

During the Holiday Season, more than ever, my thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made my progress possible.

And in this spirit I say, simply but sincerely ...

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season





# THE APPESS

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VOLUME 9 EDITION 51 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2022

**WEEKLY NEWS** 

#### LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY







**EXPRESS PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL** 

Ashern Early Years students had a very special surprise following their Christmas concert on Dec. 15 at the community hall. Jolly Old St. Nicholas stopped in to visit with some very excited children.

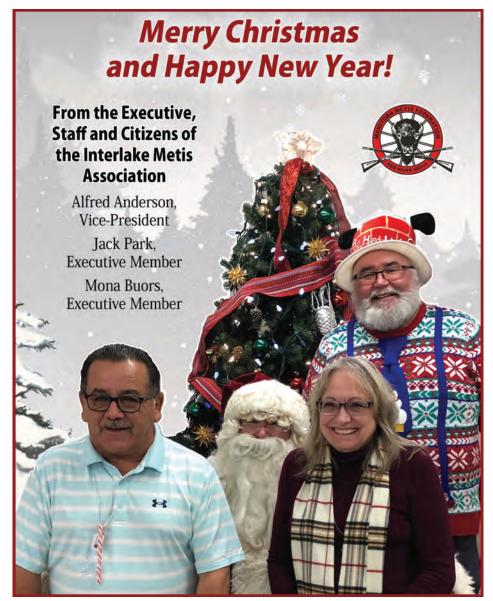
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# Gimli High School's music students share the warmth with holiday band concert



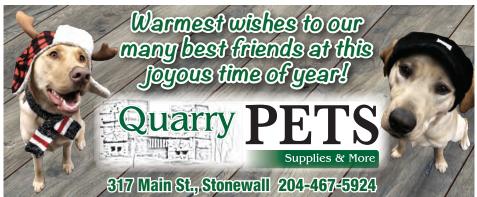






**EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON** 

Gimli High School students entertained parents and the community Dec. 14 during the school's annual winter concert. Concert and jazz band teacher Rob Chrol led the orchestras through polished renditions of popular holiday songs. The evening included a silent auction and 50/50 draw to support the Evergreen Band Boosters, which helps fund instruments for students in the Evergreen School Division music program. See more photos on pages 3 & 4.





Grant D. Baker
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary

Our office is open 9-5 Mon to Fri 72 Centre Street, Gimli, MB 204-642-8681 or 1-866-487-5688



















### **Gimli High School band concert**









### Manitoba RCMP holds Change of Command ceremony for new Commanding Officer

#### **Submitted by Manitoba RCMP**

The Manitoba RCMP has a new commander. While Assistant Commissioner Rob Hill took the post of Commanding Officer in July 2022, earlier Wednesday, officers, employees, and special guests from across the province and nation-wide welcomed him in a traditional RCMP Change of Command ceremony at the Manitoba Legislative Building in Winnipeg.

The ceremony is an RCMP tradition that marks the symbolic handover of authority from the outgoing Commanding Officer to the new leader of the Force in the province. The ceremony today involved RCMP Pipes and Drums, a ceremonial troop, and a flag party. There was a parchment signing and the transfer of the Divisional ensign from outgoing Commanding Officer, Assistant Commissioner Jane MacLatchy to the new Commanding Officer, Assistant Commissioner Rob Hill. RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki oversaw the ceremony.

"While we are sad to see Assistant Commissioner MacLatchy go, she is leaving the Province of Manitoba in very good hands," said Brenda Lucki, Commissioner of the RCMP. "Assistant Commissioner Rob Hill brings a breadth of experience to the role. He has Manitoba roots that tie him firmly to the people of this province. He is committed to building relationships, employee wellness, and rural crime

reduction, and I know he will tackle these issues with the same enthusiasm he brings to everything involving public safety."

"I am humbled and excited to take on the role of Commanding Officer," said Assistant Commissioner Rob Hill. "I commit to continue to learn from the lived experiences of diverse RCMP employees and the diverse communities we serve to make sure we are having the necessary discussions and are moving in the right direction. We are living and policing in challenging times, but I am optimistic about our future. I think the more we work together as people, as communities, the better we will be able to forge a path forward."

#### The Role of Divisional Commanding Officer:

The title of Commanding Officer is reserved specifically for the regular member in charge of an RCMP division. The individual's rank does not necessarily reflect their status as Commanding Officer - the RCMP has Commanding Officers who are Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and Chief Superintendents. The Commanding Officer's rank is determined by the individual's level of responsibility, the territory covered by the division and the number of employees under their



MANITOBA RCMP

Manitoba RCMP held a Change of Command ceremony at the legislature last week to welcome new Commanding Officer Rob Hill.







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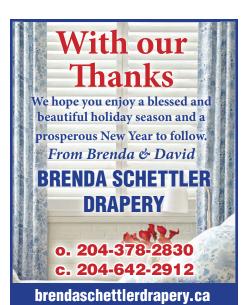
Please contact Amanda at 204-847-0677

#### Malanka dance Jan. 8, 2023 1pm to 4pm

Music by Mosaics, hot lunch served. \$25 admission at the door, call to book your tickets Lois 204 643 5541 or Nancy 204 643 5133

# Historic Canadian snowman









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Ukrainian children Lev and Yeva built their first Canadian snowman last week after Mother Nature dumped upwards of 40 cm of snow on parts of the Interlake.



### O Christmas Tea: a British comedy comes to Winnipeg this holiday season

#### **Submitted by Jill Raymond**

Buckle your theatre seats and grab your teacups, British comedians James and Jamesy bring their unique brand of hilarity to the Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg on Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m., rounding out an astonishing 32city tour across Eastern Canada.

Reminiscent of classic British pantos, O Christmas Tea is rich with wordplay, comic physicality, and cleverly crafted interactive elements, yet it is the duo's boundless imagination and endearing chemistry that provide the real magic of this play.

"The Christmas season is the time of year when we are encouraged to dream big, embrace imagination, and celebrate child-like excitement for magic and merriment," says Alastair Knowles, who plays Jamesy, the quirky half of London's 3-time Impresario Award-winning duo. "With O Christmas Tea, we bring together multiple generations in the theatre, laughing and enjoying each other's company - and ours."

James and Jamesy have already won just about every comedy award they can, and the reason is obvious: these two are exceptional. Stepping away from their Off-Broadway run, the duo are delighting thousands of audience members across Eastern Canada this holiday season.

Fans and critics alike are in awe of the duo's ability to elicit a sense of play in a room full of adults. "No other holiday show does what O Christmas Tea does. You emerge from it invigorated, rejuvenated and joyful that the child in you is now awake," says reviewer Christopher Hoile (Stage Door Toronto) in his recent five-star review of the show.

Juxtaposing British propriety with an unabashed love for the unexpected, O Christmas Tea casts away the conventions of theatre and joyously breaks the fourth wall. In fact, just about the only thing these two don't break is their Royal Doulton tea set in this wonderful evening of play and whimsy.

O Christmas Tea: A British Comedy is playing at The Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg, Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Leap to get tickets at www.OChristmasTea.com



#### **PHOTO SUBMITTED**

With showtime approaching, the seats are filling and the anticipation is rising for O Christmas Tea - the hilarious and surprising holiday show which has already delighted thousands of Ontarians this holiday season as the tour rounds out with a finale in Winnipeg on Dec. 30.

# Toy safety tips from Health Canada

Health Canada is reminding holiday shoppers to closely examine children's toys for potential safety

Toys can contain components such as button batteries or magnets that can be swallowed and cause serious injury or death. Gifts for older children and adults might also contain small pieces that can cause injury to small children.

"Look for sturdy, well-made toys that are appropriate for your child's age, size and abilities," said Health Canada product safety officer Susan Talbot in a safety message. "Many toys contain small parts that make them unsafe for younger children. Some playthings that come to mind are puzzles and building blocks that have small pieces, or toys with battery compartments that don't close securely.'

Talbot said there are a number of toy safety tips people can keep in mind such as following the safety messages and instructions that come with toys, considering toys that have battery compartments which require

screws rather than slide-to-open levers, throwing out or recycling all toy packaging like plastic bags, plastic wrap, foam, staples, ties and protective film right away as a child can suffocate or choke on these items, and teaching children how to safely use their new toys.

Visit the Recalls and Safety Alerts webpage on Canada.ca to see if any toys have recalls or advisories.



**HEALTH CANADA** 

Children's toys can contain potential hazards that can cause serious injury or death.



SHOWTIMES: Please check individual listings

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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

G

**STRANGE** WORLD

FRI-THURS DEC 30 - JAN 5 CLOSED DEC 31 & JAN 1

at 7:30 pm Each Night OPEN Dec 30, Jan 2-3-4-5

#### **NEXT WEEK**

**PUSS IN** BOOTS: THE LAST **WISH** 

FRI-THURS JAN 6 - 12 CLOSED TUESDAY

at 7:30 pm Each Night

PG

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.

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.

### €XPR€SS







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REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER Jennifer McFee



SPORTS EDITOR



Patricia Barrett



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Autumn Fehr



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER





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**ADMINISTRATION** Jo-Anne Procter



**ADMINISTRATION** Allana Sawatzky



Dan Anderson



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



# Influenza deaths on the rise; **COVID** bivalent vaccine for kids

Hospitalizations and deaths from influenza have sharply increased in Manitoba while COVID continues unabated.

Twenty-two people died from influenza and four died from COVID, according to the provincial government's weekly respiratory surveillance report for the period Dec. 4-10 (reporting Week 49).

There were eight COVID deaths reported the previous week.

There were 59 new hospital admissions for COVID with 15 intensive care unit admissions in Week 49. The previous week's report showed 76 admissions with seven people needing ICU intervention.

There were also 154 new COVID infections diagnosed by restricted PCR testing, down by 97 cases from the 251 infections reported the previous week. Provincial data are an undercount of the true number of COVID infections circulating in communities because PCR testing is restricted and rapid antigen tests aren't tracked.

Wastewater surveillance data to Dec. 8 shows "sustained activity" of CO-VID in Winnipeg and Brandon.

The government noted another delay in reporting laboratory results for influenza in Week 49. This is the second reporting week a delay has occurred. In spite of the delay, the test positivity rate for influenza increased to 27.2 per cent, higher than the positivity rate of 21.5 per cent observed nationally.

"Due to an influx of influenza laboratory reports this respiratory season, ure 2. Percentage change in confirmed COVID-19 cases over the last seven days relative to the previous seven days. 5 to 11 December 2022\*



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COVID-19 WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE COVID infections in North America, Russia, parts of South America, Africa and the middle east - including Qatar which hosted the World Cup - are on the uptick again. In the Region of the Americas, the countries with the highest number of deaths were Canada with 242 deaths, the U.S. with 2,934 and Brazil with 603.

Manitoba Health is experiencing delays in the documentation of laboratory results within the provincial Public Health Information Management System (PHIMS)," states the report. "As a result, the influenza case counts for week 49 are lower than expected. We anticipate an update to these data in next week's report," states the report.

The government reported 231 cases of influenza A and zero cases of influenza B in Week 49. There were 331 hospitalizations, with six people needing intervention in the ICU, and 22 deaths. A total of 1,701 influenza cases have been reported so far this season.

There were also 82 respiratory syncytial virus cases reported.

The number of emergency department respiratory visits in young chil-

dren, especially those under five years of age, and the number of hospital admissions continued to increase from early November, states the report.

#### Other health news:

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority declared a COVID outbreak on Dec. 13 at the Rosewood Lodge Personal Care Home in Stonewall.

"We've suspended visiting on Appleyard Bay but general visitation continues on Shura Lane," said an IERHA spokesperson. "We are monitoring for symptoms in all residents and testing. The test we use detects different respiratory viruses including COVID-19.

Continued on page 9

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## Manitoba Government issues 2022 fall conditions report

Hydrologic conditions at freeze-up important factors affecting spring run-off

#### Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre has released the 2022 Manitoba Basins Fall Conditions Report, which indicates soil moisture levels at the time of freeze-up are near normal or below normal in most Manitoba basins, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Doyle Piwniuk announced Monday.

"Hydrologic conditions at the time of freeze-up combined with weather this winter and upcoming spring will

be the main factors that affect the extent of low- or high-water events," said Piwniuk. "At this time conditions in most areas appear somewhat favourable. The long-term spring flood risk will be dependent on future weather conditions including the amount of precipitation received over winter and into spring, as well as the rate of snowmelt."

Most Manitoba basins received record to near record precipitation this past winter and spring creating significant flooding. Hydrologic conditions improved over summer and fall with normal to below-normal precipitation. In October and November, southern, western and eastern Manitoba basins received below-normal precipitation, while central and northern Manitoba basins received normal to well-above-normal precipitation.

Due to precipitation levels in summer and fall, soil moisture at the time of freeze-up is near normal to below normal for most Manitoba basins, with some areas in central Manitoba and the Interlake region having above-normal soil moisture.

Factors that affect the extent of spring run-off include water levels on rivers and lakes prior to freeze-up that indicate how much capacity exists to receive spring run-off. Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipeg are within operating ranges. Lake Winnipegosis, Lake St. Martin are near normal to slightly above normal. Dauphin Lake is well above normal for this time of year. Inflow into Lake of the Prairies (Shellmouth Reservoir) is tracking nearnormal conditions.

Winter and spring precipitation also affects spring run-off potential. Environment and Climate Change Canada's long-term precipitation forecast for this winter and spring has predicted above-normal precipitation for northern Manitoba and near-normal precipitation for southern Manitoba.

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre continues to work collaboratively with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the National Weather Service and flood forecasters in neighbouring jurisdictions to monitor watershed conditions and winter precipitation patterns. Manitoba's Emergency Measures Organization continues proactive preparations for emergency response efforts should the spring run-off result in flooding.

The minister noted that further basin condition updates, as well as spring flood outlooks, will be released as necessary.

## Enhanced 511 service to help drivers with highway info

#### **Submitted by Manitoba government**

The Manitoba government has relaunched the Manitoba 511 highway and traffic information service following enhancements to the Manitoba 511 website, mobile app and 511 phone system, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Doyle Piwniuk announced on Dec. 15.

"Manitoba's 511 is a valuable resource for transportation information and we encourage all Manitobans to check 511 when planning trips", said Piwniuk. "The new enhancements to the service will provide more information and help drivers move around the province safely."

Enhancements include faster and more interactive map features, new customized notifications and handsfree audio alerts, as well as:

up to three route options with corresponding travel times and hands-free audio alerts for selected routes when a destination is entered in the mobile app; notifications for traffic incidents and road closures with registered accounts; and interactive voice response on the 511 phone system to allow hands-free access to road conditions and traffic alerts on preferred routes.

Manitoba 511 is a free traveller in-

formation service operated by the Manitoba government. The service is available by phone, computer and mobile device. In 2021, there were approximately six million visits to the Manitoba 511 site and telephone line.

Manitoba 511 can be accessed on a computer or mobile device by visiting the Manitoba 511 website at: www. manitoba511.ca or by downloading the app to a mobile device. It can also be accessed toll-free (within Manitoba) by calling 511.

Current users of the Manitoba 511 app will receive an automatic update when it is launched today. Users who

do not have the auto-update feature enabled on mobile devices will need to update the app to continue to receive current road condition and driver information.

Travellers should always check the Manitoba 511 website for current road conditions to ensure safety prior to making the decision to travel. The website is updated regularly by road patrol, but conditions can change in a matter of minutes. Manitobans can also follow @ MBGovRoads on Twitter for closures or incidents.

### > HEALTH UPDATE, FROM PG. 8

The COVID outbreak declared on Nov. 4 at the Selkirk Betel Personal Care Home continues as does the COVID outbreak declared on Dec. 7 at the Pinawa hospital, according the IERHA's website.

-The World Health Organization says COVID cases worldwide increased by two per cent, with over 3.3. million new cases reported the week of Dec. 5-11. Deaths that week also increased by over 10 per cent, with over 9,700 new fatalities.

The Region of the Americas (North, Central and South America) shows a 27 per cent increase in new COVID infections over the previous reporting week, with countries such as the U.S., Brazil and Argentina reporting the highest infec-

tions. The number of new deaths also increased by 37 per cent over the previous week, with the highest deaths reported from Canada, the U.S. and Brazil.

There have been over 6.6. million deaths from COVID reported globally.

-The IERHA is reminding residents that Eriksdale's 13-bed hospital remains open for inpatient admissions but the emergency room is closed for December. Eriksdale's physicians are continuing to see patients at the Eriksdale Clinic.

-Manitoba children aged five to 11 are now eligible for a bivalent COVID booster vaccine.

'Children in this age group have previously been eligible for a booster dose with the monovalent (original) Pfizer pediatric vaccine. This is the first bivalent booster vaccine available for

this age group," states Manitoba Health in a Dec. 13 CO-VID bulletin.

The government says COVID boosters are important because protection against the virus - whether from a previous immunization or an infection – declines over time.



### Residents encouraged to contact RCMP detachments for non-emergencies

#### By Patricia Barrett

The RCMP's Gimli and Arborg detachments are encouraging municipal residents to reach out to them to report non-emergencies but continue to call 911 if faced with an emergency situ-

Emergency situations require immediate action. They include crimes in progress such as robberies, assaults and break and enters, as well as motor vehicle collisions, fires, carbon monoxide alarms, the sound of gunfire and medical crises.

Non-emergency situations are crimes that don't pose an immediate threat or have already been committed such as theft and property damage. They do, however, require police investigation. Those incidents should not be reported to 911 but to one of the detachments: Gimli RCMP at (204) 642-5105 and Arborg RCMP at (204) 376-

People reporting a non-emergency could be redirected to a provincial call-taker if calling outside their local detachment hours or if officers are on patrol.

"When you call the detachment non-emergency line outside regular business hours, you may be re-directed to our provincial call-takers who will assist you if they are able," said an officer based out of the Gimli detachment. "You may get an answering machine advising of office hours when our administrative staff will be able to assist you. Officers are not always in the office to answer the phone and could be patrolling or responding to calls for service."

For other inquiries, such as requesting general information, a obtaining a criminal record check tachments' administration line: Gimli RCMP at (204) 642-5106 and Arborg RCMP at (204) 376-5253. The administration office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Other RCMP news:

The RCMP's monthly crime statistics for October for the east district of the province – which includes the Interlake – show an overall decrease in broad categories such as crimes against the person and property, but specific crimes such as fraud, assault and break and enter were on the upswing. Statistics on drug enforcement show no change.

"During October 2022, Manitoba East District reported decreases in all categories and no change occurring in Drug Enforcement over the same period in 2021," states the report, which was released Dec. 9.

The Manitoba RCMP has three districts: east, west and north. The east district is made up of areas such as Arborg, Ashern, Fisher Branch, Gimli, Lundar, Peguis, Selkirk and Stonewall in the Interlake, as well as Little Grand Rapids, Beausejour, Berens River, Falcon Beach, Headingley, Morris, Oakbank, Sprague, Steinbach and the Winnipeg Airport.

The "Crimes Against Person" category shows an overall decrease of four per cent (481 to 464) in October. Specifically, robbery, extortion, harassment, and threats decreased by 26 per cent (156 to 115). But assaults increased by 10 per cent (280 to 307).

The "Crimes Against Property" category also shows an overall decrease of four per cent (971

or returning a call, residents should call the de- to 937). Arsons showed the largest decrease of 50 per cent (16 to 8). But the largest increases were in frauds, up 13 per cent (68 to 77), and break and enters, which were up nine per cent (111 to 121).

> The "Common Police Activities" category saw a minimal decrease of one per cent overall, with breaches of the peace down 18 per cent while wellbeing checks were up by 20 per cent and assistance to the public up 18 per cent.

> Overall, there was no change in drug enforcement (31 to 31). Trafficking, however, was down 14 per cent (22 to 19) and possession was up 50 per cent (6 to 9).



#### **Holiday Hours for Health Care Services**

Please be advised that service delivery at some Interlake-Eastern RHA offices and clinics and Shared Health labs will be affected by the holidays. Generally, Interlake-Eastern RHA offices and clinics and Shared Health labs will not be open on Dec. 26, Dec. 27 and Jan. 2. Please call before you attend if you are unsure about holiday status.

**Rapid Access to Addictions Medicines** (RAAM) Clinic - Selkirk Closed Dec. 26, 27 and Jan 2 237 Manitoba Avenue, Selkirk

RAAM clinics are walk-in clinics for adults (ages 18+) looking to get help with high-risk substance use and addiction. No referral is needed. Regular hours for new walk-in patients: Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call 204-785-7513.

#### Selkirk Quick Care Clinic - Selkirk **Closed on December 25**

#3-1020 Manitoba Avenue (Across from Boston Pizza), Selkirk This clinic provides same day appointments to address unexpected health care needs when you aren't able to access your regular health care provider. Phones are answered at 9:30 a.m. Please call 204-482-4399

#### Physician Status in Emergency Departments

If you need emergency care during the holidays, please call 9-1-1 or your local 10-digit number for emergencies. If you are travelling to an emergency department, please reference the emergency department schedules at www.ierha.ca/emergency-departmentschedules/ or call 1-866-267-5818.

Thank you for the care and concern extended to health-care staff over the past year. We wish you happy holidays and a healthy new year.

If a healthier lifestyle is one of your resolutions, visit www.ierha.ca/ programs-services/life-style/ for a schedule of upcoming classes and events with our community wellness team and partners.

If you're considering a career in health-care, visit us at www.ierha. ca/careers/educational-opportunities/ to learn about local training opportunities.



**EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT** 

RCMP are shown stopping an SUV on Highway 8 north of Gimli.





A Christmas Miracle By Taryn Gibson, Gr. 6, Gimli

In the small, pleasant community of Noma people were getting ready for Christmas. Anywhere you went in this community,

you could see people's Christmas trees in their windows. Rose, a sixyear-old girl, was busy getting ready for Christmas with her family. Rose's mom was just finishing hanging up their lights on their house. Meanwhile her dad was setting up the Christmas tree and Rose was decorating her doll house.

Rose's much-loved dog, Barkley, was slowly limping around their house attempting to knock over the Christmas tree. Barkley was a young dog who had cancer in his leg and was not doing well. Rose's mom and dad were talking about having to put him down, but Rose did not want that as she had a strong bond with him. Before Barkley became sick with cancer, he was a very energetic dog who loved to bark.

Noma always gets a big Christmas tree set up two days before Christmas. On Christmas Eve everyone would gather around it for the lights to come on and to decorate it with papers of all shapes and colors. On these papers people would write their Christmas wishes and hope that they would come true.

As the days went on, Barkley's health was getting worse and worse. Rose's parents explained to Rose that if he didn't get better in a few days, they would have to put him down. Rose was very desperate. She tried to make Barkley's last few days with her amazing. She spent every minute of the day playing and talking to Barkley. It broke Rose's parent's hearts to see Rose so happy with Barkley and the thought of having to tear them apart was unimaginable.

It was Christmas Eve, and the last people were putting their wishes on the tree. Rose was one of them. She quickly wrote her wish and folded it into an origami dog. She put a string around it and carefully placed it on the tree.

'Three, two and one," said the mayor. Suddenly, the tree filled up with lights and at the same moment it filled the Noma citizens' hearts with hope.

On Christmas morning Rose woke up with a start. She immediately became sad as she thought of Barkley. Today was his last day before being sent away. She slowly walked down the hallway to the living room with the lit Christmas tree. Sitting in front of the tree was Barkley with a bow tie around his neck. He was no longer limping, and he was jumping around, barking wildly. He was back! It's a miracle, thought Rose. She immediately called for her parents to come downstairs. When they saw the dog, they were absolutely amazed!

All over the town people were waking up to find that their wishes had been answered. All over the town they called it the miracle of the century. It was the splashy title for every newspaper, and everybody was talking about it. All the people of Noma had a very Merry Christmas that year.

> My Best Christmas Ever Annya Macduff, Gr. 6, Gimli

My name is Molly and I live with my grandparents as my parents both died when I was just a baby. I would like to tell you about

the best Christmas ever!

It was December 18th, and we were sitting in the living room. "I'm quite bored" I said.

My older sister Ally stared at me, and I stared at her back.

"How about we play a game?" grandma said.

'What kind of game?" Ally said. "Well, a Christmas game," grandma

"Yeah, that sounds fun" I said to grandma.

Grandma goes to the cabinet and gets UNO. "How about this?" grandma said.

"Yeah sure" everyone agrees.

Six days pass and it is now Christmas Eve. My older sisters and I can open one present each today. I got a stuffed gnome. "I love it!" I said to my grandparents.

"Glad you like it!" they both said.

I put the gnome on my bed and tucked it in. I walked out of my room and went to hug Grandma and Grandpa. I start to think about Christmas and what I will get. My sister Ally walks over to me, hugs me, and says nothing.

Grandma bought Christmas crackers, we popped all of them. It was loud. My ears were ringing. An hour

later we watched a Christmas movie. The next day, Molly and Ally woke up with excitement as their grandmother was calling out, "It's time for presents!"

Molly got something special. She opens a box and sees a beautiful puppy whimpering and shivering with excitement. Molly was overwhelmed with happiness, and she started to tear up.

The next day they had Christmas dinner at their home with some friends and family as guests. They spent many hours talking and playing board games. They also sang Christmas carols and danced. Of course, they also opened more gifts. Everyone went home as the darkness surrounded the yard.

We all had a great Christmas and Molly ended up naming the beautilittle, fuzzy, puppy "Noel".

My Best Christmas 3<sub>RD</sub> **Ever** Aiden Mymko, Gr. 5, Gimli One of my best Christmases personally was the one where we had the most

snow. I really like to do

things with snow. I do not know exactly why I like snow that much. But I just do. I also love sledding downhill. Especially the tall and steep hills. I just really like anything with snow. I also got a good score for Christmas or in other words I got a lot of stuff for Christmas.

Making snowmen is quite fun for me. But that is not the most exciting part. The most exciting part is destroying the snowman! After you give him a face and some small rocks and sticks, then you can destroy him. Funny thing is some snowmen can be technically made of ice. My brother once had a dumb idea to use a hockey stick and try to break the snowman, but he ended up breaking the hockey stick. Then I decided to body-checked my snowman--- because why not? It hurt me a little bit but not that much. The poor snowman was in pieces on the ground. R.I.P (rest in pieces) snowman.

The main place my friends and I go sledding is at the Gimli Hill on the north side of town. I have 3 GT's, 5 spinning sleds with handles, a little snowboard thing that is hard to balance on and other objects. The best GT we have has great steering. Our other GTs are 10-30 years old. Then the spinning things... wait... Saucers! That is what they are called. My sister goes down them a lot. I try them and sometimes they spin fast. The GTs are my main "sled." and the snowboard I sometimes practice with. I sometimes go down the back of the hill just for a

little more excitement.

My sister, brother and I got lots of stuff for Christmas that year. The moral is, we all got lots of stuff. It was surprising how much stuff we got and the gift opening had lasted quite a while. I honestly got so much, my sister, brother and I cannot remember much of what we received last year.

The year 2021 was my favorite year. We had lots of snow, so we could make lots of things out of snow and play in it. There also was lots of snow on the hill and I spent a lot of time sledding to kill the time. Then we also got lots for Christmas. Too much to remember about everything we got. That was my favorite Christmas.

#### The Best Christmas Ever Jonathan Plett, Gr. 5, Gimli

Hi, my name is Jonathan. I have 2 brothers and 1 sister. This story is about the best Christmas I have ever had! It was very exciting, and I do not think it will ever happen again.

First, I got out of my bed. When I turned on the lights, I saw a poster on the wall that said "Merry Christmas" on it. I asked my brothers how it got there. They said it was probably Santa

Then we went to our grandparents' house. We opened our presents. My brother got a Lego set, my other brother got a toy car, and my sister got a toy hippo. I got a card game-just what I wanted!

Late that evening as we were travelling the long two-hour drive home, I played my card game with my brother in the car. My other brother built his Lego set in the car.

It was the best Christmas I ever had! I do not think it will ever happen again.

#### **Poems**

**Christmas Eve** By Aliya Jones, Grade 6, Gimli

The stars shined brighter than the moon

Christmas Eve was coming soon The gifts are piled beneath the tree The lights are lit for all to see

We wait for it all year The night is finally near So, pour yourself a cup of cheer Gather round and listen hear

Stories read and kids to bed Wood hauled in from the shed Is that noise a sleigh or sled Are those reindeer over head

Stockings hung and cookies baked Milk in a cup by the plate The winters night is getting late Christmas Eve is the date

### Vidir Vertical Storage Solutions throws huge Christmas party for staff

#### By Patricia Barrett

Vidir Vertical Storage Solutions pulled out all the stops to pamper its staff and their families by hosting a massive Christmas party a few weeks ago.

To thank its employees for their hard work over the past year, the Vidirbased company rented a ballroom at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg and threw in a paid overnight stay for those not wishing to travel.

The evening included a full course dinner, culturally themed tables, entertainment from a magician, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, nannies for the kids and family photos.

"We had 450 people attend," said talent acquisition and public relations specialist Carissa Rempel. "This was the biggest Christmas party we've ever done with the most staff we've ever had. We've grown over the past two years. We went from about 130 employees to 250. We wanted to make it a special evening for our staff."

The company, which has a manufacturing plant in Vidir, north of Arborg, and in Teulon, designs and makes motorized vertical storage carousels and display units for industries including retail, automotive, medical, manufacturing and construction in over 40 countries.

The company recently launched a new e-commerce solution for food retailers, said Rempel. A new power carousel with totes can provide ambient, cooled and frozen foods in a single location, allowing a more streamlined order-filling process.

Vidir has a diverse and culturally vibrant workforce, representing people from approximately 23 different countries. To help its new staff transition to Canada, the company provides English language training.

"We pay for language classes for all our English-as-a-second-language staff," said Rempel. "We built a train-



Ashley Martinsson, who works in production, with her husband and daughter.



Glauberio Periera and Caroline Hendges and their children Clara and Helena. The family moved from Brazil to Arborg this fall. Caroline works in customer care and Glauberio is an automations engineer.

ing room at our Vidir location and we hire a private instructor to teach them. Each module is about 12 weeks and they go once a week to class.



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADE BY MADIE PHOTOGRAPHY Ashley Martinsson's daughter had a delightful visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Olena and Volodymyr Kaziuk and their children Davyd and Erika. Vidir sponsored the family, who left Ukraine this summer. Volodymyr works in production.



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

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Santa and Mrs. Claus shared stories with the children of Vidir's employees.



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### Welcome to the Ashern zoo









#### Extra Crispy Roast Turkey

- 1 Manitoba-Raised Turkey, fresh/thawed to taste, salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter, softened 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 ½ tsp (7.5 ml) ground sage
- 1 ½ tsp (7.5 ml) ground thyme <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup (80 ml) roughly chopped carrots
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) roughly chopped celery ½ cup (80 ml) roughly chopped onions

Remove bag & giblets, pat turkey dry then place on a rack over a tray to air chill for 12-24 hours in the fridge. Air chilling dries the skin resulting in extra crispy skin. Rub butter on & under skin of chilled turkey. Season with oil & spices. Add veggies to cavity. Roast turkey at 350°F (175°C) until a meat thermometer reads 170°F (77°C) in the thigh away from any bones. Let turkey rest for 20 minutes then carve. Discard veggies.

<b>ROASTING TIMES</b>	FOR WHOLE	TURKEYS*
Weight	Stuffed	Unstuffed
6-8lbs (3-3.5kgs)	3-3¼ hrs	2½-2¾ hrs
8-10lbs (3.5-4.5kgs)	31/4-31/2 hrs	2¾-3 hrs
10-12lbs (4.5-5.5kgs)	3½-3¾ hrs	3-3¼ hrs
12-16lbs (5.5-7kgs)	3¾-4 hrs	31/4-31/2 hrs
16-20lbs (7-9kgs)	41/4-43/4 hrs	3¾-4½ hrs
20-24lbs (9-11kgs)	4¾-5½ hrs	4-5 hrs



Happy Holidays from your Manitoba Turkey Producers!

- \*Cooking times are approximate. Always use a thermometer to determine doneness.
- \*Roast a whole turkey at 350°F (175°C) & cook to an internal temperature of 170°F (77°C).
  - \*Stuffing/dressing inside the cavity should reach 165°F (74°C).
- \*Allow the turkey to stand/rest for 20 minutes before carving.

Find more recipes and cooking tips at turkey.mb.ca

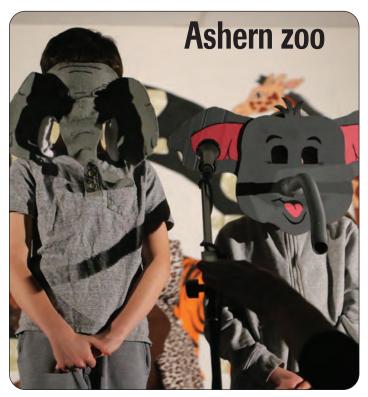


**EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL** 

Ashern Early Years students enjoyed a fun little carnival, filled with games, popcorn and cotton candy prior to their Christmas concert held at the community hall on Dec. 15. Children dressed in costume, welcomed their audience into the AEYS Zoo for an evening of entertainment. See more photos on pages 17 & 18.















This holiday season we thank public sector workers for providing around the clock services that we all rely on.

**CUPE** Works for Manitoba.

#### **CUPE** MANITOBA

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

We'd like to thank our friends so dear for choosing us and stopping here. At Christmastime and all year through, we owe our success to all of you!









#### Going Once, Going Twice... **Our Best Wishes** for a Happy Holiday!

We hope your holiday season is rich in love, friendship, joy and good fortune. Thanks for being such great friends and neighbors. We feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

#### **Merry Christmas!**

www.norsemenauction.com 204-651-0008







Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village.

Heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful volunteers & to all those who so generously donated to the Heritage Village!

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.





















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.

<u>Holiday Closures:</u>

Dec. 26, 27 & Jan 2

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



### Arborg and Riverton students spread holiday cheer through music



#### **EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON**

Students at Arborg and Riverton collegiates spread a little holiday joy last week with a joint band and choral concert to entertain parents and their communities. People packed into the Riverton Hall on Dec. 15 to enjoy a few hours of popular holiday songs performed with precision and flair by students in the Evergreen School Division's music program.













I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year. I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.
I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, We really aren't apart.

So be happy for me, dear ones, You know I hold you dear.

And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.

It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do.

For I can't count the blessing or love He has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.

Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

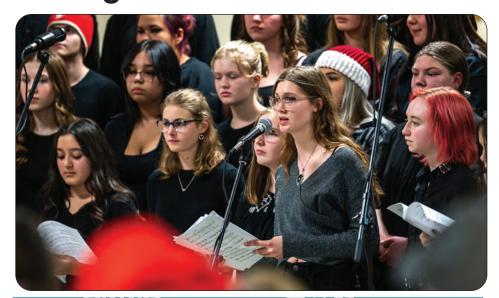
### Fisher Funeral Home Inc.

BLESSINGS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS
MAY THE PEACE & BEAUTY OF THIS SEASON BE WITH YOU & YOURS
WE WISH YOU THE BEST IN 2023
Gordie, Tracy, Owen & Luke Wevursky

Our most HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all of the families who entrusted us with the privilege of taking care of your loved ones. May you find comfort in your memories, until you are together again.

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wevursky@mts.net 204-372-6803

### **Arborg and Riverton students**





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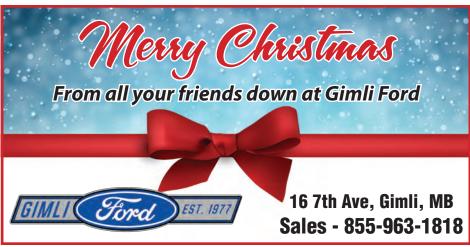






























Gilbart







# All decked out for the holidays







**EXPRESS PHOTO BY TORI GOODMAN** 

Eriksdale Co-op staff handed out popcorn along the route at the Eriksdale Santa Parade on Dec. 17.









### **Gimli Chamber of Commerce makes** shopping fun, raises \$847 for EBN

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and community members helped raise \$847 for Evergreen Basic Needs during the chamber's fun-filled festive contests to encourage local Christmas shopping.

A holiday lights contest for businesses, a wreath contest and a gift card giveaway for customers helped raise the funds for EBN's food bank, encouraged residents to support local businesses and help drive winter tourism to Gimli.

The Moonlight Madness Committee - which is part of the chamber's Destination Brand Sub-committee - coordinated the initiative.

Destination chair Cheryl Buhler said the business community really stepped up to create a festive atmosphere in town, and they along with local shoppers were happy to support

To kick off the festive season, a Moonlight Madness sale was held on Nov. 26. Scores of businesses stayed open late to accommodate late evening shopping and provide bargains.

The Great Gimli Gift Card Giveaway contest for customers was a smashing success, with over \$750 worth of cards donated by local businesses.

The chamber chose three customers

Continued on page 26

#### **EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHERYL BUHLER**

Gimli Chamber of Commerce Destination Committee chair Cheryl Buhler (left) and Anita McAlinden of Interlake Handmade Boutique (right) presented Evergreen Basic Needs' Elaine Gibbs with a cheque for \$847. The chamber raised the funds through a local shopping initiative it launched in November and which had a number of contests over a few weeks to making shopping fun.









May your holiday be happy and your year filled with joy!

Thanks for hanging out with us this year. We really appreciate your support.





#### > SHOPPING FUN, FROM PG. 25

from the entries received: Linda won first prize of \$355 in gift cards, Shawn won second prize of \$240 in gift cards, and Darlene won third prize of \$155 in gift cards,

Businesses and organizations that donated gift cards included Robin's Donuts, Chicken Chef, Oakley Vision Centre, Johnson's Fashion & Footwear, Home Hardware, Cheryl's Reflexology and Yoga, New Iceland Heritage Museum, Heaven Scent Flowers and Gifts, Tergesen's General Store, the Powder Princess, Interlake Handmade Boutique







and the Lakeview Resort.

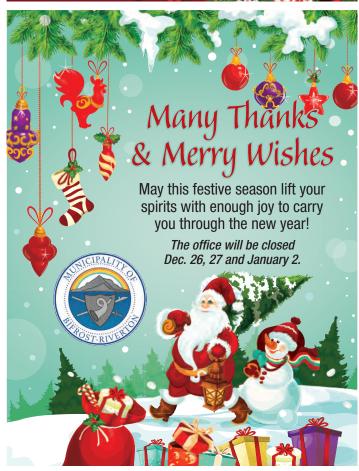
Businesses were encouraged to create wreaths, which members of the public could bid on to raise money for Evergreen Basic Needs. Heaven Scent Flowers and Gifts' wreath won the People's Choice Award and bragging rights while the wreath made by Johnson's Fashion & Footwear raised the highest bids (\$125) in support of EBN. It included a \$50 gift card.

Gimli really lit up the strip with the Holiday Lights contest for businesses. Fourteen businesses participated, including the Powder Princess, Robin's Donuts, Garriock Insurance, Gimli Home Hardware, Inn on Centre, the Gimli Glider Exhibit, and the New Iceland Heritage Museum.

The Inn on Centre won the Best Overall. Head Over Heels won Best Window Display. Garriock Insurance won Most Creative Use of Lights.









Heaven Scent Flowers and Gifts' wreath won the People's Choice Award. The traditional holiday wreath features birds, sprigs of holly and pine cones.



Garriock Insurance's driving-themed wreath included a car safety kit and toy cars.



Home Hardware got a little fishy with its wreath, which included a fishing rod, lures and libations.



The Gimli library got a little bookish in its design, using book pages and coloured paper to create a unique wreath.

## Winnipeg Beach School rocks the town with Karaoke Christmas









Music students in kindergarten to Grade 8 at Winnipeg Beach School put on some rocking, show-stopping numbers during their Karaoke Christmas musical. The performances featured upbeat holiday songs and humorous sketches that showcased the youngsters' musical and acting talents. The school held two concerts on Dec. 12 for parents and the community.











### Gimli council gets Treaty Road set for repair; question period likely to be reinstated

By Patricia Barrett

Arnes will be getting a permanent bridge installed over a large breach in Treaty Road (formerly named Colonization Road) that has left the Arnes and Silver Harbour communities divided since May.

A section of Treaty Road, which was renamed by council in October, buckled in the spring after excessive runoff in the Drunken River caused a culvert under the road to collapse. The culvert, which is the responsibility of the provincial government, was dug out of the riverbed but the breach wasn't fixed. The road has been impassable for eight months now.

To access properties on the south side of the community, as well as the post office and convenience store at Silver Harbour, residents are forced to drive to Boundary Road (Road 123), a mile north of Treaty Road, and wind their way through the subdivision.

Gimli mayor Kevin Chudd said that after the municipal election he and members of council had discussions and meetings with provincial politicians and engineers to get the repair underway.

"The project has been expedited. A

tender goes out on Friday (Dec. 16) through the Merx [tendering] system. A contract will be awarded before mid-January, or around that time, and the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The final work will be done after the spring spawning of the fish," said Chudd last week. "We're ecstatic and grateful. I have to commend our staff, administration and council for all their efforts, as well as our

MLA Derek Johnson and [infrastructure] minister Doyle Piwniuk to get it to the point where it's going out for tender. We believed we had to roll up our sleeves and get right to it."

The municipality installed electronic signage in the area to alert visitors and emergency services about the detour on Boundary Road, as well as installed barricades to ensure people are aware of the breach.

"We had public works involved to put electronic signage up. We wanted to ensure – especially with lake effect snow in the winter – drivers have visibility and that everything is clearly marked. There are a lot of people that commute in that area," said Chudd. "We've got a good plan to look after those areas. The signage was really

important.

Boundary Road is shared between the RM of Gimli and the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton. Chudd said the RM will be carrying out extra snow ploughing to ensure the community has good access.

#### Other council news:

Council passed first reading of a new Council Organizational & Procedures Bylaw (No. 22-0014) at its Dec. 14 regular meeting. Amendments to the bylaw, which was posted on the RM's website in November, proposed the elimination of question period at council meetings.

Media and members of the public who attend council meetings had traditionally been allowed to ask questions at the end of each meeting about topics such as the wastewater treatment plant, spending, tax levies and new developments.

Mayor Chudd said the bylaw was amended again and question period is back on the agenda.

"I will stick around after council meetings if people have questions," said the mayor. "And we're looking at question period; in all probabil-

"WE'RE LOOKING

TO MAKE SOME

**CHANGES TO** 

BE MORE EF-

**FECTIVE WITH** 

TRANSPARENCY."

ity it will be staying on the agenda. We're also looking at having more delegations and different meeting times and dates to make it all flow."

-To improve transparency in the RM, the mayor said council is looking into how to livestream its council meetings.

"We're looking to make some changes to be more effective with transparency. Council

is planning to livestream meetings but we have to work out the details," he said.

-About 70 per cent of the street lighting that was out in the business district is now working, but some sections will have to wait for spring thaw before they can be repaired.

"We had street lighting down for over a year and half in the central business district. We've got about 70 per cent of the street lighting back up. It was done in short order from where the post office is on Fifth Avenue to the corner of Centre and First," said Chudd. "The lighting is up on First Avenue on the east side, but the west side of First isn't working and won't be working until after the spring thaw. The area from the post office to



**EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN CHUDD** 

The RM lit up the municipal office to celebrate the season.

the two gas stations (on Highway 9) is not working because of cut cables."

-Council is planning to have the public washroom on the beach by the library open all year rather than just in the summer tourist season.

"We believe it can be used yearround. "It can be heated and insulated. We're looking at having it open for this upcoming winter season," said the mayor. "It's important to have it open during winter activities, especially ice fishing, and we want to better serve our business district."

-Council will be establishing protocols to regulate short-terms rentals in the municipality and will be emphasizing public consultation, said the mayor. Airbnb rentals are causing some concern in residential areas.

-Council will be improving connectivity between neighbourhoods and parks within the town of Gimli.

"Vesturland and Shorepointe Village aren't connected to the downtown area. The Gimli Trailer Park isn't either. The new 55-plus centre and Gimli Park aren't connected to the beach," said Chudd. "We're looking at having a phased in approach to connect all those areas so that we can help the central downtown business district and make it safer for walkers and cyclists."

-There's a plan in the works to turn the former town sewage lagoon site between the South Beach neighbourhood and Willow Island into an interpretive centre, said the mayor. It's a unique area that the RM needs to protect.

"We've put together a committee to establish terms of reference, guiding principles and a mission statement to look at developing it into a Lake Winnipeg waterfront interpretive centre



FILE PHOTO BY KAREN SHAFFER Karen Shaffer took a photo of the then-named Colonization Road that collapsed in May after heavy runoff along the Drunken River, which passes under the road on its way to Lake Winnipeg. The province will be installing a bridge over the breach and the work should be completed by the

as a signature component to our community," he said. "It will be almost like a mini-Oak Hammock Marsh."

end of March.

-Council plans to hold open houses next year to get feedback from the public about the municipality's priorities and future.

"We're having spring and fall open houses for residents to meet with council because it's important to have a plan and vision for our community and build on it together," said Chudd.

# Gimli Knight out spreading Christmas cheer





**EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED** 

Left photo, The Gimli Knight's of Columbus 7288 service club's Santa Eugene donated \$500 to Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early Years School principal Paul Bailey to support the Advisory Council and their healthy meals snack program. Right photo, Evergreen Basic Needs' Karen Bowman accepts \$600 for the Christmas Hamper program.

# How to celebrate Christmas with four legged pets

By Dr. Whitney Miller, DVM, MBA, DACVPM

Most pet parents agree: their animals are part of what makes the holiday season so magical. While it's an excellent opportunity to integrate furry family members into all the special holiday traditions and make memories together, there are a few things you should keep in mind to keep your pet safe and healthy throughout the festivities:

- Opt for pet-friendly decorations: Many favorite holiday decorations need to be kept out of pets' reach. Mistletoe, pine needles, ivy garland, holly, lilies and poinsettias can be toxic to pets when consumed. This is why I recommend artificial Christmas trees to those with particularly curious pets that like to chew on plants. If you don't choose an artificial tree, it's important to note that some water additives for real trees can be toxic, so you should make sure your pet can't access this water source. When decorating your tree, it's best to avoid tinsel and breakable ornaments to prevent potential hazards, and you should always secure your tree to prevent a climbing cat from tipping it over.
- Keep pets warm and dry: As the weather gets colder, pets may need a few extra layers to stay comfortable and safe while outdoors. Booties can help prevent a pup's paws from getting ice in them and offer protection from salt-treated walkways. At home, use pet-safe ice melt rather than salt, which can be irritating to pets' paws, mouths and stomachs. You can keep them feeling warm and looking stylish on winter adventures with sweaters and jackets. A cozy handwarmer lead will help keep you warm as well while you're out and about. When you return home, always dry off their coats



**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED** Pet owners are reminded not to forgot about pets at

Christmas. and paws to remove debris and ice clumps in fur and between paw pads.

Choose and wrap gifts wisely: Make sure

pets only have access to and open presents while supervised so they don't ingest any paper or tape. I recommend sticking to wrapping paper for pet gifts, as ribbons, bows and accessories can be dangerous when ingested.

- Be aware of toxic holiday foods: Common holiday foods such as chocolate, turkey skin and bones, ham, grapes and raisins, garlic, caffeine, alcohol, onions, certain spices and sweets, especially any containing xylitol, should be avoided. For festive pet-safe foods, there is a variety of sweet and savory dog treats just for the holidays. If you think your pet has accidentally ingested a toxic food or other material, contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Prioritize pet health and wellness: Involving pets in holiday traditions can mean taking them along for a road trip, introducing them to new people or staying in unfamiliar environments—all things that can cause anxiety in pets. It's important to keep your pet's mental health top of mind during the holiday season and year-round. When possible, pets should be introduced to new people and pets in a neutral environment, individually and at their own pace. For pets that experience anxiety in the car, practicing with short drives or sitting in the car while parked, followed by treats and positive reinforcement, can help the adjustment and prepare them for a long ride. Calming products can help mitigate anxiety in pets, and you can also consult your veterinarian for anxiety or motion sickness treatments to help make travel easier. Training in advance of any holiday plans is also a good idea.

# Rural Manitoba hemorrhaging paramedics

#### By Patricia Barrett

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) says rural Manitoba is hemorrhaging paramedics as the provincial government continues to fail to address pay gaps, career advancement and persistent understaffing that's causing burnout.

And the thought of losing emergency medical services is "very frightening" for the people who live in rural communities.

MAHCP is a union representing over 7,000 allied health professionals across Manitoba, including rural paramedics and medical laboratory staff.

MAHCP president Jason Linklater said the pay received by rural paramedics, which are managed by the provincial government, is currently 23 per cent lower than that of Winnipeg paramedics, which are managed by the city. And rural paramedics haven't been given a contract for five years.

"At the end of the day, rural paramedics need parity with Winnipeg paramedics otherwise the rural areas will continue to hemorrhage paramedics. We know rural paramedics are actively applying to the city, and Winnipeg is going to be hiring 40 paramedics. My guess is they'll be coming from the rural areas," said Linklater last week. "This impacts people's loved ones and themselves. When you have an emergency, you need someone to come to that emergency. Paramedics aren't coming because there aren't enough. For the province to ignore this is the definition of a crisis."

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority currently has a paramedic vacancy rate of 32 per cent and it's "growing," said Linklater. That vacancy rate doesn't factor in vacation and illness.

On Dec. 10, Interlake-Eastern found itself down 10 out of 25 ambulances, with only three out of nine dispatchers in the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre in Brandon. On Nov. 30, there were only five out of 15 ambulances in Prairie Mountain RHA's north zone.

To deal with the immediate paramedic crisis, Linklater said the provincial government needs to focus on retention rather than recruitment because recruitment doesn't address reasons for the exodus.

"The biggest part of why the government can't hang on to paramedics right now is simply that it has left them without a contract for five years," he said. "The government

make announcements and promises, but it leaves people without a contract, so, of course, you can't retain people. And it talks about recruiting – which is crazy when you can't retain people. Rural paramedics are actively trying to leave because of the situation they work in and the level of pay they get."

Rural paramedics are sometimes spending half their paycheque on fuel to drive to stations. And they're "completely burnt out" with "nothing left" to give because of chronic understaffing, he said. A higher paying, better staffed paramedic job in the city is alluring even though they might not necessarily want to live there.

Rural paramedics, who are classed as primary care paramedics (PCPs), want to enhance their life-saving skills and move up into an advanced care paramedic (ACP) position. But the government won't allow ACP positions in rural Manitoba.

Because of that, Linklater said he wasn't surprised to see zero enrollment in an ACP course offered through Red River College.

"The city of Winnipeg has made a commitment to have an ACP on every ambulance - that's what they're working towards right now. Winnipeg does its own ACP training so the program at Red River would be taken only by people coming from the rural areas. Once rural paramedics completed that course, there'd be no jobs for them to go to because there are no ACP positions in rural Manitoba," said Linklater. "It almost sounds like a trick; the government says it's funding a course to benefit patient care ... but it's not funding those people to do the actual work. That's pretty disingenuous in my opinion."

PCPs provide basic life support, stabilize injuries, administer certain medications and undertake cardiac monitoring. ACPs provide advanced life support, interpret diagnostic tests and can administer more medications. Linklater said advanced training could help free up doctors in the rural area.

"Having an ACP on ambulances in rural areas makes a huge difference in terms of outcome," he said. "Even in rural areas, PCPs perform a significantly higher scope than PCPs in Winnipeg. They have a 75 per cent greater number of meds they can give. And instead of having a physician and a nurse doing a patient transfer, you can have an ACP and a nurse and utilize your rural physician differently."

In addition to paramedics, MAHCP says the government has failed to



MAHCP TWITTER

MAHCP says there were no enrollments in an advanced care paramedic (ACP) program at Red River College because the provincial government won't allow higher paid ACP positions in rural Manitoba.

invest in laboratory and X-ray staff, which is contributing to rural emergency room service interruptions. Eriksdale hospital's ER, for instance, is closed for December because of what the government said is a staffing issue in the laboratory.

Two medical laboratory assistants (MLAs) are being trained for the Eriksdale hospital lab right now, according to the government, and the ER is expected to open in the new year once that training is completed.

But Linklater said MLAs, theoretically, won't keep a hospital ER up and running because they don't have the same level of training as medical laboratory technicians (MLTs).

"MAHCP's view is that training MLAs will not result in the opening of the Eriksdale ER unless specific lab tests – done by MLTs – or X-rays can be performed," he said.

Linklater said he heard the gov-

Linklater said he heard the government has "a plan" to address the paramedic crisis, but it has "never" reached out to MAHCP to discuss how to work together.

"This is absolutely province-wide. The level of neglect towards rural paramedics is quite astounding. The city of Winnipeg has done a great job retaining its paramedics. The province has done the exact opposite; it has completely neglected the program. It's all about money," he said. "The 2013 report that talked about how to improve the paramedic service in Manitoba has not been followed through on and none of those promises have been kept. Unfortunately, patients and the public are paying for this. It's beyond upsetting for the families and individuals impacted. To some degree, it feels like a denial of service."

A spokesperson for provincial Shared Health, which manages rural paramedics, said the IERHA's current vacancy rate for paramedics is 24 per cent, as of Nov. 30, 2022 [a lower vacancy rate than that provided by MAHCP].

When asked why the province won't offer ACP positions in rural health regions, the spokesperson said:

"There are currently no advanced care paramedics practicing at this level within Shared Health ERS [emergency response service]. As part of Manitoba's ongoing health transformation, work is ongoing on how best to incorporate ACPs to leverage their full scope of practice, knowledge and skills in a manner that contributes to a better functioning Emergency Re-

#### > PARAMEDICS, FROM PG. 30

sponse Service and supports ongoing competency maintenance. In order for any changes in this area to be met with success, development of a robust provincial ERS quality assurance program and supporting practice infrastructure for ACPs is required."

As to specific steps being taken at present to stop paramedics from leaving rural areas, the spokesperson said Shared Health is committed to addressing historical staffing challenges and that negotiation are currently underway for a new collective agreement with MAHCP.

"These negotiations have not been completed. Consistent with all collective bargaining, Shared Health (as the employer) remains focused on reaching a fair, long-term agreement," said the spokesperson. "Other discussions focus on supports to ensure paramed-

ics have the opportunity to continue learning and advancing in their careers. This work will continue, with the expectation that building and strengthening the service will generate greater interest in future intakes for Shared Health ERS."

The Express also reached out to Shared Health to confirm that the staff being trained for the Eriksdale hospital lab are MLAs and if they're going to be able to provide X-rays and other specific labs tests traditionally done by higher scope lab technicians.

"As part of Shared Health's commitment to restoring laboratory capacity in Eriksdale, two employees at E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital are currently being trained to work as medical laboratory assistants," said a spokesperson. "Once trained, these employees will be able to support lab



**EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT** 

An ambulance makes its way down Highway 68 towards Arborg.

operations at the Eriksdale hospital within the scope of their training and classification. These positions are separate from the cross-trained medical

laboratory technologists currently on leave and expected to return in 2023."

# SDOPTS& recreation INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

# **Hawks fly past Lightning**

Staf

The Interlake Lightning U18 AAA male hockey team was defeated 4-1 by the Pembina Valley Hawks on Saturday in Teulon.

Gavin Holod scored a first-period goal for Interlake.

Pembina Valley goals came from Marek Miller (two), Sebastien Hicks and Cedrick Robidoux.

Last Friday, Interlake was edged 3-2 at home by the Eastman Selects.

Lightning goals were scored by Adam Vigfusson and Nicholas Carlson just 3:03 into the game.

Mario Gagne replied with a powerplay goal midway in the opening period and then Roan Coe tied the game at the 18-minute mark of the third.

The Selects' Luc DeGagne then

scored the game winner with 29 seconds remaining in regulation time.

Interlake will play at the Southwest Cougars on Jan. 7-8.

In Manitoba U18 AAA female action, Interlake defeated the Pembina Valley Hawks 3-1 on Sunday in Morden.

Brooke Barylski, Ireland Tymchak, and Bre-Ann Windross scored for the Lightning.

Rachel Halldorson earned the win in goal.

Interlake started the weekend with a 5-0 loss to the Winnipeg Avros on Friday and then was shut out 10-0 by the Winnipeg Ice Saturday. Both games were played in Stonewall.

Interlake will battle the Winnipeg Avros on Jan 7 at 1:30 p.m. the Seven Oaks Arena.



**EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER** 

The Interlake Lightning's Darian Sinclair looks to make a play against the Pembina Valley Hawks in U18 AAA action Saturday in Teulon.





# SPATES UPSIDE DOWN

# **U13 AA female Lightning shut out Predators**

#### By Brian Bowman

Like most first-year programs, the Interlake Lightning U13 AA female hockey team has had some growing pains.

Interlake has had its share of lopsided losses this season but they have been getting better and better each and every week.

In fact, the Lightning earned their first league win of the season on Dec. 10 when they blitzed the Predators 9-0.

"We played really well," said Lightning head coach Allan Ward. "It's been a growing season for the team. To see the development of our girls from the beginning of the year up to this date (has been great). The team has improved greatly since the start of the year, for sure, so it's been good in that sense."

Interlake was 1-12-1 as of this past Monday. The Lightning are fresh off a tough 5-4 overtime loss to MacDonald on Sunday.

"We played really well," Ward said.
"We were losing 3-1 after the first period and we battled back the whole

game and played extremely well. We got a point out of a game that, in the past, there is no way that we would have got a point out of it."

The league is a competitive one with a lot of good players and teams.

"There's a high-calibre of teams playing in this league, for sure," Ward said. "The city teams are all really quite strong. They've had more of that development. A lot of our girls are just kind of starting with female hockey because they have been playing boys hockey. Within the Interlake, we just don't have a lot of female programs going on so a lot of these girls have been playing at much lower calibre of hockey for all of the hockey that they've had. So, they are learning as to what it takes to play at a high level where these other teams in the city have been playing at these high levels all the way through."

As for the Lightning, Ward feels they have a great thing going with this group of girls.

"For a program that's just starting out, we've got a great group of girls that show up to the rink wanting to



**EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER** 

The Interlake Lightning's Mackenzie Boonstra, left, and Kayla James watch the puck fly through the air in U13 AA action against the Predators last week.

work hard and they practice as hard as they play," he said. "They are enjoying coming to practice and they listen and try everything us four coaches are asking of them and wanting to do. It just makes coming to the rink a lot of fun for us. We've coached for a lot of years and this year has been an enjoyable year."

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but we will continue to distribute our flyers, so please watch for them in your mail and distribution boxes.





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### **U17 AAA Lightning edge Ice Bandits**

#### Staf

The Interlake Lightning edged the Westman Ice Bandits 8-7 in U17 AAA action last Saturday in Elkhorn.

Interlake trailed 7-5 late in the game but roared back to score three unanswered goals in less than four minutes.

Interlake's Cole Swanson had a fantastic game with five goals and three assists while teammates Troy Johannesson, Dominick Collins, and Skylar Farrington also tallied.

Westman goals were scored by Gavin Drake (two), Colton Knox, Tyson Draper, Lynden Gould, Sage Hall-Vermette, and Jackson Hofer.

Nathan Meisner made 38 saves for the win

Interlake's road game against Brandon on Friday was postponed due to weather

The Lightning will play the Winnipeg Thrashers on Friday (8:30 p.m.) at the Gateway Recreation Centre.

The U15 Lightning, meanwhile, lost 6-5 in overtime to the Norman

Wolves in The Pas on Sunday.

Mason Bernier, McKenzie McPherson, Damon Marquart, and Tallon Sutherland scored second-period goals for the Lightning and then McPherson tallied in the third.

McPherson had four points in the game and Sutherland added three.

Norman goals were scored by Chantyn Michelle-Thompson (two), Braden Arthurson (two), Michael Oyelami, and Manny Ross.

Last Saturday, Interlake defeated Norman 6-4.

The Lightning, which built period leads of 2-0 and 5-0, received hat tricks from Mason Bernier and Ryder Kirk.

Wolves' goals were scored by Michelle-Thompson, Ross, Kydin McIvor, and Arthurson.

Tristan Klatt made 40 saves for the win.

Interlake will battle the Eastman Selects on Friday (7:30 p.m.) in Landmark.

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#### NOTICES

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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
- Knowledge of CP Style and about the Interlake and its surrounding communities would be an

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

Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca





RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Public Works Foreman**

(Permanent, Full-time)

Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer. the Public Works Foreman is responsible for the direction, coordination, efficient operation, construction, repair, and general maintenance of all municipal infrastructure.

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the

position of Public Works Foreman (Permanent, Full-time)

#### **Qualifications - Public Works Foreman**

- \*Minimum of five years related experience, three of which were in a foreman or supervisory capacity.
- \*Experience in construction and maintenance of various municipal infrastructure.
- \*The ability to operate and maintain various types of heavy equipment. (tractor/mower, compact track loader, grader,
- \*Valid Manitoba Drivers Class 3 License, air brake license or an air brake endorsement.
- \*Above average organizational skills.
- \*Ability to multi-task and supervise numerous staff and projects simultaneously.
- \*Above average skills to manage and direct staff.
- \*The ability to perform some physical labour.

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong offers a competitive salary and benefits package including health/dental and pension.

Applications must contain a resume, covering letter and three references. Application deadline is 4:30 PM on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Only those candidates chosen for an interview will be contacted.

Please forward applications marked "Application for Public Works Foreman" to Corlie Larsen, Chief Administrative Officer at:

RM of Armstrong

Box 69

Inwood, Manitoba R0C 1P0

Fax: (204)278-3437

e-mail: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

To view a full job description please visit www.rmofarmstrong.com or call the Municipal Officer at (204) 278-3377.

#### 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. 1065-202 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.

To amend the proposed Zoning By-Law 1065-**GENERAL INTENT:** 

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

**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

FOR INFORMATION

**CONTACT:** 

Shelly Schwitek, Chief Administrative Officer Rural Municipality of Grahamdale Box 160, 23 Government Road. Moosehorn MB R0C 2F0 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.



#### **Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 194 of The Municipal Act, public notice is hereby given that the auditor's financial report, together with related financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year, is available for inspection. This information can be retrieved at the office of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton located at 329 River Road in Arborg, Manitoba during office hours or online at BifrostRiverton.ca

Dated at Arborg, Manitoba this 8th day of December, 2022.

Mr. Jordan Willner, CMMA Chief Administrative Officer Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton



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#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

#### Office Clerk **Full-Time - Office Clerk Position**

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites written applications for the position of full-time Office Clerk.

The successful applicant will be required to provide a variety of administrative and financial clerical duties associated with municipal and utility services. A detailed job description and duties are available upon request.

The successful candidate shall possess the following qualifications:

- · Ability to communicate effectively with Council, employees and the public.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Computer Knowledge
- Attention to accuracy and detail.
- Honesty, reliability, integrity, team player and ability to work well with others is a must.
- · Graduate of Municipal Administration an asset or willing to acquire
- Previous Accounting/Business knowledge an asset
- Able to handle stressful situations and deadlines
- Willingness to learn and grow within our organization

Written applications including resume, cover letter and three work related references to be submitted in confidence by 4:00 January 31, 2023. Open until suitable candidate is found.

> RM of Fisher "Office Clerk Position" PO Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0 Fax: (204) 372-8470

Email: fishercao@mymts.net

The RM of Fisher thanks all applicants for their interest. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.



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#### **Online Patient Support Group** 2023 Meetings

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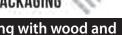
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Administrator - The Manitoba Forage Seed Association is seeking a part-time Administrator based out of Arborg, MB. Reporting to the Board of Directors, this individual will be responsible for overseeing & coordinating all administrative Qualified candidate must have procedures. proficient computer skills & strong communication skills. Experience using Quickbooks and applying for grants is an asset. For full job description, please visit www.forageseed.net/job.

Please send your resume & cover letter to hmcbey@forageseed.net



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

#### UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ZONING BY-LAW 1055/00 CONDITIONAL USE**

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

APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE under the **RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF FISHER ZONING** BY-LAW 1055/00 as amended.

**HEARING:** RM of Fisher Council Chambers

Fisher Branch, Manitoba

DATE &TIME: Wednesday January 4, 2023 at 10:30 am

APPLICATION: cu 2022-02

OWNERS/

APPLICANT: **Broad Valley Holdings** 

PROPOSAL: To allow Large Truck and Trailer Safety Shop

(General Industrial) on Al zoned property

**AREA** 

CONTACT:

AFFECTED: SE 2-23-1W

FOR INFORMATION

Kelly Marykuca, Chief Administrative Officer

Rural Municipality of Fisher Phone (204) 372-6393

A Copy of the above proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the Municipal Office, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, MB during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

#### **CARD OF THANKS**

The family of late Herbert Robinson would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all who supported us during this difficult time. The flowers, food, cards, and phone calls were truly valued. Thank you to Broad Valley Catering for the exceptional lunch, and thank you to Mona and McKenzie Funeral Home for their support and comfort during this difficult time.

Special thanks to the pallbearers Jason, Kevin, Mike, Richard, Scott, and Tyler, and special thank you to the Melnychuk family for going above and beyond in your support.

-Sincerely, the Robinson family

#### **CARD OF THANKS**

Knights of Columbus 2022 Parking Lot Raffle Winners, Gimli Council #7288 are: 1st ticket - Mark and Jim Hancharek, \$100; 10th ticket - Angela Zalevich, \$25; 20th ticket - Nancy Johnson, \$50; 30th ticket - Joan Bartmanovich, \$25; 40th ticket - Audrey Zaik, \$100; 50th ticket - Joe and Frances Petrowski, \$100; 60th ticket - Brenda Leger, \$25; 70th ticket - Paul Artyshko, \$50; 80th ticket, Jayde McGill, \$25; 90th ticket - Bob and Jane Ulrich, \$25; 100th ticket - Bonny Searcy, \$200; 110th ticket - Greg Capuska, \$50; 120th ticket - Fr. Stan Gacek, \$50; 130th ticket - E.J. Gal, \$100; 140th ticket - Brad Krulicki, \$50; 150th ticket - Al Scott, \$100; 160th ticket - Cathy Marks, \$50; 170th ticket - Bryanna Izzard, \$50; 180th ticket - Brad Krulicki, \$25; 190th ticket - Ted Hvkawv. \$50: 200th ticket - Angela Zalevich. \$150: 210th ticket - Emma Yablonski, \$50: 220th ticket - Ken and Brenda Krulicki. \$50: 230th ticket - Thomas Achenbach, \$100; 240th ticket - Ronnie Krulicki, \$50: 250th ticket -Paul Stanicki, \$100; 260th ticket - Pam Isfeld, \$50; 270th ticket - Jeff Yablonski, \$50; 280th ticket - Tony Hayka, \$100; 290th ticket - Paul Trokajlo, \$50; 299th ticket - Dennis Firman, Barbeque and 300th ticket - Jordan Favell,



## Announcements



ANNIVERSARY

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Sixty-five years ago on December 28th, we jumped into my MGA and left Regina for Plentywood, Montana to get married. By 1966 we had four children, Randy, Rodney, Cindy and Davna. Today we have grown to 31 family members including eight great-grandchildren. We have truly been blessed!

#### RECYCLING NOTICE **FOR JANUARY/2023**

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc will not be picking up recycling on the below mentioned dates.

Mon. Jan.2, 2023 at Riverton business places Tues. Jan.3 Arborg curbside pickup Weds.Jan.4 at Arborg business places Thurs Jan.5 at Riverton curbside pickup Mon. Jan.16 at Riverton business places Tues. Jan.17 at Arborg curbside pickup Weds.Jan.18 at Arborg business places Thurs. Jan.19 at Riverton curbside pickup Mon. Jan.30 at Riverton business places Tues. Jan.31 at Arborg curbside pickup Weds.Feb.1 at Arborg business places Thurs.Feb.2 at Riverton curbside pickup

The workshop will be closed on Mon. Jan. 2/2023 Happy New Year!

Please rinse your containers Thank you for recycling



Happy 85th Birthday Mom (Doreen) December 19, 2022

-From your children and grandson Mitchell



Walter Kaminski April 1, 1922 - December 31, 2011 Though you are no longer with us, You will never be forgotten. But always precious memories Of the days when you were here. We miss vou.

-Love always, Linda, Ken and Jane, Wally and Audra, Derek, Nicole, Sienna and Athena



Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Pêches et Océans Canada

#### **Dredging at Calders Dock Harbour** Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Small Craft Harbours Branch (DFO-SCH), will be undertaking dredging work at Calders Dock Harbour during Winter/Spring 2023.

The dredging work is planned to occur from January to March 10, 2023. The timelines are subject to weather conditions and the results of the tender process.

DFO-SCH hereby gives notice that a submission has been added to the Common Project Search Registry (online registry) pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act described herein.

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of said Act, DFO-SCH has submitted the notification of a minor work in accordance with the requirements set out on the External Submission Site, on the online Common Project Search Registry (https://common-project-search.canada.ca) and under registry number 6715.

The description of the work is as follows:

Calders Dock Maintenance Dredging, Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba. The project includes dredging of the harbour bottom at the entrance to the harbour, extending approximately 40m west.

During the work the harbour will be closed to the general public.

For inquiries, please contact:

Small Craft Harbours Fisheries and Oceans Canada 431-337-3041

Canadä



**Evergreen School Division** 

is looking for bus drivers!

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the **TEC Centre** (234 Tudor Lane, Gimli Industrial Park)

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James Reid Hedden
December 7, 1934 – December 13, 2022

James Hedden of Ashern, MB left his family on December 13, 2022 after a brief illness to join his wife Donna.

Dad was born in St. Thomas, Ontario on December 7, 1934. He left Ontario as a young man heading west to southern Saskatchewan to work as a cowboy on the PFRA in Val Marie. Here he met the new school teacher who was to become his wife. Dad 'liberated' a cat from work to give to the new teacher when he heard she had a mouse problem at the small country school.

Donna and Jim were married October 2, 1957 in Climax, SK. They moved to Manitoba in 1963 with their two children, Pat and Colleen. In 1967 they bought their own place in the Ashern area and established Sleepy Hollow Simmentals, spending many years in the cattle industry and were well known for their quality cattle. Jim and Donna were married for 48 years. Life was never the same for him after Mom died and he missed her right to his last days.

Dad was always a cowboy and continued to ride horses into his 80's. He loved to fish and spent many days pursuing this passion with his family and friends. He only sold his boat this year when mobility became an issue for him. He enjoyed travel, especially if there was a rodeo to take in! Dad sold his farm and moved to town last year following a brutal winter. He never wanted to give up country living, but accepted that the move was necessary. He remained independent right to the end. He loved to have meals and coffee with his many friends and family. He will be missed by the coffee crew and the local businesses, I'm sure! He was never one to display emotion, but was proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren when hearing of their accomplishments and exploits. He was always interested in friend's/family's lives and had an incredible ability to retain information (gossip) to share with others as he was never far from his phone. Dad exited this world the same way he lived in it...on his terms and timeline.

Cremation has taken place and a private family graveside interment will take place at a later date.

The family wishes to thank everyone who remembered Dad with their kind words and deeds. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Lakeshore Hospital Guild, c/o Julie Bergner, PO Box 1, Ashern, MB R0C 0E0.

Arrangements by: ARNASON FUNERAL HOME Ashern – Lundar 1-204-768-2072 1-866-323-3593

#### **OBITUARY**



Agnar Thorlacius April 14, 1934 – December 19, 2022

Agnar Thorlacius of Ashern, Manitoba passed away on December 19, 2022, at the age of 88 years. After several years of declining health, he died peacefully with his loving wife of 65 years and his three daughters by his side.

Agnar was born on April 14, 1934 to Sigga and Olafur Thorlacius in Ashern. He was the oldest of four boys and was raised on the family farm on the shore of Lake Manitoba. He attended Ralph Connor School where he was in charge of bringing in the wood and lighting the fire every morning. He did not have much opportunity for formal education, so he worked on the farm, was a commercial fisherman, had many odd jobs including Manitoba Hydro, and various carpentry jobs. When Agnar moved his family to Winnipeg he became a full-time carpenter, first working for

Austman Construction and later for himself. Despite only attending school until grade 10, he challenged the Red Seal Carpenter certification and passed with flying colors.

Agnar married Gwen Townsend on October 5, 1957 in Betel Church at Silver Bay. They lived in the town of Ashern for a few years where they started their family and later moved to the family farm where he continued farming, fishing and working as a carpenter. In 1966 Agnar and Gwen moved to Winnipeg where they raised their family, but Ashern was always home. They moved back in 1987, where they built their home south of town on Joiner Road.

Dad built homes for many people, but we are very proud of the fact that he built all our homes. He truly loved being a carpenter and built many buildings in Ashern and surrounding areas. His happy place was his shop in their yard, and he continued to work in there until he couldn't anymore. He loved having his loud and boisterous family around and their home was a gathering place for his grandchildren and their friends. He was Afi to them all.

Agnar is survived by his wife Gwen; daughters Joanne Kiesman (Leonard), Helga Kolomaya (Randy) and Sandi Pawluk (Bob); seven grandchildren Tamsyn Kiesman (Jason Nickel), Heather Kolomaya (Dana Chartrand), Dayna Emilson (Laurie), Jenna Tritthart (Chad), Devin Kiesman (Tina), Jared Kolomaya (Samantha) and Kaitlin Pawluk; 13 great-grandchildren Landen, Danika, Deah, Edrick, Deakyn, Graham, Callum, Ahnika, Adelyn, Grady, Elliot, Joshua and Lucas as well as four step great-granddaughters Maddy, Jaydean, Raelyn and Brenna. He is also survived by many extended family and friends.

Agnar was predeceased by his parents and his three younger brothers Oli, Beggi and Jon. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30, 2022, in the Ashern Legion

Hall with Dawn Tober officiating. A luncheon will follow the service and an interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Betel Church Fund, c/o Carolyn Thorlacius, Box 342, Ashern, MB R0C 0E0.

Arrangements by: ARNASON FUNERAL HOME Ashern - Lundar 1.204.768.2072 1.866.323.3593

#### **OBITUARY**



#### Danny Hutch

February 26, 1940 – December 11, 2022 It is with very heavy hearts that we announce the passing of

Danny, dedicated father, son, brother, friend, and husband.

Danny was predeceased by his parents, Dan and Helen, and by his beloved wife of 41 years Ardith (Joynt).

He will be forever missed by his daughter Erin (and chosen son, Mark); kitty Sweeney; sisters Irene and Penny (Bob), brother Randy (Val), and many nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws. He will also be missed by his many friends.

Danny was born and raised in Gimli, Manitoba. He loved the many animals and pets he was surrounded with on the farm, writing poetry, hunting, firearms, and above all, he loved his mother. Danny enjoyed spending time with childhood friends and neighbours, which included Nicky, BB and the Goodman boys. He

attended Dnister School until grade 8, and then moved on to Gimli Composite High School, leaving school temporarily at 16. He spent the next four years "knocking around", travelling the country (from coast to coast to coast) and gaining much of the life experience that would ultimately shape his personality (no doubt taking years off of his mother's life). While travelling and working up in Northern Manitoba, he met Bob Tunstall, who shared in many adventures and remained a lifelong friend. Having returned to Gimli to complete high school, Danny graduated in 1964. While at high school for the second time, he met another lifelong friend and brother, Jerry Banera, who is likely with Danny at this very moment.

After graduation, Danny moved to Winnipeg, eventually joining the Winnipeg Police Service in 1966, which was a defining moment in his life. The pride that he took in his career as a policeman, and the enormous impact it had on his life and character cannot be overstated. He considered himself very lucky to do a job that he derived so much pride and personal satisfaction from. His time with the WPS required great sacrifice on his part, but he knew that he was fortunate to be a part of a larger community and brotherhood. The relationships that he cultivated with his partners (both as a mentor and as a new policeman), fellow members, and the community at large were a source of great pleasure, and greatly missed when he retired from service.

While working fulltime as a policeman, Danny was proud to achieve a lifelong dream when he obtained his B.A(Hons) in Geography from the University of Winnipeg in 1976. As a result of his Honours thesis (When Jewish Settlers Farmed in Manitoba's Interlake Area), Danny was invited by The Jewish Historical Society to deliver a talk on the subject in 1976. The paper was published in Volume 3 of Jewish Life and Times, and later appeared as an article in The Canadian Geographical Journal in September of 1977, written in collaboration with Professor J. Richtik. After retiring from the WPS in 1994, he worked for many years in the security department at McPhillips Street Station Casino, where more good friends were made. A reluctant retiree, he worked parttime for a few more years before permanently retiring in 2019 at the age of 79.

Prior to meeting Ardith in 1974 (and for a long time after meeting her), he was quite dedicated to being a bachelor. There were pistol shoots and competitions to attend (and sometimes, win), trips to Las Vegas with his late friend and car partner Les, gun shows, Toby Jugs to collect, hunting season, etc. But, when he and Ardith were gifted with a daughter in 1977, he found himself on yet another life-altering adventure, the most daunting of all... As a father, Danny excelled. For a guy who never planned on, or even wanted children, he could not have been more committed to being a good dad. Determined that his daughter should want for nothing, it was not unusual for him to come home with a surprise Barbie or a book that he thought she'd like. And like many people of Eastern European descent, he loved to feed others, which included preparing elaborate and thoughtful after-school "snacks" for his daughter, and also introducing her (among many others) to the numerous hole-in-the-wall joints that he discovered while on the job. He distinguished himself as a loving and accepting father to his girl, eventually cultivating yet another good friend in her. His wisdom, hugs, thoughtfulness, sacrifices, unconditional love, integrity, strength, respect, humour, friendship and guidance are gifts that will be treasured forever.

While at the gym in the early 80's, Danny met and befriended yet another lifelong friend and brother, Harmon. They shared a special bond, and Danny could not have been more proud of the person that his young friend has become.

Danny will be remembered for his twinkling blue eyes, his sense of humour, intelligence, sensitivity, kindness, compassion for all of God's creatures (including humans), warmth, curiosity (yeah, he was nosey), astonishingly bad penmanship, authenticity, and his stubbornness and strength. These last two traits served him extremely well through his many frustrating and unfair health issues. Through his many surgeries, recoveries and convalescences over the last 22 years, he faced every challenge with bravery and dignity, and maintained not only his sense of humour, but his love for this life that he was loathe to relinquish. Whether it was his ability to attract colourful characters (he could not abide boring), or his penchant for drama, life in Danny's company was never dull. Never one to let the truth get in the way of a good story, Danny was known for being a superb raconteur, who enjoyed nothing more than sharing tales of his various adventures and experiences. He equally enjoyed getting to know others through conversation, and also by corresponding with the many people he met and befriended over the years. Danny was very good at making friends, which seemed to happen wherever he went. With his natural warmth and charisma, every situation and occasion had the potential to make a friend. Whether it was socially, in the workplace, while on vacation, at the bank, at the gym, grocery shopping, waiting in line at the gas station... You get the picture. Being as loving and lionhearted as he was, he was exceptionally loyal to the people he cared about. Danny was very proud of his family of three (kitties notwithstanding), which eventually grew to include his much-loved son-in-law, Mark, who he welcomed into the family with warmth and acceptance. But in reality, Danny had a much larger chosen family of good friends. He collected and cherished his friends, and held on to them for a lifetime. Or until he was forced to say goodbye (too many times), in the same way that we are left to say goodbye to him, now.

The family wishes to thank the staff on the 7th floor Deer Lodge Centre, whose care and compassion will not soon be forgotten. The family also wishes to thank the staff on the 5th floor of the Asper Institute who apparently, are in the business of miracles.

Cremation has taken place and a service will take place at Thompson in the Park on January 4th, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Salvation Army, or your favorite cat shelter in Danny's name.

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

Gilbart

#### **OBITUARY**

#### Stanley Buchko

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a dear husband, father, and grandfather on Saturday, December 10th, 2022, at the age of 91, with family by his side.

Stanley was born on September 25th, 1931 in Fisher Branch, Manitoba to Peter and Tekla Buchko and was one of seven children.

He is predeceased by his parents Peter and Tekla; sisters Rosie (Peter) Mumchuk, Ann (Mike) Yaremkewich, Mary (Mike) Chernichan, Kay McEachern; brother Victor; and brother-in-law Bill Labchuk.

Stanley made Fisher Branch his home throughout his life, where he worked as a grain and cattle farmer and developed a love for animals and the outdoors.

It is there that he met his wife, got married and had three children. He took great pride in spending time with his loved ones and being there for his family through their achievements. He also enjoyed hunting, watching curling and football, and casino trips.

Stanley is survived by his loving wife Anne, of 66 years; daughter Lynda (Rick), grandsons Shawn and Christopher, daughter Susan, son David (Tanya), grandsons Brendan and Riley, sister Helen Labchuk, sister-in law Alvina Buchko, and brother-in-law Bryan McEachern, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Gilbert and Cindy and all the nurses and staff at the Fisher Personal Care Home for their kindness and compassionate care of Stanley. Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at a later date.

Fisher Funeral Home Inc. Entrusted with arrangements. 204-372-6803 or 204-372-6271

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#### **OBITUARY**

#### Margaret Elaine Askew

September 28, 1936 - December 15, 2022

While being serenaded to the singing of Silent Night and hearing the voices, stories and laughter of her loving husband, Eric and children Lynn Hewitt (Steve) and Karen Gray (John), grandchildren Lauren Marshall (Alex), Dean Hewitt and great-grandchild Ellie Marshall, our Mom Elaine quietly and peacefully began her new journey to join her family and friends who would greet her in Heaven.

We have chosen not to plan a service.

We thank everyone who have extended their condolences to our family and send our deepest gratitude and thanks to Helen Webster and staff of the Ashern Personal Care Home who cared for our Mom for the last two years.

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