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# Family devastated after Dugay killing conviction reduced

By Patricia Barrett

Family and friends of Hailey Dugay, a 20-year-old woman who died after being shot on a rural road, say they're feeling profoundly let down by Manitoba's justice system after Hailey's killer had his charge reduced to manslaughter last month.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal reduced the conviction to manslaughter, citing concerns with how intent was determined in the original verdict.

Hailey's family and friends describe her as having been a loving, responsible young woman with a concern for others' well-being and a passion for horses. Hailey graduated from Gimli High School and worked in the health-care system in the Interlake. She was looking forward to embarking on a new career in childhood education and buying a home with her boyfriend when she was fatally shot.

Hailey's mom, Dana DesRoches, spoke with the *Express* last weekend, often crying as she expressed feelings of irreparable loss for her daughter who'd been a "light in our lives," as well as a sense of betrayal by the appeal court's ruling.

William Ryerson Comber, the man who took her daughter's life, won an appeal to have his charge reduced from second-degree murder to manslaughter. The court ruled that the jury's 2022 verdict hadn't been reasonable with regard to intent when Comber shot at the vehicle. Intent to cause mischief to property was not the same as intent to cause bodily harm, it argued.

DesRoches said she set down some of her thoughts on paper as she and her family are experiencing



Hailey (right) with Jasmine, her adopted sister and best friend.

a range of emotions that include anger and grief as they're forced to relive the tragedy of Hailey's death and thoughts about the man who killed her.

"When the jury convicted him of second-degree murder, it was a moment of hope, a glimmer of justice for Hailey and our family," she said. "But now that hope has been overshadowed by a ruling that seems to diminish the seriousness of his actions. Hailey was shot down in a moment that was meant to be filled with life and possibility, targeted by a



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANA DESROCHES  
Hailey Dugay, 20, was fatally shot near Fraserwood in 2018. William Comber was convicted of second-degree murder in 2022, but the Manitoba Court of Appeal reduced the conviction to manslaughter in March. Sentencing is expected before June.

Continued on page 5



## Evergreen Staff Spotlight Celebrating the People Who Make Our Schools Work

### Meet Christof Hasselfield – Grade 8 English Language Arts & Grade 7/8 Core French Teacher, Gimli High School

For the past five years, Christof Hasselfield has been helping middle years grow as readers, writers, and language learners. As a Grade 8 English Language Arts teacher and Grade 7/8 Core French teacher at Gimli High School, Christof brings energy, care, and a strong commitment to helping students build confidence in their learning.

Christof's path to teaching began through coaching and supporting youth as a teenager. Helping his father with his younger brother's teams, along with the influence of several teachers who made a lasting impression on him, sparked his interest in education. "Their impact showed me how meaningful this profession can be," he says. "It inspired me to pursue a career where I could have that same positive influence on students."

Teaching, Christof explains, is far more complex than many people realize. Each day, students arrive with different strengths, challenges, and experiences. Balancing those needs while helping every learner succeed requires flexibility, patience, and creativity. "Seeing students build confidence and achieve success makes the effort deeply rewarding," he says.

Some of the most meaningful moments come when students suddenly understand something they've been struggling with. "You can see the excitement and confidence right away," Christof shares. Another powerful experience has been reconnecting with former students and seeing how much they've grown. This year is particularly special for him, as his very first group of Grade 8 students are now graduating in Grade 12. "Watching their growth over the years is a powerful reminder of why this work matters."

What Christof appreciates most about Evergreen is the strong sense of community. After growing up in the city and moving to Gimli, he quickly recognized how connected the schools and community are. "It's a tight-knit division where educators support one another, and where you can truly see the positive impact schools have on students and families."

Christof also believes the public should understand that strong partnerships are at the heart of public education. "Schools, families, and communities all play a role," he says. "Teachers are committed to supporting students not only academically, but also in building responsibility, resilience, and confidence for the future."

Thank you, Christof, for your dedication, leadership, and for helping Evergreen students grow into confident learners and young adults.

Interviewed by trustee Sandra Davies



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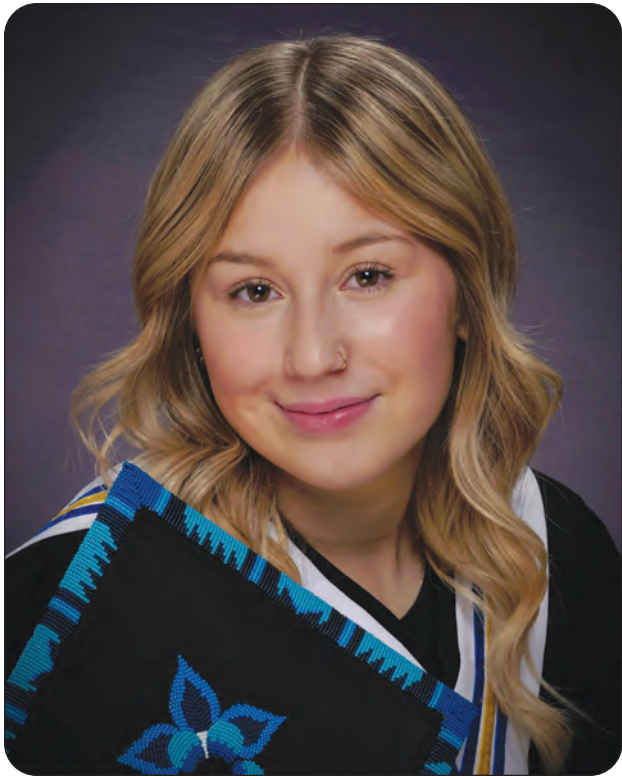
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# Fisher Branch student earns prestigious national scholarship



By Annaliese Meier

A Grade 12 student at Fisher Branch Collegiate is being recognized for leadership, community involvement and academic success after earning a prestigious national scholarship.

Kimberly McPherson-Klimchuk has been awarded the BMO Financial Group Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow scholarship through the University of Manitoba, valued at \$16,000 over four years.

The award recognizes Indigenous high school graduates who demonstrate excellence in leadership, academics and community service. It requires a minimum 90 per cent academic average along with strong communication skills, community involvement and well-rounded achievement, and is awarded to only a small number of students across Canada each year.

McPherson-Klimchuk is the first female student from Lakeshore School Division to receive the honour and just the second recipient overall.

For McPherson-Klimchuk, the moment she learned she had been selected carried significant meaning.

"It was a really emotional moment because it showed me that my hard work, dedication and goals are being recognized and supported," she said, adding the award also brings relief as she prepares for post-secondary studies.

A member of Peguis First Nation, she said her upbringing and connection to her culture have played a central role in shaping her outlook.

"Growing up connected to my culture and community has taught me the importance of caring for others, giving back, and leading with compassion," she said.

That perspective is reflected in her involvement at school and in the community. As student council president, she helped lead food hamper drives and fundraising initiatives, while also volunteering as a coach and referee for youth sports. She has also been a multi-sport athlete, serving as co-captain of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams.

Her experiences at Fisher Branch Collegiate, she said, helped build the foundation for her success.

"Being part of a supportive school community helped me grow both academically and personally," she said. "The encouragement from my teachers and peers pushed me to stay focused on my goals and believe in my potential."

Vice-principal Donna Gislason said McPherson-Klimchuk's commitment and drive have set her apart.

"She consistently ranks near the top of her class, and her dedication to her studies is evident through her impressive grades and her willingness to seek out additional challenges," Gislason said.

Beyond academics, Gislason pointed to her leadership within the school.

"She has been actively involved in various ex-

Continued on page 8

**EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
Kimberly McPherson-Klimchuk, a Grade 12 student at Fisher Branch Collegiate, has been awarded the BMO Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow scholarship through the University of Manitoba, recognizing her leadership, academic achievement and community involvement.

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# Barvinok dancers take nine routines to provincial stage

By Lana Meier

Members of the Gimli Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club took part in the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival held at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre over the weekend in Winnipeg.

The club entered nine dances in total, with participants ranging in age from four to over 40 years old.

Barvinok's two youngest groups competed at the novice level, where dancers receive gold medals but are not formally adjudicated.

At the beginner level, the club's second group earned two gold medals, while all remaining groups received silver standings in their respective categories.



Zakarpattia earned a silver standing with a score of 89 per cent.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Members of the Gimli Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Club performed at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival in Winnipeg over the weekend. The club entered nine dances, with participants ranging in age from four to over 40. Zakarpattia earned a silver standing with a score of 88 per cent



Central received a 91 per cent to earn gold.



The two novice teams earned gold medals for participating.




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## > HAILEY, FROM PG. 2

man who discharged his firearm with complete disregard for people inside that vehicle.”

Hailey was one of the passengers in a vehicle when she was shot in the back near Fraserwood on Nov. 18, 2018, after a celebratory night out at the Fraserwood Hotel with her boyfriend and friends. One of her friends in the vehicle performed CPR on her.

Her boyfriend had stopped briefly to speak with Jesse Paluk, who was standing on the road and had earlier been at the hotel where he was involved in a fight with other people. Paluk, who had attended school with Hailey, had been expecting those people to come after him. Paluk’s friend, William Comber, had joined him. Both men had guns as they had allegedly been hunting earlier in the day.

When Hailey’s boyfriend drove off, shots were fired at the vehicle, one of which took Hailey’s life. Police later determined that it was Comber who had fired the fatal shot.

In 2022, a jury found Comber guilty of second-degree murder, and in 2023 he received a life sentence with no parole for 12 years. He immediately appealed the verdict. And late last month, the Manitoba Court of Appeal reduced that charge to manslaughter.

DesRoches said she found out about the appeal court’s decision from the Crown attorney and was “taken aback as it was definitely not what I expected to come out of the appeal.”

And before she had a chance to sit down with her children, tell her mom and other family members and friends about the decision, a city media outlet reported on it, depriving her and her family of “privacy” to deal with what they feel is a “shocking” decision by the court.

“There was quite a bit of stress around that,” said DesRoches. “I hadn’t even had an opportunity to tell anyone, nor did Victim Services to reach out to [us] before the story was posted.”

DesRoches said she has been poring over the appeal court’s 54-page written decision, highlighting things she feels aren’t correct and trying to make sense of how the three justices came to their conclusion. And she’ll be meeting with a Crown lawyer this week to discuss it.

“[Comber] aimed not into the air, not into the woods, but directly at a car he knew contained human lives, including my precious daughter,” said DesRoches. “How can the act of shooting at a vehicle, fully aware that it houses innocent individuals, not be seen as an act of intent to cause harm? It defies logic and empathy, and it feels like a betrayal to our family and to Hailey’s memory.”

Added to that sense of betrayal is Comber’s history for “disregarding” the law, having been prohibited from owning a firearm, and exhibiting violent behaviour while imprisoned, after being denied bail, in which he threatened a delivery driver with a knife and escaped the facility before being arrested later.

“His defence was built on denying the truth, claiming he never had a gun, even in the face of overwhelming evidence,” said DesRoches.

During the trial, she said Comber made a comment after the family had read out their victim impact statement.

“He stood up and the only thing he said was, ‘I’m sorry she died. It wasn’t me,’” said DesRoches. “Then he sat down.”

With a lesser charge of manslaughter, it’s possible Comber could be released sooner.

The appeal court’s decision to reduce the charge has DesRoches concerned about the implication for other criminals to “evade true justice” and set a legal precedent (i.e., past cases that reflect principles lower courts follow to ensure consistency in the justice system) for future similar cases, she said.

“This ruling not only shifts the charge, but sends a disturbing message about accountability in our justice system. It suggests that intent can be excused or overlooked when the consequences are so dire — we’re talking about life and death,” said DesRoches. “The judge’s statement that the intention to cause mischief to property is not automatically synonymous with the intent to cause bodily harm should raise alarms for all of us. What precedent does this set for future cases?”

DesRoches said she’s hoping the outcome of the upcoming sentencing hearing will not significantly differ from the term Comber had already been given.

“This will never bring Hailey back. It’s definitely hard to have this brought up again. It will be almost eight years this November that we’ve been trying to heal from this, and they’re ripping the bandaid off,” she said. “We’ve not had any closure yet. We thought we had; now this has changed everything.”

Jasmine Kaegi, Hailey’s older sister and best friend that the DesRoches-Dugay family had adopted after Kaegi experienced a family tragedy, said the appeal court’s decision is “traumatizing” them.

The family is having to relive the circumstances around Hailey’s death and has to undergo the legal process once again after Comber had already been — by unanimous jury vote — found guilty of second-degree murder.

“It’s not right that it can be downplayed to manslaughter when there has been zero accountability or remorse shown from [Comber]. It’s traumatizing living through the court system again. It doesn’t feel right that shooting at a vehicle with known occupants can be considered manslaughter, especially when the person shooting is well aware of the risks of shooting a firearm in any capacity,” said Kaegi. “This wasn’t an accident that resulted in a death: this was a deliberate act that took a life and yet here we are, getting a lesser punishment from the appeal court.”

Kaegi said her family has been through so much already and they thought they had gotten closure after Comber got a life sentence.

“And now we’re back in the court system looking for justice and closure,” she said. “The whole situation simply isn’t something I’d wish anyone to have to go through. We just

want some peace.”

To provide Interlake youth with programs that will help them develop self-esteem and provide them with life and career skills, as well as engage them in recreational activities, DesRoches set up a charity in her daughter’s name (Hailey’s Way Inc.) a few years ago, and the funds raised will go directly to programs and services.

Family friend Kristin Strachan, who serves as vice-chair of Hailey’s Way, said the court’s reduced charge, the drawn-out legal process and Comber’s lack of remorse do not feel like justice for Hailey and her family and friends.

“I was deeply disappointed to learn that the charges against Hailey’s killer, William Comber, were reduced from second-degree murder to manslaughter. From what has been reported, this decision appears to rest heavily on arguments about where he supposedly aimed his gun at a moving vehicle — an act that nonetheless ended a beautiful young life,” said Strachan.

“This outcome feels profoundly unfair to Hailey’s family and friends, who must continue living with unimaginable loss. Prolonged and drawn-out legal decisions only compound their suffering, forcing them to relive their trauma again and again. Justice delayed and diluted does not feel like justice at all.”

Comber has prior gun-related of-

Continued on page 7

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## A call to leadership

By Cam Dahl, GM, Manitoba Pork

A former boss once told me something that has stayed with me for 25 years: "Often you have a choice between being seen to be trying to get something done or actually getting something done." Collaboration, which is critical to achieving key objectives, can mean credit for hard work is unevenly recognized. However, now is the time in agriculture when getting things done must take precedence over recognition of individual organizations.

Almost all agricultural commodities are facing existential threats and significant uncertainty. War has disrupted supply chains and driven up input costs. The review of the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), along with the threat of U.S. tariffs, has created uncertainty for North American trade. Protectionism is rising globally, not just south of the border, with Chinese tariffs on pork and Europe's non-tariff trade barriers among the leading examples.

Agriculture must take a "whole plate" approach to these challenges rather than addressing them commodity by commodity. By stepping outside individual commodity silos and regional perspectives, the industry can not only respond to these threats but also realize the vision of making Canada a global food powerhouse.

There are positive steps in this direction. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has brought together a coalition under the banner "Let's Grow Canada" to support policies encouraging investment in research and development. CropLife Canada's "Grow Canada Strong" initiative has similar objectives. Canada currently ranks last in agricultural research in-

vestment among the top seven countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This must change if we are to weather current geopolitical challenges.

Canada is at an inflection point. Agriculture has an opportunity to present governments with a vision for attracting private-sector research and development investment that partners with industry, farmers and governments, rather than relying solely on public-sector solutions.

Farm Credit Canada has launched a "Let's Grow Canada" website aimed at showcasing the stories of Canadian farmers and food producers. The goal is to promote a better understanding of the strengths of Canadian agriculture and help drive investment from both domestic and international sources. While initiatives from the CFA, FCC and CropLife demonstrate leadership, this level of collaboration is not yet standard practice.

The review of our most important trade agreement, CUSMA, is underway, with major implications for Canadian agriculture. These include the risk of new tariffs and origin rules that could disadvantage Canadian exports such as live animals, red meat and biofuels. The shift in U.S. trade and foreign policy in recent years, across political lines, signals that renegotiations will be challenging.

Agriculture must be better prepared. Export-oriented sectors need to come together to develop a unified strategy for these negotiations. This includes delivering real-time, consistent advice to negotiators, engaging effectively with U.S. partners, and being willing to present governments with difficult truths. Commodity groups cannot afford to act alone and hope for favourable outcomes.



Cam Dahl, GM, Manitoba Pork

Achieving a united front will require leaders willing to step outside traditional commodity and regional silos.

Labour is another critical issue requiring a unified approach. Most sectors face labour shortages, and new Canadians play an essential role in meeting these needs. While immigration policies are under scrutiny due to pressures in major cities, rural Canada and processing facilities have distinct labour requirements. Agriculture must clearly communicate how stable employment in the sector supports community growth nationwide.

Rather than relying on short social media-driven messaging, governments need thoughtful immigration and labour policies tailored to regional and sectoral needs. Achieving this will require agriculture leaders to deliver clear and consistent messaging.

The Canadian economy faces significant threats from geopolitical instability and rising protectionism. Agriculture and food production can play a key role in mitigating these challenges. To seize this opportunity, the sector must present governments with unified, consistent policy solutions. Agriculture must lead rather than wait for others to act.

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# Digitization, migration of federal documents in the 2010s rewrites fishery history

By Patricia Barrett

The *Express* made a mistake last week with regard to the date that Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Robert T. Kristjanson, who's in his 90s, retired from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) board.

And that mistake has re-opened a disturbing chapter in the federal government's historical data migration, in which federal records with inaccurate dates are still out there on the web and can pop up when journalists and other researchers go looking for facts.

In the *Express*'s story "DFO unable at this time to reveal its preferred bidder for Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation" in the April 2, 2026, edition, we wrote that Kristjanson stepped down from FFMC's board in 2016 after serving five years.

After publication, we learned that Kristjanson actually retired from the Crown corporation's board in 2003.

The *Express* attributes its mistake to a 2016 date stamp on a 2003 federal government news release pertaining to Kristjanson's tenure on the board.

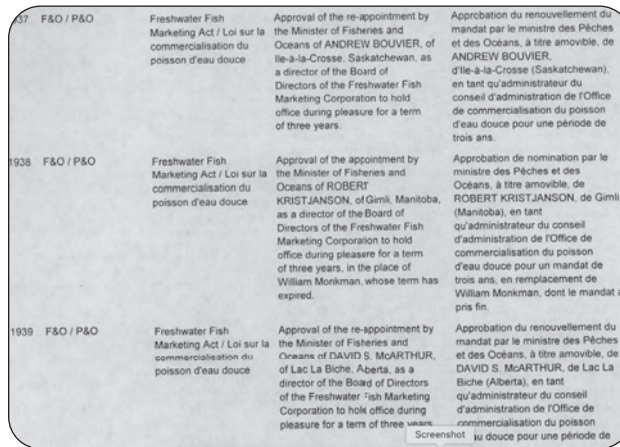
While writing its story on the sale of FFMC, the *Express* found a federal government news release online titled "Thibault appoints representatives of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation" (noting Kristjanson's retirement from the FFMC board) with a date stamp of Dec. 15, 2016, and no indication that it was from 13 years earlier.

The *Express* trusted the integrity of that news release because it had, after all, been issued by the Government of Canada.

Kristjanson, who lives in Gimli, was appointed to serve on the FFMC board in 1998 for a three-year term, which the *Express* confirmed by searching the online indices of the *Canada Gazette*.

Kristjanson's term was extended by about two years until the government appointed Edward Isfeld from Winnipeg Beach to serve in his place.

After an investigation in conjunction with Lake



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The text of Robert T. Kristjanson's appointment as director of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's board of directors is shown. Kristjanson is noted as serving a three-year term. His appointment was extended by about two years and was acknowledged upon his retirement as having served five years by minister Robert Thibault.

Winnipeg commercial fisher and systems analyst Bill Buckels, we determined that the federal government in 2013 had launched an updated design of the Canada.ca portal and embarked on the migration of documents to that portal, a one-stop shop for government departments and information. Subsequently, misleading dates were applied to historical documents.

"Because the government migrated many of its news archives to the Canada.ca platform, older press releases, like the 2003 FFMC appointment/retirement, were often re-dated or surfaced in search results with 2016 time stamps," said Buckels. "This led to public confusion in which it appeared the government was reporting Kristjanson's retirement as a current event in 2016, rather than a historical one from over a decade prior."

Buckels said government records became a "major casualty" in the 2010s with the digitization and migration initiative. When old documents were uploaded to the Canada.ca server, the system defaulted to an "upload date" rather than to a document's "original publication date." And this, in effect, "rewrote history."

Google, he added, doesn't know the "truth" about when documents were originally created as it simply indexes what exists on the web.

In addition to misrepresented dates, thousands of historical government documents such as news releases, technical reports and board appointments that the public, journalists and other researchers depend on for contextual information or to hold the government to account "simply disappeared from public view," added Buckels.

Records from the department of fisheries and oceans, for instance, were gutted during the 2010s, with the government saying it was digitizing those records to save about \$430,000.

"Photos emerged of world-class scientific research and historical records being thrown into dumpsters. Only a tiny fraction of that data was ever digitized," said Buckels. "For a commercial fisher, this wasn't just a file transfer: it was the literal destruction of decades of data on lake health, fish stocks and water safety."

The misrepresentation of Kristjanson's retirement date from the FFMC board raises a broader question about public faith in government information, he added, as the government of that particular time period had failed its duty of "archival integrity" and keeping the record straight.

"As a systems analyst, I know that data integrity is the first commandment of migration. To launch a 10-million-page migration without verifying historical time stamps is either gross professional negligence or a deliberate attempt to sanitize the record," said Buckels.

## > HAILEY, FROM PG. 5

fences, displayed extreme behaviour while in custody and a "complete lack of remorse" for killing Hailey, she added, and this further deepens the sense of injustice surrounding the case.

"These factors raise serious questions about accountability and public safety, and they underscore why so many people feel betrayed by this outcome," said Strachan. "Hailey's life mattered. Her family deserves compassion, clarity, and a justice process that reflects the gravity of what was taken from them."

DesRoches said she has not yet been given a date for the sentencing of Comber on the reduced manslaughter charge, but it's supposed to occur before June.

She posted a message on the Hailey's Way Facebook

site to inform people of the reduced charge and thanked everyone for their "incredible support" during this challenging time.

People who want to express their thoughts on the appeal court's decision to reduce Comber's charge to manslaughter can reach out to their elected officials.

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson: derek.johnson@leg.gov.mb.ca

Manitoba's Minister of Justice and Attorney General Matt Wiebe: minjus@manitoba.ca

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# Grahamdale council backs fire project, boosts worker safety funding

By E. Antonio

Fire services, worker safety and economic development funding were among key items approved during the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale's March 26 council meeting, while several major infrastructure projects remain on hold.

Council approved the next step of a storage building project for the Moosehorn Fire Department, awarding \$6,500 to McMunn & Yates for engineered drawings, code review and certification. Additional site visits will cost \$1,500 each.

The project is intended to support local fire operations, though timelines and total construction costs have yet to be finalized. Devan McCoubrey, assistant chief administrative officer, said the RM is still in the early design stages. A geotechnical study has been completed and the municipality is awaiting the report before proceeding with the engineered design.

McCoubrey said the building will be used for fire apparatus storage, adding construction must be substantially completed this year, with a new pumper truck expected in March 2027.

The project will be funded without debenture borrowing. McCoubrey said the RM carries no debenture debt and will use gas tax, provincial funding and its fire reserve.

Council also approved an increase to the annual safety allowance for

public works and waste disposal ground staff, raising reimbursement to \$300 per employee for CSA-approved steel-toed footwear or reflective clothing.

McCoubrey said the previous allowance was \$200, with seven employees eligible. The change represents a \$700 increase in the annual budget.

Council also committed \$38,500 to the municipality's Community Development Corporation (CDC) as part of its 2026 operating budget, supporting local economic development initiatives tied to a recently completed strategic plan.

The plan identifies priorities such as service retention, critical services, attracting residents, housing development, tourism marketing, facility use, First Nations partnerships, road improvements and business incentives.

McCoubrey said council has seen strong returns from previous CDC investments.

"Absolutely. Moosehorn Wayside Park, Gypsumville Wayside Park and the Steep Rock Wharf have collectively seen hundreds of thousands of dollars of investment through grant dollars received through the CDC in the last few years," she said.

Council also approved payment of \$11,119.20 to the West Interlake Watershed District for the 2026-27 levy, to be paid in two instalments, supporting regional water management and drainage initiatives.

Several larger infrastructure and regional projects remain in limbo.

Items related to the Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin outlet channels, the PR 239 upgrade, the Steep Rock drainage project and a proposed quarry request for proposals were tabled, along with multiple waste disposal and drainage initiatives.

Council also discussed drainage and road concerns in areas including Little Birch Lake Road and Sleeve Lake Road, and plans to open municipal drains ahead of spring.

Heading into runoff season, McCoubrey said the municipality is hoping for a slow snow melt to allow culverts to open and move water effectively.

Fire department updates highlighted continued activity and training. The Moosehorn Fire Department responded to a chimney fire, completed pumper truck repairs and participated in mutual aid coordination, while also unveiling its new logo. The Gypsumville Fire Department reported one call and ongoing training, including upcoming extraction courses.

Council approved sending members from both departments to the 2026 Fire & Life Safety Conference in Selkirk and the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs conference in Steinbach.

In other business, council passed a new fees and charges bylaw and reviewed its campaign expenses bylaw with no changes required.

"Minor changes were made throughout, but the most significant one was the addition of the \$200 permit fee for travel trailers," McCoubrey said.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Moosehorn Fire Department's new logo.

Council also approved attendance at a May 8 commemoration marking 15 years since the forced relocation of Lake St. Martin First Nation, and a June workshop on working with Indigenous communities.

"We see this workshop as an opportunity to build a stronger foundation for working with our neighbouring First Nations communities," McCoubrey said. "We all operate our respective governments within a very small geographic area, and there is a lot of potential for partnership here. This workshop will hopefully help us gain a better understanding of how to approach these relationships and allow the RM of Grahamdale to become a better partner as we move forward."

## Letter to the editor

### Access barriers put seniors' benefits at risk

I believe it is time to combine the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and My Service Canada accounts into a single system.

Currently, you cannot access Old Age Security (OAS), the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), dental benefits or supplements through your CRA account. However, none of these programs function unless you have filed your income tax through the CRA.

If you have not logged into your My Service Canada account in the last 18 months, it becomes inactive and you must reapply. To do so, you need a personal access code. But the system may not allow you to proceed, requiring a phone call to Service Canada. I was on hold for 55 minutes today just to request this code.

Complicating matters further, my

credit union information no longer matches their records due to mergers — from Arborg Credit Union to Noventis, and now Access Credit Union.

The representative I spoke with was helpful, and I am expecting a new personal access code in the mail within 10 days. Only then will I be able to set up a new account.

How many seniors simply give up and lose the benefits they are entitled to? This system needs to be fixed. I hope people like me remain persistent — but not everyone can. If you cannot do it alone, hopefully someone will be there to help.

- Lorne M. Harasym  
Sandy Hook

### LIBERTY QUOTE

*"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."*

— Thomas Jefferson

### > SCHOLARSHIP, PG. 3

tracurricular activities, including being student council president, where she has shown a strong commitment to fostering a sense of community among her peers."

Gislason said having two students from the division earn the scholarship in consecutive years reflects the strength of the school environment.

"Even though we are a small rural school, you can still compete against the big city schools with more resources," she said.

McPherson-Klimchuk will attend the University of Manitoba this fall, entering a bachelor of science program with plans to pursue nursing.

Her interest in health care has been shaped by strong support from both family and mentors, particularly her mother, who works as a health-care aide.

"She has shown me what it means to care for others with compassion and dedication, and she has played a big role in inspiring my goal of becoming

a nurse," McPherson-Klimchuk said.

She added that teachers and coaches have also played an important role in her journey, encouraging her to take on leadership roles and push herself to succeed.

"Their guidance and support helped me stay focused on my goals and gave me the confidence to pursue this path," she said.

The scholarship will ease financial pressures and allow her to focus fully on her studies as she works toward becoming a registered nurse.

Looking ahead, she hopes to use her education to give back.

"My goal is to be part of creating positive change, helping people heal, supporting families and giving back to my community that shaped who I am today," she said.

Being the first female recipient from her division adds another layer of meaning.

"I hope it encourages other girls to believe in themselves and go after their goals no matter the challenges they face."

# Interlake horse camp helps veterans reclaim confidence

By E. Antonio

A horse camp in Manitoba's northern Interlake is giving veterans and first responders the opportunity to reignite their spark this September.

Red Rose Ranch Veterans Horse Camp (R3VHC) is a free overnight camp near Dallas, Man., that teaches participants the fundamentals of horsemanship while offering a supportive environment for healing and connection.

For Stonewall resident Becky Lemon, the camp has been life-changing.

A retired Canadian Air Force traffic technician with 19 years of service, Lemon first attended R3VHC as a participant in 2023. She later returned as a volunteer ranch handler in 2024 and 2025 and plans to return again this year.

During her military service, Lemon developed an occupational stress injury — something she describes as closely related to post-traumatic stress disorder — which brought frequent episodes of depression and anxiety into her daily life.

"It makes your world very small," she said.

Lemon first learned about the camp through Soldier On, a program that helps serving members and veterans adapt and thrive after physical or mental injury. She applied in hopes of regaining some of her self-confidence.

"I had nothing to lose, and this camp had everything to give," she said. "It was an opportunity that helped me not let my world get as small as it could."

Although she arrived with few expectations and no prior experience with horses, Lemon said the experience quickly exceeded anything she had imagined.

"This was a turning point in my life," she said. "I got part of the old me back."

Throughout the week, Lemon said she not only learned horsemanship skills but also gained a deeper understanding of herself. Despite the initial nerves of working with such large animals, she now considers the experience transformative.

"There is something about this place — it inspired me to continue my story," she said. "I know how much this place can make a difference in people's lives. It is something that saved mine."

A key part of the camp's impact, Lemon noted, is the strong sense of peer support. During her first year, she formed a close friendship with fellow Stonewall veteran Kate Shields.

"When you're with people who share a similar background, it creates a powerful bond — not just with each



Stonewall resident Becky Lemon, a 2023 R3VHC participant and current volunteer, is pictured with Melody. Lemon says attending the camp helped her regain confidence and a renewed sense of purpose.

other but with the horses as well."

The five-day camp, which offers separate weeks for women and men, fully immerses participants in ranch life. Each day begins with a 6 a.m. coffee chat, followed by chores such as cleaning stalls and mucking fields. Campers then gather for a family-style breakfast in the more than 100-year-old barn.

Mornings and afternoons are dedicated to horsemanship training, where participants learn about saddles, halters, equine equipment and riding techniques. Evenings include shared meals, downtime and bonfire discussions before campers turn in for the night in the barn loft.

While the schedule is full, Lemon said organizers strike a careful balance.

"It's busy, but it never feels overwhelming," she said. "They make sure it stays fun and manageable."

The week culminates in a long horseback trail ride on Thursday, complete with a fireside lunch and a visit from a Knowledge Keeper from Peguis First Nation.

One of the most important aspects of R3VHC is that the program is completely free for participants.

"We know that cost can be a major barrier, and we want to eliminate that obstacle," Lemon said.

As a non-profit organization, the camp relies on community donations and sponsorships to cover expenses such as horse rentals, food and utilities.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Participants at the Red Rose Ranch Veterans Horse Camp (R3VHC) take part in hands-on horsemanship training during the weeklong overnight camp near Dallas, Man., where veterans and first responders build skills, confidence and connection.

Bobby Wuskynyk, a founding member of R3VHC and current board director, said the camp has had a profound impact — not only on participants but on himself as well.

A 22-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces and a current RCMP member, Wuskynyk said he understands the challenges that come with high-stress careers.

He turned to horses as a source of peace and well-being, finding benefits for his emotional, physical, social and spiritual health.

The idea for an equine therapy program in Manitoba began nearly 15 years ago, but it wasn't until 2021 that the vision became reality.

"I met a group of veterans who shared the same love of horses," he said. "Conversations started, and one thing led to another. I'm so proud of what this camp has become."

Looking ahead, Wuskynyk hopes to expand the program to include a family or spouses' week, recognizing the important role loved ones play in the healing process.

"To see the traction and the impact we're having is incredible," he said. "This wouldn't be possible without our directors, volunteers and donors who continue to support us year after year."

R3VHC hosts several fundraising events throughout the

year and accepts ongoing donations through its website.

Its next fundraiser, the R3VHC Charity Horse Show, will take place Saturday, May 16. The event marks the start of the horse show season and is sanctioned by both the North Interlake Show Circuit and the Manitoba Horse Council. This year's event will feature 10 competitions, along with food, music and family-friendly activities.

Additional details will be shared on the organization's Facebook page closer to the date.

The camp is also seeking sponsors to support the event. More information is available at [www.r3vhc.com](http://www.r3vhc.com).

Applications for the September camps are expected to open later this spring. With only eight spots available per week, interest is high and applicants are carefully selected based on established criteria.

"This camp can change your world," Lemon said. "So apply and try and see the life-changing difference R3VHC can make."

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# Health Canada recalls deodorant, peptides, supplements and ophthalmic solutions

By Patricia Barrett

Health Canada issued recalls for a number of products including deodorant, injectable peptides, eye drops and supplements.

The health agency issued a recall on April 10 for Axe men's deodorant body spray in various scents and Dove anti-perspirant in various scents due to a lack of hazard labels.

"These products do not meet the Cosmetic Regulations in Canada. Specifically, the products do not have mandatory hazard labelling," states the recall. "The products are missing required hazard symbols, signal words on the front of the containers and safety information. Improper labelling could result in misuse of the product and lead to serious injury."

The products are distributed by TJ Trading Co. Inc. The company reported that 384 units of the affected products were sold in Canada.

The products were sold from January 2026 to March 2026.

As of April 1, 2026, the company received no reports of incidents in Canada, and no reports of injury, states the recall.

The health agency issued a warning on April 9 advising consumers to "think twice before injecting peptides bought online" as unauthorized products can cause serious health risks.

Unauthorized injectable peptides are sold and marketed as anti-aging, bodybuilding and wellness products as well as for athletic performance, injury recovery, sleep and mental focus.

"Do not buy or use these products. If you have used them and feel unwell or have concerns, talk to a healthcare professional right away. Only buy prescription drugs from licensed pharmacies," states the warning. "Check labels: authorized drugs for sale in Canada have an 8-digit Drug Identification Number (DIN) printed on the label."

The unauthorized products include BPC-157, CJC-1295, DSIP, Epitalon, GHK-Cu, HCG, Ipamorelin, KPV, Melanotan I and II, MOTS-C, NAD+, SS-31, TB-500 and Retatrutide.

"In Canada, peptides are generally regulated as prescription drugs. Authorized peptide drugs should only be used under the care of a licensed healthcare professional, such

Product Name	Weight/Volume	UPC	Country of Origin
AXE Men Deodorant Body Spray - Musk	150ml	8720181114557	Mexico
AXE Men Deodorant Body Spray - Africa	150ml	8720181114441	Mexico
AXE Men Deodorant Body Spray - Dark temptation	150ml	8720181114449	Mexico
Dove anti-perspirant body spray - Cucumber and Green tea	107g	8717163964965	Mexico
Dove anti-perspirant body spray - Go Fresh Pomegranate and lemon verbena	107g	871160078625	Mexico
Dove anti-perspirant body spray - Invisible dry Clean touch	107g	8717163994252	Mexico

Health Canada is advising consumers to stop using the above Axe men and Dove deodorants as they do not have hazard labelling and don't meet Canada's cosmetic regulations.

as a doctor, to treat specific conditions," states the warning. "Health Canada reminds consumers that decisions about prescription medication should be made in consultation with a healthcare professional and should only be purchased from a licensed pharmacy."

Three brands of Jamieson Laboratories supplements were recalled in a notice issued April 1 because tamper-evident seals were defective.

The products are Joint Pain Relief

Capsules, Magnesium Bisglycinate Capsules and Maca (*Lepidium meyenii*) Capsules.

And nine ophthalmic solutions from Latician Ophthalmics Inc./Aved brand were recalled in a notice issued April 2.

None of the recalled products had obtained market authorization.

Visit Health Canada's Recalls and Safety Alerts website for full details, including lot numbers, of all the above affected products.

## The great divide: Winnipeg's gold-standard tap vs. the Interlake's forgotten aquifers

Submitted by Bill Buckels

As the City of Winnipeg moves forward with a multi-billion-dollar overhaul of its water infrastructure, a growing chorus of voices in the Interlake region is asking a pointed question: who is looking out for the 20 per cent of Manitobans who drink from the ground?

A technical comparison of water safety reveals a stark "haves and have-nots" scenario. While Winnipeg residents benefit from a multi-barrier treatment system that virtually eliminates microplastics and pathogens, rural Interlake residents relying on artesian or deep-aquifer wells are navigating a landscape of increasing chemical and plastic contamination with zero public support.

### The Winnipeg fortress: Deacon's multi-barrier shield

Winnipeg's drinking water originates at Shoal Lake and is processed at the Deacon Treatment Plant. Since its opening, the facility has used a sophisticated sequence of dissolved air flotation (DAF), ozonation and UV disinfection.

From a microplastic standpoint, Winnipeg is essentially a fortress. The combination of coagulation and DAF technology used at Deacon is scientifically proven to remove up to 99 per cent of microplastics and nanoplastics

from the water supply. For city dwellers, the hazard of microplastics is largely mitigated by industrial engineering before the water ever reaches distribution pipes.

### The Interlake reality: macropores and "Trojan horses"

In contrast, the Interlake sits atop a karst limestone aquifer — a geological formation characterized by cracks, fissures and underground rivers. Unlike sand-based aquifers that provide slow, natural filtration, limestone allows surface water to bypass the soil's cleaning action through preferential flow pathways.

Recent data from 2025 and 2026 confirms that microplastics are no longer just a surface-water issue. These particles migrate through cracks in the bedrock, carrying agricultural nitrates, E. coli and PFAS "forever chemicals" directly into private wellheads. In untreated wells, microplastics act as "Trojan horses," providing a surface for bacteria to cling to, protecting them from natural die-off and delivering a concentrated dose of pollutants directly to the kitchen tap.

### The "Winnipoop" factor: a cycle of neglect

While drinking water in the city is clean, its wastewater management remains a concern for the rest of the

province. The North End Water Pollution Control Centre — often derisively nicknamed "Winnipoop" by rural critics — is an aging system that continues to struggle with combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

During heavy rain or spring melts, billions of litres of raw or partially treated sewage can be discharged into the Red River. This effluent is a primary source of microplastics that eventually settle into riverbeds and leach into surrounding water tables. Critics point to a bitter irony: provincial and federal governments are investing billions into fixing Winnipeg's wastewater system, yet offer no direct protection to rural families whose groundwater may be affected by that same pollution.

### The equity gap: a call for universal water security

The financial disparity is significant. Federal and provincial governments have committed nearly \$1 billion in combined funding for Winnipeg's wastewater upgrades and reservoir maintenance. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Manitobans who rely on private wells receive no subsidies for water testing or the advanced filtration systems required to address modern contaminants.

In an equitable society, water safety should not be determined by postal

code. If governments recognize that microplastics and chemical runoff pose a public health risk, the response should be universal.

Advocates argue that provincial and federal authorities should provide rural households with certified point-of-entry (POE) filtration systems — such as reverse osmosis or ultrafiltration — at no cost. These systems are among the most effective ways to level the playing field, ensuring families in communities such as Gimli or Teulon have similar protection to residents in Winnipeg neighbourhoods like Tuxedo or Fort Garry.

### A political choice

Currently, the capital region receives the lion's share of infrastructure funding, while rural residents are expected to cover the full cost — often \$2,000 to \$5,000 — for private water treatment.

By prioritizing large-scale municipal infrastructure while overlooking broader groundwater concerns, critics argue governments risk creating a two-tier system of water security.

Until there is a coordinated effort to support rural water safety and address wastewater overflows at their source, the Interlake's aquifers will remain an under-recognized and growing concern.

# Guild's Enchanted Garden fundraiser to support new hospital equipment in Ashern

## April 24 fundraiser supports new patient-care equipment at Lakeshore hospital

By Patricia Barrett

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild is preparing to host its annual spring fundraiser next week, aiming to raise about \$10,000 for a much-needed piece of equipment at Ashern's Lakeshore General Hospital.

This year's "Enchanted Garden" themed event will support the purchase of a handheld ultrasound-guided venipuncture device for the hospital's acute care and emergency departments.

"We need to replenish our funds. At our last meeting, a request came to purchase a handheld ultrasound-guided venipuncture for the acute and the ER departments," said guild president Shelley Bjornson. "This will allow medical staff to easily find veins on patients with collapsed or deep veins. This is something the hospital said would be a real benefit to both patients and staff. It costs \$9,650 for one machine."

The fundraiser will feature a homemade meal, musical entertainment, a bake table, silent auction and a cash raffle.

"We have a great decorating committee that comes up with a different theme every year. We try to make it an enjoyable afternoon for everyone," said Bjornson. "People can just roll up and order lunch. We'll have homemade soup, homemade chili and pies and desserts. We'll have a bake table with all kinds of breads and goodies that our guild members donate. People can shop at the bake table and take part in a silent auction and our cash raffle."

Band students from Ashern Central School will provide musical entertainment from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild holds a major fundraiser every spring and has received strong community support over the years, with all proceeds directed toward enhancing patient care at the recently expanded and renovated hospital.

The provincial government has invested in upgrades at the facility in recent years. In 2025, 12 new inpatient beds were added, bringing the total to 26. In March, the emergency department was expanded, adding eight more treatment spaces for a total of 13.

Bjornson said the expansion of the medicine inpatient unit did not include televisions in patient rooms, prompting the guild to step in.

"It was brought to our attention that there were no televisions and that it was not wired for TV. Some of the guild members had family in the hospital and said the days are so long and there's nothing for them to watch," she said. "The manager we had spoken with at the hospital said it was not something they had included in the new design. But we felt it was very important ... and they accepted our proposal."

The guild purchased 26 hospital-grade, 15-inch LED touchscreen televisions at a cost of \$33,644. The units are mounted on swinging arms beside patient beds and operated directly by touch, without remotes. The televisions were ordered in December and have recently arrived.

The guild has been active for decades and will mark its 50th anniversary in 2028. Its approximately 50 members — primarily volunteers — continue to play a key role in supporting patient care at the hospital.

"Mostly, it's our guild members who donate. We ask a lot of them. We also ask them to donate baking and silent auction items. We have a friends of the guild group, too," said Bjornson. "For example, my brother donates and my neighbour donates. We do talk to some businesses and



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAKESHORE HOSPITAL GUILD  
Volunteer members of the Lakeshore Hospital Guild held a fundraiser in 2025 for the hospital that included a variety of homemade food, baked goods and desserts.

they help us as well. But it's really the guild members that put the spring fundraiser event on."

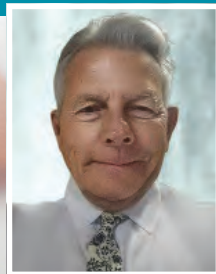
In addition to the annual spring event, the guild raises funds through funeral lunch catering, memorial donations and smaller initiatives throughout the year.

The Lakeshore Hospital Guild's spring fundraiser will take place Friday, April 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ashern Royal Canadian Legion Branch, 3 Main St. E.



The Lakeshore Hospital Guild's silent auction is shown in 2025. Guild members raise money that goes to the purchase of equipment and other items for the Ashern hospital to enhance patient care.

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# Late-season storm blankets region with up to 30 cm of snow



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON, LORNE ROSS AND MIKE SHACTAY

A fast-moving Alberta clipper swept across southern Manitoba April 7–8, dumping up to 30 centimetres of snow in parts of the Interlake region, including Peguis, Fisher Branch and Arborg and forcing widespread school closures as blowing snow and wind chill made conditions feel closer to -9 C.

## Fashion meets fundraising at Gimli Auxiliary's spring show April 30

By E. Antonio

Spring is here, and for one night only, the freshest spring fashion will hit the catwalk on April 30 at the Gimli District Hospital Auxiliary Fundraiser Spring Fashion Show, presented by Johnson's Fashion and Footwear.

Fundraiser convenor and auxiliary board member Evelyn Thompson said the idea came to life in her sleep.

"I woke up and it just hit me," she recalled. "It was the middle of the night, and I thought a fashion show at Johnson Hall would be a wonderful idea."

Doors open at 6 p.m. at Johnson Hall, where a cash-only bar will be available and finger foods will be served at guests' tables. The show begins at 7 p.m. and will feature 15 local models showcasing designs from Johnson's Fashion and Footwear.

The fashion show is a first for the auxiliary, and Thompson hopes the initiative will raise significant funds in support of the Gimli Community Health Centre and local health-care services.

The Gimli District Health Auxiliary has been in operation since 1968, growing from 12 members to more than 40 core members over the years. Its mission is to enhance the comfort and well-being of patients at the Gimli Community Health Centre and surrounding area by raising funds and purchasing health-care-related

equipment and supplies.

Funds raised are divided among department wish lists, ensuring several needs are met. Since 2008, the auxiliary has donated more than \$280,000 back to Gimli health care, benefiting 15 different departments.

In addition, members keep the hospital's drink machines stocked and provide two \$500 scholarships for graduating students from Gimli High School entering post-secondary education in a health-related field.

Thompson said she is thankful for the ongoing support the community provides, especially knowing the firsthand impact the auxiliary can make.

That impact inspired her to begin volunteering three years ago after dealing with a personal health matter. She explained that she was transported from Gimli to a Winnipeg facility by ambulance and described the experience as a "rough ride."

During her second ambulance trip, while returning to Gimli, the journey was far more comfortable because her stretcher had additional padding. That stretcher, she noted, had been purchased with proceeds from the Gimli Hospital Auxiliary.

"I was elated about this," Thompson added. "If I felt this way after receiving enhanced care, I knew I had to help others feel this way too."

Continued on page 13

GIMLI DISTRICT HOSPITAL AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER

## SPRING FASHION SHOW

Presented by: **Johnson's Fashion & Footwear**

When: **Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:00 P.M.**

Where: **Johnson Hall  
Waterfront Center, Gimli**

Tickets - \$25.00 (Door Prizes)  
Cash Only Bar - Opens at 6:00 P.M.

Tickets Available at:  
-Johnson's Fashion & Footwear  
-Gimli Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop  
-Stella Gray @ (204) 510-1459

# Share history, earn credit as volunteer tour guide at the New Iceland Heritage Museum

By Patricia Barrett

The New Iceland Heritage Museum in Gimli is inviting youth aged 16 and adults to become volunteer tour guides, help organize exhibits and work in the gift shop.

There are a variety of volunteer positions available that come with a host of benefits, including job skills and work experience that youth can add to their resumé, the acquisition of local and provincial historical knowledge, and recognition that comes with a few perks such as lunch for a full day's work.

NIHM executive director Julianna Roberts said with the school field-trip season quickly approaching, the museum would like to have a good number of volunteers as soon as possible to lead tours in Gimli.

"The school field trips include the museum and the Lake Winnipeg Visitor Centre, a walk around the hill [by the lake] and Viking Park. Guides will talk about New Iceland historic sites. They'll also do activities with kids such as gathering rocks and creating runes in which the kids inscribe their names on the rocks," said Roberts. "If it's a full-day tour, we buy the tour guides lunch."

In addition to schools, tours are also provide to international visitors and seniors groups.

The museum has roughly 50-60 volunteers doing specialized jobs at various times of the year, said Roberts.

But it can always use more helping hands.

In the fall, for instance, the museum typically needs volunteers for its gift shop. Throughout the year, it places volunteers in artefact collections, on exhibits in which they'll unpack, set up and take down displays, on paper deliveries and positions on committees and the museum's board of directors.

Full training is provided to all volunteers.

Volunteers' work doesn't go unnoticed.

"We have an annual appreciation luncheon for our volunteers," said Roberts. "This year's event is on May 1. We buy our volunteers lunch and get them a little gift."

For youth especially, volunteer work is an excellent way to pad their resumé when later applying for a paid job or when they apply for college or university bursaries, which often ask about volunteer experience, she

**"VOLUNTEER WORK IS AN EXCELLENT WAY FOR YOUTH TO BUILD THEIR RESUMÉS WHILE GAINING REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE."**

## > FASHION SHOW, FROM PG. 12

She hopes the evening is a success and is looking forward to seeing the community come together.

Kim Magnusson of Johnson's Fashion and Footwear said they are excited to see the spring show come to life, having partnered with many local organizations over the past 35 years.

"Many of our customers are auxiliary members, so this is a perfect way for us to contribute to their fundraising efforts this spring," Magnusson said. "It is also an excellent advertising opportunity for us, as we can put together a variety of ensembles — from casual to dressy — for different ages and body types."

Four distinct fashion sections will be featured — golf/sport, work-to-weekend, dresses and coordinates, and special occasion — with each model showcasing four outfits.

Magnusson said they are looking

forward to welcoming spring, especially after a long winter.

"We are looking forward to seeing all of our customers who may have been away for the winter and visiting with them during their fitting appointments," she said, noting this will be the first time their fashion is featured at Johnson Hall.

"We are celebrating 35 years in business in Gimli this year, and we are very thankful for the support, friendship, and loyalty of our customers across the Interlake, Winnipeg and online across Canada."

Guests who attend the show will also receive a 20 per cent discount to use in-store for one week following the event.

Limited tickets remain and can be purchased for \$25 at Johnson's Fashion and Footwear, the Gimli Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop or through Stella Gray by calling 204-510-1459.

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# Elevated flood risk flagged for Interlake in latest provincial outlook

By Haley Cvar

An increased risk of spring flooding is taking shape across Manitoba's Interlake, with provincial forecasters warning that above-normal snowpack and a delayed melt could lead to significant runoff in the weeks ahead.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre released an updated 2026 spring flood outlook, identifying the Interlake — including the Icelandic River and Fisher River basin — as an area of elevated concern. The Parkland region is also facing a heightened risk of overland flooding, while conditions elsewhere in the province remain moderate to low.

Officials say the elevated risk stems from a combination of factors, including significantly above-average snowpack, cooler temperatures that have slowed the onset of melting, and the potential for rapid runoff if conditions change quickly.

Recent snow surveys show the snow water equivalent in the Fisher River basin is among the highest recorded in recent years. Levels are currently sitting at approximately 113 millimetres — nearly double the long-term average — and comparable to amounts seen during past flood years.

With temperatures expected to hover near the freezing mark through mid-April, the spring melt is being delayed. However, that delay could increase the risk of a fast, concentrated runoff period once warmer weather arrives.

Flood risk in the Fisher River basin remains high, with the potential for peak flows similar to the 2014 spring flood. In a faster melt scenario, water levels could approach those seen during the 2022 flood, which were roughly two feet higher.

In response, the province has begun mobilizing resources to vulnerable communities. Tens of thousands of



EXPRESS PHOTO BY BEN HEWSON

Swans and Canada geese gather in a patch of open water beneath the Hecla causeway bridge on April 7, as lingering ice covers much of the lake. Wildlife activity continues despite delayed spring melt conditions across the Interlake region.

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sandbags are being delivered to Peguis First Nation and nearby areas, while provincial volunteers are already working with local residents to prepare flood protection measures.

The Icelandic River is also now considered at high risk of flooding following recent snowfall and the likelihood of a delayed runoff. Ice-jam flooding remains a concern along the river, as in previous years.

In the Parkland region, warming temperatures expected to exceed 10 C in the coming days could trigger overland flooding. This type of flooding typically occurs when rapid snowmelt overwhelms frozen or blocked drainage systems such as ditches and culverts.

Elsewhere in Manitoba, the flood outlook remains largely unchanged from March. Moderate risk continues along parts of the Red, Assiniboine, Souris, Saskatchewan and Carrot riv-

ers, while low flood potential is forecast for tributaries of the Red and Assiniboine rivers and much of eastern Manitoba, including the Winnipeg River basin.

Provincial officials note that spring flood conditions can shift quickly, particularly if warm weather or rainfall accelerates melting over a short period.

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as the spring runoff approaches. Residents, particularly those in low-lying or flood-prone areas, are encouraged to stay informed and be prepared.

The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization is also working with municipalities, First Nations and emergency partners to review plans, share information and ensure resources are in place to respond if flooding occurs.

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# Two bulls fetch \$20K at 58th annual Lundar sale

By E. Antonio

Strong prices and competitive bidding highlighted the 58th annual Lundar Bull Sale on April 4, with two bulls topping the event at \$20,000 each and steady demand across all categories.

According to sale secretary Rayna Gleich, two-year-old bulls led the market with an average of \$14,500, while yearling bulls averaged \$10,673.08. Purebred heifers sold for an average of \$6,437.50, and commercial heifers averaged \$5,460.

"The sale was well attended and we saw good participation from both returning buyers and new faces," Gleich said.

Sale president Jack Cruise said they saw record-breaking sale prices and averages, marking this year's event as "the best we've ever had."

He noted their excellent quality of animals and the current economic state of the cattle industry contributed to the success.

The first bull through the ring, consigned by Rawcliffe Grange Stock Farms, set the tone early, selling for \$20,000 to Twin View Polled Herefords. Another top-selling bull from Acorn Ridge Polled Herefords also reached \$20,000 and was purchased by Lundar's Sigga and Steina Vigfusson.

Michael Vigfusson, Sigga and Steina's father, said this was an easy purchase for them as it "checked all the boxes," including ensuring the bull's health and quality. He hopes their new addition fits in well with their current herd and remains healthy for a long time.

Kevin Funk of Acorn Ridge in Kleefeld said he was very grateful and humbled by this year's Lundar Bull Sale.

"We are fairly new, this being our fourth consecutive year, and have always been treated very well by the staff and other consigners," he said. "It's a very welcoming atmosphere. They have done a really good job promoting the sale over the years, providing a fun and comfortable place to buy and sell cattle."

He explained much goes into raising bulls, starting with artificial insemination for strong genetics and desirable traits. Selecting a calf to sell also comes with challenges, with Funk noting they must "show good growth, vigour and temperament from birth to the time they are sold."

Phenotypically, he looks for bulls with a high degree of muscle, moderate birth weight and strong annual gains until they reach yearling stage, along with dark red colouring, good pigment around the eyes and a tall frame with long ribs and broad hips. Genotypically, he wants his bulls to have strong EPDs — Expected Progeny Difference, a genetic prediction of an animal's ability to pass traits to its offspring.

He purchased his top-selling bull a few years ago from another high-selling bull at the Lundar Bull Sale.

"His dam is a beautiful Frontier 174E daughter



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Buyers take part in active bidding during the 58th annual Lundar Bull Sale on April 4, which saw record prices and strong demand across all categories.

ter and out of a very maternal cow family," he said. "His temperament, I'm sure, was a huge selling feature — our daughter was constantly in the stall with the bulls at the sale. She was busy brushing and cleaning up after them."

He added that forming good relationships and providing consistency within the cattle industry is also vital for success.

Gleich said volume buyers also played a key role in the sale's success. Albert Russell and Keen Stock Farms led the way, each purchasing seven animals.

"Having strong support from repeat buyers, along with those buying multiple head, really helps build consistency in the market," she said.

In addition to the sale itself, a longstanding fundraising tradition once again contributed to the event's community impact.

Each year, a member of the bull sale committee donates a heifer, with raffle tickets sold for a chance to win the animal. Proceeds from the initiative support the local agricultural society.

"This has become a highlight of the sale," Gleich said. "It's a great way to give back while also creating some excitement."

This year's donated heifer was won by Raymond Bazinet, marking the third time he has taken home the prize.

Cruise said the fundraiser has been held for the past 11 years, raising funds for the facility built that same year. The building was constructed to host sales and provide space for the Lundar Fair and other community events. This year, approximately \$16,500 was raised, with all funds going toward the loan originally taken out for the build.

"We are thankful to be able to have such a good community event," Cruise added. "Our success comes from the volunteers, sellers and buyers who work hard to support us year after year."



The donated heifer from the 58th annual Lundar Bull Sale was won by Raymond Bazinet.

"THIS HAS BECOME A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SALE."

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# Your FARM



## Kochia starting to really raise its head in Bifrost-Riverton

By Patricia Barrett

A landowner in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton said she felt as though she had stepped into an old western movie last fall when she saw kochia tumbleweeds rolling across her property and filling drainage ditches.

Deanna Fridfinnson said she's quite worried about kochia's potential to spread farther afield, affect agricultural land, interfere with drainage and even become a fire hazard.

"It's got about a bazillion seeds on it. It was incredible to see it. It was like we fell back into a western with tumbleweeds blowing across a desert," said Fridfinnson a few weeks ago. "That was the first year we saw the plant around."

She's concerned by its ability to fill ditches, which could potentially create a flooding hazard to agricultural land and rural homes.

"My ditch my was full. There were probably 50 or 60 tumbleweeds in the ditch, piled up five to six feet high. I picked one up and it was ginormous," said Fridfinnson. "My concern is that because it was filling the ditches, the drains would be plugged when the snow melts this year."

Kochia is an invasive weed. It emerges in the spring with hairy, pale green leaves and matures in the fall. A single plant can produce 15,000 to 25,000 seeds, according a factsheet from the province. It can grow to six feet high in favourable conditions and doesn't mind saline soil and drought. It dries up and breaks free of its base in the fall and rolls across the landscape with the wind, spreading its seeds.

It's a threat to agricultural land, with an ability to cause crop failure.



About 50 to 60 kochia tumbleweeds filled a ditch last fall near Fridfinnson's property.

It's considered among the "most troublesome" agricultural weed species in Canada, according to a 2025 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada study titled "Baseline survey of protoporphyrinogen oxidase inhibitor-resistant kochi (*Bassia scoria*) in western Canada" in the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*.

"This weed can cause high crop yield losses and occasionally near-complete crop failure. Recent (2019–2023) surveys of uncontrolled weeds in a combined 4,077 annual-cropped fields identified kochia as the sixth most-abundant weed species in the Canadian Prairies," state the researchers.

Citing other studies, the researchers say kochia's abundance comes down to the plant's ability to thrive under abiotic stress combined with early-season emergence, prolonged emergence periodicity, genetic diversity, competitiveness, high fecundity, efficient dispersal and low seedbank persistence. These traits lead to "rapid evolution and spread



KOCHIA PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEANNA FRIDFINNSON  
Bifrost-Riverton landowner Deanna Fridfinnson said she felt she had stepped into a western last year when she saw kochia tumbleweeds rolling across her property and filling ditches.

of herbicide resistance," they wrote. In Sas-



PHOTO BY FRED PAULSON

Spotted knapweed reached the Interlake Weed District boundary near Ashern in 2024 and is being monitored; it is identified by black-tipped bracts at the base of the flower.

katchewan, herbicide-resistant kochia occupied an estimated 39 per cent of annual-cropped fields in 2019-2020, the equivalent of 6.5 million hectares.

Fridfinnson said that in addition to

Continued on page 18

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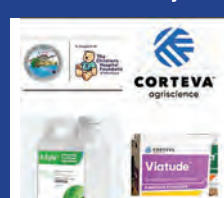
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# Your FARM



## Double the surprise: Twin calves highlight milestone year at Interlake dairy farm

By E. Antonio

An unusual run of twin calves is turning heads at Mason Farms in Manitoba's Interlake, where seven sets have already been born in 2026 — including one cow that continues to defy the odds.

Owned and operated by Lanna and Darcy Mason, the dairy farm has seen a rare streak this year, highlighted by a cow the family calls "Girl 4," who recently delivered twins for the fourth consecutive year.

The latest birth brings her total to eight calves in four years — a feat that has made her something of a standout in the herd.

"She's grown on us quite a bit around here, knowing she has a good chance of delivering twins," said Lanna Mason. "Other than getting a bit more barn time after she gives birth and extra feed, she does her own thing and fits in with the rest of the herd."

While twin calves can draw attention, they also come with added responsibility. Twin births are less common in dairy operations and often require closer monitoring in the early days to ensure both calves are healthy and feeding properly.

So far, the results have been encouraging.

The Masons say all but one of this year's calves have been successfully raised by their mothers, with only one requiring additional care. Although the twins tend to be slightly smaller at birth, they have kept pace with the



"Girl 4," a standout cow at Mason Farms, is pictured with her latest set of twin calves — marking the fourth consecutive year she has delivered twins.

rest of the herd as they grow.

The wave of twin births is just one part of what has become a milestone year for the farm.

Earlier this month, Mason Farms added three more cows to its list of excellent classifications following a visit from a classifier with Holstein Canada.

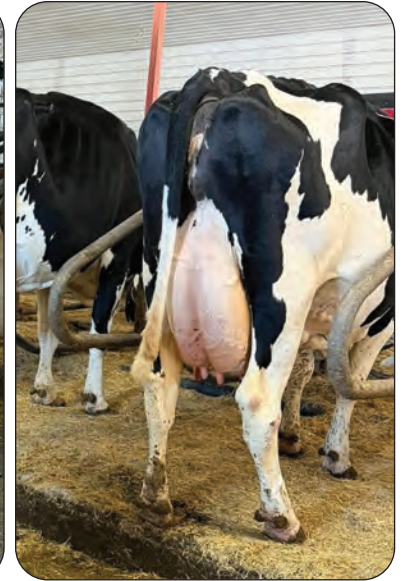
The designation — awarded based on structure, dairy strength and udder quality — is considered a significant benchmark in herd development and breeding success.

"It's a huge accomplishment for us," said Darcy Mason.



The Mason Farms herd is evaluated during a recent classification visit that saw three cows earn excellent status.

The latest recognition comes a decade after the farm recorded its first excellent cow, marking a period of steady growth and transformation.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

"We've grown from a few hand-milked cows to 60 robotically milked ones," Darcy said. "Over the years

Continued on page 18



Lanna Mason, Derek Johnson, Ken Mason, Andrew Mason and Darcy Mason are pictured at the Manitoba legislature on March 14, where Johnson recognized Mason Farms for their contributions to the community.

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> **INVASIVE WEEDS, FROM PG. 16**

concerns about drainage and farmers being affected by it, she's concerned about kochia creating a possible fire hazard during dry years. She carried out some research and found that the tumbleweeds "actually cover homes" in some areas of the United States where its prevalent.

"I was thinking, 'What do I do about this?' I don't know who you're supposed to contact," said Fridfinnson. "So I called Fred."

Fred is Fred Paulson, weed district supervisor with the Arborg-based Interlake Weed District. Paulson works under the authority of the provincial government's Noxious Weeds Act to restrict the spread of invasive plants in the district's catchment area, which comprises the municipalities of Bifrost-Riverton, Gimli, Armstrong, Fisher and the Town of Arborg.

Paulson, who's in his 34th season as weed supervisor, says kochia loves dry conditions, shows herbicide resistance and will "aggressively" grow in places where "nature has left a vacuum." That includes areas around elevators where's there's little competition from other plants.

When Bifrost-Riverton farmers were harvesting last fall, he started getting calls about kochia.

"Kochia has always been in waste areas and around the elevators, but it's never spread into the grasses," said Paulson. "It's always been here, but now it's showing more resistance to herbicide. With a dry season like last year, that's when we'll see it. If we get back into a wet cycle, it will fade into the background."

Paulson identifies and treats invasive weeds growing along roadsides and in public areas as part of his job — he's not responsible for private land — and said kochia has, so far, not been a problem on roadsides because grass is a well established competitor there.

However, if drought conditions stress other plants — including crops — kochia will get a foothold.

"If we get good moisture this year, kochia will be less of a concern," he said. "But if we go into this spring with a fast melt and the snow burns off the ditches and we don't get the rain, then it will be a problem again."

Kochia becomes a major problem when it matures and turns into a tum-

bleweed. At that point, there's really not a lot that landowners or farmers can do to stop it from infesting land.

"Once it breaks off and becomes tumbleweed, it rolls along and spreads its seeds, and there's nothing we can do at that point," said Paulson. "The only thing you can do is mow it before it starts tumbling. If you can cut and bale it before it turns into tumbleweeds then burn the bales, that will help prevent seed spread. But burning when it's dry is kind of dicey."

Paulson said invasive weeds can spread from "roadsides into fields and out of fields onto the roadsides." They can also be easily transported by offroad vehicles, on people's footwear or clothing, on farm equipment and by animals. Sometimes people will see a pretty flower in a ditch, dig it up and take it home to plant it, finding out later on that it's becomes quite aggressive and invasive.

"The roadsides are the biggest spreaders of invasive weeds. If one field has leafy spurge, for example, and it gets into a ditch, the [grass] mowers and the water will spread it. Graders can spread weeds," he said.

"Leafy spurge is a huge problem in the south. We have small pockets of it in our weed district, but we hit those areas twice a year to make sure it doesn't spread. Our biggest issue here is red bartsia. That's a big one, it's very invasive."

Another invasive weed that's worked its way to the borders of the Interlake Weed District is spotted knapweed. Paulson said a person near Ashern — which has a contract for weed control with the IWD but is not part of the district — reported the invasive plant to him last year.

"Spotted knapweed is on our borders and we're watching out for it now. It's similar to red bartsia in that it doesn't go into annual crops. It's more a pasture, hayland and roadside weed," he said. "But it's a Tier 1 weed."

Manitoba's Noxious Weeds Act sorts invasive plants into tiers based on their threat level. Some weeds can significantly reduce crop yields and threaten native species.

Spotted knapweed is "extremely competitive," displacing most other plants by forming dense clusters, according to a district factsheet Paulson



**PROVINCE OF MANITOBA**  
Kochia has hairy, pale green spring leaves, produces up to 25,000 seeds, and breaks off in fall to tumble and spread them.

wrote. It's a prolific seed producer, with 1,000 or more seeds per plant. It can "devastate" pastures, hayland and native habitats. A sharp-eyed landowner had spotted the pretty purple flower along PR 325 east of Ashern and contacted him. Paulson found the knapweed along an eight-mile stretch of road straddling the West Interlake-Grahamdale border and destroyed it.

Paulson said other problematic weeds in the Interlake district include common tansy, which typically grows around cemeteries, and purple loosestrife.

With or without a changing climate, invasive weeds will always be an issue, he said.

"But I think if the climate does change, it will change what weeds will become an issue," he said. "When it's hot and dry, certain populations of weeds will excel. When it's cold and wet, other populations will thrive. But there'll always be something to fill in nature's blank spaces."

Bifrost-Riverton grain farmer Gordon Klym found kochia growing among his crops in a few of his fields last year.

He said there needs to be more awareness raised about kochia because it's hard to kill.

It can get into crops and pastureland and establish itself. Farmers and landowners need to take action as soon as they find it — before it matures and becomes a tumbleweed.

"There are certain weeds that come up during a dry year and one of them is kochia. During a normal or wet year, you're not going to see it,"

said Klym who farms near Ledwyn. "But kochia has really raised its head. There are not many chemicals that will kill it. It has lots of seeds and it spreads quickly. It's a very problematic weed, and people really need to take it seriously."

He tried to get rid of the kochia hiding among his crop last year, but said it was "very difficult to kill" and it ended up becoming a problem.

"There were some spots in my field that were pretty thick, but it wasn't a bad year as far as affecting yield," he said. "But if we get another dry year, it's going to be a real problem."

When harvesting, farmers can pick up tumbleweed with equipment and drag it with its thousands of seeds across a field without even realizing it, he said. That's why kochia needs to be put in the spotlight; farmers have to know what to look for in the spring time and kill it before it gets going. If it gets out control, it can potentially "take over" a farm.

"We have to go into this year recognizing the fact that kochia can be a real problem. When the plant comes up in the spring time and there are a few leaves, you can treat it with chemical.

Then you've got to keep an eye on it all summer long. If you see more pop up during the summer, you'll have to go at it again to try to control it," said Klym. "If you wait until kochia is really big, it's too late because it has become a hardy weed and it fights off a lot of chemicals."

A spokesperson for the province said weeds are "very adaptable" and different species will fill different niches. And they're getting better at resisting herbicides.

In addition to kochia, other resistant weed species in the Interlake region include wild oats, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth.

"Weed resistance is steadily increasing," said the spokesperson, "with weeds becoming newly resistant, and resistant weeds becoming resistant to more herbicides."

Changing climate and weather patterns can change the "distribution and population" of weeds.

To help combat or control weeds, farmers can grow cover crops. They can also employ crop rotation.

"Diversity is key in crop rotation, farming practices and weed-control methods," said the spokesperson.

> **INTERLAKE DAIRY FARM, FROM PG. 17**

we've emphasized the health, breeding and genetic success of our herd, building what we know and love today."

That progress has not gone unnoticed beyond the farmyard.

The family was recently recognized at the Manitoba Legislature by Derek

Johnson for its contributions to agriculture and the local community. The Masons travelled to Winnipeg on March 14 for the recognition, joined by Grampa Ken, who remains actively involved in day-to-day operations.

"It came as a surprise, but it was nice to be recognized," Darcy said.

For Lanna, the moment reflected something larger than their own farm.

"It's important to see that small farms in the Interlake are being recognized for the ways they help contribute to the community," she said.

Despite the attention, life at Mason Farms continues much as it always has — with early mornings, long days

and a shared commitment across generations.

Grampa Ken is still a steady presence in the operation, lending a hand wherever needed.

"He's a farmer and that's all he knows," Darcy said. "Farming is not just a job to us — it's a lifestyle we all enjoy."

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Einarson continues success with dominant milestone season

By Haley Cvar

Camp Morton's Kerri Einarson is closing out another milestone season, highlighted by a fifth national title and a silver-medal finish on the world stage.

Einarson skipped Team Canada to victory at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, a win she said carried added meaning given the team's journey in recent years.

"This one means a lot given everything this team has been through over the past few years. Winning the Scotties together makes it even more special — especially with it being Karlee's first title."

On the international stage, Einarson's rink followed with a silver medal at the BKT World Women's Curling Championship, continuing a stretch of consistent high-level play.

"We had a strong, consistent week and we showed a lot of resilience. The silver stings, but we are still very proud of our performance and it's an upgrade."

That consistency, she said, remains a defining strength.

"What separates us is our consistency, trust in each other and ability to stay composed in big moments. We've built strong chemistry, and that helps us execute under pressure."

Change is coming for the team heading into the next season, with Jocelyn Peterman joining the lineup at lead and vice. Shannon Birchard will move to third, while Karlee Burgess shifts to second. Val Sweeting is no longer with the team.

"Peterman brings a ton of experience and composure in big moments. She's incredibly strong technically, especially at the front end, and adds



Kerri Einarson signs an autograph for a fan during her homecoming celebration.

a high level of consistency and communication. Having someone who's competed and won at the highest levels only strengthens our lineup and overall confidence."

Looking ahead, Einarson said the focus will be on refining details as the team prepares for the next Olympic cycle.

"We're focused on sharpening our communication since we have a new teammate, fine-tuning strategy and staying strong under pressure. Even small improvements in execution and being consistent can make a big difference at the top level."

Beyond competition, Einarson continues to invest in the sport's growth through coaching and mentorship.

"I'm always looking for ways to grow, both on and off the ice. On the ice, it's about continuing to develop my game and push to the next level. Off the ice, I'm excited to keep coaching my girls, which is something I re-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY RAYME THOMSON

Kerri Einarson (second from right) poses with her twin daughters, Kamryn and Kloe, and teammate Shannon Birchard during a homecoming celebration at Gimli Ford on March 31. The event, supported by Lakeview Gimli Resort, honoured Einarson's fifth Scotties title and recent silver medal at the 2026 world women's curling championship.

ally enjoy, and also look for opportunities to help grow the sport."

Behind the results, she credited her family and support system for helping manage a demanding schedule.

"The support from my family has been everything. They've been there through the highs and lows, helping me stay grounded and focused. Having that unwavering backing makes the long travel, tough games and busy schedule much more manageable. I couldn't do this without their support."

She added that their commitment often comes with sacrifices.

"Taking time off work, early mornings, countless travel days — their support often means putting their own plans on hold so we can chase ours, and that kind of commitment is invaluable."

Support from home has also played a role. Gimli Ford hosted a homecoming celebration for Team Einarson, which also doubled as a fundraiser in support of youth curling. Through a silent auction and contributions from sponsors, \$5,000 was raised to help support young curlers in the community.

"It definitely gives me extra motiva-

tion. Knowing that people back home are supporting me and following my journey means a lot. It pushes me to keep going, especially during the tougher moments, because I feel like I'm representing more than just myself."

Einarson is also embracing new opportunities in the sport, including the launch of a professional league this spring, Rock League.

"What excites me most is being part of something new and helping grow the sport, playing with different players from other countries. A professional league is a huge step for curling. It creates more opportunities for athletes and brings more visibility to the game."

She believes a professional league has the potential to reshape how curling is viewed globally.

"It gives the sport more consistent exposure outside of the Olympic cycle and helps bring in new fans."

With a busy season behind her, Einarson plans to take time to recharge before the next campaign begins.

"Taking time to recharge helps me come back stronger, both physically and mentally, and ready for the next season."



Kerri Einarson (centre) and Shannon Birchard pose with members of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

# Einarson helps Shield capture inaugural Rock League title in Toronto



Kerri Einarson poses with the championship trophy after helping Shield Curling Club win the inaugural Rock League title in Toronto.



Kerri Einarson delivers a shot during Rock League action in Toronto, where she helped Shield Curling Club capture the inaugural professional championship.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of Shield Curling Club — Brad Jacobs, Benoît Schwarz-van Berkel, Jacob Horgan, Dan Marsh, Mattia Giovanella, Amos Mosaner, Kerri Einarson, Tracy Fleury, Agnes Knochenhauer, Marlee Powers and Carole Howald — celebrate with the championship trophy after winning the inaugural Rock League title in Toronto.

## By Haley Cvar

Kerri Einarson and her Shield Curling Club teammates are part of history after capturing the inaugural Rock League professional curling championship.

Shield defeated Typhoon Curling Club 2-1 in the championship final on Sunday at the Mattamy Athletic Centre, closing out the first-ever season of curling's new professional league.

The league features a unique mixed-gender, team-based format, with each matchup consisting of men's and women's four-player games along with a mixed doubles contest. Teams must win two of the three disciplines

to claim the overall match victory.

Shield opened the final with a strong performance from its men's team, skipped by Brad Jacobs, who secured an 8-7 win to give the club an early edge.

Einarson's women's squad — which included Tracy Fleury, Agnes Knochenhauer and Marlee Powers — was unable to clinch the title outright, dropping a 7-5 decision to Typhoon and forcing a winner-take-all mixed doubles game.

That set the stage for a dramatic finish, where Shield's duo of Benoît Schwarz-van Berkel and Powers delivered under pressure. In a deciding

shootout, Schwarz-van Berkel drew to the button to secure an 8-7 victory and seal the championship.

The win capped a strong week for Shield, which finished fourth in the round-robin standings before making a playoff run to the title. Einarson's team played a key role in that push, including a clutch 5-4 victory during a sweep of Maple United that helped secure a postseason berth.

"We all played amazing. Our team is really gelling together and it's definitely showing on the ice," Einarson said earlier in the week as Shield climbed the standings.

Rock League's inaugural season fea-

tured six franchises — Alpine, Frontier, Maple United, Northern United, Shield and Typhoon — competing in a week-long event that blended traditional curling formats with a team-based, professional structure.

All games were played at Toronto Metropolitan University's Mattamy Athletic Centre and streamed nationally on CBC platforms, marking a significant step toward a fully professional model for the sport.

Shield's championship victory earned the team a US\$100,000 prize and established the club as the first titleholder in Rock League history.

# Interlake-led Nighthawks reach finals after dominant semifinal performance

## By Kieran Reimer

A trio of Interlake locals will play for the Turnbull Cup this week.

Hayden Wheddon (Stonewall), Adam Vigfusson (Gimli) and Dawson Zeller (St. Andrews) have punched their ticket to the Manitoba Junior Hockey League championship after their Niverville Nighthawks defeated the Waywayseecappo Wolverines in the MJHL semifinals last week.

The top-ranked Nighthawks capped the best-of-seven series with a dominant 7-0 victory at Niverville CRRC in last Friday's Game 5 and will now play for the franchise's first title.

On the Wolverines side, the 2025-26 season comes to an end for their trio of locals: Noah Oughton (St. Laurent), Blake Farthing (Stonewall) and Ryder Kirk (Stonewall), who helped Wayway reach its first-ever semifinal this season.

The two sides entered last week with the series tied at one win apiece before Niverville rattled off three consecutive victories to complete a gentleman's sweep.

They opened with a 4-2 win in Monday's Game 3 in front of 900 fans at Niverville CRRC.

Wayway's Max Collyer and Ben Roulette gave the Wolverines an early 2-0 lead, which was cut to one when Vigfusson scored his sixth of the playoffs late in the opening frame.

Another 20 minutes passed before Vigfusson struck again, scoring his second of the game at 16:36 of the second period to tie it 2-2.

Niverville's Evan Panzer scored the eventual winner at 11:03 of the third before Zeller added an empty-net goal in the dying seconds to secure a 2-1 series lead.

Austin Dubinsky made 21 saves

for Niverville, while Wayway's Jase Wareham stopped 24 shots.

The series then shifted to the Waywayseecappo Arena Complex for a pivotal Game 4 on Wednesday, where Niverville took a commanding 3-1 series lead behind a 24-save shutout from Dubinsky.

His strong play lifted the Nighthawks to a 3-0 victory in front of 708 fans.

Merik Boles opened the scoring midway through the second period before Marlen Edwards added an insurance marker, assisted by Vigfusson and Wheddon, to make it 2-0 at 7:18 of the third.

Vigfusson later added his eighth of the postseason with an empty-net goal amid Wayway's last-ditch efforts.

Niverville held a 28-24 edge in shots,

Continued on page 21



Adam Vigfusson

# Free basketball clinic coming to St. Laurent for local youth

By E. Antonio

Young athletes in St. Laurent will soon have a chance to sharpen their basketball skills at no cost through an upcoming clinic hosted by Rival Basketball Winnipeg in partnership with the St. Laurent and District Recreation Commission.

The clinic will take place at the St. Laurent School gym, with separate sessions for students in grades 6 to 8 and grades 9 to 12 on several dates this spring.

Rival head coach Culley Kipling said the program was created in response to a clear need for more athletic opportunities in the community.

"The youth in St. Laurent have a lot of skill and potential to play basketball," Kipling said. "They need more opportunities to develop their skills, so there is always a need for these types of sports programs."

Kipling also pointed to the success of the local junior varsity girls team as part of the inspiration behind the clinic.

"The St. Laurent JV girls did really well this year, so providing camps like this allows them to further develop the skills necessary to compete," he said.

One of the most notable aspects of the clinic is that it is being offered completely free of charge.

"The program is 100 per cent non-profit. Rival does not aim to make a monetary gain from youth," Kipling said. "That is the opposite approach to developing youth in sports."

He credited Tammy Hiebert, St. Laurent recreation director, for helping make the program possible by securing the necessary school permits and organizing local arrangements.

For Kipling, success will be measured by community participation and youth engagement.

"As long as youth show up and want to get involved, that is a win in my eyes," he said. "The barrier of no camps being offered is removed — that alone is a huge achievement for St. Laurent."

If the response is strong, Kipling said he would welcome the opportunity to continue the program.

"I am so passionate about basketball — it is an obsession that needs to be shared with our youth.

Basketball is a healthy way to stay active and allows players to find a community to be part of and grow."

Pre-registration is required. Parents and players can register or request more information by emailing [rec@rmstlaurent.com](mailto:rec@rmstlaurent.com).

Neighbouring communities interested in hosting their own free basketball clinics can contact Kipling at [Culleyfiles@gmail.com](mailto:Culleyfiles@gmail.com).

**"THE YOUTH IN ST. LAURENT HAVE A LOT OF SKILL AND POTENTIAL TO PLAY BASKETBALL"**

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**April 17, May 1, 8 & 22**  
**17 avril, 1<sup>er</sup>, 8 et 22 mai**

**Grades 9–12 / 9<sup>e</sup> à 12<sup>e</sup> année**  
**May 29, June 5, 12, 19**  
**29 mai, 5, 12 et 19 juin**

**TIME / HEURE**  
**6:30PM – 8:00PM**

**LOCATION / LIEU**  
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### > VIGFUSSON, FROM PG. 20

while Wareham made 25 saves in the Wayway crease.

The win gave Niverville momentum heading home for Friday's Game 5, where it closed out the series with a 7-0 win in front of 1,025 fans at Niverville CRRC.

Calyb Moore scored just 26 seconds into the game, sparking the dominant performance.

Edwards and Boles added two more before the end of the first period, followed by three goals in the second — including Moore's second, along with tallies from Zeller and Kole Mears.

Vigfusson extended his goal streak to three games with the final goal late in the third.

In net, Dubinsky recorded his second consecutive shutout with 18

saves, while Wareham and Mariko Bercier combined for 26 saves for Wayway.

Niverville will now play for its first championship, with the winner advancing to the 2026 Centennial Cup.

This year's tournament will be hosted by the Maritime Junior Hockey League's Summerside Western Capitals from May 7 to 17, featuring the host team along with nine other champions from across the Canadian Junior Hockey League.

Niverville will face the winner of the Steinbach Pistons and Virden Oil Capitals in a best-of-seven final for a berth.

Virden currently leads Steinbach 3-2 in their semifinal series.

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Tel: (204) 642-6650 | Website: www.gimli.ca | Email: gimli@rmgimli.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Voters List, Non-Resident Voting & Personal Security Protection 2026 General Municipal Election

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act* (MCSBEA), notice is hereby given that the VOTERS LIST for the Rural Municipality of Gimli may be reviewed and revised as outlined below.

#### VOTERS LIST REVIEW AND REVISION

The Voters List is available for review at RM of Gimli Municipal Office, 62 Second Avenue, Gimli, MB between May 1, 2026 to September 22, 2026 during office hours Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

During this period, an Election Official will be available to revise the Voters List by:

- adding the names of eligible voters,
- removing individuals who are not entitled to be on the list, and
- correcting any errors or inaccuracies.

#### VOTER ELIGIBILITY Subsection 21 (1)

You are eligible to be included on the Voters List if you meet all of the following criteria:

- You are a Canadian citizen;
- You are 18 years of age or older on Election Day; and
- You have been a resident of the RM of Gimli for at least six (6) months prior to Election Day, OR
- You are a registered owner of land in the RM of Gimli for at least six (6) months prior to Election Day

#### NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNER VOTING Subsection 22 (1)

A maximum of two (2) non-resident property owners per property may vote in a municipal election.

To be included on the Voters List, each non-resident voter must:

- obtain written consent from a majority of the registered property owners, and
- submit the completed consent form to the Senior Election Official no later than September 22, 2026.

#### Consent forms are available at the RM of Gimli Municipal Office.

When voting, non-resident voters may be required to provide:

- proof of property ownership, and/or
- proof of identity.

#### PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION Subsection 34 (3)

A voter who believes their personal safety may be at risk may apply to have their name and personal information omitted or obscured from the Voters List.

#### Applications must:

- be submitted in writing to the Senior Election Official,
- be received no later than September 22, 2026, and
- include the applicant's name, address, and proof of identity.

Applications may be submitted in person, by mail, email, or fax.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

All revisions to the Voters List must be completed on or before September 22, 2026.

The General Municipal Election for the RM of Gimli will take place on: Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Scott A. Cameron  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
P.O. Box 1246, 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0  
Phone: 204-642-6650 | 204-641-5118 (cell) Fax: 204-642-6660  
Email: elections@rmgimli.com | www.gimli.ca

Dated at the RM of Gimli in the Province of Manitoba on April 10, 2026.

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## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **LAWRENCE ALFRED DREGER**, late of the Village of Ashern, Manitoba, Retired, Deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at his office at 11 Main Street, P.O. Box 200, Ashern, Manitoba, R0C 0E0, on or before the 18th day of May, 2026.

DATED at Ashern, Manitoba, this 9th day of April, 2026.

**PAUL D. GEISLER J.D.**  
**GEISLER LAW OFFICE**  
Solicitor for the Executor

## Fisher Branch Golf & Country Club PUBLIC NOTICE

### Pesticide Control Programs

Public notice is hereby given that the Fisher Branch Golf & Country Club of the R.M. of Fisher intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs between May 31 - October 31, 2026.

The following pesticides are scheduled to be used: Par 3, Glyphosate, Instrata, Heritage, Imidacloprid, Daconil 2787 and Acelepryn G. The public may, within 15 days after this notice is published, submit written comments to the department or register a written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property.

**Manitoba Environment and Climate Change**  
Environmental approvals branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6  
pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Sandy Hook Golf Course intends to spray the following pesticides from the period of May 1, 2026 to Oct 31, 2026:

Daconil 2787, Banner Maxx, Trillion, Mecoprop, Banvel VM, Spreader Sticker, Roundup, Par 111, Dedicate, Segway and Instrata.

Direct enquiries to:

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

## News Tips?

call the Express 204-467-5836

## THE SURVEYS ACT PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Section 11 of the above Act, notice is hereby given that the original monuments establishing the following locations have been lost:

- ¼ E Section 6-25-3 EPM
- NE Section 6-25-3 EPM
- ¼ E Section 7-25-3 EPM
- NE Section 7-25-3 EPM
- ¼ N Section 8-25-3 EPM

Monuments to perpetuate the original locations have been planted by Dwayne Denchuk, Manitoba Land Surveyor, on July 15, 2025. Any person wishing particulars about the re-establishment of these monuments is advised to contact the following:

Dwayne Denchuk, M.L.S.

Isaac & Denchuk Manitoba Land Surveyors Ltd.

200 Clandeboye Avenue

or

Selkirk, Manitoba R1A 0X1

Phone: 204-785-2924

Email: ddenchuk@idsurveys.com

Timothy R. Cassan, M.L.S.

Examiner of Surveys, Teranet Manitoba

705 Princess Avenue

Brandon, Manitoba R7A 0P4

Phone: 204 726 6854

Email: tim.cassan@teranet.ca

Any person having any objection to or having any evidence which he/she desires to give against the confirmation of the re-establishment of these lost corners is to submit any such objection or evidence in writing verified by affidavit to the Registrar-General within thirty days from the publication of this notice in the Express Weekly News.

Where no objection to or evidence against the confirmation of the re-establishment of these lost corners is received by the Registrar-General within thirty days after publication of this notice, or where any such objection is subsequently withdrawn in writing, the Registrar-General shall confirm the re-establishment of these lost corners.

Registrar-General

Office of the Registrar General

1203-155 Carlton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3H8



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Timchishen Seed Farms - Arborg

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## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## 2026 DUST CONTROL NOTICE

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong will now be accepting requests for the application of dust control on rural roads in front of residences in the RM of Armstrong on a **PRE-PAYMENT BASIS ONLY**.

Costs are as follows:

- 12 ft x 300 ft \$291.83 plus GST = \$306.42
- 16 ft x 300 ft \$408.69 plus GST = \$429.12

**Areas to be serviced must be staked out by the applicant prior to application.**

Applications can be made in person or by using our drop box at the municipal office at 1094 PTH 17 in Inwood Manitoba. You may mail in your application form with payment to the RM of Armstrong.

**All information on the application form must be completed or your order may not be processed. Forms can be found at [www.rmofarmstrong.com](http://www.rmofarmstrong.com).** Cheques should be made payable to the RM of Armstrong. We also accept cash or debit. You may make a payment by e-transfer to cao@rmofarmstrong.com. Please call the office for details 204-278-3377. **Applications will be received up to and including April 30, 2026.**

The Municipality can not guarantee the effectiveness of the dust control suppressant. Once a dust control suppressant has been applied, no refunds will be made. The use of a dust suppressant is meant to control dust on the roadway, not to eliminate it completely.

**It is mandatory for residents, who choose to apply their own dust control, to use an approved, environmentally friendly product. You must notify the RM office before April 30, 2026 to ensure that road grading can be scheduled accordingly. Residents will not be compensated should they choose to apply prior to road grading.**

Angie Dzuba - Senior Administrative Assistant  
Rural Municipality of Armstrong



Rural Municipality of Gimli

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

## NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

Of Prospective Candidate for  
2026 General Municipal Election

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SEO will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of Mayor: From May 1, 2026 to September 22, 2026

For the office of Councillor: From June 30, 2026 to September 22, 2026

At the Municipal Office at 62 2nd Ave, Gimli, MB by **appointment only** up to September 22, 2026.

Registration forms are available from the RM office during regular business hours - Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm between the applicable dates above. To schedule an appointment to file a registration form, please call the Senior Election Official (SEO) at the numbers below.

Scott A. Cameron  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
P.O. Box 1246, 62 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Gimli, MB R0C 1B0  
Phone: 204-642-6650 | 204-641-5118 (cell) Fax: 204-642-6660  
Email: [elections@rmgimli.com](mailto:elections@rmgimli.com) | [www.gimli.ca](http://www.gimli.ca)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Now Hiring: Full-Time Bakery Team Member Teulon Bigway

Teulon Bigway is seeking a reliable and organized individual to join our bakery team in a full-time role. This position is ideal for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced, early-morning environment and takes pride in keeping operations running smoothly.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with bakery production and daily operations
- Organizing workspace and maintaining cleanliness standards
- Supply ordering and inventory management
- Supporting a positive and efficient team environment

#### Qualifications:

- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Reliable, punctual, and able to work early mornings
- Team-oriented with good communication skills
- Previous bakery or retail experience is an asset, but willing to train the right candidate

If you're passionate about baking and enjoy both hands-on work and keeping things organized behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply by email: [TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com](mailto:TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com)  
Subject line: Bakery Position



## RM of ARMSTRONG UNDER THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the RM of Armstrong under the authority of the Planning Act will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the date, time and location listed below:

**Tuesday April 28, 2026  
1:00pm.**

**RM of Armstrong Municipal Office  
Civic # 1094 Lot 55 PTH 17, Inwood MB R0C 1P0**

Property owners are being notified in order to give them the opportunity to speak in support of or objection to the proposed conditional use and/or variation order.

**CONDITIONAL USE:** # 2026-A-04

**ROLL NO:** 0040000.000

**OWNER:** DEBRA DOWLER

**APPLICANT:** DEBRA DOWLER

**AREA AFFECTED:** Legal Description: NW7-18-3E  
Civic Address: 103143 ROAD 12E  
KOMARNO, MANITOBA

**ZONE:** Agricultural General Zoning District

**SUBJECT:** R.M. of Armstrong Zoning  
By-Law No. 6/04  
Part 13.3 11 – General Industrial  
– Used Car Sales

**AUTOMOTIVE AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SALES:** Retail sale or rental of new or used automobiles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, tent trailers, utility trailers, boats, travel trailers or similar light recreational vehicles or crafts, together with incidental maintenance services and sale of parts. This Use Class includes automobile dealerships, car rental agencies and motorcycle dealerships.

**CONDITIONAL USE REQUESTED:** To allow to sell used vehicles. Sole Proprietorship Ownership, small home relaxed business, more of a hobby. No buying or fixing any wrecks or collect parts.

**WE REQUIRE ANYONE ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TO PRE-REGISTER BY NO LATER THAN 4:30 pm MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026, by calling or emailing the below email and/or number.**

#### For further information, please contact:

Cori Audet – Permit & Planning Services Phone: 1 (204) 278-3377  
Rural Municipality of Armstrong Fax: 1 (204) 278-3437  
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0 e-mail: [planning@rmofarmstrong.com](mailto:planning@rmofarmstrong.com)

Documents related to the matter to be considered at the hearing may be inspected or copied at the RM of Armstrong Office during normal office hours, Monday to Friday.

## BASIC

Bifrost Agricultural Sustainability Initiate Coop

# Annual General Meeting

Farmers & Guests are Invited to Attend

**April 22, 2026**

**Arborg Curling Rink**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### DATE CHANGE REGARDING 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act, that the Council of the R.M. of Grahamdale intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a Public Hearing being held at the RM of Grahamdale Municipal Office, 23 Government Road, in Moosehorn, MB. The Public Hearing was originally scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. It has now been RESCHEDULED to Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan as provided.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 and may be examined by any person during regular office hours at the Municipal Office or on our website at [www.grahamdale.ca](http://www.grahamdale.ca).

Public participation can be met through interactive technology or by written submission. Please contact our office for more information Ph: 204-768-2858 or email: [finance@grahamdale.ca](mailto:finance@grahamdale.ca)

Dated this 7th day of April, 2026.  
Shelly Schwitek, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
R.M. of Grahamdale



## Rural Municipality of St. Laurent Municipalité rurale de Saint Laurent

### Under the authority of The Municipal Act NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent shall hold a Public Hearing to present its 2026 Financial Plan.

**HEARING LOCATION:** RM of St. Laurent Recreation Centre, PTH #6 & Veteran's Memorial Rd., St. Laurent, Manitoba.

**DATE & TIME:** APRIL 29TH, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

At this time Council will present the proposed 2026 Financial Plan for the municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

A draft copy of the 2026 Financial Plan is now available.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2026.

For additional information, please contact:  
Billie Jean Oliver  
CAO for the RM of St. Laurent

# Classifieds



Call 467-5836

## SELKIRK WEED CONTROL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Selkirk Weed Control District, which includes the City of Selkirk, Town of Winnipeg Beach, R.M. of St. Andrews, and R.M. of St. Clements, intends to conduct the following pesticide control programs during 2026 as necessary, subject to provincial and federal pesticide and weed control laws.

1. To control noxious weeds and unwanted vegetation where necessary on municipal/town/city/crown property including parking lots, landfills, public works yards, ROWs, ditches, boulevards, parks, trails, cemeteries, and other public property using one or more of the following: 2,4-D Amine, glyphosate, Finalsan Pro, Mungers, Milestone, Navius Flex, Trillion, Civitas WEEDfree, Clearview, Detail, Esplanade, Garlon and/or Aspect.

2. To control aquatic vegetation/algae in and around retention ponds, drains, and lagoons using Reward or Habitat Aqua.

The following adjuvants may be added to improve pesticide effectiveness: Gateway, Hasten, ammonium sulphate, or LI700.

The projected dates of application will be from May 11 to October 15, 2026. Requests for property buffers must be registered annually. The public may send written submissions within 15 days of this publication of this notice to:

**Environmental and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6  
[pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca)**

## PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAMS

### Lakeview Hecla Golf Course

Lakeview management intends to conduct the following pesticide control programs from May 1st - November 30th 2026. IPM (Integrated pest management) strategy will be use with all pesticides.

To control fungus on Hecla Golf Course turf fungicides used may include Benzovindiflupyr, difenoconazole, chlorantraniliprole, fluoxastrobin, azoxystrobin, pyraclostrobin, propiconazole, boscalid, fluzinam, metalfufenoxale, penthiopyrad, flutianil, cyazofamid, metiram/cym, S-isomer, trifloxystrobin, fluopyram, hydrogen peroxide, tebuconazole, metconazole and fluxapyroxad.

To control weeds on the property Herbicides being used may include dicamba, mecoprop-p, 2, 4-D, copper sulphate, carfentrazone – ethyl, dihtopyr and glyphosate.

Insecticides used may include chlorantraniliprole, deltamethrin, permethrin and bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki, bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis

Plant growth regulators may include trinexapac-ethyl, octyl, phenoxypropyl, polyethoxy, ethanol

The public may send written submissions or objectives to specific pest control programs within 15 days of publication to the department noted below

**Environmental & climate  
Environment approvals branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd  
Winnipeg MB, R3Y 0L6**

# Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

## HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY



**Barb Sawa**  
Heavenly Birthday  
April 11

May the bells ring and the angels sing  
Happy Birthday to my Barbra dear.  
It's been another long year.  
Hugs and kisses to you I send.  
My love for you has no end.  
Happy Birthday Barbie

-Love Gordon

## IN MEMORIAM



**In Memory of**  
**Joyce Johnson**  
January 2, 1962 - April 15, 2013

Time has passed, but not our love,  
We feel you near, around, above.  
Thirteen years, yet still we say,  
We miss you more with every day.

-Love always,  
Rob, Janessa and Carrigan

## IN MEMORIAM



**Anna Chuba**  
In loving memory of our Baba  
May 17, 1907 - April 14, 1998

It seems like only yesterday  
We sat and chatted  
We miss your smile  
That twinkle in your eye,  
But most of all we miss your hugs.  
Forever in our hearts.

-Love Cathy, Roger, Kristi and Scott

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

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

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
*Bridal Shower*  
IN HONOUR OF  
**Juel Sigurdson**  
(bride-elect of Tim Johnson)  
MAY 2ND, 2026  
Arborg Community Hall  
Shower starts at 1:00 pm  
Donations will be accepted on the couple's  
behalf at Riverton Co-op and Arborg Home Hardware.  
Visit our online registry at  
<https://www.myregistry.com/wedding-registry/juel-sigurdson-and-tim-johnson-arborg-mb/5375508/giftlist>  
**Social to follow at 8 pm**

*Tickets Now Available!*  
Contact Tim at 204-641-5615 or Juel at  
204-641-8166 to purchase social tickets  
or support tickets.

## Remember Your Loved Ones

with an Announcement in the

Call 204-467-5836

## Career Opportunity

## Interlake Co-op



### Now Hiring: Part-time / Full-time Seasonal Hardware Cashier/Clerk

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- **Approach to Work:** To come to work with a positive, professional approach and attitude.
- **Opening/Closing:** To complete all opening and closing procedures as per schedules.
- **Guest Service:** To help ensure outstanding courteous Guest service is provided at all times.
- **Policy & Procedures:** To help ensure all Policies & Procedures are adhered to in accordance with Interlake Co-op Policy & Procedures manual.
- **Attendance:** To be dependable for all scheduled shifts
- **Asset Protection:** To be responsible in the area of loss prevention.
- **Housekeeping:** To ensure the facility and equipment is neat, clean & organized at all times.
- **Merchandising:** To assist in general stock duties, including filling & facing shelves as required.
- **Maintenance:** To engage in the proper & safe use of equipment and report any breakdowns to the Manager.
- **Administration:** To assist the Hardware Manager with all administrative duties as required.
- **Check out Operations:** To operate the cash register system as required.
- Other duties as required

#### Competencies/Qualifications:

Organizational savvy, desire to work in a team setting, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, commitment to making a positive difference in our members' lives, and strong dependability with effective time management

*We offer career advancement opportunities, competitive compensation, benefits package, company contributed pension plan and learning/development opportunities.*

#### Submit questions/applications to:

Eriksdale Co-op Hardware  
Tori Goodman (Branch Manager)  
P: 204-739-2634  
E: ehardware@interlake.crs  
Interlake Co-op

### Now Hiring: Full-time File Maintenance/Sr. Clerk Cashier

#### Duties/Responsibilities:

- **Approach to Work:** To come to work with a positive, professional approach and attitude.
- **Customer Service:** To help ensure outstanding courteous customer service is provided at all times.
- **Policy & Procedures:** To help ensure all policies & procedures are adheres to in accordance with Interlake Co-op policy & procedures manual
- **Checkout Procedures & Cash Balances:** Demonstrate leadership in cash register operations and ensure accuracy of cash handling.
- **Opening & Closing Procedures:** Complete all opening and closing duties according to assigned schedules and checklists.
- **Signs & Labels:** Determine requirements, produce, and ensure correct placement of department signage and labels.
- **Image, Maintenance & Housekeeping:** Maintain a clean, organized, safe, and professional store environment at all times.
- **Roles & Responsibilities (R&R):** Complete assigned duties accurately and to established standards.
- **Price Changes:** Implement price changes accurately and within required timelines.
- **CASMS & Shelf Verification:** Maintain CASMS records and follow a shelf verification schedule to ensure pricing accuracy.
- **Merchandising:** Support stocking, procurement, and product presentation within the department.
- **Other Duties:** Assist Management with additional duties as assigned.

#### Competencies/Qualifications:

• Organizationally savvy, Customer Service, Collaborative team player, Computer skills, Communicative, Professional, Desire to make a positive difference in our members' lives

#### Submit questions/applications to:

Eriksdale Co-op  
Tori Goodman (Branch Manager)  
P: 204-739-2634  
E: tori.goodman@interlake.crs

*We offer career advancement opportunities, competitive compensation, benefits package, company contributed pension plan and learning/development opportunities.*

WE THANK ALL CANDIDATES FOR THEIR INTEREST, HOWEVER, ONLY THOSE SELECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL BE CONTACTED.

Join Our Team!

**OBITUARY**



**Dr. Joe Meek**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of our deeply loved father, Papa, brother-in-law, uncle and trusted friend on March 30, 2026 at the age of 88. It is the end of an era for our beloved "Doc". A man who was the epitome of honour, kindness and a true gentleman.

Left to mourn is daughter Stacey (Vic), grandson Hudson, granddaughter Jessica (Steven), granddaughter Sydney (Seth), great-granddaughter Everly, sister-in-law Cindy, sister-in-law Linda (Dick) and nieces Debbie, Wendy, Keely and their families along with Melissa who he considered like a second daughter.

Joe was predeceased by his wife Diane in 2002 and son Jeff in 2025.

He was born on September 4, 1937 in Cannington, Ontario to Sidney and Audrey Meek where he spent most of his childhood.

A couple of years were spent living in Thunder Bay and Toronto but the family, including brother Ken, returned to Cannington.

From a young age he was an extraordinary athlete excelling in track, baseball, hockey and football. He prided himself with his athleticism. Along with great success in sports also brought his competitive spirit.

He came from an impoverished childhood and at times lived with barely a roof over their heads. He realized early in life about the importance of hard work and even had small jobs from the age of 5 to help bring in a little money for his family. His resilience to survive was instilled in him for life.

Summer jobs in Ontario included working construction, delivering ice cream for Silverwood Dairy, raising chickens and working for Ontario Hydro.

He worked some of those very jobs to save enough money to put himself through school and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1964 with his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. In university he played both hockey and football which was unheard of at the time all while studying for his degree.

After a chance meeting with Diane, originally from Domain, Manitoba, who was working as a flight attendant in Toronto, he decided to move west to Manitoba to start his practice in Arborg.

Together they worked as a team providing around the clock services for both small and large animals in the Interlake area with the clinic set up in their basement. He was the first vet in the area and it is said that Joe could drive his VW through any snow drift to get to an animal in need. Pay was received at times in the form of chickens when farmers had no money but that didn't matter to Joe as long as he could help.

He loved everything about the Interlake and the people. He especially loved Alice Gudmundson's Icelandic baking and he had hoped one day to return and own a small piece of land in the area he considered home. He may have moved away but his heart always remained.

After a few years in Arborg they moved to Winnipeg where Joe opened the McPhillips Animal Hospital. Realizing that he missed working with large animals he took a job as the Commission Veterinarian with The Manitoba Horse Racing Commission at the Assiniboia Downs and stayed for 53 years.

During this time he also worked full time as the Chief Field Veterinarian for the province for over 20 years, was a member of The Manitoba Veterinary Board and was a key influence in the PMU Industry. He also worked as the on staff vet at Weiller & Williams at the Winnipeg Livestock Auction Mart.

Interested in the idea of flying Joe pursued his pilot's licence in 1975 and to this day still keeps that same licence in his wallet.

He retired from the Assiniboia Downs at the age of 85. Retirement was very difficult for a man who only knew about hard physical work. An issue with vestibular loss forced this decision because we know that otherwise he would have been getting ready for another race season.

Joe had a kind and gentle spirit. He was quick witted. A man of his word with a generous spirit and a love for rural Manitoba. He loved all animals and was thankful for many years to have cattle of his own throughout Manitoba. He was an avid sports fan, incredibly handy and took great pride in taking care of the things around him.

He lived a very full life far too filled to summarize. He knew that the importance of life was not in what you had, but rather who you had. Thank you Dad, for being an amazing role model and demonstrating what it means to be a good person.

The family wishes to acknowledge special friend Charlie. His daily Tim Horton's tea buddy. Thank you for your amazing friendship with Joe especially over these last few years.

A Celebration of Life will take place on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Assiniboia Downs.

Memorial tributes may be sent to [www.ethicaldeathcare.com](http://www.ethicaldeathcare.com) and to view a short tribute video.

**OBITUARY**



**Jeannette Franz (nee Batenchuk)**  
December 15, 1946 - April 4, 2026

With heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of Jeannette Franz on April 4, 2026.

Jeannette will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by her beloved children, Karen (Barry) Hudyma, Dwayne (Lisa) Franz, Brenda (Tim) Banera; grandchildren Steven (Megan) Hudyma, Kathleen (Mike) Melnychuk, Deryk (Lauren) Franz, Alex (Kiera) Franz, Melissa (Steve) Gzebb, Brandon Banera; step grandchildren Spencer and Emily Lowes; great-grandchildren Matthew and Mitchell Melnychuk, Emily Gzebb. She is survived by her sister Kathy (Dennis) Rudney, Dave (Jean) Batenchuk, sisters-in-law Linda Batenchuk, Bernadine Adamson and Florence Franz.

She was predeceased by her loving husband Gerald in 2021, her parents Doris and John, brother Richard, brothers-in-law Doug Adamson and Ronald Franz, sister-in-law Margaret Batenchuk.

Cremation has taken place and a private service will be held at a later date.

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

Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



# Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

**OBITUARY**



**Eleanor Borodey (née Hrankowski)**  
May 19, 1932 – January 3, 2026

With deep love and gratitude, we announce the passing of Eleanor Borodey, who lived a long, full and beautiful life defined by hard work, devotion to family, and a warmth that made every person feel welcome in her presence.

Eleanor was the heart of her family — our rock. She was a caring and attentive mother and Baba, always interested in others and quick to ask how everyone was doing. Family was her greatest treasure, and she took immense pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, celebrating their accomplishments with joy and genuine pride. Her Polish and Ukrainian heritage shaped generations and left a lasting legacy.

Eleanor was predeceased by her parents, Walter and Pauline Hrankowski; her husband Michael; her siblings Billy, Polly, Mary, Stanley, Frank, Josie, Jean; and her son-in-law Bruce Hargreaves.

She leaves behind her children Bruce (Marilyn), Karen (late, Bruce), and Gordon; her grandchildren Ryan (Morgan), Jennifer (Kurt), Natasha (Jared), Shane, David, Dillan (Laura), Miranda (Justin), and Camille (Nick); and her great-grandchildren Kayla, Chloe, Michael, Eleanora, Jack, Arlowe, and Murphie.

Born on the family farm in Meleb, Manitoba and later raised in Winnipeg Beach, Eleanor learned the value of hard work early in life, gardening potatoes and vegetables alongside her mother. That strong work ethic carried into her years on the farm, where she milked cows, cared for animals, and worked tirelessly alongside her beloved husband, Michael Borodey. Eleanor and Michael were married on June 3, 1950, sharing 54 devoted years together while raising their three children, Bruce, Gordon, and Karen. They later settled in their family home on Fifth Avenue in Gimli, which became a gathering place filled with warmth, laughter, and love.

Known fondly as "Baba," Eleanor was famous for her welcoming spirit and legendary pierogies, pistachio desserts and apple pie. Her home was always open — a place for sleepovers, family dinners, and long evenings spent with friends and family in the gazebo.

Eleanor was a classy and elegant woman, always beautifully dressed with carefully coordinated outfits. She valued friendship and community, enjoying daily walks and coffee with friends, and was an active member of the Catholic Women's League, where she also sang in the choir. Eleanor also enjoyed travel with some of her most memorable trips to Florida, Seattle and Alaska.

In her later years, Eleanor became a proud great-grandmother and lovingly embraced the title of "Baba B." Her 90th birthday was a cherished celebration, bringing together family and friends from near and far to honor a woman so deeply loved.

A service to celebrate Eleanor's life will be held at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Gimli, Manitoba on Saturday, April 25 at 11:00 a.m.

She is now reunited with her beloved Michael.

Vichnaya Pamyat — Eternal Memory.

Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



**OBITUARY**



**The Reverend Dr. Kathryn Virginia (Ginny) Coleman**  
October 10, 1949 - April 3, 2026

Ginny passed away peacefully in the palliative care unit at Gimli Hospital on Friday, April 3rd, 2026 at the age of 76. In her 51 years of service, Ginny engaged in various types of ministry within the United Church. She began with pastoral ministry in Orillia and Midland, Ontario and then moved to Hamilton where she joined the General Council Office. She served as General Secretary of the General Council from 1994 to 2002 before heading west to assume the role of Executive Secretary of the former Conference of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario. In 2005, Ginny returned to pastoral ministry with the people of Little Britain United Church; and after official retirement in 2012, to ministry with people at Cloverdale United Church; Clandeboye - Winnipeg Beach Pastoral Charge and Grey Street United Church in Winnipeg.

Ginny loved to travel and had many amazing stories of the people she met while exploring places like Africa, South America, Europe and Fiji. She had a sharp sense of humour and her boisterous laugh will resonate in the memories of her friends and colleagues. She loved to sing and has been a member of numerous choirs through the years. No tribute to Ginny would be complete without mentioning Camp Miniwanca on the shores of Lake Michigan where she attended as a teenager. Since then, a group of friends associated with the camp have been meeting regularly over the years, including this past summer.

Ginny is survived by her sister Barbara (and spouse Gary), her stepson Chris (and spouse Lisa) and her grandchildren Kye and Michelle.

She was predeceased by her parents and by her partner Suzanne Morris, in 2014.

As per Ginny's express wishes, there will be no formal funeral or Celebration of Life service.

Donations in Ginny's memory may be made to Breakthrough T1D (formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada).

Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



# Classifieds Announcements



Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836

## OBITUARY



**John William Hubar**  
 October 14, 1956 - March 26, 2026  
 John passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 26, at the Poplarville in Poplarfield, MB.  
 He was predeceased by his parents Steve and Lil, and brothers Thomas and Randy.  
 He is survived by his siblings Gary (Karen), Jason (Adrienne), Lynn (Russ) Linklater; nieces and nephews, Tom (Amanda) Linklater, Jaimie (Luisa) Linklater, Tammy Rakar, Matthew (Alaina) Hubar and Holly Hubar.  
 Cremation has taken place. Private family service at a later date.  
**FISHER FUNERAL HOME INC.**  
 1-204-372-6803 or 204-372-6271

## OBITUARY

**Timothy Andrew William Barylski**  
 It is with great sadness the we share the news that Tim took his final breath in the early morning of April 3rd, 2026.  
 He will be deeply missed by so many.  
 Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 2:00 pm at Teulon – Rockwood Centennial Hall, 14 Main Street Teulon, MB.

*Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts*



204-886-0404

## OBITUARY



**Keith Hayden**  
 Peacefully but unexpectedly on Friday, April 10, 2026, at the St. Boniface Hospital, Keith Hayden, aged 76 years, of Gimli, MB, beloved husband of Daphne Markusson, passed away.  
 In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. in the Gilbert Funeral Chapel, Gimli, MB.  
 Full obituary to follow.  
 Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home,  
 Gimli in care of arrangements.



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 18 Main St., Lundar

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