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Ice fishing draws families together

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PHILIP BLAIN
Viniece Blain gets in some ice fishing time at the 3rd annual Steep Rock ice fishing derby last Saturday but Blain said she prefers New Zealand weather to that of Manitoba.


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Annual ice fishing derby raises over 3K for Steep Rock Community Club

By Jeff Ward

More than 170 registered fishers took to the ice last Saturday to take part in the 3rd annual Steep Rock Ice Fishing Derby that raised over \$3,000 for the local community club.

Steep Rock Community Club president Beverley Johnson said the event was a big success and she was blown away by the amount of registrants and support from the community.

The money raised for the club will go towards their revitalization effort of the local church to turn it into a multi-purpose facility that can cater to cultural events and weddings. The derby organizers awarded \$3,500 in cash prizes, with Jim Shannon taking home the top prize of \$2,000; Shawn Oswald, \$1,000; and Roxanne Meisner, \$500.

There were four raffle prizes awarded as well to lucky ticket holders. Doug Meisner won a flasher, Tanya Madsen and Dane Tritthart each won



Craig Howse, right, shakes the hand of derby winner Jim Shannon, who took home a \$2,000 cash prize last weekend.

a new ice auger and Jack Harder won a processing kit.

Tracey and Robert Fillion provided hot meals of clam chowder, fried

bannock, beaver tails, coffee and hot chocolate throughout the event.

Johnson said that the community club board was very grateful for the



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY BEVERLEY JOHNSON

Nearly 200 participants gathered at Steep Rock last weekend to take part in the 3rd annual ice fishing derby. The derby raised over \$3,000 for the Steep Rock Community Club and handed out thousands in cash and prizes.

support and that it couldn't have been possible without the help of volunteers who cleared snow, drilled holes in the ice, along with other duties.

The risk for major spring flooding remains low for Interlake

By Jeff Ward

The province released its March flood outlook last week, which contains good news for Interlake residents since it states the risk for major spring flooding remains low at this time.

The outlook says the risk of major flooding for the Souris, Qu'Appelle and Pembina rivers is low even with unfavourable weather conditions. The risk of major flooding in the Interlake region and for most major lakes, including lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba

and Dauphin, is also low.

"After the storm earlier this month, the risk of major flooding remains low on the Red and Assiniboine rivers, but there is a moderate risk of some overland or overbank flooding. Levels along the Red River and the Assiniboine River are forecasted to remain below flood protection levels," said Schuler.

Flood control structures will be used this spring, according to the report. The Portage Diversion will "likely be operated in order to reduce the risk of ice jamming on the lower Assiniboine River for all weather conditions." The report also stated that the diversion will likely be operated under unfavourable weather conditions even if the ice is moved out in order to cap the downstream flow.

Flows along the Assiniboine River at Portage la Prairie could reach just over 17,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), the report states, in unfavourable weather conditions, which would require the use of the Portage Diversion to limit the downstream flow to 10,000 cfs.

Soil moisture remains below normal or at normal levels for the entire Interlake region, and snow water content remains well below normal levels.

"We continue to monitor for ice-jam related flooding due to the thickness of the ice on some of Manitoba's rivers and streams. The cold winter temperatures and less snow cover created above-normal ice conditions," said Schuler.

For those who want to read the report in its entirety, visit www.gov.mb.ca/flooding for more information.

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Happy Easter



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ITA gets funding boost; Travel Manitoba broadening its scope

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake Tourism Association will be working with a bigger budget this year and plans to launch a number of new initiatives to help attract visitors to the region.

Composed of 19 communities/municipalities that sit on its board, along with 80 to 90 industry members, the ITA promotes activities and attractions in communities across the Interlake and publishes an annual travel guide filled with events and places to explore.

In 2017 Travel Manitoba, a hybrid public-private non-profit tourism marketing organization, increased ITA's annual funding thanks to its own revenue windfall. In 2015 the former government launched a plan called "96-4," in which the province would receive 96 per cent of tourism tax revenues and Travel Manitoba would receive four per cent.

"Because Travel Manitoba was on the 96-4 plan, they opted to give each of the regions up to \$40,000 in marketing money," said ITA's manager/co-ordinator Gail McDonald during the association's AGM March 22 in Winnipeg Beach. "So going to \$90,000

a year is a wonderful experience."

ITA has a number of new initiatives planned for 2018, including a website overhaul, the creation of video vignettes to showcase community events and attractions, geocoin events and experiential tourism seminars for members.

The addition last year of a new ITA member — Fisher River Cree Nation — is set to offer visitors a unique tourism experience.

"They are in an ideal spot to gain more tourism product and to build on what they have there already," said McDonald. "They're a thriving Indigenous population, and I think we'll see lots of products coming out of there. They have some industry members that want to build experiences."

ITA president Heather Hinam said the association's annual Travel Ideas Guide generated \$3,000 more in revenue in 2017 compared to past years, and the new guide, which will include Arborg, is scheduled for release in April.

"Tourism is a vibrant industry that is evolving quickly," said Hinam. "I encourage all our members to participate in our many projects. Con-

nect with each other on the members' Facebook group and send your events to the office for our webpage calendar. Together we are working on making the Interlake the tourism destination of choice."

Guest speaker Colin Ferguson, CEO and president of Travel Manitoba, provided an update of his organization's new initiatives and successes resulting from the 96-4 plan.

"[96-4] was a huge increase in our first year. We saw over \$3 million in our budget, which allowed us to en-

ter new markets like Australia and amplify our marketing in existing markets in the U.S., China, the U.K., France and Germany," he said.

With the launch of new marketing initiatives using the revenues generated from 96-4, the government benefitted to the tune of \$277 million, said Ferguson.

"That's how much this industry is putting into the coffers of the provincial government. The one per cent ad-

Continued on page 5



CEO and president of Travel Manitoba Colin Ferguson



ITA manager/co-ordinator Gail McDonald

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Fishers doubtful they'll see payment and justice in fish scandal

By Patricia Barrett

Fishers from the Ashern Fisheries Co-operative say they can see the writing on the wall as far as getting Northern Walleye's Donald Salkeld and American fish processors to pay them in full for the fish their shed — and three other sheds — supplied over the course of December 2017.

Salkeld is at the centre of an alleged fish heist that had four fish sheds — Ashern, Eddystone, Waterhen and Dawson Bay — owed about \$1 million in January after he shipped thousands of kilograms of fish to America during the height of the Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis fishing season.

Fishers don't know what stage the province's investigation into Salkeld is at, or how much money has been distributed among the sheds from payments Salkeld and some of the American fish processors claimed they had made. Part of the confusion lies in Sustainable Development's refusal to inform fishers about its investigation and a lack of communication from shed directors.

One thing is clear, however: fishers haven't been paid. And Lake Manitoba fishers Grant Tober and Randy Helgason said they're doubtful they'll ever see the money.

"Everybody could see what was going to happen," said Tober, referring to a meeting held at the Ashern fish shed about a month after Salkeld and Illinois-based processor Mike Schafer promised that payment was imminent. "We're not going to get money out of those guys so there's no sense sending them more fish. That's when we talked to Freshwater."

Ashern fishers voted last year to sell their fish on the open market but contacted the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation mid-January after realizing they had been ripped off.

Tober said the Ashern shed sold mullet to Schafer in 2011 and had "no trouble" then receiving payment every week.

"I can't say a bad thing about him that time around," said Tober, who's been fishing since he was 14 and has totted up 59 years on the lake. "It's a little different this time. I think he got

caught up in a deal with Salkeld and that's where he got off track."

Schafer told the *Express* in February that he was currently buying fish from the Dawson Bay shed and making payments every week. He also said he was paying the same trucking company that Salkeld had hired — but allegedly didn't pay — to ship Dawson Bay's fish to his Illinois plant. About a month earlier, Schafer had promised to pay fishers what he owed from the December shipments, but it's unclear whether he's honoured that promise.

Tober said both Salkeld and Schafer led Ashern fishers to believe they would buy all their fish during the shed's AGM last October. When everything fell apart in December, the two provincially licensed fish dealers started accusing each other of being responsible for payment.

"I even got a price list from them that night," said Tober, showing the *Express* the document. "At the top of the list there's both their names — Northern Walleye and Schafer Fisheries. They're passing the buck. Salkeld never had a permit to go across the line, but he was going on Schafer's permit. If Schafer was aware of that, why did he allow it to happen then claim he wasn't buying fish from him? That's my question."

Fishers on Lake Winnipeg and those using the Ashern and Eddystone sheds have told the *Express* they've been hearing all sorts of stories pertaining to alleged difficulties the American processors are having selling the fish and getting payment to the fishers.

During a meeting with Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires March 1 in Gimli, Eddystone fisher Bill Finney said he heard their fish had been sent overseas to Turkey for processing, and several fishers said it involves Wisconsin-based Dan's Fish.

The *Express* obtained a communication between the Waterhen shed's lawyer Norman Boudreau (who's allegedly working on behalf of all four sheds) and Dan's Fish proprietor Dan Schwarz, showing Boudreau trying to pin him down on payment.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Manitoba fisher Grant Tober (left) with fellow fisher and West Interlake Reeve Randy Helgason.

"Please let me know when the next tranche of funds will be provided. My clients are growing impatient," Boudreau wrote Feb. 7.

Swartz replied the following day, saying he had to send the fish to another company for processing, without explaining why his processing and marketing company was unable to handle it.

"The company cutting the fillets from the frozen H/G [headed and gutted] has increased custom processing costs almost 2x," he wrote. "This increase made that company unacceptable to use. We have identified another company to use and are making arrangements to send a large amount of fish to them."

Like many fishers, Tober thinks the "Turkey story" is a tall tale, as well as other stories about the Americans holding their fish in cold storage until the Salkeld scandal is resolved.

"I don't believe for a minute that fish wasn't processed and sold a long time ago," said Tober. "And I don't believe fish is sitting in storage anywhere. It's somebody lining their pockets."

Helgason, who's been fishing for about 45 years and is currently reeve of the West Interlake municipality, seconded that, adding he doubts the fishers will ever re-coup their losses.

"It's been four months now. I don't think it's going to be a good ending," said Helgason, who used to sit on the Ashern shed's board of directors. "Nothing's happened and I don't know what the solution may be. Legally, I'm not sure. We may be able to go after Salkeld, but do we want to do that? Our fish sheds are struggling. To do that will cost money."

He said he hopes Sustainable Development will pull the fish dealers' licences, but thus far the department hasn't — despite its own legislation stating that fishers must be paid within seven days of delivering fish. That

has fishers from several lakes doubting the legitimacy of the investigation.

The province's Fisheries Act states there is a one-year limitation period for prosecution.

Sustainable Development would not provide any information about the investigation, including whether it has been in contact with the RCMP and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. It also wouldn't comment on Salkeld and Schafer's fish dealer licences.

"The investigation is ongoing," said a spokesperson by email last week. "And it would not be productive or appropriate to offer partial updates."

Despite its problems with a "top heavy administration and big salaries and pensions," Tober said one of the best things that ever happened to Manitoba's commercial fishery was Freshwater, created by the federal government in 1969 to protect fishers from the vagaries of the open market and crooked fish dealers.

"I can remember when I was kid on the lake fishing with my dad, and the fish companies were buying fish. We all know what happened then. They would play that market up and down like you wouldn't believe," said Tober, who, like Helgason, used to sit on Ashern's board. "Two or three cents and a big increase in January on the fish. Guys would go out and set a bunch of nets and before the fish hit the sheds, 'Sorry, that increase never came through.'"

Helgason said he, too, has no faith in fish dealers and prefers to stick with Freshwater despite some shortcomings that are "fixable."

"I'll echo what Grant said and what my dad said: 'You don't want to go back to fish buyers because you're at their mercy. They don't have to buy your fish and there's nothing in writing.'"

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Budget 2018: providing relief to those who need it most

By Cameron Friesen, Minister of Finance for the Province of Manitoba

Two weeks ago, the Manitoba government delivered a budget that provides tax relief to Manitoba families and makes progress on reducing the deficit while making good investments in health care, education and infrastructure.

Manitoba families deserve a break and Budget 2018 responds with a historic increase to the basic personal amount (BPA), the amount of income someone earns before the government starts to tax them. The BPA will increase by \$1,010 in 2019 and a further \$1,010 the following year, resulting in an increase of \$2,020 by the year 2020. As a result, every Manitoba income earner will save an additional \$238 each year when fully implemented.

Some observers have criticized this measure as insignificant or characterized it as a "tax cut for the wealthy." Such assertions are wrong and simply ignore the facts.

The basic personal amount can be viewed as a tax credit to everyone

who pays income tax. By raising it by \$2,020, the measure is making more of your hard-earned income tax-free.

It's the most significant single tax reduction in Manitoba's history.

In a progressive tax system like ours, it is clear that this measure helps people — especially those who earn less. Raising the personal amount completely removes more than 30,000 Manitobans from the tax rolls whose total earnings will be lower than the taxable threshold. For everyone else, it increases disposable (after-tax) income.

Economic research shows that increasing disposable income benefits low-income earners more than it does higher-income earners. This is because low-income earners have to spend a higher proportion of their after-tax income on household necessities compared to medium or high-income earners. Recently it was reported that over half of Manitoba households have less than \$200 in disposable income at the end of the month after all the bills are paid. Sim-

ply said, raising the basic personal amount makes a difference for every household, but gives more money back to those who need it most.

Under the NDP, Manitoba was known as a high-tax jurisdiction with one of the lowest basic personal exemptions and highest sales tax rates in Western Canada.

We all understand that costs are going up due to rising interest rates and hydro rate increases as a result of NDP mismanagement, to name a few. Our government is addressing these challenges by reducing the tax burden on Manitobans and reducing the deficit to stabilize our fiscal position, even in these tough financial conditions.

By leaving hundreds more dollars in each wage earner's pocket, we are helping Manitoba households. Seniors on a fixed income. Single parents. Students.

Manitoba families deserve a break. Your Manitoba government is working hard to increase household affordability, including relief for those who need it most.



Minister of Finance
Cameron Friesen

> ITA, FROM PG. 3

ditional PST is less than that. This is a big sector, 24,000 people work in it.

"People either had no opinion or low opinion of Manitoba as a travel destination. With the additional marketing dollars, we have the opportunity to market to new markets, and it has changed people's perception of Manitoba and has changed Manitobans' perceptions of themselves."

Manitobans contributed to the lion's share of those tax revenues in previous years, with 85 per cent or 11 million people travelling within the province.

"How do we get more international customers here?" said Ferguson, "but at the same time not lose sight of the fact that Manitobans are in fact creating a tremendous amount of revenue for us."

One solution is a new place branding strategy, which caught on like wildfire in dozens of communities around the province after it was launched in Clear Lake.

"It creates the opportunity for stakeholders to collaborate in order to attract people to a destination, inspire them to stay longer and spend more money," said Ferguson. "It can help build an identity in order to influence perceived images they're known for."

Among the communities that have already adopted place branding are Gimli, the Whiteshell, Portage La Prai-

rie, and Morden and Winkler — two separate communities that joined forces under one brand.

Several other communities, such as Winnipeg's St. Boniface neighbourhood, Dauphin, Steinbach, Neepawa, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas and Thompson, are on TM's branding list.

"This came over the transom so fast we can't handle anymore. We now want to work with all these communities to really maximize on the impact of our brands," said Ferguson.

Another way to market Manitoba is through more "targeted publisher content" in magazines such as *National Geographic*, *Canadian Living*, *Maclean's* and *Zoomer*. TM will also tie into digital platforms.

Additional initiatives include creating an Indigenous tourism strategy, working with local chambers of commerce and holding more regional workshops to get feedback on what needs to be improved. Participants from a recently held workshop in Gimli asked for better directional signage, improvements to and the creation of Internet

and cell coverage, more accommodation suppliers and better engagement with municipalities.

Travel Manitoba's goal is to increase tourism revenues even though it will be working without a budget increase this year from the province.

"The goal was to increase tourism revenues in the province by \$100 million dollars each year for the next five years and get us to a \$2 billion mark by the year 2020," said Ferguson. "Last year we generated \$99 million."

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Hi gang. How's it going?

If you're standing on the Victoria Beach pier in the summer or on the ice by Balsam Bay in the winter and facing the unobstructed wind coming across Lake Winnipeg, you'll probably be looking northwest. That ever-present, sometimes violent wind compels folks here to spot their ice shacks a little closer to the shoreline because of sudden whiteouts. They also try to get them off the ice a little sooner in the spring because of abrupt shoreline ice cracks. That is what local fellow Gerald Sitar, the fourth week coolest ice shack winner, pays good mind to each year.

Unfortunately, friends can be more trouble than the wind. Gerry, an always smiling stocky guy in great shape, had a wide smile when I met him to give him his awards not long ago. As we got to talking, he said he had lost count of the times he had let folks use his shack asking only that they didn't freeze in the skids when drilling ice holes.

Poor Gerry lamented how every spring when he went to pull his shack off the ice, he had to use a crowbar to free the skids from the ice and guess what? Those friends who so enjoyed fishing in his shack, they were long gone — nowhere to be found, never heard of him.

Maybe next year, Gerry, a little tough love would be in order.

Last summer I was coming home after recording some stories a few anglers had given us on the Hecla pier when I had to stop for road construction. The flagman, a local guy, after seeing the sign on my car door displaying the papers and websites that carry my fishing column, casually walked up to my downturned driver-side window. After some idle chit-chat, he asked me why I didn't write more stories about



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
John Rzeszutek of Winnipeg on the Red River ice with some of his catch.

commercial fishers.

I told him that nothing would make me happier but many fishers, while willing to take a minute to talk about how fishing was going on our big lakes at a particular time, didn't have an hour or so to share personal fishing experiences.

I confessed to our friendly flagman that as a writer who loved to bring alive the few stories some fishers offered, I knew there were hundreds more great adventures languishing in the minds of our commercial brothers and sisters. I told him that fishing and outdoor living was in our blood and any stories our commercial fishers wished to share I would gratefully pass along.

Every once in a while, though, when you least expect it, say when you're pushing a shopping cart down the aisle at the Selkirk Walmart, you run into a chap like Ray Isfeld, a 45-year commercial fisher from Winnipeg Beach who luckily was willing to stop and talk fishing.

We stood leaning on our carts as he,

in a soft spoken, unassuming way, told me how the price for the plentiful whitefish has come up and that even with the windy freeze-up this year that caused jagged ice spikes on Lake Winnipeg, the fishing had been good. He went on to say the government should have left the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation alone and that the province doesn't do enough to stock lakes like Bird Lake for sports anglers.

Thanks for the insight, Ray.

A few weeks back, I was lumbering up and down the Red River ice by Lockport and ran into a real character. John Rzeszutek of Winnipeg held up some of his catch so I could take a picture for us. As he tossed them back in his pail, he remembered a time last summer when he and his girlfriend, Jen, went to Nutimik Lake to fish for Sturgeon.

It was a new relationship and they bet each other on the way there that whoever caught the biggest fish, the other would have to buy supper. It was a brisk, windy day on the water. Wispy clouds raced across the sky. Their boat rocked restlessly in the choppy waves as John got a strike. He braced his feet on the side of the rocking boat with his back to Jen and began reeling in a small three foot sturgeon.

"See that?" he shouted at Jen over his shoulder.

Jen, a small but fiesty gal, wasn't listening because her rod had just snapped over in a deep bend. Her face rose to the sun in unrestrained joy knowing she had won. Her sturgeon was easily five feet long.

She shouted to John, "You know, Johnnie, I just got a real craving for a steak supper!"

See you next week. Bye.

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Lundar Bull Sale to celebrate a half-century milestone

By Jeff Ward

Next weekend will mark a milestone for Lundar's All Breed Beef Cattle Sale.

The annual auction has been an Interlake staple for farmers for a half-century, and those behind the scenes have weathered many storms over the decades.

In the last 50 years, the bull sale has generated millions in revenue for farmers from all over the Interlake and other parts of rural Manitoba. It has brought buyers and sellers to Lundar and helped put Interlake beef on the map.

Bull sale committee president Jim Beachell has been a part of the sale for over 30 years and is very excited about the 50-year milestone. He said that there is something very special about reaching this goal, and even after all these years, he still looks forward to every sale.

The first bull sale took place in 1968 and was organized by seven founding members: Joe Stocki, Bill Cruise, Stan Burdett, Karl Olsen, Doug Savage, Paul Grouch and Thorstein (Steini) Palsen, who is the only founding member still alive today.

Past-president and current vice-president Ken Erickson said that the sale was created out of necessity.

"Producers needed a way to improve the herds in their area and this was one of the best ways to do that by bringing a bunch of them together," said Erickson.

Fifty years ago, the sale was conducted in a much different way with a judge grading each bull in the sale before bidding could begin. Since then, the sale — and the entire way bulls are bought and sold — has changed.

Erickson said one of the biggest differences between then and now is the information available to the buyer. A program details every single bull and heifer sold and indicates all the key stats potential buyers are looking for. Each bull has a photo and a description from the owner that can shed more light on the animal's lineage.

"The info we have now is very in depth. We know who the bull's parents are, its birth weight, stuff like that. People upload videos of their bulls, too, so there's really no shortage

of info out there," said Beachell.

There have been many challenges on the road to 50 years but probably none more devastating than the BSE crisis. Those were tough years that severely impacted the bull sale, and in spite of losing money during those years, the sale persevered.

Erickson said the committee worked hard to find ways to pay the bills and they came up with some very inventive solutions.

"We sold a calendar to raise money and put together a cookbook with all of the recipes from the dinner we had the night before. But I think the thing that helped us the most was when we went out and lobbied for sponsorships for the sale," said Erickson.

The committee didn't want to raise their commissions on the sale, either, as the market was already impacted hard. Producers were already shouldering a lot of loss and the committee didn't want to add to that.

Those tougher days are now firmly in the rearview mirror of the committee, which weathered a very aggressive storm during those years.

Tragedy can strike at any time and the 50th anniversary will not be without its own loss. That comes in the form of the passing on longtime committee secretary treasurer Connie Gleich, who passed away in January from cancer.

"She had to be the hardest working person on the committee," said Beachell.

"Jim and I are splitting her work this year and we honestly don't know how she did this much each year. We knew she worked hard, but we had no idea it was this much. She was such a big part of our organization and for her to miss the 50th is going to be hard," said Erickson.

Beachell added that Gleich was immensely proud of her work with the committee and was passionate about the sale every year.

After 50 years, there are bound to be natural peaks and valleys, the high highs and the low lows, but as they've done in previous years, the committee will persevere.

"The bull sale, this life, it's in my blood. I've always loved cattle and I look forward to the sale every year,"



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD

Jim Beachell and Ken Erickson are both looking forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Lundar Bull Sale.

said Beachell.

Erickson echoed that excitement.

"I think one of the reasons we got to 50 years is because of our volunteers. Their hard work and passion for the

work is one of the reasons we're still here today," he said.

The Lundar Bull Sale will take place next Saturday, April 7 at 1 p.m. at the Lundar Agri-Ed Centre.

Correction

In the March 8 edition of the *Express Weekly News*, we published the article "PR 518 closed for construction during rebuilding effort" and reported that the stretch of road being worked

on was located within the RM of Woodlands.

However, in actual fact, the section of road being worked on is located within the boundaries of the RM of St. Laurent.

The *Express* apologizes for any confusion this might have caused.

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Steep Rock Beach Park staff gearing up for a busy 2018

By Jeff Ward

With the snow melting away, many people are looking ahead to the 2018 camping and beach-going season and staff at Steep Rock Beach Park are in the final stages of getting their season ready.

Campground manager Lana Gabbs said that the 2017 summer season was the most financially successful year of the park since she and her husband, Trevor, took over the management roll five years ago.

Looking ahead to this summer, they're looking to build on those successes and continue to improve the park and the experience for visitors. Perhaps the biggest change for those who haven't been at the park since last summer is the new gate at the entrance. This season, a day pass will cost \$5 per vehicle and driver, and \$2 for each additional person in that vehicle. Seasonal passes are available for \$25. Gabbs said that the gate will likely change the dynamics of how the park operates but doesn't anticipate that it will be received poorly. Emergency services are given access cards as well, so the gate will not affect response times in the event of a call.

"Things are looking great this year and we're already sold out for Canada Day and some long weekends," said Gabbs.

"We're also really excited about some of the renovations we've been doing too. We'll be adding more fire pits and picnic tables for daily guests as well as a new outdoor shower.



Visitors entering the Steep Rock Beach Park are required to pay an entrance fee.

Right now, we're doing some renos at the store because we wanted to increase the space inside. Those will be done by the time we open."

Seasonal spots remain as popular as ever with a large waiting list. Gabbs said expanding the park to have a new bay is something that they'd like to take a look at, but this year it's going to be about completing smaller projects.

The campground will no longer rent bicycles, kayaks or canoes at the store. Gabbs explained that while it was a decent money maker, the labour in-



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY LANA GABBS

Renovations to the store are just one of the projects campground staff have on their 2018 list.

involved isn't worth it and they would like to refocus staff on other things.

This year marks the end of the Gabbs' five-year contract. Gabbs said that both she and Trevor really enjoy working at the campground and being a part of the Steep Rock community.

"We would like to be here for another five years ideally. We built a home here and we're committed to this

area," said Gabbs.

Last year brought with it some very exciting things, Gabbs said, and this year is no different. The park will host dozens of events throughout the summer season and will regularly update visitors through its newsletter.

Seasonal campers can set up their bays on April 15, and the park will officially open in the middle of May.

Government transparency critical to democracy

On Dec. 4, Cathy Cox, provincial minister of sport, heritage and recreation, tabled Bill 8, The Government Notices Modernization Act, for first reading in the Manitoba legislature.

At first glance, the bill seems procedural, even innocuous. Its first part proposes that The Manitoba Gazette, the government's official online portal for legal notices, be made available to the public free of charge. It then recommends amendments to 24 statutes relating to the government's publication of official notices, removing requirements that such notices to be published in local newspapers and replacing them with the requirement or option of publishing them in The Manitoba Gazette.

But all is not what it seems at first glance.

The Manitoba Community Newspapers Association wants to make

it perfectly clear that, by doing away with requirements to publish government notices in newspapers, the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Brian Pallister will make it even more difficult for Manitobans to monitor its activities and business.

Most importantly, this bill will affect the manner in which everyday Manitobans learn about things such as changes to school board boundaries or human rights complaints.

Let's be honest here. The Manitoba Gazette is a little-known house organ that catalogues items of government business which must be legally published, such as notices to creditors of an estate or notices of legal name changes. It is generally only used by people in government or legal circles and it is genuinely difficult to find online, even when using the search window on the government's own

website.

Making something accessible does not necessarily mean people will use it, and making The Gazette free does not mean the public will visit the website. The whole point of a legal requirement to publish government notices is to ensure that such information is broadly distributed. The 49 member papers of the MCNA deliver hundreds of thousands of newspapers to the doors and mailboxes of Manitobans throughout the province each week. Our readers see those notices and thus learn of public hearings on flood prevention or the use of fertilizers and pesticides in nearby farmlands.

Bill 8 will effectively bury such notices in an internet backwater, while the government touts phrases such as "openness and ease of access."

It will likely be pointed out that MC-

NA's member newspapers earn money from publishing public notices. Rest assured, the sum of that revenue is not significant enough to be make-or-break for our members.

This is not a money issue. It is a question of the openness of government and the nature of democracy.

Rather than reaching out directly to the people who may be affected by their notices, via a medium that is still very much useful and familiar, this government is content to wait for people to somehow discover what is happening by visiting a website they've never heard of.

The scenario rather begs the question: What other information would this government like to obscure?

-By Ken Wadell, President of MCNA

'It's Time, Collaborative Leadership Towards Reconciliation'

Submitted by Colleen Sklar

Twenty-three Indigenous and municipal leaders have embarked on a historic process of reconciliation. Anishinaabe chiefs, mayors and reeves from southern and central Manitoba have worked together for the last two days forging new relationships and creating the conditions to resolve issues that have been barriers to collaborative action for over a hundred years.

Brought together by a partnership between the Southern Chiefs' Organization and the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region, Indigenous and municipal elected leaders have agreed to undertake a facilitated process aimed at building better understanding of each other and establishing relationships, while identifying actions towards reconciliation.

Grand Chief Jerry Daniels believes that "the time has come for leaders to put their heads together and find better, more productive ways of working together to ensure we do what we set out to; make our communities better for all."

Reeve Brad Erb and Reeve Frances Smee, co-chairs of the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region, are very optimistic about the role of local governments and what can be achieved through collaborative action and real partnerships. Reeve Smee of the RM of Rosser believes, "It is time to begin to establish new relationships with Indigenous leaders and communities, relationships built on respect and trust." This two-day meeting demonstrates a real commitment to tackle tough and often uncomfortable issues.

Reeve of the RM of MacDonald, Brad Erb says, "This is a genuine first step in finding ways that move us from just talk to real progress on increasing our economic competitiveness, protecting our precious freshwater and natural resources, as well as improving the quality of life for all of our communi-

ties."

The mayors, reeves and chiefs were put to work at the first meeting in a three-part series by facilitators Merrell-Ann Phare, the executive director of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, and Michael Miltenberger (former Northwest Territories cabinet minister), who are the architects of world class co-drafted transboundary agreements between territorial and provincial governments that were developed with Indigenous governments and focused on protecting freshwater in the Mackenzie River Basin.

This first meeting, held on March 15 and 16, focused on relationship building and built the foundation to move elected leaders to a second meeting that will address major information gaps on regional demographics, treaty land entitlement, economic development, and water. In the final meeting, scenario planning will allow leaders to work through possible outcomes and choose a path and action steps that will get them where they want to go.

Forging new relationships based on collaborative leadership allows Indigenous and municipal leaders to embark on a pathway to reconciliation and to implement the broader political and legal commitments of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action — both calling for direct and ongoing collaboration with Indigenous peoples at all levels of government.

All leaders who took part in the first meeting of the Collaborative Leadership Initiative believe the time has come to take action and agree that by working together they have the power to move forward in leaps and bounds. They also agree this process and the anticipated positive outcomes could provide a path for jurisdictions across Canada to follow.

Riverton Elks support Evergreen band students with \$2,500 donation



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTH ANN FURGALA

From left: Riverton Elks exalted ruler Steven Enns, Riverton Collegiate principal Erin Furgala and Riverton and Arborg collegiates' music director Lauren Dobko.

By Patricia Barrett

The Riverton Elks Lodge #530 stepped up with a generous \$2,500 donation for the Evergreen School Division's joint band and choral program, which is trying to raise \$25,000 for new instruments and other musical materials.

The lodge's exalted ruler Steven Enns presented the cheque to Riverton Collegiate principal Erin Furgala and music director Lauren Dobko on March 21.

"This year, students in the program will appreciate new repertoires, music stands, an alto sax, a drum kit, a Xeno trumpet, a percussion trap table and a new sound system," said Evergreen School Division board chair Ruth Ann Furgala.

The students recently competed in the Optimist Festival and the Brandon Jazz Festival, and will be showcasing their talents at a spring concert on May 24 at the Arborg Hall.

Public input requested for Canadian Environment Assessment

By Jeff Ward

Indigenous groups and the public are being asked for their comments on which aspects of the environment could be affected by the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin Outlet Channels.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) has begun a federal environmental assessment (EA) and is now looking to the public for their input. The CEAA has compiled a 42-page report that details the

project, its scope and function. Public input can come in the form of concerns about what parts of the local environment a resident is concerned about as well as what should be examined by the EA.

The project itself, proposed by Manitoba Infrastructure, is two new diversion channels that are each 23 kilometres long. One channel begins at Watchorn Bay on Lake Manitoba and connects to Birch Bay on Lake St. Martin. The second connects Lake St. Mar-

tin to Lake Winnipeg. The project also calls for two combined bridge and water control structures and a 24-kilovolt distribution line.

The document can be viewed in full on the CEAA's website and in person at the RM of Grahamdale office in Moosehorn, the Evergreen Regional Library in Arborg and the Millennium Library in Winnipeg. Of note in the document is the re-alignment of provincial highways and municipal roads, decommissioning and/or

repurposing of the existing Lake St. Martin Emergency Outlet, site clearing, earth moving, levelling, excavation and blasting activities.

For residents concerned about water quality, fish habitats, local wildlife and anything else related to the local environment now is the time to have your voice heard.

The CEAA will accept written comments submitted by April 15, 2018. More information can be found at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Inwood WI to celebrate its centennial year in 2019

Submitted by Valerie Watt

When the Inwood Women's Institute hold their Spring Tea and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 7 at the Inwood Memorial Hall, they will be looking forward a year to the institute's 100 years of service to the community in 2019.

Ninety-nine years of continuous activity has created some memorable times.

In 1919, a Home Economics Society was formed in Inwood. The first meeting was held in the parlour of the Hillside Hotel and Mrs. Cossette was the first president. This provided pioneer women in the district an opportunity to make new friends and at the same time offered them courses to improve their standard of living. In 1921, as membership grew, the society evolved into the Inwood Branch of the Women's Institute. Courses in sewing, millinery, canning and preserving were some of the skills taught by the



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Inwood Women's Institute will be celebrating 100 years in the community in 2019.

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home economists provided by the department of agriculture.

In 1945, the women gave wholehearted support to the building of the hall — The Inwood Memorial Hall. The ladies raised money to furnish the kitchen, provide the light fixtures for upstairs and downstairs and paid for the materials and labour to have the checkroom made. In later years, stage curtains were made, a phone installed and numerous small additions.

Fall suppers were a fixture of the community for decades and started in 1945 and continued on until 2013.

Support has been given to 4-H, with members providing leadership and prizes for public speaking competitions and demonstrations. The Inwood School received our support through donations for a CPR course, to ISAC for the play-

ground fund and an ongoing scholarship to a graduating student each year towards their post-secondary education.

Contributions are made to Goodwin Lodge and Inwood Seniors Lodge to assist with their activities. The notice board by the RM office, trees and a bench in the park are all things donated to the community at large. Many other area organizations receive support.

Many residents have received support following fires, medical emergencies and other disasters. The W.I. was happy to help our two residents who were survivors of the Las Vegas shootings in 2017.

Browsing through 100 years of meeting minutes provides an amazing snapshot of the evolution of the community of Inwood and the women who bought us through the 20th century today.

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check your owner's manual or your tires' information sheet located on the driver-side doorframe. Check your tire pressure — don't forget the spare! — at least once a month and always before a long trip.

Wheel alignment

Your suspension takes a lot of abuse throughout the winter. Always have your parallel alignment checked by a professional each spring. Your car will keep a straight course far better once your wheels have been properly aligned. And your tires will wear out much slower.

Climate control

If you want fresh air, even during a heat wave, make sure that your climate control system is in good condition and your coolant is full. In addition to doing a poor job keeping you cool, a malfunctioning air conditioner would increase your fuel consumption.

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A clean filter will improve air circulation and optimize cooling in your vehicle. Is it time to change yours? If you don't know, ask your mechanic!

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Gimli students to help reforest mangroves in Costa Rica

By Patricia Barrett

Science students from Gimli High School are taking part in a 10-day trip to Costa Rica where they'll be helping reforest a mangrove, meeting students at local schools and taking part in other volunteer activities.

"They're participating in four days of service-learning programs," said Evergreen School Division board chair Ruth Ann Furgala. "The first one will be to participate in a mangrove reforestation project in the community of Palo Seco."

Mangroves consist of several tree species that grow in the country's swampy areas, such as estuarine lagoons and river mouths, and which contribute to the development of coral reefs and sea grasses. Mangroves also support hundreds of species of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, according to the World Wildlife Fund. They can be damaged or destroyed by tropical

storms, mismanagement of banana plantations, the establishment of settlements, mining and pollutants from industry and agriculture.

In addition to their volunteer work, students will have an opportunity to explore diverse areas and attractions in the Central American country.

Those include the Central Pacific and Arenal coasts, a natural hot springs, a rainforest canopy tour, La Fortuna waterfalls and a kayaking trip along Lake Arenal. During the last leg of their tour, they'll be stopping in San Jose

and visiting the INBioparque ecosystem park which has free-roaming animals, a zoo, wetlands, botanical gardens, insect exhibits and a crocodile farm.

Students launched a number of fundraising initiatives to help pay for their trip, which cost about \$3,000 per student and was offered through EF

"THEY'RE PARTICIPATING IN FOUR DAYS OF SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAMS."



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION

Science students from Gimli High School and their chaperones gathered at the Winnipeg airport last Thursday for a 10-day trip to Costa Rica where they'll be taking part in experiential science endeavours.

Educational Tours.

"They are going to report back to the board when they return," said Furgala.

la. "And they're also going to be presenting to their own school and other schools."

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Your FARM



Advocating for agriculture

By Jennifer McFee

Agriculture advocate Chelsea Boonstra continues to cultivate a love for farming that first took root on her family's dairy and grain operation.

Today, she is spreading seeds of knowledge about the agriculture industry through her work as a sales agronomist for Paterson Grain and her role as Manitoba's ambassador for the Ag More Than Ever organization.

Her work as an "advocate" for Ag More Than Ever all started with a video that she did for a university project. The video, called "The Real Truth About Family Farms," is still attracting views on YouTube.

"I shared a video of our farm and it got noticed by some people, who started contacting me. I didn't really think it was going to blow up as big as it did. That's how this all came about," said 22-year-old Boonstra.

"As the ambassador for Manitoba, I basically promote agriculture, share pictures and videos about what I do in the industry, answer questions, attend events, talk at schools and anywhere else I might get asked to speak."

Recently, she was invited to attend Canada's Ag Day event in Ottawa.

"There were people from all over, so I got to meet many CEOs and farmers and geneticists. It was really neat," she said.

"It was a jam-packed day and it was cool to finally meet some of those people who are the core for some of our projects."

Meanwhile, closer to her home in Meadows, Boonstra can be found scouting farms for her work with Paterson Grain.

"I'll scout any customer that needs help between Teulon and Winnipeg. I basically go out and meet with farmers and check their fields to see what kind of weeds are there, what kind of pests are there, and see if there are diseases," she said.

"Then I help them decide what spray, when to spray, how much fertilizer to put down and I also do some selling as well."

For Boonstra, the work is a perfect fit to combine her passions.

"I love scouting fields. I love being outside all day and I love getting to meet different growers and seeing what's so different about their operation compared to the next person," she said. "It's great to see how I can help them benefit their operation and make them the most money. It's really interesting and I really enjoy it."

In addition to working and advocating for agriculture, Boonstra has launched a photography endeavour called Making Memories. She is already earning attention for her prairie scenes, and she is also being hired for wedding and engagement shoots. She's open to other photography opportunities and she welcomes people to contact her at chelseaboonstra@gmail.com or through Making Memories Photography (@makingmemories.photography) on Instagram.

To keep conversations about agriculture going, Boonstra also encourages farmers to share stories and photos about their farms.

"I want to be able to educate consumers and to help oth-

er farmers to share their voice. Even sharing a picture of you out in the field gets people talking and asking questions," she said.

"I would like people to know why agriculture is so important, so I really encourage others to talk about agriculture in whatever way they know how to best."



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Chelsea Boonstra is a sales agronomist for Paterson Grain and Manitoba's ambassador for the Ag More Than Ever organization.



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Hodgson man ready to make an ecological difference

By Patricia Barrett

A fisheries and wildlife management student about to graduate from a post-secondary program is intent on making an impact in the ecological world through sustainable practice.

Jerome Thiessen from Hodgson is on the cusp of graduating from the Natural Resources Management Technology program at the University College of the North in The Pas.

"Through countless field experiences and opportunities for real-life research, I have learned that conservation of wildlife and fisheries resources requires cautious management, local original thinking, and responses that are based on combinations of class theory and 'ethically-reliable' field technicians with skill sets that are related and contemporarily relevant to the challenge at hand," said Thiessen.

Ten years passed before Thiessen decided to re-enter the academic world as a mature student. He said he was inspired to return to school in 2016 after visiting the Steinbach Conservation District office where he became aware of the importance of Canada's boreal forest.

Thiessen said the two-year diploma program fosters new skill sets, allows students to share their cultural worldview and teaches systematic thinking. It offers courses in fisheries and wild-

life management, zoology, ecology, forestry management, surveying and water resources.

"The combination of field and critical thinking exercises have helped shape my opinions and solidify my choice of career in order to address

my experiences of becoming more environmentally and academically aware," he said.

About 30-40 per cent of the program takes students out to the field where they conduct moose and grouse surveys, study small mammal Longworth Trap effectiveness under high voltage Hydro lines, undertake forest health and

management surveys, and calculate stream discharge and walleye age and growth.

"Calculating walleye age and growth includes gill netting the fish, taking a cross section of the spines and calculating the rings of growth under a microscope," said Thiessen. "These rings are similar to what you would find counting rings on a tree."

Learning how to calculate the bio-statistical age and growth of fish populations has taught him a "more ecological way to manage a lake."

Job opportunities for the program's graduates are "limitless," said Thiessen. Graduates can become conservation officers, fisheries officers, fisheries technicians/technologists, wildlife

"TO ACHIEVE A WORLD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, WE NEED A NEW CONSERVATION ETHIC, NEW TECHNICAL THINKERS AND NEW RESULTS."



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEROME THIESSEN

Walleye caught on Tramping Lake, east of Flin Flon, during our fall field practicum.



Our professor teaching us about small mammals in our newly built state-of-the-art labs.

technologists or forestry technicians/managers.

Through his studies Thiessen said he came to value working outdoors and developed an appreciation for the fragility of the ecosystem.

"If we want to achieve a world of environmental sustainability with a rapidly growing population, we need a new conservation ethic, new technical thinkers and new results," he said.

NDP MLA Rob Altemeyer announces he's not running in the next election



Rob Altemeyer

By Patricia Barrett

NDP MLA Rob Altemeyer, who's had commercial fishers' backs since the government announced in 2016 it would be cutting ties with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, said he'll be completing his term in office but won't be running in the 2020 provincial election.

Elected as MLA in 2003 for the Wolseley riding, and re-elected in 2007, 2011 and 2016, Altemeyer has served his constituents for 15 years, advocating on social justice, environment and community economic development issues.

"I freely admit I am looking forward

to a bit more time with my family as I finish my term as an MLA," he said via his Facebook page March 21. "Life in a blended family with my amazing wife, three teenagers and a toddler is always interesting."

Altemeyer, who completed a Master's degree in Natural Resource Management at the University of Manitoba, will continue to do his part at the Legislature as the NDP's environment critic.

"There is still a lot of important work to be done holding the Pallister government accountable," he said. "I want to fully develop several more solid policy proposals in addition to the

ones I've done already so that whoever replaces the current government can consider these options for a fairer, kinder and more sustainable future for our province."

Altemeyer thanked local citizens, community agencies, constituency office staff and a team of past and current MLAs for achieving "over 100 physical improvements" in his riding.

"No one accomplishes anything by themselves in this business, and I've been grateful for the opportunity to help make good things happen wherever I could."

Altemeyer said he won't be running at the municipal or federal level.

Lake Winnipeg Foundation and citizen scientists identify areas of phosphorus loading

By Patricia Barrett

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation and its army of volunteer citizen scientists have gathered a wealth of environmental data about the tonnes of phosphorus flowing into tributaries and Lake Winnipeg each year.

Taking 800 samples from 75 sites, volunteers with the Lake Winnipeg Community-Based Monitoring Network identified 1,348 tonnes of phosphorus that made its way into waterways last year, with some of the sampling sites among the highest ever reported in Manitoba.

Tributaries across the province eventually empty into Lake Winnipeg, and carry with them nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which facilitate algae growth. Wastewater treatment plants, lagoons, industrial works and livestock and cropland operations all contribute to phosphorus loading.

After years of nutrient loading, algal blooms covered much of the lake's North Basin in 2006 during summer and fall, according to a 2008 report titled State of Lake Winnipeg, 1999-2007. Blue-green algal blooms produce toxins potentially dangerous to human and animal health and have been increasing in frequency each year.

Citing a need for data on phosphorus loading to the lake, which covers 23,750 square kilometres, the LWF formed the network in 2015 to help it collect water samples.

LWF executive director Alexis Kanu said 2007 was the last time phosphorus loading was calculated, showing an average total load of 7,655 tonnes. Although the 1,348 tonnes the network identified in 2017 is significant, Kanu said the data doesn't encompass all areas of the province.

What it does reveal, however, are "hotspots" in the southernmost part of the province that contribute a "disproportionate amount" of phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg, as well as other regions of concern.

"Has the loading actually increased in the 10 years since the last State of the Lake report, or are we finding so much of that because our network has identified the phosphorus hotspots where most of it is coming from?" said Kanu. "We don't know the an-

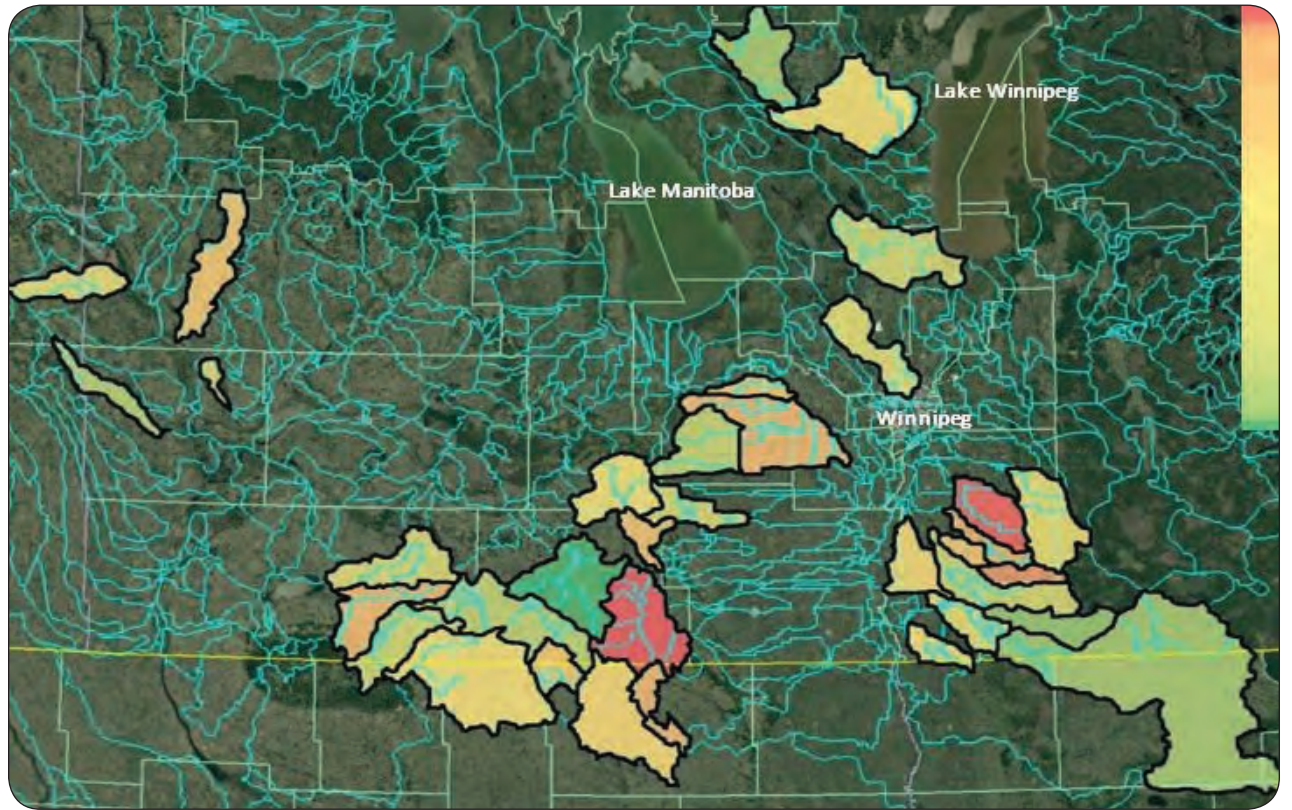


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF LWF

The Lake Winnipeg Foundation's network of volunteers collected water samples from 35 watersheds in 2017, showing areas with elevated phosphorus levels. Hotspots are shown in red.

swer to that question, and we'll have to have more years of data and more areas covered by our sampling to figure it out."

Waterways in the East Interlake Conservation District were among those the network sampled. Compared to the hotspots along the U.S. border and areas southeast of Winnipeg, the EICD area did not have "particularly high phosphorous exports," said Kanu.

That said, the Icelandic River in the RM of Bifrost-Riverton was singled out as having the highest phosphorus export at 0.33 kilograms of phosphorus per hectare per year. That translates into 41 tonnes of phosphorus having run into the water. The Ice-

landic River drains an area of approximately 1,240 square kilometres and agriculture is the primary industry.

Volunteers also took samples from the Fisher River (seven tonnes of phosphorus) and the Netley (15 tonnes) and Grassmere (12 tonnes) creeks, which form part of the EICD.

"In contrast to the Icelandic River, our report for the Seine/Rat River Conservation District reported a phosphorus export of 1.64 kilograms per hectare, so that's a lot higher," said Kanu.

The data underscore a need for local industries and those concerned about the environment to be-

Continued on page 16

Agricultural producer comments on provincial budget

Submitted

Keystone Agricultural Producers is looking forward to learning more about how the \$102 million Conservation Trust Fund announced in Manitoba's 2018 budget will be allocated, and the role farmers will play in making investments on the rural landscape.

"We are hopeful that projects supported by the fund will include on-farm initiatives that deliver ecological goods and services to all Manitobans, including carbon sequestration and flood mitigation."

The trust will be administered by the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, and Mazier said he is pleased with the arrangement.

"It's an independent overseeing of the fund. We asked for transparency and here it is."

Commenting on the exemption of marked fuels from the carbon tax, as well as emissions from livestock and crop production, Mazier said: "It's a myth

that farmers will be entirely exempt from the carbon tax. We know from the experience of farmers in other provinces that costs are passed on by the inputs and service suppliers that farmers rely on.

"Farmers don't have the option to pass on costs as prices paid to farmers for their production are set globally, based on world market demand, so Manitoba prices cannot be altered to pass on additional production costs and taxes to customers. We are hopeful that the government recognizes these costs and makes the investments back into the sector to help farmers adapt to climate change, a measure not included in the current budget."

Mazier note that heating fuels for greenhouses, grain dryers, and barns was not specifically identified as exempt from the carbon tax in the budget.

"We are hopeful that the government of Manitoba doesn't make the same mistake that British Columbia did when it introduced their carbon tax and in-

cluded it on space heating fuel. It saw a mass exodus of investment in their greenhouse sector south into the United States and was forced to create a rebate program the following year."

Mazier said he is looking forward to more details on many of the budget announcements.

"For example, we are eager to learn more about the planned output-based system, but we are pleased that mid-sized emitters including oilseed crush facilities will have the option to be included."

On another note, KAP is concerned about the increase in farmland assessment, which was not addressed in the budget. It means another unprecedented increase – in the range of 50 to 75 per cent – in municipal and school taxes for farmers.

"Farmers pay a disproportionate amount of education taxes, and we urge the government to conduct the K to 12 education review it has promised, including funding, as soon as possible," Mazier said.

Government introduces legislation to grow rural economy

Submitted

The Manitoba government is introducing new legislation that would modernize The Planning Act and ensure fair opportunities for economic development in rural municipalities, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton announced Monday.

"Our government has worked extensively with municipalities and industry to see how improvements could be made to our existing regulatory framework," said Wharton. "This new legislation strengthens our government's commitment to providing a fair say for municipalities on matters that affect their local community."

In addition to modernizing the current municipal zoning bylaw review and approval process, Bill 19 The Planning Amendment Act (Improving Ef-

iciency in Planning) would enhance "fair say" by giving municipalities the option of setting a threshold for conditional use hearings for livestock, according to local needs.

Other changes would include:

- setting timelines for municipal board reviews of development plan bylaws;
- harmonizing hearing process requirements with those established in The Municipal Act;
- introducing the option for members of the public attending planning hearings to opt to receive notice by email;
- strengthening environmental protections by introducing a technical review process for aggregate quarry proposals;
- requiring municipalities to review

their livestock operations zoning by-laws within one year;

- improving animal safety by enabling producers to upgrade existing facilities and clarifying this reinvestment does not require a new approval from council;
- dissolving the Interdepartmental Planning Board, which held its last meeting in January 2014;
- expediting the municipal zoning bylaw approval process by increasing the minor variance threshold from 10 to 15 per cent; and
- allowing municipal officials authorized by council to grant variances on zoning bylaw requirements such as square footage, height and parking spaces without holding additional council hearings.

"We have seen many examples of the

significant economic benefit that livestock development can offer communities in Manitoba," said Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler. "Our government wants to provide municipalities with the opportunity to achieve that growth and development through a more equitable process. The proposed legislation takes a balanced approach to the livestock review and approval process that improves animal safety and maintains a high standard of environmental accountability."

Municipal Relations will be hosting three information sessions in March to meet with key stakeholders, provide an overview of The Planning Amendment Act (Improving Efficiency in Planning) and answer any questions. For more information, please contact: Leeann.Petrowski2@gov.mb.ca.

> LAKE WINNIPEG, FROM PG. 15

come more active in efforts to mitigate the release of phosphorus into waterways, she said.

"I think this can be useful information for governments and land managers. There's a number of opportunities that we have right now in Manitoba. Federally, there's the Lake Winnipeg Basin program, which was

renewed last summer and which offers resources to stewardship groups. Our data can help direct where those resources go so that they have the biggest impact," said Kanu. "And this information is useful for the new provincial conservation fund in terms of identifying areas we should be focusing on for phosphorus reduction and

water retention."

The LWF's scientific advisors and staff designed robust phosphorus-collecting protocols over the course of 2015 and 2016, and figured out how best to mobilize its citizen scientists. The program was tested in 2016 in partnership with a number of conservation districts. Volunteers are trained and provided with equipment, and their samples are tested in a lab to measure phosphorus concentration and calculate the amount of phosphorus being exported off the landscape.

Peter Williams from the RM of Springfield is one of an ever-growing army of people contributing to the research program. Williams and his partner joined the network in 2017, sampling sites along Cook's Creek.

"It's such a fantastic concept of having a network of community-based people doing this sampling and having it all go into these large databases where it becomes a picture of where the phosphorus is coming from in the whole of the Lake Winnipeg Basin," he said. "And I was attracted to the LWF because it's a science-based organization."

Williams said he and his partner took about 10 samples during heavy rain events last year but plan to step it up a notch for this spring's runoff by taking two to three samples a week until water levels drop. In terms of time, he said it's not onerous, amounting to a few hours to drive to a site and collect and identify samples by place, date and time.

"Wading out into a stream and causing turbidity is not a good idea, so they suggest you do it from a bridge

or a culvert," he said.

A training co-ordinator walks volunteers through the entire process to make sure they understand how to properly take and label samples, he said. Partway through the season, co-ordinators will audit volunteers by asking them to demonstrate the protocol.

Sampling consists of lowering a bottle into the water and dumping it out a specified number of times before collecting a final sample. In addition, some of the water is poured through a filter to remove suspended particles, and that becomes sample No. 2, he said. "The first sample will have the total phosphorus tested and the second one will have just the dissolved phosphorus."

Williams will be making a presentation about the program at the Cook's Creek Conservation District office (on Pine Ridge Road) on April 16 at 9:30 a.m.

"We're hoping they'll get enthusiastic and become one of the regions involved," he said.

Five regional reports from 2017 are posted on the LWF's website. Kanu said the network's goal for 2018 is to collect 1,500 water samples and expand the numbers of sampling sites.

"We're committed to growing this network over the years and to collecting a continuous multi-year data set. We're looking for new partners and new volunteers. We're open to anyone interested in taking part."

For more information about volunteering, email cbm@lakewinnipeg-foundation.org or call the LWF office at 204-956-0436.



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get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Bunny Butt Cupcakes

seconds. Stir until completely melted and smooth. Spoon into pastry bag or re-sealable plastic bag. Snip small corner from bag. Pipe 24 pairs of bunny feet onto parchment or wax paper-lined cookie sheet. Use toothpick to smooth out bumps or rough edges, and gently tap cookie sheet on counter to help settle. Allow to harden 2 minutes in freezer or 15 minutes in refrigerator.

To make frosting: In large bowl, beat butter and remaining lemon extract until light and fluffy. Gradually add confectioners' sugar, beating well after each addition and scraping sides and bottom of bowl frequently. Add milk; beat until light and fluffy. Remove half the frosting and place in medium bowl. Add green food color; mix until evenly blended. Spoon into pastry bag fitted with grass decorating tip. Set aside. Remove half the remaining frosting into small bowl. Add red food color; mix until light pink. Spoon into another pastry bag.

Using pink frosting, pipe three toes and padding on each bunny foot. Once frosting has set (about 1 hour) gently press down on pink frosting to create smoother look.

To assemble cupcakes: Pipe green frosting onto each cupcake in series of short motions to create individual grass spots. Cover top of each cupcake completely.

To make bunny butts: Place cut sides of marshmallow halves onto each frosted cupcake, leaving room for bunny feet. Shape remaining white frosting into dime-sized balls then roll with white sprinkles to cover. Pipe small drop of remaining pink or white frosting onto top of each marshmallow. Press bunny tail on top.

Place both bunny feet against base of marshmallow with toes facing down.

Recipe courtesy of Amanda Rettke of "I am baker"

Prep time: 45 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 24

- 1 2-layer size white cake mix
- 1 tablespoon, plus 2 teaspoons, McCormick Pure Lemon Extract, divided
- 1 tablespoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 3/4 cup white chocolate chips
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 16 ounces confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 10 drops McCormick Green Food Color
- 1-2 drops McCormick Red Food Color
- 12 large marshmallows, halved crosswise
- 3 tablespoons white nonpareil sprinkles

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, adding 1 tablespoon lemon extract and vanilla. Spoon 3 tablespoons batter into 24 paper-lined muffin cups. Bake as directed on package for cupcakes. Cool cupcakes on wire rack.

To make bunny feet: In medium, microwave-safe bowl, microwave white chocolate chips on high 30



Human Decency

Cuddle up by the fireplace, or snuggle in bed with a good book, and pretend you are relaxing in a cabin in the snowy woods. Start a big jigsaw puzzle the whole family can work on. Use more candles, to create a sense of light and warmth. Write in a journal, or, if you have children, write letters they can read when they grow up - in which you share your reflections and your wisdom- they will be treasured. Do these things, instead of spending time with television or the computer, because they are soul satisfying. Welcome winter as a time of rest and renewal, as nature intended it to be.

Gwen Randall-Young is an author and award-winning Psychotherapist. For permission to reprint this article, or to obtain books, cds or MP3's, visit www.gwen.ca. Follow Gwen on Facebook for daily inspiration.

Winter for some can be difficult, especially when it is cold, dark and long. Those who enjoy winter sports tend to do much better, so these words are for those who find winter a challenge. Instead of thinking of what you do not like about winter, and comparing it to spring and summer, do a little reframing.

Think of winter as a time of semi-hibernation; a time to rest and renew after a busy spring, summer and autumn. Allow your focus to move inward, taking stock of where you are, where you are going, and of the blessings you have. Take classes or enjoy activities you would not have considered when there were so many summer activities to do.



Lemon Dill Slow Cooker Carrots

2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Lemon Extract

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon white wine vinegar

Spray inside of 4-quart slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Add carrots, water and salt; toss to coat. Cover.

Cook on high 3-4 hours, or until tender.

In small bowl, mix olive oil, dill weed, lemon extract, Dijon mustard and vinegar. Stir into cooked carrots in slow cooker before serving.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 3-4 hours

Servings: 6

Nonstick cooking spray

2 pounds carrots, peeled and cut

into 1/2-1-inch chunks

2 tablespoons water

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 teaspoons McCormick Dill Weed



Spiced Honey and Black Pepper-Glazed Ham

1/2 cup honey

1 1/2 teaspoons Spice Islands

Ground Saigon Cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon Spice Islands Ground Cloves

Heat oven to 325 F.

With sharp knife, score ham at 1-inch intervals; place in baking dish. If ham appears dry, moisten surface with water. In small bowl, combine black pepper, mustard and garlic powder. Rub pepper mixture over surface of ham. Roast according to package directions.

Combine honey, cinnamon and cloves. Drizzle over ham during last 30 minutes of roasting. Remove ham from oven and let rest 20 minutes before slicing.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Total time: 30 minutes

Servings: 12

8-10 pounds cooked shank-end ham water (optional)

1 tablespoon Spice Islands Cracked Black Pepper

1 tablespoon Spice Islands Ground Mustard

1 tablespoon Spice Islands Garlic Powder

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Teulon/Arborg Tigers win Interlake Midget 'B' banner



The Teulon/Arborg team won the Interlake Midget 'B' banner on March 19 after defeating Fisher River 5-4 in overtime. Fisher River won Game 1 5-4 and then Teulon/Arborg won Game 2 7-6. Pictured, left to right, back row: Brett Gulay (coach), Daryl Gislason (coach), Brandon Prus-Olson, Davis Sigurdson, Dalton Johnson, Bryce Good, Riley Kiel, Jayden Roche, Brett Davies, Addison Farrington, Chris Stogrin, Brody O'Neill, Dylan Chartrand, Jeff Manchulenko (coach); front row: Noah Johnson, Odin Domino, John Anslow, Carter Keil, Bret Huta, Thomas James-Davies, Ryan Hill and Brendan Reimer. Missing from the photo are Jared Sweetland and Michael Merpaw.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY JOANNE JOHNSON

Viriden leads Winkler in MJHL semifinal series

Staff

The Viriden Oil Capitals took a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven Manitoba Junior Hockey League semifinal series after a 5-2 win over the Winkler Flyers on Sunday.

Marco Creta led Viriden with a goal and two assists while Dylan Thiessen, Tristen Cross, Josh Belcher and Jeran Knorr also tallied.

Cole Kirkup and Trent Halfdanson replied for Winkler.

The Oil Capitals' roster includes

Gimli's Jack Einarson and Teulon's Brayden Pawluk.

Viriden took a 1-0 series lead after a 3-2 overtime victory last Friday.

Ben Dalke scored the game winner at 3:27 of OT.

Trailing 2-0 late in the second period, Viriden tied the score with goals from Rylee Zimmer and Knorr just 28 seconds apart.

Mitchell Dyck and Matt Krawiec scored earlier in the period to give Winkler a 2-0 advantage.

Game 3 of the series was played Tuesday in Viriden (no score was available at press time) while Game 4 is set for Thursday at Winkler.

In the other MJHL semifinal series, the Winnipeg Blues and Steinbach Pistons were tied at a win apiece heading into this past Tuesday's Game 3.

Steinbach won 3-1 in Game 1 on Friday and then Winnipeg answered with a 3-2 victory Sunday.

The Blues' roster includes Ashern goaltender Adam Swan.



Jack Einarson

Skate Canada Manitoba announces award winners

Staff

Skate Canada Manitoba will be holding their annual Awards Gala evening on April 28 at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Winnipeg to celebrate their award recipients.

"This is the time of the year when our organization gathers to recognize the successes of our skaters, coaches, and officials and to thank our many dedicated volunteers," said Donna Yee, chair of Skate Canada Manitoba.

The first set of recipients were selected from nominations submitted by members throughout the province in skater, coach and volunteer categories:

ries:

Skate Canada Manitoba CanSkate Athlete Award – Lily Hammond from the Stony Mountain Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba STARSkate Athlete Award – Emmet Dewar from the East St. Paul Figure Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba CompetitiveSkate Athlete Award – Cecilia Howes from Skate Winnipeg

Skate Canada Manitoba Program Assistant Award – Emily Gilbert from The Pas Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Award – Kirsten Duguay from Carberry Skating Club & Skate Brandon

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Coach Award – Kelly Walker from Skate Brandon

Skate Canada Manitoba Officials Award – Marj Beddall from the Beausejour Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Award of Excellence – Mary Ellen McDonald from Skate Winnipeg

Several other award/bursary recipients were also announced:

Ian Carmichael Memorial Award winner is Brooklyn Parker from the Morden Figure Skating Club

Dodie Wardle Memorial Award winner is Sadie Graetz from Skate Win-

nipeg

Manitoba Open Junior Artistic Award winner is David Howes from Skate Winnipeg

Manitoba Open Senior Artistic Award winner is Annika Duguay from the Carberry Skating Club and Skate Brandon

Manitoba Open Bursaries awarded to Shanna Yaskow from Skate Viriden, Sarah Chant from Elkhorn Figure Skating Club, Cali Boychuk from Skate Winnipeg and David Howes from Skate Winnipeg.

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Regional champions

EXPRESS PHOTO BY KRISTI MCLEOD

The Lakeside Falcons captured the Interlake Minor Hockey Association Midget 'A' Regional banner after sweeping Gimli 4-2 and 3-1 in a best-of-three series last week.

Pictured back row, left to right: Mathew Diell, John Kaartinen (coach), Devon Torgerson, Ryan Gleich, Connor Bindle, Jaxon Pilon, Carson Gudmundson, Trevor Scott, Dawson Torgerson, Jesse Le Strat, Nolan Smith, Jayson Christensen, Riley Wirgau, Jamie Christensen (coach) and Rob Scott (coach); middle row: Earl Short, Deryk Lynch and Logan Miller. Goaltenders are Dylan Lynch and Rylan Magnusson.



Nominees announced for Coaching Manitoba Impact Awards

Staff

Manitoba coaches will be honoured for their achievements in sport, leadership, personal development, and coaching effectiveness at the 2018 Coaching Manitoba Impact Awards on April 21.

Each year, five outstanding coaches are honoured for their contribution to sport, leadership, personal development and coaching effectiveness in five categories:

- Fundamentals (formerly Grassroots) - coaching at the community level
- Learn to Train/Train to Train (formerly Developmental) - coaching regional to provincial stream athletes
- Train to Compete/Train to Win (formerly High Performance) - coaching provincial, national, and/or international stream athletes
- Active for Life
- School System

The awards reflect the contributions and achievements the coach has made to sport and athletes over their coaching careers.

"Coaches teach, develop, and shape the future of amateur sport and we are honoured to celebrate their tireless and outstanding contributions," said Jeff Hnatiuk, president and CEO of Sport Manitoba, in a media release.

Sport Manitoba will also honour individuals who have been nominated by their provincial sport organization for their dedication to coaching in the Years of Service category as well as coaches who have participated at an international event in the past year.

The female and male Coach of the Year finalists are selected from the nominees from all five categories. These awards will be announced April 21 at Sport Manitoba's Night of

Champions.

The nominees - 2018 Coaching Manitoba Impact Awards

The Peter Dick Award - School System

Christine Rewniak - Volleyball
Jeff Scarcello - Volleyball
Walter Crockford - Volleyball/Basketball

Amanda Tetrault - Water Polo
The Vince Leah Memorial Award - Fundamentals

Krishna Armogan - Basketball
Jeremy Culleton - Baseball
Jessica Fichtner - Biathlon
Madison Herget-Schmidt - Figure Skating

Maryo John - Cricket
Michelle Stamm - Swimming
Tom Walls - Fotoball
Barb Wierckx - Gymnastics

The Dr. Jack Hunt Memorial Award - Learn to Train/Train To Train

Faron Asham - Baseball
Melissa Diamond - Swimming - Special Olympics

Dustin From - Lacrosse
Alyssa Grant - Basketball
Ian Grunewald - Swimming
Amy Harrison - Soccer
Jayme Menzies - Volleyball
Scott Neiles - Softball
Tanya Pilat - Figure Skating
Janine Stephens - Rowing
Josh Thordarson - Volleyball
Eric Vincent - Football

The Peter Williamson Memorial Award - Train to Compete/Train to Win

Alanna Boudreau - Athletics
Alex Gardiner - Athletics

Tanya McKay - Basketball
Kevin Monkman - Hockey
Michele Sung - Basketball
Tyler Williamson-Derraugh - Speed Skating

Global News Active for Life Award
John Csversko - Curling

Investors Group NCCP Coach Developer Award
Guy McKim

Year of Service Award recipients are Graham Collier (Basketball), Colleen Horton (Rugby), Susan Lambou (Rhythmic Gymnastics - Special Olympics), Lynn Ledyard-Boyce (Swim - Special Olympics), Darryl Ludwig (Athletics/Snowshoe - Special Olympics), Clara Miller (Five Pin Bowling - Special Olympics), Garry Nicholson (Rugby), Ian Pauley (Volleyball/Softball/Tennis), Jodi Sampson (Basketball), David Toupin (Athletics/Snowshoe - Special Olympics), Murray Wakeman (Athletics - Special Olympics), Cynthia Whitfield-Laurent (Five Pin Bowling - Special Olympics) and Joanne Zahaiko (Snowshoe - Special Olympics).

International Coaching recognition certificate recipients are Roland Ironman (Archery/NAIG), Carter Wilson (Athletics/NAIG), Dimitri Gray (Athletics/NAIG), Ken Stevens (Athletics/NAIG), Norbert Ross (Athletics/NAIG), Dana Black (Athletics/NAIG), Joey Robertson (Badminton/NAIG), Ocean Albert (Badminton/NAIG), Jon Ross Merasty-Moose (Basketball/NAIG), Raven Boulanger (Basketball/NAIG), Skylar Boulanger (Basketball/NAIG), Morgan Cross (Basketball/NAIG), Preslie Cross (Basketball/NAIG), Cadin Dupasquier (Basket-

ball/NAIG), Ben Duthhoit (Basketball/NAIG), Dirk Leavesly (Basketball/NAIG), Keith Mason (Basketball/NAIG), Liam Mayer (Basketball/NAIG), Mike Rainbault (Basketball/NAIG), Mikyla Enquist (Basketball/NAIG), Berlinda Garrioch (Canoe/NAIG), Maria Miswaggon (Canoe/NAIG), Rio Whitesell (Canoe/NAIG), Braedan Boschman (Golf/NAIG), Joseph Houle (Lacrosse/NAIG), Malcolm Blacksmith (Lacrosse/NAIG), Don Jacks (Lacrosse/NAIG), Tyndall Fontaine (Lacrosse/NAIG), Edwin Edwards (Lacrosse/NAIG), Vanessa Monkman (Lacrosse/NAIG), Chelsea McKay (Soccer/NAIG), Janelle Chartrand (Soccer/NAIG), Nicole Chartrand (Soccer/NAIG), Kyle Muswagon (Soccer/NAIG), Gary Swanson (Soccer/NAIG), Simone Turner-Cummer (Soccer/NAIG), Stanley Batur (Soccer/NAIG), Shawna Spence (Softball/NAIG), Randy Strong (Softball/NAIG), Amanda Lamy (Softball/NAIG), Tyler Woodhouse (Softball/NAIG), Mike Muskego (Softball/NAIG), Jessica Spence (Softball/NAIG), Trent Robinson (Softball/NAIG), Kim Moors (Swim/NAIG), Ben Sewchuck (Swim/NAIG), Jordan Bighorn (Volleyball/NAIG), Mike Bowers (Volleyball/NAIG), Jayme Menzies (Volleyball/NAIG), Marc Proulx (Volleyball/NAIG), Kiinan Stevenson-French (Volleyball/NAIG), Meaghan Proulx (Volleyball/NAIG), Tristan Dreilich (Volleyball/NAIG), Brock Munro (Wrestling/NAIG), Kendall Robinson (Wrestling/NAIG), Ron Struch (Alpine Ski - Special Olympics), Joanne Zahaiko (Snowshoe - Special Olympics) and Sabrina Klassen (Snowshoe - Special Olympics).

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Lake Manitoba First Nation wins annual hockey tourney

By Jeff Ward

Lake Manitoba First Nation's team Animoozeebeng put on a strong display of hockey prowess last weekend at the third annual Louis Riel Classic Hockey Tournament in Ashern.

The weekend tournament pitted five teams against each other with Animoozeebeng, which means Dog Creek in Ojibwe, defeating the Lundar Falcons 6-2 in the final.

The winning team will have their name displayed on the Hawker Steel Championship Trophy and the team received \$2,500 in cash. The Lundar Falcons took home \$1,500 and the Vogar Vipers took \$750. The Vipers also won the skills competition. Orrin Hogue of Lundar was named top defenceman and Romano Paul of Animoozeebeng was named MVP of the tournament.

Jason Bednarek won the Calcutta auction and received \$1,200.

Ashern Arena president Tyler Geisler said that the proceeds from the event will go towards the arena. At press time, the profits from the event were unknown.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TYLER GEISLER

Team Animoozeebeng won the Hawker Steel Championship Trophy along with \$2,500 after defeating the Lundar Falcons 6-2 in the final during the third annual Louis Riel Classic in Ashern last weekend.

Peguis, St. Malo to clash in KJHL final

By Brian Bowman

When the Keystone Junior Hockey League final begins tonight at 8 p.m. in Peguis, it will be a battle between two teams playing some very good playoff hockey.

St. Malo is fresh off defeating the regular-season champion Selkirk Fishermen in seven games last Sunday while Peguis was able to rest after sweeping the Lundar Falcons in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

It should be an entertaining series between two talented teams.

"I think it will be a good series," said Juniors' head coach Kevin Monkman Monday evening. "They are kind of like what we were last year. We kind of got hot at the right time."

St. Malo is led by forward Tyrel

Bueckert, who led the team in goals (23) and points (55) during the regular season. He has been equally as good in the playoffs with nine goals and 19 points in just 10 games.

Shaquille Houle has also been real good in the post-season for St. Malo with 10 goals while rookie Alex Murray has seven tallies.

"They have some guys that can put the puck in the net," Monkman noted. "And their goaltending with David Allaire, which I've seen a few games in the playoffs, he has played well holding them into games."

Peguis has also been getting good goaltending while playing sound defensive hockey. That's a key for the Juniors because Peguis has had no trouble scoring so far in this year's

playoffs.

"We've been going well," Monkman said. "Goaltending has been strong and our defence has been strong. Our biggest thing is that we have been playing good defence first and letting that take care of the offence."

Romano Paul has been red-hot for the Juniors in the playoffs with 13 goals and 19 points in just seven games. He was also a big contributor in Peguis' playoff run last year which resulted in a league championship.

Keevan Daniels-Webb has also been very good with four goals and 12 points.

Peguis is undefeated in the playoffs after sweeping North Winnipeg and Lundar. The Juniors have outscored the opposition by a wide 43-17 margin

this post-season.

Peguis was especially good in the semifinal sweep over Lundar.

"We played well," Monkman noted. "In the first game they got the lead on us, but after that, we kind of wore them down by rolling four lines. I think our depth really took over in that series because of the fact that we can roll four lines."

Game 2 of the KJHL final is set for Tuesday (8 p.m.) in St. Malo while Game 3 returns to Peguis on April 6 at 8 p.m.

Game 4 of the series is slated for April 8 at 3 p.m. in Morris.

If necessary Game 5 is set for April 11 in Peguis, followed by Game 6 on April 13 in Morris and Game 7 April 15 back in Peguis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Antique & Collectible Sale! Huge spring event! Largest of the season. Over 220 tables! Friday, April 6, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$5 per person. Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Great selection, door prizes and free parking.

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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

Sudoku Answer

S	E	S	O	L	C	N	E	S
E	N	I	N	D	N	V	S	E
R	E	D	D	N				
G	N	T						
V	N	V						
S	E	O	N	E	S	S	E	I
I	S	E	H	C	E	R	N	S
L	E							
S	I	E	S					
Y	V	O	H					
J	V	O	J	S				
C	N	S						
S								

Crossword Answer



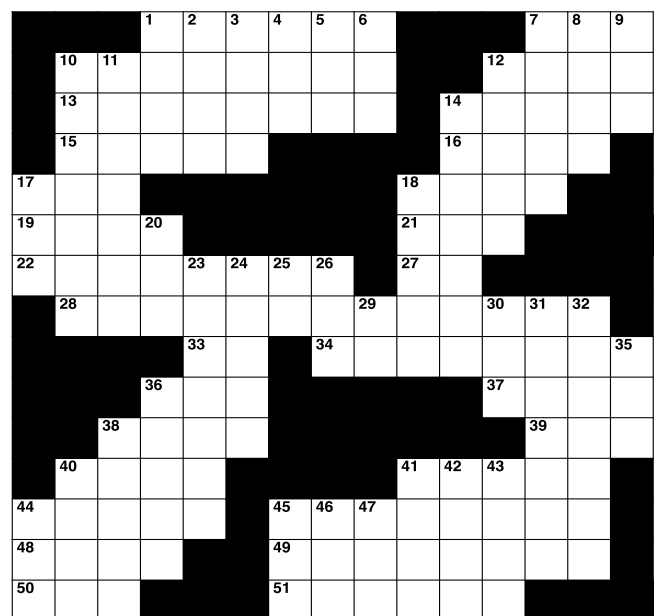
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Latin American dances
- European viper
- Finch-like birds
- Civil rights college organization
- A person who organizes
- Small carnivorous mammal
- City in Sweden
- Grayish-white
- Google certification (abbr.)
- Six (Spanish)
- The highest adult male singing voice
- Political action committee
- Exterior part of a home
- And, Latin
- Where pirates hide their bounty
- Six
- Cores
- Diego is one
- Carvey, comedian
- Aromatic plant
- Carry with great effort
- One point east of southeast
- Female cattle's mammary gland
- Small fries
- Optimistic in tough times
- Make less distinct
- Surrounds
- Cost per mile
- A local church community

CLUES DOWN

- "Beastmaster" actor Singer
- Rice-distilled liquor
- Messenger ribonucleic acid
- Wet, muddy ground



- Have an obligation to
- Defunct Chevy convertible truck
- Deer-like water buffalo
- Skin lesion
- Amount in each hundred (abbr.)
- Where kids play ball
- Roman judge
- One who endures hardship without complaint
- Cover the sword
- "Frozen" actor Josh
- Eyeglasses
- Metal-bearing material
- Primitive persons
- Wild ox
- Group of countries (abbr.)

- Before
- Spanish be
- Opposite of the beginning
- With three uneven sides
- Gives a permanent post to
- Actors' group (abbr.)
- Cavalry sword
- Gland secretion
- Marine invertebrate
- Hybrid citrus fruit
- Pairs
- Used to serve food
- English broadcasting network
- Calendar month
- Comedic actress Gasteyer
- Company that rings receipts

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SHOWER ANNOUNCEMENT



A bridal shower in honour of Jessica Stobert, bride-elect of Quinn Vandersteen, will be held Saturday, March 31, 2018 1 p.m. at the Arborg Hall. The couple are registered at Arborg Home Hardware and The Bay. Their chosen colours are blue, grey, yellow and red. Monetary donations may be left at the Arborg Co-op. A social evening will follow at 8 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Daniel and Jean Gudbjartson Together with Michael and Rena Zinkowski Are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Caitlin and Travis. A bridal shower will be held April 7th, 2018 at 1 p.m. at the Riverton Community Hall. A social will be held that evening at 8 p.m. The couple is registered at The Bay, Arborg Home Hardware, The Bay Home (Home Outfitters).

OBITUARY



Svetlana Domashchenko Johnson

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Svetlana Domashchenko Johnson on the morning of Sunday, March 18, 2018.

A memorial service will be held at the Ardal-Geysir Lutheran Church in Arborg, Manitoba on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the charity of your choice.



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The Noventis Board of Directors has three positions to fill, and **it's time to vote!**

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OBITUARY



Alan (Muzz) Bjornsson
April 25, 1954 – March 3, 2018

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and papa while wintering in Bucerias, Mexico. He left us suddenly and much too soon.

Left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 38 years, Trina; his four children Carly, Jordy (Kayli), Chelsey (Colin), Torey (Adam); and his eight grandchildren: Dylan, Carson, Brooklyn, Halle, Hayden, Taylor, Brody and Whitley. Also left to mourn his loss are his sister Darlene; his brother David; mother-in-law Irene; brothers and sisters-in-law Max and Pat, Mike and Terry and Rob, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents Magnus and Kathleen; his father-in-law Mickey and sister-in-law Judy.

Muzz was born April 25, 1954 in Eriksdale, MB and grew up in the Lundar area. After high school he went to university for four days, where he said he learned everything he needed to know. In 1972 he began his career with MTS as a Cable Splicer, a job he loved and took pride in, and through his time there made many lifelong friends. In 2010, after retiring from MTS, Muzz and Trina ventured out to Fort McMurray where he worked for Telus and Valard Construction. In 2015, retirement became official, and he and Trina began their winter getaways in Bucerias, Mexico.

Muzz enjoyed golfing, fishing, playing pool volleyball in Los Amores and following the Winnipeg Jets, but most of all, he loved his family. He will be deeply missed.

A sincere thank you goes out to all those who helped Trina in Mexico, to Nancy and Alex for driving to appointments and especially for translating, to Pete for airport runs, and to Max and Pat, for your love and support throughout this devastating time.

Family and friends are invited to join us as we celebrate his memory on Thursday, May 17, 2018 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Lundar Legion Hall. A private family interment will be held at a later time.

OBITUARY

Earl Gudmundson



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert Earl Gudmundson at the Gimli Hospital, surrounded by the love of his family on March 21, 2018.

Earl was born on September 2, 1937 and is survived by his wife, Toby; his children, Terry (Susan), Bobby (Joanne) and Kim (Alex); his stepchildren that he treated like his own, Sherri (Brian), Darryl, Dean, and Mark; grandchildren, Derek, Stefan, Darren, Justin, Jon, Erin (Eric), Stephanie, Darren, Sasha, Dale, Selena and Sella; great-grandchildren Lucas and Kenzie; brothers, Roy (Carol), Gene, Ken (Theresa); many nieces, nephews and friends, especially his good buddy, Russell Collins.

He was predeceased by his parents, Gudjon and Stina; brothers Lloyd and Ernie; sister Joanne; also a sister Darlene in infancy. He will also be re-united with his best bud Hughie Sigurdson.

The way Earl lived his life could be an example to all. He was hard working, honest and truly young at heart. He loved being with family and he enjoyed nothing more than joining in with the noise and chaos of the youngsters. We often wondered who was having more fun and making more noise, Earl or the kids...they all loved him! We also commented that perhaps he should get a job at a day care, he would have been a big hit with all the kids there! He had a heart of gold and would do anything for his family and friends. We are sad that he is gone and we will miss him so much, but we are left with wonderful memories that will keep him near and dear forever. His stories were always a part of any visit and he could tell some good ones!

He enjoyed making birdhouses which are proudly displayed throughout the yard. Also made sure that the bird feeders were stocked with seeds for his feathered friends.

He worked at many different jobs, at a lumber mill, logging, trapping, farming and fishing, but of them all, it was fishing he loved best.

Cremation has taken place and in accordance with his wishes, no formal service will be held. A private interment will take place at a later date.

The family would like to thank the nursing staff at the Gimli Hospital, with special thanks to Donna and Christina for their caring and support.

Don't remember me with sadness, don't remember me with tears
Remember all the laughter, We've shared throughout the years.

Now I am contented, that my life it was worthwhile
Knowing that along the way, I made somebody smile.

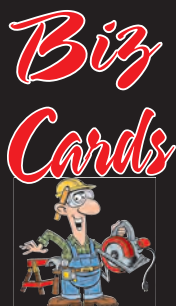
When you're walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind
I'm walking in your footsteps, only half a step behind.

So please don't be unhappy, just because I'm out of sight
Remember that I'm with you, each morning, noon and night.

Goda Nott, Elskan

Condolences, pictures and videos may be left on Earl's tribute wall at
www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



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