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# THE EXPRESS

VOLUME 7 EDITION 10 THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

## WEEKLY NEWS

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## Blocker save

EXPRESS PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Riverton's goaltender Josiah Hardy makes a blocker save against Manitou in the Eagles 8-6 win last Saturday. Riverton finished the Atom 'C' Hockey Manitoba provincials with two wins and two losses in Deloraine last weekend.

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# Viking runners take on Lake Winnipeg and win, raising over 16K

By Patricia Barrett

A 30-kilometre run through soft snow on a wind-swept lake is no easy feat, but two childhood friends from Gimli overcame the elements last Saturday in a bid to raise money for the Save Your Skin Foundation.

Chris Isfeld, who developed melanoma, challenged his friend Shawn Bjornsson to a race across Lake Winnipeg during the Gimli Ice Festival. Calling the odyssey “A Viking’s Challenge,” the two men started off from Grand Beach and made it to Gimli in four hours and 47 minutes.

Isfeld’s battle with melanoma started in 2017 when he developed back pain. Tests revealed lesions on his liver and masses on his adrenal glands, and he became partially paralysed from the waist down. But after undergoing cancer treatment, he was able to start running again. As of December 2019, he’s almost free of the disease.

Scores of family, friends and well-wishers lined the shore near the Gimli harbour wall, anxiously waiting to welcome them home.

“It’s amazing how he’s turned this experience [with melanoma] into this when so many people could just disappear,” said Isfeld’s mom, Christine, waiting on the beach with her husband Rodney and Isfeld’s brother Brett and sister Rodine. “But not Chris.”

Rodney Isfeld had been receiving updates as the runners crossed the lake and knew it was not an easy journey.

“It’s been quite an ordeal,” he said. “They left a little earlier to get across the lake, but they had a little delay coming this way.”

The delay came down to warm temperatures, which made the snow mushy on the lake.

When the two men hove into view around the harbour wall, the crowd



Rodney Isfeld waits on shore as his son, Chris, approaches the finish line.

on the beach broke into cheers.

Isfeld, who lives in B.C., said the weather couldn’t have been better for a lake crossing, but the trail was “very unpredictable.”

“It took a lot more energy to run in those conditions. It was like running on Gimli Beach in the sand,” he said. “I never considered quitting but was worried about how long it would take.”

Shawn was an “incredible support” throughout the entire run, he added.

Bjornsson, expectedly out of breath and surrounded by a crush of people congratulating him and Isfeld, said, “That was not easy. It was so soft and really blowing out there.”

Isfeld said he’s so grateful for all the support his community has shown.

“I am proud to be from such an amazing town,” said Isfeld. “Completing the run itself was a great achievement and another personal best. I’m also amazed by all the attention the event has attracted and I’m excited



Chris Isfeld, left, and his childhood friend Shawn Bjornsson ran 30 kilometres across Lake Winnipeg this past weekend, raising funds for the Save Your Skin Foundation, a national patient-led not-for-profit group dedicated to education, advocacy and awareness initiatives about skin cancers.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Chris Isfeld (left) with his dad Rodney, sister Rodine, brother Brett and mother Christine.

that we’ve raised close to \$20,000.”

Isfeld’s goal is to raise \$30,000 for the Canadian not-for-profit foundation, which promotes awareness of skin cancer.

People wishing to make a donation to Isfeld’s fundraiser can visit the Save Your Skin Foundation fundraising page on [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) or search A Viking’s Challenge.

## Co-op contest for \$25K community donation opens March 5

Submitted

Win \$25,000 for your town from your local Co-op by playing this year’s Fuel Up to Win.

Now in its eighth year, Fuel Up to Win is an annual event that gives Co-op members and customers in Western Canada an opportunity to win more than \$8.5 million in prizes and discounts. This year, online entries not only give you a chance to win, they will also enter your town for a chance to win a community donation.

“Fuel Up to Win is a great way for our Co-op members and customers to engage and have some fun,” said

Carey Tufts, FCL’s director of marketing and communications.

“Co-ops are known for giving back to their members and to their communities. This contest is another opportunity to do this with a \$100,000 grand prize for one lucky person and \$25,000 for a great community initiative.”

Between March 5 and April 29, receive a game ticket from participating CO-OP® Food Stores, Gas Bar/Convenience Stores and Home Centres with every purchase. You have three chances to win:

Instant Win: One in six tickets re-

veals a prize or discount.

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Every time you enter the online sweepstakes, your town receives a vote for the donation. The town with the most votes per capita will receive the community donation.

In 2019, Co-op donated \$25,000 to Reaching Youth Serving Community in Birch Hills, Sask., after the town won the community portion of Fuel Up to Win. The community-based non-profit organization used the donation to expand the local skate park and community gardens built a few years ago to include outdoor washrooms and a camping gazebo.

Help your community win by playing Fuel Up to Win today. No purchase necessary. For complete contest rules and regulations, visit [fueluptowin.ca](http://fueluptowin.ca).

# Annual Gimli Ice Festival boosted winter spirits

By Patricia Barrett

There was no better way to beat the winter blahs last weekend than to take in the Gimli Ice Festival, which attracts hundreds of visitors every year to the beachside town.

John and Johana Chaput from Ile des Chenes, Man., haven't missed an Ice Festival since its inception nine years ago.

"The festival gives you a reason to enjoy some family time and some sunshine — or whatever the weather brings — and you get to meet people," said John, whose favourite event is "all of them."

Johanna said she loves new events the festival offers every year.

"Every year the festival does something different and you don't know what you're going to encounter," said Johanna, who won the canoe race last year with John. "We're adventurous and like to try different events."

What was different this year was Boost Kiteboarding from Winnipeg. Daniel and Stefan Koenig, along with 18-year kiteboarding veteran Roland Rioux, showed visitors the basics as well as some high-flying stunts.

"We've taught people that have zero skill," said Daniel Koenig. "And we sell everything from demo and used kites to the high-end stuff. We make sure people have the right kite — and that it's tuned — because it can slow down the learning."

The foldable kites, which can cost up to \$2,000 new or a few hundred dollars for a used one, have tubes running along the frame into which air is pumped with what looks like a jumped-up bicycle pump.

Rioux, who executed some mid-air somersaults, said there's no danger of the kite taking you away on an unwanted journey.

"They're not designed to do that and you have control over everything," said Rioux. "It can pull you off your feet, but the [grab] bar acts as your steering wheel, controlling where you go. You pull the bar towards and away from you (not left-right like a car's steering wheel). That shortens the lines and makes the kite turn."

In the midst of all the fun, the Vikings arrived and did what Vikings normally do. They kidnapped people, such as the Fjallkona (the personification of Iceland), fired up their makeshift hob at the harbour and chowed down on chicken, cheese, eggs, flatbread and apples, then took up spears and shields for some deadly battle.

The Vikings are played by a Living History Society group called the Hands of Lugh, which recently changed its name from the Sons of



Anna was queen of the snowhill in her Iceland-made fisherwoman's suit.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Vikings kidnapped New Iceland's Fjallkona (in white gown with turquoise coat) after disembarking at Gimli Harbour.



Hand-warming over an open fire in the Tipi. From left: Itzel Vazquez from Winnipeg, Armand Belanger, Peter Holfeuer and Joe Lanceley of Tipi Joe Creations.

Lugh to make the name more gender-inclusive (there are women Vikings in the group who can fight just as ferociously as the men).

"Whilst we're creating Viking times, we don't live in them," said the group's spokesman, who provides educational commentary at Viking village displays and during combat demonstrations. "We're really serious about history, and we'll present it warts and all, but it doesn't mean we have to act that way ourselves."



Stefan Koenig from Boost Kiteboarding makes a one-handed landing.



Isabella and Andrei were making an elaborate castle, bunker and tunnel system in the snow-castle building competition.



This brave man kissed his fish for good luck before he tossed it off the harbour wall.



From left, going up: Thora, Signy, Aleesha and Anna on the big hill by the harbour wall.



Now that's dedication. Johanna and John Chaput have attended the Ice Festival every year.

# Gimli's Skate Interlake Club set to sparkle with ice show

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli's skating club, Skate Interlake, is getting set to showcase its talent — plus that of some special guests from the East St. Paul skating club — for its annual spring ice show next week.

"We do an ice show every spring at the end of the season to show what our skaters have learned this year," said Theresa Palson-Dankochik, who's part of the club.

The program will feature a variety of performances by junior and senior skaters.

Skate Interlake is composed of 23 CanSkate skaters, who are part of a learn-to-skate program developed by Skate Canada that teaches control, balance and agility, and six registered StarSkate skaters, who practise figure skating skills and perform ice dancing, interpretive routines and free skating.

"There are 16 numbers in total that will be skated by our skaters and we have some exciting guest skaters coming from the East St. Paul skating club," said Theresa Palson-Dankochik. "And our Star skaters will perform solos."

Hailey Graboweski, Sarah Dankochik, Jade Pilat and Emmet Dewar



Gimli skaters will be showing off their skills at their ice show on March 17 at 6:15 p.m.

from the East St. Paul skating club will be featured during the program. Pilat and Dewar competed in the pre novice pairs at the Canada Winter Games last February. They were ninth in Canada at the Skate Canada Challenge in pre novice pairs last November and they also competed in pre novice sin-



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF GIMLI SKATE INTERLAKE CLUB  
Jade Pilat and Emmet Dewar of East St. Paul will be guest skaters at the Gimli Ice Show.

gles.

Skate Interlake coach Rochelle Steinmetz said the ice show is an opportunity for all the skaters to show off everything they've learned and "worked so hard to accomplish" over the course of the skating season.

"We're so excited to show our friends, family and community all of our accomplishments from this past season," she said.

The event will also feature a silent auction, whose prizes are on display at the Gimli Noventis Credit Union.

"Noventis is very generous every year, letting us put the prizes there for a few weeks before the ice show and selling tickets for us," said Palson-Dankochik. "Our [skating] families donate money at the start of the season and we shop for the prizes. We don't look for donations from the community."

The ice show gets underway Tuesday, March 17 at the Gimli Recreation Centre. Doors open at 5:45 with show at 6:15 p.m. Silver collection at the door.

## RBC \$10,000 emerging filmmaker pitch competition

### Submitted

Are you an emerging filmmaker? Are you in relentless pursuit to bring your short film to life and share it with the world? Are you over the age of 18 and a resident of Manitoba? Are you prepared to complete your three-to five-minute short film in one year's time for a premiere screening at the 20th edition of the Gimli Film Festival in 2021? If yes, we want you!

The RBC® Emerging Filmmaker Pitch Competition is open to anyone who has:

Less than three years experience in filmmaking.

Some completed basic training — can be formal (university or college studies) or informal (production courses, workshops, hands-on experience in media arts production), etc.

At least one completed independent

film or video work that has been presented in a professional or film industry related context.

If you qualify, GFF will give you an opportunity to pitch your project to a panel of professionals in front of a live audience during this year's festival. We would like you to be able to describe your story idea, justify your budget, describe your ideal cast and crew and talk about your overall vision for the project.

In 2020, the winner(s) will receive: \$10,000\* to make your film courtesy of RBC;

\$5,000 William F. White's Equipment Rental Grant Certificate;

Story-editing and directing mentorship

Premiere screening of your film at

Continued on page 5

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# Inwood School starts clothing company

By Evan Matthews

As part of Inwood School's project- and student-based learning curriculum, the school has launched a new entrepreneurial endeavour.

Winnie Huynh, a teacher at Inwood School, said the school acquired a screen printer from the Lundar School back in February, and Inwood students are beginning to print T-shirts for local teams and organizations.

"We thought it would be a really cool opportunity for our students," said Huynh.

"We've done some experimenting. We have a plan as to where we're heading with it, but so far it's been a lot of trial and error."

The goal is to print T-shirts and/or sweaters for local community groups, according to Huynh. Students who participate are working toward business and entrepreneurship course credits. The business course — aside from T-shirt production — offers glimpses into accounting and inventory, among other legitimate business elements.

Grade 12 student Lance Lecocq-Gareau and Grade 10 student Taydan Hazelton said despite having access to the printer, there isn't any other community group in the area offering a T-shirt printing services.

With that being said, the students saw T-shirt printing as a viable business opportunity.

"Our first trial was for Inwood School students. ... We made sweat- ers and T-shirts," said Lecocq-Gareau.

"We wanted to start within our school to work the kinks out of the process and see what — if anything — needed to be adjusted."

Because the students are working toward course credits, the Lakeshore School Division funded the business' capital, according to Huynh.

Once the Inwood students acquired the printer, they constructed it from the ground up and started production on their first trial. The first trial should have T-shirts sent out by the end of spring break, she said.

As the students work out the kinks and move along in the process, Huynh said they will start to approach other local community groups and organizations around the Interlake, likely starting with other schools.

"Eventually, we hope to approach curling clubs, hockey teams, organizations like that," said Hazelton, who added the students want to ensure production of a quality product before starting with community outreach.

"The idea is that a club or organization will send us their logo, and we'll produce their product."

Right now, Huynh said the students are providing a "T-shirt printing service" as opposed to running a business that designs its own logos via in-house graphic designers.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY WINNIE HUYNH

After acquiring a screen printer in February, Taydan Hazelton (Grade 10, far left), Wyatt Westfall (Grade 11, middle), Angelina Waldner (Grade 10, far right), are pictured assembling the unit in order to begin production on the business' first trial.

Being from a rural farming community, Hazelton said delving into an opportunity like this one has been a very different and immersive experience.

"A successful business doesn't have to be something full-scale; it can be as small as providing a service," said Hazelton.

"I came from the farm. I like hands-on stuff and trying new things. This seemed really interesting."

## > RBC, FROM PG. 4

the 2020 Gimli Film Festival

\*Over the next year, the \$10,000 will be released in four installments:

\$2,500 on approval of a final script  
\$2,500 on first day of principal photography  
\$2,500 on completion of photography  
\$2,500 on delivery of finished project

The deadline to enter is June 5, 2020.

# Annual Lundar Winter Carnival to celebrate 72 years

By Evan Matthews

The best winter is a mild winter, so Lundar's annual celebration should be a good one.

The 72nd annual Lundar Winter Carnival is scheduled for March 20 and 21, with activities aplenty for locals' entertainment.

Friday will see public skating followed by stick and pucks starting at 3 p.m. The fire department will be hosting a bonfire with hot dogs and hot chocolate at the arena from 5 to 7 p.m. Laser tag for \$5 at the curling rink begins at 5 p.m., and broomball will round out the evening from 6 to 11 p.m.

Saturday morning kicks off with a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. sponsored by the RM of Coldwell and then some hockey.

The Squirts and Novice teams will take on the parents at 9:30 a.m., with the Atom team playing its game at 10:30 a.m. The Car Rally Scavenger

Hunt gets going on Saturday at 11 a.m., with Funland — sponsored by the Lundar Daycare — at the curling rink happening simultaneously, starting at 12:30 p.m.

A mini stick tournament also goes from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

This year's Carnival King candidates are Jaxon Pilon (Grettir) and Ethan Christensen (Lundar Elks), while the Carnival Queen candidates are Izabella Roux (Grettir) and Mikayla Godman (Lundar Legion Ladies Auxiliary).

Prizes to the King and Queen are \$1,000 sponsored by Sigfusson Northern, \$200 sponsored by Sig's Steel, and \$100 sponsored by Randy's Tire.

Other activities

throughout the day on Saturday include sticks and pucks, public skating, opening ceremonies and the crowning of the King and Queen along with the Lundar Skating Club's Ice Show "Disco," followed by a roast beef supper and more rec hockey and broomball.

Laser tag and the mini stick tournament both require pre-registration by contacting Breanna at rec.coldwell@mymts.net.

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

*kl*  
**KEN LOEHMER**  
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> Got news?

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## Can't spell positive without PST

By Evan Matthews

Having never been shy to criticize the Pallister-led Manitoba Conservative government, it's only fair we give credit where due.

There have been many reasons to criticize: lack of support for Interlake farmers, restructuring and budget cuts relating to the health-care system, budget cuts to education, and so on.

Education is an interesting one because, while the provincial education budget is scheduled to increase, local Interlake divisions are seeing their funding reduced. Provincial financial forecasts show a decrease in financial support to schools, but a major increase to (education) spending as it relates to economic opportunities and immigration.

Generally, these aforementioned cuts could be (and have been by the political left) labelled as short-sighted, as investment in education, health care and local industry are typically thought to benefit the province as a whole.

The benefit to Manitobans would be

short-term gain, which we are about to see.

The Manitoba provincial sales tax (PST) is scheduled to drop by one per cent — from eight to seven — on July 1.

This is important to acknowledge for two reasons: more money saved by Manitobans on every purchase and a government that has lived up to its word on at least one promise.

Looking back to 2016, balancing the Manitoba budget and dropping the PST was the now-Premier's main campaign promise.

The Manitoba Conservatives are suggesting the tax cut will save the average Manitoba family \$500 over the 2020 fiscal year, and who doesn't like the sounds of that?

Though, of note, the province is still running a deficit and continues to incur growing debt, and how this province will cope with those financial struggles remains to be seen.

But the reality is those "big picture" problems don't affect most people on a day-to-day basis. The average Manitoban family saving an average of

\$1.37 a day, somewhat, does.

Regardless, it's nice to see a group of politicians live up to their word. They gave us exactly what they promised.

We may see emergency rooms closing, classrooms growing larger and teachers becoming overworked, farmers leaving their lifelong industry with no plan to recover any form of retirement, but at least the province is picking up the tab for your daily cup of coffee.

Celebrating a fulfilled promise is one thing, and extra cash is always nice. But it's worth asking, is it really extra cash for Manitobans?

At what cost?

Were we, as citizens, vigilant in assessing these promises from the Manitoba Conservatives?

A second term — four more years — suggests either we were or, as a provincial population, we currently value short-term, minimal financial gain, over social programming and infrastructure.

*Evan's View is a recurring column where he expresses his own opinion. The Express Weekly News may not share his opinion.*

## Legislation to allow safe testing of automated vehicles on Manitoba roads

### Emerging vehicle technologies create business opportunities in Manitoba

Submitted

The Manitoba government has introduced legislation that would allow testing of automated vehicles on provincial roads, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced last Thursday. "Development of vehicle technol-

ogy, including automated self-driving vehicles, is progressing rapidly worldwide and these changes will help make Manitoba competitive in attracting business and keeping pace with other jurisdictions," said Schuler. "Our government is honouring our

commitment to bring forward legislative amendments that would create a framework to allow the safe testing of automated vehicles on Manitoba roads."

The Vehicle Technology Testing Act (Various Acts Amended) would create a framework to enable testing of vehicle technology and types including automated and connected. Test-

Continued on page 9

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# Interlake youth find power of their voice

By Evan Matthews

A local Interlake business is helping the community's youth find the power of their voice.

Samantha Hampton, Creative Community Promotions owner and creative director said a new eight-week program called the "Power of Your Voice" is designed to empower youth and help with self-confidence, leadership ability and fundamental skills related to public speaking.

"We're going to participate in leadership skill workshops with emphasis on practical experience. We're having guest speakers to provide inspiration, things of that nature," said Hampton, adding the first guest speaker will be Jonathan Meikle, a veteran of Afghanistan.

"At the end, the youth will have an opportunity to present a speech to the (Interlake) community, whoever wants to attend."

The program started on March 4 at the Riverton Fellowship Centre and consists of eight 90-minute sessions. Hampton said 23 kids — ranging in age from 10 to 18 years old — attended the first event. She expects more at the next event.

Part of the program's workshops will include youth evaluating themselves, according to Hampton, practising impromptu speaking, working on vocabulary and body language, and controlling voice inflection.

"We're going to go over the do's and don'ts of public speaking, work on their stage presence, all of that," said Hampton, adding that the program is quite full, but she'd never turn anyone away.

"In the first session, we talked a lot about trust and not judging others. We practised gratitude. We wanted to make sure the kids realize we all have a



EXPRESS PHOTO BY SAMANTHA HAMPTON

Youth attended the first Power of Your Voice programming workshop at the Riverton Fellowship Centre on March 4. The first workshop saw 23 kids attend, with more expected at the next event.

lot in common, and that this is a safe place to learn," she said, adding public speaking is often one of people's biggest fears.

After the program concludes, a free community event will take place at the Riverton Fellowship Centre on April 29 at 6 p.m., where the youth will deliver their speeches.

The program is funded sponsorship dollars contributed by the RBC Future Launch: Westshore Community Foundation and the Riverton and District Friendship Centre.

"We're interested and passionate about providing

youth opportunities that will set them up for future success," said Hampton.

"It's important to me to encourage youth to find their voice, as the voice is an essential tool. The more tools we can help provide to youth, the more robust their toolbox will be.

"We want youth to have the ability to speak and advocate for themselves," she said.

If others are interested in the Power of Your Voice program, Hampton said to phone the RDFC at 204-378-2800.

# Future of Arborg's Kinsmen building uncertain

By Patricia Barrett

Former members of the Kinsmen Club of Arborg want to turn the Kinsmen building into an exercise facility after the Town of Arborg's council considered a proposal to turn the building site into a larger park.

The Kinsmen building, which has an attached green with children's swings, is located beside the jointly run Town of Arborg-RM of Bifrost-Riverton recreation centre. The building was supposed to have been used as a health-care training facility and it's unclear what happened to the programs.

A delegation consisting of former Kinsmen treasurer Fred Paulson and former president Brian Barylski attended Arborg council's Feb. 12 meeting after the future of the building suddenly appeared "out of left field."

"We don't want the building torn down and we don't want it moved off site," said Paulson by phone. "That building was built by the Kinsmen. They did all the fundraising and built it themselves. They did a lot of work and helped set up the [former] day-

care. To have it taken down seems like a terrible waste."

The Kinsmen Club of Arborg, which is no longer operational, built the structure roughly 40 years ago, said Paulson, and a daycare took up residence before moving to an expanded facility.

About four years ago the Kinsmen and the then-Arborg Chamber of Commerce (now called the Central Interlake Chamber of Commerce) came to an agreement that the building would be used as health-care training facility, but Paulson said, "I guess that hasn't turned out well."

The chamber, the Town of Arborg, the RM of Bifrost-Riverton and the Arborg Seniors Development Corporation had been working together to offer licensed practical nursing and health-care aide training programs in the Kinsmen and another building to prepare a workforce for a proposed new personal care home they had hoped at the time would be built by 2019. The provincial government has



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

In 2016 the Arborg's Kinsmen Building was undergoing renovations to turn it into a healthcare training facility.

yet to announce its approval of the proposed project.

To prepare for the health programs, the Arborg chamber had rounded up community volunteers in March 2016 to gut and renovate the Kins-

men building. Volunteers installed new flooring, carpeting and lighting and painted it. It was equipped with a fridge and stove. The renovation cost

Continued on page 12

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## Don't feed the otters

Hi gang. How was your week?

There must have been 50 vehicles, many truck-trailer rigs and a big highway passenger bus on the huge ice parking lot off Warner Road in Matlock when I arrived there early last weekend. Anglers were hustling about, coming and going off the vast white ice fields of Lake Winnipeg. I sat in Old Red, marvelling at the fevered activity. Surveying the expansive parking area, I could see licence plates from our neighbouring provinces as well as most of the mid-western United States. I noticed two men from the U.S. loading their off-road vehicle comprised of a car fitted with

tracks. They had obviously been fishing all day so I got out of my truck and called out, "Did you guys catch anything?"

"Yeah, we got a few," the taller chap responded.

Standing in a fresh, cool wind with an overcast sky, we introduced ourselves. The guys, Todd Koepplin and Cory Longnecker, hailed from North Dakota and soon our conversations turned to the many Americans coming to Lake Winnipeg for ice fishing.

"Gosh, you Manitobans have a gigantic asset with your big lakes," Todd remarked. "When we were kids at home, we fished in creeks and were

lucky to get Bullheads, but in the last 10 years with good transportation and internet communication, it's so pleasurable coming here for some real fishing. We talk all year when we're at home about coming here to fish and can't wait for next winter to roll around so we can come back!"

Later as they were leaving, I told them we very much liked them coming here for fishing and hoped to see them again next year.

Last week I passed along the story of an unwanted snake in Steve Tyhys' boat. Here are a few more stories of unwanted guests in anglers' fishing crafts. A few weeks ago I was on Lake Winnipeg and came across a big, boisterous chap with long, dishevelled brown hair fishing with a group of friends. He spoke in a loud voice, constantly cracking jokes. After getting acquainted with our new friend, Gary Kuz of Fraserwood, he told of a time some years ago when he was boat fishing with a couple of guys on Catherine Lake, Ont., and saw an opportunity to have some fun with them. Apparently they were motoring from one fishing spot to another when they came within arm's reach of a boulder outcropping. As they passed it, Gary saw a turtle sleeping in the sun. On an impulse totally in keeping with his devilish nature, he stood up in the boat, reached over and scooped the baffled half-asleep reptile into the boat. It woke up angry! Immediately it began charging the anglers, its clawed feet scratching against the bottom of the boat. It gave a hissing sound through an open mouth filled with teeth.

The guy driving the boat started swinging his head backward and forward first to see if the turtle was coming after him, then forward looking for a place to beach the boat. He found a spot, and as the bow scraped to a stop on the sandy shore, the men jumped out in an act of self-preservation, getting wet up to their waists! Gary, the prankster that he was, calmly sat in the boat and asked if anyone wanted turtle soup for supper.

"Come on, Gary," one of the guys exclaimed. "Let the poor thing go!"



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

From left to right: Todd Koepplin and Cory Longnecker of North Dakota with one of their catches from Lake Winnipeg.

Another chap I recently met by the name of Marcel Lemire from Grand Marais also proved to have a sense of humor. It seems he and his buddies love to go fishing on Long Lake northeast of Bissett. In the middle of the lake is an island called Otter Island and its main inhabitant is an otter with an attitude. According to Marcel, for a few years now, when they went fishing there, the otter would appear out of nowhere, slapping its front paws together expecting to be fed. Marcel was of the opinion that someone had previously fed him so every once in a while they would toss him a bass. Last year unexpectedly, however, the otter took their relationship to a whole new level.

The first day they were there fishing, within an hour the otter showed up but the boys hadn't caught anything yet. They waved him off in a good-natured way, telling him to come back later. The otter was not amused! With a great clattering, he jumped into the boat and began slapping his paws on the boat seat wanting fish. Marcel couldn't help laughing at his persistent guest. He drove the boat to shore beaching it where the guys "shooshed" the little critter overboard. So far, they haven't seen him again.

Till next time, my friends. Bye for now.





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# Eriksdale School adds shops and music class

By Evan Matthews

Two new classes at Eriksdale School are music to the ears of educators, parents and students.

Both music and manufacturing programming have been added to the 2019-20 curriculum.

"The division has been really supportive of these new programs," said Tess Nesca, who teaches music and an equine facilitated learning class.

"Ultimately it was the division's decision to open these programs. It wasn't me (or Mr. Bamford, the manufacturing teacher) pushing for these programs.

"They saw these classes as real positives."

Nesca teaches music from kindergarten to Grade 8, so everybody in the school can be included if they so choose.

Kindergarten to Grade 4 takes music all year long as part of their curriculum, according to Nesca, while grades 5 to 8 can choose music as an option class.

"The school didn't have a music class at all before. I showed up to interview for a homeroom teaching position and said, 'Music is great. This is what I'm teaching in Steinbach,'" said Nesca.

"The division and the school were great and gave me the opportunity."

With the class being so new to the school, Nesca said many of the students are learning music generalities, as there is quite a range of knowledge and understanding within the student population as it relates to music.

With the wide range of musical knowledge, Nesca said planning has been the biggest challenge, and encompassing all students has required some thinking outside the box.

"I'm teaching them the skills they need — reading music and notes, keeping beats, all those types of things," said Nesca.

"We play a variety of hand percus-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY EVAN MATTHEWS  
Eriksdale School's manufacturing teacher Brandon Bamford, left, and music teacher Tess Nesca.

sion instruments to learn beats and get that going, but we do a lot of other things like play games and incorporate technology to help the students learn."

One example of technology being used in the music classroom is a website called incredibox.com, according to Nesca.

Incredibox is a musical beatbox game and website, according to the website, as the concept consists of drag-and-dropping sound icons on different characters to make them beatbox.

Brandon Bamford is the "shops" teacher, but he said he prefers the term "manufacturing." He had originally taught in Beausejour but opted to take a position up Highway 6, as he's originally from the St. Laurent area.

The class teaches middle years students a little bit about metals, electrical, engine and wood work, he said.

"Opportunities come up, and the students and I create a set plan," said

Bamford, who has been doubling as the shops teacher also at Lundar School in the mornings.

"We have our machines set up ... and we get it going."

Similar to many of the students, Bamford said he'd rather be teaching in the shop than in the classroom.

Bamford said having students get in the shop and swing a hammer, use a saw or work on an engine teaches hands-on skills they are able to apply to real-life situations, as opposed to solely reading a textbook or having a conversation.

"This is hands-on. They take fractions, for example, knowledge they learn in math, and bring them to the shop to physically apply and manifest those skills," said Bamford.

"I try to really incorporate things from across the board, different trades that may apply to the same project. Many of our projects are based on need. ... If a student has a dog at home, maybe we build a doghouse. But we keep it realistic and we keep it smart."

Much of the shop's equipment was supplied by local people who did not have use for it any longer, according to Bamford, which also signals community support for the new class.

"I TRY TO REALLY INCORPORATE THINGS FROM ACROSS THE BOARD."

## WAG & PURR



### The right dog breed for your lifestyle: 5 factors to consider



Are you adopting a dog and wondering which breed is best? Here are some factors to think about when making your choice.

#### 1. Temperament.

Every dog is an individual with its own personality, but generalizations can be made about the various breeds. Some are known to be patient and docile, which is ideal for young families. Others, however, can be stubborn and require an experienced owner with a strong hand.

2. Time. All dogs require attention and at least a couple of walks every day. If you don't have the time to devote to your pooch, you may want to think twice.

3. Size. Do you want a tiny pet that can cuddle up on your lap? Or would you prefer a big dog that can handle some roughhousing? Be careful to not equate size with energy level, however. Some big breeds are happy to lounge around all day while some small ones are very active.

4. Energy level. Do you want a couch potato to relax with or a pooch that you can take on your daily jog? The dog you adopt should be able to keep up with you and vice versa.

5. Grooming needs. All dogs need to get their teeth brushed and toenails trimmed on a regular basis, but some require more grooming than others. If you'd rather not brush your pup's fur every day, choose a short-haired breed. And to avoid needing to vacuum dog hair on a daily basis, opt for one that doesn't shed too much.

While you may have a better idea of what to expect when you adopt a purebred puppy, mixed-breed dogs are just as worthy of your affection and tend to have fewer health problems. Regardless of breed, consider heading to your local animal shelter to adopt your new dog and be wary of unethical breeders.

## > MANITOBA ROADS, FROM PG. 6

ing advanced and alternative vehicle technologies would also position the province as an attractive location for companies to test intelligent transportation infrastructure.

Before the province can authorize testing, it would develop regulations and a permitting system this year, in consultation with stakeholders, the

minister noted.

"By enabling developers to safely test emerging vehicle technologies on provincial roadways, we are supporting Manitoba's large agricultural, trucking, heavy vehicle manufacturing and technology development sectors," said Schuler. "Numerous vehicle technologies are in develop-

ment and ready for testing, creating opportunities for Manitoba-based business."

The bill also amends The Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) Corporation Act and The Insurance Act concerning registration and insurance requirements for vehicle testing organizations.

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# Hockey runs deep: Gimli celebrates 100th Anniversary of Falcons' Olympic victory

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli staged a heartfelt 100th anniversary tribute to the Winnipeg Falcons hockey team, which won Olympic gold in Belgium in 1920, the first time the sport became part of the Olympic Games.

Given the majority of the Falcons' players were of Icelandic heritage, organizers tracked down some of the eight players' descendants and invited them to the March 7 event, which was held in conjunction with the Gimli Ice Festival.

Co-organized by Gimli-based filmmaker Andy Blicq (who couldn't attend the event) and Evergreen School Division trustee Kim Malchuk, the commemoration at the Gimli Recreation Centre consisted of several games and a formal awards ceremony.

Steve Perkins, the grandson of Falcon's player Haldor "Slim" Halder, his wife Brenda and several other family members — including the great-granddaughter, great-grandson and great-great-grandson of Slim — took part in the event, where Steve got to drop a puck. Malchuk then presented the family with commemorative books and medals of the Falcons' historic game.

Bill Appleby, descendant of Falcons' Olympic team member Konrad Johannesson, also dropped a puck to kick off one of the games.

Gimli High School student Indiana Humniski, who was part of Malchuk's team of organizers, said the men and women on the ice wearing Falcons' jerseys were community members who wanted to help celebrate the Falcons' victory.



Indiana Humniski helped organize the commemorative event at the Gimli Recreation Centre March 7.

"This is a community where hockey runs deep and is embroidered into the tapestry that is Gimli. So this event is tying us together quite literally," said Humniski.

After the games, Malchuk and special guest Kerri Einarson, who won the Scotties Tournament of Hearts a few weeks ago, presented the players with commemorative medals and books.

For Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson, the tribute gave him a chance to celebrate the Falcons' victory and his great-great uncle Fred Olsen, who was a goalie on one of the Falcon's early lineups but who wasn't part of the Olympic team.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Players, organizers, Gimli Ice Festival co-chairs and Falcons' descendants, including Bill Appleby and Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson (centre), commemorated the Falcons' Olympic gold medal win in 1920.



Kerri Einarson, the Scotties curling champ, presented each player with a medal. Brad Sveinson (on end) receives his medal.



School trustee Kim Malchuk (in yellow) with the descendants of Slim Halder, whose team won Olympic gold in 1920. Malchuk presented the family with commemorative medals and a book.



Bill Appleby (centre) dropped the puck for one of the games.

# Riverton-built igloo pulls the crowds at the Gimli Ice Festival

By Patricia Barrett

An igloo built by Riverton residents in partnership with Riverton and District Friendship Centre staff was one of the big hits at the 9th Annual Gimli Ice Festival last weekend.

Situated in the small park near the harbour, the igloo was an irresistible draw to scores of visitors and locals, who crawled inside and found themselves transported to another world.

The igloo was both spacious — able to comfortably accommodate more than half a dozen people and high enough to avoid smacking one's head on the roof — and downright balmy despite a strong, chilly wind whipping off the lake.

Igloo-builder Halli Jonasson said he learned to build the dwellings when he worked up north.

"I lived in one for up to two weeks in Gillam. I was hunting and working construction," said Jonasson, who was helping making bannock and tea at the Friendship Centre's outdoor refreshment stand. "You cut the blocks with a saw, and you can make a hole for a window and lay ice on top so the sun shines in."

The Friendship Centre has been part of the Gimli Ice Festival for years, helping promote fellowship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures.

Jillyan Hokanson, who helped Jonasson build the igloo, said it took 200 fish tubs filled with snow that were transported to Gimli by trailer.

"We started building on Monday and finished on Friday [the day before the festival], and some other Riverton volunteers helped us, too," said Hokanson.



Emmett from Hecla had a cool time inside the igloo.

Dylan Furgala, who works at the Friendship Centre, said this is the second time he's helped build an igloo for the Ice Festival. There was a bit of prep work required before they could start laying the snow blocks atop one another.

"We filled up the fish tubs in Riverton, packed down the snow and had to let them harden overnight. Then we cut out the blocks and shaped them," said Furgala. "This is getting bigger and better every year. I'd love to live in one."

The secret may lie in snow quality: "Riverton has the best snow," quipped Don Bilinski.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Jocelyn Dechaine (left) and Monica Wood, who makes scrumptious fudge, checked out the igloo.



Igloo-builder Halli Jonasson (far right) with helpers (from left) Dylan Furgala, Jillyan Hokanson, Tanis Grimolfson and Don Bilinski.



Family huddle inside the igloo. GIF co-chairs Peter and Susan Holfeuer with their daughter Michelle and granddaughter Isabella.

## > KINSMEN BUILDING, FROM PG. 7

an estimated \$50,000.

Paulson said he's not sure who officially owns the Kinsmen building at the moment.

"It's muddy right now whether we still own the building or whether the chamber of commerce took it over," he said. "So we're talking with the chamber and the town and trying to get that straitened out."

Paulson said the Kinsmen agreed that the building would make an ideal spot for a greatly needed fitness facility for the community, and would be of particular benefit to older adults and seniors. They're hoping the recreation centre will consider taking over the building.

"The community here is aging and we haven't had a gym for probably 10 years. There are some programs

for seniors at the rec centre now, but there's no fitness equipment," said Paulson. "The building is already there. Having some treadmills, recumbent bikes and a few weight machines indoors would make a big difference in seniors' lives. It's cold in Manitoba for most of the year and this will get them moving."

Arborg Mayor Peter Dueck said there's a proposal to turn the Kinsmen building site into a park.

"The question now is whether the building is needed or not," said Dueck.

He added there will be more information provided at council's meeting March 11.

Paulson said he will be making another presentation to council that day.

# IERHA preparing for COVID-19 should it arrive in Manitoba

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) is monitoring the spread of the new coronavirus, or COVID-19 as it has formally been named, and is working in conjunction with all Manitoba RHAs and other health services organizations in order to have a provincially coordinated response to the virus should it appear in Manitoba.

As of Monday, the virus had infected more than 113,000 people in 107 countries and resulted in over 4,000 deaths, according to World Health Organization (WHO) data. In Canada 72 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed as of Monday. Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and B.C. have all reported cases.

"Public health officials are reminding Manitobans the risk of acquiring COVID-19 in Manitoba remains low at this time and most people who acquire it have a mild illness," said Ron Janzen, incident commander for the IERHA's co-ordinated response to COVID-19.

COVID-19 is marked by fever, coughing and difficulty breathing. But infected people can also experience a sore throat and a runny nose.

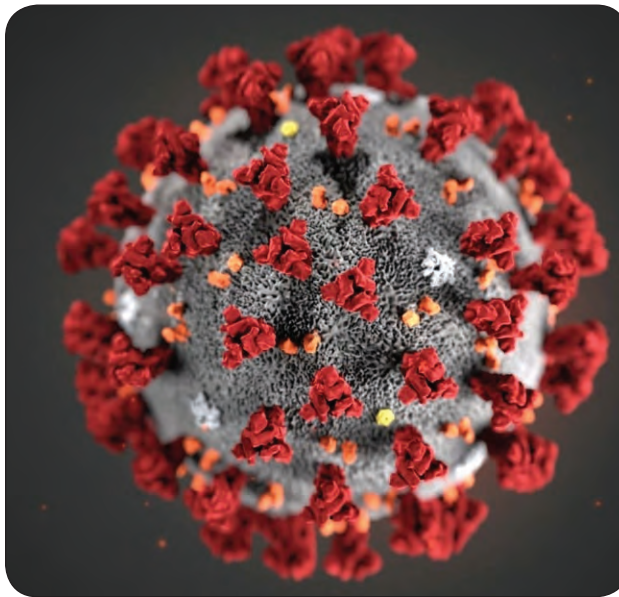
The WHO has yet to deem the extensive spread of the virus a pandemic, but the "threat of pandemic has become very real," it said in a briefing Monday. The WHO is advising countries that have experienced community transmission (cases that cannot be traced back to a particular source) to consider closing schools and cancel mass gatherings.

Italy's government put the entire country on lockdown Monday after initially restricting social movement in the northern part of the country. Italy has almost 9,000 cases, the second highest number of infections outside China.

The IERHA said information about the virus is being regularly shared with health leaders and front-line health staff with regard to preparation and planning should an outbreak occur in Manitoba.

"Provincial management and response of COVID-19 is being informed by clinical evidence and by the expertise acquired by leadership and front-line providers during the management of previous incidents of severe respiratory illnesses, including past flu seasons and H1N1," said Janzen.

Several countries have reported shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health-care workers, and the WHO has called on industry and governments to increase their manufacturing. Face



**EXPRESS PHOTO NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**  
The coronavirus.

masks have flown off store shelves and purchased through online sites as people panic and hoard them.

There also shortages of gloves, goggles, face shields and gowns. Panic-buying has put "lives at risk" from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, said the WHO. It estimates 89 million face masks are required for the COVID-19 response "each month."

Epidemiologists have said there's no compelling evidence face masks can prevent the transmission of the virus as it can live for an estimated 24 hours on metallic and plastic surfaces — and even bank notes — and be transmitted by people touching their eyes, nose and mouth. Tiny aerosol particles carrying the virus is also thought to be another means of transmission.

Janzen said the IERHA has not experienced any shortage of protective equipment and has been in contact with other health authorities to co-ordinate and prevent supply-chain shortages.

"Ensuring that staff have access to the equipment and supplies required for safe patient care and the personal protection of staff is a priority," said Janzen. "Managing access to supplies provincially is a topic discussed regularly on provincial COVID-19 conference calls so that we and other RHAs in the province can identify our needs and ensure we'll

have the supplies we need in the event that more are required."

Preventing the transmission of the virus is the best defence. The IERHA advises people to wash their hands after being in public places, cover their coughs and stay home if they're ill.

Health authorities in several countries have advised people to avoid touching their faces until they've washed their hands in order to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

The IERHA has a pandemic plan that it will put into action should cases of COVID-19 arise in the region and is in the process of "ensuring it aligns with the provincial plan so we are in sync across all health regions and that we're responding consistently," said Janzen.

The virus has infected children, young adults, older adults and seniors across the world. The vast majority of people recover from the illness. But people with underlying health conditions — especially seniors — are most susceptible to complications.

The IERHA is monitoring its personal care homes and encouraging visitors to stay away if they're ill. If they're not sick, they're advised to wash their hands when they arrive at a facility for a visit.

"We are in the process of posting signs on all public entrances reminding people to clean their hands upon entry to the personal care home and when they leave. We also discourage people from visiting when they are ill," said Janzen.

Should IERHA staff become ill, the health authority will have them follow the same steps as members of the public who think they may have been infected.

People who've recently travelled to a COVID-19 affected area or are ill or have been in close contact (within two metres/six feet) with an ill person connected to the outbreak are asked to call Manitoba Health Links-Info Sante. The service is available 24-7 and is staffed with registered nurses who can provide advice on where to go to be assessed.

Health Links-Info Sante can be reached at 1-888-315-9257. In a health emergency, call 911.

The IERHA is also encouraging the public to access reputable information about the virus, such as through the provincial and the federal governments' respective websites.

Visit [www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus).

## Manitoba government releases third quarter financial update

### Province slightly ahead of schedule to balance budget

Submitted

The Manitoba government released its third quarter report for the 2019-20 fiscal year, which indicates the province is on the right track to financial recovery in uncertain economic times, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced Tuesday.

"Manitoba is showing continued progress toward balancing the budget and steadily reducing the

deficit," said Fielding. "The third quarter report provides a clear picture of the fiscal year and is indicating revenues are higher than anticipated due to our resilient economy."

At this point, the deficit is projected to be \$325 million, about \$35 million ahead of the government's target. The province remains ahead of schedule to eliminate the deficit.

Revenue is up \$248 million compared to budget projections, mainly related to an increase in income taxes. Expenses are also up \$118 million compared to budget projections, as the forecast includes over \$150 million for new green initiatives, partially offset by a reduction in debt-servicing costs.

Fielding noted the report proves the province is

delivering on the infrastructure promises made as part of Budget 2019, which committed at least \$1 billion in strategic infrastructure spending on priorities such as roads and bridges, flood protection, hospitals, schools, universities and colleges. The third quarter report forecasts \$1.227 billion on infrastructure spending. The minister noted the province continues to ensure value for money on procurement and has centralized many capital delivery functions to create efficiencies.

Manitobans can view the third quarter financial report online at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/publications/financialreports.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/publications/financialreports.html).

# Interlake organizations announce plans for Manitoba 150 funding

By Evan Matthews

Five Interlake organizations have received Manitoba 150 funding and are busy planning and spreading the word of their plans with the collective Interlake community.

The five Interlake organizations to receive funding included the Town of Stonewall, the Riverton and District Friendship Centre (RDFC), the Interlake Tourism Association (ITA), the Gimli Film Festival and Gimli Harbour Authority.

## Town of Stonewall

The Town of Stonewall received \$3,500 from Manitoba 150, according to the town's CAO Wally Melnyk.

The funding has already been used to bolster the kickoff celebration's firework display on Dec. 31, 2019.

"The funding allowed us to enhance the kick off, which we're grateful for," said Melnyk. "We normally have a small event, and the funding allowed us to add fireworks."

## Riverton District Friendship Centre

The RDFC received \$7,500 from Manitoba 150, according to Tanis Grimolfson, the organization's executive director.

RDFC will be hosting three community celebrations, she said, which will bring together all community members — all Manitobans — to celebrate what it means to be a Manitoba com-

munity.

"Our organization would be unable to host such wonderful events for the community without the generous support of Manitoba 150," said Grimolfson through a spokesperson.

"This has allowed us to plan incredible events ... to bring people into our community and enjoy and experience Manitoba 150 celebrations," she said, emphasizing the funding makes events accessible to people from all walks of life, subsequently promoting and strengthening the community's unity.

## Interlake Tourism Association

The ITA received \$1,500 from Manitoba 150, according to manager Gail McDonald.

The funding will be used to assist with the making of a Manitoba 150 road trip colouring book, which will focus on the Interlake's unique roadside statues and natural features of the Interlake such as the Steep Rock cliffs or Narcisse snakes, she said.

"Heritage sites, festivals and some businesses have decided to sponsor pages, and then we will write a short story about the history or story behind this site, festival, place or business," said McDonald.

"We are giving away colouring books to all Grade 2 or 3 students dependent on the curriculum in all four (Interlake) school divisions, and any

home schoolers, as well as Hutterite colonies."

McDonald noted the \$1,500 was half of the ITA's original request for \$3,000 in funding.

## Gimli Film Festival

The GFF declined to disclose the amount received from Manitoba 150.

Director Aaron Zeghers said the funding the organization received will go towards the "Special 20th anniversary/Manitoba 150 initiative, The Manitoba Project."

The Manitoba Project is a year-long, multi-faceted project celebrating and reflecting upon Manitoba's past, present and future through film.

"Gimli Film Festival is extremely excited to be able to celebrate our 20th anniversary and Manitoba 150 by shining a spotlight on Manitoba's films, filmmakers and history," said Zeghers.

"Films have the ability to break through borders and boundaries, reaching across cultures and communities to encourage empathy and understanding of the world around us."

## Gimli Harbour Authority

The GHA declined to disclose the amount received from Manitoba 150.

GHA's Harbour Masters Cindy Blicq and Lori Hiscock sent a joint statement and said the funding will be used to celebrate the harbour's 120th

anniversary in conjunction with Manitoba 150.

Though unwilling to disclose the amount received, the harbour masters said the GHA will match the funds in order to support "three special events" to be held this summer, each focusing on the roles the Gimli Harbour and local commercial fishery have played in the development of Manitoba and the Gimli Area.

When the *Express Weekly News* approached Manitoba 150 to confirm the amounts received, director of communications Aimee Rice responded with, "Hopefully you see that there is so much more to the Celebrate 150 story and Manitoba 150 than how much money any given organization or region received."

"The story is about how Manitobans are embracing the opportunity to celebrate, to tell their stories and to share an experience," she said.

However, a provincial spokesperson told the *Express Weekly News* that the average Interlake award number was \$10,000. The spokesperson said it's the Province of Manitoba's understanding that both Gimli organizations that received funding were "within the range of the average award."

Of 450 applications for funding, a provincial spokesperson said the Manitoba 150 Committee could only approve 85 applications for funding.

# Criminal charges laid against suspected fraudsters

Submitted

A total of 14 charges have been laid against five individuals this year who allegedly committed separate frauds against Manitoba Public Insurance.

"Following extensive investigations, these files were forwarded to the provincial prosecution office for review," said Curtis Wennberg, vice-president of customer service and COO for MPI.

"These charges fall within either the Criminal Code, the MPIC Act or Highway Traffic Act. A conviction of any nature carries a very serious consequence. A criminal record can affect travelling across the border, employment or business opportunities. Insurance fraud is not a victimless crime and this fraudulent activity affects honest Manitobans through their premiums."

The 14 charges range from making a false statement, fraud over \$5,000, and false or misleading claim information. The individuals, whose names are not being made public as they are pre-

sumed innocent until proven guilty in the courts, range in age from 30 to 55.

MPI remains committed to reducing auto insurance fraud. Education about auto insurance fraud is further heightened as March is Fraud Awareness Month in Canada.

Recently, MPI announced that auto insurance fraud costs every Manitoba Public Insurance ratepayer about \$50 a year on their annual vehicle insurance bill and honest Manitobans are helping MPI more than ever. Last year MPI received a record-high 594 calls to the TIPS Line.

Anyone with information about auto insurance fraud is encouraged to call the Manitoba Public Insurance TIPS Line at 204-985-8477 or toll-free at 1-877-985-8477. All calls are anonymous. Suspicious claims are handled by MPI's Special Investigation Unit, which continues to enhance its investigative methods, saving Manitobans nearly \$12.8 million in fraudulent claims last year.

Fraud Prevention Month is an annual campaign held in March that aims to prevent Canadians from becoming victims of fraud. Insurance fraud — automobile, home or health care — costs Canadians more than \$3 billion a year in premiums, according to the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

A recent survey by financial comparison website Finder Canada found 43 per cent of those responding to a poll said they wished that they could upgrade some part of their lives through an insurance payout.

Some respondents admitted that they would be willing to stage an event or mislead their insurance company to obtain an insurance-paid upgrade, with 21 per cent saying they'd do so if they were sure they wouldn't get caught.

The survey found that 12 per cent would crash their car or pretend it was stolen. Younger Canadians are also more likely than older residents to create a car catastrophe with 26

per cent of Gen Zs and 16 per cent of millennials saying they'd be willing to crash, damage or say their car was stolen.

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Arborg battling Selkirk hard in CRJHL semifinal series

By Brian Bowman

Make no mistake, hockey playoffs are an entirely different beast.

Despite Selkirk finishing a whopping 38 points ahead of Arborg during the regular season, the Ice Dawgs are giving the Fishermen everything that they can handle in their Capital Region Junior Hockey League semifinal series.

"We've outshot them a couple of games but we can't seem to find the back of the net," said Ice Dawgs' head coach Jim Werbicki. "They're a good team, there's no doubt about it. They have three good lines and we have injury problems, that's no excuse, but a couple of our key guys are out."

Selkirk took a 3-1 series lead after nipping the Ice Dawgs 3-2 on Saturday evening in Arborg.

The Fishermen were 1-for-11 with the man advantage while the Ice Dawgs were 1-for-7.

Werbicki was not very pleased with the officiating during the game. He noted that Arborg had to fight off a pair of 5-on-3 power plays in which Selkirk scored on one of them.

Kalen Guimond gave the home side a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal before Selkirk's Travis Spratt replied with a goal while the Fishermen enjoyed the man advantage.

Reece Tessier and Chad King then

gave Selkirk a 3-1 lead before Arborg's Lyle Murdock closed out the game's scoring with a goal with 3:48 remaining in the third.

Spratt and Selkirk's Ben Kelly each had two points in the game.

Riley Bannerman stopped 38 Arborg shots for the win. At the other end, Tre Strachan played well, making 46 saves.

Last Friday, the Fishermen edged the Ice Dawgs 3-2 as Selkirk forward Jordan Donald scored a pair of goals, including the eventual game winner late in the second period.

Donald also tallied in the first period along with Spratt. King had two assists in the game.

Guimond led Arborg with a goal and an assist while Ice Dawgs' captain Josh Roche also tallied.

Bannerman made 36 saves for the victory.

The Ice Dawgs had evened the series at a win apiece after a hard-fought 3-2 victory in Arborg on March 3.

King gave Selkirk a 1-0 lead eight minutes into the game but Arborg's Preston Seymour answered just 36 seconds later.

Guimond then gave the Ice Dawgs a 2-1 lead with a shorthanded tally with 4:07 remaining in the opening period.

After a scoreless second, Blaine Wishnowski put Arborg up 3-1 at 6:09



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Ice Dawgs goaltender Tre Strachen makes a save against the Fishermen's Evan Bedard.

of the third.

Selkirk's Zack Parksinosn then made it a one-goal game when he scored with 6:26 remaining in regulation time.

Selkirk outshot Arborg 50-32 as Strachan earned the well-deserved victory.

The Fishermen were 0-6 on the power play while the Ice Dawgs were

blanked in three opportunities.

Game 5 of the series was played in Selkirk this past Tuesday but no score was available at press time.

If necessary, Game 6 is set for Arborg on Saturday and then a series-deciding seventh game would return to Selkirk Sunday.

Puck drop for both games is 7:30 p.m.

## Peguis to clash with Storm in playoffs

Staff

The Peguis Juniors will start their Keystone Junior Hockey League playoffs on the road.

Peguis will battle the OCN Storm in a best-of-seven semifinal series which will begin with Game 1 on Saturday followed by Game 2 Sunday.

Games 3 and 4 will be played in Peguis March 21-22.

OCN finished the regular season with a 20-12 record and 40 points to place second in the five-team league. That was just three points ahead of third-place Peguis (18-13-1).

The Juniors wrapped up their regular season with a 9-8 road win over the Cross Lake Islanders last Saturday.

Ethan Daniels (four), Tyrome Spence (two), Michael Spence (two) and Brayden Deluene scored for Peguis.

Drey Flett made 33 saves for the win.

On Friday, Peguis crushed the NCN Flames 16-9.

Tyrome Spence (six), Michael Spence (three), Darian Murdock (two), Sundance Paul, Quinton Flett, Deluene, Dalen Schultz and Daniels had the Juniors' goals.

Last Thursday, Peguis blew out the Flames 12-3.

Daniels (four), Tyrome Spence (two), Paul, Codey Beaulieu, Evan Thickfoot, Quinton Flett, Coulson Nepinak and Nathaniel Murdock scored for the winners.

Nolan Favell stopped 33 NCN shots for the win.

The Norway House North Stars played Cross Lake this week in a best-of-three survivor series. The winner advances to play NCN in a semifinal series.

## Local teams compete at provincials

Staff

Riverton finished with a 2-2 record at the Atom C Rural boys hockey provincials.

They defeated Hartney 5-3 in a consolation game on Sunday.

Kristofer Asmundsson (two), Tavyn Sigurdson (two) and Chase Murdock scored for Riverton.

On Friday, Riverton lost 9-6 to Grand Plains and 4-3 to Deloraine.

Tavyn Sigurdson (four) and Brycen Johannesson (two) scored for Riverton against Deloraine while Tavyn Sigurdson (two) and Levi Johnson tallied versus Deloraine.

Johannesson (two), Asmundsson (two), Tavyn Sigurdson (two), Johnson and Hudson Charrier scored for the winners in an 8-6 victory over Manitou.

Peguis, meanwhile, posted a 1-2 record at the Bantam Rural B provincials.

Peguis beat Gladstone/MacGregor 6-5 but then lost to Hamiota/Rivers (11-2) and Sagkeeng (8-2).

Peguis goals were scored by Preston

Crate (two), Dereece Prince-Sinclair (three), Evan Sutherland (two), Brody McPherson (two) and Ayden Daniels.

At the Atom Rural A provincials, Peguis and Lakeside each finished with 0-3 records in St. Pierre/St. Malo.

Peguis lost to Rat River (11-1), Rivers (14-0) and Beausejour (13-1).

Shaysden Stevenson scored both Peguis goals.

Lakeside was defeated by Ile des Chenes (11-2), Flin Flon (9-2), and Altona (20-0).

Sigge Bjornson (three) and Carter Reykdal scored for Lakeside.

Meanwhile, Interlake finished with an 0-3 record at the Bantam Rural AA hockey provincials in Manitou.

Interlake was defeated 4-1 by the Pembina Central Flyers 4-1 in a consolation semifinal last Sunday.

Interlake started the provincials with a 7-0 loss to the Pembina Valley Rockets and then were beaten 7-3 by the Northern Knights.

There were no scoring summaries posted on Hockey Manitoba's website at press time.

# St. Malo skates to series sweep over Lundar

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar Falcons ran into a real good hockey team in their Capital Region Junior Hockey League semifinal series with the St. Malo Warriors.

St. Malo swept their best-of-seven series in four games after a 3-1 road win on Saturday evening.

"It was a good game back and forth," said Falcons' head coach James Worthing. "We just couldn't capitalize on our opportunities and St. Malo could. They played a great series."

Game 4 was a tight one as Dennon Sichevski gave Lundar a 1-0 first-period lead before St. Malo's Maxime Collette replied with a second-period marker.

The Warriors' Cayden Onagi and Hayden Hildebrand then tallied just

1:04 apart midway in the third.

On Friday, Lundar lost 5-3 to the Warriors in St. Malo.

St. Malo, which held period leads of 2-0 and 5-2, received a two-goal and two-assist effort from Onagi while Gavin Pott, Evan Wuerch, and Evan Anstett added singles.

Ryan Gleich, with a pair, and Derek Benson scored for Lundar. Braden Paulic assisted on all three goals while Mason Medeiros added two helpers.

St. Malo did a real good job limiting Lundar to just seven goals in the four playoff games.

"They took away the middle of the ice quite well," Worthing said. "They kept us to the outside quite a bit but we just couldn't hit the net. We were hitting every post possible."

Lundar played well enough to win a game or two in the series.

"I honestly feel that three of those four games we could have walked away with a 'W'," Worthing said. "Hats off to St. Malo, they have some guys that jump on their opportunities and don't miss very often. They have a really good group and they're really strong - I think they're going to take it this year."

After struggling in the past half of the season, Lundar played much better in the second half.

"We only had three (defencemen) for the first half of the season," Worthing noted. "But, overall, I'm really pleased with how the guys played. We came together quite well as a team and we went on a couple of good tears. We

battled hard, even when we lose, we battle hard and that's all that you can ask from the guys - give us a 100 per cent."

Lundar will lose four players who have now aged out of junior hockey. The Falcons also had eight 20 year olds on the team this year, with only four eligible to return next season.

There will be plenty of new faces on the Falcons next year.

"About half of the team is going to be brand new," Worthing said. "Good luck to the guys that have aged out. It's going to be sad to see some of these guys gone next year, that's for sure. I'm proud of our club and next year I'm looking forward to new challenges."

## Arborg hosts men's bonspiel; Einarson guest appearance

By Evan Matthews

As Arborg played host to the men's bonspiel, a surprise guest created quite the stir, while the ladies curling club announced a changing of the guard.

On Feb. 28, 29 and March 1, the Arborg Curling Club hosted its annual men's bonspiel. Because her husband was participating in the bonspiel, the 2020 Scotties Tournament of Hearts National Champion Kerri Einarson made a guest appearance.

"To see (Einarson) out and about in the communities, showing her support for the smaller clubs, it's pretty awesome. She brought one of her jerseys to the club to be auctioned off as

well, and it raised \$425," said Kim Masiak, the new chairperson of the Arborg Ladies Curling Club. All funds raised go to the Arborg Curling Club, which runs both the men's and women's league, Masiak said.

Masiak added she recently took the position over from Donna Gislason, who stepped down after 12 years as chairperson. Gislason continues to curl with the club.

"Our club appreciates all of Donna's hard work and dedication. ... Without her we'd be struggling. Her support has been great," said Masiak.

Masiak noted the club is always looking for new members to start curling,

and encouraged anyone interested to reach out to the Arborg Recreation Commission.

### Men's bonspiel

The men's bonspiel had 28 teams participate, according to organizers.

Team Lott won the first event, skipped by Colton Lott, with Tanner Lott as the third, Dale Lott as the second and Justin Reynolds as the lead.

Colton will be going to the National mixed double's event with his girlfriend Kadriana Sahaidak, according to organizers.

Team Foster won the second event, skipped by Kyle Foster, with Darcy Ja-

cobs as the third, Blair Thorsteinson as the second and Corey Thorsteinson as the lead.

"The event was a huge success. It was one of the best men's bonspiels we've had in years," said Foster, who also helped organize the event.

"It was super nice to have Kerri Einarson out, too. It really created a buzz around the event given she had just won the Canadian Championship in Moose Jaw."

Team Plishka won the third event, skipped by Chris Plishka, with Quinn Vandersteen as the third, Colton Pyziak as the second and Colin Grzenda as the lead.

## Provincial finalists



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Team Maisey from Winnipeg Beach reached the final of the U-18 men's curling provincials last weekend in Minnedosa. Maisey had a 5-0 record during round-robin play and then won two playoff games before losing to Team McDonald from St. Vital in the final. Pictured, left to right: Josh Maisey (skip), Sean Giesbrecht (third), Oliver DeMeyer (second), Sébastien Pruneau (lead) and Dale Lott (coach). Pruneau is a resident of Stonewall.

## Einarson snipes game winner in OT for Virden

### Staff

Virden Oil Capitals' forward Jack Einarson scored the game-winning goal while shorthanded at 2:09 of the second overtime period to lift his club to a 1-0 victory over the Winkler Flyers in Game 1 of their quarter-final series on Friday evening.

In Game 2 on Sunday, Einarson, a Gimli product, scored a power-play goal just 2:35 into the game of a 6-3 home loss.

On Monday, Einarson was named one of three MJHL stars of the week.

The Portage Terriers, meanwhile, lead the Dauphin Kings 2-0 in their best-of-seven quarter-final series.

Portage won Game 1 by a score of

4-2 as Logan Christensen, a Lundar product, tallied a goal early in the third period to give the Terriers a 2-1 lead.

The Terriers then defeated the Kings 5-2 on Sunday in Portage la Prairie.

The Steinbach Pistons also lead the Winnipeg Blues 2-0 after a 5-1 on Sunday at the RINK Training Centre.

In Game 1 last Friday in Steinbach, the Pistons edged the Blues 3-1.

The Swan Valley Stampeders blanked the Waywayseecappo Wolverines 5-0 last Friday.

Game 2 of the series was played Monday but no score was available at press time.

# Classifieds

THE EXPRESS  
WEEKLY NEWS

## SCRAP METAL

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

The 24th Annual Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Induction Dinner will be held in Morden on Saturday, June 6, 2020. Tickets may be obtained by contacting Morris Mott at 204-726-5167 or mott@brandonu.ca, David Taylor at 204-841-3242 or taylor@brandonu.ca, Jack Hrehirchuk at 204-638-6923/204-648-6395 or jhrehirchuk@wcgwave.ca. Joe Wiwchar at 204-822-4636 or mbbbhof@mymts.net or on-line at www.mbbhof.ca. Adult tickets advance purchase to May 26, 2020 \$75 - May 27 to June 2, 2020 - \$85. Children 6-12 years old \$20, under 6 free of charge.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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## WANTED

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2 year old Black Angus bull sale March 20, 2020. Wawota, SK. 306-577-9141. www.gbtangus.com

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## HEALTH

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Drop your resume at #28 Railway Avenue, Ashern, or e-mail to: jason.carpenter@homehardware.ca  
Deadline for applications is April 18.

## ARBORG BIFROST PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

invites applications for the following season positions

## Summer Camp Coordinator

Plan and organize summer camp activities for youth 6-11 years of age, 8 week position July & August, Monday-Friday

## Noventis Aquatic Centre

Applications now being accepted for the following positions: lifeguards, swim instructors, and admission staff

## Summer Student (outdoors)

Grass cutting along with various miscellaneous duties, Monday-Friday, may include some weekends.

Please send resume with references stating the position(s) applying for to: Arborg Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission Box 555, Arborg, MB, R0C 0A0 Email: tom.abprc@mymts.net

## Employment Opportunity

The following Casual position is available:

### Adult Day Program Coordinator:

- Competition # LUN LTC 356/20

Please refer to complete job posting in Careers at www.ierha.ca

Please apply on-line at www.ierha.ca or fax (204) 785-4736, stating competition number on application. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm.



Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority



## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE

## LAND APPLICATION OF BIO SOLIDS

TAKE NOTICE that sludge application will take place in the months of September & October 2020 on the approved lands as identified in the bio-solids land application license #2473R. For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 204-642-6688.

Dated at Gimli, Manitoba, this 5th day of March, 2020.

Kelly Cosgrove  
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Gimli

# CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone who supported us during the illness and passing of our dearest husband, father, afi, uncle, cousin and friend, Einar Vigfusson. Your love and support, your visits both at home and in the hospital, phone calls, food, baking, flowers and hugs are much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Donnelly and the terrific staff at the Arborg Hospital. Your care was awesome. Thanks to Mona and all the staff at MacKenzie Funeral Services, Pastor Courtney Redman Parker for her thoughtful message, the pianists Heather and Brenda and all the people who came to sing and Susie at Nic Nacs for her artistic flower arrangements. The lunch was delicious courtesy of the Broad Valley Caterers. Thanks for the many cards and letters of condolence and for your generous donations to the charities of your choice.

-Rosalind Vigfusson;

Eric and Jennifer, Nathan, Adam and Henrik; Kristian and Jennifer and Kallum Einar

# IN MEMORIAM



Victoria Kaminski  
(nee Malinowski)

December 10, 1925 – March 16, 2019

It has been one year since your passing,  
And though we miss you,  
You live in our hearts.

We think of you every day.

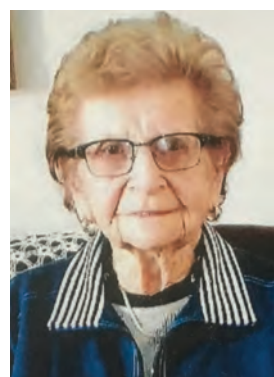
-Love you lots, Linda, Jane and Ken,  
Wally and Audra, Derek, Nicole,  
Sienna and Athena

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# OBITUARY



Kay Sobkowich (Kopys)

February 13, 1922 – January 13, 2020

With great sadness we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend on January 13, 2020 at the PCH in Fisher Branch at the age of 97.

Mom is survived by her children: Elise (Emil), grandchildren Kim (Danny), Kenny (Kathy); Jayne (Bill), grandchildren Neal (Yoshie), Janis (Sean), Wendy (Jeff); Fred (Nancy), grandchildren Jody (Paul), Shane (Lisa); Ron (Lynda), grandchildren Wade (Lynn), Keri (Darren), Chad (Shallen); and 20 great-grandchildren. Mom is also survived by her sister Rose Sobkowich-Beaudry and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kay was predeceased by her husband Stanley (1992); their son Frankie (one month old); her parents Alex and Nellie Kopys; her sisters Anne, Dora, Nellie and Mary; her brothers Steve, John, Matthew and Mike.

Mom was born and raised in Fisher Branch and lived her entire life there working hard on the farm. She loved her flower gardens and took great pride in making them look fabulous!

Mom married Dad on October 30, 1938 (at the age of 16) and they had 54 years of married life together.

Devotion to family was her main focus throughout her life. She was always very social and enjoyed going to town just to meet and talk to people at the Co-op store. She also worked for many years at the Rene Rivard's Store as a clerk. She enjoyed playing cards with friends, Bingo games, occasional casino trips, music and dance. She also loved clothes and jewellery – loved to shop – always ending up in the clothing department of a store with a new blouse or top in hand!



Mom was a super great cook with all enjoying many, many get togethers on the farm. These are memories that we as children and grandchildren will always cherish. Her greatest joy was her family.

Her trips to Nevada, California, Ontario, Minnesota and Alberta were all a highlight for her.

She loved to listen to Ukrainian music on her numerous CD's. Her favourites were Bill Woloshyn's Interlake Polka Kings and Dennis Nykoliation's Band.

She was a life long member of the W.I. in Fisher Branch and received her Life Membership Certificate in 2001. She was a member of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church as well as a member of the Ukrainian National Home.

She attended church services at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church when a church service was held there. However, after the closing of the church, she continued with her strong belief in God and looked forward to watching Sunday Mass services on television. She enjoyed these immensely.

Still maintaining her independence, she enjoyed living at The Chalet for nearly three years. Her health took a turn in October 2019 and she was hospitalized. Then, at the end of November she was transferred to the PCH in Fisher Branch where she remained.

Funeral was held on January 18, 2020 at the Roman Catholic Church. Interment at the Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Fisher Branch.

Pallbearers were her children and grandchildren.

We will all miss you.

Wichnaya Pamyat, Mom

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# OBITUARY

Mary Eliuk

With family by her side, Mary passed away at the Fisher Personal Care Home, in Fisher Branch, at the age of 101.

In keeping with Mary's wishes cremation has taken place.

A private family burial will be held at a later date.

**FISHER FUNERAL HOME INC.**

In care of arrangements.

204-372-6271 or 204-372-6803

# OBITUARY

Lillian Snjolaug Wlosek

August 27, 1937 - February 28, 2020

Lillian was born on August 27, 1937 to parents Thorleifur and Snjolaug Peterson in Arnes, Manitoba. She passed away on February 28, 2020 after a brief battle with cancer.

She will be forever loved and missed by her children Liane, Glenn and Janne, son-in-law Scott Hainstock and grandchildren Steven and Ellyn Sawa. She was also loved by a large extended family including sister Frederica Borys (Al); brothers Anton (Valdine), Bjarni, Kenny (Arlene) and their families, as well as the Sawa family and many dear friends. She married Victor Wlosek (son of John and Rose Wlosek) in 1959 and was predeceased by him in 1981. She was predeceased by her parents, in-laws, sisters-in-law Eleanor Peterson and Linda Peturson, great-nephew Troy Tomchuk and son-in-law Ed Sawa.



Mom had a busy and fulfilling life and loved her family, community and long teaching career. Home and family were very important and Mom put a great deal of energy into making sure her home and yard were always ready for company. She loved being part of a busy supportive neighbourhood where her neighbours were also lifelong friends. The coffee was always on and there was always time for visiting. She loved being part of farming life and enjoyed making sure everyone was fed during busy seeding and harvest seasons.

Mom was busy with family events. She was involved in the lives of her siblings, nieces, nephews and their children. She was always attending weddings, showers, teas and concerts. She loved to travel and enjoyed many trips with family and friends. She never missed an event involving her grandchildren and would drop everything to babysit or come to assist with whatever was needed. She also loved being part of her in-law families and appreciated being included in their celebrations and events.

Mom enjoyed her community and was happy to contribute in any way she could. She loved to volunteer with the senior meal program, the museum, school reunions and at her church. She was in charge of a rest stop for MS Biking to the Viking for many years and she loved being joined by family and friends. She was always in search of new recruits for her team.

One of the most important roles in Mom's life was that of teacher. She attended Manitoba Normal School from 1954 to 1955 and began teaching in a one room school house when she was 17. She later completed her degree while working full time and raising her family. She taught for 39 years, mostly grade one in Gimli. She loved being a teacher and would be so proud of her class each year. She would marvel at her great luck for always getting the best class. She maintained an interest in the lives of all her former students. She never stopped teaching and in retirement started doing her Books and Bears group and then took on a long-standing role as a tutor. Her role as a tutor was very important to her. She was so honoured that students chose her to be their teacher, she admired their dedication to their work and was extremely proud of their accomplishments. Over the years she maintained cherished friendships with her school colleagues and loved to reminisce as well as enjoy new experiences with them.

Mom's final days have been spent dealing with the many challenges of cancer. She has amazed us with her complete composure. She always noticed and appreciated the contribution of every person helping her. She managed to learn and remember most of the names of her doctors and caregivers. She made friends with her roommates and their families. She was more concerned about the people around her than with herself. She was very grateful for and impressed by the care she received at St. Boniface Hospital and also at Selkirk Hospital. She was also so grateful for the support of her family and friends during this time.

Memorial donations to Ovarian Cancer Canada at [ovariancanada.org](http://ovariancanada.org) are gratefully accepted. Funeral Mass will be held on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Gimli, MB.

Condolences may be left on her tribute wall at [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.





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