



ROYAL LEPAGE
JMB & Associates

Matt McSherry REALTOR®
204-886-7585 (cell)
mattmcsherry@royallepage.ca
mattmcsherry.ca

Canadian, Owned & Operated!
AWARD WINNING SERVICE

DIAMOND AWARD
TOP 35 UNDER 35



TEULON - FOR RENT OR LEASE - \$1250/month! Location! Location! Location! With TONS of exposure on the corner of Hwy 7 & 17 - 174x149' vacant lot w/hydro/well & septic Services. MLS #202602951



ERIKSDALE - \$89,900
158 Acres - Hunters' Dream - Prime Wildlife Territory. Ideal for hunting/pasture/recreation or future cabin! Partially fenced. MLS #202602648



STONEWALL - \$474,900
OPEN HOUSE: March 7th
Stay tuned for more details! Impeccable 3 BR 3 Bath 1243 sf Bung on Park-like Lot. Tons of upgrades. Hug attached Garage. Wood Burning FP; Ideal for wanting out of the city, but close enough to commute. MLS #202601719

THE EXPRESS

www.expressweeklynews.ca

VOLUME 13 EDITION 7 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

WEEKLY NEWS

LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY

ALL IN STOCK NOW

POWER+ 24 IN. SELF-PROPELLED 2-STAGE C/W BATTERY & CHARGER

\$1799 SNT2405

POWER+ 24 IN. SELF-PROPELLED 2-STAGE XP FEAT., HEATED HANDLE GRIPS C/W BATTERY & CHARGER

\$2299 SNT2416

POWER+ 28 IN. SELF-PROPELLED 2-STAGE C/W BATTERY & CHARGER

\$2799 SNT2807

2025 Honda CRF50
Air cooled single-cyl. 49cc
Reg \$2700
\$2,290⁰⁰
INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI AND FEES

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



Reel fun on the ice

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Brent Thorsteinson gives a thumbs-up while participating in the 2nd Annual Riverton Ice Fishing Derby at Sandy Bar Beach on Feb. 16. The Family Day event featured more than \$5,000 in prizes, including a \$4,000 grand prize for the longest fish, and raised funds in support of Riverton Minor Hockey and the Riverton & District Friendship Centre. See next week's *Express* for full coverage.

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

Countryside Home
building centre

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



Masterfeeds®

GROBER® GRO-TECH II MILK REPLACER
GROBER® GRO-TECH I HIGH FAT MILK REPLACER

"Calving season is upon us. We have what you need to get those babies up and started!"



Preservation committee asks Gimli council for permission to run Arnes Lutheran Church

By Patricia Barrett

A volunteer committee has asked Gimli council for permission to step in and run the Arnes Pioneer Lutheran Memorial Church, which had been turned over to the municipality last year.

The Arnes Church Preservation Committee wrote a letter dated Jan. 23 to council, saying it had offered in 2022 to take responsibility for the church and its yard, and that its offer still stands.

"Our position is unchanged," wrote the committee in its letter, which is posted under correspondence on council's Feb. 11 agenda. "We have a volunteer board ready to assume the responsibility of the church and church yard and we have pledges and interim funding in place to do so."

The preservation committee is made up of Allene Walld-Walton, Catherine Strong, Chris Dalman, Christine Green, Donna Dzydz, Eve Metzler, James Walld, Kyla Dalman, Linda Dzydz, Linnea Pitz, Norma Cone and Penny Dzydz, according to the letter.

The church and its grounds were designated a municipal heritage site in 2010. The church, which was built in the early 20th century in the pioneer baroque style, had been run by a volunteer board that resigned last year. The board turned the church over to the municipality.

The preservation committee said it's willing to work with council.

The *Express* reached out to a committee member for comment.

OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- Council held a public hearing on Feb. 11 to present a "special service plan" to apply dust control to Willow Island Road and charge residents a special tax.

Residents request dust control every year from the municipality for the portion of Willow Island Road that runs from Highway 9 to the curve onto the causeway. The plan, if adopted by council, would automatically kick in for a 10-year period so that residents wouldn't have to make a yearly request.

Special Service Plan 1-2026 says dust control will be applied every year from 2026 to 2035 inclusive.

"The entire annual cost will be recovered from all benefitting properties along Willow Island Road (including all taxable, grant-in-lieu and otherwise exempt properties) through a special service tax," states the plan. "The special service tax will be calculated based on an amount per parcel of land. Based on 92 benefitting parcels (roll numbers), each parcel will pay an estimated \$44.51 the first year adding a projected 2.6% increase per year for ten years (2027 to 2035 inclusive)."

The RM publicly posted one letter of opposition to the plan under its Feb. 11 agenda from a couple on Willow Island.

The *Express* asked the RM/council if the plan was adopted and how it's calculating cost compared to dust control calculations for other rural roads.

- The RM publicly posted three out of four general



FILE PHOTO

The Arnes Church Preservation Committee has asked council for permission to step in and care for the historic church and its grounds after the church board turned the church over to the municipality last year.

Continued on page 7



Evergreen Staff Spotlight

Celebrating the People Who Make Our Schools Work

Meet Tony Willmott – School Bus Driver, Route 31

For the past eight years, Tony Willmott has been a steady and reliable presence for Evergreen students, safely transporting them along Route 31 from Matlock to Gimli. After selling his business in Winnipeg, Tony decided to try something new — and school bus driving became not just a job, but a role he's come to love. "It doesn't really feel like a job," Tony says. "I simply like what I'm doing. The employees are awesome, and of course, the kids make it fun and interesting."

Bus drivers do more than transport students — they are guardians of safety. From his seat behind the wheel, Tony is constantly scanning for potential hazards and providing input to help improve student safety. In fact, the addition of patrols at Gimli High School to assist with traffic and crossings came directly from bus drivers' recommendations.

Tony's commitment has not gone unnoticed. He recalls one student who heard he was considering stepping back from his full-time route. When she confronted him, she told him, "Tony, you can't leave — we need you." For Tony, those words captured the trust and connection he's built with the students he drives each day. "It wasn't just about needing a bus driver," he explains. "It was that they needed someone they knew, trusted, and enjoyed being with. I'll always remember those kind words."

Tony also has a deep respect for Evergreen's teachers. He remembers how one teacher, Laura Fridfinnson, went above and beyond to help his son succeed in Pre-Calculus. When his son was struggling in the course, she recognized his potential and assured him that with the right supports and his own effort he could succeed. Thanks to her encouragement and dedication to supporting him, his son completed the course and is now finishing a degree at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Science.

"That's what public education is all about," Tony says. "Staff who go the extra mile to help students succeed."

Thank YOU, Tony, for your care for student safety, the positive relationships you've built with Evergreen families, and for going the extra mile to help students succeed!

Interviewed by and pictured with trustee Dianna Auer





Baker Law CORPORATION

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

If you are buying or selling real estate now or in the near future, call us to discuss the important legal issues that you will need to know about. Call us for more information and to find out how we can help you. ***We are here when you need us.***

Grant D. Baker
Barrister, Solicitor and Notary

Our office is open
8:30 am - 5:30 pm Mon to Thurs
72 Centre Street, Gimli, MB
204-642-8681 or 1-866-487-5688

Manitoba Beef Producers reflect on a strong year at 47th AGM

By Jessica Eblie

Cattle producers from across the province gathered in Brandon on Feb. 11 and 12 for the 47th annual general meeting (AGM) of Manitoba Beef Producers (MBP), an event that combined education, industry updates, financial reporting and recognition of leadership within Manitoba's beef sector.

Held at the Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre, the AGM, tradeshow and President's Banquet provided an opportunity for producers and industry leaders to reflect on the past year and look ahead to priorities for 2026.

Manitoba's beef sector is riding a profitable wave, but producers remain mindful of the changing horizons ahead for the industry.

"There's a ton of unknown in the industry right now," said Carson Callum, chief executive officer of the MBP, following the AGM. "Not just in our industry but in agriculture overall. Whether that's weather impacts that can be detrimental or quite positive, depending on the year, or geopolitical issues."

International trade remains a central component of Manitoba's beef sector.

"We're very heavily reliant on trade, and our relationship with our partner to the south is extremely important," Callum said. "As an industry, we export close to 50 per cent of what we produce here in Canada, and close to 70 per cent of that goes to the U.S."

With that trade-dependent relationship, stability is key.

"From a trade aspect, we always say 'do no harm,'" Callum stated. "We have a good free trade agreement right now (with the U.S.), especially for our industry in particular. Any sort of hiccup in that partnership can lead to a really negative impact."

At the same time, producers are encouraged by diversification efforts.

"We just got back into the China market that we were shut out of for a number of years," he said. "Diversifying our market is only going to lead to positive things."

While trade and geopolitics remain major considerations, business risk management tools closer to home were also highlighted during the AGM.

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald and Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshy announced at the AGM that



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kyla (left) and Connor (middle) and family won the Environmental Stewardship Award at the 47th annual general meeting of Manitoba Beef Producers.

Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) will test a new way to provide forage insurance for 2026. This initiative will use advanced satellite technology to make it easier for farmers to report their crop data and provide more accurate estimates of

forage production.

For MBP, the announcement reflects long-standing calls for stronger and more practical business risk management solutions for the beef sector. The

Continued on page 8

Your
CALVING
HEADQUARTERS!

Arborg Livestock Supplies Ltd.
9133 Hwy 68 Arborg MB | arborgls@mymts.net
204-376-5170

NOW HIRING!

Pro Desk Lead & Dispatcher (Full Time)

- Lead PRO Desk staff alongside Sales Lead
- Ensure excellent service is provided to both in-person and call-in clients
- Coordinate and schedule deliveries alongside Yard Foreman
- Ideal candidate is a personable, administratively gifted professional with strong leadership and communication skills

Building Material Sales (Full Time)

- Help customers choose the right building materials
- Provide quotes & estimates for customers
- Serve customers over the phone and in-person
- Ideal candidate has previous sales and/or building materials experience

Delivery Driver & Yard Associate (Full Time)

- Ideal candidate has a valid Class 3 Drivers License
- Deliver and handle building materials on jobsites
- Package & load materials for customers

Arborg Home hardware building centre

Here's How.
451 Main Street, Arborg
204-376-3090
ArborgHomeHardware.ca
hr@arborghbc.com

Coldwell March Madness Ice Fishing Tournament runs March 1- April 5

By E. Antonio

As winter begins to fade, the RM of Coldwell is inviting residents and visitors alike to make the most of the season's final stretch with its annual March Madness Ice Fishing Tournament.

Running from March 1 to April 5, the tournament encourages anglers of all ages to head outdoors for a chance to win weekly prizes and five grand prizes awarded at the end of the competition. Categories include weekly largest walleye and perch, along with weekly participation draws.

"We want to get people of all ages outside to enjoy the fresh air and take in the last bit of winter fun," said Breanna Malcom, recreation director for the RM of Coldwell. "It's a moment for others to enjoy the outdoors and experience our municipality."

The tournament is open to everyone, though all fishing must take place within municipal boundaries. Participants must register through the FishDonkey app by selecting "Fish in a Tourna-

ment" and joining "Coldwell March Madness." The \$30 registration fee helps cover a portion of the app's operating costs, with the remainder going toward the prize fund. Prize details will be announced on the RM of Coldwell Recreation Facebook page.

To qualify, anglers must submit their catches in real time using the app. Entries require a properly measured photo, a trophy-style image and a video showing the fish being released back into the water. Submissions must be completed live at the time of the catch, though internet service is not required to make an entry.

"Recreation comes in all shapes and sizes and we are excited to host this tournament again as we see the impact recreation opportunities have within our communities," Malcom added. "This is just one more way to celebrate what the Interlake has to offer, especially right here in Coldwell."



Nolan Smith with the longest walleye in the 2025 tournament; Cameron Johnson with the longest perch in 2025; and Paul Monkman with the longest jackfish in 2025.

RM of Coldwell March Madness Ice Fishing Tournament



For more information, contact Breanna Malcom at rec.coldwell@mymts.net. Follow us at "RM of Coldwell Recreation" on Facebook to see photos of the prizes!

\$30

Entry
Fee

Must fish
in RM of Coldwell!

March 1 - April 5, 2026

Prizes to be announced in February on RM of Coldwell Recreation Facebook page!!

How to join the tournament!

1. Download the app by searching "fishdonkey" in your app store
2. Tap: Fish in a Tournament
3. Search & Join: Coldwell March Madness

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Coldwell's March Madness Ice Fishing Tournament runs March 1 to April 5. Download the FishDonkey app to register for a chance to win prizes.

FARM
-to-
FORK

Elk, I Heart You!



Things are Heating Up!

15% OFF All Elk stew, stirfry, ground and roasts for the month of February!

ALSO SELLING BISON AND LAMB!

STONEWOOD
ELK RANCH LTD.

CALL OR TEXT 204-791-9856
(by appointment only)

StonewoodElkRanch.com

DIRECTIONS FROM BALMORAL: 1 MILE SOUTH ON HWY 236 & 1.75 MILES EAST ON ROAD 84N

OR 1 MILE SOUTH ON HWY 7 AND 1.25 MILES WEST ON ROAD 84N (Watch for Stonewood Elk Ranch sign)

Balmoral Townhomes

Modern Five-Plex

—with 1475 Sq ft 3 Bedroom Units—



For SALE

- This five-plex house plan has a modern exterior and gives you five units of equal size, all with 3 beds, 2.5 baths and a 1-car garage.
- Each 1,475 square foot unit has 606 square feet on the main floor and 869 square feet on the second floor.
- The front-facing garage has 281 square feet of vehicle storage space.
- The living/dining room in back has access to the 110 square foot rear patio.
- 5 units total width 100', total depth 45'

YOUR
MODERN LIFE
AWAITS

Contact Silverbridge Developments

Jeff at 204-292-0483 | Darren at 204-223-4558

Plan 666224R4F

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:

news@expressweeklynews.ca

A Letter to Our Community

This letter is written with care, love and hope for every person trying to find their footing in a world that can feel violent, uncertain and deeply unsettling.

Over the past few days, our hearts have been broken by the tragic mass shooting in Tumbler Ridge, B.C. The loss of young lives at the hands of another young person is something no community should ever have to comprehend. It leaves us with questions that may never fully be answered — why, how and what could have been done differently.

As the investigation continues, we may learn more. We may hear about factors such as bullying, family struggles or a mental health crisis. Understanding matters — not to place unwarranted blame but to help us learn how to better protect our children and support one another in the future. Yes, guns kill, and yes, laws need improvement to keep all

communities safer.

We live in a small, close-knit community. Even if we don't have children in the schools ourselves, we know the young people here. We see them on the streets, on buses and in our local stores. We've watched them grow from little ones into young adults. Their pain is not distant — it is personal.

In a world of constant news and social media, our children are exposed to far more than they are emotionally equipped to process. Their sense of safety has been shaken. They need reassurance, consistency and adults willing to listen — without rushing, fixing or dismissing their feelings.

Children may struggle to understand their emotions right now. Some may feel scared. Some may feel angry. Some may feel confused. Others may be quietly questioning who they are — their identity, their place in the world and their sense of belonging. It is vital they feel safe to be who they are, without labels, judgment or fear of being silenced. Little ears do not process events the same way adults do.

Professional mental health support can make a profound difference. A trained therapist can help children — and adults — process trauma in healthy ways, reducing the risk of long-term emotional harm and loss of trust. Seeking help is not a failure. It is an act of care.

As adults, we are grieving too. We need space to feel, reflect and learn. This is not a time for blame; it is a time for compassion, understanding and courage. As a community, we must continue creating safe spaces for mental health conversations and ensure support is available for young people and families who may be struggling — even silently.

None of us is immune to pain. None of us is invincible. Asking for help is a strength. When children see adults caring for their own mental health, they learn it is OK to reach out when emotions feel overwhelming. They learn resilience not through silence but through example.

Our country will move forward. Tumbler Ridge will one day feel peace again — but that day is not today. Grief has no timeline. Healing has no

deadline. Every person touched by this tragedy — families, educators, first responders and reporters — is carrying something heavy.

With time, support and compassion, people will find their own way forward. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. Each journey is deeply personal.

This tragedy reminds us what happened there could happen anywhere. Let this be a moment of reflection — in our homes, our schools and our community. Let us look at how we treat one another, how we support our children, how we respond to pain and how we protect the sense of safety every person deserves.

Even in the face of profound loss, hope still matters. Kindness still matters. Connection still matters. Avoiding judgment still matters.

We heal not by turning away from one another but by choosing — again and again — to accept and care for each other.

With compassion and hope,
Sherry Benson-Podolchuk

More than \$1.2M announced for Manitoba community festivals

By Haley Cvar

The Government of Manitoba is investing more than \$1.2 million to support festivals across the province in 2025-26, including more than \$359,000 for winter events, Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Nellie Kennedy announced.

"Festivals connect people, celebrate community spirit and support local businesses," Kennedy said in a news release. "Our government is proud to help communities host events that strengthen neighbourhoods, attract visitors and showcase Manitoba's culture, especially through Manitoba's winters."

Funding is delivered through the Community Festivals and Events program for signature community events, as well as through dedicated funding for major stand-alone festivals.

Among the largest winter investments is \$324,600 for Festival du Voyageur Inc. to host the 2026 Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg from Feb. 13 to 22, and \$25,000 for the Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival in The Pas from Feb. 18 to 22, 2026. Aurora WinterFest in March 2026 received \$3,000, while the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships' 2026 Canadian Open

in March was allocated \$7,000.

Major summer stand-alone festivals include \$370,000 for Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. for Manito Ahbee in May, \$290,500 for Folk Arts Council of Manitoba to present Folklorama in August, and \$40,600 for the Valley Agricultural Society's Manitoba Stampede and Exhibition in Morris in July.

Dozens of community fairs and celebrations across rural and northern Manitoba also received support, most in the \$6,033 range. These include the Arborg Agricultural Fair (\$6,033.52), City of Winkler Harvest Festival and Exhibition (\$6,033.52), Hanover Agricultural Fair (\$6,033.52), Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, Islendingadagurinn (\$6,033.52), Morden Corn and Apple Festival (\$6,033.52), Nickel Days in Thompson (\$6,033.52), Niverville Olde Tyme Country Fair (\$6,033.52), Norway House Cree Nation Treaty and York Boat Days (\$6,033.52), Richer Rough Stock Rodeo and Country Fair (\$6,033.52), Sagkeeng Annual Treaty Days (\$6,033.52), Sioux Valley Dakota Nation Powwow (\$6,033.52), Stonewall Quarry Days (\$6,033.52), Summer in the City in Steinbach (\$6,033.52), Grandview Mud Bog Weekend and

Homecoming (\$6,033.52), Victoria Beach Summer Winds Family Music Festival (\$6,033.52) and the Virden Indoor Rodeo and Wild West Daze (\$6,033.52).

Other supported events span the province and calendar, including the 4P Festival (\$1,255.57), Springfield Chicken Daze (\$6,033.52), Baldur Summer Solstice Days (\$1,263.42), Belmont Jamboree Festival (\$486.90), Carrick Days (\$1,427.53), Prairie Winds Music Festival in Cypress River (\$2,273.43), Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo (\$2,973.92), Flin Flon Trout Festival (\$2,428.43), Frog Follies in St. Pierre-Jolys (\$3,702.77), Harvest Sun in Kelwood (\$2,756.11), Canada Day celebrations in Lac du Bonnet (\$2,083.37) and Vita (\$4,436.44), Lunder Fair (\$5,664.26), Threshermen's Reunion and Stampede in Austin (\$6,033.52), MMF Ste. Madeleine (\$3,475.30), Whitemud Music Festival in Glenella-Lansdowne (\$1,182.57), Festival du Patrimoine Montcalm Heritage Festival (\$1,145.42), Pina-wa Birthday Celebration (\$1,977.79), Plum Coulee Plum Fest (\$2,293.94), Holiday Alley in Selkirk (\$6,033.52), Reston Fair (\$867.62), Dominion City SummerFest (\$1,281.52), Mitchell and Area Fun Days (\$3,390.23), Blumenort

Fun and Fair Days (\$2,090.61), Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste in La Broquerie (\$2,696.38), Melita Banana Days (\$5,472.40), Stony Mountain Family Festival and Canada Day (\$352.96), Teulon Rodeo (\$3,703.37), Manitoba Sunflower Festival in Altona (\$5,322.16) and Prairie Pioneer Days hosted by the Turtle Mountain Flywheel Club (\$558.70).

The province noted that the \$882,300 invested in 49 summer festivals plays an important role in supporting local businesses, boosting tourism and fostering community pride. With festivals taking place year-round, the government says Manitobans will continue to have opportunities to gather, celebrate culture and experience the province's diverse and vibrant communities.

 **Winnipeg Beach Legion Br. 61 & Ladies Auxiliary**
Mother's Day Spring Tea & Bake Sale
Featuring finger sandwiches, dainties, coffee and tea
Saturday, May 9
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 20 Hamilton Avenue, Winnipeg Beach
 Legion 204-389-2660
 email: rclbr61@gmail.com
 www.winnipegbeachlegion.ca
 Monetary Collection at Door
Silent Auction • All events are cash only

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS



PUBLISHER
Lana Meier



SALES
Brett Mitchell



SALES & MARKETING
Laura Platt



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Emily Antonio



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Kieran Reimer



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Jennifer McFee



REPORTER
Annaliese Meier



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Patricia Barrett



ADMINISTRATION
Corrie Sargent



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta



ADMINISTRATION
Jo-Anne Procter



PRODUCTION
Debbie Strauss



ADMINISTRATION
Allana Sawatzky

OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



get informed

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

Manitoba adds CMV to newborn screening program

By Lana Meier

Manitoba families will now receive earlier answers about a little-known infection that can quietly affect a child's development after the province expanded its newborn screening program to include congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV).

The province launched universal screening in December 2025, and more than 1,500 newborns have already been tested.

"When you bring a baby into the world, you have to trust the health-care system is doing everything possible to protect your child from day one," Premier Wab Kinew said during the announcement. "Families are receiving answers sooner, clinicians have critical information earlier, and there are more opportunities to intervene when that intervention can mean all the difference."

Congenital CMV is a common virus passed from mother to baby during pregnancy. It affects roughly one in 200 births and is among the leading infectious causes of permanent hearing loss and developmental disability in children.

Health officials say pregnant people can lower the risk of CMV infection through simple hygiene precautions, including washing hands after contact with young children's saliva or diapers, avoiding sharing food or utensils, and not kissing toddlers on the lips. The virus commonly spreads through contact with bodily fluids from young children, who often show no symptoms.

"Without screening, families may not know something is wrong until months or even years later, when hearing loss or developmental delays appear," Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara said. "Universal screening closes a gap that has existed for far too long."



MANITOBA GOVERNMENT YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM

Rob Tétrault speaks alongside his son Alex and Health Minister Uzoma Asagwara during the announcement of Manitoba's expanded newborn CMV screening program on Feb. 17.

The test is performed using the same heel-prick blood sample already collected from newborns and analyzed at Cadham Provincial Laboratory.

"If we can identify babies early, we can treat them early, and that leads to better outcomes. That's why screening at birth matters — it can change a child's future," said Rob Tétrault, president and co-founder of the Canadian CMV Foundation.

"There is no risk to the child whatsoever — just a few drops of blood," Tétrault added.

Tétrault began advocating for screening nearly 18 years ago after his son Alex was born with CMV and diagnosed only because of an unrelated prenatal concern.

"Had that random occurrence not happened, I hate to think what would have happened," he said. "I meet families all the time whose outcomes aren't as positive. We knew we had to change this."

Early treatment must happen quickly, he added.

"You have a very small window — usually the first month of life — where antiviral treatment can dramatically

reduce hearing loss and cognitive impacts," Tétrault said.

He called Manitoba's adoption of universal screening a milestone after years of advocacy.

"I sent my first advocacy emails about 10 years ago," he said. "To finally see this in place means kids will have better outcomes, and parents will have less uncertainty. That brings me a lot of joy."

Alex Tétrault, now a young adult, said he's glad other children will benefit.

"I'm very happy more children are going to get treated," he said. "After all this time, it finally happened."

The province estimates the program costs about \$1.3 million and says it plans to continue tracking outcomes and ensuring families have access to follow-up care and supports.

Officials say the goal is simple — identify infections early rather than after permanent complications develop.

"This comes from listening to parents, advocates and clinicians," Asagwara said. "Earlier answers really do change outcomes."

ADVERTISING OR PRINT

CONTACT INFORMATION

Lana Meier 204-292-2128
ads@expressweeklynews.ca

PHONE 204-467-5836

FAX 204-467-2679

OUR EDITORIAL STAFF

Patricia Barrett -

Reporter/Photographer

Cell 204-407-6099 patricia@expressweeklynews.ca

PAPER DELIVERY OR FLYER CONCERNS

Christy Brown

Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

Funded by the Government of Canada



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



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

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

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

ADDRESS

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

> EMAIL US

Letters to the Editor: news@expressweeklynews.ca

Classifieds: ads@expressweeklynews.ca

News: news@expressweeklynews.ca

Print: igrphic@mymts.net

Manitoba bars open early for Olympic gold game

By Haley Cvar

Manitoba bars and restaurants were given the green light to open their doors early Sunday morning as Canadians tuned in to watch the Olympic men's hockey team chase gold.

The provincial government announced the temporary change ahead of the gold medal matchup, allowing licensed establishments to begin serving as early as 5 a.m. for the nationally televised game.

"When Team Canada plays for gold, the whole country leans in," Premier

Wab Kinew said in a news release. "From Elkhorn to Winnipeg, Manitobans will be waking up early to cheer together. That's why we're allowing bars and restaurants to open early, so friends, families and neighbours can gather, share that energy and celebrate what unites us."

Under Section 11(5) of Manitoba's Liquor Regulation, the executive director of the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba may authorize extended liquor service hours

for events of community, provincial or national significance.

Licensed establishments that applied for early opening were required to serve liquor no earlier than 5 a.m. and no earlier than one hour before the televised event began, ensure the premises were closed and vacated for at least one hour the previous night, and open specifically for the purpose of televising the Olympic event.

Across the province, early risers gathered in licensed venues to watch

Team Canada face the United States in the gold medal game.

The tightly contested game remained scoreless through regulation before heading to overtime tied 1-1.

The United States sealed a 2-1 victory in overtime.

While the outcome did not go Canada's way, the early morning gatherings reflected the national pride and camaraderie that accompany Olympic hockey — even in defeat.

Editor's correction

By Patricia Barrett

In the story "Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton discuss options for new soccer and baseball fields, funding commitment" in the Feb. 19, 2026, edition of the *Express Weekly News*, a breakdown of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton's spending on recreation in Riverton and in Arborg was provided in an image, but the caption underneath the image contained an error. The caption should have indicated that the two different columns of recreation spending — one showing Arborg-Bifrost and one showing Bi-

frost-Riverton — represented 100 per cent of Bifrost-Riverton's spending on recreation services. Although the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton and the Town of Arborg do in fact share 50 per cent of the cost of recreation in Arborg only, the numbers in the image represent only Bifrost-Riverton's costs. To recap, the municipality spent about \$2,445,694.43 (1,371,973.62 for recreation in Arborg and 1,073,720.81 for recreation in Riverton) in total for 2021-2025.

The *Express* apologizes for the error.

	Arborg-Bifrost	Bifrost-Riverton
	2021	2021
2021 Total	\$398,125.71	\$155,358.14
	2022	2022
Total	\$251,217.14	\$167,952.15
	2023	2023
Total	\$216,268.57	\$171,298.04
	2024	2024
Total	\$268,667.06	\$321,316.92
	2025	2025
Total	\$237,695.14	\$257,795.56
2021-2025 Totals	\$1,371,973.62	\$1,073,720.81

MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON

> ARNES LUTHERAN CHURCH, FROM PG. 2

payable files under its Feb. 11 agenda. One shows RBC Visa pre-authorized payments (PAP) for a number of staff and council, identified for the most part by initials.

It's unclear why the RM decided to publicly post Visa transactions online, and the *Express* asked questions including whether all councillors/mayor were issued RM credit cards and for details about the costs shown on the report, which total \$47,472.14.

A request for the chief administrative officer's contract with the RM was made after queries from members of the public for financial transparency. The provincial government publicly discloses staff contracts on its website so that the public can re-

view them.

Council is reviewing the Gimli Environmental Advisory Committee. It publicly posted the GEAC bylaw from 2011 under its Feb. 18 agenda.

In an email, the RM said it was unable to meet the *Express's* deadline of Feb. 20 regarding its questions and offered to set up a chat next week (week of Feb. 23).

The RM's municipal emergency coordinator Don Ames submitted his January report to council, saying he completed a review of the 2026 emergency plan with Gimli first responders, continues to recruit potential emergency staff, and responded to queries about shoreline armoring from various locations.

Alzheimer Society shares dementia information in Fisher Branch

By Patricia Witzke

Representatives from the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba visited Fisher Branch on Friday, Feb. 13 to deliver a presentation on dementia at the Fisher Branch chalet.

The session was organized by Jordan, co-ordinator for the Fisher Branch Senior Resource, and drew a group of community members interested in learning more about the condition.

Presenters outlined several risk factors associated with dementia, including advancing age, genetics (APOE4), air pollution, family history of hearing loss, diabetes and depression.

According to Stanford Health Care,

steps that may help reduce the risk of developing dementia include managing hypertension, reducing or eliminating smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, increasing daily physical activity, staying socially active and engaging in activities such as word and math puzzles.

Information about dementia care, educational programs, community resources and research funding is available through the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba. The organization can be reached at its Winnipeg office at 204-943-6622.

Community members were encouraged to contact the society for support and information.

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

GO TO Stonewall Teulon Tribune | flickr

Copyright Stonewall Teulon Tribune. To be used for personal use only.



What's *Your* story?
 THE EXPRESS
 WEEKLY NEWS

Gimli resident bitten in surprise attack from behind by off-leash dog

By Patricia Barrett

A Gimli resident was wounded after he was attacked by a dog from behind while walking on Solvin Road in Gimli's Vesturland neighbourhood, west of Highway 9.

He wants the public to be aware of a potential safety risk, saying the dog — which had disappeared from the house where it lives after the attack — is now back.

Grant McMillan, 72, was treated at hospital for his injuries.

It was a surprise attack, he said. He didn't hear the dog or see it coming.

"It's almost always tied up. That day, I walked by and didn't hear it barking," said McMillan, who uses Solvin Road as part of his regular walking route around town. "By the time I got by the house, and was well past the driveway, it just nailed me from behind. It grabbed my arm."

He suffered four puncture wounds and "torn flesh" on his arm. It took about four or five weeks to heal to "as good as it's going to get." He now has a "dent" in his arm and a scar. The dog ripped his insulated coat and put a hole in his hoody.

The attack happened Jan. 10 at a house on Solvin Road immediately west of the Lakeside Church and north of Gimli High School. McMillan said he is not entirely sure of the dog's breed.

On the day of the attack, the dog was off-leash and came at him on the road, where there are no sidewalks, in "full attack mode."

After the first bite, the dog came at him a second time and McMillan said

he had to swat it away. That's when the homeowner came out and called the dog back to the yard. He spoke briefly with the homeowner, who didn't offer an apology.

"[The homeowner] said the dog is usually friendly. I don't think so; I walk by there every day and it isn't friendly. He said sometimes the dog will nip your arm. Well, I had four puncture wounds and a chunk of skin gone. This wasn't a play nip," said McMillan. "And the second time the dog came at me, I got a right cross in and knocked it off its trajectory. By this time, the guy was calling it back and it obeyed him."

McMillan, who said he grew up on a farm and has been around dogs all his life, said his greatest concern now is public safety, particularly given the home's proximity to Gimli High School and Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School.

"[The dog] scared the hell out of me. This place is so close to the two schools. I mean, my god, if that thing came at some eight-year-old girl, she wouldn't have a hope. That's the terrifying part," he said. "I'm a [robust guy] and it was scary for me. It'd be a different story for a kid."

McMillan said he reported the attack to the RCMP and was advised to contact local animal control. He said he spoke with the RM's two animal control officers, who had "promised me action," but he has received no information about what steps were taken.

"They're under a code of silence and all this privacy stuff. I got no valuable information out of animal control.

I didn't get anything from either of them," said McMillan.

He said community health officials later told him the dog was tested for rabies.

"I talked to community health and they were concerned about rabies. They got back to me after about 10 days, and I guess the dog was tested. I don't know whether they had quarantined the dog. There was no rabies, but I got a tetanus shot when I was getting put back together at the hospital."

McMillan said he also spoke with the municipality's assistant chief administrative officer.

"She got back to me after I told her what happened, and she said they were contemplating the re-location of the dog. That was the first time I talked to Kelly. The second time I talked to her, the re-location was off [the table], but the dog would have to wear a muzzle," he said. "Well, I don't know when it has to wear a muzzle. I've seen it since and it sure as hell didn't have a muzzle on."

He said he has seen the dog in the yard a number of times in recent weeks and that there is no fence around the property.

He believes animal control's response has been "non-existent" and wants municipal council to "take public safety more seriously than it currently does."

The RM's two animal control officers declined to provide information to the *Express* and said they would ask someone at the RM to contact the paper.

The *Express* emailed the municipality and its communications spokesperson with questions, including what action was taken following the attack. The RM did not respond.

The homeowner declined to comment when contacted by the *Express*.

"The dog is still there. There's no justice in this," said McMillan. "But my biggest concern is if that dog attacks a kid. That's terrifying."

An RCMP spokesperson confirmed police received a report about the incident Jan. 12.

"A 72-year-old male from Gimli was walking when a dog bit him two days prior to this report. The male immediately attended the local hospital for minor non-life-threatening injuries," she said in an email. "The victim reported this to the Gimli Animal Control shortly after making the report to the RCMP."

When asked why the RCMP did not intervene, the spokesperson said police provide assistance to municipal and provincial agencies, such as animal control or the provincial chief veterinary officer, when required.

"As this had been reported to the local Animal Control, the male had done the proper steps and RCMP was not required," she wrote. "We do not act as dog catcher unless it is absolutely necessary and in exigent circumstances."

The RCMP will not be looking further into the case, she said, as it falls under the mandate of animal control, but police will provide assistance "when need be."

> 47TH AGM, FROM PG. 3

organization sees the use of new technology to reduce administrative burden in forage insurance programs as a positive step and welcomed the collaboration between governments and MASC in advancing

Beyond risk management, this year's AGM also focused on topics such as sustainability, wildlife management and producer well-being.

"We had a really good discussion on sustainability," Callum said. "(There

was) lots of great feedback because that's a real topic right now in the industry. We wanted to make sure that we were advocating for it to be done right."

Wildlife management was another key area of discussion, particularly the growing elk population.

"The populations have exponentially grown, especially over here," Callum said. "Elk can cause huge damage — whether that's to feed, infrastructure, corrals or fences."

AGM delegates supported a

resolution calling on MBP to lobby the province regarding the high population of elk and deer. The resolution focused on identifying the impacts caused by these animals and conducting a population survey to better inform future decisions.

But perhaps the most significant conversation at the AGM centered on mental health and well-being. Callum noted that agriculture and farming often carry pressures that are unseen but deeply felt.

Keynote speaker Brett Gardiner, a

mental health and wellness advocate with strong ties to agriculture, addressed the importance of breaking down stigma and encouraging producers to be intentional and "chase the good in the world."

"I truly think (his message) was well received," Callum said. "It's a hard topic. Coming in there and talking about your feelings is not something that most beef producers really want to do."

The AGM also recognized two outgoing directors for their contributions to the organization and honoured Connor and Kyla English, who were the recipients of the Environmental Stewardship Award.

As the 47th AGM wrapped up in Brandon, producers reflected on a year of strong markets while acknowledging the work ahead: maintaining stable trade relationships, addressing wildlife concerns and continuing conversations around sustainability and mental health.

HPV causes cancer in 100 Manitobans each year.

VACCINE & SCREEN to prevent cervical cancer. PracticePrevention.ca

CancerCareManitoba ActionCancerManitoba Brought to you by CancerCareManitoba FOUNDATION All funds raised stay in Manitoba.

From traditional to contemporary, we provide services to match what you want. **Just ask Ken.**

KL KEN LOEHMER FUNERAL SERVICES

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

Interlake property owner shelters in place during Puerto Vallarta shutdown

By Lana Meier

A Stonewall woman spending time at her property with her husband and family in Puerto Vallarta says a quiet morning quickly turned tense after smoke began rising across parts of the city.

Sheri Labossiere said it was around 8 a.m. when she first realized something unusual was happening.

"I first smelled the smoke and then saw smoke," she said.

Labossiere was inside her condo watching the Olympic gold medal hockey game when she heard loud popping sounds.

"I heard the bangs so I looked out and saw the smoke. It was very black and covered the sky," she said. "There was some as close as three blocks away."

She later learned the popping sounds were tires on burning vehicles exploding.

"You could smell the rubber," she said.

The unrest followed reports that Mexico's army had killed cartel leader Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes, known as El Mencho, prompting retaliatory violence in parts of Jalisco state and beyond.

Labossiere said the Mexican government issued a stay-at-home advisory, and she and others in her building remained inside for the day.

"We stayed at the condo all day. The city is very quiet — no traffic, no people. Everything is closed."

She described Puerto Vallarta as largely shut down, with no Uber service, taxis or buses operating. A nearby corner store opened briefly



Mexican federal security forces, including the Secretaría de Marina, flew helicopters over areas of Puerto Vallarta as part of a security operation after significant violent incidents were reported Sunday and Monday.

but allowed only four customers inside at a time.

"There was a lineup and things are getting picked over," she said.

Labossiere said eight condos in their building are currently occupied and residents chose to stay indoors.

"We all felt safe and stayed inside. We are all waiting for the city to open up."

She said she has not registered with Global Affairs Canada and has not been contacted by officials but has kept family back home informed.

"Yes, I have contacted everyone at



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Thick black smoke rises over Puerto Vallarta on Sunday morning as unrest unfolded across parts of the city following reports of retaliatory violence in Jalisco state.

home to let them know we are safe. I am staying in contact with them."

Despite the disruption, Labossiere said she felt informed and secure throughout the situation.

"The stay-home alert was to keep civilians safe — don't get in the way," she said.

By Monday, she and her husband were back outside for a walk.

"What went on is crazy, but I felt very safe through it all," she said. "The air is better today. We closed our

windows on Sunday."

For now, the couple do not plan to change their travel arrangements.

Access CU closing, consolidating six branches

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Access Credit Union is closing six branches across its service network in 2026.

The financial institution announced last week that on June 19 the Moosehorn, Sanford and 850 Regent Ave. Winnipeg branches will close and consolidate with the Ashern, the new Kenaston Crossing location opening later this year and the 1300 Plessis Rd. Winnipeg location, respectively.

Then, on Oct. 21, the Plum Coulee branch will close and consolidate with the Winkler branch, the Emerson branch will close and consolidate with Altona, and the 720 St. Anne's Rd. Winnipeg branch will close and consolidate with the 515 St. Anne's branch.

The number of in-branch transactions has decreased significantly in

recent years as new technologies have made it easier for people to do the majority of their banking remotely, said Access CU CEO and president Myrna Wiebe, noting 94.93 per cent of all their transactions are done electronically these days.

"Looking at how many transactions are being completed electronically or outside of the branch — either at another branch or through the ATM ... we've monitored this over a number of years," she said in explaining some of the factors behind the decision when it came to these six branches. "Within that time frame, there's certainly different steps and things we've tried, whether it was moving staff around or trying to make sure that the branch was being used and remaining very relevant."

But as they looked to optimize their

operations, it became clear that these locations were no longer sustainable, Wiebe said, noting limited hours of operation in some of the branches due to consistent low traffic volumes as well as their proximity to other branches were also factors in the decision.

The closures will affect nearly 10,600 members. Access has over 208,000 members across the province.

Eleven employees work at the four rural branches affected by these closures, all of whom will have the opportunity to move to another branch. A few corporate employees will also be relocated.

Wiebe expects they will get some push back on these closures, as some of these branches have served their

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
Bldg 18 Municipal Rd
Industrial Park
Fri & Sun Mtgs at 7:30 pm

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

AA Riverton Group
12 Main St. at the
Riverton Senior Centre
Mondays 7:30 p.m.

Continued on page 10

From the heart: Gimli New Horizons' quilters make new dignity quilts for Betel PCH

By Patricia Barrett

Quilt-makers from different communities in the Interlake joined forces to make two new "dignity quilts" for the Gimli Betel Personal Care Home.

The quilts are used in place of a sheet or a body bag for a resident who has passed away. They provide a greater measure of dignity for a loved one at the end of his or her life.

The quilters are part of the Fibre Arts Group that's based out of the New Horizons 55+ Activity Centre in the north end of Gimli.

Janice Skene, Heather Dankochik, Donna Kerns and Allison Atkey are members of the Fibre Arts Group, and they worked together to make the new quilts.

The PCH had reached out to them late last year, said Skene, to see if members of the group could design and make two replacement quilts as the quilts that had been donated about 10 or so years ago to Betel were becoming worn out with washing.

"The four of us got together to make the new quilts. I supplied the panels. Allison designed the quilt and Donna pieced them. Then I quilted one, Heather quilted one and Donna did the binding for one," said Skene, who lives in Arborg and travels to Gimli to attend the group's regular get-togethers. "We've donated other items to Betel. We try to help when we can."

The Fibre Arts Group, whose members include other fibre artists such as crocheters, had donated some lap quilts to Betel before Christmas, she said.

And members of the group are very busy, putting their skills to work to help support a number of local and external community organizations.

Members make quilts for various charities such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which builds beds; the Thelma Wynne organization; Project Linus; and "a church in Winnipeg that has one of the poorest postal codes in Canada" that gives kids quilts at Christmas. Some members also knit toques for premies (babies born

prematurely) at one of the hospitals. Some are working on a project to make pet pillows for the Gimli Humane Society. They use scraps of fabric stuffed into either old pillowcases or upholstery samples.

"We've all got our own little projects and we do a little bit here and there. I started contributing quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Winnipeg chapter about a year ago, and now there's an Interlake chapter. Items go as far south as Stonewall and as far north as Hodgson. And I've had other members of the group help me with that," said Skene. "Another one of our members works with Thelma Wynne. We can do what we want to do as far as the causes we take up."

Some members of the Fibre Arts Group also volunteer at the annual Lakeside Quilters show, which is coming up this May in Gimli.

Skene said there are about 30 members of the Fibre Arts Group and they average about 15 people (some are away during the winter) when they get together. The majority of the fibre artists are based in Gimli, but they also have members from Arborg, Winnipeg Beach and Winnipeg.

"We don't just quilt. We've got members that knit and crochet," she said. "We welcome new members if they want to join. We meet on Tuesdays at New Horizons in Gimli. You don't have to be there every time. It's a good, friendly group of people."

The get-togethers typically run from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They work on their projects, help each other out, have show and tell then have lunch.

Gimli Betel's recreation manager Bryanne Hjørleifson issued a message via the Friends of Gimli Betel Facebook page to thank the four quilters for their generosity and kindness, adding that they worked "tirelessly" to bring Betel's vision of dignity quilts to life once again.

Hjørleifson said the end of a person's life and their final journey "are just as important as all the steps that came



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Betel's recreation manager Bryanne Hjørleifson (left) with quilters Allison Atkey and Heather Dankochik with one of the new dignity quilts that four members of their Fibre Arts Group made for the Gimli Betel Personal Care Home.

before," and Betel wants to make sure each resident is treated with "dignity, respect and honour during their last trip down the halls."

She also paid tribute to the skill that went into making the quilts, calling them works of art from the heart.

"The finished dignity quilts are incredible — so much attention to detail combined with true artistic talent in a breathtaking compilation," said Hjørleifson. "Two quilts were made to ensure we had one for each floor, and the results are just awe-inspiring. They are both works of art from the heart that will truly be

appreciated for years to come."

Several people posted comments on Facebook to thank the New Horizons' quilters for their donation to Betel.

"What a beautiful and compassionate gesture to the person who has passed away, to be wrapped in a blanket of love and beauty as they are transported to the funeral home," wrote Leslie Finley Samborski.

And Jocelyn Barlow, who makes a variety of quilted items and has sold them at markets in Gimli, wrote that the "colours and patterns are so beautifully appropriate. Clearly these quilters are meticulous crafters."

> BRANCHES CLOSING, FROM PG. 9

communities for many years.

"Certainly we have definitely heard from some members and some municipalities as well," she said. "What we're doing is we're just trying to inform them as best we can, explain the business case as best we can, and let them know that they're being supported through this, whether it's teaching people how to use online banking or the telephone banking, those kinds of things, and then making sure that they're aware of all

of the availability of the branches — not just the branches closest to them right now, but it's anywhere they're going. Any one of our branches across our Manitoba footprint is where they can go to use a physical branch."

Members can also access their accounts through the mobile banking app and ATMs at any credit union in Manitoba. Access CU also offers online appointments with its lenders or financial planners.

Wiebe stressed that Access closing

these branches does not mean they will not still be a part of the communities affected.

"Our priorities are tied to the communities that we have across Manitoba, and we do not take lightly the responsibility that we have that comes with the history that brought us where we are today," she said. "We don't underestimate and it's not lost on us the impact the changes to local branches can have on the community. But I also need members to understand that we will still be in those communities.

"They are still within our footprint

... the sponsorships, at the events, whether there's a new project being done by communities — we're still going to be there."

As to whether future closures and consolidations are in the works, Wiebe noted they will continue to assess their network efficiencies as needed, both in rural Manitoba and Winnipeg.

"We're always going to look at our branch footprint," she said. "We would be remiss not to."

Traffic stop in Little Saskatchewan leads to seizure of stolen handgun, cocaine

By Lana Meier

Two Winnipeg residents are in custody following a traffic stop in Little Saskatchewan First Nation that led to the seizure of a stolen handgun and a significant quantity of cocaine.

Gypsumville RCMP said officers conducted a traffic stop on Feb. 21, 2026, at approximately 1:45 p.m., after observing a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Tower Road and Sandy Bay Road.

Police said the male driver appeared to be impaired. A database check confirmed he was breaching court-ordered conditions, and he was arrested at the scene. The female passenger was later arrested after officers located drugs inside the vehicle.

Upon arresting the occupants, officers seized a loaded handgun, prescription drugs and approximately 16 ounces of cocaine. Police later confirmed the handgun had been reported stolen in Grande Prairie, Alta., in 2022.

Shane Warren, 45, and Terri Cruly, 28, both of Winnipeg, have been arrested and remanded in custody on multiple firearms- and drug-related charges.

Warren also faces additional charges of driving while prohibited, impaired driving and three counts of failing to comply with a release order.

Gypsumville RCMP continue to investigate.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gypsumville RCMP seized a loaded handgun reported stolen from Alberta, along with prescription drugs and approximately 16 ounces of cocaine, following a traffic stop in Little Saskatchewan First Nation on Feb. 21.

Perfect trail conditions



EXPRESS PHOTO BY GWEN KOSTUIK

A large group of snowmobiles sit parked in a field just east of the J&J Store in Fraserwood on Feb. 21, 2026, as riders gathered despite chilly conditions. Temperatures reached a high of -12 C with a low of -19 C, while a northwest wind kept the afternoon feeling closer to -19.

THIS IS TOURISM

and this could be you.

Behind every tourism experience are the people who make it possible. Tourism is a \$5-million-per-day industry in our province that offers opportunities that grow as you do.

When you work in tourism, you inspire discovery, create connections and help shape the Manitoba experiences and stories people love.

See where working in tourism can take you. Explore opportunities at travelmanitoba.com/tourism

MANITOBA

INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST

Oak Hammock Marsh
Stonewall, MB

MEMBERSHIP EQUITY

2026*

10¢

ON FUEL

2%

ON FOOD

4%

ON PHARMACY

* Based on 2025 fiscal year results

MEMBER BENEFITS BEYOND EQUITY

On now until March 6, 2026 MEMBERS ONLY

Discounted Fuel *

Free Car Washes *

60-Second Shopping Spree Giveaways

Follow [@redrivercoop](https://twitter.com/redrivercoop) on social media for car wash & fuel discount announcements.

*On select days. Some conditions apply. See in-store for details

First faces of the school day: Evergreen School Division seeks bus drivers

By Lana Meier

Long before classroom lights flick on each morning, Evergreen School Division bus drivers are already on the road — checking their vehicles, watching road conditions and greeting students by name.

For many children, the bus driver is the first school staff member they see each day and the last before heading home.

“Bus drivers are part of the education system,” said transportation supervisor Mark Patrick. “They are always the first staff person a student sees in the morning, and the last one they see at night.”

Like many divisions across Manitoba and Canada, ESD is currently recruiting additional drivers as a long-standing shortage continues following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The division operates with 23 permanent drivers but needs 26 to be at full capacity. It also relies on a small group of three to four spare drivers but would ideally have five to eight. At present, three routes remain vacant, with the greatest need in the Arborg area.

“There is currently a national shortage of school bus drivers and ESD is not immune,” Patrick said. “We are always looking for new drivers to help us efficiently transport all of our students and accommodate field trips throughout the year.”

Patrick said many people assume they need specialized experience before applying, but the division provides train-

ing from the ground up.

To operate a school bus in Manitoba, drivers require a Class 2F or 1F licence and a School Bus Operator Certificate (SBOC). ESD supports applicants through both processes and provides buses for testing.

At minimum, drivers complete a 24-hour training course combining classroom instruction and practical driving time. The program focuses on road safety, use of safety equipment, student management and detailed pre-trip inspections.

“A thorough pre-trip inspection is one of the most important preventive tools we have to keep students safe,” Patrick said.

While the training itself is free, the timeline varies depending on experience and provincial road test availability. New drivers also complete annual refresher training and conduct evacuation drills with students twice per year.

Patrick added that prior commercial driving experience is not required.

“If someone is reliable, patient and safety-minded, we can teach the rest.”

School buses today include significantly more safety technology than many people realize.

ESD’s newest buses feature illuminated school bus signage and stop arms to improve visibility during loading and unloading. Multiple interior and exterior cameras are already standard, and 360-degree camera systems are expected

to be added in future units.

“These systems give drivers a clear view of everything around the bus, especially when students are most vulnerable,” Patrick said.

A typical route takes about four hours per day, split between morning and afternoon runs.

Drivers usually begin around 7 a.m., complete pickups by 9 a.m., then return in the afternoon from roughly 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Field trips and extracurricular activities offer optional additional hours, including evenings and weekends.

The schedule makes the role attractive for a wide range of people.

“Many of our drivers are parents with kids in school, retirees or people running their own businesses,” Patrick said. “The flexibility to choose how you spend most of your day is a great feature.”

Drivers receive a daily route rate, while spare drivers are paid hourly. Field trips are also paid hourly, with overtime where applicable. Drivers are eligible for the division’s benefits package, including medical, dental and pension.

Driver Tony Willmott said the relationships formed are what keep people in the role.

“For me it was how quickly you go from being a complete stranger to actually having a real connection with the students,” Willmott said. “I never imagined they would impact my decision to keep driving after all these years — but they do.”

Drivers often become familiar faces in the community and build long-term connections with families.

“Students and parents will remind me how much they appreciate everything I do to get them safely to school,” he said. “That confirms my job is important.”

The role, he added, is frequently misunderstood.

“People think it’s just transporting kids like cargo, but we’re entrusted with their safety and well-being. You create a unique bond with them.”

Patrick said calmness, attention to detail and the ability to interact with children are more important than driving background.

School staff also work closely with drivers, and ongoing training supports behaviour management and safety procedures.

“It’s a team environment,” he said.

The division encourages anyone curious about the position to contact the transportation department to learn more or ask questions.

For some drivers, it becomes more than part-time work.

“Most days I don’t feel like I’m going to a job,” Willmott said. “It’s just part of my routine — and nothing beats finishing the morning drive and sharing a coffee with the other drivers.”

ESD continues to accept applications for school bus drivers and spare drivers across its communities.



Would you like to join our team?

Evergreen School Division
is looking for bus drivers!

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

Pre-Register by Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Location: 234 Tudor Lane in the Gimli Industrial Park.

Contact the Transportation Office
at 204-642-6263 to register.

Course Dates: March 7 & 14, 2026

Times: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Dress for the weather for practical components.

Gimli Chamber invites nominations for Heart of Business Award, two new awards this year

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Chamber of Commerce will be shining a spotlight on Gimli and area businesses and individual entrepreneurs that went above and beyond during its upcoming 2nd Annual Heart of Business Awards (HOBA), and it's inviting people in the community to nominate a business.

HOBA recognizes businesses for their dedication and efforts to sustain and drive economic prosperity in the municipality.

Building on the great success it had last year during its inaugural awards, the chamber is scaling up with the addition of two extra awards this year.

Chamber president Samantha Hampton said the awards recognize that "commerce connects community" and that the hard-working entrepreneurs should be recognized for their contributions to building up their economies.

"The Heart of Business Awards is more than a gala: it's a reminder that behind every storefront, farm, fishing vessel, service truck and volunteer effort are people who care deeply about our community," said Hampton, who runs her own promotions company in addition to chamber duties "When we pause to recognize that, we strengthen morale, we build pride and we remind one another that what we do here truly matters."

There are 12 awards categories this year including Entrepreneur of the Year, Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion, Tourism & Hospitality Excellence, Non-Profit Organization of the Year, After Hours Excellence Award and Interlake Impact.

The Trades in Action Award and the Agriculture & Fisheries Achievement Award are new.

The trade award recognizes tradespeople and trade-based businesses which deliver dependable service and keep the region "strong, safe and thriving."

The agriculture and fisheries award recognizes producers who demonstrate excellence in their trade, show strong leadership, responsible



FILE PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

Nicole Skorupski, managing partner from Access Credit Union, presented Tim Arnason with the Community Volunteer of the Year Award at last year's HOBA.

land and water stewardship, and a commitment to sustainable and ethical practices. Producers could also be recognized for innovation, contributions to local and regional food systems and job creation.

In today's busy world, it's not often that entrepreneurs are told how much they're appreciated and Hampton said the chamber awards give voice to that sentiment.

"How often do we actually stop and tell someone they're doing a great job? This is our opportunity to do exactly

that. As one of last year's nominees said, 'Even if I don't win, just to be recognized is a win in itself,'" said Hampton. "That's the heart of this event, lifting people up, strengthening community spirit and celebrating the businesses and organizations that go above and beyond every single day."

The chamber's 2025 gala event and awards ceremony sold out, with tickets getting scooped up almost as fast as a Taylor Swift concert. Entrepreneurs and businesses from communities outside Gimli such as Arborg and Riverton were among the nominees and recognized for their successes.

Hampton said sponsorship support is appreciated. Each award is sponsored by a local organization or business, and the sponsor can present the award at the gala. Non-chamber members can also sponsor an award.

"This event relies on the strength and generosity of our business community. We are incredibly grateful to our continued sponsors and to those new partners who have reached out after seeing the ripple effect last year," said Hampton. "Without them, this evening wouldn't be possible. Their support allows us to shine a spotlight on excellence and celebrate the commerce that connects our entire region."

The chamber is committed to transparent and unbiased judging, said Hampton. The chamber's board of directors serves as the judging panel. There's also an independent third-party observer overseeing the entire process. The judging includes independent reviews of nominees, roundtable discussion, anonymous voting, defined judging criteria and confidentiality agreements. The nominators are also kept confidential.

Nominations for a HOBA close on March 16. People can nominate a business or entrepreneur using an online form that's available at www.gimlichamber.ca or on the chamber's Facebook page. Or they can scan the QR code on the nominations poster.

The awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 18 at the Gimli Lakeview Resort. Ticket sales open March 1.

TOM KOSTER DENTURE CLINIC



- We accept the Canadian Dental Care Plan and all other dental plans
- Arborg Clinic - 356 River Rd.
- Phone (204) 376-5838 for appointment
- After hours (204) 781-6409

Denturist



Interlake's Automotive & Agricultural Glass Specialists

We make the claim
We replace the glass
We have courtesy cars available



Autopac Accredited Glass Repair



Phone 204-467-8929
to book your appointment.
2 Patterson Drive, Stonewall

THE NEW

SOUTH BEACH Concert

+++ SERIES +++

A VAN HALEN TRIBUTE!

MAR 14

SATURDAY



TICKETS \$30



Simply Irresistible!

DETAILS AT SOUTHBEACHCASINO.CA

Free spaghetti supper brings Matlock together

By Lana Meier

Some came for supper, some came for the music, and some just came to see people they hadn't seen all winter.

By the end of the evening, about 175 residents had filled the Matlock Recreation Club for its free community spaghetti dinner and dance.

The event was created to make sure everyone in the community had a chance to attend a social evening, regardless of cost.

The goal was to "invite all community members to come out for an evening of dinner, dance and socializing and include people and families who may not be able to afford to purchase tickets to this type of event but would love to attend," said recreation co-ordinator Crystal Thordarson.

The supper was organized by the Matlock Recreation Club board of directors and prepared with the help of approximately 14 to 15 volunteers along with the club's recreation co-ordinator. This marked the third time the club has hosted the free dinner, which organizers hope will continue annually.

Music by DJ Allan Sulyma kept the dance floor active throughout the evening, with spot dances and prizes adding to the atmosphere.

"People have been expressing tons of gratitude for a wonderful evening and for all the volunteers for cooking such a great meal," Thordarson said.

Offering free events is intentional for the club, which seeks out grants so cost is never a barrier to participation.

"The MRC recognizes that not all community members can afford to attend events with cost associated to them and therefore search out grants to offer classes and events for free to include not just some people from the community but all people," she said.

The recreation club operates year-round as a gathering space for programs, classes and events serving all age groups.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL THORDARSON

Residents enjoy food, music and socializing during the Matlock Recreation Club's free spaghetti dinner and dance Saturday night, which drew about 175 people.

"Our doors are always open. We are a very busy club that offers a safe space for people, groups, classes, courses and events throughout the year," Thordarson said.

Attendance continues to grow, with new participants regularly appearing at programs.

"Each event, each week, we see more and more new faces. Our classes and programs tend to fill up quickly now," she said.

Organizers say evenings like the spaghetti supper highlight the importance of community connection.

"Socialization is such an important part of staying healthy and happy. Community centres like ours are great places to meet people and stay busy and connected," Thordarson said.

The club plans to host the supper again next year and encourages residents to get involved.

"The sense of pride we get from



all the hard work and dedication to keeping the doors open and our club active cannot be put into words. We are all so very happy to serve the

community we live in," she said. Residents interested in volunteering can contact Brenda-Lee Walker at 204-293-4096.



Camp Morton Ladies Aid supports Gimli High School band trip



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Camp Morton Ladies Aid has donated \$1,000 to the Evergreen Band Boosters in support of Gimli High School's upcoming band trip to Niagara Falls this May. Forty-nine students are set to perform at MusicFest Canada: The Nationals after earning more than four stars at last year's provincial festival in Winnipeg. In addition, the Winnipeg Beach Fire Department contributed \$500 toward the trip.



Icelandic River Community Foundation

Notice of Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th, 2026 • 5:30 pm
Arborg Legion
Refreshments Available • Everyone is welcome

Trapping Courses

Sponsored By:  East Interlake Watershed District

Day 1: Trapper Education

This will be the certified Manitoba course and exam. It will provide basic trapper training prior to obtaining your first trapper license.



Day 2: Canine Trapping Workshop

- Learn how to use:
- RAM Power Snares & Footholds
 - Free Hanging Power Assisted Snares
 - Managing Bait Sites

** To participate in Day 2, you **must** complete Day 1 or hold a valid trapping license.

Location & Registration

Broad Valley Hall
 Saturday February 28th & Sunday March 1st
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
 To Register: Phone or text Steven at 204-768-0367



Building for the future.

We know you count on us for reliable, affordable energy. But we're not just delivering energy – we're building for the future.

Find out how at hydro.mb.ca/energy-for-life



Cheers to the newlyweds!



4 meal types to consider for treating your wedding guests

Perfect ambiance 101: discover our tips for decorating your reception hall



Are you looking for inspiration for decorating your wedding reception hall? Let these expert tips be your guide.



- **Decide on a theme.** Starting with a theme will help you tie everything together seamlessly. Whether it's the elegance of the roaring twenties, rustic country charm, fairytale magic or retro vibes, you have a wealth of possibilities.
- **Curate your colours.** Select two main colours and a complementary one to add that extra pop to your decor.
- **Create your centrepieces.** Whether you prefer classic elegance or an extravagant flourish, remember that your centrepieces should enhance the table without adding clutter or preventing your guests from seeing each other across the table.
- **Incorporate lighting.** From string lights and exotic lanterns to romantic candles and bold neon, your lighting choices will set the mood for your reception. Use different light sources to create the perfect atmosphere.

To add that extra WOW factor, consider incorporating other decorative elements like balloons and flowers to make your reception hall shine.



From appetizers and salads to main courses and desserts, choosing what to serve at your wedding is a big decision. That said, the food itself is just as important as how you'll serve it. Here are four meal styles to consider for your celebration.

1. Traditional banquet. This classic option includes at least three courses. Guests remain seated at assigned tables throughout the meal while catering or venue staff serve each dish.

2. Buffet. A wedding buffet offers a relaxed, social atmosphere that's growing in popularity. Typically, guests are asked to serve themselves, usually when their table number is called by the master of ceremonies. Buffets often include hot, cold and vegetarian options to accommodate as many guests as possible.

3. Potluck. In a potluck-style meal, the couple provides part of the menu, such as the main dish and cake, and the guests each bring something to share. It's the perfect way to save on the cost of food while highlighting the culinary skills of your close family and friends.

4. Cocktail reception. This option features elegant appetizers or tapas served on circulating trays. Guests aren't forced to sit in one place; rather, they can sit or stand and are encouraged to mingle freely. This makes for a lively, sociable atmosphere.

Each meal style has its pros and cons. Discuss your options with your partner and choose the one that best suits you and your tastes.

Discover ...the perfect place to get married




Wedding Day Open House
May 31, 2026 1-4 pm
657 Chalet Beach Rd.
(near Matlock, MB)
Styled Mock Wedding
20+ Vendors & Apps by All Seasons Catering

RSVP for wedding favour
204-995-7364
events@kinlochgrove.com



KINLOCH GROVE
 WEDDINGS & EVENTS

Photo by: Anna LaDella Photo

Many companies specialize in decorating reception halls. Entrust the job to the experts in your area to ensure the best results and give yourself peace of mind.

Fisher Branch students celebrate I Love to Read Month



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Fisher Branch Early Years School students spent the month of February finding fun opportunities to read in honour of I Love to Read Month. Guests included Fisher fire Chief Patrick Davy, bus driver Gloria Plett and school substitute Mrs. Uruski. On Feb. 18, several extra-special guests visited the school for its "Bring a Family Member to Read to You" day.

What's Happening AT FRASERWOOD HALL

shopping • dining • drinking • events • entertainment

BINGO!

50/50 Breakopens

Lic #318

Fraserwood Hall

Friday Nights

Doors open 5 pm • Canteen & Bar open 5:15 pm

Games start at 7:15 pm

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

JACKPOT	\$3,200.00
FIRST SPECIAL	\$66.00 +
BONANZA	\$5,809.00 +
LUCKY 7	\$2,047.00 +
STAR	\$5,028.00 +
WEEHOUSE	\$1,283.00 +
HOUDINI	\$6,305.00 +
LOONIE POT	\$453.00 +

(Estimated amounts at time of publication)

"CHASE THE ACE"

Lic # LGA 318-RF

Tickets sold 5:00 -7:00 PM with draw to follow

\$2.00/ticket Current Accumulator - \$1,819.00+

CANTEEN - OPENS @ 5:15 PM

Perogies, hamburgers, hotdogs, desserts, etc

INFORMATION - 204-642-9392 or 204-643-5541 or www.fraserwoodhall.com

St. Patrick's Day Old Time Dance

Sunday March 8, 2026

1pm - 5pm, music by: Country Pride

\$20 admission

Please contact Lois at 204-643-5541 to reserve your tickets

All You Can Eat Perogies

Sunday March 29, 2026

12pm to 6pm (or until supplies last)

Dine & Dance

Saturday April 25, 2026

Supper - 6pm followed by Norman Chief Memorial Dancers performance

Followed by dance

Music by Trevor Ewankiw

Contact Nancy for info 204-861-0098

For more information go to Fraserwoodhall.com or see us on Facebook or call 204-643-5302

THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING HEARING AID GRANTS OF UP TO \$2,000 FOR ELIGIBLE PATIENTS

ATTENTION SENIORS! 65 YEARS & UP

Best Price Guarantee!

Horizon Hearing Centres uses the latest equipment and technology to properly fit clients with the best hearing aid for them.

- Family owned and operated.
- Newest hearing aid technology available.
- Accommodate clients on a budget.
- Offer a free hearing test, followed by a consultation.
- No doctor referral necessary.
- Walk-in appointments always welcome.
- 75 day RISK FREE trial period.
- Accept WCB, Special Services, First Nations and DVA claims.
- BEST PRICE GUARANTEED!

* SEE CLINIC FOR DETAILS

CONTACT US FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATION HEARING TEST

LOCATED IN NEW HORIZONS CENTRE

17 LONI BEACH RD. GIMLI

204-642-7809

HORIZON Hearing Centres

HORIZONHEARING.COM

Westshore COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC

The Westshore Community Foundation is accepting grant applications for

FREE TO PLAY

from eligible registered charities and non-profits in Gimli, Riverton, Fraserwood, Winnipeg Beach & Dunnottar.

Apply online at

communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/free-to-play

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED until February 24, 2026

For more information email freetoplaygrant@gmail.com

Guest readers bring stories to Lundar students



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Lundar Early Years School students have enjoyed hosting a variety of guest readers for I Love to Read Month. Students welcomed Davina Mason from the Lundar Fire Department, Liam Russell and Kade Laughlin from the Lundar Falcons Jr B hockey team and Dr. Jade Young and her office manager, Morgann Johnson, from Prairie Sky Health & Wellness. Lundar Early Years principal Tracy Parkes was also a guest reader.

Community rallies behind Gimli High School band trip

By E. Antonio

A full house and strong community spirit defined the Gimli High School Concert Band and Jazz Orchestra fundraiser held Feb. 20 in support of the students' upcoming trip to Niagara Falls, Ont., where they will perform at MusicFest Canada: The Nationals.

Fundraiser organizers Christina Buydens and Jenn Samborski said they were thrilled with the turnout, noting there was not a single empty seat in the venue.

"I hope this shows the community that events like this are possible," said Buydens. "They bring everyone together and provide a buzz people will remember."

While total proceeds are still being finalized, organizers said they are proud of the support raised so



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli High School students pose with backpacks donated by KFC in support of their upcoming band trip to Niagara Falls.

far. The trip is expected to cost approximately \$2,300 per student, with 49 students preparing to travel.

"The community showed up — not only in person but in both prize donations and monetary support that evening too," said Samborski. "Not only did local businesses and private people donate but countless provincial businesses as well, but it was the number of people coming that cemented the success of the evening."

Both organizers highlighted the sense of connection throughout the night, describing guests visiting, smiling and taking part in the variety of activities offered.

"The atmosphere overall was thriving," said Buydens.

Buydens and Samborski expressed sincere thanks to everyone who made the evening possible, especially the student volunteers who assisted with setup and teardown while also performing.

"The evening couldn't have happened without them," Samborski added.

JOIN US FOR THE MARCH CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

MARCH Week 1 Consignment Sale 2026

Viewing: March 2nd from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Bidding starts: March 5th, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Lots start closing on March 12th, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Pick up days: Friday, March 13 &

Saturday March 14th from 9 AM to 5 PM

MARCH OFFSITE Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 16th-19th from 9 AM to 5PM.

Bidding starts: March 19th, 2026 at 9:00AM

Lots start closing on March 25, 2026 at 10:00AM.

Pick up days: Friday, March 27th &

Saturday March 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM

MARCH ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 16th-19th from 9 AM to 5PM.

Bidding starts: March 19th, 2026 at 9:00AM

Lots start closing on March 26, 2026 at 10:00AM.

Pick up days: Friday, March 27th &

Saturday March 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM



Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 • Ed Pylypjuk (204) 392-8442

ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM. Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions. If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Lightning close season with wild win, tough weekend losses

By Lana Meier

The Interlake Lightning closed out their 2025-26 Manitoba U18 AAA Hockey League regular season with one of their most explosive offensive performances of the year before dropping their final two contests.

Interlake finished the season 11th overall with a 13-34-1-2 record and 27 points in 48 games.

The Lightning opened their final week with a 10-7 victory over the Pembina Valley Hawks on Feb. 17 at Teulon-Rockwood Arena.

Ryder Kirk set the tone just 11 seconds into the game, scoring his ninth of the season off feeds from Thoren Corbett and Damon Marquart. Interlake built a 2-1 lead after the first period and pulled away with four goals in the second.

Madden van Kemenade scored twice, while Damon Marquart and Brody Huver also had two-goal performances. Marquart added two assists for a four-point night, while Huver chipped in a goal and an assist. Thoren Corbett and Branden Mickall each had a goal and an assist, and Jacob Keck rounded out the scoring.

Interlake led 6-2 after two periods before a chaotic third that saw Pembina Valley score four power-play goals. The Lightning responded with key tallies from Marquart and Huver, including two empty-net markers, to secure the win.

Goaltender Grayson McDonald turned aside 56 of 63 shots in the victory as the Hawks fired 38 shots in the third period alone.



Interlake Lightning defenceman Logan Jacobson leads the rush up ice against the Pembina Valley Hawks.

The Lightning were unable to carry that momentum into Friday's match-up, falling 3-1 to the Southwest Cougars on Feb. 20 in Teulon.

Prior to Friday's game, the team honoured its graduating players in a pregame ceremony. Each player presented their mother with a bouquet of flowers and thanked their families for years of support throughout their hockey careers. Recognized were Ben den Teuling, Ryder Kirk, Corwyn Bear, Kyler Zulyniak and Mathias Sibilleau.

After trailing 1-0 through two periods, Sam Corbett tied the game early



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Lightning graduating players, left to right, Corwyn Bear, Mathias Sibilleau, Kyler Zulyniak, Ryder Kirk and Ben den Teuling.

in the third, scoring his first of the season off a pass from Thoren Corbett. However, Southwest regained the lead midway through the frame and added an empty-net goal in the final seconds.

McDonald made 26 saves on 28 shots in the loss, while Interlake was unable to convert on four power-play opportunities.

The regular season concluded Sunday in Steinbach, where the Lightning dropped a 4-2 decision to the Eastman Selects.

Branden Mickall and Corwyn Bear scored for Interlake, while McDon-

ald again shouldered the load in net, stopping 40 of 44 shots. Eastman broke open a tight contest with two third-period goals, including a short-handed marker.

Despite the challenging season, the Lightning showed flashes of offensive firepower down the stretch and continued to compete against playoff-bound teams in their final weekend.

With the regular season complete, Interlake will now turn its focus to off-season development and building toward next year's campaign.

Interlake duo driving Nighthawks' dominant season

By Lana Meier

Two Interlake products are playing key roles for the first-place Niverville Nighthawks this season, with both forwards ranking among the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's elite scorers.

Stonewall's Hayden Wheddon continues to lead the league offensively. The 2005-born forward sits first overall in MJHL scoring with 79 points in 49 games, tallying 31 goals and 48 assists for a 1.61 points-per-game average. Wheddon has also contributed five game-winning goals and 16 penalty minutes while helping power a Niverville offence that leads the league in goals for.

Gimli's Adam Vigfusson has also delivered a standout campaign. In 37 games, the 2005-born forward has recorded 23 goals and 34 assists for 57 points — good for a 1.54 points-per-game pace, placing him among the MJHL's top 3 scorers. Vigfusson has six game-winning goals and continues to provide consistent offensive production every night.

As a team, Niverville has been nothing short of dominant. The Nighthawks lead the MGEU East Division with a 43-6-1-0 record for 87 points through 50 games. They boast a league-best .870 winning percentage, have scored 240 goals while allowing just 103, and carry an impressive +137

goal differential.

Niverville sits ahead of the Steinbach Pistons (84 points) and has already clinched a playoff berth.

The Nighthawks close out the regular season with three home games at the Niverville CRRC: Feb. 25 against the Portage Terriers (7:30 p.m.), Feb. 27 versus the Swan Valley Stampede (7:30 p.m.) and Feb. 28 against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines (7:30 p.m.).

With first place secured and the post-season approaching, Wheddon and Vigfusson will look to keep their offensive momentum rolling as the Nighthawks prepare for what they hope will be a deep playoff run.



Niverville Nighthawks forward Adam Vigfusson

Ice Dawgs look to upset Habs in Round 1 series

By Kieran Reimer

The Arborg Ice Dawgs will look to carry their late-season momentum into the post-season as they prepare to face the La Broquerie Habs in the opening round of the Capital Region Junior Hockey League playoffs.

The best-of-five series begins Monday, Feb. 23 in La Broquerie, with the Habs holding home-ice advantage after finishing fourth in the regular season standings with a 16-11-0-1-2 record for 52 points. Arborg secured the fifth and final playoff spot, rallying down the stretch to finish 7-18-0-2-3 for 28 points.

La Broquerie will host Games 1, 3 and, if necessary, Game 5, while the Ice Dawgs will welcome the Habs to the Arborg & District Arena for Game 2 and a potential Game 4.

The two clubs met five times during the regular season, with the Habs winning all five matchups.

Arborg heads into the series following a 7-3 loss to the Selkirk Fishermen last Friday in Selkirk. Hunter Loewen, Brandon Burak and Dainen Jacobson scored over the opening two pe-

riods, helping the Ice Dawgs to a 3-3 tie heading into the third. Selkirk responded with four unanswered goals in the final frame to secure the win.

The Ice Dawgs held a 35-34 edge in shots. Paxton Moore made 27 saves in the loss, while Selkirk netminder Johnny Enns-Demchuk turned aside 32 shots.

Despite entering the series as the underdog, Arborg will aim to build off its improved play in the second half and challenge a Habs squad that had its number during the regular season.

SERIES SCHEDULE:

Game One: Monday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. at La Broquerie

Game Two: Thursday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m. at Arborg

Game Three: Saturday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. at La Broquerie

* Game Four: Monday, March 2, 8 p.m. at Arborg

* Game Five: Wednesday, March 4, 8 p.m. at La Broquerie

* If necessary



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMSON

Arborg Ice Dawgs goaltender Paxton Moore tracks the puck through traffic as a Selkirk Fishermen forward battles for position at the top of the crease during SEMHL action Feb. 20 at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. Moore made 27 saves in the 7-3 loss.

Interlake Lightning U18 wrap up league play



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The Interlake Lightning U18 girls closed out their regular season with a 7-3 loss to the Pembina Valley Hawks in Warren on Feb. 13. Ella Riddell opened the scoring for the Lightning, with additional goals from Blake Darragh and Lily MacGregor. Interlake then turned its focus to the playoffs, where it faced the first-place Winnipeg Ice in the opening round of the best-of-five Manitoba Female Hockey League postseason series. Game 1 was played Feb. 21, with the Lightning falling 5-0. Game 2 was played Feb. 22 at the Hockey for All Centre, where the Lightning lost 7-1, with Ella Riddell scoring her team's lone goal. Game 3 returned to VMSC on Feb. 24. No score was available at press time. Prior to puck drop, the Lightning recognized graduating players Lola Parkinson and Brianna Malmstrom. Both skaters spent one season with the club and plan to continue their hockey careers at the post-secondary level. Pictured, left: Sam Strassburger (assistant coach), Brianna Malmstrom, Lola Parkinson, Kelsey McHolm (head coach) and Allison Sexton (assistant coach). Right: Blake Darragh celebrates her goal. Pictured, left: Sam Strassburger (assistant coach), Brianna Malmstrom, Lola Parkinson, Kelsey McHolm (head coach) and Allison Sexton (assistant coach). Right: Blake Darragh celebrates her goal.

Gimli's Vigfusson nets hat trick for Hawks



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Charleswood Hawks forward Nathan Vigfusson, a 5-foot-9, 185-pound product of Gimli, is in his fourth MMJHL season.

By Lana Meier

Interlake product Nathan Vigfusson delivered a statement performance Feb. 20, scoring a hat trick to power the Charleswood Hawks to a 6-3 victory over the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League play.

The 21-year-old forward from Gimli struck three times on home ice, including two power-play markers and the game-winning goal, finishing with three goals on the night and no penalties. The outing marked his first hat trick of the 2025-26 season and pushed him to 15 goals and 34 points in 35 games.

Now in his fourth MMJHL campaign, Vigfusson has been a steady offensive contributor for the Hawks. He is averaging 0.97 points per game this season and has recorded four power-play goals and one game-winner.

Vigfusson has been particularly effective against the Raiders this year, posting four goals and six points in three games against them. He has also tallied seven points in five games versus the St. James Jr. Canucks and six points in five games against the River East Royal Knights.

Over 142 career MMJHL regular-season games split between the Stonewall Jets and Charleswood, Vigfusson has compiled 59 goals and 115 points. His breakout 2024-25 season saw him score 26 goals and 46 points in 34 games.

Charleswood (21-14-4) currently sits fifth in league standings and has clinched a playoff spot as the regular season winds down.

The Hawks will be in Stoneawall to play the Stonewall Jets on Sunday, March 1 with a 7 p.m. matchup.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

'Anything can happen' as CRJHL postseason begins with three first-round series

By Kieran Reimer

The best time of the year starts this week in the Capital Region Junior Hockey League.

The 2026 CRJHL playoffs will kick off Monday with a pair of Game 1s in best-of-five series between the No. 7 North Winnipeg Satellites on the road against the No. 2 Beausejour Comets, and the No. 5 Arborg Ice Dawgs heading south to face the No. 4 La Broquerie Habs.

The No. 6 Lundar Falcons and No. 3 Selkirk Fishermen make up the other first-round series, which will begin Tuesday evening in Selkirk.

By finishing the regular season with the most points (72), the St. Malo Warriors earned a first-round bye and advance directly to the best-of-seven semifinal round.

"This year, with the seven teams that have been involved, everything has been competitive and it's really been close hockey games," said league commissioner Chris Poponick. "Up until a certain point in the game where it might get a couple of goals spread, but games have been back and forth, especially in the second half of the season. Playoffs are another animal, it's a best-of-five series, so you've got to beat the other team three times, and anything can happen."

Each first-round series will play at least three games this week and could extend as late as Friday, March 6, if necessary.

All seven clubs concluded their reg-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON

Arborg's Brandon Burak finished as the league's leading scorer with 54 points to earn CRJHL most valuable player honours, while teammate Tytan Johnson was named CRJHL rookie of the year and top defenceman.

ular-season schedules this past week, with each team playing its 30th game of the season.

Arborg's Brandon Burak finished as the league's leading scorer with 54 points, earning CRJHL most valuable player honours in last Thursday's awards announcement.

Burak, however, wasn't the lone Ice Dawg winning hardware, as rookie teammate Tytan Johnson was named both CRJHL rookie of the year and top defenceman after tallying 43 points as a freshman blueliner.

A pair of La Broquerie Habs rounded out the award winners as Jaxon Loewen took home top goalie and

Mario Gagnon received most sportsmanlike honours.

"They are just guys that seem to come out and play hard," said Poponick. "All the finalists in each of the categories were all good hockey players, and if I was picking a team I'd be very happy to grab any one of them to put on the roster. They all bring something a little bit different to the table. The rookie and top defenceman, that's kind of a different one. We haven't had that happen in all the years, but I'm really looking forward to see how he progresses as well."

Falcons turn page to post-season, set to face Fishermen in opening round

By Kieran Reimer

The Lundar Falcons are embracing a clean slate as the Capital Region Junior Hockey League playoffs get underway.

After finishing sixth in the CRJHL standings, Lundar is set to face the third-ranked Selkirk Fishermen in a Round 1 best-of-five series.

The Falcons closed the regular season with a 5-19-0-3-3 record for 24 points, compared to Selkirk's 17-10-0-1-2 mark for 55 points.

In five regular-season meetings, Lundar posted two wins and three

losses against the Fishermen, including a 5-2 victory in the most recent matchup on Feb. 1.

Lundar will host Game 2 of the series and a potential Game 4.

The Falcons enter the playoffs riding a five-game losing streak after a 7-2 loss to the St. Malo Warriors last Tuesday at St. Jean Arena.

Lundar was outshot 53-24 in the defeat. Daniel Masters scored in the first period, while Ty Sadowski added the other in the second.

Netminder Seth Hasker finished with 46 saves in the loss as Lundar

concluded its 30-game regular season.

SERIES SCHEDULE:

Game 1 — Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Selkirk

Game 2 — Saturday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Lundar

Game 3 — Sunday, March 1, 3 p.m., Selkirk

* Game 4 — Wednesday, March 4, 8 p.m., Lundar

* Game 5 — Friday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Selkirk

*If necessary

Team East athletes set to represent Interlake in Thompson

By Kieran Reimer

The Interlake will be well represented when the 2026 Manitoba Winter Games open March 1-7 in Thompson, with more than 100 athletes suiting up for Team East Region across 10 of the 12 sports on the program.

The province's best young athletes will compete over seven days in two phases, beginning with alpine skiing, archery, curling, gymnastics, boys hockey and ringette from March 2 to 4, followed by badminton, cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, futsal, girls hockey, speed skating and wrestling from March 5 to 7.

The Games will kick off with the opening ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 and wrap up Saturday, March 7, with the closing ceremony at 2 p.m.

Both will be streamed on Sport Manitoba's YouTube channel and the Manitoba Games' Facebook page.

ALPINE SKIING

Evan Michael Czarnecki of Winnipeg, Charlie Jekat of East St. Paul and Amy Robinson of Cooks Creek will represent the region in alpine skiing.

ARCHERY

Archers include Alex Haley (Selkirk), Beck Moyer (Brandon), Theo Salem (East St. Paul), Jazmyn Rae Sanderson (East Selkirk), Callen Jake Teeple (Brandon), Alyssa Thomas (Powerview-Pine Falls) and Aj Yates (Carberry).

BADMINTON

Competing in badminton are Raina Andrelunas (Lac du Bonnet), Nolan Bittner (Cooks Creek), Bentley Jordan Dueck (Pinawa), Ezra Giesbrecht (East Selkirk), Connor Kent and Jack Davien Martin (Oakbank), Kate Willow Martin (community unavailable), Rorie James Patrick McDonald (Beausejour), Murdoch John McLeod (Whitemouth), Maryna Nychaia (Pinawa), Kailyn Pineau (community



The U18 doubles Team Smith/Kowalchuk: Sierra Smith throws the first and last rocks, and Jake Kowalchuk throws the middle three. The team is coached by Sheldon Kowalchuk.

unavailable), Cash Schwabiuk, Aubree Taylor Terri Button, Bella Jane Reid Thomas, Elyse Unger, Silas Kane Whynot, Khloe Wold and Alexis Theresa Zimmer (all Lac du Bonnet), Bennett James Skrabek (Cooks Creek) and Anita Tetrault (Seven Sisters Falls).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country skiers are Beckett Blyth and Tucker Blyth (Longbow Lake), Ethan Martin and Josh Perrier (Kenora) and Graham Brian McKinley Tinker (Teulon).

CURLING

Curlers include Kamryn Einarson and Khloe Einarson (Gimli), Nadine Jolicoeur (Clandeboye), Ella Lavoie (East Selkirk), Jake Kowalchuk (Camp Morton), Sierra Smith, Bennett Mead, Colby Van Ryssel and Hunter Van Ryssel (Oakbank), Graham Brian McKinley Tinker (Teulon), James McEwen, Callum Blanco, Mason Burdy Ostermann and Liam Werenich (communities unavailable).

FIGURE SKATING

Figure skaters competing are Isabela Cabral (East St. Paul), Nate Gerald Greenbank (Moosomin), Anna Hoff, Lacey Learning and Gaia Turner



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Interlake Lightning members, left to right: Jocelyn Hueging, Lilyanna Kotelko, Kylie Brunel, Adree Williams and Charlie Miller.

(Stonewall), Carys Rayne Jenner (Morden), Paige Newman (Seven Sisters Falls) and Callie Donna Ogal (Lockport).

FUTSAL

Futsal athletes include Andres Mauricio Aguirre Jaramillo, Bourooj Al Nahar, Selina Cotroneo, Beckett Derlago, Ellie Hammond, Hudson Cole Kroeker, Claire Rebecca Elizabeth Parkes and Maddy Prairie (all Winnipeg), Jace Van Lam (Selkirk), Hai-Ting Lao (East St. Paul), Cristiano Morais (West St. Paul), Ryden Kade Poirier (St. Clements), Hunter Princeton James Strongquill (Cooks Creek), Maksym Shevel (Kyiv), and Keshia Elva, Ellis Rocke, Emmett John Rogers and Mackenzie Jane Rogers (communities unavailable).

GYMNASTICS

Gymnasts are Jaycee Berezowski (Selkirk), Addison Olafson (West St. Paul), Fiona Grace Black, Patricia Paz and Emery Rose Sawatzky (Oakbank), Isla Daye, Talya Lewthwaite and Hannah Singer-Abrams (Winnipeg), Morgan Edwards and Emily Klippenstein (Tyndall), Islay Eisbrenner and Hailey

Olfert (East Selkirk), Natalie Garner (West St. Paul), Danika Hansen (St. Anne), Jordan Kavanagh (Matlock), Kayci Bo Anne Robertson (Clandeboye), Elly Roth (East St. Paul) and Sophie St. Hilaire (Dugald).

RINGETTE

Ringette players include Michelle Tibold (Garson), Rye Bellisle, Elizabeth McCormack, Ruby Wiebe and Morgan Willsey (Winnipeg), Macklyn Bjarnarson (Beausejour), Adriel Bruce and Ellasyn Kett (St. Andrews), Sara Jeanne d'Auteuil (Selkirk), Tianna Hollins, Lexi Irvine, Harlow Merrells Lapoint, Ella Marie Penman and Everly Randall Spelchak (Oakbank), Brea Lila-Dawn Suszczynski (Sunnyside) and Kadence Lambkin (community unavailable).

HOCKEY

Boys hockey players are Rory Ray, Oliver Sokolowski, Xavier Daneault, Lockelan Harvey, Ryden Mykichuk, Hudson Reich and Jason Woznesensky (coach) and Russ Reich (coach) (East St. Paul), Jordan Hallock and

Continued on page 23

Lundar pushes series to three games in Price Division playoffs

By Annaliese Meier

In the Winnipeg High School Hockey League's Price Division post-season, the Lundar Kodiaks opened their first-round series with a comeback victory before ultimately falling in three games to Murdoch MacKay.

Lundar earned a 3-2 win in Game 1 on Feb. 17 despite surrendering two early first-period goals. Murdoch MacKay struck twice in the open-

ing minutes, including a power-play marker, to seize early momentum.

The Kodiaks responded in the second period when Daniel Johnson converted on the power play from Riley Johnson. Lundar continued its special-teams success in the third, as Riley Johnson scored with the man advantage from Daniel Johnson to tie the game. Thor Johnson completed the comeback later in the frame, fin-

ishing a play set up by Kolten Bell-Sinclair to secure the victory.

Murdoch MacKay answered in Game 2 on Feb. 20 with a 4-1 win to even the series. Madden Bauman scored twice, while the Clippers added a pair of shorthanded goals in the second period to pull away. Noah Kuzyk netted Lundar's lone goal on the power play in the third, assisted by Daniel Johnson.

The deciding Game 3 on Feb. 21 saw Murdoch MacKay advance with a 9-1 victory. Thor Johnson scored Lundar's lone goal, converting on the power play from Kuzyk and Riley Johnson late in the second period.

With the loss, Lundar's playoff run came to an end following a hard-fought three-game series in the Price Division.

> WINTER GAMES, FROM PG. 22

Maxwell Boonstra (Stonewall), Owen Mathison and Lincoln Rivard (St. Andrews), Luka Paulic and Easton Kormylo (East Selkirk), Adrian Sinclair (Woodlands), Maksym Chernecki and Wyatt Woznesensky (West St. Paul).

Girls hockey players are Sophie Melanie Bazin (Lorette), Kaitlyn Beech and Brooklyn Surminski (Selkirk), Brooke Boychuk and Charley Joy Malaschuk (Oakbank), Mya Fagerstrom (Ste-Genevieve), Lilyanna Kotelko (Warren), Nadelyn Marie Louise Ritchot (Lac du Bonnet), Ellie Robertson (Beausejour), Adree Williams (Balmoral), Kylie Brunel (Stonewall), Aela Carty and Haddie Taylor (West St. Paul), Jocelyn Hueging (Woodlands) and Charlie Miller (Eriksdale). Team staff include Megan Humeniuk (coach, Stonewall) and Allison Pylpjuk (manager, Woodlands).



U15 Team Einarson will represent Team East Region in Pool A of the four-person female curling event. Pictured left to right: lead Nadine Jolicoeur, second Kamryn Einarson, coach Kerri Einarson, third Ella Lavorie and skip Khloe Einarson.



The U15 boys Team McEwen is based out of the West St. Paul Curling Club and Garden City Collegiate. Pictured, front row, from left: James McEwen (skip), Callum Blanco (third), Mason Burdy-Ostermann (second) and Liam Werenich (lead). Back row: coach Bryce McEwen.

NORTH BOYS HOCKEY

North team call-ups are Bennett Katcher and Hudson Dech of East St. Paul.

Selkirk gymnastics club sends four to MWG

By Kieran Reimer

The 2026 Manitoba Winter Games will mark the biggest competition yet for many Manitoba athletes heading to Thompson in March.

This year marks the long-awaited return of the Winter Games, last held in 2018 after the 2022 edition was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Some athletes have had the Games marked on their calendars for months, others for just days, due to stretched-out qualification processes across various sports.

In gymnastics, Selkirk Selects Gymnastics Club athletes Jaycee Berezowski (Selkirk), Kayci Robertson (Clande-

boye), Natalie Garner (West St. Paul) and Hailey Olfert (East Selkirk) saw their Manitoba Games dream realized just a few weeks ago when they qualified on Jan. 31.

By qualifying, all four will join Team East Region in their quest to bring hardware back to the Interlake.

“Manitoba Games is a big accomplishment. This is definitely going to be the biggest competition they’ve ever gotten to go to so far,” said Nicole Mulder, head coach and program director of Selkirk Selects.

Robertson and Garner will compete in Level 4, while Berezowski and Olfert will compete in Level 3 in Thompson, with gymnastics running from March 1-4.

They will also be accompanied by Selects coach Harrison Douglas, who will also be making his first appearance at the Games.

Formerly a gymnast with the Selects, Douglas has used his expertise to coach the current generation over the past five years and is now excited to see four of his athletes get their Manitoba Games opportunity.

“We’ve been training extra hard, and the girls have been putting in extra work as well because they really want to do well at this meet. To qualify, they were really excited to have the opportunity,” said Douglas.

The athletes train between eight and 10 hours a week at the club and have



EXPRESS PHOTO BY E. ANTONIO

Selkirk Selects gymnasts competing at the Manitoba Winter Games, pictured left to right: Jaycee Berezowski (Level 3), Hailey Olfert (Level 3), Natalie Garner (Level 4), Kayci Robertson (Level 4) and Harrison Douglas (coach).

attended multiple invitational tournaments over the course of the season.

For the Selects, 2025-26 has seen continual growth in new gymnasts and their accomplishments.

They now have athletes up to Level 6 who are training for provincial competitions.

Coaches such as Mulder, Douglas and Riley Adams have played large roles in the athletes moving up levels.

Selects has also increased its coaching investment, with coaches continuously advancing their certification levels.

To Mulder, having five total members from the club attending the Games is an example of hard work paying off.

“I think it just shows how much development there has been in a smaller program,” said Mulder. “To have four athletes going, we have as many athletes going as some of the bigger city clubs on the East team. I think that shows the commitment from our coaches, and we also have a really great parent board. We’re expanding so quickly we’ll probably need a new space soon.”

Keystone Kips Gymnastics



Members of the Keystone Kips Gymnastics Club, from left, Jordan Kavanagh, Islay Eisbrenner, Addison Olafson, Elly Roth and coach Nicole Schwab (Gonor), will represent Team East Region in artistic gymnastics at the 2026 Manitoba Winter Games, scheduled for March 1-7 in Thompson.

Classifieds



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



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST/VOTING AS A NON-RESIDENT/PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the **VOTERS LIST** may be revised at 30 Tache Street in Fisher Branch, MB between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. At this time staff will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the 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 correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have their names added to the Voter's List if they are:

- a Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- a resident of the local authority for at least 6 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 a majority of the registered landowners, and file this with the Senior Elections Official prior to September 20, 2026. When voting you may also be required to provide proof of ownership and/or proof of identity to the voting official.

NON-RESIDENT VOTER QUALIFIED IN MULTIPLE WARDS:

In accordance with section 25(2) of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act, any non-resident voter who owns property in more than one ward is responsible to notify the Senior Elections Official in writing, not later than September 20, 2026, of the ward in which they desire to vote. Failing the foregoing, the voter's name will be placed on the list as the Senior Election Official may select.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the Senior Election Official no later than September 20, 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.

All changes to the voters list must be completed by September 20, 2026, in preparation for the municipal election to be held Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
Phone (204)372-6393 Fax (204)372-8470



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI INVITATION TO TENDER

CLOSING DATE: Friday, March 13, 2026 at Noon

The Rural Municipality of Gimli is accepting tenders for the following:

RFT 2026-01 2026 EQUIPMENT RATES: the RM of Gimli is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for hourly rates on various types of privately owned equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates and hiring order of private equipment for the 2026 works season ending March 31, 2027. Contractors who do not submit pricing and/or do not hold a valid business license or business tax will not be considered for municipal projects.

Detailed tender package complete with specifications are available to interested bidders on the RM of Gimli website, www.gimli.ca, or at the Municipal Office, 62 2nd Avenue, between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Any questions or concerns related to the tenders can be directed to: Ron Hahlweg
Director or Operations
Rural Municipality of Gimli
Phone: (204) 642-6688

The RM of Gimli reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the tender in the best interest of the RM of Gimli in its sole discretion. Lowest bid may not be accepted. Contractors must comply with Municipal requirements for liability insurance, WCB coverage and business licensing to be eligible to be awarded the contract.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Interlake Weed Control District (comprised of the Rural Municipalities of Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton, Fisher, and Gimli, the Town of Arborg, and the LUD of Fisher) intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026.

1. To control noxious weeds and brush, as well as vegetation causing a safety hazard, on rights-of-way, school grounds, and public areas within the Interlake Weed Control District, the Rural Municipalities of Grahamdale, Coldwell, St. Laurent, and West Interlake, and the LUD of Lundar. School grounds include all Evergreen and Lakeshore School Division properties. The projected dates of application will be from April 13 to December 31, 2026. The herbicides to be used in the program may include:

- 2,4-D Amine	- Diuron	- Picloram
- 2,4-D Ester	- Diflufenzopyr	- Saflufenacil
- 2,4-D choline salt	- Diquat	- Triclopyr
- Aminocyclopyrachlor	- Flumioxazin	- Gateway adjuvant
- Aminopyralid	- Fluroxypyr	- Hasten NT adjuvant
- Bromacil	- Glyphosate	- CZ 70 surfactant
- Chlorsulfuron	- Imazapyr	- Excel 70 surfactant
- Clopyralid	- Indaziflam	- LI700 surfactant
- Dicamba	- Mecoprop	- nonionic surfactant
- Dichlorprop	- Metsulfuron methyl	

- as well as products in the allowable list as per MB Regulation 286/2014

2. To control insect pests including mosquitoes, forest tent caterpillars, cankerworms, grasshoppers, spruce bud worm, etc. in public areas. The projected dates of application will be from April 13 to October 31, 2026. The insecticides to be used may include:

- Bti	- Btk	- Carbaryl	- Cypermethrin	- Deltamethrin	- Dimethoate	- Malathion
-------	-------	------------	----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------

The public may, within 15 days of the publication of this notice, send a written submission to the department below regarding the control programs, or to register with the department their written objection to the SPECIFIC control program(s) next to their properties for the 2026 season.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6

Fred Paulson, Weed Supervisor
Interlake Weed Control District

SCRAP METAL

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

COINS

Call now for your cash! Your Interlake coin collector - buying old coins & paper money. Phone David 204-798-3045.

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Day of Prayer, March 6th, 2026 at 1 p.m. Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Hwy 9 Lake Avenue, Winnipeg Beach, MB.

WANTED

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

PETS

7 Purebred Border Collie puppies. Ready to go end of February. \$200 each. Ph: 204-448-2317 or 204-768-9537.

LIVESTOCK



SPRUCE RIDGE STOCK
Farms at Ashern has a good selection of 2 yr old and yearling Angus bulls on offer. These are big growthy bulls developed on TMR silage based ration in 15 acre runs to ensure longevity. Perfect feet, strong joints, moderate birth, combined with top of the breed growth. These are hard muscled bulls sired by some of the top A. I. bulls in Canada. Semen tested, delivered when needed, guaranteed. Call Ross and Helen Jermy and Family, 204-768-0333

Kerosene or Heating oil gravity feed cottage heater, must be in good condition if it meets my heating needs. Call Jim at 204 224-3515. Cash at pickup.

HEALTH

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

PROPERTY FOR SALE

For sale 2.5 acres of land located at Fisher Bay completely along the shore of Lake Winnipeg. Priced to sell for \$6,000. Contact Austin A. Abas 204-280-0095.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg. with river view 2 bedroom apts. available. Central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

NOTICES

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

THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS
204-467-5836

Classifieds



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

NOTICES

NOW BOOKING YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS FOR SPRING 2026! Let us help you book your blanket classified ads across Manitoba, and increase your presence! If have a booth at any upcoming TRADE SHOWS, advertise NOW, and let people know that you will be there by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the matter of the Estate of Larry Ronald Ogg, late of Fraserwood, Manitoba, Deceased. All claims against the above estate, supported by Statutory Declaration must be sent to the attention of: Linda Prawdzik, Box 101, Matlock, Manitoba, R0C 2B0 on or before the 1st day of April, 2026. After this date, the estate will be distributed having only regard to claims of which the Executor then has notice. Dated at Matlock, Manitoba, this 18th day of February, 2026. Linda Prawdzik Box 101, Matlock, Manitoba R0C 2B0 Executor

Cash 4 Coin Collections!



Also BUYING Old Jewelry, Nuggets, Bullion, Gold, Silver, Platinum, Sterling Silverware, Franklin Mint sets, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, pre 1937 Paper Money, old coins, numismatists, Rare Coins, Silver Coins, Gold coins, etc.

Covering Winnipeg & Rural Manitoba. I drive to you! **CALL ME NOW!!** TODD: 1-204-904-9705

TURN YOUR STASH INTO CASH!!!



Now buying GOLD, SILVER & PLATINUM. Buying old Jewelry, Broken Jewelry, Bullion, Bars, Ingots, Wafers, Nuggets, Gold dust, Dental Gold, Coins, Coin Collections, Numismatics, Sterling Silverware & more! Estate liquidations of Precious Metals. **I PAY CASH!**

Covering Winnipeg & Rural Manitoba. I drive to you! **CALL ME NOW!!** TODD: 1-204-904-9705

News Tips? Story Ideas? call the Express 204-467-5836



Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Use your LOGO!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$339.00 (includes 45 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

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

Registered Purebred Polled 2 Year Old and Yearling CHAROLAIS BULLS FOR SALE

We have a good selection of quality bulls. Will be semen tested. Delivery & EPD's available.

For more information call Ken at (204) 376-2418 (land line) or Text to (204) 641-3788 KLCC Charolais, Arborg

CLASS 1 TRUCK DRIVER

To run Canada - must have experience

- Paid pick, drops, layovers and stat pay
- Multi drop runs
- Benefit package
- Dedicated truck
- Sign On & Annual bonus
- BC Experience an Asset
- Reset at home
- Weekend home time
- Paid training
- Referral program

Derek (204) 793-7465 CENTENNIAL TRANSPORT & LEASING LTD.



Looking to fill the following Full and Part-time Positions

CASHIER

Cash-out & closing procedures
Deposits • Customer service
Stock shelves

DELIVERY / YARD ASSOCIATE

Deliveries • Unload trucks
Assembly (BBQs, patio furniture, etc.)
Stock shelves

Must be able to carry 50 lbs or more and able to do stairs, willing to work weekdays and weekends (typically every 2nd weekend)

Able to work independently and as a team

****Must have a valid driver's license****

What we offer:

Health/Dental Benefits • Friendly work environment
Please drop off resume in person before March 7, 2026 to: Roger or Barb
75 Centre St. Gimli, MB

WEDDING SOCIAL IN HONOUR OF

TROY GODFREY & KAITLYN SIGURDSON



SATURDAY MARCH 14TH, 2026 RIVERTON COMMUNITY HALL

Join us and celebrate with a St. Patrick's Day twist!
Support Tickets Available, 18+



Join us for a BRIDAL SHOWER for our DANCING QUEEN Kaitlyn Sigurdson bride elect of Troy Godfrey MARCH 14, 2026 1PM - 3PM RIVERTON-BIFROST COMMUNITY HALL

The shower is public, so please let us know if you can attend so we can plan accordingly.

Donations can be made at: Riverton Coop & Arborg Home Hardware! Thank you for your support!

NOTICE OF BRANCH CLOSURE

TO: All members of Access Credit Union Limited (the "Credit Union")

Notice is hereby given, in compliance with the Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Regulation, that the Credit Union will be closing the Moosehorn branch located at: 11 Railway Avenue, Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0.

The branch will close effective June 19, 2026.

The Moosehorn branch members will be consolidated with 4 - Highway 6, Ashern, MB. Members can also bank at any of our other branch locations throughout Manitoba with no changes of membership number or account numbers.

DATED this 25th day of February, 2026 ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED By order of the Board of Directors



INVITATION TO QUOTE BID HOURLY EQUIPMENT RATES

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting quotes for hourly rates for various types of equipment for the purpose of establishing pay rates for the 2026 construction and maintenance season. Contact our office for your information package.

Please return to the RM office in person or via the mail or email address below.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS IS 12 NOON, APRIL 1, 2026
Rural Municipality of Fisher, Box 280, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, MB, R0C 0Z0.
Phone: (204) 372-6393, Fax: (204) 372-8470, Email: fisheroffice@mymts.net

Classifieds Announcements

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

BIRTHDAY



Happy 80th Birthday Peter Karish on March 2nd
-Love and best wishes, from all your family

BIRTHDAY



Happy 80th Birthday, Don Zembik, on March 4!
If you see this young man who loves trapping, hunting, picking mushrooms and gardening, please wish him a happy 80th birthday!
We love you, Dad and Papa!

BRIDAL SHOWER



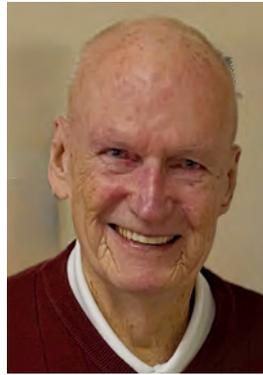
Bridal Shower in Honour of Taylor Smith
Bride Elect of David Johnston
Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion 161 Arborg
Donations may be left at
Arborg Co-op and Arborg Home Hardware
Registered at www.myregistry.com and
Arborg Home Hardware
Gift cards from
Costco and Amazon are appreciated

IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of Dr. Lawrence Spring
October 26th, 1972 - February 26th, 2025
February 26th comes with deep regret, A day that we will never forget.
You suffered so much,
Your pleasures were few,
You never deserved what you went through.
You stood the test and stood it well,
Just what you suffered no one can tell.
In tears we watched you sinking,
We saw you slipping away;
And though our hearts were breaking,
We knew you could not stay.
We know that God has granted you,
A peaceful place to rest,
And has given us the wisdom,
To accept and do our best.
They say it is a beautiful journey,
From the old world to the new,
And one day we will take that journey,
Up the stairs that lead to you.
When we reach that garden,
Where we all are free from pain;
We will clasp your hand in a better land,
Never to part again.
-Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by your daughters Hanna and Abby, Mom and Dad, and all of your family

OBITUARY



George Bernard Heath
December 6, 1933 – February 11, 2026
George passed away peacefully on February 11, 2026 at Selkirk Regional Health Centre at the age of 92. He was the longest living member of the Heath family.
George leaves behind his wife Nancy of 21 years (nee Guss) and her children Cheryl (Brian), Carla (Tony), Cathy and Charlene and her grandchildren Desmond, Bryce, Brendan, Madison and Quinten and her great-grandchildren.
George was predeceased by his first wife of 44 years, Phyllis (nee Gray), and his youngest daughter Marilyn and leaves behind his children Gordon (Diana), Alison, and Brian (Bonnie) and grandchildren Curtis, Mitchell, Laurel, Olivia, Nicole, Justin, Sydney, and Morgan and his great-grandchildren.
George grew up in the West End of the City of Winnipeg, attending Isaac Brock and Daniel McIntyre Schools. He moved to St. James where he raised his family.
George retired from the City of Winnipeg Fire Department in 1991 after 31 years of service, reaching the rank of Captain. He also enjoyed working side jobs as a painter.
Upon retirement, George moved to a home on the golf course in Sandy Hook, MB where he was active in golf and curling.
When George married Nancy in 2005 he became a wonderful step dad to her children. He enjoyed his life with Nancy in Winnipeg Beach playing cards, bowling, golfing and had many happy times with their combined family and friends.
We would like to thank the staff and patrons of Roxi's Uptown Cafe who provided help to George, the paramedics and caregivers at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.
In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Firefighter's Burn Fund.
A memorial for George will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at the Winnipeg Beach Legion, Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba.
Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Mike Bidochka
March 11, 1928 - February 17, 2026
Uncle Mike passed away peacefully 22 days before his 98th birthday with his nephews and nieces by his side. He was the last of his family of 10.
He was predeceased by parents Tekla and Peter; brothers John, Metro (Julie), Nick, Tony; sisters Jean (Mike Lupky), Katherine (John Barylski), Anna (Mike Maksymchuk), Pearl (Mike Febora) and Olga (Walter Chomokovski); as well as niece Margaret Barnett and nephews Rodney Chomokovski and Joe Lupky.
He leaves behind many nephews, nieces and their families.
Mike was born and raised in Shorncliffe, MB and farmed there until he retired to Arborg.
Mike was a kind and generous man, always helping other family members.
Cremation has taken place as per his wishes. A private family celebration of life and interment will take place later in spring.
Our family is truly thankful to the Arborg PCH for their wonderful care and compassion. We wish to thank MacKenzie Funeral Home for their guidance.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Arborg PCH or a charity of your choice.
 1-800-467-0024
mackenziefh.com

OBITUARY



Charles Edward Sumka
September 21, 1967 – February 12, 2026
Peacefully, with family by his side, Charles Edward Sumka passed away at the Arborg & District Health Centre on February 12, 2026.
Cremation has taken place and a private graveside service will be held at a later date.
The family wishes to sincerely thank the members of the Arborg-Bifrost Fire Department for their support and visits. We also wish to extend our gratitude to the healthcare team at the Arborg & District Health Centre who provided Edward with professional and compassionate care that was second to none.
In remembering Edward, memorial donations may be directed to the Arborg & District Health Auxiliary Inc. or to the Manitoba Fallen Firefighters Foundation.
A full obituary is available at www.mackenziefh.com

Online McSherry Auctions

Estate & Moving
Wed., Mar. 4 @ 7:00 PM
Mancave Auction
Vintage Signs, Toys, General Store & More!
Tues., Mar. 31 @ 7:00 PM
Now Accepting Consignments!
Call us to arrange dropping off your unwanted items for the auction!
McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

*Auto *Farm *Truck
*Construction *ATV
*Motorcycle *Golf Carts
*Rechargeables *Tools
*Computers *Medical
*All phones *Chargers
*Marine *RV & more
Shipping/Delivery avail.

THE BATTERY MAN
1390 St. James St.
Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca



SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

- Monuments
- Restoration
- Granite
- Pillow markers
- Level monuments
- Bronze
- Pre Needs
- Renew monuments
- Columbariums
- Final Dates
- Engraving
- single, family, community

Appointments available in the comfort of your home

Email: sunsetmemorialsgimli@gmail.com
www.sunsetmemorialsgimli.ca

Bus: 1-204-642-8818
Cell: 1-204-407-3096

OBITUARY



Mary Kohler

Peacefully on February 14, 2026, Mary Kohler passed away surrounded by her loving family at Betel Personal Care Home.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Leonard Kohler (Gladys), Gloria Sims (Curtis), Grace Marteinsson (Bruce), son-in-law David Einarson, Kathleen Romanchuk (Terry), and Ann Kishka; her grandchildren: Melody (Nolan), Devin (Jenessa), Elliot (Heather), Nathan (Janet), Courtney (Alex), Mark (Brandi), Ward (Ashley), Trisha (Steve), Scott (Judith), and Steven (Rebecca); and her cherished great-grandchildren: Abby, Emma, Noah, Owen, Abel, Ronan, Eliza, Angela, Natalie, Halaina, Violet, Jace, Mabel, Zeke, Freya, Olivia, and Emily; sister Rose Wryha and sister-in-law Florence Muirhead; numerous nieces and nephews and life long friend Josephine Arnason.

Mom was predeceased by her beloved husband of 62 years Egen, daughter Caroline Einarson, son-in-law Rick Kishka, granddaughter Crystal Kohler and infant grandson, Adam Marteinsson.

Mary was born on December 26, 1927 in Camp Morton, to Karol and Pauline Dudek. She often shared fond memories of walking along bush trails to attend King Edward School and Cummings School, and of making the long trip to the village store to sell fresh eggs and handpicked berries. Growing up on the family farm, she developed many practical skills that became the foundation of her strong work ethic and lifelong dedication to her family.

As a young woman, Mom moved to Winnipeg, where she worked as a seamstress and later used her sewing talent to create clothing for her children, ensuring they were always warmly and beautifully dressed.

On May 17, 1952, Mom married the love of her life, Egen. Together they began their farming life in Fraserwood, milking cows, making hay, gardening, and preserving fruits and vegetables. Mom enjoyed dancing and singing with Dad, and together they built a life rooted in faith, love, and hard work.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends. Mom was a fabulous cook who always made sure everyone had plenty to eat. Her perogies were a family favorite, and the grandchildren could hardly wait for her famous pancakes and golden French fries. Making lunches to take out to the hay field was a job she cherished. She loved gardening, cooking, and picking mushrooms and berries. Mom also enjoyed wiener roasts, playing cards, and the many day trips she shared with family and friends. She was fortunate to travel within Canada, to the Bahamas, Las Vegas and to the Holy Land—experiences she treasured deeply.

Within Mom's 98 years, she left a lifelong legacy of love, kindness, strength, wisdom, and faith that she instilled in her family. She radiated warmth and joy to everyone who knew her. We will forever remember her gentle spirit, her unwavering devotion to her family, and the example she set through a life beautifully lived.

Pallbearers are her grandsons Mark and Ward Marteinsson, Elliot and Nathan Sims, Scott Einarson, Devin Kohler and Steven Kishka.

Funeral service was held on February 20 at 11:00 at St. Micheal's Church, Gimli, Mb.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to the caring staff and volunteers at Betel Personal Care Home for the love, kindness and compassion shown to Mom during her time there.

Sincere thank you as well to Gilbert's Funeral Home for their support, guidance, and compassion during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



Andrew (Andy) Adam Joseph Marks

Unexpectedly, on Friday, February 13th, 2026 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre, Andy Marks, aged 77 years, of Selkirk, MB., passed away.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife Linda; daughter Michelle (Lester); sons Neil and Cory; grandchildren Bryce, Rheanna, Norma-Jane, Aaron and Sarah and great-grandchildren Zyla and Ivan. Others that will miss him are brothers, James (Charlotte) and Ken (Marg); sisters Ruth (Richard) and Lisa (Andrew) and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will be held in the spring.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home,
Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY



**Jack Krasey
February 20, 2026**

With deep sadness we announce the passing of Jack at the age of 80 at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

Left to cherish his memory is his daughter Jacqueline (Trevor) Krause; son Michael Krasey, daughter Sandra (late Glen) Kehler; nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.

He was predeceased by his loving wife Angeline of 58 years.

Jack worked for the Department of Highways while farming. He enjoyed haying, hunting, fishing and time with his family on the farm.

A graveside service will be held at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in Meleb, Manitoba, on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations maybe made to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba.

Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Stanley Cecil Fowke

October 2, 1935 – February 17, 2026

Peacefully on February 17, 2026, Stanley Fowke of St. Martin, MB passed away at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg, MB at the age of 90 years.

A Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026 in the St. Martin Hall with Dawn Tober officiating. Interment will be held in the St. Martin Cemetery with a luncheon to follow in the hall.

Longer obituary to follow.

Arrangements by:

ARNASON FUNERAL HOME

Ashern – Lundar

1-204-768-2072

1-866-323-3593

Get The Job Done!

To Book A Biz Card Call 204-467-5836

PREMIUM FIREWOOD
SEASONED & READY TO BURN
WWW.THATFIREWOODPLACE.COM
Call 204 981 5887
LOCATED IN WOODLANDS MB

Get the Info You Need ...
WHEN YOU NEED IT!

Register for
CONNECT GIMLI!
www.gimli.ca

GOETZ SIDING

• 5" Eavestrough • Soffit/Fascia
• Custom Cladding
(204)223-7740 goetzsiding@gmail.com

Innovative Electric

Ph: 204-519-0357
Url: www.innovativeelectric-mb.ca
Email: matthew@innovativeelectric-mb.ca

CONVENIENCE

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

SNACKS • LOTTO
20088 First Ave,
Sandy Hook

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

PharmaChoice
LUNDAR

You have QUESTIONS, We have ANSWERS!

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

Advice for Life

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

"From rust to riches, your scrap could be treasure with our unbeatable prices!"

Purchasers of ferrous/non-ferrous materials

Call Today

Unit 5, 325 Parkdale Rd,
St. Andrews MB
info@eco-metallics.ca
Office:
(204) 404-4747

Bison Piling & Excavation

- Helical Piles
- Excavation
- Skid Steer Services

Call 204-461-4443

Everything you need to promote your business

Interlake Graphics

For all your printing and publishing needs

Call 204-467-5836

NEW VALLEY ROOFING & RENOVATIONS
Serving The Interlake

Henry Reimer 204-642-2551
BP & IKO Certified Roofer
henry.reimer@newvalleyroofing.com
newvalleyroofing.com

DURABILITY REDEFINED.



The Vermeer N-series balers bring heavy-duty components for strength and durability in the field when you need it most. Smart features like the available automatic pickup clutch and Auto Lube system help extend machine life. Plus, they're backed by the best distribution network in the industry.



Vermeer Corporation reserves the right to make changes in engineering, design and specifications; add improvements; or discontinue manufacturing or distribution at any time without notice or obligation. Equipment shown is for illustrative purposes only and may display optional accessories or components specific to their global region. Please contact your local Vermeer dealer for more information on machine specifications. Vermeer and the Vermeer logo are trademarks of Vermeer Manufacturing Company in the U.S. and/or other countries. © 2018 Vermeer Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

SHACHTAY
SALES & SERVICE LTD.
www.shachtay.com

204-376-5233
*Servicing the
Interlake for 59 Years!*
Arborg, Manitoba
Family Owned