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WEEKLY NEWS

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Dancers hit new heights at Malanka

By Patricia Barrett

The Reechka Dance Club kicked off Arborg's Malanka celebrations last Saturday with high-spirited performances, including one that literally went through the roof.

The club performed 12 folk dances representing different areas of Ukraine.

"It's really, really fun dancing with Reechka," said Diego Blandford, who dances in the Junior level and has been with the club for five years.

The Grade 4 student at Arborg Early Middle School and fellow dancer and friend Brandon Burak gracefully swung their female partners around the stage during the Hopak dance and breezed through the technical feats required by male performers at their level.

"I'm starting a new dance with a new girl," said Diego. "I've been asked to do a jazz dance."

"He's a creative dancer," said Diego's mom, Raelene Blandford, whose family helped ring in the Ukrainian New Year.

Continued on page 10

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Members of the Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club entertained the crowds at Arborg's Malanka celebration last Saturday. Girls in the Intermediate level performed an energetic Hopak, a traditional folk dance, with Senior-level boys.

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Ashern students testing the benefits of iPad learning

By Jeff Ward

Amberly Scott, Grade 1/2 teacher at Ashern Early Years School, says it was an almost immediate change in student engagement after iPads were introduced into their classroom at the start of the school year.

In a partnership between the Lakeshore School Division and Brandon University, 20 iPads have been making their way around the division. The question Scott is hoping to answer is whether or not the iPads and a series of educational apps will result in improved reading ability. Scott's class has had them for 14 weeks and will be sending them back to Lundar School at the end of this month. In the time she's had them, Scott says that her 16 students have been much more engaged since the iPads were introduced into the classroom.

"I find they're much more engaged when using them, but this is just a tool," said Scott, who said there's a time and place for technology like this and screen time is monitored closely.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD

Students use iPads and apps to enhance their reading skills. The apps are able to identify weaknesses and help students through difficult sections. Pictured left to right, Lacy Roy, Amberly Scott, Johanna Ruchotzke, Bailey Mantik and Troy Brooks.

"There was some ground rules set right away because this is a tool, not a toy. Quite a few of the students in here are well aware of tablets and iPhones already. Each student has specific apps on their personal iPad that are for their specific abilities."

This is where the function of the iPad becomes very exciting for Scott because she can cater each iPad to be perfectly in tune with each student. The apps can be focused to help strengthen weaknesses while testing strengths. The tablet is like a personal learning assistant for each student.

"If they're beginning alphabet work, that's what's on their iPad. If they're reading fluently and have a huge word vocabulary, those are the apps they'll have. They also often don't realize that a lot of the games they're playing are educational, so they become so much more engaged," said Scott.

One of the benefits to technology like this in

the classroom is that students have more fun learning. Scott is seeing first hand how student engagement is up in her classroom and says that once she goes through the data next month, she'll know if that information was retained better than before the iPads were introduced.

The data is where this study will really become interesting for education professionals within the division. Pools of data from all over the division can be analyzed against each other from before, during and after iPads were integrated into the classrooms. Scott says that data will be used to evaluate the impact technology like this has on students, and whether or not it needs to be in every classroom.

She said that even if the research shows a marked improvement in reading, the iPads and any technology are just a piece of the puzzle. They will not replace physical books or other learning aids in the classroom.

Defence Minister misleading and evasive on anti-ISIS meeting

News Release

Conservative Defence Critic James Bezan and Associate Critic Pierre Paul-Hus commented today on reports that Canada has not been invited to take part in a key anti-ISIS coalition meeting this week, as well as Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan's misleading comments about his attendance.

"Last week on CBC's Power and Politics, Minister Sajjan said he wasn't going to the anti-ISIS meeting of coalition partners in the fight against ISIS because he had 'multiple meetings that are coming up with (Canada's) NATO partners down the road'. He also said, point blank, that he didn't see the need to be at that meeting."

"It turns out the real reason he isn't going to the meeting is that according to media reports, Canada has not been invited. Minister Sajjan's

excuse was not just misleading and evasive, it was patently false. For a government which talks about openness and transparency, this is extremely disconcerting."

"In July 2015, under the leadership of Foreign Minister Rob Nicholson, Canada proudly hosted a meeting of the anti-ISIS coalition. Fast forward six months under the Trudeau government, and Canada is deliberately being excluded because of this Liberal government's decision to withdraw our CF-18s from the mission against ISIS. This is not 'Real Change'."

"Once again, this development demonstrates that the Liberal Party's policy on fighting ISIS is incoherent, and the decision to withdraw Canada's CF-18s is seen by our allies as stepping back, rather than standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them."

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Political candidates hear concerns of rural municipalities

By Patricia Barrett

MLA candidates for the Interlake and Gimli constituencies paid a visit last Wednesday to the municipalities they will representing if elected.

Jamal Abas, Liberal candidate for the Interlake, and Derek Johnson, PC candidate for the Interlake, visited Bifrost-Riverton council in the morning. Armand Belanger, NDP candidate for Gimli, visited Gimli councillors during their regular evening meeting.

Each candidate spoke about his personal and professional background and his understanding of the issues facing municipalities. Each also listened to RM concerns.

Jamal Abas works as a farmer and electrician in Hodgson. Last January, the Liberals nominated him candidate for the Interlake.

Addressing Bifrost-Riverton councillors, Abas said he's aware of issues "related to the local economy, drainage, municipal infrastructure and things that will promote growth in a community."

On drainage, which is one of the major hurdles facing the RM, one of the councillors said the province needs to address third order drains for which they're responsible.

The RM suffers from chronic drainage and flooding problems. RM drains are connected to provincial drains, which haven't had maintenance work done on them for about 50 years, according to both Bifrost-Riverton and Fisher municipalities.

"We can't do our drainage because they don't do theirs," said Coun. Richard Chomokovski. "So the water's not moving."

Coun. Donald Vigfusson reiterated those concerns.

"I think the mandate of Highways is not drainage," he said. "They're there just to look after roads and asphalt. And as far as drainage — maintenance of drains — they just slough it off onto a different department, which is our RMs."

Abas asked whether Water Stewardship helps the RM with drainage issues.

Coun. David Shott said the department "has been really good to deal with. It's just they don't have a budget. They've got ... \$20 million or something [to cover] Selkirk all the way to Grand Rapids. That's a big area to cover."

Abas said the challenges of drainage vary in different Interlake areas. In Lundar, for example, he said more drains are needed.

"Here, it seems, the water just won't move here because of red tape and maintenance."



Jamal Abas

Abas said part of the water problems stem from other regions, namely Saskatchewan.

He said the government has been aware of that since 2003. "We need to have a working dialogue with Saskatchewan and flood mitigation plans."

At the close of the meeting, Abas stated his commitment to the Interlake and that if he has a seat at the table after the election, "things will be different out here."

Derek Johnson served as councillor for the RM St. Laurent (2010-2014) and now works in the financial industry. The PCs nominated him candidate in November 2014.

When Johnson asked what expectations council has if the PCs are elected, Reeve Harold Foster said, "I expect in six months, all our third order drains will be clean."

"Drainage is a big issue in the area," said Johnson, "and I'm well aware of that."

Foster also brought the issue of Arborg's proposed personal-care home that has Manitoba Health and IERHA approval but is waiting for Treasury Board approval.

"Brian [Pallister] has stated that he wants to move forward on personal-care homes," said Johnson.

"Seventy per cent of the population is in Winnipeg," said the reeve. "So why is the government going to do the personal care out here when they're so short over there? We'd asked them for that for about five years now."

The reeve said if the RM and Town of Arborg build the personal-care home, people from Riverton, Gimli, Teulon, Armstrong, Vidor, Fisher and probably Ashern will be using it because "there's a shortage all over."

Coun. Colin Bjarnason said the IERHA is putting specialists in Selkirk's hospital rather than spreading them throughout the Interlake area.

Johnson said the way the health sys-



Armand Belanger

tem is set up encourages people to leave small communities.

"People, as they get older, they gravitate to where [health care] is provided. And they're leaving the smaller communities. And they're [government] saying the need is in the larger community, but that's because people are moving there."

Coun. Morley Nordal said Arborg — because of its central location in the Interlake — should get funding to improve its hospital. Selkirk is only 15 or 20 miles from the city and it draws people down from the north.

"That hospital upgrade in Selkirk, to me, is ridiculous," said Nordal. "The Arborg hospital would be much more central and service a lot of miles."

Johnson said there are ways to reduce waste in health-care spending and improve inefficiencies.

"The bureaucracy needs to be streamlined without affecting front-line services," he said.

Armand Belanger was nominated NDP candidate for the Gimli constituency last November. He works as a conservation officer for the province and manager of the East Interlake Conservation District.

Belanger was interested in the working relationship between the RM and



Derek Johnson

the government and what could be improved.

CAO Joann King said one thing Gimli struggles with is its utility systems.

"We always need capital funding."

What Gimli receives from the Water Services Board, a government agency that helps rural communities with water and sewage facilities, is insufficient to deal with its infrastructure deficits let alone the deficits that exist across the Interlake, she said.

"Our estimate to repair our town water system is approximately \$10 million," said King.

Coun. Danny Luprypa said that \$10 million estimate was five years ago. "It's probably \$15 million now."

Belanger, who has been out and about in the community speaking with residents, said he knows how important government investment in rural communities is, and that critical services such as water — and quality water — should be there for future generations.

"When that goes, the whole town falls apart," said Belanger.

The provincial election is tentatively scheduled for April 19. The government is expected to call the election in March.

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An open Letter to the generous supporters of EBN

Thank you...

Thank you to our Gimli and area Community. We've been very fortunate to work with some incredible people over the years and along the way we've made lasting friendships.

In 2015, more volunteers came to visit and stayed, more people donated food, time and money. Thank you to local businesses, to faith groups and to the hundreds of individuals who rang the doorbell to donate gently used items. Thank you to the people who made monetary donations to EBN throughout 2015 we are grateful for your generosity.

Thank you to our Food "Angels" - the incredible people who called to ask what we needed and who showed up with cases of food. Thank you to the Westshore Singers, The Catholic Women's League, Shapes, Sobeys, Super A, Tip Top (we will miss you) Red Apple, The Ship and Plough, The United Church of Wpg. Beach, the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church and the Lutheran Church of Gimli. Thank you to the individuals who brought a tin for the bin. Thank you to the people who bought tickets to events from which we benefited: The Fraserwood Hall's Christmas Concert, Elvis Fest, The Winnipeg Beach Car Show, The Ice Festival. Thank you Adam T. Elvis and Jackson - you rock. Thank you to the Kiwanis, Rotary Club and the Kinettes. Thank you Top Hat Memorial Bonspiel. Thank you to everyone who provided monetary donations to EBN during the Christmas Fundraising Drive. To anyone who we may have missed, please accept our humble apology and know we are grateful for your support.

Thank you teachers and students of Winnipeg Beach School, George Johnson Middle Years School and Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early Years School. May the spirit of goodwill and compassion be with you always; think globally, but act locally because the people EBN supports are your friends, neighbors and your community members. Thank you to the Students and Teachers of Gimli High School for walking in the rain during "trick or eat." Thank you to the incredible team of young women from GHS for volunteering at our community dinners, Thank you Scott Powers just because we know we can count on you.

Thank you Santa's little helpers for helping put gifts under the Christmas trees, kids of all ages deserve to feel special at Christmas.

Thank you to the volunteers who contribute their time, energy and good humour for we could not do what we do without you.

Thank you the Town of Winnipeg Beach, The Village of Dunnottar, the RM of Armstrong and the RM of Gimli.

To everyone who shopped at Respun Threads or stopped in to enjoy the home cooked meals at The Café, Thank You and please come again.

And lastly, a special thanks to the Diageo employees for their donation to EBN and to Diageo for matching their generosity. We are overwhelmed with gratitude.

Thank you for making 2015 an incredible year at Evergreen Basic Needs Inc. We wish you all the best in 2016.

Helicopter pilot dies after freak accident in Antarctica



PHOTO BY JAMES MOLONEY / AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Helicopter pilot David Wood died after falling into a crevasse in Antarctica on Jan. 11. He was 62.

Staff

A helicopter pilot with ties to Winnipeg Beach has died after a freak accident in Antarctica.

Australian officials say pilot David Wood died after falling some 20 metres into a crevasse in Antarctica last Monday. Wood was 62.

A statement from the Australian Antarctic Division says the accident happened on a remote ice shelf near Davis Station, Australia's biggest science research station.

Wood sustained serious injuries after falling into the crevasse while unloading fuel at a depot north of the station.

An emergency crew was able to lift Wood out of the ice sheet and transport him to a medical station but he was in critical condition and died last Tuesday.

A statement from Wood's family released by the Australian Antarctic Division said he had 'considerable Antarctic experience.'

Wood travelled on his days off to be with his wife and children in Winnipeg Beach and had grown children living in Australia.

Wood is being remembered for making his way into the hearts of many

and for 'living the life he dreamed - full of adventure.'

"For over 35 years Dave spent his working life in environments that most only experience in documentaries. He flew helicopters in the Arctic, Antarctic, South America, China and the South Pacific as well as working many seasons in Australia and Canada for exploration and bush (forest) firefighting operations," the statement said.

Australian Environment Minister Greg Hunt said Wood was admired for his passion and made valuable contributions to the Australian Antarctic program.

"David's tragic death is a reminder of the hostile, remote and inherently dangerous environment in which our dedicated Antarctic teams carry out their important work," Hunt said in a statement.

Both Australian and Canadian flags were at half-mast last week in honour of Wood.

Hunt said the Australian government is investigating the death.

A funeral service is being planned for Wood in Winnipeg, but details and the date of service have not yet been released.

Beavers causing damage to Grahamdale farmland

By Jeff Ward

The RM of Grahamdale is engaging in a war of attrition with a beaver population that, if left unchecked, could grow wildly out of control. And they are enlisting the help of trappers to fight back.

It's been an ongoing problem for years with beavers building dams on small rivers and streams, causing water to back up and leading to severe overland flooding on farmers' fields and Crown land. If the dams aren't cleared and the beavers not taken care of, the damage would be so significant that certain areas wouldn't see a recovery of that land for three to five years, according to Ward 1 Coun. Randy Sigurdson.

The topic of beavers is routinely discussed at regular council meetings, according to CAO Shelly Schwitek. And even with the winter months limiting the action of council, discussions continue in preparation for the spring.

"The ones that area really suffering are farmers in the Sleeve Lake area," said Sigurdson, adding that he saw even more widespread damage on

some First Nations during his time with Aboriginal Affairs.

"We're losing all kinds of pasture and grazing land in that area. West of Moosehorn, we're starting to lose a lot of hay land as well because of this problem. The real bad news is

that once you get the beavers out, the land just doesn't immediately go back to normal. And if they come back and build another dam, it can be years before that land is useable."

The RM has been employing trappers for a number of years to go out and identify dams and then get rid of the beaver population. Once that's been done, the dams are destroyed, allow-

ing water to flow freely through the stream and hopefully helping the land to return to normal.

Sigurdson says that in the area south of Grahamdale, including Mulvihill to Ashern, trappers are starting to get a handle on the population with land returning to normal.

Aside from trying to protect farm-

"ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT A LOT OF THESE DAMS ARE IN HIGHLY INACCESSIBLE AREAS SO IT'S NOT EASY TO CLOSELY MONITOR THEM."



EXPRESS PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DEVAN MCCOUBREY

The RM of Grahamdale is enlisting the help of trappers to help remove beaver colonies. Beaver dams are popping up all over the RM of Grahamdale and are causing significant damage to surrounding farmland due to overland flooding.

land, the RM is also concerned about its infrastructure, such as roads. Beavers have no qualms about placing their dams right next to highways and roads, according to Sigurdson. And those dams can fill the area with water and wash away stretches of highway if left unchecked.

It's a complicated problem that Sigurdson hopes to make some ground on this year.

Any trappers interested in being considered for work on this project are encouraged to call the RM office at 204-768-2858 for more information.

Licence plate validation stickers being eliminated

News Release

Licence plate validation stickers will no longer be required by Manitobans, or issued by Autopac agents, effective March 1, 2016.

Gord Mackintosh, minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance, said for vehicle owners, this means greater convenience as they will no longer have to apply validation stickers.

"Perhaps more importantly, however, our police agencies are continually upgrading and enhancing their ability to deal with crime," said Mackintosh. "Our front-line police officers have a challenging job. We can't thank them enough for their service in keeping our roads safe."

"Customers who renew their Autopac policies will be issued blank stickers to cover up the existing stickers on their licence plates," said Ward Keith, vice-president of Business Development & Communications and chief product officer for Manitoba Public Insurance. "For those customers getting new plates, they will not

be required to apply the month and year stickers."

Due to Manitoba Public Insurance's staggered five-year renewal system, the sticker transition will be fully completed by March 1, 2021.

"The elimination of stickers was the result of collaborative discussions with police agencies and will result in reduced costs to the Corporation, which will, in turn, benefit rate payers" said Keith.

"Our customers will also find it more convenient to not have to apply stickers to their licence plates."

Police vehicles are now equipped with on-board computers, which allow for real-time validation of a vehicle's registration status and now makes the need for licence plate validation stickers unneces-

sary. To complement these on-board computers, the major police agencies in Manitoba are now using automated licence plate readers. These devices are highly efficient and alert officers immediately if a vehicle's registration and insurance has lapsed and is invalid.

"The Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) Traffic Committee entirely supports MPI's new stance on licence plate validation," said Insp. Joanne Keeping of the Manitoba RCMP. "With technology allowing instant validation of licence plates,

police officers are better equipped to immediately address offenders driving unregistered vehicles."

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getfishing

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Fisherman shares story of flying fish

Welcome, folks. Nice of you to stop by.

Last week, I had a feeling it was time to visit with folks fishing on the ice by Belair. I drove past town, and as I entered the steep Yellow Brick Road (yep, that's what the road out to the Lake Winnipeg ice is called), I put Old Red into four-wheel drive and slowly snaked down the winding lane onto the thick ice. I scanned the many hard-wall and portable shacks strewn about and noticed far out a commercial fishing shack.

Perfect, I thought. It's about time we saw how things were going for those who put fish on our store shelves. I bounced over the snow-covered ice up to three fishers kneeling in the snow as they worked. They had spotted their shack as a wind break close to the hole the nets were being pulled from. I introduced myself as they continued working.

A young gal, Amy Clemons, and her partner Bryce Thomas slipped the eating-sized pickerel, saugers and tullibees from the net. Bryce's older uncle Reney Thomas, his moustache covered with icicles, periodically pulled more fish-laden nets from the water. Bryce called out that this season's catch had been really great.

Just before I was about to leave, Bryce held a pickerel up for me to snap a picture. Amy, Bryce and Reney's humorous and accommodating nature sure turned that cold harsh overcast day's visit into a pleasure. Thanks, guys.

On the way back from Belair, I decided to stop and talk to some anglers at Lockport. Coming around behind



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

Bryce Thomas at Belair with a sample of his commercial catch.

the Lockport store and onto the little plateau before the steep trail to the ice, I noticed that the municipal guys here had cleaned the snow away. Thanks, fellas.

Again, my truck in four-wheel drive, I crawled down the narrow lane with cliff-like dropoffs on either side to the Red River ice where right in front of me stood a yellow pop-up shack. I left the truck and called out to the occupants asking if they had caught anything. Two young energetic chaps opened the tent door, smiling and saying "Nothing yet!"

Carlos Olivira and Rui Machado from Winnipeg, who originally were from Portugal, said they loved to fish the Red. As we got to know each

other, Carlos and Rui remembered a story from fishing last summer. A bit downstream from here, they saw a dead fox floating with the fast current. As responsible sportsmen, they decided to try and get it out of the water, so they put large catfish hooks on their lines. Running along the shore, stumbling and tripping over stones and trees, they cast out to the carcass. Eventually, they snagged and proudly landed it far down the river. I have no idea what they did with it.

I got over to the east side of Shoal Lake a few days ago and was surprised to see a large number of shacks and pop-ups. It was an easy ride out

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Peguis First Nation votes in favour of land designation

News Release

Peguis First Nation has taken a significant step towards creating an Urban Economic Development Zone within the City of Winnipeg.

The community held a referendum vote for a land designation on Jan. 13 with polling stations located at 1075 Portage Ave. and in the Peguis Reserve 1B.

The overwhelming majority (98 per cent) of eligible Peguis First Nation members who cast ballots voted in favour of designating the land at 1075 Portage Ave. Broadly speaking, the purpose of the designation is to allow for the property to be leased for a variety of purposes. The designation is one of the many steps required to convert the land to reserve.

"We are pleased with the results," stated Nathan McCorrister, executive director of Peguis First Nation Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Implementation Unit. "We purchased 1075 Portage Ave. in May of 2014 as part of the Peguis TLE Land Acquisition Strategy, and this vote plays an integral role in achieve our goal of creating an urban reserve."

The land covers approximately 3.5 acres on Portage Avenue at Dominion Street, the former site of MPI/Driver's Licensing that includes over 200 park-

ing stalls. It currently houses the CP Business Centre, 69,000-square-foot office complex that has been renovated to accommodate over a dozen entities — including high-profile tenants such as Peguis First Nation, First Peoples Economic Growth Fund, Creative Retirement and the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce. The remaining suites in the building are open for all professional future tenants.

"This vote shows our desire to reclaim our traditional lands in Treaty 1 Territory," added Chief Cindy Spence. "This economic development zone launches the presence of Peguis First Nation within the City of Winnipeg. It will not only help our community, but will be a tremendous asset to the City of Winnipeg."

Peguis First Nation identified the need to develop a strategy to help advance the community now and for future generations. The Peguis First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan has been fundamental in bringing the vision for Peguis First Nation into reality. The plan identifies goals and objectives in regards to TLE and economic development. The referendum vote is a clear indication that Peguis First Nation is one step closer to realizing their goals and vision of the future.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

Chief Cindy Spence believes that the land designation will be a tremendous asset for Peguis First Nation members and the City of Winnipeg.

letters

I thought this government would be different

Dear editor,

The new federal Liberal government came in like a breath of fresh air after the stifling Harper years. But new governments tend to throw out everything the previous administration had pursued or enacted. And that is a mistaken policy. For instance, surely the Harper government didn't do everything wrong.

I thought this government would be different, but apparently not. Case in point – the Harper government legislated that First Nations chiefs

must be accountable for the money they receive from the taxpayer.

It seems to me that the Liberal government has rescinded this, and First Nations chiefs are no longer accountable. This is just outright wrong.

I would like to tell Justin Trudeau to be more prudent in changing the direction of the government of Canada.

Harvey Benson
Gimli

> GET FISHING, FROM PG. 6

to a big portable shack. As I came to it, three younger anglers emerged waving. One angler, a big chap named Jeff Thomas, was from Selkirk while his sister Lindsey Thomas and brother Brandon Thomas were from Winnipeg.

Yes, I ran into more Thomases purely by accident. Jeff said they were catching a lot of perch and one of them was a master size at 13 inches. He laughed, recalling last summer when he was fishing on the Red. He had caught a fish, and as he reeled it in, it was splashing about on the surface of the water. A seagull, seeing

an opportunity for food, swooped down and grabbed it. Jeff didn't like that. This was his fish and no sneaky seagull was going to steal it.

The seagull was just as determined to keep it. Jeff pulled and reeled in as the seagull, with the fish in its mouth, careened in the air like a kite out of control. Finally, Jeff's hook came out of the fish's mouth and the seagull, adding insult to injury, flew right over him with the fish in its beak as if to say "I win!" It's these funny happenings that make fishing so much fun.

Bye for now.

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RM Bifrost-Riverton to overhaul its Public Works Department

By Patricia Barrett

At a regular meeting on Jan. 13, RM Bifrost-Riverton's council proposed to revamp its Public Works Department.

Deputy Reeve and Coun. Dave Shott, who sits on the Public Works Committee, said a review of the department had been completed.

Council said it would discuss that review in camera (privately).

What council did discuss was contractor billing, the need for better communication with and oversight of contractors, and a method of prioritizing projects.

"We're not getting bills in from contractors," said Shott, "so we don't know where our budget is."

A delay in receiving bills makes budgetary matters complex for councillors.

"No one knows what they're spending in their wards," said Shott. "We'll go through our internal bills — labour, fuel and machinery bills — and compare them to contractor tenders."

Coun. Colin Bjarnason said, "Each ward is allotted so much money, and I don't have a clue how much I have."

Shott agreed. "I thought I had spent virtually nothing and I was \$8,000 down."

Coun. Donald Vigfusson asked interim CAO Cindy Stansell to provide a breakdown of contractor bills and purchase orders by ward.

Project management was another area council said should be looked at.

"If we get a proper manager," said Shott, "we can do [work] cheaper."

To improve the system of assigning projects, he proposed "splitting the RM in two."

He said councillors should select projects in their wards and bring them to the table for review.

"We'll do projects by need," he said. "Some wards need more work."

Oversight of contractors was another issue council said it will examine.

Coun. Morley Nordal said a major drain in his ward was completed by a contractor, but it wasn't done right.

"Once the bill is in and it's paid," said Nordal, "we have no retribution. I had to spend a big whack of money to fix it."

He said having a manager sign off on a job when it's completed would help ensure work is done properly.

Council also discussed having policies in place to deal with issues that commonly crop up, such as the ownership of mud.

"They dig a ditch and they think it's their mud," said Shott. "Sometimes it's ours, sometimes the property owners."

Stipulating exactly what the RM expects from a contractor will be reviewed and policies written where required.

"A lot of contractor work is just digging," said Shott. "They don't spread mud or install culverts."

And some contractors show up without their own signs, flags and culverts.

"Or we're delivering culverts for them or taking out road signs," he said.

He also called for an inventory of RM-owned items and a record of who's taking what.

A job posting for a Public Works Manager is available on the RM's website with a closing date of Feb. 5.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Work that is contracted out, such as this section of Highway 68 about a mile west of Geysir in the RM Bifrost-Riverton, will be subject to new RM procedures.

Other council briefs:

The reeve and councillors approved a new indemnity bylaw giving them a two per cent pay rise effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Bylaw No. 1-2016 establishes the indemnities and expenses for members of council, sets out new compensation rates and replaces Bylaw No. 3-2015.

Every year, the RM is required to pass an indemnity bylaw.

Councillors are compensated for attending to municipal business, for expenses incurred while attending to municipal business, and for any other purpose relating to municipal business that council considers appropriate, according to the 2016 bylaw.

The reeve will receive an annual compensation (excluding expenses) of \$12,061.50. Members of council will receive an annual compensation (excluding expenses) of \$8,767.00.

Expenses which are eligible for compensation include attendance at committee or board meetings, the supervision of public works, travel expenses, travel beyond municipal boundaries and living expenses.

Councillors will be paid \$22.95 per hour for less than a half-day (four hours) of attendance at meetings of committees or boards, plus travelling and living expenses. They will be paid \$99 for half a day and \$196.75 for a whole day (eight hours). Councillors will also receive \$0.44 per kilometre travelled.

Councillors representing the municipality and who travel beyond municipal boundaries will be paid the same indemnity, travelling and living expenses as set out in the preceding paragraph, plus \$0.44 per kilometre travelled.

Councillors who act as road commissioners or who supervise work pertaining to public works will receive \$22.95 per hour and \$0.44 per kilometre travelled.

Each member will also receive a monthly communication allowance of \$75.

An indemnity bylaw from two years ago (2014) was available on the RM's website at press time. It showed annual compensation (excluding expenses, communication allowance and kilometre compen-

sation) to be \$11,592.50 for the reeve and \$8,426.73 for councillors.

Council passed a resolution to write off \$302,582.79 as bad debt (Bad debt is defined as money that can't be collected).

"It's for a temporary dike the province won't pay for," said Reeve Harold Foster.

As reported in a Feb. 2015 *Interlake Enterprise* article, sandbags were placed at Pebble Beach and Balaton Beach in 2014 as a preventative measure against anticipated storm surges on Lake Winnipeg. The RM had asked the province to cover the cost under the Disaster Financial Assistance program. The storm event did not occur.

The interim CAO advised council it would have to pass a resolution to write it off. "The auditor needs our resolution to write it off," she said.

Last year, the province installed a permanent earthen dike at Pebble Beach.

Coun. Nordal, who sits on the Fire Committee, said there were a host of issues over the Christmas break with regard to the Arborg-Bifrost Fire Department.

No discussion about those issues ensued as the matter was deferred to an in-camera hearing.

As reported by the *Express* (Dec. 24), Fire Chief George Chyzy had taken a leave and was replaced by Operational Deputy Chief Leroy Loewen until Jan. 1, 2016.

Effective Jan. 18, the RM's satellite office in Riverton will reduce its hours from three days a week to two. Council had discussed reducing the hours at a Nov. 12 meeting, citing the need to improve efficiency.

The office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Council discussed its social media presence (it has a Twitter account @BifrostRiverton) and the need to promote more Riverton businesses on the site in addition to Arborg businesses.

Coun. Chad Johnson reported that Premier Selinger was in Riverton Jan. 7 to launch Phase II of the Icelandic River Lodge construction project, which will provide more supportive and affordable housing choices for seniors in the Interlake.

Evergreen School Division proposes plan to train students for health-care jobs

By Patricia Barrett

Evergreen School Division plans to offer health-care programs to students in Grade 12 and to adults as a way to support Arborg's personal-care home project that's waiting for final approval from the province.

Ruth Ann Furgala, chair of the Evergreen School Division Board of Trustees, spoke of the benefits of the plan at Bifrost-Riverton's regular council meeting Jan. 13 and asked for support.

The school division needs the RM's approval before it can take the proposal to the province.

It plans to offer a health-care aide (HCA) program starting February 2017 and a licensed practical nursing (LPN) program starting this September.

"We have room in our schools," said Furgala. "Let's use that infrastructure."

She said students in Riverton and Arborg collegiates can be "moved back and forth" between schools depending on when individual courses will be run. The school has a similar arrangement with its joint band and choir program.

The health-care aide program can be completed in four months and will be offered during the latter half of Grade 12. Students can complete their required high school courses by second term and move straight into the cer-

tificate program.

"Our students can graduate with Grade 12 and a health-care aide certificate," said Furgala.

She said the major benefit of the arrangement is that it is free. The school division has partnerships with Red River College and Assiniboine Community College.

Furgala said the school division will also collaborate with the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, which will run the proposed care home. If the PCH receives government approval, it is expected to open in 2019.

"We'll work with the IERHA to get these courses in our schools," she said.

The two-year licensed practical nursing diploma program will be run a little differently. Students will be able to enrol after they've graduated.

Both programs will be open to adults at a competitive cost.

The RM has already made training arrangements with Fieldstone Ventures in Ashern. The organization offers adult literacy, computer and business courses, and employment assistance to adults in the northwest Interlake region.

"We're on track in March to use Fieldstone Ventures to train LPNs and HCAs," said Coun. Morley Nordal.

"We don't need them," said Furgala.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Ruth Ann Furgala, who chairs Evergreen School Division's Board of Trustees, spoke with councillors about the division's plan to offer health care programs in its schools.

"[Fieldstone] is a wonderful asset to your community, but it will jeopardize [the programs] going into our school, and getting a free HCA certificate at no cost because it's in our schools."

Furgala said she has already spoken with Economic Development Officer Pat McCallum, who had organized the training with Fieldstone last year and has been working closely with the organization.

"I told her if you move forward, we'll compete with you," said Furgala. "The government won't support both pro-

grams."

Reeve Harold Foster said having the school division train health-care workers for the proposed PCH might be more cost-effective.

"If we go to the schools, there's no cost to us," said Foster. "We'll be paying heating and renovations [for a training facility] if we go the other way."

The reeve asked Furgala to submit a written proposal, which council will then consider.

Memorial hockey tournament honours a life cut short

By Jeff Ward

The 4th Annual Brody Gleich Memorial Hockey Tournament will honour Brody Gleich, who was tragically killed in a car accident.

The money raised through the event helps support the Eriksdale Recreation Centre and other worthwhile causes in the community.

On April, 5, 2012, Brody was involved in a rollover that tragically cut his life short at the age of 18. His friends and family organize the annual hockey tournament to remember the young man while raising funds for the arena that Brody loved so much.

The tournament will take place Feb. 5-7 with eight teams taking to the ice for a fun tournament.

"Brody loved hockey. That was his

thing — he just wanted to play and have fun, and that's what this tournament is all about," said Jacalyn Gleich, Brody's mother.

"We have people who've never skated or even played a game of hockey. We have all different ages playing, and the only objective is to show up and have fun. We've had players who can't skate backwards or can't stop, but it doesn't matter."

There are no prizes and each team is guaranteed four games. The \$250 entry fee and all money raised — including silent auction funds — will be divided among community programs that are important to the organizers. The first year the tournament was held, \$2,500 was donated to the Jaws of Life, which first responders had to

use to pry Brody from his car.

The event has become very popular and raises a significant amount of money for the community.

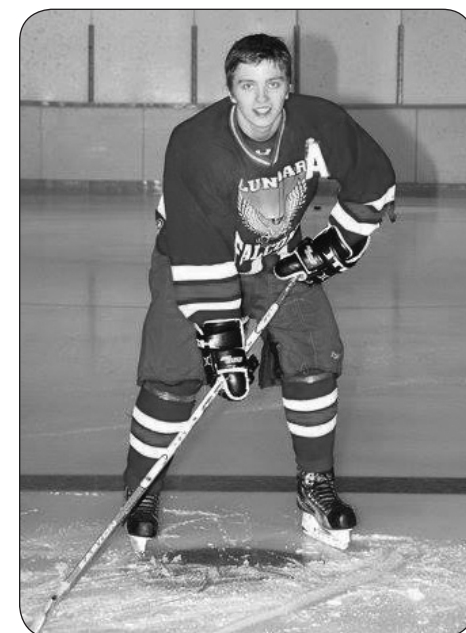
Last year, \$6,300 was raised, with \$3,500 being donated to the arena. Each year a portion of funds is donated to the arena because of how important the arena was to Brody and because of how integral the arena is to keeping the tournament going.

"Brody touched a lot of people with his sense of humour and contagious smile. His passing affected a lot of people in the surrounding communities and that is why this tournament is such a success," said Jacalyn Gleich.

Due to the length of games, there is only room for eight teams in the tournament and all of those spots have been filled.

However, Jacalyn Gleich still encourages fans to come out to watch some fun hockey and to take part in the silent auction and beer gardens.

The first game starts at 7 p.m. on Feb. 5 at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The 4th Annual Brody Gleich Memorial Hockey Tournament will raise funds for local organizations while honouring the memory of Gleich, who was tragically killed in a car accident in 2012.

"BRODY TOUCHED A LOT OF PEOPLE WITH HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR AND CONTAGIOUS SMILE."

> MALANKA, FROM PG. 10

Raelene started dancing with Reechka when she was five. Thirty-one years later, she still occasionally dances with the adults. Although she hasn't danced for a few years, she said you never forget the steps.

"When you have dancing as part of your life," she said, "it just comes naturally."

Kiera Chwaliboga, one of Reechka's Junior dancers, performed in the Hutzel and Hopak. Her dad, Tom, who oversees programs at the Arborg Recreation Centre, said she has been dancing for about four years.

The acrobatic feats of Senior dancer Bryce Dubek had the audience oohing and ahing. Lifted to the ceiling by a group of dancers, Dubek hit his head on a tile.

"It didn't hurt," said Dubek afterwards. "I just pushed it out of the way and brushed off my head."

During the Hopak, which he and Jaden Kochan and Keegan Stefanson performed with the girls in the Intermediate level, Dubek did the splits several feet above the stage and performed backwards handstands.

After the performances, the club served supper.

Marty Friesen, who led the 400 or so celebrants through grace, reflected on the year that was, noting the ongoing crises in both Ukraine and Syria and their impact on civilians. He gave thanks for all the riches the Arborg community enjoys — food, heat, free health care and peace.

"We want to thank those in government agencies who help us live in a civilized society," said Friesen.

At the evening's celebration was NDP Interlake MLA and Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship Tom Nevakshonoff.

He and his wife Rozanne Imlah, along with Riverdale Place board member Ross Fridfinnson, socialized and enjoyed the performances and the supper.

The Reechka club organized a magnificent feast, which included turkey, cabbage rolls, meatballs, coleslaw, salad, pyrizhky, vegetables and desserts.

"The food was a joint effort by the club's parents," said Lynette Oliver, president of the Reechka Dance Club and Co-op food store manager. "The club buys the groceries and hires a cook."

All the meat, she said, was donated by Interlake Co-op president Reg Perry, who also attended the celebration.

She also helps fundraise. The dance club's recent fundraising efforts resulted in the purchase of the movable stage that was set up in the hall.

"We were able to purchase the stage extension for future events in the hall," said Oliver. "And we'll be buying a trailer to haul it around to indoor and outdoor events."

After supper, the dancers held an auction to raise additional funds for the club.

Auctioneer Joseph Stogrin from Little Joe's Auctions in Arborg donated his services to the event. He encouraged the audience to bid for items such as blouses from Ukraine, Winnipeg Jets tickets, a handmade wooden table and six Senior dancers (to supply two hours of labour).

A dance band called Destiny drew dancers and celebrants to the floor for polkas and the Chicken Dance. Later in the evening, Reechka's adult dancers performed, and the Kolomeyka, a fast-paced folk dance, showcased the club's dancing skills.

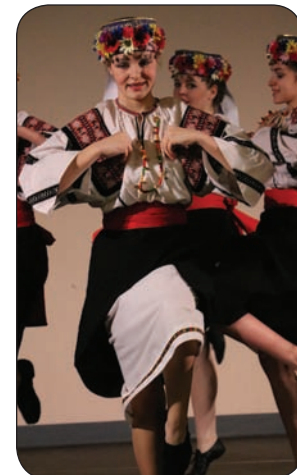


EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Senior Reechka dancer Bryce Dubek hit his head on a ceiling tile during the Hopak.



Hutzel performed by Intermediate girls.



Intermediate girls fly high during the Hutzel.



Bryce Dubek flew high above the stage as Jaden Kochan kicked up his heels.



Kiera Chwaliboga, who has been with Reechka for about four years, performed a Hutzel.



Diego Blandford and Brandon Burak swung their partners around during the Hopak.

Interim water and sewer rates approved for Gimli



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Coun. Danny Luprypa said Hydro should adjust its billing to account for street light outages Gimli has been experiencing over the past several months.

By Patricia Barrett

At its regular meeting on Jan. 13, Gimli council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 144-001, which sets out new water and sewer rates for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Sewer rates are down, but water will cost slightly more.

In December, the Public Utilities Board approved interim rates for 2016 in Order No. 144/15.

The government agency regulates the rates charged for all water and sewer utilities outside Winnipeg. It also oversees Hydro, Centra Gas, MPI and cemeteries.

With the Diageo distillery now using the RM's wastewater services, the PUB plans to hold a public hearing in spring to review the rates. It had expressed concern that the RM's wastewater rates had been set too low.

"You must provide something to reserves and something to contingencies," said King. "The PUB is [now] satisfied that it allows enough for reserves."

She said the PUB "left all the numbers the same. It's a positive."

That said, the PUB can still change the rates after the hearing.

As reported by the *Express* (Jan. 7), acting CAO Kristin Strachan said it is standard for the PUB to hold hearings whenever a large industrial user gets hooked up to a sewer system.

In 2014, the RM had submitted its proposed rates for 2015, 2016 and 2017, but delays at the PUB held up the approval process for about two years.

Gimli's water system is still "challenged," said King, referring to cast iron pipes from 1957. The acidity in the soil works away at the pipes, causing them to rot.

"We do have a water protocol we follow when a pipe breaks," she said. That includes advisory notices, additional chlorination and reports to the Office of Drinking Water.

The RM needs about \$10 million to run the town's water system.

"One of the things we struggle with is utilities," said King.

Provincial funding for capital projects is not enough to upgrade the water system.

"We're so busy repairing it, we can't replace it," she said.

Other council briefs:

There has been a significant improvement in street lighting in Gimli, council reported. For a number of months, the town has been experiencing flickering lights and outages, prompting calls from residents.

Hydro is converting street lamps to LED bulbs.

Coun. Danny Luprypa asked whether the town has received a reduction on its utility bills for the outage periods.

"We haven't been advised," said King.

Luprypa said council should follow up with Hydro about a billing adjustment.

King said she will contact Hydro.

The town's new fire hall "is coming along nicely," reported Luprypa.

It is expected to be finished at the end of March. Council made a progress payment of about \$168,000 to Crane Steel, a contractor that specializes in metal buildings.

In light of a few recent false alarms, council agreed to review its False Alarm Bylaw No. 14-0010.

Two false alarms result in written warnings. A third false alarm results in a \$250 fine. Council is considering reinstating a previous fine of \$500.

There's a considerable cost to mobilizing firefighters and trucks whenever a false alarm occurs, said King. And when the RCMP is mobilized, it reduces available personnel who may be required for serious situations.

"It can be prevented," she said. "It's about placing smoke alarms in ways in which they won't be set off."

Gimli received a \$15,000 grant from the provin-

cial government through the Community Places Program to enhance its Sport Park.

A picnic shelter with a canopy will be built to provide much-needed shade for people attending games in the summer.

The Community Places Program provides funds for construction, upgrading or expansion of facilities that are part of projects providing recreation or wellness benefits.

Council appointed Anthony J. Reid, a chartered accountancy firm based in Winnipeg, as municipal auditor for 2016.

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Extracurricular activities, a labour of love for Drews

By Jeff Ward

For 30 years Eriksdale School's phys-ed teacher Brad Drews has created and maintained extra curricular activities for the students.

Drews organizes the lunch hour and after-school activities. Students have enjoyed nearly every sport imaginable, all because of the incredible dedication of Drews.

Drews has dedicated thousands of volunteer hours to making sure that there is always something for students to participate in after school. Drews says he always had activities to do when he was a kid and it's been a goal of his to make sure that those activities are always available for students. Hockey, curling, skating, baseball, basketball, badminton and just about any other sport you can think of have been organized and played throughout the school year in Eriksdale.

"I learn something from the kids every day, and every day I'm with the kids, I learn how to be a better person. I get a lot of support from my wife and the co-operative staff. The kids are also very co-operative and help run the tournaments," said Drews.

Currently the focus is on the winter activities with skating, hockey and curling as the main activities. Students will also partake in snowshoe-

ing, skiing and even outdoor curling throughout the winter months.

Drews said that he's seen students really come into their own when given these activities after school. Students who are normally quiet and reserved can become leaders when put in competitive situations. He says that sports don't build character, but it will bring out the character in you.

"What's so exciting is to see some of these kids go on into their branch of sport and continue playing. I like going and watching them to see how they're doing. Some students I've had have become teachers, too, right in our own division. I'm always impressed to see what these kids become," said Drews.

Drews' passion for sports and games is what he uses to get students engaged in the after-school programs he puts together. He said that if the students see how much fun he has with a particular sport or game, it makes them want to try it. However, if they don't like it and decide it's not something for them, Drews is happy they gave it a shot anyways. It's all about the students having fun.

Drews' involvement stretches far beyond just organizing sports and tournaments, as he also helps outfit

ing and watching them to see how they're doing. Some students I've had have become teachers, too, right in our own division. I'm always impressed to see what these kids become," said Drews.

Drews' passion for sports and games is what he uses to get students engaged in the after-school programs he puts to-

"I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED TO SEE WHAT THESE KIDS BECOME."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD

The final score of the game came down to millimetres as Brad Drews (centre) helped students measure the final two rocks. Pictured from left to right; Abby Ryden, Slater Farthing, Brad Drews, Emily Weatherburn, Dawson Torgerson and Connor Bishop.

students with the gear needed to play. Parents and community residents donate used skates, balls, baseball gloves and other pieces of gear so that Drews is able to make sure that every student can participate.

"We try and get the whole school into skates in January and February and I try to not turn anybody down — if they want to play, we'll fit them in," noted Drews.

Even after three decades, Drews shows no signs of slowing down, and stopping isn't anywhere on his radar. He says there is a personal fulfillment he gets from being able to offer these activities that would be very hard to give up.

"I do this because I love it and I like to see the kids have fun. It's too big a part of my life to think about giving it up."

Dunnattor, Oak Hammock Marsh among winners

Staff

The province has unveiled the 2015 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award recipients, honouring both private and public organizations who are actively promoting sustainability across Manitoba.

"These awards bring well-deserved recognition to individuals, organizations, communities and businesses that are enhancing sustainability in our province," Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Tom Newakshonoff said in a release earlier this month. "Congratulations to these award winners for their hard work, and for taking action and creating awareness of sustainable development."

This year's award for outstanding achievement went to FortWhyte Alive. FortWhyte Alive is an environmental and sustainable living centre that teaches and demonstrates the

cornerstones of sustainability. It provides environmental education, natural and cultural heritage programs and outdoor recreation opportunities. FortWhyte Alive has been working to enhance the sustainability of its operations through actions and targets to increase sustainability in energy, emissions and transportation, water use, waste diversion and procurement. The Village of Dunnattar also won the Innovation and Research for Sustainability award.

Dunnattar undertook almost 10 years of research and testing to develop a low-cost, low-maintenance method of reducing nutrients in the effluent being released from municipal lagoons. Following a successful pilot project, a full-scale passive filter using natural media was constructed in 2014 that has met or exceeded all testing parameters.

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive

Centre also received an honourable mention for their efforts to increase public understanding of the values of wetlands and encourages public support for their conservation through innovative education and outreach programs.

The centre has welcomed more than two million visitors since it opened in 1993, connecting them with the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Sigurbjorg Stefansson School in Gimli received the Education for Sustainability award. Education for sustainability has been a key focus at Sigurbjorg Stefansson School and it has participated in the Eco-Globe Recognition Program since 2009.

The school has focused on enhancing the classroom culture by utilizing the natural environment. Successful initiatives include the creation of outdoor learning spaces, an outdoor classroom, a greenhouse and raised

crop gardens that create opportunities for hands-on learning.

Other notable award winners include:

- Aki Energy, Winnipeg – action on climate change, air quality and energy efficiency;
- Skownan First Nation, Skownan – sustainability in water and natural area stewardship;
- Lake Friendly, South Basin Mayors and Reeves, Winnipeg – sustainability in pollution prevention and product stewardship;
- Stantec, Winnipeg – champion for sustainability; and
- NorWest Community Food Centre, Winnipeg – sustainable community.

The Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Awards honour people, projects and ideas that successfully turn the province's principles and guidelines of sustainable development into concrete and lasting achievements.

Songs about Lake Winnipeg get a 'musical makeover'

By Dave Baxter

An old record that celebrates one man's love for Lake Winnipeg has been pulled out and dusted off for a whole new generation.

Back in 1970, singer-songwriter Sol Sigurdson of Riverton released the album *The Lake Winnipeg Fisherman*, which features folk songs about the life of people who live and work around Lake Winnipeg.

When members of the Lake Winnipeg Foundation (LWF) heard the album, they liked what they heard and decided to ask Manitoba artists to give the songs a "musical makeover."

"One of our board members had the original vinyl and pulled it out and shared it with us, and we knew immediately we could do something to revive it for a new generation," LWF executive director Alexis Kanu said.

The foundation embarked on a project that saw local artists record cover versions of four of the songs and create an EP called *Love, Lake Winnipeg: A tribute to the songs of Sol Sigurdson*.

All proceeds from the EP and an EP release party held last Thursday in Winnipeg will now go towards the LWF and the work that they do.

Kanu said the lyrics on the record are a celebration of Lake Winnipeg, and that is why they wanted to bring it back to life.

"It's so specifically tied to people and places on Lake Winnipeg. It's an intimate picture of life in the communities around the lake that I think people can relate to today as well as they could all those years ago," Kanu said. "Sol was writing mainly about his experience of being a fisherman, but I think the spirit of community is something that people can connect with."

But first the LWF had to find Sigurdson, who is currently living in Edmonton where the 80-year-old is a retired university professor.

"So when the idea was presented to him, he was on board from the get-go," Kanu said.

Once the foundation had Sigurdson on board, they brought on former The Weakerthans frontman John K. Samson to find artists and produce the EP.

The LWF wants the EP to be a source of good news about Lake Winnipeg.

"We tend to encounter Lake Winnipeg when there is bad news whether it's algae blooms or zebra mussels and it is important to recognize those challenges, but we also want to celebrate the lake because of what it means to so many people," Kanu said.

The new EP and a CD of Sigurdson's original album will now be sold through the LWF, and Sigurdson said



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAKE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION
Singer-songwriter Sol Sigurdson strums his guitar by Lake Winnipeg in Gimli in 2014. Sigurdson's 1970 album *The Lake Winnipeg Fisherman* has been given a musical makeover for a new generation.

he is excited to see his music "brought to a new generation."

"The music is about me and others fishing on the lake, but it's also about the people that are gathered around these places and the activities that go on," Sigurdson said. "There are songs about parties and dances and all these things that were going on, and songs about people making a living from fishing that lake."

Sigurdson said the original album sold about 3,000 copies and he knows there are people that still listen to it, but he was not expecting artists to want to cover his music.

"I was really surprised, but it is a project so dear to my heart that if they want to use it in any way, then that is just great."

Love, Lake Winnipeg: A tribute to the songs of Sol Sigurdson features music by DJ Co-op, Mise en Scene, Scott Nolan, John K. Samson and Jess Reimer.

For information on how to get a copy of the EP, call the Lake Winnipeg Foundation at 204-956-0436.

ASK the Professionals?

Question

Should my spouse and I have a joint will or separate wills?



Duncan E. Geisler, Lawyer

Answer

Estate planners almost universally advise against joint wills, and some provinces don't even recognize them. Odds are you and your spouse won't die at the same time, and there's probably property that's not jointly held. That's why separate wills make better sense, even though your will and your spouse's will might end up looking remarkably similar.

In particular, separate wills allow for each spouse to address issues such as ex-spouses and children from previous relationships. Ditto for property that was obtained during a previous marriage. Be very clear about who gets what. Intestate laws generally favor the current spouse.

**For more information contact
Duncan E. Geisler LL.B.**

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Question

What is the difference between a 'Broad Form' and a 'Comprehensive Form' property insurance policy?



Kerry Petersen

Answer

Both the Broad and the Comprehensive Form policies provide All Risk coverage on your home and detached structures. The major difference is with the coverage on your contents. Comprehensive covers your contents on the same All Risk basis however, a Broad Form covers Named Perils only, meaning only those perils as listed in your policy wordings (like fire, smoke, burglary, vandalism). Common items not covered on a Broad Form policy include accidental damage, certain types of water and smoke damage, mysterious disappearance and power surge.

A Comprehensive Form policy will therefore have a slightly higher annual premium than a Broad Form policy.

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Cooley's Ice Park shaping up in Gimli

By Patricia Barrett

Last Wednesday, Stonewall artist Ralph Tanchak was atop his industrial-strength ladder in Cooley's Ice Park in Gimli carving a lighthouse with his snow chisel. Using barbecue skewers for markers, Tanchak chipped away the snow and checked all the angles with a carpenter's level.

The slight increase in temperature didn't have the snow sculptor worried, although he did point out a few tiny areas on the lighthouse that were starting to melt.

"Things like leaves, grass, dirt pellets, sand or gravel — all these particles speed up the deterioration of the snow block or sculpture," said Tanchak.

Around a twig the size of a sewing needle, a small circle of ice had formed — the start of the melting process.

"Sometimes it's tough to get clean snow," said Tanchak.

To prep the ground for the hockey-

themed sculpture he'll be carving in his yard in Stonewall, the versatile artist cleared away as much woody debris as possible in the autumn.

Rather than shovel it in, Tanchak prefers to blow snow into the wooden forms that set the blocks like Jell-O.

"The snow that goes through a blower — it breaks down into smaller particles and packs together tightly with little space for air."

Tanchak took first prize at Festival du Voyageur in 2009 for a rose sculpture, which made him eligible for the 2010 International Snow Sculpting Symposium. For that, he carved the head of a thunderbird, killer whales and an Inukshuk to represent the West Coast for the Vancouver Olympics.

"I'm nowhere near Michelangelo," said Tanchak, who will be heading to Festival du Voyageur after he completes Gimli's snow sculptures.

Tanchak's wife, Patricia, who creates textile art, came out later in the week to polish his skates.



The skates sculpture in front of the children's skating rink awaits a bit of polishing.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Ralph Tanchak worked on the second of his fifth snow sculpture — a lighthouse — in Cooley's Ice Park last Wednesday.

RM of West Interlake website remains in limbo

By Jeff Ward

It's been a full year since the designing and building of a new website for the RM of West Interlake began. However, due to the uncertainty of the RM's future, that project continues to hang in a state of limbo with no real launch date in sight.

Work on the website was put on hold due to the ambiguous nature of the RM's future, according to Diane Bottrell, the Economic Development Officer (EDO) for the RM. The skeleton of the website was completed by All-Net

in the summer of 2015, and since then, no new work on it has been done.

"The pages have been set up and all that's left is to get all the information on them," said Bottrell, who's in charge of the project.

"We were waiting to see what the decision would be on what will happen to the RM, but there really isn't a date on when that decision is coming. We've waited long enough now, so I'll go ahead and start working on it very soon. We were hoping to have a decision made much sooner, and that's

why we decided to wait before finishing the website."

Bottrell said that there is an extensive amount of information that needs to go on the website. Events, public notices, meeting agendas, minutes and contact information of reeve and council as well as many other items. Bottrell explained that she didn't want to have to start over from scratch if the RM does split up, with Ward 1 becoming an LGD and Ward 2 staying as the RM of West Interlake.

However, Bottrell feels that it's more

important for the website to exist and for it to be a reliable way for residents to get information about the RM. She says that at the beginning of 2015, she and then-CAO Arlene Darknell worked diligently to brainstorm how they wanted a new website to look and function — how the landing page would look and what the most important information was and how to display that prominently.

"We also wanted it to be much more

Continued on page 16

Tiger Dam purchases unjustified, ombudsman rules

By Austin Grabish

Manitoba's ombudsman has ruled an attempt by the province to purchase \$5 million in untendered flood-fighting equipment was not justified.

But Steve Ashton — the minister who made the order despite concerns from civil servants who raised alarm bells over the matter — will stay in provincial cabinet, at least for now.

The 36-page report released by Manitoba Ombudsman Charlene Paquin last Thursday raises a number of questions over Ashton's attempt to have the province purchase \$5 million worth of flood tubes for five flood-prone Interlake First Nations in 2014.

Paquin said Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation "lacked sufficient justification" when it attempted to purchase the equipment branded as Tiger Dams without a tendered contract.

Her investigation found the department didn't conduct sufficient research that would justify the purchase of Tiger Dams, which are distributed in Manitoba by Peter Ginakes, a long-time Ashton campaign supporter.

"Some public servants believed that the \$5 million would have been better spent on a range of equipment," Paquin's report states.

But because the purchase attempt was stopped by the provincial Treasury Board and eventually went to tender, Paquin found no legislation was violated.

"Ultimately, this case is a cautionary

tale; a reminder that the civil service and elected officials need to work together for the common goal of providing fair, accountable service to the public," she said.

Ashton said in light of the ombudsman's report, he would do things differently, but he said the request to have Tiger Dams purchased came directly from the First Nations who were to get the equipment.

"I certainly make no apologies for the fact that we dealt with good faith with First Nations that were chronically flooded," he said. "They were the ones that put forward that they wanted this type of equipment."

Paquin's report says civil servants "immediately" questioned an invoice for the equipment that was sent by the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council to the province.

But, despite this, department staff were ordered to go ahead with the purchase.

"This was done with complete disregard to the advice of senior civil servants who were fulfilling their duty to provide expert advice and do what is right for all Manitobans," said Opposition house leader Kelvin Goertzen.

Goertzen and the opposition Tories want Ashton removed from cabinet, but Premier Greg Selinger said that won't be happening as the minister has "received a lesson."

A federal investigation into the matter remains ongoing.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY AUSTIN GRABISH

Manitoba's ombudsman has ruled an attempt by the province to purchase untendered flood-fighting equipment was not justified. But Steve Ashton, the minister who made the order despite concerns from civil servants who raised alarm bells over the matter, pictured above, will stay in provincial cabinet.



Does your cat have allergies?

Your beloved kitty may have an allergy if it's prone to frequent, intense scratching sessions, repetitive sneezing, vomiting or diarrhea.

POSSIBLE ALLERGENS

There are many substances that can cause allergies in cats:

- Mould, pollen and dust
- Flea saliva
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- Dietary proteins

Food allergies sometimes cause violent itching or intestinal disorders. No cat is immune to developing an allergy; in fact, itching and other symptoms can appear at any age, even in an animal that has been eating

the same food for years without having any problems.

A VETERINARIAN'S DIAGNOSIS

A visit to the vet will help you find the cause of your cat's allergy. After discussing your pet's symptoms with you, your vet will consider all the possible causes. Sometimes blood or skin tests may be done for maximum precision. In the case of a food allergy, the veterinarian will check your cat's diet carefully in order to isolate the allergen and then counsel you about which kind of food he or she will be able to tolerate.

Some allergies may take a while to disappear and require long-term treatment. However, they can usually be cured successfully through regular follow-up visits to the veterinarian.



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Park status for two former park reserves

By Patricia Barrett

The government created two new provincial parks in the Interlake from territory that had been designated park reserves in 2001.

Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park (14,490 hectares) and Kinwow Bay Provincial Park (8,400 hectares) are located near Kinonjeoshtegon (Jackhead) First Nation, which lies on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Tom Nevakshonoff had announced the creation of the new parks in a Dec. 22 news release.

At Arborg's Malanka celebration last Saturday, the minister spoke with the *Express Weekly News* about the ecologically sensitive area and future mining development.

"It's all peat moss type terrain," he said. "It's the best place to store carbon."

The government had sought public feedback early last year about whether the reserves should be "permanently protected from industrial developments by designating them as wilderness-class provincial parks," according to a March 2015 post on the Canadian Parks and Wildlife Service (Manitoba) website.

Manitoba has 86 provincial parks (protected in part or in their entirety from industrial development), according to *Building the parks province: a fresh and sustainable strategy for Manitoba's provincial parks*, a blueprint outlining how the province intends to strengthen the parks system.

An action plan is in the works to reduce mining in parks, according to the section on page 25: "To further enhance the natural state of our provincial parks, no new quarry leases and licenses for peat in existing or new parks will be issued."

The minister confirmed that no mining is permitted in Sturgeon and Kinwow parks.

There are, however, about 22 quarry leases (peat) in the area between the two parks, according to a database that is publicly accessible on the government's Mineral Resources website. The majority are in pending status. Some lie on the border of Sturgeon Bay Park and in the area of the lakes named after Saints.

A spokesperson in the minister's office said that although some licences for peat do exist, "no harvesting has occurred, nor is peat harvesting activity ongoing at this time."

For over 70 years, peat has been mined in Manitoba, representing 13 per cent of Canada's peat production, according to an April 2015 study by the Institute for Sustainable Development.

"Manitoba peat producers are interested in expanding mining activities in Manitoba's Interlake, and this report quantifies the implications of this expansion for Lake Winnipeg nutrient loading and Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions."

The Conservation spokesperson said there won't be any peat harvesting until "the holder of the licence applies for (and receives) an Environment Act Licence and submits an approved peatland recovery plan (in accordance with the new Peatlands Stewardship Act)."

Before companies such as Sunterra and Lambert — which have or had leases in the region of the new parks — can remove peat, they have to apply for a quarry exploration permit (valid for five years) through Mineral Resources. If the department approves that permit, the company then has to obtain a work permit from Conservation before it can start exploration activities.

The minister himself said new peat developments will be subject to "very strict" rules and regulations.

"We moved peat from Mines into



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Google Maps shows the Kinwow Bay and Sturgeon Bay Park Reserves on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg. The two ecologically sensitive areas were given permanent park status by the government in December.

Conservation about three months ago," said Nevakshonoff, who is also MLA for the Interlake. "We have to eliminate pollution going into Lake Winnipeg."

Protecting peat will reduce harmful nutrients from entering the lake and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"About 41 per cent of our province is peat," said Nevakshonoff. "The carbon that's sequestered in these peat areas is equal to Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions for 100 years."

The minister said he's "optimistic" more can be done to reduce emissions, and one way to achieve that includes working with the federal government.

"The new Liberal government is a breath of fresh air," he said. "We see a vast willingness to work on climate change."

Although the parks will help protect animal and plant species under threat of habitat loss, public enjoyment may prove difficult.

There are no roads, but outfitters may be allowed to set up in the parks, according to a government document titled *A proposal to designate Kinwow Bay and Sturgeon Bay park reserves as provincial parks*.

PC critic for conservation Shannon Martin (MLA Morris) said the new parks should be accessible to everyone.

"It's not unreasonable to say all Manitobans should be able to access the park, not just outfitters," he said.

Funding for infrastructure is part of park development, he said. And given the \$20 million cut to the Conservation budget, he wonders how well thought-out the move was to create them.

The government, he said, is having trouble managing existing parks.

Citing an incident from last spring in a park in the western part of the province, Martin said there was "no one manning the gates," which translated into a loss of provincial revenue. And a conservation office in Brandon was forced to close early because of staff shortages.

As to the government's plan to create 10 new or expanded parks in the next five years, he said, "There's no way. They'd be parks in name only."

"They're throwing anything green against the wall," said Martin. "The environment has never been in greater danger."

As election day draws nearer, the PC party will be releasing details about its conservation plans, he said.

In addition to Sturgeon and Kinwow, the government will be expanding Moose Lake Provincial Park and Pembina Valley Provincial Park. It will also be designating six new ecological reserves and expanding the Lewis Bog Ecological Reserve.

"Wherever we can designate a protected area, we will," said Nevakshonoff.

For a list of Manitoba's protected areas, visit www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/current_alpha.html.

> WEBSITE IN LIMBO, FROM PG. 16

user-friendly. When you go and see other good websites, you appreciate the ones that are easier to use. You don't want to have to click through 10 different things to find what you're looking for. That becomes way too frustrating for people," Bottrell said.

The cost of the website was \$4,595.30. With the infrastructure in place and Bottrell wanting the public to have access to the website. All that's left is to start putting the in-

formation on the pages.

No firm timeline on that exists right now, as Bottrell explained that many factors can change how quickly the website is completed. The biggest factor is the eventual decision about what the future of the RM is going to be which doesn't seem to be coming anytime soon. Whenever the website does go live, the older website for the former RM of Eriksdale and the former RM of Siglunes will be taken down.

Manitoba Public Insurance unveils top five frauds of 2015

News Release

Vehicle technology, good old-fashioned investigation skills and strong partnerships with police agencies were major factors in helping identify those people who tried to defraud Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI).

Fraudulent and suspicious claims are handled by Manitoba Public Insurance's Special Investigation Unit (SIU). The efforts of this special unit resulted in fraud savings last year of \$7.6 million for Manitoba auto insurance rate payers. The SIU investigates about 2,500 claims yearly.

Anyone knowing someone who is involved in auto insurance fraud is encouraged to call the Manitoba Public Insurance TIPS Line: 204-985-8477 or toll-free 1-877-985-8477. All calls are anonymous.

No. 1: Crash Data Recorder Tells All

A Winnipeg man stated that he had been the victim of two consecutive hit-and-runs. On the same night.

The man told MPI investigators that he was struck from behind by a dark SUV while driving in rural Manitoba. The driver of the SUV did not stop, so the man quickly went into pursuit mode. A short time later, the vehicle owner claimed his vehicle was hit from the side by a truck — with the driver of the truck getting out and

fleeing to the original dark SUV.

This stranger-than-fiction story quickly resulted in an SIU investigation, at which time the crash data recorder indicated that the vehicle was parked at the time of the impacts. The man would be charged and later pleaded guilty to public mischief, receiving a fine of \$3,500. His claim was also denied, resulting in a saving of \$15,000 to Manitoba Public Insurance ratepayers.

No. 2: What the Hay!

Strangely, there was hay and dry grass stuffed into the vehicle's engine area. SIU investigators also discovered hay stuffed into the headlight areas of the vehicle. What the hay? Turns out the vehicle owner was trying to destroy his vehicle by setting it on fire.

The vehicle owner claimed he was attending a party out of the city and noticed a large fire in a hay field. As he told the story, he quickly jumped in his vehicle and, accompanied by a few pals, drove out to investigate.

The vehicle owner claims he emptied a fire extinguisher in failed attempts to snuff the fire. As he told his adjuster, the fire then engulfed his vehicle. But the story didn't add up. In addition to the suspicious placing of hay, the SIU arson investigator would

discover an accelerant had been liberally splashed throughout the passenger compartment.

Faced with all the facts, the vehicle owner chose to withdraw his claim. The savings to Manitoba Public Insurance customers was nearly \$14,000.

No. 3: Cruising For Trouble

The woman told her MPI adjuster that her vehicle had been stolen. What she didn't know was that MPI and the Winnipeg Police Service routinely share information.

Truth was, the vehicle was not stolen, the woman willingly gave the vehicle to a male friend, who police had attempted to stop during a traffic stop. Attending officers had clearly observed the woman sitting in the passenger's seat.

The woman was later arrested and pleaded guilty to public mischief. She was given 12 months probation and a conditional discharge.

No. 4: An Unlicensed Friend

The Winnipeg man told his MPI adjuster that his vehicle had been stolen after it was found badly damaged.

But in an interview with Winnipeg police, the vehicle owner said he had given his vehicle to a friend, who admitted he had been involved in two

collisions. The man also admitted he had no driver's licence, which was known by the vehicle owner. Winnipeg police would then share that information with MPI investigators.

Due to knowingly giving his vehicle to an unlicensed driver, the vehicle owner's theft claim was denied, a saving of \$34,000 to MPI and its customers.

No. 5: Not so Injured

A woman sustained injuries to her shoulder and back after being involved in a collision. She then began collecting benefits, including income replacement payments. As the months went on, she told her case manager that she was too injured to work.

However, the truth would soon become clear. An SIU investigation discovered the woman had in fact returned to work — specifically, she was now involved in a physically demanding agriculture position.

The woman would later plead guilty to Fraud Over \$5,000 and was sentenced to three years of supervised probation, including counselling, 200 hours of community service work and restitution of \$36,000.

Gov't approves all-in-one personal ID card

Staff

Manitobans will soon have access to a convenient, safe and secure all-in-one personal identification card (PIC).

"Response from the public was overwhelmingly positive," Health Minister Sharon Blady said in a release on Monday. "Not only do Manitobans embrace the convenience of carrying just one durable and tamper-proof card to access health care and other services, they also strongly believe the PIC will better protect against identify theft, forgery and fraud."

The PIC will integrate a person's health identification number (PHIN) onto the back of driver's licences and photo identification cards. The minister noted the PICs are expected to be issued starting as soon as the fall of 2017, and will be authenticated using industry-proven policies, procedures and practices currently in place at Manitoba Public Insurance. Manitoba Public Insurance already issues

photo identification to approximately 92 per cent of health card holders. The minister said anyone who requires a Manitoba Health Card will transition to a new PIC at no charge.

Once introduced, Blady noted the PIC will:

- offer the convenience of a durable, all-in-one card;
- use advanced technology to better protect cardholders against identity theft, forgery and fraud;
- ensure private information stays confidential;
- improve access to photo identification for low-income and homeless Manitobans; and
- help deliver the right services to the right person through easy photo identification of cardholder.

Manitoba Public Insurance launched a comprehensive five-week public and stakeholder consultation process last August. Blady said that through

public consultations, online feedback and telephone surveys, more than 4,000 Manitobans and 29 stakeholder organizations provided input.

The full consultation report is available for viewing on the MPI website at mpi.mb.ca.

"Positive feedback was provided by a wide spectrum of affected stakeholder groups," said Attorney General Gord Mackintosh, minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance. "In addition to receiving feedback from thousands of Manitobans, we heard from many interested stakeholders including Manitoba's francophone community, Indigenous representatives, social service agencies, health-care administrators and service providers. All of their suggestions will be considered as the initiative moves forward."

Blady said that while Manitoba Public Insurance will be accountable for

establishing and verifying identity, Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors will retain full responsibility for determining eligibility for health services, assignment of personal health information numbers and approving family relationships under health registration numbers for health-care billing and pharmacare deductible application purposes.

She also stressed that no personal health or drug records will be shared with Manitoba Public Insurance and no driver's licence information or driver history will be shared with Manitoba Health.

Blady added the PIC initiative will have no financial impact on MPI ratepayers and will improve personal identification for all Manitobans, particularly for homeless and low-income citizens who may not necessarily have had access to proper photo identification.

Arborg Curling Club hosting its 70th anniversary bonspiel

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg Curling Club will be hosting its 70th anniversary of the Northern Lights mixed curling bonspiel in early February.

"To celebrate a 70th anniversary is a huge milestone for this curling club," said club member Genni Hibbert.

For its 60th anniversary in 2006, the club had 54 teams and had to shuttle curlers to and from the Riverton Curling Club.

The club hosts a number of bonspiels every year. The 70th will take place Feb. 5, 6 and 7.

On Saturday, the club will host a supper at the Arborg Legion. The band Home Brew Line will be entertaining.

The cost is \$160 per team. Junior curlers pay half-price. There will be an elimination draw with \$2,000 in prizes.

To register, call Kim Masiak at (204) 376-2490 or Krista Borgfjord at (204) 376-2351.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Northern Lights curling bonspiel organizers, pictured left to right, Genni Hibbert, Brian Barylski (chairperson), Kyle Benson, Riley Foster, and Kyle Foster are excited to be celebrating 70 years of curling. The mixed bonspiel will be held in Arborg Feb. 5-7.

Amphibex fleet ready to attack ice along Red River

Province beefs up icebreaking machines with made-in-Manitoba solution

By Lindsey Enns

The province's four Amphibex ice-breaking machines will be better prepared to attack ice along the Red River north of Selkirk thanks to a recently installed made-in-Manitoba solution, according to Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Steve Ashton.

"These Amphibexes take a beating," Ashton said during a stop at the Amphibex maintenance building in East Selkirk, where all the machines are stored, last Thursday. "They're working from this timeframe well into the spring ... they're very effective, but when they take a beating, maintenance is an issue."

The roughly \$1.2 million icebreaking machines have now been retrofitted with a made-in-Manitoba solution to reinforce the front pedestal assembly supporting the critical hydraulic boom arms.

The boom pulls the Amphibex onto solid ice, allowing its weight to break up one metre or more thick ice into pieces.

"The 22-ton Amphibex machines are unique, impressive pieces of equipment that require annual maintenance and sometimes innovation. Manitoba's Amphibex team, led by North Red Waterway Maintenance Inc., will be ready to help reduce ice-jam-related flooding on the north Red

River next month," Ashton said. "Experience has shown how quickly ice-jam-related flooding can develop and the ice cutters, icebreaking machines and personnel will create a path for river ice to move."

Darrell Kupchik, director of operations for North Red Waterway Maintenance, said the ice is currently four to six inches thinner than it was this same time last year.

"However, we have a lot of winter left," Kupchik said. "The snow cover that is out there is getting compacted. There's a lot of recreational use of the river."

Ashton said the icebreakers are used across Manitoba and can be transported by heavy trucks when ice-jam issues develop on other rivers.

A two-person crew pilots the vessels with safety and support crews nearby.

The provincial ice-mitigation fleet consists of four Amphibex AE 400 icebreaking machines, seven ice-cutting machines and seven amphibious transport and support vehicles.

The icebreaking and ice-cutting equipment is operated and maintained by North Red Waterway Maintenance, a corporation formed by the rural municipalities of St. Andrews and St. Clements and the City of Selkirk with support from the Manitoba government.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

North Red Waterway Maintenance operators Brian Sparks and Dave Hoydalo check out one of the Amphibexes stored in East Selkirk last Thursday. The icebreaking machines have now been retrofitted with a made-Manitoba solution to better attack ice along the Red River north of Selkirk.

The Amphibex fleet crushes more than 25 kilometres of river ice annually.

"In any community, nothing is more devastating than floods and fires," Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson said. "These machines are out on the ice. We're cutting ice, breaking ice and we're making sure that the people in these communities are going to be safe."

Ashton said the machines are expected to hit the Red River north of

Selkirk on Feb. 22, which is nearly one week earlier than in previous years.

Notices will be posted in areas where they are working as a safety reminder for ice fishers, snowmobilers and other river users.

The province is also reminding ice fishers are reminded to remove huts or other material in the areas covered by the ice-mitigation program.

The first 2016 flood outlook is scheduled for release during the last week of February, Ashton added.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Arborg making big strides on the ice

Ice Dawgs stun Selkirk, edge Warriors in KJHL play

By Brian Bowman

The Arborg Ice Dawgs have been playing some real good hockey recently — and they're getting rewarded with some huge victories.

Arborg stunned the South Division-leading Selkirk Fishermen with an impressive 6-2 home win in Keystone Junior Hockey League action on Sunday.

"It was a big win, obviously, as we try to climb up the standings here at the end in the last quarter (of the season)," said Ice Dawgs' head coach Cody Didychuk. "It was a huge two points and it's always good to beat a divisional opponent."

Griffin Steeves and Drayton Mendrun scored first-period power-play goals for Selkirk but that would be all of the offence for the Fishermen.

Arborg, which held period leads of 3-2 and 4-2, received goals from six different players.

Cory Kuldys, Derric Gulay, and Neal Sigvaldason scored in the first period and then Connor Jonasson tallied in the second.

Colton Davies and Aaron Kristjansson then closed out the scoring in the third.

Didychuk likes to see balanced scoring from his lineup. He also likes seeing his club play well in all facets of the game.

"The team played well for the whole 60 minutes and our goaltending was spectacular," said Arborg's head

coach. "All of the lines were contributing. It was a good team win."

Jon Narverud played well in goal, stopping 40 shots for the win.

Last Saturday, Arborg edged the St. Malo Warriors 5-4 as Davies scored the game winner with 5:24 remaining in the third.

Davies, a Riverton product, had a very strong game with two goals and an assist while Joshua Boone, Cal Finnson and Jonasson also scored for Arborg.

Finnson's goal tied the score at 4-4 at 12:02 of the third period.

Jordy Hill, Robert Guimond, Dustin Wiebe and Jeff Froese scored for St. Malo.

Narverud made 43 saves for the win.

Arborg, now 13-11-0-2, hosted Selkirk last night but no score was available. The Ice Dawgs will then travel to Cross Lake on Saturday and Norway House Sunday.

On Tuesday, Arborg will battle the Satellites in north Winnipeg.

It's an important stretch of games for the surging Ice Dawgs.

"The goal is to get eight out of eight points but as long as we keep playing the way that we are, we'll just take it one game at a time and try to get the two points each night," Didychuk said. "Our improvement has been night and day. (The players) are starting to come together as a team."

The Lundar Falcons, meanwhile, were also in action last weekend,



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Ice Dawgs' Colton Davies had a very strong game against the St. Malo Warriors with two goals and an assist in Arborg's 5-4 win last Saturday.

splitting a pair of games.

Lundar lost 3-2 in a shootout to St. Malo at home on Friday and then rebounded nicely to soundly defeat Cross Lake 9-1.

Byron Spence and Bryce Horning each had three goals and an assist for Lundar against Cross Lake while Aldyn Gray scored once to go with four helpers.

Brandon Worthing and Jason Nikkel also scored for Lundar.

Jameson Scott scored Cross Lake's

lone goal in the first period, beating Falcons' netminder Randy Quick. Quick made 27 saves for the win.

Against St. Malo, Nikkel and Trent Laycock scored for Lundar while Brett Keith, on the power play, and Jared Magne replied for the Warriors.

Magne's goal tied the score at 2-2 with 8:27 left in the third.

Lundar (13-9-0-4) played at North Winnipeg this past Tuesday and then will battle the Storm in OCN on Saturday.

Lakers advance to home tourney final

By Brian Bowman

The Gimli Lakers lost 56-34 to the Selkirk Royals in the championship game of their varsity boys' home tournament Saturday evening.

Selkirk jumped out to a commanding 22-2 lead and cruised to the 22-point win.

Gimli started the tournament with a

convincing 50-26 win over Powerview and then edged Roblin 42-39.

At the Teulon Saints Invitational, meanwhile, Gimli defeated Morris 62-42 to win the consolation final.

Gimli had lost to Elton 71-53 but defeated St. Laurent 73-49 in the B-side semi-final. Gimli's Mackenzie Groot was named as one of the Kletke Seed

Farm all stars.

The Neepawa Tigers defeated the Boissevain Broncos 66-49 to win the tournament title. Neepawa reached the finals by defeating the Elton Sabres 56-39 in the semifinals and the St. Laurent Hawks 82-20.

Boissevain defeated the Teulon Saints 50-44 and the Morris Maver-

icks 55-50.

Elton beat Teulon 69-45 in the third-place game.

The other tournament all stars were Kyra Wiebe (Teulon), Isabelle King (Elton), Brooklyn Meruer (Boissevain) and Dani Hanke (Neepawa).

The tournament MVP was Joanna Plaza from Neepawa.

Hawks, Juniors pick up KJHL wins



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Hawks' Jarrett Hogue picked up a pair of wins last week.

By Brian Bowman

It was a pretty good week for the Fisher River Hawks.

Fisher River won two of three games last week, defeating North Winnipeg 5-4 and Norway House 9-2 before losing 12-11 to OCN in overtime last Sunday.

In Sunday's loss, defence was obviously ignored as both teams combined for 23 goals and 141 shots.

Darryl Thaddeus (four), Evan Thickfoot (three), Johnny Beaulieu (two), Jayden Catchway and Josh Beaulieu scored for the Hawks.

The victory over Norway House saw Fisher River score seven first-period goals and then two more in the third.

Josh Beaulieu (three), Johnny Beaulieu, Thaddeus, Chase Anderson, Tyler Kemball, Ty Stevens and Jared Thickfoot scored for the Hawks.

Jarret Hogue made 33 saves for the win.

In the victory over North Winnipeg, Brennan Cochrane tied the score at 4-4 with 2:15 remaining in the third and then Johnny Beaulieu sniped the game winner — and his second of the game — just 1:07 later.

Thaddeus and Dalton Woodhouse scored Fisher River's other goals.

Hogue stopped 39 North Winnipeg shots.

Fisher River (8-18-0-1) will visit the league-leading Peguis Juniors (22-4-0-2) tonight and then will host Selkirk (18-5-0-2) the next night.

On Sunday, the Hawks will visit OCN (20-5).

Peguis also had a good stretch of games last week as the Juniors blasted Norway House 17-4 on Saturday and 21-2 Sunday.

Peguis started the weekend by doubling Cross Lake 6-3 last Friday.

In the win over Cross Lake, Peguis trailed 3-2 midway in the third when Shaquille tied the score.

Tyler Woodhouse scored the eventual game winner with 4:47 remaining and then Romano Paul made it 5-3 just 37 seconds later.

Houle then sealed the win with an empty net goal.

Devon Garson and Woodhouse scored Peguis' other goals. Keesin Richard had three assists.

Tacan made 32 saves for the win.

High school hockey all-stars



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Keyara Lea (left) and Keyanna Lea, formerly of Riverton, were selected to play in the Winnipeg Women's High School Hockey League All-Star Day at the MTS Iceplex last Sunday. The Lea twins were two of 36 from Grades 9-12 chosen by the league to play in the signature event, showcasing some of the most skilled and talented female hockey players in Manitoba. Keyanna was also named second star of the game. The girls are in Grade 10 and play with the Kelvin Clippers.

Thistles prick Lightning twice in Teulon

By Brian Bowman

In a season full of struggles, the Interlake Lightning Midget Provincial hockey team has had its share of games that they would like to forget.

Last weekend definitely had two of those games.

The Kenora Thistles came to Teulon and rudely pricked the Lightning twice in lopsided fashion. Kenora won 7-3 on Saturday evening and then trounced Interlake 10-3 on Sunday afternoon.

In Sunday's loss, Kenora led 5-3 in the third period when it turned a close game into a rout with five goals in just over 16 minutes.

Codey Beaulieu scored a pair of power-play goals for the Lightning while Dylan Furgala tallied with the man advantage and also had an assist.

Karson Collins finished the game with two assists.

Jarod Price (three), Devon Krolyk

(two), Matthew Pitchenese (two), Trey Palermo, Adam Withers and Brendan Martin scored for Kenora.

On Saturday, Interlake took a 1-0 lead just 12 seconds into the game with a Riley Vautour goal.

Palermo tied the score late in the period and then Withers and Martin gave the Thistles a 3-1 lead after 40 minutes.

In the third, Beaulieu and Vautour scored for the Lightning but Withers, Skylar Lentz, Pitchenese and Martin replied for Kenora.

With the two losses last weekend, Interlake is now mired in a 12-game losing streak. The Lightning's last win came on Dec. 5 when they defeated the Thistles 7-5 in Kenora.

The Lightning (7-26) will continue their six-game homestand by hosting the high-flying Eastman Selects (32-0-0-1-1) on Friday (7:30 p.m.) and the Pembina Valley Hawks (5-25-0-1-1) Sunday (2 p.m.).

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Recreation Programmer

Position: Recreation Programmer - 40 hours per week. The Programmer will assist the Recreation Department in delivery and expansion of leisure, recreation and sports services and programs as well as provide administrative assistance or any other duties required. Work week may include weekends and evenings, depending on meetings and activities assigned by Manager.

Qualifications and Skills: Education and experience in recreation planning and program delivery are required. Must possess good communication skills (both written and verbal), decision making and problem solving skills, strong computer skills, ability to work well with others, have initiative and be flexible. An understanding of sports, recreation and leisure services in the R.M. of Gimli would be considered an asset.

Salary will be dependent upon experience and qualifications.

Please submit resume with three references by 5:00 p.m. on February 5, 2016, to the following:

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

All applications are appreciated, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON



PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton invites applications for the permanent full time position of Public Works Manager.

Under the general direction of the C.A.O., the Public Works Manager is responsible for the safe and efficient management of Public Works Dept. operations including supervision of staff and the planning and management of maintenance and programs. Preference will be given to candidates possessing the following qualifications:

- Strong management skills;
- Ability to work with the public, employees and external stakeholders;
- Experience operating a variety of equipment;
- Ability to manage and motivate staff;
- Sound understanding of profiles and ditch/road construction;
- A valid Manitoba air brake endorsement;
- Completion of Grade 12 (or equivalent GED);
- Strong knowledge of Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health regulations;
- Basic computer literacy and written communication skills.

Position will commence as soon as possible. A detailed job description is available at the Municipal Offices upon request. The Municipality provides a comprehensive benefits program, and salary shall commensurate with experience.

A cover letter and resume outlining training, experience and three references will be accepted by the undersigned until February 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Cindy Stansell, Interim C.A.O.
Box 70, 329 River Rd., Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0
bifrost@mymts.net Fax: 204-376-2742

Lake Manitoba Health Centre

Is currently seeking a Nurse (RN only) to fill a permanent Full time positions in the Community Nursing Program.

Position Summary: The successful candidate will be responsible to provide Nursing care and services as part of the Community Health Nurse Program

Qualifications:

- Active member of the college of Registered Nurses (CRNM)
- Experience in educating clients and Community Health Nursing an asset.
- Knowledge and understanding of First Nation Health care services and issues impacting the health of First Nation people.
- The ability to function as part of an interdisciplinary team and work in a high stress environment.
- Excellent verbal and written skills.
- The ability to speak Ojibway would be a definite asset.
- Valid Manitoba Driver's license and own vehicle.

A full job description is available upon request. We thank all applicants for their interest however only those meeting the criteria will be contacted for interviews. Please forward resumes with salary expectations along with a current Criminal and Child Abuse registry check plus 3 references. Deadline for applications is January 29, 2016.

Lawrence West Health Director
Lake Manitoba Health Center
Box 1247
Lake Manitoba First Nation, MB
Phone # (204)768-2304 Fax # (204) 768-2791
Email: lawrence-west@hotmail.com

MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RECEPTIONIST

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton invites applications for the full time, temporary position of Receptionist.

The preferred applicant will be a positive thinker, problem solver and people oriented with the ability to positively interact with the public. As part of the Administration, you will provide general and clerical support for daily operations of the municipality. Proficiency using Microsoft Office applications is required; previous experience using Accounting Software will be considered an asset. Remuneration will depend upon qualifications and experience.

Resumes with a cover letter and three references will be accepted by the undersigned until February 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

take a break > GAMES

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cathode-ray tube
4. A leglike part
8. Old world, new
11. Sec. of Def. Panetta
13. Greek god of E or SE wind
15. Supervises flying
16. In a way, bothers
19. Federal savings bank
20. Stout lever with a sharp spike
21. F.S. Fitzgerald's wife Zelda
22. Snakelike fish
23. Scads
24. Prophet
26. Former "Daily Show" star
31. Organized crime head
34. Oil obtained from flowers
35. 2X WWE Divas Champ
38. Brine cured Canadian cheese
39. Slow oozing
41. Volt-ampere
42. Phenyl salicylate
44. European defense organization
45. Anglo-Saxon theologian
46. Doctrine
49. Soviet peninsula
51. Large long-armed ape
55. Protects from weather
56. Mops
60. Bridge expert
61. Fabric woven from goat and camel hair
62. Capital of Honduras
64. Tell on
65. Wooden clog
66. Beloved
67. Fed
68. Decays
69. Single Lens Reflex

CLUES DOWN

1. Applauds
2. Actress Zellweger
3. Obtained by addition
4. Chief executive officer
5. Flees

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11			12		13			14		15	
16				17					18		19
20					21					22	
23								24		25	
			26		27	28	29	30			
31	32	33			34				35		36
38				39				40			41
42			43			44			45		
		46			47				48		
49	50								51		52
55				56		57	58	59	60		
61				62					63		
64				65					66		
67					68					69	

6. Murres genus
7. Wong, spy
8. Works well as a remedy
9. Tripod
10. A nautical unit of depth
12. Most populous Native Am. people
14. Genus Capricornis
17. Universally mounted spinning wheel
18. Spanish shawl
25. Macaws
27. No (Scottish)
28. Takes dictation
29. Spanish appetizers
30. The Muse of lyric and love poetry
31. Romaine lettuce
32. Alias
33. A way to beat
36. Son of Jacob and Zilpah
37. Amount of time
39. Most guileful
40. Younger US political party
43. Electrical resistance unit
45. Side way
47. Milton's Cormus composer Henry
48. Sheep up to age one
49. Green algae
50. Capital of Morocco
52. S.E. French city on the Rhone
53. Asian nation
54. Great No. Am. RV Rally
57. Culture medium and a food-gelling agent
58. Inflamed lymph node swelling
59. Native of Edinburgh
63. Belonging to a thing

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

Sudoku Answer

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

Crossword Answer

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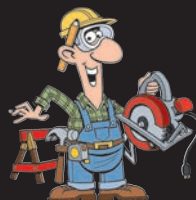
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> MEAL IDEAS

Stir-fried broccoli, red peppers and beef



Ingredients
 3/4 lb (350 g) top sirloin steak, cut into thin 1/2-inch (1.25 -cm) cubes
 1 tbsp (15 mL) sodium reduced soy sauce
 1 tsp (5 mL) cornstarch
 1 tsp (5 mL) dry sherry
 1/4 cup (50 mL) low-sodium chicken broth
 1 tsp (5 mL) oyster sauce
 2 tsp (10 mL) cornstarch
 2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil, divided
 2 cloves garlic, sliced, divided
 4 slices ginger, divided
 3/4 lb (350 g) broccoli crowns, cut into 1/2-inch (1.25-cm) pieces
 1/3 cup (75 mL) low-sodium chicken broth
 1 medium red bell pepper, stem and seeds removed, diced
 2 stalks green onion, thinly sliced

Directions

In medium bowl, mix together beef, soy sauce, 1 tsp cornstarch and sherry. Marinate in refrigerator at least 30 minutes.

In small bowl, stir 1/4 cup (50 mL) chicken broth, oyster sauce, and 2 tsp cornstarch. Set aside.

In wok or heavy skillet, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil over medium-high heat. Add half of garlic and half of ginger and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add beef and stir-fry about 4 minutes, browning meat and cooling until no longer pink. Scoop beef onto a plate. Set aside.

In wok or skillet, heat remaining 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil over medium-high heat. Tip wok to coat bottom of pan with canola oil. Add remaining garlic and ginger. Stir-fry until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add broccoli and sauté for 1 minute. Pour in 1/3 cup (75 mL) chicken broth and cover wok or skillet. Cook for 3 minutes.

Remove lid and cook until most of liquid is evaporated. Add red peppers and cook for 1 minute. Add beef. Stir sauce, making sure cornstarch is dissolved, then add to beef and broccoli. Cook until sauce is thickened, about 2 minutes. Stir occasionally to coat meat, peppers and broccoli with sauce. Sprinkle in green onions and cook for another minute. Serve immediately.

Citrus Herbed Chicken with Asparagus



Ingredients
 1/4 cup flour
 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
 1/2 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Black Pepper, coarse ground
 1 pound thin-sliced boneless skinless chicken breasts
 1 tablespoon oil
 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
 1 teaspoon McCormick Basil Leaves
 1 teaspoon McCormick Oregano Leaves
 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut

Computers and Humans have Their Own Viruses

Recently I had to deal with a computer virus that got into my computer, and then sent itself to everyone in my address book. The problem was rectified, and I learned my lesson about keeping my antivirus program updated. I did think, though, how negative programming in humans acts like a computer virus.

First, it scrambles up our own programs, and then sends itself out to those unsuspecting people in our lives who may become the brunt of our unconscious conditioning. One who grows up with a lot of criticism, may, as an adult, be very critical of others, particularly one's partner and children. One who was subject to physical abuse, may be physically rough with both partner and children. Those children may then become the bullies on the playground.

My computer was fixed with a program designed to detect and remove viruses. What is the human counterpart for that? Well, if we think of the 'psychological viruses' as things such as judging, criticizing, blaming self or others, being co-dependent, controlling, or doubt-

ing our own strength and wisdom, then the antidotes would be compassion, acceptance, understanding, love, forgiveness, and tolerance of self and others. Striving to be wise, good and kind, as simple as that sounds, may be a good defence against 'viruses'.

Running psychological 'virus scans' requires a deep commitment to self-honesty, and a willingness to confront our own ego needs to judge, criticize, or make others responsible for our happiness. It requires that we care enough not to pass on fallout from our negative patterns onto others. Fortunately, most of those in my computer address book had updated virus protection and were not bothered by the virus my computer innocently passed on. Humans, unfortunately, do not have such protection, and so we must be exceedingly careful to scan our own emotional/psychological programs to screen out anything harmful to another soul.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning Psychotherapist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books or cds, visit www.gwen.ca

Bacon and Egg Breakfast Pizza

Ingredients
 1 package (16 ounces) Smoked Bacon
 1 can (10 ounces) refrigerated pizza crust dough
 2 cups frozen hash brown potatoes with onions and peppers, partially thawed
 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
 4 eggs
 1/4 cup milk
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded cheddar

Preparation
 Heat oven to 425°F.
 Cook bacon according to package directions; drain.
 Press crust into lightly greased 14-inch pizza pan, forming 1/2-inch rim. Bake 5 minutes.
 Arrange potatoes, bacon and green pepper over crust. Whisk together eggs, milk, salt and pepper; pour over pizza.
 Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 11-13 minutes or until golden brown and eggs are set.
 Serves Makes 1 pizza

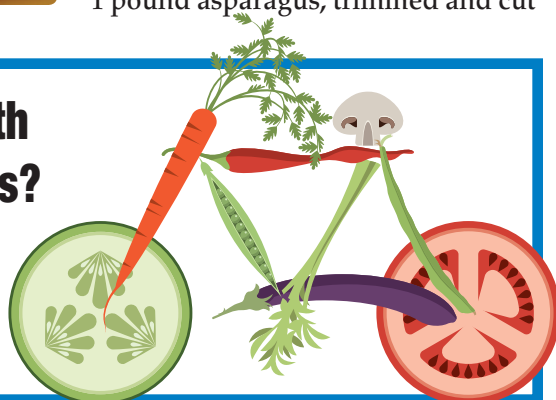
into 1-inch pieces
 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Preparation
 In shallow dish, mix flour, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Reserve 2 tablespoons. Moisten chicken lightly with water. Coat evenly with remaining flour mixture.
 In large nonstick skillet, heat oil on medium heat. Add 1/2 of the chicken pieces; cook 3 minutes per side, or until golden brown. Repeat with remaining chicken, adding additional oil, if necessary. Remove chicken

from skillet; keep warm.
 In medium bowl, mix stock, basil, oregano and reserved flour mixture until well blended. Add to skillet along with asparagus. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 3-5 minutes, or until sauce is slightly thickened, stirring frequently. Stir in lemon juice. Return chicken to skillet; cook 2 minutes, or until heated through.
 Preparation Time 10 minutes
 Cook Time 20 minutes
 Serves Serves: 4

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