the Assiniboine River after a contractor intentionally backed up wastewater in a sewer while carrying out work. A few weeks after that, about .34 million litres were discharged into Sturgeon Creek.

"Who is running this province? We need to know if the City of Winnipeg is going to keep on dumping pollutants in the rivers. Why is the city allowed to keep on doing what it has been doing? This is the question everybody wants to know," said Kristjanson. "They can't keep doing this.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers working in the Hecla-Grindstone region had a particularly nasty fall season in 2018 when they and their nets were inundated with algae and fecal matter.

The Province of Manitoba is supposed to be monitoring polluters."

Kristjanson said he's also unimpressed by the water strategy's "blame game" narrative that comes across as an attempt by the government to shield itself from failure by shifting responsibility onto others. The strategy alludes to other jurisdictions — and Manitobans themselves — that will ultimately be responsible

for the strategy's failure if they don't support it and implement its actions, which the government has yet to lay out.

"This government will say anything at all to not take responsibility," said Kristjanson. "We elect in Manitoba a

Continued on page 23

CO-OP
Interlake
CAR WASH

CAR WASH CARDS

Great Stocking Stuffers

PURCHASE \$25 OF CAR WASHES FOR ONLY \$20

316 Main St Arborg 204-376-2349

valid until December, 24, 2022

BINGO

ALL COVID RULES APPLY
Lic #318

Fraserwood Hall
Friday Nights 7:15 PM
December 16, 2022
Breakopens 50/50

5 Share The Wealth Games
15 Regular Games @ \$60.00
(reduced games with low attendance)

JACKPOT	\$3,475.00
FIRST SPECIAL	\$156.00 +
BONANZA	\$2,239.00 +
LUCKY 7	\$474.00 +
STAR	\$1,759.00 +
WEEHOUSE	\$2,036.00 +
HOUDINI	\$795.00 +
LOONIE POT	\$195.00 +

(Estimated amounts at time of publication)

CASH BAR
"CHASE THE ACE"
Lic # LGA 318-RF
Tickets sold 5:00 - 7:00 PM
with draw to follow
\$2.00/ticket Current Accumulator - \$1,230.00+
CANTEEN - OPENS @ 5PM
Perogies, hamburgers, hotdogs, desserts, etc
INFORMATION - 204-642-9392 or
204-643-5541 or www.fraserwoodhall.com

Hall Rental & Commercial Kitchen Rentals
Please contact Amanda at 204-847-0677

Dec. 16, 2022 Bingo
Christmas Give Aways

Dec. 23, 2022 - NO Bingo

Malanka Dance
Sunday Jan. 8, 2023, 1pm to 4pm
Music by Mosaics, hot lunch, Admission
\$25 at the door. Call to reserve tickets
Lois 204 643 5541 or Nancy 204 643 5133

Christmas came early to two Fisher Branch men

Submitted by Patricia Witzke

The Fisher Branch WI draw occurred on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Ukrainian Farmer's Co-op. Ken Dusome won \$500 worth of meat, and Larry Rutchka won \$500 in gas. Both prizes were given as gift cards.

Larry Rutchka said, "My wife and I support everything we can around this area."

Ken Dusome greatly appreciated winning. He donated \$100 from his winnings to the local Christmas hamper drive.

The money raised by the WI supports the community. In the past, they have given funds to the local rink, halls, personal care home, handi van, the local schools, the WI park, museum, charities and families in need. After 75 years of being actively involved in the area, the WI club is a valuable part of the community.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Fisher Branch WI president Darcy Truthwaite presents draw winners Ken Dusome, left, and Larry Rutchka each with \$500 in Co-op gift cards.

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 11 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 19th @ 4pm
- The draw will be held on December 19th @ 5pm

BALLOT

What city did Joseph and Mary return to after giving birth to baby Jesus?

ANSWER: _____

VANDOR • DENTURE • CENTRE
AWARD - WINNING DENTURES AND IMPLANTS

Arborg Ice Dawgs welcomes Santa for a skate



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JOANNE JOHNSON

Families and friends gathered at the Arborg Arena for a skate with Santa and the Ice Dawgs following the teams 6-1 win over North Winnipeg on Sunday. Fans were encouraged to bring a tin for the bin for the Arborg & District Cheer Board.





Evergreen School Division is looking for bus drivers!

We require caring, safe drivers to be bus drivers for our students.

FREE 2-day Training Session
 held on January 7 & 8, 2023
 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
 TEC Centre
 (234 Tudor Lane, Gimli Industrial Park)

Please remember to dress for the weather for the practical components.
 Contact the Transportation Department at 204-642-6263
 to pre-register and reserve your spot by January 4, 2023.

Flight Training

START YOUR CAREER AS A PILOT!

Becoming a pilot can be a rewarding career

LAKESIDE FLIGHT SCHOOL IS THE MOST AFFORDABLE IN CANADA.
 RECREATIONAL, PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL LICENCE.
 AUTHORIZED TRAINING FOR COMMERCIAL PILOT LICENCE, FLIGHT
 INSTRUCTOR RATING, NIGHT RATING, PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE,
 RECREATIONAL PILOT PERMIT AND VFR OVER-THE-TOP RATING

Want to learn to fly?
 RECREATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM is the best way to get started. Must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger. Can easily add float rating to permit.





LS Airways Flight Academy | 311 Anson St, Gimli, MB | 204-642-4799

BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY

• BIRTHDAYS	• NOTICES	• ENGAGEMENTS	• GRADUATIONS
• MARRIAGES	• OBITUARIES	• BIRTHS	
• ANNIVERSARIES	• IN MEMORIAMS	• THANK YOUS	

Call 467-5836



Kaleb Dahlgren shares his story of gratitude, healing

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Humboldt Broncos bus crash survivor Kaleb Dahlgren was in Winkler last week to share his story of resilience and healing.

The crash that killed 16 of his teammates in 2018 was a crossroads moment in his life, reflected Dahlgren, who attributed the challenges he grew up with to helping create a mindset that allowed him to work through the pain and loss.

Dahlgren was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of four. It meant a childhood filled with frequent glucose monitoring, carbs counting and countless needles.

He came to a powerful realization at a very young age:

"I really figured out to find the positive over the negative because living with a disease is difficult, but having a negative mindset makes it twice as hard."

Finding silver linings wasn't always easy, Dahlgren noted as he shared some of the difficulties he faced as a teen: a father with medical issues who needed constant care, the loss of a friend in a car accident, the death of a mentor to cancer.

But he realized, during a "Challenge Day" exercise in high school, just how lucky he truly was.

He had a loving and supportive family, had never worried about where his next meal would come from, never felt unsafe in his home, had never been discriminated against, and had the financial support to pursue his dreams, including his love of hockey.

He'd gotten a huge head start in life. "That was when it hit me that I was very, very privileged and I was fortunate enough to be in the position that I was," Dahlgren said.

Feeling called to give back in some way for all these blessings, Dahlgren founded an advocacy program dubbed Dahlgren's Diabeauties, which provides guidance and support for kids living with the disease.

Participants get to attend a hockey game, meet the players, drop the puck and enjoy having hundreds of fans cheer them on.

"For me, that was something I really wanted was for my Diabeauties to feel special and beautiful for their differences, uplifted, rather than negative and sad and special in a bad way," Dahlgren said.

That program began around the same time Dahlgren was traded to the Humboldt Broncos in 2017.

Reflecting on his season with the junior hockey team — one that ended prematurely during the spring playoffs when the team bus collided with a semi-truck that had run a stop sign at a rural Saskatchewan intersection — Dahlgren shared that they were very much a family.

"Humboldt was truly incredible. It was a bond that you don't usually get. It's one of those special, rare bonds," he said, recalling team bonding exercises and friendships forged between teammates and staff members alike. "We loved being around each other. I think that was something that was special about the team, about the or-



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS

Humboldt Broncos bus crash survivor Kaleb Dahlgren spoke at the Winkler concert hall last week.

ganization. They brought in good people."

April 6, 2018, was a day like any other, Dahlgren observed.

The team was heading to play a road game against the Nipawin Hawks, who were leading the playoff series three games to one.

Dahlgren recalled he was sitting in row 12, in the aisle seat. As was his custom, he was using the drive to get his head in the game.

"I like to visualize and get into my own head space. ... I close my eyes, listen to music, put in my headphones. And boom — everything went black."

Dahlgren has no memory of the crash itself or the carnage afterwards, though he was told he was up walking around, trying to help fellow victims, before emergency personnel arrived.

"I woke up in a hospital. Confused. I didn't know what had happened."

Fourteen of the 29 people on the bus that day died at the scene. Another two succumbed to their injuries in hospital. Thirteen others were injured, many severely, including Dahlgren.

He suffered a severe traumatic brain injury, a broken neck, broken back, fractured skull, nerve and muscle damage.

In the week after the accident, he was unable to retain short-term memories. His parents had to tell him again and again what had happened.

"The hardest thing wasn't my injuries," Dahlgren said. "The hardest thing and the most painful thing was losing 16 people that I considered to be family."

He struggled to understand why he survived while friends sitting right

beside him perished.

As he worked to heal his body, Dahlgren found himself leaning on that positive mindset he'd always had to try and find a measure of peace and acceptance.

"I knew I had to focus on the things I could control," he said, noting that didn't include the crash itself or the damage it left behind. "What was in my control was how was I going to react to this."

"I decided to focus on these things: how was I going to become the best version [of myself] I could be? Was I going to take a step forward or a step back? ... Do I want to continue living my life to the fullest? How was I going to continue to move forward?"

Above anything else, Dahlgren felt a keen sense of gratitude.

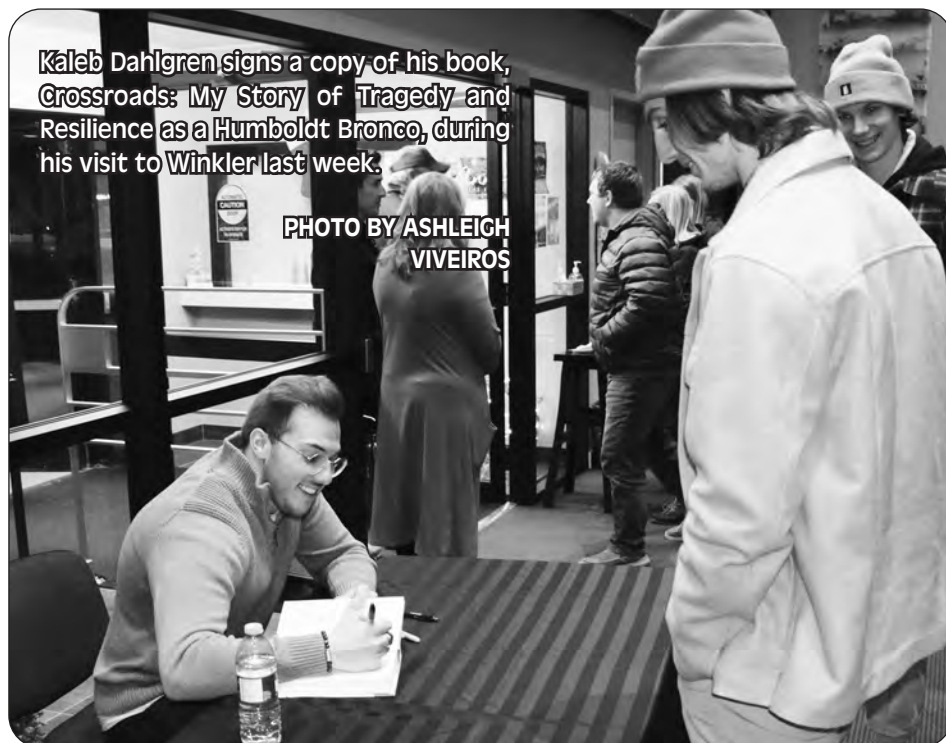
"I was grateful to even know those 29 on the bus, to know the community, to know the team, to be a part of that organization," he said. "I was grateful I was here to see another day."

"Gratitude is such a beautiful thing. A lot of people get mixed in the sauce of life and they miss that gratitude element. ... There's so much to be grateful for."

That said, his gratitude was tempered with survivor's guilt. While grappling with that, Dahlgren tried to put himself in the shoes of the people he had lost, including his best friend. What if the roles were reversed?

"How would I want him to react? How would I want him to think

"I KNEW I HAD TO FOCUS ON THE THINGS I COULD CONTROL."



Incredible Creatures: Pileated Woodpeckers: attractive ant-eating architects

By John Gavlowski

We were treated to an incredible bird sighting in our front yard recently when the largest species of woodpecker in Canada showed up in our front yard to feed on some crabapples from our crabapple tree, then went off to feed on what it could find on the bark in another tree in our yard.

This large woodpecker, that gets to nearly the size of a crow, is called the pileated woodpecker. This article explores the interesting appearance, architecture and appetite of the pileated woodpecker, and why they are of such great value ecologically.

Red Crested Ant Eaters

There are 22 species of woodpeckers in North America, excluding the ivory-billed woodpecker, which is largely believed to be extinct, and eight species that can be found in Manitoba. My wife and I have seen seven of the eight, and just have to track down the three-toed woodpecker. The pileated woodpecker is the largest living woodpecker in North America,

and third largest in the world after the great slaty woodpecker, found in southern Asia, and the black woodpecker, found in Europe and parts of Asia. Pileated woodpeckers are about 42 centimetres (a foot and a half) in length, and about two and a half times taller than the petite downy woodpeckers, that are more common visitors to people's yards.

Pileated woodpeckers are mostly black, with a triangular red crest and bold white stripes on head and neck. The bill is long and chisel-like, and about the length of the head. The woodpecker in the photo is a male; just the males have the red stripe behind the beak (scarlet moustache), while in the females, this moustache is black. Both males and females have the distinctive red crest, but the males' extends further toward the bill.

Pileated woodpeckers eat mostly ants and other insects but also fruits and nuts. Carpenter ants may be up to 60 per cent of their diet, although they will also eat other ants (rarely

digging into anthills on ground), larvae of wood-boring beetles, and other insects such as flies, spruce budworm, caterpillars and grasshoppers. Compared to other woodpecker species, pileated woodpeckers prefer to forage in dying and decaying dead trees, using their bills to chisel oval or rectangular holes in search of prey. About one-quarter of the diet may be wild fruits, berries and nuts. They may occasionally visit feeders and are especially fond of suet.

The Value of Dead Wood

Pileated woodpeckers nest almost exclusively in standing dead trees. They are the birds' home and nursery. Pileated woodpeckers prefer deciduous and coniferous forests with larger, old growth trees that can support their spacious cavities. In spring, the hole made by the male attracts a female for mating and raising their young. The entrance hole is oblong rather than the circular shape of most woodpecker holes. Pileated woodpeckers don't

line their nests with any material except for leftover wood chips. Cavity depth can range from about 25 to 60 centimetres (10 to 24 inches).

Once the brood is raised, the birds abandon the hole and do not use it the next year. Abandoned holes of pileated and other woodpeckers provide good homes in future years for many forest songbirds and a wide variety of other animals. Owls and tree-nesting ducks, such as wood ducks, may largely rely on holes made by pileated woodpeckers in which to lay their nests. Ecologically, the entire woodpecker family is important to the well-being of many other bird species.

For those of you that remember the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker, cartoonist Walter Lantz is believed to have based the appearance of this character on the pileated woodpecker. They are a fascinating bird and one to watch for this winter, as they do spend the winters here and can be found in towns and cities.

> DAHLGREN, FROM PG. 22

about this? Would I want him to be sad, angry, mad? No. Not at all. I'd want him to pursue his dreams, his passions. To make the most of his life. To take this opportunity he's got and run with it."

Dahlgren has tried to do just that in the years since the crash.

Against the advice of his doctors and family, Dahlgren opted not to take a year off to heal at home but instead took York University up on its hockey scholarship offer, though it was likely he would have to spend the next few years with them on the bench due to his injuries.

He got a degree in commerce and today is studying to be a chiropractor, with dreams to work with professional athletes after graduation.

He's also written a book about his experiences, *Crossroads: My Story of Tragedy and Resilience As a Humboldt Bronco*, one he hopes will inspire others to overcome whatever life might throw at them.

"The idea was to help other people," he said, explaining the book grapples with topics that include grief, perception, resilience, mental health, community, and diabetes and brain injury awareness. "So many things that I think are so valuable and need to be discussed more in this world."

Dahlgren has donated the proceeds from the book to the STARS air ambulance, which was on the scene that day helping to save lives.

Though he was never able to get back on the ice as a competitive player — his head injury made it far too dangerous — Dahlgren recalled the day he laced up his skates for the first time just two months after the accident.

As he glided around the ice, Dahlgren felt, somehow, that his teammates were there with him.

"When I actually went out there, it didn't feel like myself. It felt like there was other people on the ice with me," he said, noting he's never been particularly religious, but this experience gave him goose bumps and made him feel closer to the teammates he'd lost.

"It felt like there was more energy and a presence. I think that was something that's truly beautiful."

> WATER, FROM PG. 19

government to look after our air, our land and our water. This isn't a wish list; this is what the people have asked the government to do."

Provincial NDP environment critic Lisa Naylor (MLA for Wolseley) said she would've liked to see a "more concrete" water plan and consultation with Indigenous people as the Conservatives head towards the end of their second term in power.

"They had a mandate to deliver a water management strategy to Manitobans by the end of this year and, as far as I'm concerned, this work hasn't been completed," said Naylor. "One of the key things is they haven't yet consulted with Indigenous communities — which they state they'll do in the strategy. I want to emphasize the importance of Indigenous consultation. That hasn't been done, yet the government is looking to have a detailed water action plan in the spring. It seems challenging to me that they're going to get there in that timeframe."

With regard to protecting Lake Winnipeg, Naylor said one thing the government could currently be doing is expediting transfers to the City of Winnipeg so that it can speed up the replacement of its combined sewer system and stop raw waste flowing into the environment.

The water management strategy says since the 1960s, the government "has opposed inter-basin water transfer projects, including from North Dakota, due to the inherent risks of such transfers, including the introduction of AIS into Manitoba's waters."

But that appears to be a reality-bending statement: about four years ago the government's then sustainable development minister Rochelle Squires had withdrawn Manitoba's legal challenge to North Dakota's inter-basin water project, the Northwest Area Water Supply,

which can potentially bring aquatic invasive species to Manitoba.

Naylor said contradiction between what the government writes and its actions is a pattern.

"It's a contradiction between what the government put in the water management document and the actual events that have taken place since they've been in power," said Naylor. "This is part of a pattern on everything I've seen regarding the environment and climate, this contradictory messaging, whether we're talking about the water strategy or carbon reduction."

Manitoba rivers and lakes, including Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake and Lake Manitoba, already have zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species, which are spread to new water bodies primarily through watercraft.

Naylor said she's unaware of any progress the government has made on inter-basin water transfers.

The strategy's nod towards the privatization of water services is also concerning to the NDP, said Naylor, as the Conservatives have already been privatizing aspects of health care.

And the government's putting the onus on others to achieve the water strategy's goals is not the first time she has seen such a move, she said. The previous environment minister used to "quite frequently" say, when she was talking about climate, that it comes down to individual responsibility.

"They have not taken very much responsibility as a government for the big changes that need to happen ... and, of course, this [narrative about others needing to be responsible] is an out. The government has to say what it plans to do," said Naylor. "The previous minister didn't put any responsibilities on big carbon emitters and on the government for policy change, and we're seeing the same sort of thing in their water management strategy document."



We hope it's the type of season that fills your heart and home with hope, warmth and great joy! As we wrap up a most eventful year, we are especially grateful for the trust and support of this community. Our commitment to quality reporting and service to our neighbors here remains as strong as ever, and we wish everyone peace and good health in 2022 and beyond.

Delivering our thanks and warmest wishes - your community newspaper team.

Allana Sawatzky
Ashleigh Viveiros
Autumn Fehr
Brett Mitchell
Brian Bowman
Brittany Hiebert
Christy Brown
Corrie Sargent
Dan Anderson
Debbie Strauss

Dennis Young
Donna Gislason
Gwen Keller
Jennifer McFee
Jo-Anne Procter
John Podworniuk
Katelyn Boulanger
Laura Platt
Lana Meier
Lori Penner

Lorraine Stevenson
Lorne Stelmach
Lucy Kowalchuk
Michelle Balharry
Nicole Kapusta
Patricia Barrett
Peter Cantelon
Rayme Thomson
Rick Hiebert
Sam Reimer

Sandra Barnes
Tara Gionet
Tee-Jay Furgala
Ty Dilello
Al Moskaliuk
Alizon Escueta
Beth Penton
Brandon Rundle
Candace MacMillan
Dustin Procter

Emma Gisti
Glen Weaver
Gwen Ross
Haley Cvar
Janice Carriere
Joan Kalupar
Kathy Walmuth
Lorne Chaleus
Lorne Ross
Matthieu Meier

Michelle Bukoske
Michelle Schofield
Mila Tangcalagan
Mollie Meier
Rick Roy
Rita Mueller
Sheila Escueta
Steven Gladu
Victoria Morse
Wayde Carriere

the staff of.....

Interlake Graphics
For all your printing and publishing needs

Big and Colourful
PRINTING & PUBLISHING

Call Today 204-467-5836

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune
news@stonewallteulontribune.ca
ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca

The Winkler Morden
Voice
news@winklermordenvoice.ca
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS
news@expressweeklynews.ca
ads@expressweeklynews.ca

The Altona Rhineland
Voice
news@winklermordenvoice.ca
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

The Carman-Dufferin
STANDARD
news@carmanstandard.ca
ads@carmanstandard.ca

Selkirk Record
news@selkirkrecord.ca
ads@selkirkrecord.ca

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Lightning knock off Northstars twice

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake U18 AAA male Lightning hockey team had a great trip up north last weekend.

Interlake completed a road sweep of the Norman Northstars after a convincing 9-3 win on Sunday afternoon.

"It was a pretty good weekend," said Lightning head coach Aaron Kaatz. "We got off to a slow start both games just due to the amount of travel we had but the boys really stepped it up in the third period of both games to help us get the wins up there and the much-needed four points."

Interlake's Ian Buors had a great game with a goal and four assists while Adam Vigfusson scored twice and had two assists.

"Those two kids are absolutely electric and dynamic," Kaatz said. "They have so much chemistry between each other. They know where each other are on the ice. They're always in the right places and those two, no matter what, they will put that puck

in the back of the net."

Aiden Miller and Joel MacMillan each chipped with a goal and two helpers.

Nic Leclair, Blake Farthing, Gavin Holod and Noah Oughton also scored for the Lightning.

Russell Matoo, Prime Paniyuk and Lazarus Constant replied for Norman.

Alex Myers made 30 saves for the win.

On Saturday, Interlake scored four third-period goals in a 5-1 win over Norman.

After a scoreless first period, Interlake's Brandon Burak and Norman's Gregory Wiseman traded goals in the middle frame.

The Lightning's Kai Smith and Vigfusson each scored a pair of goals in the third.

Interlake outshot Norman 57-27 as Myers earned the win.

Last Wednesday, the Lightning lost 5-3 to the Winnipeg Bruins in Teulon.

Morgan Waddell, MacMillan and Buors scored for Interlake.

Ethan Bibeau (two), Hayden Moore, Nick Giasson and Nathan Brown replied for Winnipeg.

Interlake, now 11-14-0-2, will host Eastman on Friday and Pembina Valley Saturday. Both games will start at 7:30 p.m.

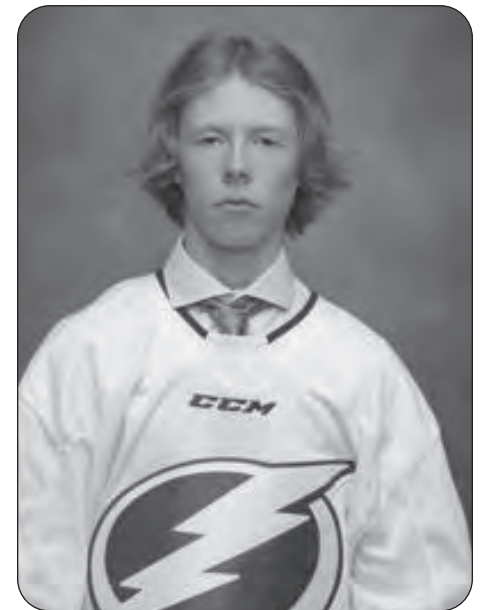
The Lightning trail the Selects by a point for the eighth and final playoff spot.

In Manitoba U18 Female Hockey League action, Interlake was defeated 8-0 by the Regina Rebels last Friday.

On Saturday, the Lightning were blanked 6-0 by Red Deer.

Interlake was scheduled to play a game Sunday morning but no score was posted on the team website at press time.

The Lightning will resume league play when they host the Winnipeg Avros Friday and the Winnipeg Ice Saturday in Stonewall. Puck drop for both games is 8 p.m.



Interlake Lightning forward Adam Vigfusson leads the Manitoba AAA U18 Hockey League with 41 points.

On Sunday at 12:30 p.m., Interlake will play the Pembina Valley Hawks in Morden.

Einarson wins her fifth career Grand Slam of Curling

By Ty Dilello

Gimli's Kerri Einarson captured her fifth Grand Slam of Curling event of her career last weekend at the WFG Masters in Oakville, Ont.

Einarson and her rink of Val Sweeting, Shannon Birchard and Briane Harris needed an extra end in the championship final to defeat Ontario's Rachel Homan 6-5 on Sunday afternoon.

Einarson opened the game with a deuce, but Homan moved in front with a three-ender in the fifth. Einarson answered with a pair in the sixth, and the teams blanked the seventh. Homan took one in the eighth end to force an extra end.

Facing two Homan counters, Einarson made a double takeout with her final rock for a dramatic victory. Einarson cashed in for a whopping \$35,000 with the Grand Slam title.

Italy's Joel Retornaz claimed the men's title at the WFG Masters with a 6-2 win over Scotland's Bruce Mouat.

Retornaz got off to a strong start, scoring in each of the first four ends to

take a 4-0 edge. After Mouat notched a deuce in the fifth, Retornaz sealed Italy's first major men's curling victory after adding two more points in the following two ends.

On the local curling front, the MCT Tour Championships were held last weekend in Carberry. Ten men's teams and three women's teams competed for cash and provincial berths.

In the men's event, Brandon's Steve Irwin (Travis Taylor, Travis Brooks, Travis Saban) punched their ticket to the Viterro Championships after defeating Fort Rouge's Ryan Wiebe 7-4 in Sunday afternoon's final. Wiebe already had earned a CTRS berth for the Viterro Championships, which will be held in Neepawa in February.

On the women's side, Miami's Lisa McLeod (Janelle Lach, Hallie McCannell, Jolene Callum) was victorious after defeating Carberry's Alyssa Calvert in the final. With the win, McLeod will be headed to the Manitoba Scot-ties Tournament of Hearts, which will be held in East St. Paul in January.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
Gimli's Kerri Einarson (Val Sweeting, Shannon Birchard, Briane Harris) captured her fifth Grand Slam of Curling event of her career last weekend at the WFG Masters in Oakville, Ont.

Lightning teams in action

Staff

The Interlake Lightning U17 AAA hockey team was defeated 7-3 by the Winnipeg Wild on Sunday afternoon.

Troy Johannesson, Cole Swanson, and Preston Crate scored for the Lightning.

Wild goals were scored by Luke Marykuca (three), Drew Russell (two), Willian Marceus and Nathan Shaw.

Last Friday, Interlake was edged 3-2 in overtime by the Winnipeg Bruins in Warren.

Carson White scored the game winner in OT.

Connor Vandal scored a first-period goal for the Bruins and then Interlake's Tytan Johnson and Winnipeg's Antonio Controneo traded goals in the second.

Interlake's Dainen Jacobson tied the score at 2-2 in the third.

Interlake will visit the Brandon Wheat Kings Friday (7:45 p.m.) and the Westman Ice Bandits Saturday (4:45 p.m.) in Elkhorn.

The U15 AAA Lightning, meanwhile, had a tough week with three lopsided losses.

Ryder Kirk, with a pair of goals, and Layne Stuart scored for Interlake in a 10-3 home loss to the Winnipeg Thrashers White last Thursday.

The next night, the Lightning were defeated 10-2 by the Parkland Rangers in Russell. Lucas Miller scored both Interlake goals.

On Saturday, Interlake was beaten 10-4 by the Yellowhead Chiefs in Shoal Lake.

Lightning goals were scored by Talon Sutherland, Miller, Mason Bernier and Kirk.

Miller finished the game with three



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

U17 AAA Lightning goaltender Nathan Meisner made 43 saves in Interlake's 3-2 overtime loss to the Winnipeg Bruins last Friday in Warren.

points.

Interlake will battle the Norman

Wolves in The Pas this Saturday (6:30 p.m.) and Sunday (noon).

Thunder hand out awards



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Interlake Thunder recently handed out their season-ending awards. Pictured is Atom head coach Jared Boville in the back. Front, Most Outstanding Defensive Player Cooper Dickey, Most Outstanding Offensive Player Weston Pruen and Thunder Impact Player of the Year Titus Boville. Missing from the photo is Most Outstanding Lineman Ben Maruca. The PeeWee awards featured Most Outstanding Defensive Player Jayden Slatcher, Most Outstanding Lineman Brady Bilinsky and Thunder Impact Player of the Year Malaki Boville. Missing from the photo is Most Outstanding Offensive Player Christian Mozden. Varsity awards included Most Outstanding Special Teams Player Leif Robak, Lineman of the Year Reilly Olafson, Most Outstanding Offensive Player Dallas Batenchuk, Thunder Impact Player of



the Year Lucas Kmet, Rookie of the Year Ben Cook, Most Outstanding Defensive Player Jacob Naherney, Most Valuable Player Dwight Bell, and the Charlie Cooke Leadership Award went to Tucker Knutson.

Classifieds



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

SCRAP METAL

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

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

LAND FOR SALE

RM of Bifrost, 140 acres, land only. Recently subdivided. NW 1/4 of 15-22-3E. \$2300/acre obo. Ph Morley at 204-376-5175.

AUTOS

2018 Nissan Sentra; 80,175 km; 4 cylinder; safetied; new tires; for inquiries please call 204-886-2795.

MISCELLANEOUS

BOSCH Mixers, An-karsrum Mixers, VITA-MIX blenders, LEFSE supplies & more. **FREE SHIPPING.** Call toll-free 1-888-692 6724. Hometech **BOSCH** Appl 375 Broad St, Regina, SK. www.hometechcanada.ca



Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 32 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

Contact this newspaper NOW or MCNA at 204.947.1691 or email classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

WANTED

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

LAKESIDE FLIGHT ACADEMY

Want to learn how to fly? Recreational Pilot Program is the best way to get started, must be 16 years of age. Privileges: fly for fun in a certified airplane, a home-built aircraft or an ultralight; fly by day only in Canada with one passenger; can easily add float rating to permit. Lakeside Flight Academy 204-642-4799.

RELIGION

If you do not know Jesus before you die, Heaven will not be your home. Paid advertisement.

NOTICES

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS ADS! Advertise NOW in the 32 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging to be seen all over the province! **SEASONAL HIRING?** Have a service to offer? Selling something? Grand opening? Have an on-line store? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a Christmas/winter event? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

HAY & STRAW FOR SALE

Quantity of round bales, net wrapped, first cut alfalfa, second cut alfalfa and wild hay. Also, quantity of net wrapped round bales of straw for sale. Call 204-461-1717.

FEED GRAIN CORN

High moisture feed grain corn for sale. Delivery available. Contact 204-461-0706.

HEALTH

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



TOWN OF ARBORG BUILDING CLEANER WANTED

The Town of Arborg is looking for cleaners to start January 2023 to clean the Learning Centres at 440 & 444 Recreation Centre (Age Friendly Building & Kinsmen Building) every Tuesdays & Thursdays after 4:30pm.

For cleaning duties description, please contact the office. Please send your application to townofarborg@mymts.net.

Cindy Stansell, CAO
Town of Arborg
Box 159
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Phone: (204)376-2647
townofarborg@mymts.net

Please support our advertisers SHOP LOCAL



Permanent Full-Time Employment Opportunity!

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

Where: Fisher Branch, Manitoba

Potential Start Date: February 1, 2023

Responsibilities Include but are not limited to:

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

Skills & Requirements:

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

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

Dwayne Smith - Owner/Manager

Deadline for applications: December 31, 2022.

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

Reporter/Photographer Wanted

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

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

Qualifications:

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

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

Lana Meier
Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca



UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

PROPOSED REVISION TO THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE - BYLAW NO. 1065-2022 Creating a NEW ZONING BY-LAW FOR THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRAHAMDALE

(Public representations will be limited to the proposed alterations)

LOCATION: R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office
23 Government Road, Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

GENERAL INTENT: To amend the proposed Zoning By-Law 1065-2022 to rezone SW 35-28-10 WPM and NW 26-28-10 WPM from Agriculture General to Agriculture Restricted, as part of the adoption of a new Zoning By-Law for the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale to manage land use and development as per Section 68 of The Planning Act.

AREA AFFECTED: The Zoning By-Law applies to all lands within the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale.

DOCUMENTS: The Zoning By-Law and all amended maps are available on the R.M. of Grahamdale's website at www.grahamdale.ca. Copies can be made at the R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office and extracts taken by request during normal office hours.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly Schwitek, Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Grahamdale
Box 160, 23 Government Road,
Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0
Phone: 204-768-2858
Email: rm606@grahamdale.ca

To participate via phone or videoconferencing, please contact the R.M. of Grahamdale Municipal Office at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the hearing.

Classifieds



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Driving Position

We have an opening for a long-haul driver. No waiting for back-hauls.

Our customers are located in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota

Compensation is paid on an hourly basis. We have a health package including dental, a deferred profit sharing plan, and paid meals while outside of the province

For further information call

Shaunne at 204-886- 2922 ext 205 or email resume to shaunne@charisons.ca

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

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

THE HODGSON CEMETERY

Please note that the interment maintenance fee per burial will be \$300 as of January 1, 2023.

Notice is required prior to construction or alterations to gravesites, including placements of headstones. Call in advance of graveside services or burials.

Inquiries: 204-739-3046

Everything you need to promote your business

FLYERS
BROCHURES
BUSINESS CARDS
STICKERS
WINDOW DECALS

SOCIAL TICKETS
DOOR HANGERS
LETTERHEAD
ENVELOPES
INVOICES

ESTIMATE SHEETS
POSTERS
MEMO PADS
POST CARDS



Call Today!
204-467-5836

take a break

> GAMES

SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

X CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Take weapons away from
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Actress Lathan
- Baseball's strikeout king
- British codebreaker Turing
- One who lives by disreputable dealings
- Tropical American plant
- Opposite of right
- Importance
- Monetary units
- Lawmen
- Cool!
- Affirmative answer
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Muslim nobleman
- About aviation
- Scientific instrument
- Protests strongly
- Not polished
- Grab
- Alias
- Large wrestler
- Relative quantities
- One who is big and awkward
- Sunscreen rating
- Atomic #90
- Mock
- Whales
- Peoples
- A state of being unclothed from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Ottoman military commanders
- Gatherer of fallen leaves
- Norse personification of old age
- Muslim mystic
- German river
- Measuring instrument
- Have witnessed
- Disallow
- Proverb

CLUES DOWN

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

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			
66					67				68			

- The back side of the neck
- A type of imine
- Black bird
- Partner to "Pa"
- Puts together in time
- Lucid
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Demonstrates the truth of
- Ancient Greek City
- Nishi language
- Slang for fidgety
- Southwestern farmers
- Metric weight unit
- Instant replay in soccer
- Less polished
- Popular pickup truck model
- Slang for a cigarette
- Large pile
- Solid geometric figure
- One from the Big Apple
- Male admirers
- Balsam is one
- Local area network
- Canadian law enforcers
- Koran chapters
- Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
- Certificate (abbr.)
- An official who carries a mace of office
- Briefly in fashion
- Volcanic ash
- Dutch city
- Made of wood
- Legendary golfer
- Restaurant
- None
- Spanish city
- Stony waste matter
- Father
- Confederate soldier
- The ancient Egyptian sun god

Classifieds



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



FIRMAN

"Welcome to the world, our Little Miss Sunshine!"

Loa Catherine Jade brought warmth to our hearts, arriving in good fashion at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre on Monday, July 18th at 7:59 a.m. weighing in at 9 lbs. 6 oz. and 20.5" long.

Proud Mom and Dad, Jessa Laine and Lyndon along with big sister Lynnley and big brother Conway were so excited to meet Loa.

Equally beaming were Grandma Vickie and Afi Raymond Johnson of Riverton, Grandma Wanda and Grandpa Darvin Firman of Arborg, Lang Amma, Joan Johnson of Hnusa and Great Grandma Helen Muzyka of Riverton. Also many aunties, uncles and cousins! Thank you everyone for your support, visits and gifts!

We feel the love! Xoxo

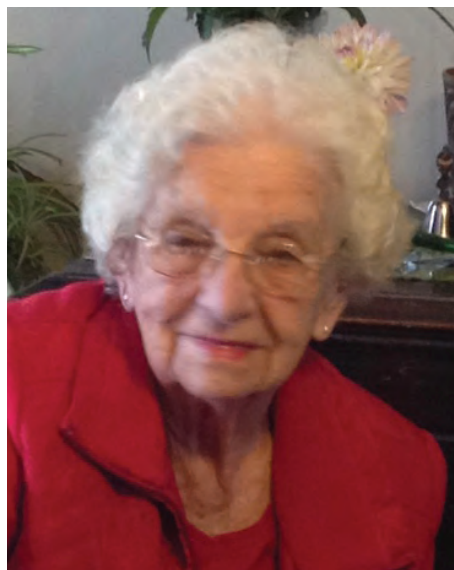
BIRTHDAY



December 16, 2022
Olive Sielski

A very Happy 92nd Birthday to you, Mom!
-Love from your family!

IN MEMORIAM



Rose Shewchuk

September 9, 1927 - December 11, 2021

Hard to believe a year has passed.

In life we loved you dearly,

In death we love you still.

In our hearts you hold a place,

No one else will ever fill.

-Lovingly missed by your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren



**WANTED:
SASQUATCH
SKULL!**

Also buying entire coin collections & old money! Buying large quantities of silver. 999+ bullion, ALL sizes, ALL brands, bars, rounds, ingots, coins, sterling, silverware, and pre-1968 coins +. **Buying all gold & silver coins, bars, unwanted jewelry, nuggets, dust, scrap +++**

TODD

250-864-3521

Please support our advertisers
SHOP LOCAL

Trucks, Trailers, Truckbeds & Tires

- Full Repair & Safeties
- Vehicle Parts
- Tires & Wheels
- Trailer Parts
- Gen-Y-Hitches
- Sales, Financing, Leasing & Rentals

EBY Aluminum:

- Gooseneck and Bumper Pull Cattle & Equipment Trailers
- Truck & Service Bodies

KALDECK TRUCK & TRAILER INC.

Hwy #1, MacGregor, MB

1-888-685-3127

www.kaldecktrailers.com

FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION
with an

EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in



204-467-5836

OBITUARY

Deborah Grace Natyna

Suddenly on December 6, 2022 at 8:26 p.m. at the Gimli Community Health Centre, Deborah Grace Natyna, passed away at the all too young age of 60.

Deborah was predeceased by her loving parents Tony and Pearl as well as brother-in-law Lorne.

She is survived by her children Joshua and Cody Hill, Dennis and Natasha as well as sister Gail and her children Kristjan, Johann, Justin and Lindsey.

My mother lived her life the way she raised us, always wanting to be by nature and family.

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Gilbert Funeral Chapel, Selkirk, MB.

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



Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Ken Stephanson

November 13, 1941 - December 1st, 2022

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Ken, our husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother and dear friend, after suffering a debilitating stroke in December 2021.

Ken is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gerry; his son Gordon (Leah); daughters Sandra and Barbara; sister Carol; brother Joe and sister-in-law Barbara. Ken also leaves his beloved grandchildren, Aiden and Christian, Brendan (Nicole), Ben (Sierra), Elaina and great0-grandchildren Garret, Austin and Sophie. He also leaves several nieces and nephews whose company he greatly enjoyed.

Ken was predeceased by his two brothers-in-law Denny and Marshall, with whom he had a strong bond and missed terribly.

Ken loved his family with all of his heart and took great pride in all of their accomplishments.



Ken grew up in Selkirk, Manitoba and was very proud of his Icelandic roots. He met Gerry in Whyteford where they continued to date until 1962, when they got married. Decades later they remained loyal and true to one another and found a community they loved in Gimli, Manitoba, where they settled and met many wonderful friends.

Ken started his professional hockey career in Kingston, Ontario and from there he played in several American cities. His highlights included playing in the WHL (now Winnipeg Jets) and being on the Canadian National Team.

In 1970, Ken graduated from the University of Manitoba, and following his pro hockey career, went on to be a teacher, owner/operator of a sporting goods store, senior manager for Jostens National School Service, and a realtor with Interlake Real Estate in Gimli. He was well liked by all of his coworkers.

Ken loved spending time with family and friends at their different cottages throughout the years. He loved being on the water and enjoyed boating life wherever they were. Ken was a friend to many and will be missed and loved by all of us.

A memorial celebration will be held in Gimli, at Gilbert Funeral Chapel, on Friday, January 13th at 11:00 a.m. followed by a reception at the Lakeview Hotel in Gimli.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



McSherry Auctions

12 Patterson Dr., Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions @ iCollector.com

Office & Receiving Open Until December 21st

Thank You for Your Patronage!
We Wish You All The Happiest Winter Season & Festivities From The Merry McSherry Crew!

Estate & Moving

Closes Wed Jan. 4 @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving

Closes Wed Jan. 11 @ 7:00PM

McSherryauction.com

Consignments Welcome!

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING!

50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

- *Auto *Farm *Marine
- *Construction *ATV
- *Motorcycle *Golf Carts
- *Rechargeables *Tools
- *Phones *Computers
- *Solar Systems & design
- * Everything Else!

THE BATTERY MAN

1390 St. James St. Winnipeg

TF 1-877-775-8271

www.batteryman.ca

Remember Your Loved Ones
with an Announcement in the

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Call 204-467-5836 or classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

MECHANIC/ APPRENTICE

Truck/Trailer/Equipment Repair
Competitive Wages, Benefits

Experience required

204-389-2023

info@eddiesgravel.com

102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

Winter Road Drivers Pre-Hiring Drivers

Experience an Asset

Willing to train

\$400-\$800 a day

204-389-2023

Info@eddiesgravel.com

102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

Everything you need to promote your business

FLYERS
BROCHURES
BUSINESS CARDS
STICKERS
WINDOW DECALS

SOCIAL TICKETS
DOOR HANGERS
LETTERHEAD
ENVELOPES
INVOICES

ESTIMATE SHEETS
POSTERS
MEMO PADS
POST CARDS



Call Today!
204-467-5836

Announcements

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

OBITUARY



Gudmundur Brian Tomasson

We will greatly miss our Dad, our Afi, brother, uncle, cousin, and dear friend Gudmundur Brian Tomasson. Brian left us peacefully on Monday, November 21, 2022, as the sun was beginning to come up. He was surrounded by family and visited by a few close friends at Concordia Hospital in the weeks before his passing.

Gudmundur Brian Tomasson was born in Gimli, Manitoba on the 19th of February 1942. He is predeceased by his father Gudmundur Jonson Tomasson, his mother Gislina Elinora Gislason, his stepmother Rosa Tomasson, his beloved wife Alys Finlay Tomasson (née Campbell), and many friends and relations.

Brian is survived by many who cared for and about him. Some of these include: Keith Tomasson and Leona Tomasson, his brother and sister; his kids Karen Tomasson, Robert (Bob) Tomasson, and Ron Tomasson; Karen's son Diem Tomasson; the family of his

beloved late wife Alys Finlay Tomasson (née Campbell, formerly Kelly) including her daughter Renatta Chambers (née Kelly), Renatta's husband Randy Chambers, and their children Ainslee Chambers and Lathan Chambers who called him Afi; Patrick Kelly, his partner Mandee Deighton and her children Katie and Connor.

Brian was a devoted father, husband and grandfather (Afi in Icelandic, Brian's first language). First married to Patricia Elaine Toupin (née Mulroy) in the early 70s, Brian raised sons Ronald, Robert, and daughter Karen. Karen's son Diem loved his Afi. In 1992, Brian was married to Alys Finlay Tomasson (née Campbell); her children Renatta and Patrick loved, cared for, and respected Brian as a parent. Renatta's children Lathan and Ainslee loved their Afi and will miss him.

All his life, Brian was the hub of many wheels, describing his early life as a 'satellite, in orbit around the Interlake.' Brian grew up in Riverton, but spent weekends and holidays in Lundar, Geysir, Gimli, and all over the Interlake. He was never bored, spending his time working, trapping, and visiting with the 'old people.' He always found time to listen and learn.

Moving in the 1960s to Winnipeg, Brian was always able to find work. After a few years at Canada Packers, he settled into a position at Continental Can Company, later called Somerville Belkin, and then Crown Packaging. Brian stayed at the plant on Golspie in East Kildonan for the rest of his working life, eventually becoming a Union Rep (CEP Local 341). He was always busy, working overtime, doing shift work on evenings and weekends, and 'wheeling and dealing' like he said. Brian remained involved in the lives of his kids; he volunteered with the Y in East Kildonan, also Scouts Canada (Cubs), and coached soccer and basketball teams. Brian met Alys Kelly (nee Campbell) in 1988 and knew right away they were well-suited to build a strong life together. Moving into a house together not long after they started their relationship, the happy couple was married in the family home in 1992. They spent many happy years together until Alys passed in 2018. Life as a widower had many challenges for Brian, but Patrick was a great help to him through the process, the pandemic and lockdowns; Patrick's Aunt Shelagh was a great friend and support to Brian.

Brian had many interests: collections of vintage photographs and postcards, stamps and coins, trading and repairing antique clocks and pocket watches, bowling, and metal detecting to name only a few. He was active in the Icelandic community and took special care his whole life to visit with his elders and other community members. Like many folks of Icelandic descent, he was a bit obsessive about genealogy, and regularly talked to people from all over the Interlake and the old country about their families' roots. Brian was a memory keeper, passing stories and histories from generations past along to anyone prepared to listen and learn. This role he stepped into at an early age and illustrates both his reverence and modesty. He was active in the Icelandic Canadian Frón, and local Icelandic newspaper Lögberg-Heimskringla as a writer, board member, and committee member. Hvili i frídi.

According to his wishes, Brian has been cremated and will rest beside his beloved wife Alys Finlay Tomasson in a family plot at Dundas, Manitoba. A celebration of Gudmundur Brian Tomasson's life will be held in the spring of 2023.

We thank Brian's many friends and relations, the doctors, nurses, and all of the folks on the team at Concordia Hospital, as well as teams at St. Boniface Hospital, Deer Lodge, and CancerCare for all they did to help him through his health concerns.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Palliative Care Program, Riverview Health Centre, or the Lögberg-Heimskringla.

Expressions of condolences can be sent to the Passages website or www.neilbardalinc.com.



204-949-2200
Gimli 204-642-7124
neilbardalinc.com

OBITUARY



Stanley Firman

It is with heavy hearts that we announce, after a brief illness, the passing of Stanley (Stashu/Stash) Firman, peacefully on December 8, 2022 at Gimli Community Health Centre at the age of 88 years. Dad was surrounded by family at the time of his passing and we are all forever grateful for the quality life he lived and provided to all of us.

Dad has now reunited with his father Paul, mother Florence, brothers Art, Paul, and Archie, as well as his father and mother-in-law, Victor and Anne Urbanski.

Left to cherish in Dad's memory are his wife Shirley (married 57 years); son Ron (Angie) Firman of Dauphin; daughters Sharon Firman (Bob) of Gimli and Tracy Firman (Ray) of Stonewall. Also left to mourn are his grandchildren Curtis (Courtney) Firman, Joel Firman, Hunter Lupyrypa (Ryan),

Brooke Lupyrypa, Mike (Leanne) Aitken, Tim Aitken (Aaryn); sister Marge Stewart; sisters-in-law Anne and Lil Firman; brother-in-law Len (Ollie) Urban; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Dad was born in Winnipeg and was the youngest of five children. He worked on the family farm in Husavik from a young age with his brothers and sister. Dad's father Paul and his brothers did custom thrashing for local area farmers, operating a sawmill as well. Dad met our Mom Shirley in 1963 and they married August 14, 1965. When Dad's parents moved to Gimli, they took over the family homestead on Willow Creek Road where they continued to farm. Dad worked at the RCAF in Gimli from 1956 until the air force base closed in 1971. During this time, he worked in the CE section, then transferred to ME. When the base closed in 1971, Dad continued to cattle and grain farm, as well as drive school bus for the Evergreen School Division. He later sold off the cattle and continued to grain farm and drive bus, until his retirement in June 1999. Dad and Mom sold the family farm and moved to Siglavik in 2007.

Dad and Mom spent many of their years working on the family farm, as well as raising three children. Dad enjoyed all types of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, camping, trapping, and going to the cabin at Beaver Creek. Dad may have retired, but he certainly never slowed down. Up until last year, Dad was still going out to check his traps on snowshoes, as well as worked with Natural Resources looking after nuisance beavers. Dad made friends everywhere he went chatting with all from young to old. There was no one he couldn't hold a conversation with and he enjoyed a good laugh with all. Although a hunter, a trapper and a fisherman, Dad had a love for all nature, helping any animal in need and making many critter friends along the way.

Dad's life was devoted to his family and he cherished all visits and get togethers with his children and grandchildren. In our younger years, much time was spent playing around the family farm, visiting to the fields, and packing into the Suburban for the next camping adventure. Later, Dad enjoyed all his grandchildren and loved to watch his family grow, hearing what they were all up to and packing us all into the family home for every holiday celebration.

We would sincerely like to thank the wonderful staff at Selkirk Regional Health Centre for Dad's initial diagnosis and care, as well as Dr. Fulmore and the staff at Gimli Community Health Centre for the compassion shown to Dad and our family during his final month.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Gimli, MB. with Fr. Stan Gacek officiating. Interment will take place at St. Michael's Cemetery, North Foley, MB.

In lieu of flowers, donation can be made to St. Michael's Cemetery in care of Linda Zazulinski, Box 1292, Gimli, MB, R0C 1B0.

Stanley,

How do I sum up 59 years since we first met. You carried me through the most difficult years of my life. You gave me a reason to not give up. Through good and bad, we did it side by side. You taught me to enjoy life and appreciate small pleasures. I will forever miss you and your silly remarks, but I have beautiful memories and our wonderful family to carry me through. Rest peacefully Sweetie. Love and miss you forever, Shirley.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

Remember Your Loved Ones
with an Announcement in the

EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

Call 204-467-5836 or
classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

Classifieds

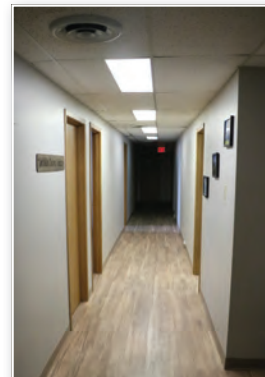
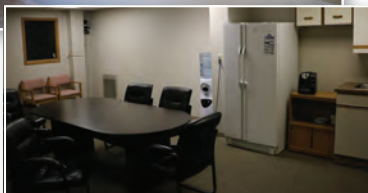
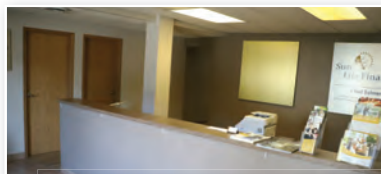


Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca

CLANDEBOYE AVE in Selkirk Executive Mall

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

For information please contact: BIG Real Estate
204-485-0010 email bigandcolourful@mts.net



Property Features

Total square Footage 1700, includes eight offices of various sizes, a board room and a front reception area. The building was upgraded in 2012. Both the reception and board room are shared, there are currently two offices available for lease.

Biz Cards

To Book A Biz Card Call 204-467-5836

GOETZ SIDING

- 5" Eavestrough • Soffit/Fascia
- Custom Cladding

(204)223-7740 goetzsiding@gmail.com

24/7 SNOW REMOVAL

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
SKID STEER AND
WALK BEHIND SNOWBLOWER
CALL JERRY AT 204-641-2758

M DRIEDGER HANDYMAN

- Decks • Stairs • Railings • Windows and Doors
- Sheds • Painting • Cabinets
- Home Repair • Assembly • Blinds
- Laminate Flooring Repairs

Serving Gimli and area 204-641-4679
mdriedger@gmail.com

CONVENIENCE

- Grocery • Drinks • Snacks
- Coffee to Go • Ice • Firewood
- Fireworks • ATM • Greeting Cards
- Newspapers • Books • Pet Food
- Toys & more

SNAXS • LOTTO
20088 First Ave, Sandy Hook
FIRST AVENUE

OPEN YEAR ROUND 10AM - 6PM
7 DAYS A WEEK

PharmaChoice LUNDAR

You have QUESTIONS, We have ANSWERS!

- Prescriptions • Liquor Store
- Home Health Care Aids
- Snacks and more!

Advice for Life

LUNDAR PHARMACY 204-762-5431
18 Main St., Lundar

Glass Specialists Construction

- Sealed Units
- Flat Glass
- Mirrors
- Laminated
- Tempered
- Plexi/Lexan

- Windows & Doors
- Siding
- Custom Cladding
- Decks
- Construction/Renovations

19046 Ukrainian Park Road
Camp Morton, MB
204 376 5177
204 642 2980
Intglass@mymts.net

- Local Natural Gifts
- Handmade with Care
- Convenient Pickup
- Discounts up to 20%
- All Botanical 30% Off

SandyHookSoapFactory.com
Phone: 204-389-2303

JEFF'S PLUMBING SERVICES INC.

• RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
HNAUSA, MANITOBA

For All Your Plumbing & Repair Needs
- ROTOR ROOTER SERVICES -

- Sewer Camera

Cell: 204-485-4227
JEFF FLETT jeffsplumbing1@gmail.com

Bob's Back!

with Interlake "SPECIAL" pricing

SELKIRK CHRYSLER

Jeep RAM

1011 Manitoba Ave Selkirk
Call/Text Bob 204-641-2097

Bob Senow
Sales Consultant

www.selkirkchrysler.com

NEW VALLEY ROOFING & RENOVATIONS

Serving The Interlake

Henry Reimer 204-642-2551
henry.reimer@newvalleyroofing.com
newvalleyroofing.com

BP & IKO Certified Roofer

What's Bugging You?

Mice, rats, bed bugs, cockroaches, carpenter ants, wasps, spiders.
Guaranteed Results - Licensed & Insured
- Safe & effective total pest control
Commercial and Residential

Suzy Rayner, Owner/Operator
Interlake Region 204-914-4515

SuzyRayner@ValkyriePest.ca www.ValkyriePest.ca

FUTURE MECHANICAL Heating & Cooling

Commercial & Residential

- Electric & Gas Furnaces
- Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
- Heat Recovery Ventilators
- Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Custom Sheet Metal
- Electrical

Serving the Interlake for Over 25 Years!

- 24 Hour Service
- 1.204.642.5600

futuremechanicalsystems@hotmail.com

BESMAN

Industrial & Automotive Coatings

Auto Body Supplies Paint & Supplies

email: info@besman.ca 1000 Dugald Road
www.besman.ca 204-615-3050 (One block west of Lagimodiere)

BNS EXCAVATING

- Design Services
- Soil Analysis
- Well & Septic Repairs
- Frozen Lines
- Driveways
- Culverts
- Trenching
- Auger Drilling
- Ice Dam Steaming
- Septic Fields

Residential, Commercial & Industrial
Member of Manitoba Onsite Wastewater Management Assoc
BNSexcavating@hotmail.com (204)461-2856

Everything you need to promote your business

Interlake Graphics

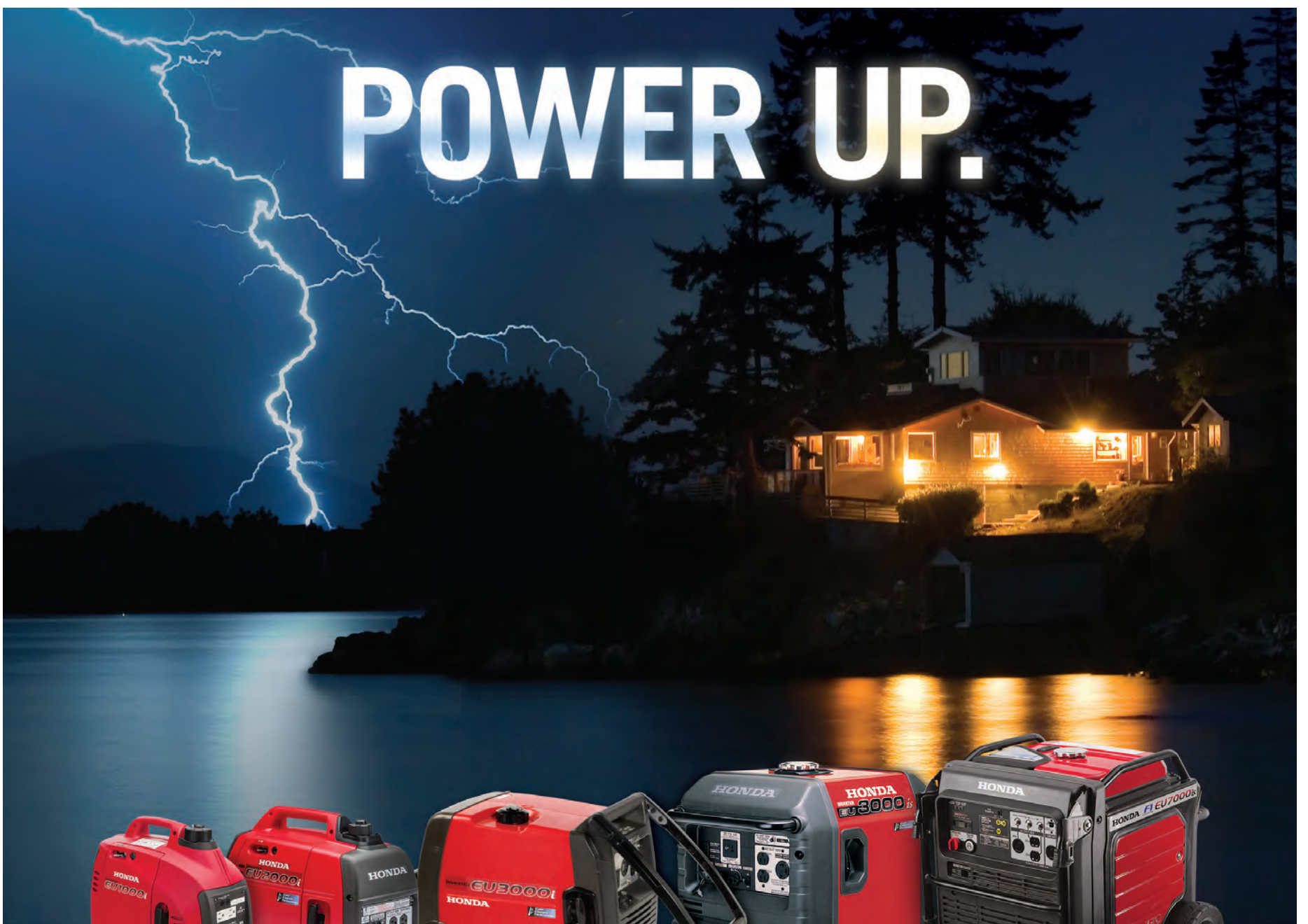
For all your printing and publishing needs 467-5836

- FLYERS
- BROCHURES
- POST CARDS
- STICKERS
- BUSINESS CARDS

- PRESENTATION FOLDERS
- SIGNS
- SOCIAL TICKETS
- DOOR HANGERS
- LETTERHEAD
- ENVELOPES

- INVOICES
- ESTIMATE SHEETS
- POSTERS
- MEMO PADS
- And MORE...

POWER UP.



EU1000i

EU2000i

EU3000iK

EU3000is

EU7000is

A back-up plan you can count on.

Don't worry about getting left in the dark when you've got a Honda EU series generator. Easy to use, portable and with long running times, they are a back-up power source you can count on. From the lights to the fridge or even your air conditioning, we have a generator with the wattage to meet your needs. And with very little operating noise, you'll enjoy peace and quiet as well as peace of mind.

HONDA

honda.ca

Make your life easier. Visit honda.ca

  Honda ATVs & Power Equipment Canada   @HondaATVPECA

For optimum performance and safety, please read your owner's manual carefully before operating your Honda Power Equipment

SHACHTAY
SALES & SERVICE LTD.
www.shachtay.com

204-376-5233
Arborg, Manitoba
Family Owned
Servicing the Interlake for 54 Years!