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## Kids get creative after class

EXPRESS PHOTO BY ALYSSA CHRISTENSEN  
Amy holds up a finished art project during Lundar's after-school program at the Lundar Pauline Johnson Library, where children in grades 1 through 4 take part in crafts and games.

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# Lundar business owner warns of credit-card scam

By Haley Cvar

A Lundar business owner is warning other retailers to stay alert after a suspicious credit-card purchase nearly cost his shop thousands of dollars.

Randy's Tire & Sport owner Randy Gudmundson said the incident began when his son, Carson, received a phone call from a man with a British Columbia area code who wanted to purchase four high-end semi-truck tires worth about \$1,500 each.

Gudmundson said the customer attempted to pay with multiple credit cards. The first two were declined, but the third transaction went through, raising immediate concerns.

"Carson told me about it, and I just didn't have a good feeling," Gudmundson said.

Gudmundson phoned the buyer directly and requested photos of both sides of the credit card used for the purchase, along with a photo of the buyer's driver's licence — documentation he said is sometimes requested for large high-risk transactions.

The following day, a courier from Winnipeg arrived to pick up the tires, but the requested identification had still not been provided. Gudmundson

refused to release the merchandise. "I told the driver he had unfortunately wasted half his day driving to Lundar because the tires weren't going anywhere," he said.

Minutes later, Gudmundson said the buyer phoned back demanding to know why the tires were not on the truck returning to Winnipeg. When Gudmundson explained that the identification had never been sent, the caller became aggressive and verbally abusive before abruptly hanging up.

Gudmundson said while he felt bad for the courier, the alternative could have been a costly lesson.

"That would have been \$6,000 out the window," he said. "That wasn't happening."

Gudmundson said asking for verification likely prevented a fraudulent transaction and hopes other business owners will take note.

"If something doesn't feel right, trust that instinct," he said. "It can save you a lot of trouble."

## WHAT TO DO IF A SALE DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT

- Gudmundson encourages busi-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Randy's Tire & Sport in Lundar, owned by Randy Gudmundson, is warning other business owners to remain alert after a suspicious credit-card transaction nearly resulted in a \$6,000 loss.

nesses — especially small rural retailers — to take extra precautions when dealing with large or unusual transactions:

- Pause the sale if multiple cards are declined or the buyer pressures for quick pickup.
- Request identification for high-value purchases, especially when shipping or using couriers.

- Verify details such as matching names, card numbers and ID.
- Refuse release of goods until all verification is complete.
- Report suspicious activity to your payment processor or local RCMP if fraud is suspected.

He said a short delay or uncomfortable conversation is far better than absorbing a major financial loss.



## Evergreen Staff Spotlight

*Celebrating the People Who Make Our Schools Work*

### Meet Michelle Poloski - Grade 2 Teacher, Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School

With over 25 years of teaching experience, Michelle Poloski has dedicated her career to nurturing Evergreen's youngest learners. From Kindergarten to Grade 4, she has taken on a variety of roles — including Physical Education teacher, Student Services teacher, and cooperating teacher for eight student teachers — but today she is proud to call herself a Grade 2 teacher at SSES.

Michelle's passion for education was sparked early. In Grade 2, she had a teacher who was kind, gentle, and made every child feel safe and valued. "My love of school was shaped by her influence, and my passion for learning continued to grow stronger," Michelle recalls. Even as a child, she often played "school," with her stuffed animals and cousins as students. Those early experiences planted the seed for a lifelong calling to teach.

She knows better than anyone that teaching goes far beyond the classroom. "Many people don't realize how much mental and emotional energy teachers invest outside of school hours," Michelle explains. "Evenings and weekends are spent planning, reflecting, communicating with parents, and thinking about ways to support students. Teaching is not just a job; it's a calling that stays on your mind and heart long after the day ends."

What keeps her motivated are the moments that matter most: "The spark of understanding when a child finally 'gets it,' the pride in their eyes after working through a challenge, or the heartfelt cards and drawings left on my desk," she says. "Those moments remind me daily why my work matters."

Michelle loves the small-division, small-community feel of Evergreen, which has given her the chance to form close friendships with colleagues across schools. "It feels like a second family," she says. "We inspire one another, support one another, and celebrate each other's growth and successes."

For Michelle, public education is the foundation of strong communities. "It's about more than academics — it's about building confident, compassionate, and capable citizens," she explains. "Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed, and I'm proud to be part of a system that makes that possible."

*Thank you, Michelle, for your passion, dedication, and the lasting impact you've made on Evergreen students and families.*

*Interviewed by trustee Gladys Kohler*





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# Ashern firefighters' poker derby returns Feb. 7

By Lana Meier

An annual winter tradition that has supported the Ashern Fire Department for generations will return to local snowmobile trails next month.

The Ashern Firefighters Snowmobile Poker Derby is set for Saturday, Feb. 7, with riders gathering at the Ashern fire hall for a 10 a.m. start. The event runs until approximately 2:30 p.m. and is expected to draw participants from across the region.

Fire Chief Ken Falk said the derby has deep roots in the community, dating back decades.

"I've been on the department for 35 years and it was running well before that," Falk said. "After talking with some of the older members, we figure it probably started around the early 1970s."

As with many volunteer fire departments, Falk said fundraising plays a key role in supporting operations beyond what can be covered through the annual budget.

"There's always a list of needs," he said. "We do our best with the budget we have, but there are items that don't always make the must-have list. Fundraisers like this help us purchase equipment and supplies that

ultimately help keep our community safe."

Participants can purchase poker hands for \$10 each or three for \$20, with both a long and short ride option available. Riders will travel groomed SnoMan trails and must hold a valid SnoPass.

Half of the proceeds from poker hand sales will go toward prize money, with 25 per cent awarded to first place, 15 per cent to second and 10 per cent to third. The remaining 50 per cent will support the Ashern Fire Department. A "ghost hand" option is also available for those who wish to participate without riding.

The route includes stops at Trappers Lake cabin, where raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each with three surprise prizes, and Matty's cabin, which will host a hot lunch featuring chili and hot dogs. While lunch is provided at no cost, donations are welcomed.

Matty's cabin was originally owned by the late Matt Baker, a former fire chief and one of the founders of the poker derby.

Falk said the event relies heavily on volunteer support from firefighters and their families, as well as the work of the Ashern Snowmobile Club in



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATIVE IMAGE

Families will have the chance to warm up with chili and hot dogs inside Matty's cabin during the Ashern Firefighters Snowmobile Poker Derby. The hot lunch will be provided by volunteers, with donations welcomed in support of the Ashern Fire Department.

maintaining the trails.

"We really enjoy seeing people come together to support us and the community," he said. "It's also a great chance to catch up with people you don't see every day."

Falk said organizers are hoping for

good weather, strong participation and safe riding conditions throughout the day.

"We truly appreciate everyone's support," he said. "Most of all, we want everyone to have a great time and get home safely."



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By E. Antonio

Selkirk Community Choir (SCC) takes pride in providing enriching musical opportunities to singers throughout the Interlake region.

To ring — or sing — in the new year, the choir continued its decade-long tradition by offering a six-week Try-A-Choir mini-session. This program gives participants the opportunity to experience being part of the SCC family without a long-term commitment.

“The mini-session not only breaks up the year and gives us a fun project for the dark days of winter, but it also allows a short-term trial for people who want to come for just a while,” said choir director Kendra Obach. “Choir is awesome! That said, singing can feel vulnerable, and I think it’s important for people to know that it’s safe to come out and try something new — even if you don’t consider yourself a ‘singer.’”

Choir members met on Tuesday evenings at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. For a small registration fee, participants found their place in the choir, learned essential choir basics and rehearsed several songs in preparation for a Valentine’s Day themed Coffee House performance on Tuesday, Feb. 10, also at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

“Try-A-Choir is a very accessible, low-cost, warm indoor activity to enjoy during the dark winter months,” said Kendra Bannish, SCC’s public relations representative. “Singing and community are amazing for mental health — something many of us struggle with during the winter.”

No previous experience was required to enrol, and SCC’s approximately 50 current members were



**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED**

Selkirk Community Choir hosts a Valentine's Day themed Coffee House on Feb. 10 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Singers will perform a variety of songs they've practised during the "Try-A-Choir" mini session that began in January. Pictured are Selkirk Community Choir members at their holiday performance.

happy to welcome new singers into their community. Bannish described participating in a community choir as a bucket-filling experience.

“You can expect to work hard, learn a lot and have fun,” she said. “You can also expect to build community with like-minded people. While we do have a short break to socialize each week, most of the time is spent rehearsing. I joined a year ago, and as someone who was nervous about meeting new people, I appreciated this format — it felt low-pressure. Still, I can almost guarantee you’ll leave with at least one new friend.”

She also said that SCC is a “community treasure and a gift to those who participate,” noting that it is a multi-generational experience that unites people through their shared love of music.

Obach echoed Bannish’s sentiments, explaining that, for her, a successful choir is one filled with joy.

“Singing should be fun, build community and show musical progress,” she said. “If people enjoy their Tuesday nights and feel good about singing, that’s a success — though this is true of community choir all the time, not just during the mini-session.”


The public is invited to attend SCC’s Try-A-Choir Valentine’s Day themed Coffee House on Feb. 10 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 Sawchuk Dr. in Selkirk. Beginning at 7 p.m., the full choir will perform six songs learned during the Try-A-Choir sessions, along with several solos, duets and small group arrangements. Tickets are \$5 at the door, with proceeds supporting general choir operations.

“I can’t recommend joining SCC enough — it has fulfilled me in ways I never would have expected,” Bannish added. “It’s truly wholesome and good for the soul. If anyone is on the fence, I’d encourage them to come out.”

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# Lundar teens launch after-school program at local library

By E. Antonio

Two Lundar Grade 10 students are stepping up to fill a gap in after-school programming by creating a free inclusive space where younger children can learn, play and get creative at the local library.

Alyssa Christensen and Dylan Tkach, Grade 10 students at Lundar High School, are the volunteer leads behind Lundar's new after-school program, hosted at the Lundar Pauline Johnson Library. The program runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. and offers arts, crafts and games for students in grades 1 through 4 from Lundar Early Years School.

"Parents need a place for their kids to go after school, and we wanted to help make that happen," said Christensen.

The idea came together when a librarian mentioned community members were interested in an after-school arts and crafts program. At the same time, both Christensen and Tkach were looking for a volunteer opportunity, making the program a natural fit.

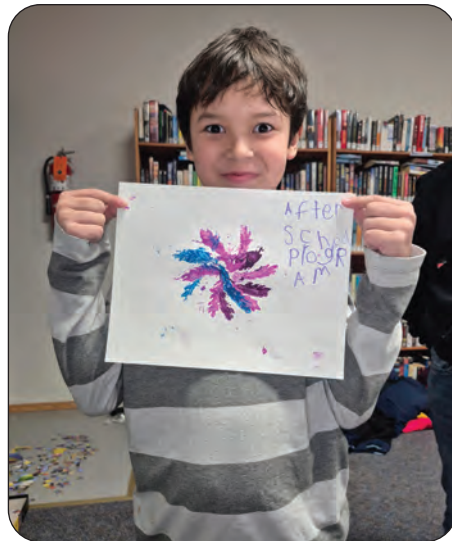
"It's good for the kids to have a safe space where they can come and hang out," Christensen added. "It's an opportunity to get along, share ideas and get creative with others."

After school, Christensen walks the group of pre-registered participants from the school to the library. Once there, students settle in and choose between art projects or games with friends. Parents then pick up their children at the library at the end of the hour.

To keep group sizes manageable, students currently attend in small groups on a rotating basis. Each group participates for two weeks (four sessions) before switching with another group. Currently, two groups are rotating through the program, but organizers are open to welcoming more participants.

"The more, the merrier," added Tkach.

The program has been warmly received by both children and parents, particularly since Lundar offers few after-school activity options. Christensen and Tkach say their goal is simple: to provide a safe, kind and welcoming environment where children can express themselves creatively. They hope the program will help shy students come out of their



Mason with his art that he created.

shells and gain confidence in a social setting.

"I'm happy to see them wanting to come back each week, and I'm happy we can give them that opportunity," said Christensen. "It's a place to share ideas and make them come to life."

Since the first session in November, students have taken part in a wide range of activities, including crafts, puzzles, painting and games. The program is completely free and currently uses art supplies already available at the library. Community members can support the initiative by donating art supplies or games, which can be dropped off at the library.

Although registration forms were sent home late last year, students can still register at the library's front desk or by contacting the library at mlpj@mymts.net or 204-762-5367. Anyone with questions about the program can contact Christensen directly at 204-619-6731.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Lundar teens Dylan Tkach and Alyssa Christensen host an after-school program twice a week at the Lundar Pauline Johnson Library for students in grades 1 through 4. Pictured at the back are Christensen and Tkach, with Emersyn, Gracie, Mason and John.

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## Flag of Humanity Foundation donates \$3,000 to Laos schools

By Patricia Barrett

The Flag of Humanity Foundation continues its mission to deliver a message of unity, peace and environmental stewardship to people around the world, with its founder recently visiting Laos in southeastern Asia.

Bruce Benson went to Laos in late December last year, visiting the northern city of Luang Prabang where he was introduced to educators and students at rural schools. He spoke about the message behind his flag — the commonality of being human — and the importance of protecting the environment.

The foundation, which is a registered Canadian charity, donated \$3,000 towards upgrades at the schools.

“We were able to bring electricity to three schools with lights and fans, all for \$3,000,” said Benson after he returned home to Gimli where he lives.

Laos, or the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, is a landlocked country bordered by Thailand, China, Vietnam and Cambodia. Luang Prabang is a UNESCO World Heritage city.

Benson visits various countries around the world each year to spread his message of human unity and to pick up trash from public spaces.

During the Hmong New Year, one of the biggest holidays in Laos, Benson was “immediately joined by many enthusiastic volunteers” to help with garbage collection.

Along with the much-needed monetary donation, Benson donated copies of *The Flag of Humanity Lunar Mission* book to a Luang Prabang-based not-for-profit organization called Big Brother Mouse so that Lao people wanting to learn English have more resources in the English language.

The Flag of Humanity book is a children’s book was written by B.C.-based author Kurt Gottfried, one of



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRUCE BENSON

The Flag of Humanity founder Bruce Benson (centre) visited Laos late last year to deliver his message of human unity and environmental stewardship. His registered charity — The Flag of Humanity Foundation — donated \$3,000 to three schools.



the directors of The Flag of Humanity Foundation.

Part of the foundation’s work in 2026 will be to build on its initial support to schools in Guatemala and in India through funding for technology

such as Internet service and laptops.

For more information about The Flag of Humanity and its foundation, visit [theflagofhumanity.com](http://theflagofhumanity.com) or its Facebook page.

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# MLA Derek Johnson advises constituents to hold on to their wallets in 2026

By Patricia Barrett

With the high cost of living showing no sign of easing up and the province projecting a deficit of \$1.6 billion, Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson (Progressive Conservative) is advising his constituents to hold on to their wallets in 2026.

Johnson weighed in on a number of issues affecting Interlakers such as financial strain, health care and crime as 2025 came to a close, and he also celebrated achievements in the rural communities he has represented since he was first elected MLA in 2016.

Johnson said the government's deficit is "double of what they thought they were going to have" and taxpayers will be on the hook for paying it off.

The government had initially projected a \$794-million deficit in its spring budget, but that was before it had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars fighting raging wildfires throughout the province. Despite the deficit projection, Finance Minister Adrien Sala said in December that "this is not a time to cut programs or to look at making significant changes that might further risk a slowdown in the economy."

Johnson said Manitobans probably experience "temporary euphoria" when the government is spending money, but the only way to deal with the projected deficit would be to increase taxes. And Manitobans will also be on the hook for interest.

"The government has to pay interest on our provincial debt. It's like having a Visa bill. The interest on \$1.6 billion is \$6.3 million per day. The only way to get this under control is to increase taxes," said Johnson. "Hold on to your wallets because this has to get paid for. There's only one taxpayer and that's the people of Manitoba."

Johnson said increased taxation could come in the form of a PST rise, less investment in education or by borrowing.

"This all ties into affordability," he

said. "Some of the major concerns of those in Interlake-Gimli are the rising cost of food, fuel, utilities and housing, and personal interest rates are higher than they were five years. With increased property taxes, seniors are finding it harder and harder to stay in their homes."

To help protect property owners from costly civil litigation that could potentially arise from criminal trespass or a break and enter, Johnson sponsored a private member's bill in November — Bill 210, The Criminal Trespassers Act and Amendments to the Occupiers' Liability Act — that prevents an occupier(s) of premises from facing a lawsuit should a person aged 12 or older suffer an injury or death while trespassing for the purpose of committing a crime.

"Bill 210 protects property owners from civil liability. If someone comes on your property with the intention of committing a crime, they can sue you if they get hurt," said Johnson. "For example, if someone trying to break into your home smashes a window and slices their arm open, they can sue you in civil court even though they're intending to break into your property."

Johnson said he had brought the same bill forward during the last legislative session but the government failed to pass it. He originally introduced the bill after learning of a situation in which a homeowner's dogs bit an intruder that was breaking in and the owner was later successfully sued.

"This is near and dear to our hearts in rural Manitoba. If somebody drives their vehicle through your field with an intent to poach or [other criminal intent] and they hit an old piece of farm equipment that's been parked out in the field since your grandfather's time, they can sue you," he said.

There's a clause in the proposed legislation that prohibits property owners from laying booby traps.

On the health-care front, specifically emergency services, Johnson said riding constituents he's spoken with said things have "gotten worse" over the past few years.

Manitobans continue to experience long wait times for access to emergency health care, including in the Interlake, he said, before offering a somewhat wry comment about ER availability at many hospitals in the Interlake-Eastern health region.

"You can only have a wait time if hospitals are open," he said. "I'm excited as the next person that the Ericksdale emergency room is getting a \$8.6-million makeover. But not once in any of [the government's] news releases have they mentioned more staff. And that's what the ER needs. [The upgrade] will make the ER more efficient. But it will only be more efficient when it's open. Right now, it's only open one day a week ... that's obviously because of staffing issues."

When the Manitoba PCs were in power, Johnson said they focused on shoring up human resources by doubling nursing training seats to prevent nurse burnout through overtime, hiring more nurses and launching a plan to add 2,000 health-care providers [through the Health Human Resources Action Plan], including health professionals from overseas.

The present government, he said, has not made strides on improving the situation on the nursing front, with Manitoba Nurses Union president Darlene Jackson having tweeted in December that it's the "same shift, different day."

Hospitals across Canada are facing staffing challenges, and Manitoba is no different from the rest of the country. In mid-January, the Manitoba government addressed the high cost of using private nurse staffing agencies by reducing agency numbers from around 80 to four. But it had to extend some of those private contracts a week later as rural hospitals such as Swan River and Dauphin



Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson

weren't able to find enough nurses to fill shifts.

Johnson led the charge last year to address faulty 911 service in parts of the Interlake after the family of an RM of Fisher man was unable to reach an operator despite repeated calls. The 55-year-old man (Dean Switzer) later died. Johnson subsequently pressed the government to launch a public inquiry.

"That's one of the hardest things to go through ... as an elected official because you feel responsible when someone makes a 911 call and the system isn't there for them. That was one of my challenges [in 2025] after that system failed. I'm continuing to push for a public inquiry. It won't bring Dean back as he passed away, but his dad, Ray, told me they don't want it to happen to somebody else. We have to find out what went wrong with the system and that's through a public inquiry. Then you'll have a path forward and a plan to fix it. If you don't know what's broken, you don't know what to fix."

Johnson lauded the Town of Arborg for its vision to offer health-care training to rural people in a bid to help the Interlake-Eastern RHA recruit and retain workers.

Continued on page 8

## Gimli RCMP arrest Winnipeg man after residential break-in

By Haley Cvar

A Winnipeg man has been arrested and charged following a reported break and enter at a rural residence in the RM of Armstrong.

According to Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Gimli RCMP received a call at about 10:10 p.m. on Jan. 12 reporting a break and enter in progress at a home along Highway 229 in the Rural Municipality of Arm-

strong.

Police said a homeowner discovered an unknown male asleep on the garage floor upon returning home. Officers learned the male later woke up, began throwing items inside the garage and assaulted one of the homeowners, who was able to escape.

When police arrived, they located the suspect sleeping inside a locked

vehicle in the garage. Upon being awakened, the male became aggressive and resisted police. After repeated attempts to de-escalate the situation, officers deployed a conducted energy weapon, which was effective.

The male was arrested and taken to hospital as a precaution. After being medically assessed, he was released back into police custody.

One responding officer was injured during the incident and is expected to make a full recovery.

Trevor Roesler, 40, of Winnipeg, has been charged with two counts of assaulting a peace officer, break and enter, assault with a weapon and resisting arrest. He has been remanded into custody.

The investigation is continuing.



# Harbour colony proposes to farm 140,000 chickens in Armstrong, spread manure in Gimli

## Provincial government inviting public feedback to chicken farm by Feb. 9

By Patricia Barrett

A Hutterite colony in the RM of Armstrong that’s proposing to farm 140,000 chickens and spread the manure in the RM of Gimli will be subject to a review by the provincial government.

And the government is inviting the public to provide their feedback to the colony’s proposal by Feb. 9.

The Harbour colony is proposing to establish a chicken operation consisting of 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets, according to an animal units calculator document that’s part of an information package publicly available on the provincial department of municipal and northern relations’ livestock public registry website.

Harbour colony is associated with the Crystal Spring Hutterite colony, which is proposing to build a wastewater lagoon south of the proposed chicken-farming operation, and along the shared RM of Armstrong and RM of Gimli border.

It’s unclear whether Harbour is the new name of the Crystal Spring colo-

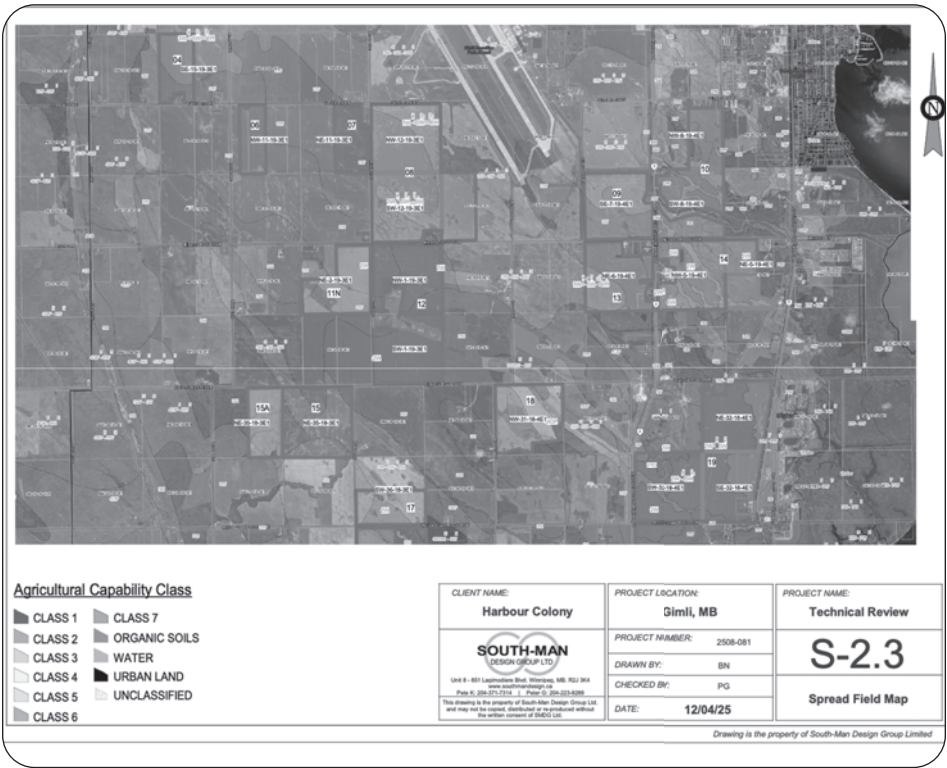
ny or a separately named entity running the chicken operation.

Harbour colony’s proposed chicken operation consists of 764 animal units. Animal units is a standard livestock measure that’s used to calculate the excretion of nitrogen (in manure) annually. Animal numbers refer to a head count.

Anything over 300 animal units is subject to review.

“The establishment or expansion of a livestock operation that has 300 Animal Units or more and requires a municipal conditional use approval is subject to Part 7 of The Planning Act. This includes a review by the provincial Livestock Technical Review Committee (TRC),” states Harbour colony’s site-assessment report dated Dec. 1, 2025. “The Technical Review Committee Regulation requires a site assessment be undertaken by the proponent to help the committee complete its review and allow the public to comment on the proposal.”

In February 2020, members of the Crystal Spring colony from St. Agathe appeared as a delegation at Armstrong council (see Feb. 20, 2020, edition of the *Express* online), telling council the population of their new Armstrong colony would be about 97 people and that they intended to farm [chickens] around 15,000 layers and an unspecified number of broilers, as well as make hog barn parts. The colony had already purchased section 28-18-3E but was seeking more land and had asked council to consider selling the colony two quarter sections of nearby RM-owned land at NW and NE 29-18-3E.



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Harbour colony in the RM of Armstrong is proposing to spread manure from a 140,000-strong chicken operation on various pieces of land in the RM of Gimli.

The site assessment document for Harbour colony posted on the province’s website indicates Harbour is located at NW and SW 28-18-3E, and that its 140,000-strong chicken operation will be located on the west half of 28-18-3E.

In 2024 Manitoba had 19 hatching egg producers and 125 registered broiler (meat) chicken producers, according to Manitoba Chicken Producers. Production in the province (broiler) increased 24.7 per cent from 2014 to 2024. Manitoba had four per cent of the total Canadian chicken production last year.

As regards manure management, Harbour colony indicates the manure type generated will be solid and that it will be applied to fields with set-

backs from property lines and water sources.

“The first phase of construction will encompass the layer and pullet operations and it is expected that a year later the broiler barn will be constructed,” states the assessment. “Manure from the facilities will be handled as a dry product and field stored in the appropriate fields on which the manure will be applied as fertilizer the following year. The minimum setback from property lines and surface and groundwater will be adhered to at all field storage locations.”

According to an accompanying map titled “Spread field maps,” the fields are located in the RM of Gimli.

The map shows fields located north,

Continued on page 9

**Community Support Service**

**AA Arborg**  
Thursdays - 7:30 pm  
Arborg Support Centre  
327 Main Street  
**Contact 204-376-5861**

**AA Eriksdale**  
Eriksdale United Church building  
#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)  
**Meetings are Mondays at 6:30 p.m.**

**AA Winnipeg Beach**  
Lady of the Lake RC Church  
Corner of Hwy. 9 and Lake Ave.,  
Winnipeg Beach  
**Meetings are Saturdays between 7 and 8 p.m.**  
**Contact Ann J 204-389-3417**

**Gimli Group AA**  
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Industrial Park  
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**Al-Anon**  
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**AA Riverton Group**  
12 Main St. at the  
Riverton Senior Centre  
Mondays 7:30 p.m.

### > 2026 OUTLOOK, FROM PG. 7

Arborg built a training facility, the Central Interlake Training Facility, and teamed up with Fieldstone Ventures and Assiniboine Community College to offer two licensed practical nursing programs and health-care aide training. Most of the graduates have remained working in the region.

“I think we have to give recognition to the Town of Arborg for their homegrown solution to health-care staffing shortages,” he said. “They’ve educated people from the local community. If you offer training in your own community, the chances of graduates leaving are slim.”

The PCs and the current NDP government have promised to build a new personal care home in Arborg, and Johnson said he’s “keeping the pressure on” to ensure the project goes forward.

He said he’s also keeping his eye on Arborg’s Riverdale Place Workshop, which provides employment and other services to people with intellectual disabilities, as the government proposed to shut it down last year and transfer participants to another program.

Despite some of the pressing issues in the constituency, Johnson said Interlakers never fail to impress him through their show of

solidarity and community-mindedness.

“It’s so nice to see strong community participation at events across the Interlake whether it’s at Isendingadagurinn or [Eriksdale’s] Creamery Days or the Gimli International Film Festival or all the Canada Day celebrations. It warms your heart to see so many volunteers put together so many successful events across the Interlake,” he said. “I’ve been MLA for almost 10 years and I can see the next generation of volunteers coming along.”



> COLONY FROM PG. 8

south, west and east of the Gimli Airport, with some fields running along Seagram Road, Provincial Road 231, and Minerva, Siglavik, Willow Creek and Husavik roads.

A commercial manure applicator will not be used to spread the chicken manure nor will the manure be injected into the soil. The colony will instead "incorporate [the manure] within 48 hours." The application of manure will occur in the fall.

"All setbacks [from water features, property boundary] have been met or exceeded," states the assessment.

However, the assessment indicates that the lands designated for manure application are located in the Red River Valley Special Management Area or other area that is "subject to flooding on an average basis at least once every five years."

The chicken facilities will consist of a new 60,050-square-foot layer barn, a new 35,558-square-foot pullet barn and a new 65,000-square-foot broiler barn, according to the site assessment. Water will be provided via an existing well on SE 28-18-3E. The confined livestock area or seasonal feeding area "will not have direct access to surface water." Dead chickens will be disposed of via composting.

A wetland area on the colony will be affected by the proposed layer barn, and the colony is seeking to remove that wetland.

"The proposed layer barn will impact a class 3 wetland area approximately 0.12 acres in size," states the site assessment. "A licence to construct water control works will be secured through Manitoba Environment and Climate Change to facilitate the removal of this wetland area."

The Express could not find contact information for Harbour colony.

The Express reached out to the RM of Gimli and council for comment on Harbour colony's proposal to spread chicken manure on various fields in the municipality.

The RM's community engagement manager and council spokesperson Christine Payne said the province is ultimately responsible for the decision to either allow or deny the proposed chicken-farming operation, and the RM is encouraging residents to reach out to the province by Feb. 9 to share their views on the proposal.

"The RM of Gimli takes residents' concerns seriously, particularly regarding potential impacts to surface water, Lake Winnipeg and downstream communities, as well as the broader cumulative effects of manure spreading within the Lake Winnipeg watershed," said Payne. "While decision-making authority rests with the province, the RM encourages residents to participate directly in the provincial review process by submitting their comments by the Feb. 9 deadline as public input is a key component of provincial decision-making."

The RM had launched a public-awareness campaign called "Speak for the Lake" with regard to the Crystal Spring colony's proposal to build a wastewater lagoon on its Armstrong property, Payne added, and encouraged residents to sign up for an upcoming hearing on that before the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission.

The RM registered last year to speak at the CEC on the lagoon, and it has "been confirmed to have their position heard," said Payne.

She said the RM will continue to "advocate for strong environmental safeguards, regulatory compliance, transparency and the protection of local water quality and community interests."

As of Jan. 25, the CEC website shows no hearing date on the lagoon having been set.

The Express reached out to the provincial government regarding Harbour colony's proposed chicken operation, but the government did not answer any questions for this story.

Documents relating to the chicken operation

are publicly available on the provincial government's municipal and northern relations website: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/trc-12-120\\_sa\\_attachments.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/trc-12-120_sa_attachments.html)

People wishing to provide feedback to the proposed chicken operation can send an email to the provincial Technical Review Committee: [TRC@gov.mb.ca](mailto:TRC@gov.mb.ca)

They can also send a fax to 204-948-4042 or send a letter to: Technical Review Co-ordination Unit, Municipal and Northern Relations, 604-800 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R3G 0N4.

All submissions to the government must include names and reference #TRC 12-120. Submissions are required no later than Feb. 9.



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Happy New Year and Denture insurance renewal date

BY ELISHA VANDOR

For us at Vandor Denture Centre, the most wonderful time of the year (besides Christmas) starts on New Years Day, January 1, 2026. It's a time when we start submitting and receiving new pre-approvals for denture coverage. It's a joyous occasion for you, with dental insurance too, because your full yearly maximum is available once again and you're able to call us and schedule your denture appointment knowing you're saving the most money with your full benefits in tow. The real question is how much coverage does your specific plan cover towards new partial dentures, full dentures, relining, dental implant procedures...etc? Well, you can leave all the heavy insurance lifting to us, after all, we find enjoyment in discovering how much your plan covers and want to be the first to share your benefit results with you, but don't worry, you'll also receive your results by mail or online too.

Some insurance companies provide us an instant response when submitting electronically, while others take some processing time before a pre-approval response is provided. All insurance plans are different, so a predetermination of benefits is necessary for an accurate price quote.

If you have coverage through the government program (Canadian Dental Care Plan) with Sun

Life, we are happy to continue accepting your denture insurance benefits, and yes, they do provide great coverage for dentures! In our experience, the Canadian Dental Care Plan comes close to the best denture insurance coverage we have seen by any insurance plan. We were one of the first providers to accept the government insurance plan when it started back in May of 2024 and have worked alongside the head case managers at Sun Life and their subordinates to provide a seamless pre-approval and coverage process. If you have received your CDCP card and are ready to use your benefits, then don't hesitate to call. *As a friendly reminder, your CDCP benefits will become inactive on July 1, 2026 if you do not re-apply on or before June 1, 2026. Set the date for June 1, 2026 in your calendar to reapply so you can avoid any lapse in your coverage.*

Dentures can be replaced every 5+ years through your private insurance. So, if you received your denture(s) in 2021, then you'll be eligible for new. By simply sending in a pre-approval, the information provides your coverage specifics towards the designated treatment and is accurate for 3-6 months if no other dental insurance has been used for another treatment, like extractions. Each insurance plan is different, so it's important to call us and ask for free consultation appointment to find out the exact treatment and predetermine your coverage so you can have your best dentures yet in 2026.



Office managers Manon (left) and Elisha (right) together provide over 20 years of dental insurance experience.

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# Conservation projects protect nearly 1,000 hectares in Interlake

By Lana Meier

Nearly 1,000 hectares of ecologically significant land in Manitoba's Interlake region are now permanently protected, demonstrating how conservation and working landscapes can coexist to benefit both nature and local communities.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced the conservation of more than 935 hectares through two projects — the Highland Meadows property and an expansion of the Swan Lake Wetland-Parkland Complex near Lundar. Together, the projects safeguard prairie grasslands, wetlands and forested areas northwest of Winnipeg while continuing to support traditional land uses such as cattle grazing, haying and hunting.

NCC says the projects highlight the growing recognition that working landscapes — often associated with agriculture and ranching — play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

"Working landscapes are sometimes viewed as separate from conservation," said Kevin Teneycke, regional vice-president for NCC's Manitoba Region. "But these lands are essential habitat for wildlife and plants, and they also support the people who live and work on them."

The Swan Lake Wetland-Parkland Complex lands were managed as a livestock operation by the Cruise family for nearly 30 years, maintaining ecological integrity while supporting local livelihoods. The Highland Meadowoods property, formerly stewarded by the Laubstedt family, also supported seasonal cattle grazing and forage production.

Former landowner Jack Cruise said preserving the land for future generations was a driving factor in the decision to conserve the property.

"As I get older, I realize more and more how important it is to preserve some land so future generations can

see it in its natural state," Cruise said. "This land should never be bulldozed or disced, but rotational livestock grazing should allow for preservation and wildlife habitat."

Both properties contain tall grass prairie — one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. NCC estimates that up to 90 per cent of Manitoba's original prairie grasslands have already been lost to land conversion.

Prairie grasslands play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and absorbing carbon, helping landscapes remain resilient in the face of climate change. Wetlands on the conserved lands further enhance resilience by recharging and purifying groundwater, slowing runoff and holding water longer, reducing the impacts of flooding and drought.

Forested areas within the projects provide nesting, feeding and breeding habitat for numerous species of birds, amphibians and mammals. The properties are home to several waterfowl species and species at risk, including eastern whip-poor-will, least bittern and red-headed woodpecker.

The conservation work was made possible through support from the Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, along with



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A red-headed woodpecker and an eastern whip-poor-will, both species at risk in Manitoba, are among the birds that depend on prairie, wetland and forested habitats protected through recent land conservation projects in the Interlake region.

contributions from Jim and Leney Richardson, the Richardson Foundation, and the estates of Debbie Zibresky, A. Richard Omatsu and Joy E. Goodwin.

Federal Environment, Climate Change and Nature Minister Julie Dabrusin said the projects reflect Canada's broader commitment to protecting nature while recognizing the importance of working lands.

"This announcement in Manitoba's Interlake region highlights Canada's commitment to protecting nature and mitigating climate change while recognizing the value of working landscapes," Dabrusin said in a statement.

Secretary of State (Nature) Nathalie Provost added that protecting prairie grasslands, wetlands and forests is essential to sustaining wildlife and maintaining the

long-term health of the land.

According to NCC, the conserved lands lie at the transition between prairie and boreal ecozones, supporting a mix of deciduous and mixed-wood forests. Canada's boreal forest covers roughly 60 per cent of the country's land mass and holds the largest portion of the world's land-based carbon.

Since 1962, NCC has worked with communities, Indigenous Nations, governments and businesses to protect lands and waters across the country. The organization says projects like those in the Interlake demonstrate how conservation can strengthen local economies, protect biodiversity and build more resilient communities for generations to come.

"AS I GET OLDER,  
I REALIZE MORE  
AND MORE HOW  
IMPORTANT IT  
IS TO PRESERVE  
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# Interlake Co-op launches 24-hour fuel access in Arborg, Eriksdale

By Lana Meier

Interlake Co-op is now offering 24-hour fuel access at its Arborg and Eriksdale locations, expanding around-the-clock convenience for both members and non-members while reinforcing its commitment to locally owned, community-focused service.

The new service allows customers to fuel at any time using debit or credit cards, in addition to existing cardlock access, at both cardlock stations located at 17 Main St. South in Arborg and at the junction of Highway 6 and PR 417 in Eriksdale.

General manager Jordan Cook said the move was made possible through recent technology upgrades and reflects a desire to better serve members and the broader community.

"We had this potential benefit become possible with technology upgrades and wanted to provide our members and communities with the option to have 24-hour fuel in Arborg and Eriksdale with debit, credit and cardlock service 365 days of the year," Cook said.

While Interlake Co-op previously offered 24-hour cardlock access, Cook said expanding the service to include debit and credit payments was an important step in improving accessibility.

"By adding the benefit of debit and credit payment, it allowed all members and non-members to have 24-hour access to fuel, 365 days per year," he said.

Cook noted the expanded access benefits not only local residents but also travellers and commercial operators moving through the region.

"By having this 24-hour debit, credit and cardlock service in our communities, it ensures all residents or people passing through can have fuel any time of day, any season," he said.

The recently installed terminals feature brighter full-colour screens designed to improve visibility and ease of use. Clear step-by-step instructions are posted at each kiosk for both first-time and repeat users.

To ensure safety, first-time debit or credit users are guided through a brief set of safety prompts to obtain an access code, which renews annually.

"By doing these one-time required safety steps, it helps ensure all users will use the site in a safe manner, along with being educated on the safety equipment locations," Cook said.

Once registered, users can tap or insert their card, enter their access code, select a pump and pre-authorized amount, and begin fuelling. The terminals display litres pumped and price per litre for regular gasoline and regular diesel. Members can enter their Co-op number during the process, while non-members can proceed without one.

Cardlock members will continue to fuel as before by inserting their cardlock card, entering their PIN, selecting a pump and fuelling.

Cook said the new 24-hour fuelling option

also helps address seasonal and emergency needs, particularly during winter months when access to fuel outside regular business hours can be critical.

"In rural communities, fuel access isn't just about convenience — it's about reliability," he said. "Whether it's early-morning work, late-night travel, snow removal, farming operations or unexpected situations, having fuel available at all hours makes a real difference."

He added that the upgraded terminals were designed with clarity and simplicity in mind, reducing confusion for users who may be accessing the cardlock stations for the first time.

"We wanted to make sure the system was straightforward and user-friendly, while still meeting safety requirements," Cook said. "The prompts and instructions are there to guide people through the process so they feel confident using the service."

As a member-owned co-operative, Cook said the investment reflects Interlake Co-op's ongoing focus on re-investing locally and delivering tangible benefits to its communities.

"As a member-owned business, we are deeply invested

in our local communities," he said. "With the support of our members, we can continue providing services and benefits that help communities grow and thrive."

Cook added that non-members using the new service may also want to consider joining the co-op.

"Memberships with Interlake Co-op are only \$1," he said. "Becoming a member allows a person to get extra money back in the form of equity. It's easy to join at any of our locations or online."

Cook said the 24-hour fuelling expansion aligns with Interlake Co-op's long-term planning for rural service delivery, balancing modern technology with practical community needs. He noted that reliable fuel access supports local businesses, emergency response and essential services, particularly in smaller communities where alternatives may be limited.

Residents with questions about the new 24-hour fuelling option are encouraged to contact the Interlake Co-op bulk fuel team at 204-376-5201 or by email at [fuel@interlake.crs](mailto:fuel@interlake.crs) or [fuel-clerk@interlake.crs](mailto:fuel-clerk@interlake.crs). Support is also available through the Eriksdale hardware team at 204-739-2634.



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**BUNGE Championship**

Feb. 3-8 2026





# Team Lott seeking redemption in Bunge Championship's return to Selkirk

By Kieran Reimer

Team Tanner Lott hopes to get over the hump next weekend at the 2026 Bunge Championship.

Formerly known as the Viterra Championship, the Manitoba men's provincial curling championship will bring together the province's top 24 teams at the Selkirk Recreation Complex from Feb. 3 to 8, with a berth at the 2026 Montana's Brier on the line.

Team Lott, based out of Fort Rouge in Winnipeg, is among the teams most familiar with the event and the pressure that comes with it.

Skipped by East Selkirk's Tanner

Lott, the rink also includes third Riley Smith, second Adam Flatt, lead Sean Flatt and fifth Justin Twiss. Each has competed at provincials in the past.

Next weekend, however, will mark the first time all five are vying for a provincial title together as members of the same team. Lott has come close before, including a finals appearance in 2022 that ended in an 8-3 loss to Team McEwan.

That year was also the last time the championship was held in Selkirk,

Continued on next page



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Team Tanner Lott will compete alongside 23 other rinks at the 2026 Bunge Championship from Feb. 3 to 8 at the Selkirk Recreation Complex, where the winner will earn a berth at the 2026 Montana's Brier. The Fort Rouge-based rink qualified through a strong season on the Manitoba Curling Tour, highlighted by a first-place finish at the MCT Shootout in Virden last November. Pictured, from left, are Justin Twiss, Sean Flatt, Adam Flatt, Riley Smith and Tanner Lott.



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Continued from previous page

adding to the excitement of the tournament's return. Lott said the team has been preparing steadily in recent weeks and feels ready to take on Manitoba's top competition.

"We've put in a lot of work this year — a lot of practice, and we've played a lot of events," Lott said Jan. 23. "For a new team, we've really brought it together coming into this event. We have fairly high expectations for ourselves."

The field includes several high-profile teams, such as Reid Carruthers' Granite Curling Club rink, Team Braden Calvert of Heather and Jordan McDonald's squad.

Team Lott enters the championship with momentum after a first-place finish at the Manitoba Curling Tour Shootout in Virden in November, a result that secured their spot at the Bunge Championship.

It was one of several events where the team collected Manitoba Curling Tour points this season, but it proved to be the most timely. Different re-

sults would have forced the rink to compete in regional qualifiers.


Team Lott posted only one loss at the Shootout and capped the weekend with a dominant finals victory that included a five-ender in the third end.

"It was a super important event for us," Lott said. "We had the goal of at least making the final and giving ourselves a good shot at qualifying for provincials, so we didn't have to go through the regionals. It worked out really well."

The team stayed busy following that win, travelling south to Duluth, Minn., last weekend to compete in the 2026 Duluth Centennial Cash Spiel.

They now head into Bunge week with confidence, setting their sights on a first trip to the Briar, scheduled for Feb. 27 to March 8 in St. John's, N.L.

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# Happy New Year

EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Arborg Reechka presented Malanka on Jan. 17 at the Arborg Community Hall.





# Get your skis on as Mother Nature is expected to warm up Gimli this week

By Patricia Barrett

Manitobans are inured to death-gripping cold that typically blows in from the north in January, but last week — including the weekend — really went beyond the pale when Mother Nature tested our resolve with multiple days of bone-snapping temperatures and wind chills between -40 and -49 Celsius in parts of the southern region of the province.

With a reprieve in conditions expected this week, cross-country skiers

in the Gimli area can break out their skis, heat up the wax and hit the nature trails in Camp Morton Provincial Park.

Gimli Cross Country Ski Club president Craig Mackie said they've seen an increase in club membership numbers and they're planning a number of events this year.

"[This] will be an exciting year as we have new grooming equipment, a 15 per cent increase in membership and several events planned," said Mackie.

The club is a non-profit organization with an executive that oversees programs, trail grooming and finances. It hosts events and social functions for its membership and maintains 20 kilometres of trails along the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

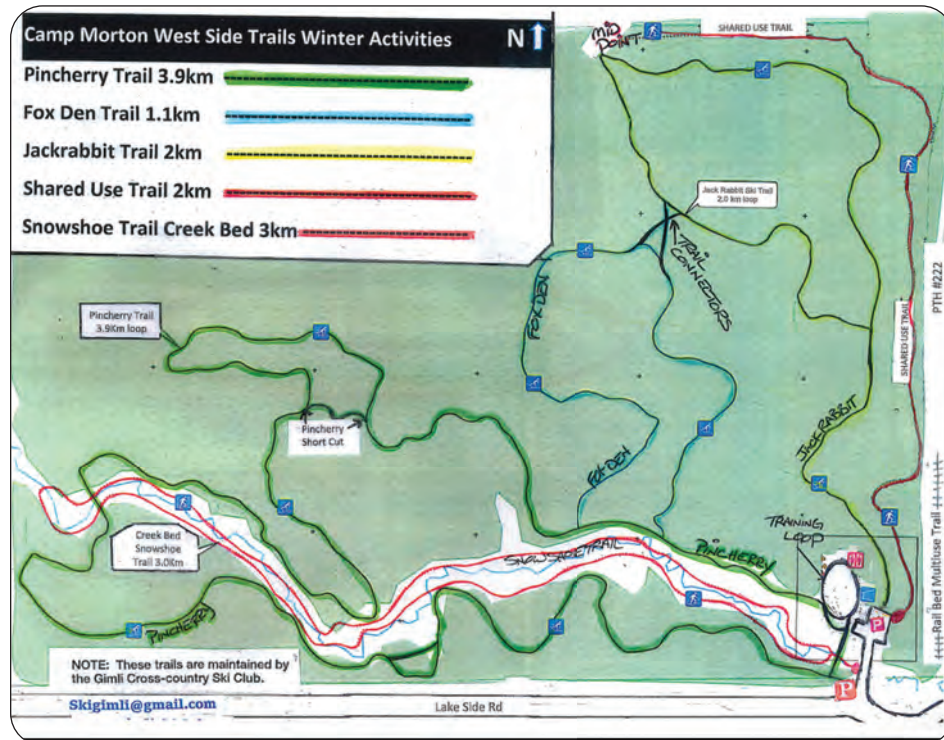
Trails are usually groomed on Saturday mornings or on holidays. The club posts updates about trail conditions on its website.

Club membership supports the maintenance and further enhancements of the trails and facilities. People from away are welcome to use the trails.

There are a number of trails of varying lengths on the west and east sides of PR 222 to accommodate skiing, snowshoeing and other winter sports including skijoring. Snowmobiles are not permitted on Camp Morton trails.

The trails — which are groomed by the club — run through forest, along the lake and along a creek bed. The trails are a five-minute drive north of Gimli.

For more information about trails, parking areas, trail maps and warm-up areas, visit the Gimli Cross Country Ski Club online.



GIMLI CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB

A map shows a number of trails on the west side of PR 222. The trails are about a five-minute drive north of Gimli.

## Search warrant in Pinaymootang First Nation leads to arrest of wanted man

By Haley Cvar

A search warrant executed by Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Pinaymootang First Nation has led to the arrest of two Winnipeg men, including one who was wanted in connection with a robbery.

Gypsumville RCMP received information on Jan. 20 about suspected drug trafficking at a property in Pinaymootang First Nation.

On Jan. 22, officers executed a search warrant at a residence on School Road, arresting two males. During the search, police seized weapons, firearms, jewelry and gang-related vests.

Tristan Baptiste, 25, and Wayne Kejick, 42, both of Winnipeg, have been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose (three counts), possession of property obtained by crime (two counts) and possession of weapons contrary to a court order.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Weapons, firearms, jewelry and gang-related vests seized by Gypsumville RCMP during the execution of a search warrant at a residence on School Road in Pinaymootang First Nation on Jan. 22.

Police said Baptiste was also wanted on a robbery charge at the time of his arrest.

Both men have been remanded into custody. The investigation is continuing.

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**Pharmasave, Gimli Theatre,**  
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# Creative Cocoon brings watercolour and clay workshops to Arborg

By Lana Meier

Get ready to splash into creativity at the Creative Cocoon.

The Arborg-based studio is welcoming two accomplished local artists as part of its upcoming winter and spring programming, offering hands-on classes designed to spark creativity, build confidence and keep things fun and relaxed — no experience required.

Kicking things off is award-winning painter Georgina Ball, who has been creating art since childhood and studied in England before settling in Manitoba. While Ball works primarily in oil, she also enjoys watercolour, mixed media and drawing, and is well known for experimenting with a wide range of subjects and techniques. She has shared her passion for art through adult evening classes in Arborg and Gimli and also welcomes visitors by appointment at her Giddy Cat Studio east of Arborg.

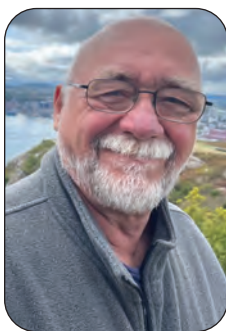
Ball will lead Fun with Watercolour, a four-week introductory series perfect for beginners or anyone looking to rekindle their creative spark. Running Mondays from Feb. 2 to Feb. 23, the workshops begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Creative Cocoon studio inside the 440 Recreation Centre. Each 90-minute session invites participants to explore basic watercolour techniques, play with texture and experiment freely in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

The \$40 registration fee includes all supplies — brushes, paint and paper — which participants get to keep. Youth aged 10 and older are welcome when accompanied by a guardian,

and class sizes are limited to ensure plenty of individual attention.

Also joining the Creative Cocoon lineup is Interlake artist Jerry Maryniuk, a retired police officer whose lifelong involvement in art includes sculpture, wildlife painting, cartooning, teaching and forensic illustration. Born and raised in rural Manitoba, Maryniuk draws inspiration from nature, rural life and community, while also using his art to raise awareness around mental health, seniors' issues, victims of crime and the experiences of first responders. He co-founded the Winnipeg Police Service retired members PTSD peer support group and continues to advocate for mental-health awareness.

Maryniuk will lead a multi-class hand-build clay sculpture workshop beginning in March, guiding participants through the creation of a whimsical raccoon sculpture using potter's



Jerry Maryniuk



Georgina Ball



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Local artist Georgina Ball will lead Fun with Watercolour, a four-week introductory workshop for beginners at the Creative Cocoon in Arborg beginning Feb. 2.

clay. Sessions run Mondays on March 2, 16 and 23, with a fourth class scheduled for March 30 if needed, depending on the group's progress. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. and run for two hours, with finished pieces kiln-fired and mounted on wood.

No prior experience is required, youth aged 10 and older are welcome with a guardian, and the registration fee is \$80. Space in both workshops is limited. To register or for more information, contact the Creative Cocoon by direct message or email [info@thecreativecocoon.ca](mailto:info@thecreativecocoon.ca).



Interlake artist Jerry Maryniuk displays one of his clay sculptures ahead of his upcoming hand-build workshop at the Creative Cocoon.

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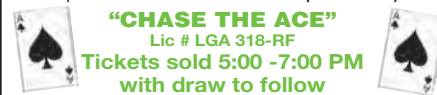
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# Residents share climate concerns as West Interlake begins adaptation planning

By E. Antonio

Residents across the Northwest Interlake are voicing growing concerns about flooding, drought and increasingly unpredictable weather as the West Interlake Watershed District begins work on a regional climate adaptation plan.

A public meeting held in Ashern on Jan. 21 marked the first step in developing a Climate Adaptation Plan for the region. While the plan is centred on the RM of West Interlake, it also encompasses surrounding areas, including the RM of Grahamdale, the Homebrook community at Peonan Point and nearby First Nations.

A second public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29 after extreme cold temperatures and snow-drifted roads limited attendance at the initial session.

District staff said the purpose of the planning process is to identify the most significant climate-related risks affecting communities and natural

systems in the Northwest Interlake, while developing practical strategies to help communities adapt.

They noted the region is no longer experiencing what would once have been considered “normal” weather patterns. Sharp swings between flooding and drought are becoming more frequent, along with stronger winter storms, heightened wildfire and tornado risks, increasing insect pressures and winters that are shorter and milder than in previous decades.

Residents who attended the meeting said weather conditions once viewed as unusual are now occurring more often and are already affecting daily life across the region.

Impacts raised during the discussion included poor pasture growth, crop losses, shorter commercial ice-fishing seasons, flooded roads, infrastructure damage and visible changes to forests and wetlands, including tree disease linked to insect activity.

Participants also highlighted health and safety concerns, pointing to increased stress, hazardous travel conditions and challenges accessing essential services during extreme weather events.

The climate adaptation planning process is being developed alongside an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Northwest Interlake to help communities better understand shared risks, set priorities and identify actions to address climate change.

Input from public meetings will play a central role in shaping the final plan, staff said. One of the strongest themes emerging from the initial session was a desire among residents to remain in their homes and communities, reflecting a deep connection to the land.

Reliable road access and emergency services during extreme weather were also identified as shared priorities tied to physical safety.

West Interlake Watershed District manager Irine Zotter said climate resilience can take many forms, including improvements to drainage infrastructure, conserving wetlands to help manage both flooding and drought, increasing biodiversity in plantings to reduce pest risks and strengthening emergency response capacity.

Zotter said the first meeting was designed primarily as a listening session, with future sessions set to

explore adaptation strategies and practical actions municipalities and communities can take.

All public feedback will be documented and shared publicly. It will be used alongside climate projections, scientific research, expert analysis and Traditional Knowledge to inform the final Climate Adaptation Plan.

Indigenous participation is a priority for the project, with invitations extended to local First Nations and plans to meet directly with Elders. District staff said watershed-scale planning is essential, as environmental impacts do not stop at municipal boundaries.

Funding for the project is provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through its Green Municipal Fund, with additional support from the Manitoba Climate Action Fund.

Residents who were unable to attend the Jan. 21 meeting are encouraged to participate in the Jan. 29 session, which begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Ashern Centennial Hall.

More information is available by emailing [contact@wiwd.ca](mailto:contact@wiwd.ca) or calling 204-762-5850. The district also shares updates through its social media channels and plans to launch a monthly newsletter to keep residents informed.

Zotter said residents should know their input remains welcome and valued.

## Brio supports Gimli Glider



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Brio Insurance donated \$1,000 to the Gimli Glider Museum earlier this month in support of the Gimli Glider Cockpit Commemorative Park initiative, which honours the historic Gimli Glider aircraft and its place in Canadian aviation history. The contribution will help advance plans for the commemorative park. Pictured, from left, are Anne Isfeld of Brio Insurance Gimli, Peter Holfeuer representing the Gimli Glider Museum and Shawna Adair of Brio Insurance Arborg during the donation presentation.

39<sup>th</sup> Annual

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9:15

**Grasshoppers, Weevils and More: A Review of Insect Pests of Forage Crops**  
 John Gavloski, Entomologist Manitoba Agriculture

10:00 **COFFEE & TRADESHOW**

10:30

**From Virtual Grazing to On-Pasture Weighing**  
 Mary-Jane Orr, General Manager Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives

11:15

**Impacts of Sire Nutrition on Future Generations**  
 Carl Dahlen, Reproductive Physiologist North Dakota State University

12:00 **LUNCH & TRADESHOW**

1:00

**The Business of Raising Beef**  
 John Maltman, Nutritionist Highline Manufacturing

1:45

**Livestock Inspection in Manitoba**  
 Carson Callum, General Manager Manitoba Beef Producers

2:30 **COFFEE & TRADESHOW**

3:00

**Economics of Buying Versus Raising Replacement Heifers**  
 Ben Hamm, Farm Management Specialist Manitoba Agriculture

3:45 **INDUSTRY DRAWS**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

Cost \$20 includes Hot Lunch, Displays, Grand Prize & Industry Draws

8:30 **REGISTRATION & VISIT TRADESHOW**

9:15

**Soybeans!! A Recap of 2025 and My Best Guess At 2026**  
 Terry J. Buss, Production Agronomist-East Manitoba Pulse & Soybean Growers

10:00 **COFFEE & TRADESHOW**

10:30

**Cover cropping on the Canadian Prairies: Lessons from 2020, Questions for 2026**  
 Callum Morrison, Crop Production Extension Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture

11:15

**From Armyworms to Wandering Weevils: A review of Insects on Crops in Eastern Manitoba in 2025**  
 John Gavloski, Provincial Entomologist Manitoba Agriculture

12:00 **LUNCH & TRADESHOW**

1:00

**Decisions That Pay: Practical Approaches to Soil Fertility Management**  
 Marla Riechmann, Provincial Soil Fertility Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture

1:45

**The Prairie Fusarium Head Blight Risk Mapping Tool**  
 Dr. Paul Bullock, Senior Scholar-Agrometeorology, University of Manitoba

2:30 **COFFEE & TRADESHOW**

3:00

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 Bruce Burnet, Director of Markets and Weather Analysis, Glacier Farm Media

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# RM of Armstrong council prepares for bright year in 2026

By Jennifer McFee

Armstrong council had plenty of accomplishments to celebrate in the past year, as well as lots to look forward to in 2026.

The current council now has more than a full year under their belts after being elected in a byelection in July 2024.

"We've rebuilt our staff in the last year and a half since this new council has come on. Getting our staffing in place has been a major accomplishment and I'm pretty happy with that," he said.

"The first year that we were on council was about getting things up and operating again. Then this last year allowed us to sit back and talk about where we need to move forward and what we need to do."

Reeve Garry Wasylowski shared some of the accomplishments and projects going on in the municipality.

To start, they resolved a Disaster Financial Assistance claim dating back to 2022 for previous flooding.

"After this council got elected, we asked for an extension and we got it done this year," he said. "It's one major project off the list."

The municipality also completed a

study related to its landfill and transfer stations.

"We had some concerns about running out of room and having to be prepared to rebuild a new cell. It turns out we're going to have capacity for a few more years, so we're going to look at the operations and streamline it," he said.

"We think that the landfill is going to last longer than we thought it would. That was another major thing that we did this year."

The RM also completed a major land sale in the northwest corner of the Chatfield area.

"There was a lot of vacant land that didn't have anybody leasing it at this point in time," he said, "so we decided to put it up for sale and it worked out well."

Looking ahead, discussions are underway about building a firehall in Fraserwood.

"We are out of room for all our equipment in Fraserwood and Inwood, and we're looking at a way to make this work. We're probably looking at acquiring some land," Wasylowski said.

"We talked to the Evergreen School Division, which has a piece of prop-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Left to right: Coun. Sonny Rohne, Reeve Garry Wasylowski, Coun. Paul Humeny, Coun. Dave Tyndale, Coun. Glenn Barkman and Coun. Allen Evanchyshin.

erty in Fraserwood where the school used to be. We are hoping that we could acquire that because that would be a perfect place to build a firehall in Fraserwood."

Council is also working on the 2026 budget, with a public meeting coming up on April 9.

"We just started sitting down as a

council and talking about what our goals are for the budget. We've got to be prepared for our budget so that we've got money when it's time to get projects done," he said.

"It is election year and we are going to look at our ward boundaries and maybe be shuffling some things around."

## Greenvalley, Enns Brothers to merge John Deere operations

By Lorne Stelmach

Greenvalley Equipment and Enns Brothers have announced plans to combine forces.

The two John Deere dealerships will merge to create what they say will be an even stronger dealership network serving the province.

Company representatives say the merger brings together two trusted organizations with deep agricultural roots, shared values and a long history of supporting farmers across Manitoba. They suggest the new partnership will create a stronger, more resilient company focused on enhancing customer service, strengthening employee opportunities and investing in the future of agriculture.

"This represents an exciting step

forward for both our customers and our employees," said Curwin Friesen, president of Greenvalley Equipment. "By combining resources, expertise and technology, we'll be able to serve farmers with an even broader range of solutions and faster access to the parts and service they depend on."

"Our companies share the same commitment to customers, employees and communities," added Ray Bouchard, CEO of Enns Brothers. "Together, we'll have the scale and financial strength to continue investing in innovation and meeting the evolving needs of our industry for years to come."

Greenvalley Equipment began in 1989 when Ernie and Glen Kehler purchased the John Deere dealership in Morden. Today, the company operates

locations in Altona, Killarney, Morden and Treherne.

Enns Brothers traces its roots to 1953, when Jake and Harry Enns entered the farm equipment business as an Allis-Chalmers and New Holland dealer in Sanford. Three years later, they became a John Deere dealer, eventually relocating the business to the corner of Highway 3 and the Perimeter at Oak Bluff. Enns Brothers currently operates nine locations across Manitoba.

"There's always been synergy between Greenvalley and Enns. We're neighbours in the province ... we've had a strong relationship," said Friesen. "It made sense for us to talk about joining forces to better serve the province."

Friesen stressed the importance of

balancing growth with maintaining local connections.

"In the John Deere world, size and scale matter. The challenge in the agriculture world for dealers like us is having the right piece of equipment on the yard. The greater we can work together with Enns, the better we can meet those needs," he said.

"Scale allows us to meet the needs of growers when it comes to equipment. We also face that same challenge on the parts side. Now we'll be tapping into 13 branches, all with inventory. That scale allows us to provide more offerings faster to customers, and that's also true when it comes to service technicians."

The merger is expected to be completed by April.

## RCMP arrest man near Eriksdale after stolen truck pursuit

By Haley Cvar

A Winnipeg man is facing multiple charges following the theft of a truck and a police pursuit in the Interlake region.

Gypsumville RCMP were notified at approximately 4 p.m. on Jan. 24 that a truck had been stolen while parked at a business along Highway 6 in St. Martin Junction. The vehicle was reported travelling south toward Lun-

dar shortly after the theft.

Police later observed the truck near Hilbre travelling at a high rate of speed. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but it fled. Lundar RCMP were notified and began patrolling the area.

At approximately 6 p.m., Lundar RCMP located the vehicle and successfully deployed a tire deflation device just north of Eriksdale on Highway 6.

The driver and a passenger were arrested at the scene. The driver, Kenneth McKay, 34, of Winnipeg, was remanded into custody. Police determined the 20-year-old male passenger was not involved in the incident and he was released shortly after.

McKay has been charged with theft of a truck, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, flight

from police, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, mischief to property over \$5,000 and two counts of failing to comply with conditions of a release order.

He was also charged with eight traffic offences totalling \$7,096 in fines.

Gypsumville RCMP say the investigation is ongoing.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Ice Dawgs on the hunt late in CRJHL season

By Kieran Reimer

The Arborg Ice Dawgs showed no rust last week in their return to Capital Region Junior Hockey League action.

After a two-week break, partly due to weather-related cancellations, the Ice Dawgs picked up regulation wins in both outings against the North Winnipeg Satellites and the Lundar Falcons.

With six points earned, Arborg moved into a share of fifth place in the CRJHL with a 5-15-0-2-1 record, extending its point streak to four games.

Arborg opened the week with an 8-6 win over the Satellites on Friday night at home.

The Ice Dawgs trailed four times but surged in the third period, scoring six goals to pull away. Dylan Woytowich and Brandon Burak scored Arborg's first two goals, leaving the Ice Dawgs within one heading into the final frame.

The teams combined for nine goals in the third period, with Burak completing a hat trick to lead all scorers. Tytan Johnson, Noah Smolinski, Dominick Collins and Brody Maxwell added the other third-period goals as Arborg secured its fourth regulation win of the season.

North Winnipeg held a 58-35 edge in shots, but Arborg goaltender Paxton

Moore earned the win with 52 saves, outduelling Jordan Armstrong, who stopped 27 shots for the Satellites.

The Ice Dawgs followed up with a 5-1 victory in Lundar on Saturday, again leaning on strong goaltending.

Brycen Johannesson and Maxwell scored first-period goals to give Arborg a 2-0 lead. Maxwell added his second of the game in the middle frame, while Bradley Kemkaran also scored to make it 4-0.

Lundar got on the board midway through the third period before Burak replied quickly for Arborg to round out the scoring.

Moore finished with 42 saves in the

win, while Lundar's Dylan Leclair turned aside 37 shots despite the Falcons outshooting Arborg 43-42.

With the regulation win, Arborg matched Lundar with 20 points through 23 games.

The Ice Dawgs face a three-game schedule this week, including a home-and-home series with Beausejour and a road trip to La Broquerie.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Beausejour Comets, 8 p.m., Beausejour Sportsplex

Friday, Jan. 30 vs. Beausejour Comets, 8 p.m., Arborg & District Arena

Saturday, Jan. 31 at La Broquerie Habs, 7:30 p.m., HyLife Centre

## Falcons drop fifth straight amid final regular-season homestand

By Kieran Reimer

The Lundar Falcons dropped their fifth straight game Saturday, falling 5-1 to the Arborg Ice Dawgs at Lundar Arena.

The loss was the Falcons' lone outing of the week and left them at 4-14-0-3-2 on the season, tied with Arborg for fifth place in the Capital Region Junior Hockey League.

Despite outshooting the Ice Dawgs 43-42, Lundar didn't get on the board

until midway through the third period, when Taylor Paupanekis scored his third goal of the season to make it 4-1. Arborg responded moments later with its fifth goal.

The Ice Dawgs built their lead with two goals in each of the opening periods and finished 1-for-3 on the power play. Lundar went 0-for-5 with the man advantage.

Falcons goaltender Dylan Leclair turned aside 37 shots in the loss, while

Arborg's Paxton Moore stopped 42 to earn the win as the Ice Dawgs extended their streak to three straight victories.

Lundar now turns its attention to Games 24 and 25 of the season, closing out a five-game homestand and the remainder of its home regular-season schedule with a weekend set at Lundar Arena.

The Falcons host the St. Malo Warriors on Saturday at 7 p.m., followed

by a Sunday matinee against the Selkirk Fishermen at 3 p.m. at Lundar Arena, wrapping up a five-game homestand and the remainder of their home regular season schedule.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

Saturday, Jan. 31 vs St. Malo Warriors, 7 p.m. at Lundar Arena

Sunday, Feb. 1 vs Selkirk Fishermen, 3 p.m. at Lundar Arena

## Lundar Kodiaks drop pair on road in WHSHL Price Division play

By Annaliese Meier

The Lundar Kodiaks endured a difficult road swing last week in Winnipeg High School Hockey League Price Division action, dropping both games to remain 11th in the standings with a 2-14 record.

Lundar opened the week with a 9-0 loss to the Lorette Scorpions on Jan. 20, struggling to generate offence against a strong Scorpions attack.

The Kodiaks were back on the road the following night and fell 10-4 to Murdoch MacKay on Jan. 21, despite flashes of offensive production.

Murdoch MacKay jumped out to a four-goal lead in the opening period, but Lundar responded late in the frame with two goals from Kolten Bell-Sinclair to keep the game within reach. Bell-Sinclair completed his hat trick in the second period, while Noah Kuzyk also found the back of the net as the Kodiaks continued to battle.

Murdoch MacKay pulled away in the third period with six goals, led by Lucas Merner and Brody Crellin, to seal the victory.

Lundar will look to regroup when they re-

turn home Friday, Jan. 30 to host the Kildonan East Reivers in their next Price Division matchup.

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# Dip your line during inaugural Hailey's Way Ice Fishing Derby and support Interlake youth

By Patricia Barrett

The upcoming Hailey's Way Ice Fishing Derby in Gimli in honour of Hailey Dugay, a young woman who loved to fish, is gearing up to give participants a fun-filled day of ice fishing on Lake Winnipeg and a chance to vie for the top prize of \$10,000.

People registering for the March derby will also be supporting programming and recreational activities for Interlake youth offered through Hailey's Way Inc., the non-profit organization that's organizing the derby.

Hailey's mom, Dana DesRoches, founded the organization in honour of her 20-year-old daughter, who tragically died in 2018 near Fraserwood after a man opened fire at a vehicle in which she was a passenger.

DesRoches wants to provide youth in small Interlake communities opportunities to take part in safe, supervised programs that focus on building life skills and engagement in recreational activities.

She said she thought a fishing derby would be ideal to raise funds for programs while bringing friends and family together for an enjoyable day on Lake Winnipeg.

"Ice fishing is something I've done with my children right from the time we moved here to Gimli. It was something that Hailey really enjoyed doing. That was a big part of why we decided to hold a derby," said DesRoches. "And we wanted to bring an ice-fishing fundraiser back to Gimli; there hasn't been a fishing derby here in about two years or so. We decided we'd take that on. It's also a great way to bring people together, bring community organizations together and help raise money for youth programs here in the Interlake."

The board of Hailey's Way is organizing the event, along with business supporters such as Ian Prise from Prise Fishing and Adam Stringer from Stringer Rentals. They'll be organizing the layout of the site, drilling the holes, arranging parking and so forth said DesRoches.

Last winter, Hailey's Way partnered with the RM of Gimli, the Gimli Recreation Centre and local anglers to offer a free half-day how-to-fish program to Interlake kids aged 8 to 17.

"We brought out a bunch of kids and taught them about ice fishing, everything from setting up a tent, drilling the holes and using a hook to how to fillet your own fish and clean up their site," said DesRoches.

Last year, the organization was able to provide programs and funding for almost 100 kids in the region, she added.

There will lots of prizes for children and adults at the derby.

"There will be probably be close to 70 prizes, which could be range from an ice augur to an ice-fishing kit," said DesRoches. "There will be random draws for people buying their hole and showing up to participate. Other prizes will be based on the fish caught."

The grand prize is \$10,000 with second- and third-place prizes of \$3,000 and \$1,500 respectively. There are two early bird ticket-purchasing prizes, one for adults (a Mr. Heater portable propane heater) and one for children (ice-fishing rod and tackle box).

Early-bird ticket sales end on Feb. 15 and the draws will take place online on Feb. 28 via the Hailey's Way Ice Fishing Derby Facebook page.

## HAILEY'S WAY ICE FISHING DERBY

MARCH 7, 2026 GIMLI, MB

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE PRIZE:**  
**\$10,000**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: \$3000**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE: \$1500**

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS:**  
**ADULT \$65, YOUTH \$30**  
**SECOND HOLE \$30**  
**SPECTATOR \$10**

**TICKETS ↓**



**ADULT EARLY BIRD PRIZE**  
**MR. HEATER 18,000 BIG BUDDY**  
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**YOUTH EARLY BIRD PRIZE**  
**ICE FISHING ROD & TACKLE BOX**

EARLY BIRD TICKET SALES END FEB. 15.  
DRAWS WILL BE ON FEB. 28 ON FACEBOOK LIVE  
FROM THE "HAILEY'S WAY ICE FISHING DERBY"  
FACEBOOK PAGE.

100% OF NET PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
YOUTH PROGRAMS IN THE INTERLAKE



HAILEYSWAY.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANA DESROCHES

Hailey Dugay was only 20 years old when she was fatally shot in 2018. Hailey loved to fish, and the 1st annual fishing derby organized by Hailey's Way Inc. in her name will raise proceeds for programs that will be available to youth from across the Interlake.

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Send resume to:  
Box 38, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0  
Fax to: 204-376-5836 or  
Email to: tdmports@hotmail.com  
or Apply in person at  
279 Main St., Arborg



## NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TOWN OF WINNIPEG BEACH

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on July 24, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between February 1, 2026 and June 18, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between March 31, 2026 and June 18, 2026

at the Town of Winnipeg Beach office, 29 Robinson Avenue during the regular hours of business (8:30 am - 4:30 pm).

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

B. Leah McIsaac  
Senior Election Official  
204-782-2146  
SEO contact telephone number  
seo@winnipegbeach.ca  
SEO email

Dated at Winnipeg Beach on January 26, 2026.

B. Leah McIsaac Town of Winnipeg Beach  
Senior Election Official (SEO)



## NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE 2026 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on **Friday, July 24, 2026.**

Prospective candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, by appointment only, I will be receiving candidate registrations at the Village of Dunnottar office, 44 Whytewold Road, during regular office hours:

For the office of **head of council**: Between February 1, 2026, and June 18, 2026

For the office of **councillor**: Between March 31, 2026, and June 18, 2026

To schedule an appointment to receive a registration form, please contact me at the telephone number below at:

Yvette Sundseth, Senior Election Official (SEO), 204-407-0225 (cell) or by Email: ysundseth.vod.seo@gmail.com



## Rural Municipality of Gimli

P.O. Box 1246, 62-Second Avenue  
Gimli, Manitoba R0C 1B0  
Tel: (204) 642-6650 | Website: www.gimli.ca | Email: gimli@rmgimli.com

## Municipal Grant Applications 2026

The RM of Gimli provides funding to local non-profits and community groups for events, projects, and sponsorships that strengthen our municipality.

Application Deadline: February 16, 2026

Policy & Application: www.gimli.ca

Submit your application:

- Online: www.gimli.ca
- By Email: gimli@rmgimli.com
- By Mail: P.O. Box 1246, 62-Second Avenue, Gimli, Manitoba R0C 1B0

Note: Call (204) 642-6650 to request a mailed package.

Late applications will not be considered.

Dated January 5, 2026  
DJ Sigmundson, CAO  
Rural Municipality of Gimli

www.gimli.ca

## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## TRANSFER STATION & WASTE DISPOSAL GROUNDS OPERATORS

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the position of part-time and casual operators for the waste sites within the RM of Armstrong.

Under the supervision of the Public Works Coordinator, the Disposal Grounds Operator operates the site in compliance with the Waste Disposal Ground Operating Permit, Municipal By-laws and policies, and applicable federal and provincial regulations.

The operator will be required to take the Manitoba Landfill Operator Certification Program and be responsible for various recycling programs. The operator must be physically able to lift 50 lbs and have a valid drivers license.

Posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. We appreciate your interest in the position, however, only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted. This position commences as soon as possible.

Interested candidates should submit a resume with three references to:

RM of Armstrong Office  
1094 Highway 17 Inwood  
P.O. Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0  
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Mom, Dad and brother Darrell

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**Email resume to: swl@sprucewoodloggers.ca  
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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GENERAL LABOURER

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**Please submit resume to shaunne@charisons.ca or  
call 204-886-2922 for further information.**

## MORTGAGE SALE

The land and building known as 26 Royal Road, Rural Municipality of Gimli, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 3219077/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday the 25th day of February, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction. In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Dan Ransom at either 204-988-0443 or dransom@tmlawyers.com. On the date of the auction, an email will be sent to all attendees at the email addresses provided. The attendees will need to follow the instructions in the email, which will include a video link or teleconference call-in information. The successful bidder shall have a period of 24 hours to provide the deposit in certified funds payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP and sign the auction sale conditions.

TO THE BEST of the Vendor's knowledge, the house is a Single Family Bungalow, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom house with approximately 1,301 square feet of living space. The house has a living room, dining room, laundry room and kitchen. The house has a basement, a shed and oversized double garage with heated office. The approximate lot size is 80 feet of frontage by 350 feet of depth (.55 of an acre). The house is located on Lake Winnipeg.

**PRIOR ENCUMBRANCES: Caveat No. 88-5624.5/1**

**REALTY TAXES** (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to **December 31, 2025.**

**TERMS OF SALE:** a deposit of \$40,000.00 by way of cash, certified cheque or bank draft payable to Taylor McCaffrey LLP, and the balance according to Auction Sale Conditions will be available to all registered auction participants. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$280,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 24th day of February, 2026 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale. The maximum amount of cash that may be provided as part of the deposit is **\$7,500.00.** The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca).

FURTHER information may be obtained from:

**TAYLOR McCAFFREY LLP**  
2200 – 201 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3L3  
**ATTENTION: Daniel Ransom**  
Phone No.: 204-988-0443  
File No.: 114473-337

**\*Email Preferred: dransom@tmlawyers.com**



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## NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / VOTING AS A NON-RESIDENT VOTER / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Board Election Act*, notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be reviewed, **by appointment** with the SEO, at The Village of Dunnottar Office, 44 Whytefold Road in the Village of Dunnottar. Updates to the Voters List can be made until June 18, 2026.

Updating of the Voters List including:

- adding names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other corrections of errors to the list, as required.

### VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have their name added to the Voters List if they are:

- 1) a Canadian Citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- 2) a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day; or a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to Election Day.

### VOTING AS A NON-RESIDENT VOTER:

**A maximum of two non-resident property owners per property are permitted to vote in a municipal election.** In order to vote, each of these voters must obtain written consent from the majority of the registered landowners and this is to be filed with the SEO prior to June 18, 2026, for inclusion to the voters list.

**Note:** When voting, you may be required to provide proof of ownership to the voting official.  
When voting, proof of identity may be requested by the voting official.

**A voter's name must not appear on the voters list more than once.**

### APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the SEO (at the address below) no later than June 18, 2026, to have their name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or fax and must include your name, address, and include proof of identity (an official document issued by a federal, provincial or municipal government). Any photocopies must be legible. All changes to the voters list are to be completed by the close of business (16:30) on June 18, 2026, in preparation for municipal election to be held on **Friday, July 24, 2026.**

Yvette Sundseth, Senior Election Official (SEO)  
for the Village of Dunnottar  
Box 321, Matlock, MB R0C 2B0,  
Phone: 204-407-0225 Fax: 204-389-4966



# Announcements

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OBITUARY



**Jaqueline "Jackie" Walker (née Oddleifson)**  
1932 - 2026

Jaqueline "Jackie" Walker passed away peacefully on January 15 at the age of 93 at the Gimli Betel, with family by her side. She leaves to mourn her daughters Carol, Gayle (Gary), Susan (Lorne), and Joyce (Gary); her grandchildren Corley (Kent), Allison (Stu), Trevor, Raymond (Jenny), Tabby (Brian), Emily (Joel) and Lucy; and her great-grandchildren Sigrid, Soren, Sigurjon, Emily, James, Mackenzie, Raymond, Myla, Tori, Will and Billy. Jackie was predeceased by her husband, Red Walker; her son, Richard; her son-in-law, Gregg; her brothers, Bobby and Ginty; and her sisters, Willow and Bernice. Jackie was truly a people person, making friends of all ages throughout her life. A great listener, she had a deep love for music, singing in choirs and playing the piano, along with golfing and travelling. She LOVED shopping and took great pride in her sense of style, always fashion-forward from head to toe. She was very proud to be named "Walker" by her great-grandchildren, and her eyes always lit up whenever she was surrounded by them. Always ready for a game of cards, Walker was known for having her special goodies on hand. Heartfelt thanks to the staff at Gimli Betel and Gimli Hospital. At Jackie's request, cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held at a later date. "I love you a bushel and a peck, and a hug around the neck." Góða Nótt Elskan



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

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

### Lead a Growing Municipality as Gimli's Chief Administrative Officer

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is seeking an experienced and visionary municipal leader to serve as Chief Administrative Officer.

Reporting to Council, the CAO provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the municipality, overseeing more than 100 employees and contractors, three departments, and an annual operating and capital budget exceeding \$23 million. This role is central to ensuring strong governance, effective service delivery, legislative compliance, and positive relationships with Council, staff, residents, and regional partners.

The successful candidate will bring proven leadership experience, strong administrative and financial expertise, and the ability to lead teams, guide long- and short-term planning, and support Council in achieving its strategic priorities.

Scan the QR code to view full responsibilities, or visit <https://www.gimli.ca/p/employment-opportunities> for more details.

P.O. Box 1246, 62- Second Avenue  
Gimli, Manitoba ROC 1B0  
204-642-6650



OBITUARY



**Anne Loewen (nee Kessler)**  
December 17, 1931 – January 23, 2026  
Peacefully, with her family by her side, on January 23, 2026 at the age of 94, Mom was called home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Mom is survived by her children: Shirley (Ken), Art, Leonard (Maureen), Darlene (Bill), James and Phillip; grandchildren Wayne, Rhonda, Sherry, Terry, Dean, Andrea, Joel, Leanne, Laura (Joey), Brad (Andrea), Darbie and Chelsea; along with many great-grandchildren. Mom was predeceased by her husband Henry, two sons Edward and John and two daughters Marlene and Eunice. Mom shared with us how God prepares us before He takes us to heaven. God saw you were getting tired, so He put His arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me".

Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2026 in the Oak Point Community Hall with Cindy Thorkelson officiating. Viewing will be held one hour prior to the service. Following the service an interment will be held in the Clarkleigh Cemetery with a luncheon to follow in the Oak Point Hall. Pallbearers will be Wayne Kessler, James Loewen, Jeff Unrau, Clifford McIntyre, Chelsea Gardiner and Jon Penner. Special thanks to the staff of the Eriksdale Personal Care Home for their love, compassion and tender care of our Mom. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Eriksdale Personal Care Home, IERHA Eriksdale PCH Recreation, PO Box 130, Eriksdale, MB, R0C 0W0. Arrangements by: **ARNASON FUNERAL HOME** Ashern - Lundar 1.204.768.2072 1.866.323.3593

OBITUARY

**Irene Mary Sellen**  
October 25, 1937 – January 21, 2026  
Peacefully on January 21, 2026, Irene Sellen passed away at the Eriksdale Personal Care at the age of 88 years. Irene was predeceased by her two husbands Bob Stuart and Mike Charkiewich as well as her brother Donald Sellen. Left to grieve her passing are her four children Kerry (Grace), Linda, Lee and Kelly (Ruby); 10 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. The family would like to express their gratitude to the Eriksdale Personal Care Home staff for their excellent care. Mom felt at home there. As per her wishes, there will be no formal service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to IERHA Eriksdale PCH Recreation, PO Box 130, Eriksdale, MB R0C 0W0. Arrangements by: **ARNASON FUNERAL HOME** Ashern - Lundar 1-204-768-2072 1-866-323-3593

## Senior Election Official (Contract)

### Lead the Administration of Gimli's Municipal Election

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is seeking a highly organized and impartial professional to serve as Senior Election Official for upcoming municipal elections.

This contract role oversees election planning, staffing, public communication, and ballot integrity to ensure a fair, transparent, and legally compliant election process.

Flexible hours, competitive remuneration, and mileage provided. Applications are reviewed starting February 12, 2026.

Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.gimli.ca/p/employment-opportunities> to view full details.

P.O. Box 1246, 62- Second Avenue  
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204-642-6650





OBITUARY



**Joyce Marie Tarnowski**

Joyce Tarnowski was a woman whose life was defined by love, devotion, and quiet strength. She passed peacefully on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at the age of 80.

Born and raised in Woodridge, Manitoba, Joyce was the beloved daughter of Frank and Nelly Gerus. Her early years were rooted in family, faith, and community—values that would guide her throughout her life.

At the age of 12, Joyce moved to Winnipeg, where she attended St. Joseph's Catholic School. It was there that her compassion for others and her strong work ethic continued to grow. Fate stepped in when Joyce went on a blind date with Adam Tarnowski. The connection was instant, and the two fell deeply in love, beginning a beautiful marriage that lasted 55 years.

Together, Joyce and Adam built a life centered on family. She was a proud and loving mother to three children: Page (Robert Spulnick), Dawn Tarnowski, and Adam (Marsha Gallaway). Joyce's joy only grew with the arrival of her six cherished grandchildren - Lyndsay, Mathew, Keith, Anthony, Presley, and Jackson - as well as several great-grandchildren who brought her endless happiness and pride.

Joyce and Adam's journey took them to Kenora, where they ran a lunch counter together, before returning to Winnipeg three years later. Adam later started his own home business in Garden City, where the family lived for 14 years. Eventually, they settled in Fraserwood/Malonton, a place they would call home for 30 years and where Joyce's deep roots in community life truly flourished.

Throughout her life, Joyce wore many hats. She worked at Eaton's and the Stock Exchange, kept the books for her husband's business, and served as a dedicated homemaker. No matter the role, she brought care, diligence, and kindness to everything she did.

Joyce's heart for service was evident in her countless volunteer roles. She gave generously of her time as a PTA volunteer, Brownie Owl, Girl Guide Captain, and Camp Coordinator. She served as a catechism teacher, was a devoted member of the Catholic Women's League for 26 years, and proudly served as President of the Gimli Soccer League for five years. Her commitment to helping others shaped countless lives and strengthened the communities she loved.

Above all, Joyce will be remembered for her unwavering love for her family, her deep faith, her servant's heart, and her gentle presence. She was the quiet glue that held everything together—a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, and volunteer whose legacy lives on in the lives she touched.

A funeral service will take place on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Church in Gimli, with interment to take place at a later date. Honorary pallbearers Jackson Tarnowski, Presley Tarnowski, Anthony Tarnowski, Keith Spulnick and Matthew Spulnick.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff at Gimli Hospital for their excellent care, compassion, and kindness.

Joyce Tarnowski will be deeply missed and forever loved. Her memory will continue to shine through the family she cherished and the communities she faithfully served.

Friends and family are invited to visit Joyce's memorial page at [www.interlakecremation.ca](http://www.interlakecremation.ca), where memories and condolences may be shared.

Arrangements entrusted to:  
**Interlake Cremation & Memorial Services**  
204.482.1040

OBITUARY



**Rick Lair**

Rick Lair of Gimli, Manitoba, passed away on January 18, 2026 at the Johnson Memorial Hospital, at age 72.

He is survived by his children Silas and Emily Lair and Jennifer Robinson, his granddaughter Alexis Robinson and his partner Marlene Lock.

He was predeceased by his wife Heather.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will take place at Fraserwood Hall, Fraserwood, Manitoba on January 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Tribute Link at: [www.alternacremation.ca](http://www.alternacremation.ca)

Alternacremation

OBITUARY



**Richard William McKnight (Bill)**

June 19, 1936 - January 19, 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, Richard William (Bill) McKnight, age 89.

Dad was born June 19, 1936 at Gunnworth, Saskatchewan, the 6th of 7 children to Ross and Ida.

The family moved to Oak Point in March 1944, Dad finished school at Radway about 1.5 miles from the farm.

Dad loved horses from an early age and still had four horses in the end. He was still fixing harness a week before he entered the hospital. Even while in the Ashern Hospital, Dad was asking about his horses while looking at the family photo album.

Dad farmed all his life and had many stories of days gone by of his farming lifestyle. Riding bare back to go fetch the cows for milking to harnessing the team for winter chores, which he would usually install the winter bells. In the summer he would hitch the team to the rake mower or sweep for haying.

In the 1980's he started entering into the fair horse pulls and shows, he was very proud to bring home an assortment of ribbons and trophies.

He joined the Lunder Ag Society board helping look after the horse show program, a title he was very proud of and took very seriously, a position he held for nearly 30 years.

Dad loved to travel to fairs and gatherings all over Manitoba. Dad and Mom would camp out in the truck for the weekend to attend the entire show.

One of his proudest moments was getting to drive a four horse hitch and then a six horse hitch.

In his younger years he would be called upon to yodel and call square dances at the local Chalway Hall.

If someone needed a helping hand, he was always willing to help and always enjoyed a good chat with whomever came along over a pot of coffee and dainties.

When it was cold outside you would find him and Mom constructing a jig saw puzzle. He also loved doing search a word books or reading a western novel. And if you knew how to play cribbage he would soon have you in a game.

Dad was also an avid Leaf's fan, he loved to watch the games on TV and look at his hockey books and update them.

In his later years Dad enjoyed spending many hours gardening with Mom. He loved seeing the roses blooming.

Dad always lit up when seeing his grandchildren. He loved to tease them.

He leaves to mourn his loving wife of 63 years, Joyce. Son Dan and children, Kim (John), Cheyanne, Oliver, Owen and John. Daphne (Troy), Theron, Danette (Brady), Bennett and Emmett. Janelle (Mason). Son Tim (Cindy), children Tracy (Garret), Bryce (Hailey), Haylee and Zach. Ryan (Erica), Wyatt. Michelle (Devon), Drayden, Kane, Ellie. Sam (Wade). Daughter Esther (Wayne) Lightfoot, Wayne Jr. (Anna). Brent (Kaitlyn), Braxon, Bella, Weston. Tanya (Dustin), Zane. Son Glen (Lane). Brother Harry, sister Rose, brother-in-law Donnie (Heather), numerous nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by parents Ross and Ida, in-laws Donald and Ada Emms; sisters Marge (John) Dyck, Pearl (Alf) Emms, Annie (Les) Scharf; brother Charlie (Barb) McKnight; in-law's Ruth (Jack) Cranston, Ruth McKnight and Don Koval.

Memorial service was held on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at Oak Point Community Hall. Interment took place at the Oak Point East Cemetery. Lunch followed. Pallbearers were - grandsons Wayne Jr, Brent and Ryan and granddaughters Tracy, Kim and Daphne.

Thank you to the staff at Ashern General Hospital and Health Sciences Centre for their wonderful care and compassion while looking after Dad.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of one's choice.

Rest in Peace Dear Dad. We love you!

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