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Roaring '20s mystery night

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Guests take turns trying their luck during the key draw for the \$3,000 "Gatsby Dazzling" diamond necklace at the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village's murder mystery dinner theatre, held Saturday at the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall. Seven participants each received a key for a chance to unlock the prize. Volunteers Donna Gislason and Joe Stoyanowski assist Asher as he tries his lock while others wait their turn. Also pictured are Jan Larkin, Audrey Eyolfson, Karen Pudlo, Linda Spigiel and Elma Pudlo. The seventh contestant is unidentified.

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Molly's Creations brings great flavours to Manitoban homes for more than 30 years

By E. Antonio

Stonewall's Molly Smadylla has been sharing the flavours of the Interlake for more than three decades.

Through her business, Molly's Creations, Smadylla sells a wide range of homemade goods including jams, jellies, pickles, perogies, perishky, cabbage rolls and kitchen towels.

The venture began in 1995 while Smadylla was still working as a school teacher in Ashern. At the time, organizers of local Christmas and spring craft sales were looking for vendors who could help attract more people from the surrounding community.

"Nobody was selling these products and I was already making them for myself, friends and family, so I decided I would put a table in," she said.

What started as a small craft sale table eventually grew into a regular business. After retiring and moving to Stonewall, Smadylla continued producing her homemade foods and expanded to farmers markets and craft sales across several Interlake commu-

nities.

Today, Molly's Creations features more than 35 flavours of jams and jellies along with a variety of pickles and traditional Ukrainian foods. Smadylla sources many of her ingredients locally and often picks berries herself in the Stonewall area.

Her jam selection ranges from classic flavours like strawberry and raspberry to more unique varieties including pumpkin, cranberry, pineapple and carrot, as well as creative combinations of fruits and vegetables.

Smadylla also offers both sweet and savoury perogies. With Ukrainian heritage of her own, she said she is proud to share traditional flavours with the

"NOBODY WAS SELLING THESE PRODUCTS AND I WAS ALREADY MAKING THEM FOR MYSELF, FRIENDS AND FAMILY, SO I DECIDED I WOULD PUT A TABLE IN."

community.

"I am glad I can do this and I am thankful for the communities who support me," she said. "It gives me something to do and look forward to."

Continued on page 5



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Molly Smadylla of Stonewall displays a selection of homemade jams, jellies, pickles and traditional Ukrainian foods from her business, Molly's Creations, during a craft sale last summer. Smadylla has been sharing her homemade products at markets and craft sales across the Interlake for more than 30 years.



Evergreen Staff Spotlight

Celebrating the People Who Make Our Schools Work

Meet Ashley Warcimaga (Komar) - English & Social Sciences Teacher

For the past 10 years, Ashley Warcimaga (Komar) has been helping high school students in Evergreen School Division grow as thinkers, communicators, and confident young adults. Teaching a range of courses from Grades 9-12 English to Canadian History, Social Studies, and Global Issues, Ashley brings both passion and purpose to the Humanities, which are subject areas she holds close to her heart.

Ashley's journey into education began early. From teaching Ukrainian dance as a teenager to working in daycares, she was always drawn to helping young people learn and grow. "I've always been fascinated by child development and what shapes people into who they become," she shares. That curiosity, combined with her love of learning, made teaching a natural path.

In the classroom, Ashley focuses more on than just content, she also works to deeply understand her students. "A lot of what people don't see is how much time teachers spend getting to know each student," she explains. "We tailor instruction, provide meaningful feedback, and help students understand why their learning matters and how it connects to their future."

Some of Ashley's most rewarding moments come when students surprise themselves. She describes the pride she feels when a student who doesn't think of themselves as "an English person" produces a thoughtful, sophisticated piece of writing after putting in the effort. "Watching students take on challenges, refine their work, and realize what they're capable of is what this work is all about," she says. "Those moments build resilience and confidence that will stay with them long after high school."

Ashley values Evergreen's commitment to high-quality education and the strong sense of teamwork among staff. "I'm grateful to work alongside such dedicated colleagues who all share the same goal of supporting students," she says.

She also emphasizes that public education is about far more than delivering curriculum. "Teaching is a human endeavour," Ashley reflects. "It's about building relationships, creating trust, and bringing learning to life. We are helping students think critically, make connections, and become informed individuals who are ready for the world beyond school."

Thank you, Ashley, for your passion, your commitment to students, and for helping shape the thinkers and leaders of tomorrow.

Interviewed by and photographed with trustee Gladys Kohler





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Bill 232, Autism Strategy Act, to provide long-term support, services for people with autism

By Patricia Barrett

Liberal MLA Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park) is charting a course to ensure Manitobans living with autism spectrum disorder and their families receive the care and services they need over the course of their lives.

Lamoureux introduced Bill 232, The Autism Strategy Act, in the Manitoba legislature last month. It would require the provincial government to implement a long-term, co-ordinated strategy to provide support for children and adults living with autism, and will include support for families and caregivers, and provisions for employment and housing, research, data collection and regular reporting.

The number of Manitobans diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder has “significantly” increased over the past decade.

“The needs of those diagnosed are diverse and evolve over the course of one’s life. There needs to be accessible supports and services for people with autism and their families and caregivers in all areas of our province,” said Lamoureux, speaking in the legislature on March 17. “Currently, in Manitoba, there is no long-term co-ordinated strategy to provide the ongoing supports and services needed. Through consultation, I have learned there needs to be an integrated provincial strategy that would encompass several components.”

The *Express* reached out to Lamoureux, but she unavailable for comment.

In addition to a lack of integrated strategy, Lamoureux said there are delays in diagnosing autism. Children on waiting lists for preschool assess-



CINDY LAMOUREUX FACEBOOK
Provincial Liberal MLA Cindy Lamoureux joined members of Parents of Autistic Children Everywhere (PACE) at the legislative building on April 2 to mark World Autism Day.

ments, for instance, are “aging out” before they can be assessed and access therapeutic services.

And employment and housing supports would allow people with autism to achieve “purpose, meaning and independence,” she added.

In creating the bill, Lamoureux said she had spent months consulting with her constituents, members of Parents of Autistic Children Everywhere (PACE), a Winnipeg-based grassroots support organization, pediatricians, The St. Amant Centre, the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba, Indigenous advocates and other service providers, as well as the Nova Scotia government, which will be releasing



DEREK JOHNSON FACEBOOK
Liberal MLA Cindy Lamoureux (Tyndall Park) with MLA Derek Johnson (Interlake-Gimli), one of three PCs who supported Lamoureux’s autism strategy bill.

an autism action plan.

Through consultation, she said she learned that

Continued on page 8

Give to Your Local Community Foundation.

April 26 is Community Foundation Day

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Farmers invited to share what's working in new Manitoba wellness study

By Annaliese Meier

With flood risk rising in parts of the Interlake and ongoing pressures from input costs, labour shortages and unpredictable weather, a new Manitoba study is looking to farmers themselves for answers on what supports mental wellness in agriculture.

Researchers with the Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health at Brandon University are inviting farmers and agricultural service providers across the region to take part in interviews and focus groups aimed at identifying what is already working in farm communities.

The project takes a strengths-based

approach — focusing not only on challenges but on the tools, supports and strategies producers are already using to manage stress and maintain well-being.

“This research is about listening to farmers and ag service providers and learning from what’s already working,” said Tracy Young, research facilitator with the Centre. “Hearing directly from farmers and those who support them is key to shaping meaningful approaches to wellness.”

Young said the study grew out of her experience working directly with producers and farm families.

“Over the last number of years in

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From Soil to Soul: What Works for Farmer Wellness This Project is approved by BUREC #23638

my work as a mental health clinician in agriculture, I've become increasingly familiar with the industry hardships and the risks to mental health for farmers and farm families," she said. "At the same time, I've also seen the importance of reminding people of their purpose — their connection to the land, the animals and the work they do.

"We hear so much about the down-

side. Why not take a closer look at the good — the positive, the strengths in farming — and what works to keep the industry growing and thriving?"

Farm families continue to navigate long hours, financial uncertainty and the increasing complexity of modern agriculture, all of which can take a toll on mental health. In regions like the Interlake, those pressures are often compounded by weather-related concerns such as flooding and delayed seasons.

Young said the study is not ignoring those realities but instead aims to highlight resilience within the industry.

"We're not intending to overlook the pressures farmers are facing," she said. "We want to gather the voices of strength and hope and help raise them up so the industry can be reminded of the promise that agriculture still holds."

In practical terms, the strengths-based approach means focusing on what is already helping farmers cope and succeed.

"We want to know what's working for you — what brought you strength, what gave you purpose, how you keep going and who supports you," Young said. "From there, we can build on those ideas and develop tools that are truly relevant to the industry."

The study will collect stories from both farmers and agricultural service providers, with the goal of identifying supports that can be expanded and shared more widely.

Those insights will be compiled into narratives that highlight resilience in agriculture and used to develop tools

Berry hungry birds



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CLIVE WILLIAMS

Robins cluster in a berry-laden tree in Sandy Hook on April 19, where sunny skies did little to offset a high of -1 C and a brisk SSE wind that made it feel like -5 . The temperature sat about 10 degrees below the seasonal average high of 9 C.

> MOLLY, FROM PG. 2

Her recipes are a blend of family traditions and dishes discovered in recipe books over the years, each refined to her taste through decades of experience.

Production time varies depending on what she is making. A batch of jams or jellies can take a few hours, while preparing large quantities of perogies or cabbage rolls can turn into a full-day process.

While her production methods have largely remained the same, Smadylla has adapted her techniques over time to meet updated food production rules and regulations.

One of the biggest changes she has seen is the growth of her customer base. While many of her earliest supporters have since passed on, new generations continue to discover her

products.

"I enjoy when parents or grandparents buy and share my things with their young people," she said. "They know my products are better than what they would find in a store."

Smadylla's goods are made without artificial flavourings or additives, something she believes helps customers feel confident about what they are eating.

Customers can find Molly's Creations at several upcoming markets. Smadylla will be in Ashern on Friday, May 1, in Fraserwood on Saturday, May 9, and Winnipeg Beach on Saturday, May 16. Beginning in July, she plans to alternate Fridays between the Stonewall and Teulon farmers markets and will also be at the Lockport market every Sunday.

Orders, including large quantities, can also be placed by calling Smadylla at 204-467-9798.

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities. Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at news@expressweeklynews.ca or Phone 204-467-5836

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WEEKLY NEWS



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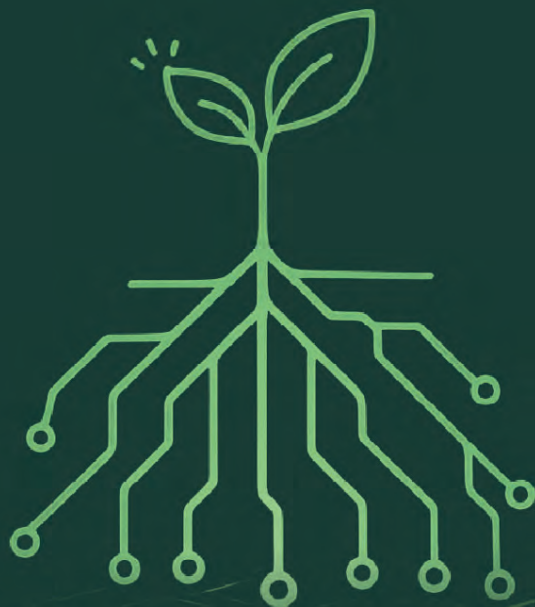
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OUR SISTER PUBLICATIONS



Easton Place doctor earns Physician Emeritus Award

By Jennifer McFee

A longtime physician is earning accolades for his contributions throughout his medical career.

Dr. Anthony Anozie is this year's recipient of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Physician Emeritus Award.

Physician colleagues and community members had the chance to nominate recently retired or reduced-practice physicians who have provided exemplary service and expertise to their community.

With more than 35 years of experience as a physician, Dr. Anozie has worked in the U.K., Australia and Canada with a general surgery specialization. Currently, he is based out of Easton Place Clinic, which earned an award from Selkirk Biz in 2023 for the best new business.

Dr. Peter Cho, surgical co-lead for IERHA, nominated Dr. Anozie to recognize his distinguished career dedicated to patient care, education and collegial leadership.

"Serving the community since 1997, Dr. Anozie has consistently demonstrated clinical excellence alongside a gentle and respectful demeanour," Dr. Cho said in his nomination submission.

"He is deeply well regarded by colleagues, trainees and patients and has long fostered a culture of collabora-

tion within the surgical community. His immense experience and knowledge have made him a trusted resource and mentor to many."

Dr. Cho noted that Dr. Anozie has also trained and guided numerous general surgeons over the years and is widely respected as a thoughtful and effective teacher.

"His commitment to mentorship and teamwork has left a lasting impact on those who have worked with him and on the quality of care delivered within the community," Dr. Cho said.

"Dr. Anozie's career reflects the values of service, professionalism and mentorship that the Physician Emeritus Award seeks to recognize. He is most deserving of this honour."

Dr. Anozie said he feels humbled and appreciative to be this year's award recipient.

"Highlights of my career include practising all over the Interlake and up north as an itinerant surgeon. What I like best is meeting people and sometimes making them well," he said.

"I'd like to thank the people of the Interlake for welcoming me into their community."

Dr. Scott Gregoire, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's vice-president of medical services and chief medical officer, expressed appreciation for Dr. Anozie's contributions.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dr. Anthony Anozie is this year's recipient of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Physician Emeritus Award.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Anozie, predominately in my role as a radiologist, and his skill, professionalism and collegiality have always been exceptional," Dr. Gregoire said.

"He is deeply respected by his colleagues and consistently brings a thoughtful, collaborative approach to patient care."

Dr. Anozie received his award at Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's annual spring physician dinner on April 14 at the Selkirk Golf and Country Club.

RM of Armstrong presents 2026-27 financial plan

By Jennifer McFee

Armstrong residents could face an increase to the mill rate, pending approval of the proposed 2026-27 financial plan.

The proposed municipal mill rate is 18.741, which is an increase of 1.088 mills from the 2025 rate of 17.653. The taxable assessment for 2026 has in-

creased by 1.35 per cent or about \$1.7 million.

The proposed 6.16 per cent increase includes 3.9 per cent that reflects the municipality's budgetary needs, while the remainder comes from the school tax levy.

For a residential home with the building and land assessed at \$291,000, the

average increase would be \$142.57 more than 2025.

According to the 2021 census, the RM of Armstrong has a population of 1,967 people with 1,056 private dwellings. The overall land area of the municipality is 1,868.24 square kilometres.

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Electronic patient record launched at Ashern hospital

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government has introduced an electronic patient record (EPR) system at Lakeshore General Hospital in Ashern, a move aimed at improving access to patient information and supporting front-line care in rural health settings.

Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara said the new system is part of broader efforts to modernize health care across the province.

"The work to modernize and strengthen health care includes giving front-line providers better tools to do their jobs," Asagwara said. "Electronic patient records mean providers can access the information they need,

when they need it, which helps reduce duplication, improve communication and support safer, more co-ordinated care for patients."

Ashern is among the first rural communities in Manitoba to implement the system, marking a step toward expanding digital health tools beyond major urban centres.

Dr. Iraj Ghanbari Miandoab, site medical lead for Ashern and Eriksdale hospitals and clinics, said the transition represents a significant shift for rural care.

"The electronic patient record is more than a technological upgrade — it is a transformation of what rural health care can be," he said. "In Ashern, we're building a future where

every patient encounter is informed, connected and worthy of the trust our communities place in us."

The system is designed to streamline documentation, improve access to patient histories and support more efficient care at the bedside. The hospital's emergency department has been using the EPR for all new patients registered since March 3.

Taylor Buors, a clinical resource nurse on the inpatient unit, said the change has already improved workflow.

"It's enabled us to have quick access to a patient's detailed medical history, so we can spend less time finding information and more time caring for patients," Buors said. "Overall, this

has reduced our administrative tasks and made our workflow more efficient."

The province said the rollout will continue in phases, led by Shared Health's Digital Shared Services team, with additional rural and regional sites expected to adopt the system over time.

Town halls on the electronic patient record are planned this spring in partnership with Doctors Manitoba as the province continues its push to modernize health-care systems and improve access to connected patient information.

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health honours 368 volunteers

By Haley Cvar, with files from IERHA

National Volunteer Week runs April 19 to 26, and this year Interlake-Eastern Health is recognizing 368 people across the region who volunteer their time in health facilities and programs that impact many individuals and families.

Holly Typliski, a fourth-year University of Manitoba student, volunteers once a week in the dialysis unit at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

"I started volunteering at the front door to the hospital, and that was a great way to interact with all kinds of people. It also exposed me to different departments across the hospital that I could potentially volunteer in," she said. "No one wants to be at the hospital, so by being a friendly, familiar face they see every week, I try to make them feel safe and comfortable while they are here. The best part is having conversations with patients while they are receiving treatment and hopefully making their day a little better by providing that support."

Typliski said her experience in a health-care setting is helping prepare her for a future career in the field. She is completing a bachelor of health sciences in the interdisciplinary health program and plans to pursue a master's degree to become a physician assistant. She also works part time as a research assistant at St. Boniface Research Centre.

Marline Wruck and her friend Henrietta began volunteering by singing with patients at Pinawa Hospital in 2018. They paused their visits in 2020 and recently returned in mid-January 2026, bringing music back to the hos-

pital.

"The joy, conversations and care for one another is what brings us back," Wruck said. "Many of the patients are in the hospital for a long time, and the days can get very long. I've heard that since COVID, many of the volunteers who once came to the hospital have not returned."

Melody Horn, who lives east of Lac du Bonnet, volunteers at the local personal care home, running bingo and assisting with family events at least once a week for nearly three years.

"I try to make people smile, laugh and enjoy themselves. I also do the same and find myself enjoying it just as much," she said. "I go before the game starts to talk to residents and get them excited to play. I also enjoy helping out at special family events. Volunteering brings me joy."

Anyone interested in assisting with the recreation department is invited to contact regional recreation manager Lori Martin at lmartin@ierha.ca.

The palliative care program is seeking volunteers for Camp Stepping Stones, an annual grief camp for children held at Camp Arnes from May 29 to 31. Those interested can contact Lorraine Schmidt, Interlake-Eastern RHA volunteer co-ordinator, at lschmidt@ierha.ca or call 1-855-494-7369.

From April 8 to June 3, the spiritual care program is offering a Spirit of Caring training course every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Participants who complete the training are eligible to become spiritual health volunteers in the region. To register,

contact Ferdinand Funk, regional spiritual health services co-ordinator, at 204-461-3414 or ffunk@ierha.ca by April 6.

Interlake-Eastern Health's recreation, palliative care and spiritual care programs are all seeking volunteers. Opportunities include friendly visiting, reading, leading activities and crafts, assisting with mealtimes, help-

ing with transportation and more. Additional roles are available in some health facilities and with community partners, such as seniors resource councils.

More information about volunteer opportunities is available at www.ierha.ca under About Us > Community Involvement > Volunteer Opportunities.

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letter to the editor

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news@expressweeklynews.ca

Rail trail plan raises safety concerns

We are part-time residents of Glen Bay and travel weekly from Winnipeg to our cottage year-round. We had planned to attend the presentation regarding the rail trail; however, due to road conditions, we were unable to make the trip.

I have reviewed the three options presented online, all of which focus

on a multi-use trail. I was surprised the analysis did not include a fourth option — leaving the trail as is at no cost — and instead exploring alternative locations for a dedicated ORV trail west of Highway 222. I understand the municipality has maps identifying approved ORV routes west of Highway 222, suggesting a north-south trail along Highway 8 could have been considered in an area with lower population density.

Communities east of Highway 222 experience a significant increase in traffic during the summer months.

Entering and exiting these areas, including the newly opened Marvelous Meadows golf course, is already challenging. The addition of an ORV corridor adjacent to these access points would introduce dangerous cross-traffic.

Even with courtesy stop signs on the rail trail, there is no guarantee sightlines for vehicles travelling east into these communities would be sufficient to avoid collisions with increased ORV traffic. Similarly, vehicles turning off Highway 222 from either direction could create hazard-

ous conditions for ORV operators crossing intersections. Cross-traffic is the primary concern, posing risks to both drivers and ORV users.

Recommending what amounts to a “nice-to-have” ORV trail over the safety and well-being of municipal residents appears ill-advised. Furthermore, approving this plan might expose the municipality to liability should accidents occur as a result of these conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
A concerned citizen

> AUTISM, FROM PG. 3

some parents have had to quit their jobs or use up their holiday and sick time to stay home with their children, or have had to leave work early so that “someone can always be with the child.”

Over the past decade, Lamoureux said Manitoba has been “silent” on creating a province-wide plan to improve access to vital supports and services for autism, and is “starting to lag behind” other Canadian jurisdictions.

“In 2023, the House of Commons unanimously passed the Federal Framework on Autism Spectrum Disorder. This mandates the Minister of Health to create a national framework to improve access to supports, research and services. Nova Scotia will be releasing an autism action plan very soon based off the government’s commitment. This derived from an NDP MLA, Lisa Lachance, and her private member’s bill in 2023. BC is currently discussing rolling out services and assessing differently, and Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan are all doing something through autism strategies, plans, committees and ongoing work,” said Lamoureux. “This brings us to Manitoba, where, unfortunately, over the last decade, there has been silence.”

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson was one of the official opposition Progressive Conservative members to stand in support of Lamoureux’s bill.

Johnson said he supports bill because it would require the government to improve the screening and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and support autism research as part of Manitoba’s health-care system.

It would help identify the gaps in programs and services and focus government funding where it’s lacking.

“How can you focus resources on something when you don’t where the holes are?” Said Johnson. “This bill would have the government create a strategy to identify those issues in our health-care system and also identify supports and the services needed by people with autism and their families and caregivers.”

The bill, if passed, would require annual reporting plus a review every five years, he added. That would address accountability and provide a mechanism by which the strategy could be updated where needed.

“I feel it will truly make a difference for Manitoba families that are struggling to ensure their children reach their full potential,” said Johnson. “There are data that show the sooner you identify autism, the earlier you can them get those interventions and increase their IQ gains. We always want anybody with a disability to reach their utmost potential. We can support therapies for children and adults to help them deal with the challenges presented with autism.”

Johnson said no funding was attached to Lamoureux’s bill as only government cabinet ministers are allowed to introduce legislation that “forces the government to spend money.”

His party also supports families’ choice of therapy program, including applied behavioural analysis and Autism Outreach, but some of those programs should be available as “part

of our health-care system.”

Bill 232 received first and second reading in the house last month, but it has yet to be called to committee, where it could be amended, and third and final reading.

The PCs said in a March 19 Facebook post that the Kinew government initially voted “no” to the bill before changing course after “public backlash.”

Johnson said three members of the official opposition Conservatives stood in support of Lamoureux’s bill to force it to a recorded vote, but it’s up to the government to now “call it” to the committee stage. If the government fails to call it to committee, it could die.

“Being the lone Liberal in the legislature means [Cindy] needed other legislative members to support the bill,” said Johnson. “So I stood up and supported it and helped force it to a recorded vote to ensure it got voted on. The NDP voted for it, but we’ll see if they call it to committee.”

The provincial government has programs in place that support Manitobans living with autism, including funding of \$21.5 million this year in autism-specific supports and services.

It also provides funding for services, operations and capital projects at the Winnipeg-based St. Amant Centre.

St. Amant’s CEO Ben Adaman said in an April 7 news release on the centre’s website that the province’s 2026 budget includes a new \$5-million commitment that will allow St. Amant to support more autistic Manitobans and their families.

“That is the biggest new investment in capacity in at least 15 years,” said Adaman. “Details are still being worked out, but the government has expressed strong confidence that St. Amant will put those new resources where they are most needed. We are determined to support people to achieve the goals that matter to them.”

Community Support Service

AA Arborg

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

AA Eriksdale

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

AA Winnipeg Beach

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

Gimli Group AA

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

AI-Anon

Gimli and Winnipeg Beach

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

AA Riverton Group

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

National Huntington Walk Manitoba
Lockport River's Edge Run
for HD
HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE
"Manitoba's Beautiful Run!"

30k MARATHON 7:30 am	1/2 MARATHON 7:30 am	10k RUN/WALK 8:00 am	5k RUN/WALK 8:00 am
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Saturday, May 9th, 2026
Start & Finish at Skinner's River Road in Lockport, MB
Register at:
www.hdmanitoba.ca
Free Deluxe Pancake Breakfast for all participants!
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Puzzle challenge draws crowd, newcomers to wellness centre



A team competes in the 500-piece speed puzzle challenge during the April 17 fundraiser at the Lakeshore Regional Wellness Centre in Ashern.

By Lana Meier

A lively evening of teamwork and friendly competition unfolded April 17 at the Lakeshore Regional Wellness Centre in Ashern, where participants gathered for a speed puzzle fundraiser.

The event featured 14 teams of four racing to complete 500-piece puzzles, with a mix of families, friends and community members taking part. One registered team was unable to attend due to poor weather, while several others remained on a waiting list.

Taking top spot were Leon McMahon, Bernice McLean, Janelle McLean and Tessa McLean, who completed their puzzle in an impressive 59 minutes.

Organizer Scott Cameron said the idea was new to him but has been gaining popularity.

"I had never heard about this before, but I've seen it a couple of times lately and thought we would give it a try. It was a lot of fun," he said.

Cameron emphasized the event was about more than fundraising.

"It's really about finding opportunities to get new people in the doors to see the centre. The fundraising is a bonus — these events are about meeting, socializing and having some fun," he said.

He added it was encouraging to see attendees showing others around the facility, noting about 60 per cent of participants were visiting for the first time.

The Lakeshore Regional Wellness Centre hosts at least one special event each month alongside its regular programming, which includes activities such as yoga, pickleball, walking track access, cards, floor hockey, table tennis and youth clubs.

Upcoming events include a Mega Bounce trampoline day on April 25 and a music bingo night on May 29, where participants identify songs from short clips to fill their cards.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY KATHY TURNER

Winners of the speed puzzle challenge, left to right, Leon McMahon, Bernice McLean, Janelle McLean and Tessa McLean, completed their 500-piece puzzle in 59 minutes.

Cameron said the volunteer-run facility is also exploring ways to expand access, with hopes a summer student will allow for longer hours. Currently, members have 24-hour access using key fobs, while the building is open to the public during scheduled events.

Plans are also underway to intro-

duce a farmers' market this fall, featuring home baking, garden produce and local vendors.

The centre continues to focus on promoting physical and mental wellness while transforming the former Ashern curling rink into a modern community facility.

> WELLNESS STUDY, FROM PG. 4

and resources for producers in Manitoba and beyond, in partnership with the Do More Agriculture Foundation.

Young said participation from farmers across rural Manitoba is critical to the success of the project.

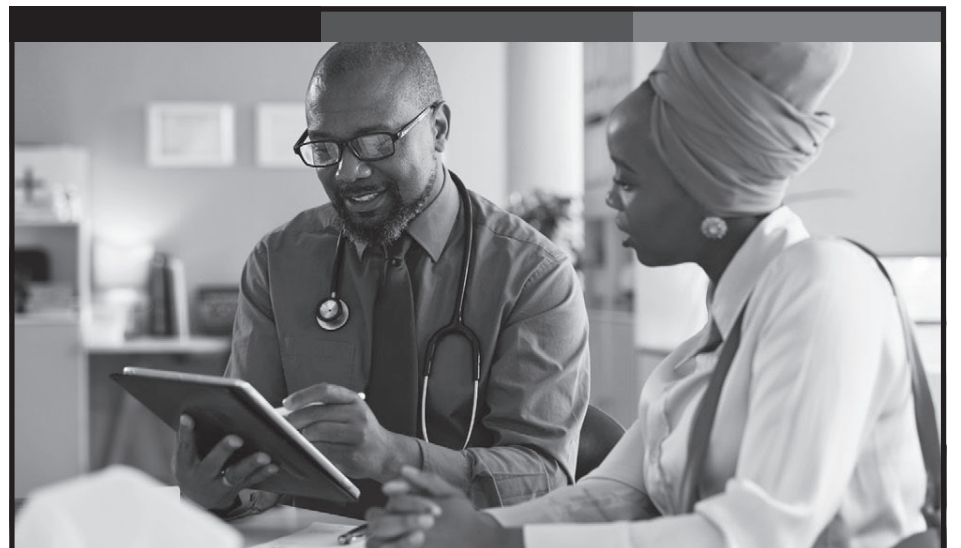
"Everyone's voice is important. Everyone has a story to tell that could help someone else," she said. "Agriculture can be isolating at times, and if this study can help share that strength across the miles, that alone is a reason to take part."

Farmers, farm employees, fam-

ily members and agricultural service providers are all encouraged to participate.

Participants are being asked to share their experiences, wellness strategies and perspectives on what supports mental health within the agriculture sector.

More information about the study and how to participate is available online at youngt@brandonu.ca or by contacting Tracy Young, principal investigator for the project, at 204-571-8532.



90 new doctors in rural Manitoba.

With 90 new rural doctors and a plan to recruit even more, Budget 2026 is re-opening ERs and making rural health care better.

Manitoba.ca/Budget2026



Rockwood's Peter Derksen takes on 4,625-kilometre trek to support Ukraine

By E. Antonio

Rockwood resident Peter Derksen has set out on a remarkable journey — hiking more than 4,600 kilometres from Mexico to Canada — to raise funds and awareness for soldiers fighting in Ukraine.

The retired police officer officially began his six-month trek along the Pacific Crest Trail in April, carrying everything he needs on his back and taking on the challenge completely unsupported. For Derksen, the journey is about far more than endurance — it's about continuing a mission that began years ago.

"I was born into freedom and I don't take it for granted," he said. "We are privileged and have worked for this. We have to cherish what we have and fight for those who don't. It's a foundation of being human."

Derksen's connection to Ukraine is deeply personal. In 2022, following a 35-year career with the Winnipeg Police Service, the military and Manitoba Justice, he travelled overseas and spent a year supporting efforts on the ground. During that time, he delivered more than 900 kilograms of aid — much of it donated by members of the Winnipeg Police Service — to soldiers in need.

Now, three years later, he is continuing that commitment in a different way.

"I have always been driven by making a difference through the service of others," he said. "Through my three careers, helping serve others was always there, and I want to continue to do that now."

Rather than returning to the front lines, Derksen chose to fundraise. Through his hike, he is collecting donations for the Canada-Ukraine Foundation through his personal fundraising page, with all proceeds going directly toward supporting Ukraine. He is also matching the first \$2,000 raised over the course of the journey.

The Pacific Crest Trail stretches from the U.S.-Mex-

ico border to British Columbia, taking hikers through some of North America's most challenging terrain, including the deserts of California, the Sierra Nevada mountains and the rugged Cascades of Washington. The trek begins with hikers touching Mexican sand through the fence at the U.S.-Mexico border before heading north.

While thousands attempt the trail each year, far fewer complete it, with more people successfully summiting Mount Everest. For Derksen, reaching the Canadian border will represent more than a physical accomplishment — it will symbolize meaningful support for a cause he believes in.

This level of endurance hiking is new territory for him. His previous experience includes completing the 70-kilometre Mantario Trail, but the Pacific Crest Trail presents a far greater challenge.

To prepare, Derksen spent months training through Manitoba's winter, hiking daily in temperatures as low as -20 C. Much of that training took place near Rockwood, where he repeatedly climbed Pikes Peak for hours at a time while carrying a roughly 40-pound pack. His dog, Bella — who will stay at home with loved ones — often joined Derksen during his training sessions and was "no doubt confused" about why they were walking the same path so many times.

Other training included strength building and stretching to develop the resilience needed for the journey.

Even with that preparation, the trail presents extreme and unpredictable conditions. He began his hike during a California heat wave, with temperatures climbing above 38 C. After crossing roughly 700 miles of desert, Derksen will return to cold and snowy conditions, including tackling Mount Whitney — the highest mountain in the contiguous United States. He said the drastic change in conditions will be a "complete shock" to his body.

"I will either be a dried-out prune or I will be a well-established desert traveller," he said. "Either way, I will have lost my skills to travel in the snow."

Other challenges he is preparing to face include wildlife encounters, staying on the trail, reaching towns to replenish supplies and the general dangers of remote hiking — something easier said than done, with risks such as fast-moving mountain streams, steep terrain and extreme weather. But Derksen said these risks are worth taking.

"It's a lot safer than going back to Ukraine and fighting in the military," he said. "As an outdoorsman, I have the skills to prepare me for the wilderness. Now it is time for me to use them."

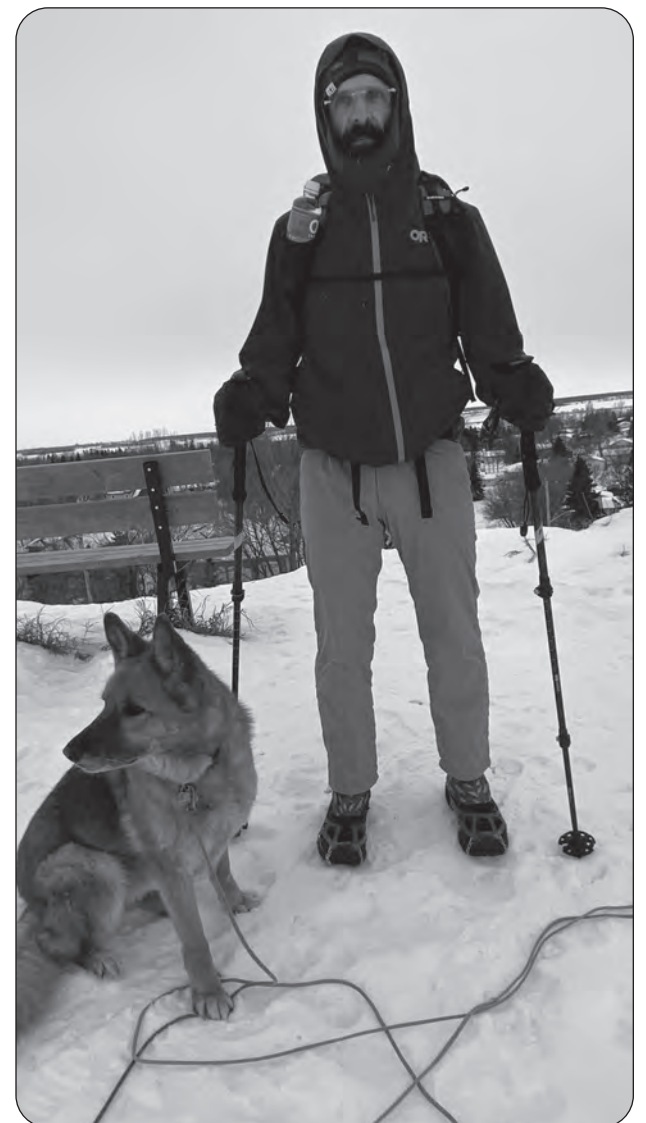
Throughout the journey, he plans to share updates through a blog, allowing supporters back home to follow along and stay connected to the cause.

For Derksen, staying motivated comes down to perspective.

"There are soldiers still fighting for the land



Scan the QR code to donate to Derksen's Hike for Ukraine. He is matching the first \$2,000 in donations.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Rockwood's Peter Derksen is hiking 4,625 kilometres from the United States-Mexico border to British Columbia along the Pacific Crest Trail while raising funds for Ukraine. Pictured is Derksen training at Pikes Peak in Stony Mountain with all of his gear and his dog, Bella.

their parents were born on," he said. "I have the ability to support their people and their right to be free, and I will — I have to open up the door to have a success at making a difference."

He hopes his efforts will inspire others to act in their own way.

"Wherever, whoever and whatever you are, time is limited, so the best opportunity is now. See you all soon — ish."

Updates on Derksen's journey will be posted at www.thetrek.co/author/peter-derksen/. Donations can be made at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/HikeForUkraine>, with tax receipts available for Canadians.



Derksen served with the armed forces in Ukraine in 2022.

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

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Entrepreneurs shine at Gimli Chamber of Commerce 2026 Heart of Business Awards



Darcy Jacobs from Access Credit Union presents Susan Bauernhuber from Arborg with the Community Volunteer of the Year Award at the Gimli Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Heart of Business Awards on April 18.

By Patricia Barrett

The Gimli Chamber of Commerce put the business community in the limelight last Saturday night with its 2nd Annual Heart of Business Awards.

President Samantha Hampton and her chamber team — along with award sponsors — paid tribute to entrepreneurs from Gimli, Winnipeg Beach, Sandy Hook, Dunnottar, Riverton, Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton.

"To our award winners, congratulations! Tonight we celebrate your work, your impact and the role you play in strengthening our community," said Hampton. "And, just as importantly, to every single nominee in this room, please know that being nominated is a reflection of the impact you're making. You are seen, recognized and celebrated by your community."

In order of presentation, the awards, the sponsors and the winners are as follows:

Chamber Champion Award sponsored by the chamber. Nominees: the *Express Weekly News* and Samantha Hampton. **WINNER:** *Express Weekly News*.

After Hours Award sponsored by The RM of Gimli. Nominees Ian Prise, Sara Rodriguez, Pam Sutyla and Crystal Hjørleifson, and Sarah Markwart. **WINNER:** Ian Prise.

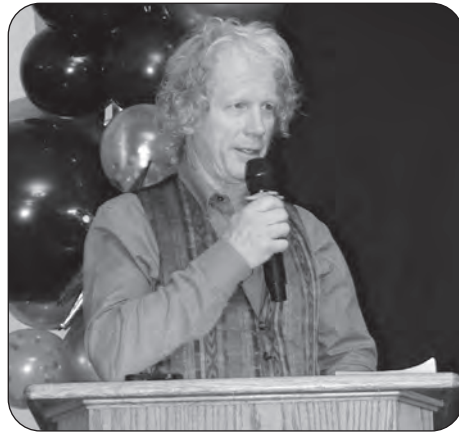
Non-profit Organization Award sponsored by Westshore Community Foundation. Nominees Manitoba Animal Alliance, Interlake Counselling and Resource Centre, Gimli Art Club, and Evergreen Basic Needs. **WINNER:** Evergreen Basic Needs.

Leadership in Diversity & Inclusion sponsored by Aurora Recovery Centre. Nominees: Spruce Sands RV Resort; Prairie Gal Fishing. **WINNER:** Prairie Gal Fishing.

Tourism & Hospitality Excellence



Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan (left) and Jackie Plett from the Manitoba Women's Enterprise Centre present Chad Ermel with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award.



Brett Mitchell from the *Express Weekly News* accepts the Chamber Champion Award.



Chuck Davidson (left) president of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, presents Adam Stringer with Legacy of Impact Award.

Award sponsored by Pratts Wholesale Food Service. Nominees: Carlos Cucina, Beach Boy Restaurant, Whyte-wold Emporium, Interlake Brewing Co. and Kahleigh's Brew Barn. **WINNER:** Beach Boy Restaurant.

Community Volunteer of the Year Award sponsored by Access Credit Union. Nominees: Debbie Fakes, Peter and Susan Holfeuer, Romanna Klymkiw, Pat Nuspl, Pam Isfeld and Susan Bauernhuber. **WINNER:** Susan Bauernhuber.

Legacy of Impact Award sponsored by the chamber. Nominees: Adam Stringer, Westshore Community Foundation, M&J Auto Parts and Corey Palsson. **WINNER:** Adam String-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The 2026 recipients of a Heart of Business Award from the Gimli Chamber of Commerce.



Tracy Sawatsky (right) was honoured with the Mad Hatter Award from Samantha Hampton for her outstanding service as a member of the chamber board.



Teri Nicholson (left) from Westshore Community Foundation presents Karen Bowman from Evergreen Basic Needs with the Non-profit Organization Award.



Marshal Marks (left) receives the Young Entrepreneur Award from Stephen Chychota.

er.

Agriculture & Fisheries Achievement Award sponsored by Community Futures East Interlake. Nominees: Minerva Tree Farms, Bruce's Marine and Bar Z Beef. **WINNER:** Bar Z Beef.

Trades in Action Award sponsored by Rona Gimli. Nominees: Ken Laurie, Silver Lining Stitchery, Innovative Electric and BVC Electric. **WINNER:** Innovative Electric.

Young Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Rona Gimli. Nominees: Nik-



Brenna Philp (left) receives the Interlake Impact Award from chamber president Samantha Hampton.



Gimli Deputy Mayor Kurt Reichert (left) presents Ian Prise with the After Hours Award.

Continued on page 12

Fund honours legacy of Winnipeg Beach woman

By Annaliese Meier

The life and legacy of Nicole Lee Grushka are being honoured through a new scholarship fund that will support students pursuing careers working with children and youth.

Established in 2026 by the Grushka family with support from friends and the community, the Nicole L. Grushka Legacy Fund — held through the Westshore Community Foundation Inc. — will provide two annual awards reflecting Nicole's passion for teaching and caring for young people.

Nicole, who grew up in Winnipeg Beach, died Jan. 27 at the age of 20. In her short life, she was known for her kind and selfless nature, bringing joy, laughter and warmth to those around her. She had a natural connection with children, who were drawn to her playful spirit, welcoming presence and genuine care.

At the time of her passing, Nicole was pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher, working to support her own education while building a future focused on helping others.

The fund established in her memory includes two distinct awards aimed at supporting students following similar paths.

The Nicole Grushka Future Educator Award is intended for students graduating from Gimli High School who plan to become teachers. Applicants must be accepted into a bachelor of education program, or into an undergraduate degree with the intention of enrolling in an after-degree program leading to a career in teaching. Preference will be given to students who are residents of Winnipeg Beach and/or attended Winnipeg Beach Elementary School.

The Nicole Grushka Children & Youth Advocate Award is designed to support students pursuing careers focused on early childhood education and youth development. Eligible applicants include graduating Gimli High School students who are enrolled in or accepted into post-secondary programs

of at least six months in length in fields related to working with children and youth. This includes areas such as early childhood education, educational assistance, childcare, child and youth care work, social work, occupational therapy, speech pathology or other child-centred helping professions. Preference will again be given to students with ties to Winnipeg Beach or Winnipeg Beach Elementary School.

For both awards, the Westshore scholarship committee will place strong emphasis on a candidate's demonstrated passion for working with children. Applicants will be evaluated based on references, as well as their involvement in activities such as tutoring or coaching and hands-on experience caring for, supporting or advocating for children and youth.

Foundation president Teri Nicholson said the creation of the fund reflects both Nicole's impact and the strength of the community that rallied around her family.

"Rural communities are known for rising quickly to support families who have suffered a tragedy," Nicholson said, noting that early fundraising efforts, including a community-led online campaign, helped establish the endowment.

The Westshore Community Foundation administers more than 40 endowment funds and hopes the Nicole Grushka Legacy Fund will continue to grow over time through ongoing community support.

Nicholson said memorial funds like this not only honour a loved one's legacy but also create lasting opportunities for others, helping students pursue their educational goals and, in many cases, return to serve their home communities.

In 2026, the foundation is distributing tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships and grants, supporting a wide range of initiatives and learners across the region.

Donations to the Nicole L. Grushka Legacy Fund



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Nicole Grushka, remembered for her kindness and love of children, is being honoured through a scholarship fund created in her memory.

can be made online through the Westshore Community Foundation Inc website. Click on the red "Donate" button, then select "Make an Online Gift Now" in the top right corner. When completing the donation form, ensure "Nicole L. Grushka Legacy Fund" is entered under "Name of Fund."

Donations may also be made in person at the foundation office at 203-66 First Ave. in Gimli, by mail to PO Box 395, Gimli, MB, R0C 1B0 or by phone at 204-642-9796.

Those interested in creating their own endowment fund can visit the "Create a Fund" page on the foundation's website or email admin@wcf-foundation.ca for more information.

> ARMSTRONG, FROM PG. 6

Some of the municipality's recent accomplishments include completing a walking bridge in Inwood, renovating the public works shop, undertaking land sales of RM-owned vacant land and forage leased land, studying the waste site and transfer station, improving drainage through beaver removal and brushing and completing road repairs to Road 0.

The municipality has also hired a public works co-ordinator, a finance administrator/permitting planning coordinator and a new building inspector. Recent purchases include a disc mower, tractor, previously leased bobcat and attachments, and a new grass-fire truck for the Inwood Fire Department.

The main expense is about \$2.08 million for transportation services, which includes public works salaries, equipment and yard operations, equipment rentals, road maintenance, snow removal, drainage and street lighting.

Another expense is \$855,188 for government services, which includes council indemnities, administrative wages, office operations, bylaw enforcement, conferences, insurance, grants. Other costs under this umbrella relate to legal, audit, assessment, taxation and election expenses.

Fiscal services will receive \$490,000 for planned projects.

The proposed financial plan also includes \$264,434 for protective services, including fire protection, emergency measures, E-911 and animal and pest control.

Environmental services will receive \$161,700 for landfill and transfer station wages, landfill maintenance, well testing and sewage tipping fees.

A total of \$109,457 will go towards economic development services, such as weed control, watershed districts and veterinary services.

Another \$11,320 is allotted for public health and welfare services, in-

cluding cemetery mowing and social assistance.

Upcoming items in the five-year capital plan include \$2 million towards the Fraserwood Fire Hall, \$250,000 for the administrative building,

\$60,000 for protective gear replacement for the Inwood Fire Department and \$5,000 for Christmas lights.

Council will vote on approving the proposed 2026 financial plan on April 26.

> AWARDS, FROM PG. 11

ki Chapnik, Lakeside Law, Brittany Yahiro, Sandy Paw's Grooming, Dayna Pull, Your Pull to Wellness, and Marshal Marks, Marshal Marks Fitness. **WINNER:** Marshal Marks.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award sponsored by Manitoba Women's Enterprise Centre. Nominees: Lenore Chartrand, Heaven Scents Flowers & Gifts, Panagiotis Makiaris, Beach Boy Restaurant, Kim Kristofferson Magusson, Johnson's Fashion & Footwear, Chad Ermel, Flatland Coffee, Graeme Maclean, Interlake Brewing and Don Fletcher, Bond Invention House. **WINNER:**

Chad Ermel.

Interlake Impact Award sponsored by Valley Fiber. Nominees: Rayme Thomson, Brenna Philp and Brittany Isfeld. **WINNER:** Brenna Philp.

Hampton announced the **Mad Hatters Award**, which acknowledges someone who wears "many hats" in their chamber board duties as Tracy Sawatsky from the Ship & Plough Tavern was honoured.

And the new **People's Choice Award** was presented to Bruce's Marine by Aimee Veldkamp from POS Systems.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Seared Strip Loin with Linguini

garnish
pepper, to taste
Pat steak dry and season generously with kosher salt. Heat grill pan or grill to medium-high heat. Grill steak until medium-rare (135-140 F), turning half-way through cooking, about 8 minutes total. Set aside.

Bring large pot of salted water to boil. Cook linguini according to package instructions. Reserve 1 cup pasta water before draining linguini in colander.

In same pasta pot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Cook fennel, red pepper flakes and 1 teaspoon kosher salt over medium heat, stirring, until fennel is tender, 5-6 minutes. Add chopped olives, garlic and orange zest. Stir in orange juice and stir to combine. Set aside.

Return drained linguini to pot. Crumble goat cheese on top and add reserved pasta water. Stir until pasta is evenly coated.

Serve with slices of steak on top and garnish with fresh parsley.

- Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
1 Niman Ranch Strip Loin Steak (6-8 ounces)
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional to taste, divided
1 box (16 ounces) linguini
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 cups chopped fennel
1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1/3 cup chopped Castelvetrano (green) olives
2 cloves garlic, chopped
1 orange, zest and juice only
1 goat cheese log (4 ounces)
1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley, for



The Protein Powerhouse

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
Heat griddle to medium heat. Butter bread. Layer cheeses and chicken on top of bread.

Place bread on griddle and cook until lightly toasted. Flip and cook other side.

Remove sandwich from skillet or griddle.

To make powerhouse sauce: Mix Greek yogurt, Dijon mustard, garlic powder and smoked paprika until well blended. Slice sandwich in half and drizzle with Powerhouse sauce.

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
2 slices bread fortified with protein and fiber
2 Borden Mild Cheddar Slices
1 slice Borden Mozzarella Melts
5 ounces sliced chicken breast (deli-shaved or thinly carved)
"Powerhouse" Sauce:
2 tablespoons non-fat Greek yogurt



The Classic

Spread butter on one side of each slice bread.

Place cheese slices on unbuttered side of bread. Top with other slice of bread with butter facing upward.

Place sandwich on skillet or griddle and cook 3-4 minutes on each side. Using spatula, lightly press sandwich down gently while cooking to melt cheese better.

Remove from skillet or griddle and slice in half.

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
2 slices white bread
2 slices Borden Extra Sharp Melts
2 slices Borden American Singles
Heat skillet or griddle over medium heat.

Eight sustainable careers young people should consider

By News Canada

Making long-term career plans can be a daunting process, especially for someone just starting out. With so many options to apply your skills and talents, consider the many industries in this country advancing sustainable solutions.

Canada is home to dynamic, growing sectors that contribute to sustainability. Here are some of the energy and natural resource industries that are looking for new employees:

Mining and critical minerals. Canada has been a leader in the global mining and minerals industry for decades. Today, the sector is becoming more sustainable: mitigating environmental harm from old mines, adopting green mining practices and adapting water management, to name a few changes.

Nuclear energy and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG). These are two key energy sources for Canada, given our rich uranium and natural gas deposits. Both require advanced technology and trained specialists to manage risks and access them sustainably. Wages in the nuclear sector are as much as 30 per cent higher than other jobs in the same community.

Renewable electricity. Electricity generation from wind, water and solar sources is a fast-growing sector in Canada. There are career opportunities in every aspect of renewable energy, from developing technology to building and installing systems, as well as planning and management required for those projects. Electricity sector jobs come with competitive wages and attractive benefits, even for entry-level workers.

Forestry. Responsible forest management is more than laws and policies. It requires skilled workers, from technicians and millwrights working in sustainable lumber, to arborists monitoring and managing forests' health.

Transportation. Electric vehicle (EV) technology is making Canada's transportation sector more sustainable and lowering emissions. There are multiple opportunities in the construction and maintenance



of EVs and energy storage systems, as well as for operators, bringing essential goods to communities across the country.

Construction, energy efficiency and green buildings. Throughout Canada, there are construction or renovation projects to reduce buildings' environmental impact. This means job opportunities in designing and constructing new buildings, as well as projects to retrofit existing structures.

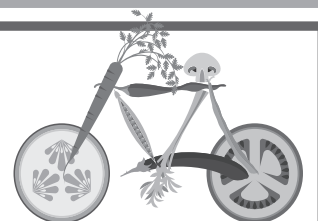
Carbon management. This emerging sector is key to Canada's net-zero emissions goals. It includes a variety of connected technologies and initiatives to capture, store or make use of carbon dioxide. It's a diverse sector generating a wide range of career opportunities, from facility and field operators, geologists and data analysts, to instrumentation technicians and regulatory affairs professionals.

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Gatsby-themed mystery night draws crowd in Arborg



Raffle winner Karen Pudlo took home the \$3,000 "Gatsby Dazzling" diamond necklace.

By Lana Meier

A night of intrigue, elegance and 1920s flair drew a strong crowd to the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall Saturday as the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village hosted its "Great Gatsby"-themed murder mystery dinner theatre and dance.

The immersive fundraiser welcomed approximately 180 guests, many dressed in Roaring '20s attire, creating an atmosphere of glamour and excitement throughout the evening.

"We were very happy with the turnout," said organizer Pat Eyolfson. "The community has truly supported us for 27 years, and once again they showed up in such a strong and meaningful way."

Eyolfson said the level of support continues to be both encouraging and essential to the organization's success.

"It's always so heartwarming to see people come together, not just to attend, but to genuinely support what we're doing at the Heritage Village," she said. "That kind of continued support means everything to us."

The event marked a new direction for the long-running fundraiser, introducing an interactive murder mystery set in the Jazz Age. Guests were invited to take part in the storyline from the moment they arrived, choosing sides and working together to follow clues and solve the case.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CORRINE EINARSSON

Members of the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village's 2026 dinner theatre cast pose in costume following the Great Gatsby-themed murder mystery event held Saturday at the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall. Pictured, left to right, front row: Roslyn Sigvaldason, Ava Pudlo, Jenna Stansell, Lisa Klym, Susie Eyolfson, Katie Kanooki Jones, Alanna Rae, Dianne Grocholski, Lois Fridfinnson, Brenda Reznik, Wanda Sparks and Tracey Bjornson-Collins; back row: Tyler Triska, Jamie Eastman, Oðin Simundson, Dori Jones, Elvis Collins, Adam Orbanski and Ben Eastman.

"Yes, the interactive element worked very well and added a lot to the evening," Eyolfson said. "Guests really seemed to enjoy choosing their sides as they arrived at the door — it got everyone involved right from the start."

Throughout the night, actors moved among the crowd revealing twists and secrets, keeping guests engaged and on their toes.

"The room absolutely had that Great Gatsby energy, and you could feel that people were there not just to watch but to participate, have fun and be part of the experience," she added.

Among the standout moments was a dramatic scene involving a scream and a character collapsing behind the curtain, leaving attendees guessing as to both the victim and the culprit.

"With so many characters involved, it had everyone guessing," Eyolfson said, noting the cast brought their roles to life despite having no formal rehearsals.

The evening also featured a catered meal by Triple Bloom Catering & Co.,



with carved roast beef and all the trimmings, followed by the Heritage Village's well-known dessert room — a highlight that continues to draw praise from guests.

In addition to the dinner and entertainment, guests participated in silent and rainbow auctions and a raffle for a \$3,000 diamond "Gatsby Dazzling"

Continued on page 15



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A collection of various items including bags of snacks, boxes of tissues, and other household goods. The items are displayed on a table, and the background is a green wall with white text.



> GATSBY, FROM PG. 14

Necklace," which generated significant excitement.

"The raffle, in particular, was a real highlight, as people gathered around with excitement to try their keys in the lock," Eyolfson said.

Proceeds from the event will go toward maintaining the Heritage Village's historic buildings and supporting future programming, including the hiring of summer students. While final totals are still being calculated, organizers had set a fundraising goal of \$10,000.

Eyolfson emphasized that events like this are critical to the organization's future.

"We could never have accomplished what we have over the past 27 years without the unwavering support of our community," she said.

More than 40 volunteers helped bring the event to life, from transforming the hall into a Gatsby-style speakeasy to running the evening's activities. Eyolfson also credited director Jan Larkin, the catering team and numerous community donors for their contributions.

"It really does take a whole community," she said. "These events not only help us raise needed funds, but they also bring people together, build pride and keep the spirit of the Village alive for future generations."

Due to the strong response, organizers are already looking ahead to the possibility of making the Gatsby-style mystery event an annual tradition.

"Many commented that they hoped it would become an annual event — and that was our hope as well," Eyolfson said.



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Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson celebrates 10 years with the Manitoba PCs

By Patricia Barrett

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson (Progressive Conservative) celebrated 10 years of advocacy for and service to Interlakers last Saturday night during a fundraising gala in Gimli.

Held in Johnson Hall at the Waterfront Centre, the sold-out event included keynote speaker and PC leader Obby Khan, a full course supper, prizes and musical performers.

Johnson said he was marking not just an anniversary, but a celebration of the people who live in the Interlake, making it “such a special place to call home.”

The past 10 years, he said, “do not belong to just me: they belong to all of you who stood behind and beside me every step of the way.”

Born and raised in Oak Point, where his family has been part of community for four generations, he said he carries the values he learned there — hard work, respect and caring for others — to the political stage where those values plus “showing up” to listen and advocate for his constituents matter.

“Earning you trust in 2016 was one of the greatest honours of my life,” said Johnson, who before entering provincial politics served as coun-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Interlakers paid tribute to Derek Johnson, who celebrated his 10th anniversary as a PC MLA. Johnson later thanked his wife, Tara (left), for all her support, as well as his kids and grandchildren.

cillor for the RM of St. Laurent from 2010 to 2014.

Johnson remarked on some of the highlights of his three successive terms in office, including chairing the Tri-National [Canada, Mexico and United States] Agricultural Accord in Mexico to improve trade and economic opportunities, celebrating the recent athletic achievements of curl-

ers Colton and Kadriana Lott, recognizing war veterans, and attending local events such as the Icelandic Festival, Arborg’s Street Festival, Eriksdale’s Creamery Days, Métis Day, the Gimli International Film Festival, Inwood’s goose shoot and innumerable other events in towns from Chatfield to Oak Point and Hecla Island to Winnipeg Beach.



Manitoba Progressive Conservative leader Obby Khan paid tribute to Derek Johnson for his 10 years of service to the Interlake.

Those events happen, he said, “because of the people in this room” and all the volunteers who “step up year after year” to celebrate their communities.

“And when we’ve been able to get things done, it’s because of you,” he said. “Because you spoke up, you

Continued on page 17

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From left: Gimli residents Susan Holfeuer, Cheryl Buhler, Peter Holfeuer, Kathy Wiebe and Melanie Specula.



From left: ECBVerdyol founder Mark Myrowich, Kelly and James Bezan (MP), and Claire Gillis and Eric Stefanson, financial supporters of many projects and events in the Gimli community.



From left: former Portage la Prairie reeve Kam Blight, Bifrost-Riverton Reeve Brian Johnson and Gimli Mayor Kevin Chudd.

> 10 YEARS, FROM PG. 16

pushed and you stayed involved" in issues such as bringing health-care training to Arborg, advocating for the Riverdale Place Workshop and people with disabilities, and protecting Lake Winnipeg from pollutants.

"I stand on the shoulders of so many people — my family, volunteers, supporters and Interlakers," he said.

Looking to the future, Johnson said he remains committed to listening to and showing up for his constituents and "doing my very best every single day."

Before noting issues of concern to Interlakers and Manitobans (e.g., health care, drug-injection sites, farming, infrastructure, tariffs) and speaking about taking "common sense" policies forward, PC party leader Obby Khan congratulated Johnson.

"Derek, for doing what you have done for 10 years and giving me the honour of coming back and running again in the next campaign really speaks to the integrity of the man you are, the family that you have supporting you and the community that supports you," said Khan. "To everyone in the room and especially to you Derek, thank you very much for your service of 10 years. Hopefully, 10 more!"

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan said Johnson's tenure has been amazing.

"I think it's amazing that here we are at 10 years of Derek Johnson being MLA for Interlake-Gimli," Bezan said. "We have an individual here who has done an amazing job in this area and has been successfully elected and re-elected in a riding that has traditionally been NDP. For him to come into office and maintain the trust of the voters of Interlake-Gimli speaks volumes to his character, to the values he brings and the job he's doing representing the great people of Interlake-Gimli."

Red River North MLA Jeff Wharton, who was elected along with Johnson in 2016, attended the event to pay tribute to his colleague for 10 years of public service.

Gimli residents Susan and Peter Holfeuer, who have co-chaired the Gimli Ice Festival for the past 15 years, thanked Johnson and his team for 10 years of service and for being a regular presence at community events.

"Congratulations Derek on 10 fabulous years," said Susan Holfeuer on behalf of herself and her husband. "For the last 10 years it has been amazing that our MLA, Derek, has been to every event and is so supportive of our community. So thank you, Derek, and your team."

Mayors and Reeves from municipalities in Johnson's riding were thanked by host Brandon Terry for attending the celebratory evening. They included Gimli Mayor Kevin Chudd, Bifrost-Riverton Reeve Brian Johnson, Armstrong Reeve Garry Wasylowski, Fisher River Cree Nation's director of operations Sam Murdock, West Interlake Reeve Arnthor Jonasson, former Portage la Prairie reeve Kam Blight and St. Laurent Coun. Maurice Leclair.



From left: Red River North MLA Jeff Wharton, who is also celebrating 10 years as MLA with the PCs, Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson and Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan.

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2025 Impact Report

2025 WESTSHORE COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS:

Organization & Project	Awarded
------------------------	---------

Gimli Wetland Initiative Wetland Development	\$16,123
Gimli Children's Centre Building Upgrades	\$11,000
Betel Heritage Foundation** Stefanson Hus Assisted Living	\$10,000
Gimli Fire and Rescue Wildland Fire & Hazmat Trailer	\$7000
New Iceland Heritage Museum** Centennial Celebrations	\$4860
Betel Heritage Foundation Johnson Hall Projector	\$4500
Camp Arnes Pool Restoration	\$4500
Gimli Glider Museum** Cockpit Restoration	\$4500
Sleep in Heavenly Peace** Closed in Trailer for Bed Transport	\$3500
Minerva Ladies Aid Wheelchair Accessible Washrooms	\$1699
Evergreen Basic Needs Shelving Units & Tables	\$3600
Gimli Barvinok Dance Ukrainian Dance Costumes	\$2800
Interlake Eastern Health Foundation** Bladder Scanner	\$2700
Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium Open House & Namao 50th Birthday	\$2500
Fraserwood Hall Community Play Structure	\$2500
Riverton-Bifrost Parks & Recreation Beautification of Baseball Fields	\$2250
Matlock Recreation Club Community Caregiver Program	\$1556
Riverton Cemetery Accessibility Parking & Bridge	\$2100

2025 WESTSHORE COMMUNITY FUND GRANTS:

Organization & Project	Awarded
------------------------	---------

Gimli New Horizons Chair Replacements	\$1800
Interlake Women's Resource Centre Cultural Healing & Self Care Sessions	\$1750
The Famous Sandy Hook Pier Accessibility & Limestone Stairs	\$1500
Betel Home Foundation Accessible Shower Chair	\$1400
RM of Gimli: Recreation & Leisure Gimli Musical Theatre	\$1400
Gimli International Film Festival Purchase of a PA System	\$1005
Gimli Ice Festival 15th Anniversary Video	\$750
Meleb Park Cumming School Reunion Committee Accessibility Ramp for Washrooms	\$490
Culture Night Nuit Blanche	\$250
** With Support from the Thomas Sill Fund	
WESTSHORE SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY FUND	
	Scholar Awarded
Trent Toderan	\$2500
Erin Furgala	\$2000
Jahna Hardy	\$2000
Morgan Meadows	\$2000
Dominique Chudd	\$1600
Mitchell Baker	\$1400
Zack Meadows	\$1400
Amber Peterson	\$1400
Keira Erlendson	\$1000
Kyra Humniski	\$1000
Leif Robak	\$1000
Vira Balaban	\$500
Averi Kornelsen	\$500
Ava Michaluk	\$500
Lilah Pinsent	\$500
Dallas Nedotiafko	\$88

CAROLE ANN CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY FUND

Scholar	Awarded
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Haden Magnusson	\$1081
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ALISON OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY FUND

Scholar	Awarded
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Keenan Karish	\$1600
Elisee Moore	\$1600
Alyssa Gard	\$1523
Dallas Nedotiafko	\$1312

LARRY & HELEN KRISTJANSON FAMILY BURSARY FUND

Scholar	Awarded
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Katarina Gallo	\$7157
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LILJA MARTIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholar	Awarded
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Tessa Barkman	\$430
Lucia Borkowsky	\$180
Nate Borkowsky	\$106

DR. ELAINE SIGURDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholar	Awarded
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Darci Mowatt	\$4400
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TIM AND DELPHINE ARNASON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholar	Awarded
---------	---------

Amaris Toews	\$2890
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ROBERT ARNASON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Abby Frost \$1000

SIGURLIN ROED (DANIELSON) MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Ava Michaluk \$1207

WESTSHORE TRADES & TECHNOLOGIES SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Presley Tarnowski \$1450
Rhianne Clarke \$1000
Callie Sylvester \$1000

ANNA STEVENS & FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Rebekah Aspen \$1000

MATTHEW THORDARSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Ava Berthaudin \$1000

RUTH ANN & WAYNE FURGALA FAMILY FUND
Scholar Awarded

Erin Furgala \$500
Jahna Hardy \$500

BRENDA L. KRULICKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Scholar Awarded

Alyssa Gard \$500

AGENCY FUNDS

GIMLI LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND \$3756

AGENCY FUNDS

THE HERITAGE - NEW ICELAND HERITAGE MUSEUM FUND \$15,295

EVERGREEN BASIC NEEDS ENDOWMENT FUND \$1100

GIMLI FILM FESTIVAL ENDOWMENT FUND \$3201

ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA FUN \$9936

THE HERITAGE - GIMLI GLIDER MUSEUM INC. FUND \$810

DESIGNATED FUNDS

VERNA PALMER MEMORIAL FUND \$1205
Gimli District Health Auxiliary

WESTSHORE SUSTAINABILITY FUND \$8524

NEW ICELAND HERITAGE MUSEUM INC. SIGNATURE MUSEUM SUSTAINABILITY FUND \$66,234

DEVLIN FAMILY LEGACY FUND \$500
Betel Recreation Services Dept.

SHELLEY & CLIFF NARFASON FAMILY FUND \$257
Interlake Eastern Health Foundation

FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

PALLATIVE CARE FUND \$1533
Interlake Eastern Health Foundation

TED & ALISON OLSON FUND \$2501
Minerva Ladies Aid - Wheelchair Accessible Washrooms

WESTSHORE INTERLAKE-EASTERN HEALTHCARE FUND \$2875
Fawn Collins

WESTSHORE YOUTH FUND \$544
Matlock Recreation Club - Community Caregiver Program

COMMUNITY ARTS FUND

Arts Fund Scholarships (Band Camp):
Nikkita Amos \$500
Kailyn Behun \$500
Lexi Lavallee \$500
Liuba Smyrnova \$500
Elin Isfeld \$500
Adalynn Tupper \$500
Amaris Toews \$500

Community Arts Fund Grant:
Riverton Collegiate Institute - \$1582
Replenish Musical Supplies

WESTSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Gimli Wetland Initiative \$617
- Wetland Development
Gimli International Film Festival \$1440
- World Environment Day

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS:

MARJ & OLI NARFASON ENDOWMENT FUND
Betel Home Foundation \$2568.60
Evergreen Basic Needs \$2568.60
Interlake Women's Resource Centre \$2568.60
Minerva Ladies Aid \$2568.60
Evergreen Festival of the Arts \$2568.60

MPC STECIUK ENDOWMENT FUND
Meleb Park Cumming School Reunion Committee - Accessibility Ramp for Washrooms \$211

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VIKING MASONIC LODGE No.175 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
BRENDA L. KRULICKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
SHIRLEY C. MICHALUK MEMORIAL FUND
JOAN & EDDIE CHUDD FAMILY FUND
KIM JONASSON MEMORIAL FUND
NICHOLSON FAMILY FUND



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Local seed farmer shares insights in video series

By Jennifer McFee

Insights shared by a local seed farm are sprouting up in an online video series.

Located west of Stonewall, Unger Seed Farm is a family-run pedigreed seed-growing operation. Ron Unger started the family-owned business in 1979, and his son Darcy currently runs it.

Seed growing is the process of producing high quality seeds that other farmers can use to grow crops.

"As a seed grower, we plant higher pedigreed seed on our farm," Darcy said. "Once harvested, this seed is cleaned by our new seed plant to remove impurities and guarantee a high quality seed for customers to buy and

grow on their own farms."

Darcy recently shared his perspective gleaned over a lifetime in the seed industry through a video for Seed World Canada. The short video is Episode 3 of the organization's On The Brink series, which is a cross-country storytelling project about plant breeding. The goal of the series is to spark open conversations about the future of plant breeding in Canada.

In the video, Darcy speaks about his family's new seed plant in Stonewall, an investment that sets up the family farm for the generations to come.

"We are members of SeCan, the largest supplier of certified seed to Canadian farmers, and this year SeCan is celebrating 50 years. They ap-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The new state-of-the-art seed plant at Unger Seed Farm near Stonewall features advanced cleaning equipment, including AI-assisted technology, to ensure high-quality pedigreed seed for farmers.

proached us to do a video about our new seed plant investment and the three generations currently working on the family run seed operation," Darcy said. "This video featured in Seed World was a result of this."

The idea for the new seed plant took root in January 2024 with a scrap paper drawing, which led to a two-year process to build and commission the new facility.

"Our machines are all state-of-the-art, including our new colour sorter using AI technology to help guarantee a clean final product," Darcy said.

"We use our seed plant to process and clean the seed from our 4,000-acre seed farm, as well as custom cleaning for our customers who choose to re-use their own seed. We also have a few other seed companies who we clean for as well."

The family chose to invest in the new seed plant for several reasons.

"The seed plant we were using was redone back in 1996, and the time was coming to do a major overhaul on the machines and equipment that was already in use. The second reason is I have two sons, Colton and Austin, who have decided that they want to continue on the family farm," Darcy said.

"Both those factors led to the decision to do a completely new seed plant in a brand-new building with a new office attached. The timing of the old plant needing work and the new generation becoming involved led to the decision to invest in new."

In total, 95 per cent of the genetics that Unger Seed Farm relies on come from Canadian breeders.

"Canadian plant breeders are important because they create stronger, more productive and more sustainable crops that support farmers and help feed people in Manitoba and Canada. Productive crops give farm-

Continued on page 21

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Fisher, Peguis prepare for flood risk up to 30 properties identified as vulnerable

By Lana Meier

Residents in the Rural Municipality of Fisher and neighbouring Peguis First Nation are preparing for potential spring flooding as officials warn of a major flood risk in the region.

The province's Hydrologic Forecast Centre has identified the Fisher River basin as one of the highest-risk areas in Manitoba this spring, with conditions dependent on how quickly snow melts and whether significant rainfall occurs.

In a flood report issued April 15, the RM of Fisher said it is actively working with residents, neighbouring communities and provincial officials in anticipation of high water.

Reeve Shannon Pyziak said safety remains the municipality's top priority as conditions begin to change.

"Our first concern is for the safety of the people of the Rural Municipality of Fisher and neighbouring communities," she said. "Flood water can be unpredictable, so we encourage residents to be prepared and use caution when travelling."

Approximately 30 homes and businesses in the municipality have been identified as at risk of flooding, while key transportation routes including PTH 17 and PR 233 could also be impacted if water levels rise.

Officials warn that peak flows could reach levels similar to the 2014 spring flood, depending on weather conditions. A rapid melt scenario could push water levels even higher — potentially approaching those seen during the 2022 flood, which was about two feet higher.

Pyziak said forecasts continue to point to a high-risk scenario, particularly with changing weather conditions.

"The provincial Hydrologic Forecast Centre continues to predict a major risk of flooding for the Fisher River Basin," she said. "A fast melt in the area could result in flooding closer to the 2022 flood, which is about two feet higher than the 2014 flood levels."

She added that warmer temperatures and precipitation expected in the coming days could further increase the threat.

"Weather stations are predicting a significant increase in temperatures next week with a potential five to 10 millimetres of precipitation. Either of these events will increase the risk of flooding."

Overland flooding has already begun in parts of the municipality, with localized impacts reported.

"We are currently experiencing localized flooding in some areas of the municipality," Pyziak said. "Some roads have water running over them or have been washed out. Please keep this in mind when travelling."

The municipality reported a road closure on Road 4W between Road 144N and Road 145N, while water levels in provincial drains are high, with some at capacity. The Interlake Pioneer Trail has also become heavily rutted, and travel is not advised.

Drivers are being urged to use caution as crews continue mitigation efforts.

"Caution is also advised when travelling, as increased heavy equipment, large trucks and highway crews are working in a number of areas," Pyziak said.

Residents in historically flood-prone areas are being urged to begin preparations immediately. Those who have required tiger dams in the past are advised to clear at least 20 feet of snow and debris from around their homes to improve drainage and access for protective measures.

The municipality has produced more than 3,000 sandbags, which are available for pickup at the RM of Fisher Public Works Yard on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring assistance to help load materials.

Officials are also reminding residents to move valuables to higher ground, check sump pumps and prepare for the possible relocation of livestock if conditions worsen. In Fisher Branch,

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS NOTICE

Rural Municipality of **FISHER**

Rural Municipality of Fisher Prepares for Flooding

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is preparing for flooding. Municipal officials are working with the community and provincial officials in anticipation of high water. The RM is in communication with neighboring communities.

Updated information is available on the RM of Fisher Facebook page.

- The provincial Hydrologic Forecast Centre has advised there is a **major flood risk for the Fisher River Basin.**
- Peak flows could reach levels like the 2014 spring flood, depending on weather conditions.
- A fast melt in the area could result in flooding closer to the **2022 flood**, about **two feet higher**
- If your residence has experienced historical flooding and has required a **tiger dam** in the past, please **remove** at least 20 feet of snow and objects that surround your home.
- Approximately **30 homes** and businesses have been identified by the RM as being at risk of flooding. PTH 17 and PR 233 could be affected by floodwater.
- Move valuables to **higher ground.**
- Prepare for possible livestock movement.
- Check sump pumps.
- The RM is making **sandbags**, which are available **for pickup** at the RM Public Works Yard, on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring help to load vehicles.

Residents with questions requiring flood preparation should contact their ward Councillor or municipal office.

Rural Municipality of **FISHER** | P.O. Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB, ROC 020
 rmoffisher@mymts.net | 1 (204) 372-6393
 Fax: 1 (204) 372-8470

residents are specifically advised to divert weeping tile water away from the sewer system.

"Residents need to continue to monitor water levels near their own property," Pyziak said.

Safety remains a key concern as spring runoff begins. The RCMP is urging residents to stay away from waterways, noting that melting ice, fast-moving water and unstable banks pose serious risks, particularly for children.

While cooler temperatures have delayed the spring melt so far, officials

caution that conditions could change quickly with a sudden warm-up or heavy rainfall.

The Rural Municipality of Fisher continues to monitor the situation and coordinate with neighbouring communities and provincial officials.

Updates will continue to be shared through the RM of Fisher's official channels, including its Facebook page and website, as the situation develops. Residents with flood-related questions are encouraged to contact their ward councillor or the municipal office.

> UNGER, FROM PG. 20

ers a bigger opportunity to support the local economies as well," he said.

"Farmers tend to buy their seed, fuel, fertilizer and other products close to home, which helps support local businesses as well. Farmers support local schools, restaurants, community centres, 4H clubs, arenas, curling clubs and so on. It might not seem like it, but Canadian plant breeders are important — their work helps support a lot of people in and around agriculture."

Genetics are also crucial to help farmers combat the ever-changing needs of consumers and as well as the changing environment, he added.

"Better genetics give you better yields, better quality crops that are more adapted to the final consumer needs," Darcy said.

"Weather patterns are changing and the weather is more diverse. We need the ability to protect ourselves from disease, drought, excess rain and insects, and better genetics can give us that. Farmers are dependent on good genetics to help keep us successful."

Looking ahead, Darcy shared some concerns about the future of Canadian plant breeding.

"The federal government is slashing funding for Canadian plant breeders. The abilities of the breeders to develop and adapt new varieties that are needed to combat new disease, weather and insect pressure will be greatly diminished without this funding. We are losing testing facilities where these new genetics are grown and analyzed to see which varieties will be an added benefit," he said.

"Our ability to react will be com-

promised, and the effects of the decreased funding won't be known for five to 10 years. Canada's agriculture sector could be at a severe disadvantage going forward to react to changing environments — and the Canadian food supply, which has always been thought of as secure, could be compromised."

To view Darcy's video for the On the Brink series, visit Seed World Canada's website at seedworld.com or check it out on Seed World Canada's Facebook page. New episodes are released every Wednesday.

Anniversary bonspiel honours volunteers, looks to future

Eriksdale club marks 60 years

By Lana Meier

The Eriksdale Curling Club marked a major milestone March 14, celebrating 60 years in its current facility with a Shamrock Shakes Bonspiel and steak dinner.

The anniversary event brought together past and present volunteers, curlers and community supporters to reflect on the club's history and recognize those who have helped sustain it over the decades.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Members of the Eriksdale Curling Club gathered March 14 to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary in its current facility during the Shamrock Shakes Bonspiel and steak dinner, bringing together past and present volunteers, curlers and community supporters for an evening of stories, recognition and community spirit.



Master of ceremonies Ethan Spalding shared anecdotes from the club's past, presented prizes and thanked the community for its continued support. Letters of congratulations were also read aloud during the evening.

While the club has operated in its current venue for 60 years, its roots stretch back even further. A previous arena was lost to fire before the facility was rebuilt, supported by a \$100,000 loan secured by GK Smith and Sons.

Looking ahead, the club is continuing to invest in its future, particularly in youth programming. Plans are un-



derway to enhance junior curling through the purchase of new rocks, while youth clinics will continue with the possibility of welcoming high-level instructors.

Past clinicians have included Kerri Einarson, Kyle Einarson, Kamryn Einarson, Chloe Einarson, Reid Caruthers and Derek Samagalski.

School curling will also continue next season, with students visiting the club weekly throughout the winter.

The Eriksdale Curling Club serves a wide age range, with participants from as young as five to 79 years old. Its programming includes men's and ladies leagues, stick curling and two after-school youth programs — a reflection of the club's ongoing role as a hub for sport and community connection.

JOIN US FOR THE APRIL CONSIGNMENT SALES 2026

April OFFSITE Consignment Sale

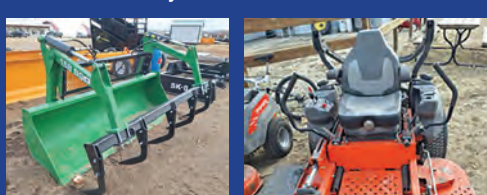
Viewing: April 12th -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 22nd, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

April ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 13 -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 23, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

April ONSITE Week 3 Consignment Sale

Viewing: April 27th -30th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 30th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on May 6th, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Thursday, May 7th & Friday May 8th from 9 AM to 5 PM



GRUNTHAL AUCTION SERVICE

Call today if you would like to consign your items! Office (204) 434-6519 • Brad Kehler (204) 346-2440 Darryl Enns (204) 216-0931 • Ed Pylypjuk (204) 392-8442 • Russ Harder 204-371-4771 ITEMS ARE SOLD AS YOU SEE THEM. Call Now to Consign in Upcoming Auctions. If you require help or do not have internet access please call the office at (204) 434-6519.



Be the change



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
 • April 19 to 25, 2026

The ripple effect of volunteer work

National Volunteer Week, celebrated from April 19 to 25, 2026, shines a spotlight on the power of giving back. This year's celebration aligns with the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Under the theme "Ignite Volunteerism," the campaign encourages Canadians to find personal ways to serve while contributing to a stronger, more connected society.

Beyond the immediate impact, every act of service creates a ripple effect, helping shape lasting change.

Waves of change

Here are just a few ways your volunteering can make a lasting impact.

- **Inspire others.** When you volunteer, you lead by example. Your family, friends and colleagues may see what you're doing and feel motivated to get involved themselves. One person's commitment can spark a chain reaction of generosity and

kindness.

- **Strengthen your community.** Volunteers help address local needs, build relationships and create networks of support. Communities with strong volunteer engagement tend to be more resilient, connected and better equipped to face challenges together.

- **Empower yourself.** Volunteering inspires personal growth. It helps you build confidence, develop new skills and deepen empathy. Volunteers often carry these benefits into their workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods, further amplifying their impact.

This National Volunteer Week is a reminder that even small acts of service matter. When people come together, positive change multiplies. Join the movement and #IgniteVolunteerism in your community today.



Happy
VOLUNTEER WEEK

THANK YOU to all volunteers!

Whether you are part of a community organization, coaching kids sports, helping seniors, or leading a youth group, you are making a difference.



JAMES BEZAN MP
 SELKIRK—INTERLAKE—EASTMAN
 WWW.JAMESBEZAN.COM

Volunteers are the true high rollers of kindness



Gimli council budget sees property taxes rising, ambitious capital plan

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli council released its 2026 fiscal year budget last week, outlining spending priorities and projects for the 2026 fiscal year, as well as increasing property taxes.

Council held a public hearing on April 15 at which Mayor Kevin Chudd and Coun. Thora Palson provided an overview of the state of the municipality and financial highlights. It also included presentations from recreation, public works, the wetland committee and the fire department.

The budget meeting was recorded and the RM posted it online along with budget documents.

Council presented a balanced budget, which is required under legislation as municipalities aren't allowed to run a deficit, but is carrying millions in debt.

The mayor said the RM has made steady progress over the past year.

"This financial plan outlines more than numbers. It reflects our priorities, our values, our shared vision for the future of the RM of Gimli," said Chudd. "Over the past year, council and administration have made steady progress by working together and planning carefully."

Last year's budget saw investments made in essential services for the community.

"We advanced key infrastructure priorities, supported municipal assets and strengthened service delivery all while remaining fiscally responsible," said Chudd. "At the same time, we invested in community well-being."

Total municipal tax revenues this year will be increasing by 4.29 per cent over last year.

Property taxes are increasing by 2.99 per cent. Council raised the municipal general mill rate from 13.406 to 13.807, an increase of 0.401.

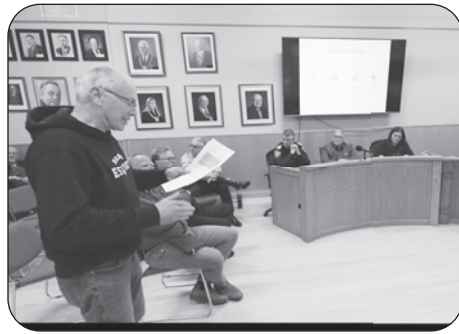
A property in the urban area assessed at \$200,000 will be seeing an annual increase of about \$54. A property in the rural area assessed at \$200,000 will be seeing an increase of about \$56.

The municipal property tax increase does not include school taxes.

The Evergreen School Division raised its mill rate from 9.818 in 2025 to 10.859 mills in 2026, a 10.60 per cent increase. That could raise property taxes even more.

Council had anticipated a total revenue of \$30,630,876 in the 2025 fiscal year, but actual revenue was \$27,400,737. For 2026, council is anticipating a total revenue of \$27,787,136.

Council's total expenditures in the 2025 fiscal year were \$27,360,546. That gave the RM a net operating surplus of \$40,191. For 2026, council is antici-



Peter Holfeuer, co-chair of the Gimli Ice Festival and Gimli Chamber of Commerce founding member, asked council why it doesn't have a tourism steering committee made up of community stakeholders.

pating expenditures of \$27,715,562, with a surplus of \$71,574.

The chief administrative officer and staff cost \$1,173,095 in 2025. Council set a budget of \$1,152,849 for 2026.

Under legal services, council had expected to spend about \$240,000 in 2025, but exceeded its budget with an actual expenditure of \$2,670,962.

Some of that includes a \$2.1-million payout to Kingdom Construction with regard to the company's termination from work on the Gimli wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Other legal costs include an investigation into the mayor after a formal complaint was made against him. The *Express* had inquired about the total cost of that investigation, but the RM would not divulge any information, citing privacy legislation.

For 2026, council is expecting to spend \$125,000 on legal services.

Council transferred \$3,721,980 from its reserve funds over the course of the 2025 fiscal year and expects to transfer \$7,263,278 from reserves in the 2026 fiscal year.

Under protective services, council spent \$947,184 in 2025 on policing and expects to spend \$816,203 in 2026.

Council spent \$49,081 for bylaw enforcement in 2025 and has budgeted to spend \$76,236 in 2026.

For fire services, council spent \$694,001 in 2025 and expects to spend \$702,700 in 2026.

Council spent \$5,618,389 in 2025 fiscal year on transportation services, which includes roads, streets, engineering, fuel, yard operations, wages and benefits, sewers, street cleaning, snow removal and street lighting. It set a budget of \$5,875,331 for 2026.

Under the recreation and cultural services budget line, council spent \$283,075 on recreation in 2025 and is expecting to spend \$301,034 in 2026. It spent \$139,962 on beaches last year and has budgeted \$164,872 for 2026. It spent \$1,184,647 on skating rinks and arenas in 2025 and will increase that



EXPRESS PHOTO RM GIMLI

Council held a public hearing on the 2026 budget last week. Municipal property tax will be increasing this year by 2.99 per cent. From left: Coun. Richard Petrowski, Deputy Mayor Kurt Reichert, Mayor Kevin Chudd and Coun. Thora Palson.

to \$1,218,013 in 2026.

Funding for museums remains the same with council expecting to spend \$10,000 again this year. Expenditures on libraries were \$71,035 in 2025 and will rise to \$80,316 in 2026.

The dormitory building (also known as the training centre) in the Industrial Park — which is overseen by the Gimli Community Development Corporation (CDC) and where the municipality houses immigrants — brought in revenue of \$319,887 in the 2025 fiscal year. For 2026, council is expecting to see \$864,935.

Council has an ambitious capital spending list for 2026 that includes revitalizing Gimli Beach (\$100,000), Industrial Park roads revitalization (\$100,000), First Avenue back lane patching (\$50,000), a gazebo for a public reserve (\$25,000), PR 231 lighting (\$50,000), electrical at Viking Park (\$40,000), municipal office rooftop AC project (\$135,000), renovations to 235 Cooke Ave. Building 19 (\$150,000), road renewals (\$960,000), refuse compactor truck (\$500,000), riding mower (80,000), four new pickup trucks (\$240,000), road sweeper (\$184,300), concrete restoration on the wastewater treatment plant, including engineering (\$1,270,000), sidewalks on Centre Avenue West and North Fifth (\$500,000) and Fourth Avenue waterman project engineering with the Manitoba Water Services Board (\$11,777).

Council is continuing to work on the decommissioned wastewater lagoon between South Beach and Willow Island that will be transformed into a 144-acre wetland.

This year, work is set to begin on "shaping" the wetland. Council budgeted \$10,000 for removing the access from Highway 9.

Council is also allocating \$90,000 each year from 2027 to 2031 inclusive (total \$450,000) for "community visioning wetlands." And it's allocating \$500,000 in 2028 for a wetland strategic plan.

The fire department will see a number of expenditures in 2026 including fire rescue practices equipment (\$1,573), aerial truck (\$747,887), fire department trailer (\$6,625), pumper [truck] deposit (\$300,000), fire department finish well (\$10,000), training ground improvements (\$60,000) and wild-land gear (\$10,000).

The Gimli airport will see ground guidance signs lighted (\$55,000), control tower wind-sock pole (\$15,000), runway pull-behind sweeper (\$80,000), perimeter security fence (\$50,000) and airport resurfacing (\$200,000) in 2026.

Recreation spending this fiscal year includes arena header (\$200,000), tables/chairs (\$35,000), curling carpet (\$20,000), recreation centre upgrades and roof repairs (\$1,111,693 of which \$890,355 will be provided via a grant), hockey foyer flooring (\$70,000), promenades/trails master plan (\$60,929), site plan for the recreation plaza (\$2 million of which \$1 million will be provided via a grant).

Council will spend \$50,000 on Huldufolk statues. In Icelandic folklore, Huldufolk are mythical elf-like beings believed to live rocky terrain.

The Gimli recreation and leisure youth hub will see a \$376,625 municipal investment of which \$150,000 will be provided via a grant.

Council's five-year capital expenditure plan includes the purchase of an ORV for the fire department for bush fires, a drone, a compactor, grader,

Another successful internship in Selkirk Regional Health Centre

By Jennifer McFee

A recent internship student describes her experience at Selkirk Regional Health Centre as eye-opening and meaningful.

Mya Greenaway, a Grade 12 student at Springfield Collegiate Institute in Oakbank, said she hoped to gain insight into different health-care careers.

Marking a milestone, she was the first student to have the chance to shadow Waabishki Bineshiins — the IERHA Indigenous Health team.

Megan Chartrand, Indigenous Health social worker, said it was an honour having Mya join the team.

“Mya demonstrated exceptional time management skills and the willingness to learn. She showed interest in the Indigenous culture and various ways the health-care system can help support individuals who came through the hospital,” Chartrand said.

“Mya initiated conversation with our relatives and was able to show compassion and respect. She has also learned about smudging and supporting relatives culturally. Mya has a bright future ahead of her and will no doubt excel in any career of her choosing.”

During her internship, Mya also had the chance to shadow nurses in differ-

ent departments.

“Seeing nurses interact with patients throughout the hospital showed me the importance of empathy and teamwork in health care, whether they were responding quickly to emergencies or taking time to reassure anxious patients,” she said.

At the same time, the internship experience sparked a career interest for Mya.

“Overall, these experiences helped me decide that I am interested in nursing,” she said, “and they inspired my goal of becoming a psychiatric nurse with a focus on drug addiction, where I can combine compassionate patient care with mental health and social support.”

Lori Buors, Indigenous human resources officer, thanks all the staff at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre for spending time with students and giving them opportunities during their internships.

Waabishki Bineshiins currently has openings for Indigenous social worker positions in Ashern and Selkirk. The position acts as a liaison using a cultural lens when working with patients, families, Indigenous communities, and health-care and community agencies. Email Indigenoushealth@ierha.ca for more information.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured in the ceremonial room at Selkirk Regional Health Centre are (left to right) Cara Widrick, Indigenous Health Elder; Mya Greenaway, internship student; Megan Chartrand, Indigenous Health social worker; and Cody Widrick, Indigenous Health skaabe. A skaabe ensures Indigenous relatives receive appropriate and safe patient-centred care during their stay in hospital and throughout the discharge planning process.

> COUNCIL, FROM PG. 24

three pickup trucks, ATV quad, grass cutter, skid steer, trail construction and signage, traffic calming, dressing room, outdoor digital signs, pool heater replacement, a recreation master plan and beach boardwalk expansion.

Council debentures (debt) are included in its budget document. It includes loans for the wastewater treatment plant, the water treatment plant, fire hall, sewer renewal and water main renewal.

A number of residents attended the public hearing and were granted questions at the end of the presentations.

Peter Holfeuer, co-chair of the Gimli Ice Festival, vice-chair of the Gimli Glider Museum and one of the founders of the Gimli Chamber of Commerce, asked council a number of questions relating to tourism, including about revenues from the short-term rental accommodation tax and how that money is being put back into the community as council had previously said it will be used to the ben-

efit of the community to lower taxes.

He also asked why the council doesn't have a tourism steering committee made up of community stakeholders that can help council determine spending priorities.

Saying that he didn't hear a lot of focus on tourism during the budget presentation, Holfeuer asked why given it's "one of the strongest economic drivers in the community."

The community has three primary tourism seasons, spring, summer and fall, but the vast majority of [municipal] tourism dollars go to the three-month summer season.

“As a stakeholder in the tourism industry ... I have a high interest in tourism,” said Holfeuer. “What we don't have in this community — everything goes on a silo basis — and we don't have a tourism advisory or steering committee [of] stakeholders that can help the RM of Gimli make decisions as to how to invest those monies.”

Chudd answered Holfeuer's question on the STR accommodation tax,

saying it hasn't yet been approved by the province, but it will be a “new revenue source” outside [municipal] taxation.

“The accommodation tax ensures visitors contribute ... it's not in this year's budget. The strength of it is going to be is ... we believe the province will be approving it,” said Chudd. “What we wanted to do this year is show the strength of our community, of what we can do. And when we get access to that going forward ... tourism is important with wellness. Dr. [Adeniyi Adegbesan's] project is a game-changer, but the other game-changer is for everybody to contribute financially to the community. The burden just can't be on our ratepayers.”

In response to Holfeuer's asking again why council hasn't been collaborating with tourism stakeholders, saying “proper representation” from the community — including the chamber of commerce — doesn't exist, Chudd said: “I think at a later date we welcome sitting down with you as council with those excellent ideas to see how we can move forward with it.”

RM resident Andy Damm commended the RM's recreation and fire department's safety initiatives going forward, as well as Tim Arnason, who's leading the wetland project on behalf of council.

He also thanked council for “going ahead” with trying to get the cadets to return to Gimli for their glider program. He asked council for its thoughts on a dedicated economic development position.

“I know that we have a strategic plan in place for Gimli as ... it's growing. Is there any thought to adding a position of an economic development officer going forward and, if so, what kind of timeline are would we be looking at?” said Damm.

Coun. Palsen said council has “positions budgeted in this year's financial plan that we are going to be looking at [and] that would be in addition to our teams. I don't want to reveal them here this evening.”

Dr. Adegbesan from the Lakeshore Medical Centre thanked the mayor, council and administration for providing the new clinic on PR 231 with \$200,000 for sewer, water and fire hydrant services.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Long commutes pay off for Lakers' Chartrand

By Kieran Reimer

Ashton Chartrand had the opportunity to represent Gimli High School last Saturday at Basketball Manitoba's Graduating All-Star Day.

A Grade 12 guard, Chartrand was the lone representative from his school on Team Under Armour in the A/AA/AAA boys game at Sport Manitoba in downtown Winnipeg.

His squad ultimately fell to Team Boston Pizza before players moved to the Manitoba Museum for the Basketball Manitoba Awards banquet.

"Our team didn't do quite as well as the other team, unfortunately, but the talent was pretty high level on their side," said Chartrand. "It was super

enjoyable — a great way to end my high school career, for sure."

Chartrand only began attending school in Gimli in the fall after spending his first three years of high school at Warren Collegiate Institute.

With Warren lacking the numbers to field a team, Chartrand decided to transfer to Gimli, which meant making an hour to 90-minute drive each morning and evening from his home in Warren.

In hindsight, Chartrand said he is glad he made the decision. He already plays preparatory basketball for DELite Basketball in Winnipeg, but suiting up for Gimli helped further his development.

He credits Lakers head coach Chad Heminger for making it such a positive experience.

"The way he kind of evolved my game is the nonstop conditioning," said Chartrand. "The cardio is just insane with him. He just believed in me and how I could lead the team."

Chartrand did just that, helping Gimli to a sixth-place finish at the AA provincial basketball championships while also earning Players' Choice Award honours at the tournament.

He is now looking ahead to what a basketball career could look like after high school and will graduate with Gimli's Class of 2026 in June.



Gimli High School's Ashton Chartrand earned a spot in the A, AA, AAA boys graduating all-star game at the Basketball Manitoba Awards.

Westlake Classic shifts to Warren for finale weekend

By Kieran Reimer

The first annual Westlake Classic will shift to Access Credit Union Arena in Warren next weekend for the second half of the four-game exhibition series, April 25-26.

The classic features two teams made up of U18-aged girls, one hailing from southwest Manitoba and the other from the Interlake.

The event debuted April 11-12 at the Waskada and Area Recreational Centre. The two sides also shared the ice ahead of each game through a development camp led by Interlake coaches Sam Strassburger and Kelsey McHolm.

"They packed the rink in Waskada to watch this exhibition series, and we had lots of parents and families coming up and just saying to us what a great idea it was and how much they appreciated the opportunity. We're really, really happy with the outcome of it. It's been great," said Kasey Riddell.

Riddell, vice-director of Interlake Minor Hockey on the girls' side, is also one of the event's creators.

He, along with Neil Franklin of Deloraine, planned the classic as a way to give girls graduating from the U15 level a taste of U18 hockey.

He said the rosters include players from AAA through to single-A and

high school programs.

"We wanted to try to give girls an opportunity or taste of what U18 AAA hockey might be like," said Riddell. "We opened it up to girls graduating from U15 AAA into the U18 AAA program or into that U18 age level. There weren't a lot of those girls, so we opened it up to Interlake girls who played on the U18 AAA team, and then the next wave was girls who played high school hockey and AA hockey."

The classic will continue with the same format in Warren, featuring a development camp followed by five-on-five exhibition games on both

days.

"We're hoping that it'll gain some momentum and ideally, in another year, it would be open to girls graduating into U18 if we had the numbers or interest," said Riddell. "The goal is to grow it and provide an opportunity for Interlake girls to get a taste of U18 hockey."

Games at Access Credit Union Arena are scheduled for Saturday, April 25 at 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

Festivities will include a 50-50 draw and silent auction, with the bar open Saturday. Tickets are \$5 each.

Interlake forwards closing in on MJHL title with Nighthawks

By Kieran Reimer

The Niverville Nighthawks moved two wins away from capturing their first-ever Turnbull Cup last week.

Games 1 and 2 of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League final opened with the MGEU East champion Nighthawks taking a 2-0 series lead over the MGEU West champion Virden Oil Capitals.

Niverville's efforts were led by Interlake products Hayden Wheddon (Stonewall), Adam Vigfusson (Gimli) and Dawson Zeller (St. Andrews), who combined for six points over the two games.

Niverville hosted Game 1 of the best-of-seven series, with 1,025 fans in attendance for the first Turnbull Cup final game played at the Niverville CRRC.

The hometown team opened the scoring less than three minutes in, with Thomas Phillips netting his first of the playoffs on the power play to give Niverville a 1-0 lead.

Loik Leduc extended the lead in the second period, with assists from Vigfusson and Wheddon.

After Austin Osiowy got one back for Virden midway through the frame, Zeller responded with a power-play

marker less than a minute later to restore Niverville's two-goal cushion at 3-1.

The Nighthawks held that lead until midway through the third, when Leduc scored his second of the night on the power play to make it 4-1.

In net, Niverville's Austin Dubinsky turned aside 30 shots, outduelling Virden's Braxton Burdeny, who made 24 saves, as the Nighthawks secured a 4-1 win in Game 1.

The series shifted to Tundra Oil & Gas Place on Sunday, where 1,263 fans attended Virden's first home final game since 2023.

Niverville's Calyb Moore silenced the home crowd early, scoring just 2:59 into the opening period, with Vigfusson picking up an assist.

Merik Boles and Zeller added second-period goals, with Boles' third of the playoffs coming off an assist from Wheddon, giving Niverville a 3-0 lead heading into the third.

Virden's Liam Goertzen cut into the deficit early in the final frame, but Dubinsky shut the door the rest of the way, finishing with 28 saves in a 3-1 Nighthawks win. Burdeny made 25

Gimli's Colton and Kadrianna Lott heading to world stage

By Kieran Reimer

It's been 13 months in the waiting, but Team Lott is ready for their return to the World Mixed Doubles Curling Championship.

Team Lott consisting of Gimli's Colton and Kadrianna Lott, qualified back in March 2025 when they played a near perfect tournament at the 2025 Canadian Mixed Doubles Curling Championship in Summerside, P.E.I.

Since then, both members of the husband and wife power-couple have been busy with preparation while also maintaining their obligations to their respective men's and women's teams.

This week however, their focus turns solely to worlds, which will run from April 25-May 2 at Geneva Sous-Moulin Sports Center in Geneva, Switzerland.

"It's been a lot of curling," said Colton Lott. "Definitely for the first part of this season was a lot of four-person prep for the trials and everything kind of leading up into the trials. We still had our practices here at home, but our four-person kind of took a bit over that just with all the trials prep and all that. And then after the fact, got into a couple of events or a few events now, and did fairly well in all three of them, and then it's just been practice, practice, practice."

Colton and Kadrianna were able to get some time on the sheet together in a local tournament last week, which they won.

Geneva will mark Team Lott's second trip to worlds, having finished

fifth in 2024 when they were knocked out by eventual finalists Estonia in extras of the playoff qualification round.

Both Colton and Kadrianna showed well at the tournament, each recording player percentages above 80 per cent, and Kadrianna was named an all-star.

They hope to take things even further this time around.

"We both have been here before, so we know what to expect, it's not something new," said Kadrianna Lott. "We've been to how many Canadian national events, so I mean that preps you alone. There's so many great teams in Canada to play against so going into the worlds, it's obviously going to be a little tougher, but we know what we're capable of and we still fight each and every game. I know I feel each game of ours we're always in a tight battle. We're ready to do that throughout this week and hopefully finish it off with a strong end."

Along with representing Canada, Team Lott is also pleased that the Interlake gets representation at the tournament.

The Lotts curl out of Gimli Curling Club and received an official send-off from the community last Friday, who they know will be tuning into their games.

"Everyone's just so close in this area," said Kadrianna Lott. "Selkirk's only 45 minutes, so we're in just this circle of full community support. It's a good feeling knowing you have all that back home. When you come



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RAYME THOMON

Team Canada curlers pose for a photo during a community send-off event held April 17 at the Gimli Rec Centre, where supporters gathered to wish them well ahead of international competition.

back, it's going to be still a congratulations on whatever you achieve, so it's a great feeling."

The two will be coached by Scott Pfeifer and Viktor Kjell at worlds. They each carry all-word resumes as players and coaches, most notably making Olympic Games appearances for Team Canada and Team Sweden respectively.

Team Lott will open up their tournament on Saturday, April 25 against South Korea for the first of nine round robin games in Group B.

They will compete alongside Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Scotland, Switzerland, United States, and the South Koreans for one of three available spots in the playoff round.

Fisher Branch's Miranda earns all-star honour



Fisher Branch Collegiate's Sky Miranda was recognized among Manitoba's top graduating players after being selected to the A, AA, AAA girls all-star game at the Basketball Manitoba Awards.

By Kieran Reimer

Fisher Branch Collegiate student-athlete Sky Miranda was recognized among the province's top graduating players at the Basketball Manitoba Awards on Saturday.

Miranda closed out her high school basketball career with a trip to Winnipeg for the Basketball Manitoba graduating all-star game and awards.

The Grade 12 guard/forward from the Fisher Branch Collegiate Cougars varsity girls basketball team starred for Team Wilson in the A/AA/AAA all-star game, which saw Team Rogers claim a 68-60 victory at Sport Manitoba.

Following the game, attendees made their way to the Manitoba Museum for the awards ceremony, which included A/AA/AAA/AAAA all-stars

from boys and girls teams in the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association.

"Going to the grad all-star event meant so much to me, as I have always had a love and passion for sports," said Miranda. "My family has always pushed me to try many sports, and seeing my efforts be acknowledged is such a rewarding feeling. I am so grateful I was able to be a part of the event and get the opportunity to play with other athletes from across Manitoba."

Miranda received "A" Female All-Manitoba Team honours at the awards, one of several accolades she earned during the 2025-26 season.

She also won a provincial bronze medal with the Cougars in March, was selected as a provincial all-star, and

received the Players' Choice Award — presented to the athlete who exemplifies leadership and positive qualities toward their team, opponents and the sport of basketball, as voted on by fellow players at provincials.

Her Cougars also captured a zone banner in 2024-25.

Miranda is set to graduate from Fisher Branch Collegiate in June and said she will likely step away from competitive basketball to focus on academics.

"My favourite part about playing at the high school level is playing with my friends," said Miranda. "Some have been with me since kindergarten, and we have been inseparable ever since. If one joins, then we all join."

Trophy tour brings World Cup fever to Manitoba

By Kieran Reimer

A once-in-a-lifetime moment is set for this June as the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Canada for the first time.

Vancouver and Toronto will host matches, while 14 additional cities across the United States and Mexico will welcome the world's top soccer nations.

Although no games will be played in Manitoba, the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola is ensuring fans across the country can still be part of the experience.

Last Monday, Manitoba got its chance to welcome the original FIFA World Cup Trophy at Memorial Park in Winnipeg, where thousands gathered to view soccer's most coveted prize — a 13.6-pound trophy made of 18-karat gold.

"We know the sport is growing rapidly in Canada, and Winnipeg has a strong, vibrant community of fans who are deeply connected to the game," said Diana Brenchley, director of brand partnerships and sports marketing at Coca-Cola Canada.

"Bringing the Trophy Tour here is about celebrating that passion and giving fans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the original FIFA World Cup Trophy up close. It's all part of our commitment, as a long-standing FIFA partner, to make the tournament feel truly national and accessible to fans from coast to coast."

Attendees also took part in Coca-Cola and FUZE Iced Tea tastings, a Northern Super League photobooth, prize giveaways and other interactive activities.

Former Canadian national team members Desiree Scott and Diana Matheson were among those in attendance, along with Scott Gillingham, who participated in the on-stage trophy reveal.

Winnipeg marked the third of seven Canadian stops on the tour, following visits to Calgary and Vancouver. The tour will continue through sev-



The FIFA World Cup Trophy, made of 18-karat gold and weighing 13.6 pounds, will be awarded at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, running June 11 to July 19 across North America.

eral U.S. Midwest cities before returning to Canada in May with stops in Montreal (May 22), Halifax (May 23), Ottawa (May 24) and Toronto (May 25-26).

Globally, the trophy has already travelled to dozens of cities, with North America serving as the final leg of the 75-stop tour.

"The response has been incredible so far, in Canada and around the world," said Brenchley. "Thousands of fans come out to be part of the experience, and in Winnipeg, we were preparing to welcome just over 8,000 fans. Even in our short time here, you can feel how excited people are — not just to see the trophy, but to be part of something bigger."

Another highlight for fans was the appearance of 2002 World Cup champion Roque Júnior, who has joined each of the Canadian stops to help unveil the trophy.

The 49-year-old former defender from Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Brazil, received loud cheers as he took to the outdoor stage.

Monday marked his first visit to Winnipeg, where he experienced typical Manitoba spring weather.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Brazilian World Cup champion Roque Júnior reveals the FIFA World Cup Trophy during the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola at Memorial Park in Winnipeg last Monday. The stop was one of 75 on the global tour and the third in Canada.

"It's cold, but what I saw in Vancouver and Calgary and here is I think the people like the football," said Júnior. "I saw a lot of people with spirit of the World Cup. This is good — it's good for Canada, will be good for the World Cup. A lot of people will come to Canada to see the World Cup, and this is a big opportunity for the country to host the most important football event in the world."

Júnior said opportunities like the Trophy Tour didn't exist when he was growing up, making it especially meaningful for young fans today.

He recalled first watching the tournament at age 10 during the 1986 World Cup, when Argentina won the title. He also remembered travelling with his father to São Paulo, where he met former Brazilian national team player Luís Antônio Corrêa da Costa, known as Müller — a moment that helped shape his dream.

"I was, I think, nine or eight years old," said Júnior. "For me, it was a big pleasure. I remember that until today, and that helped me to dream. I looked

at him and said, 'Oh, maybe one day I can do the same thing that he did.'"

"I hope I can inspire some young people to look to the future and maybe want to play football. This is part of life."

Júnior added he is encouraged by the growth of soccer in Canada, noting the national teams were not as prominent during his playing career.

Canada is currently ranked No. 30 in the FIFA men's world rankings and ninth in the women's rankings.

At the 2026 tournament, Canada's men's team is set to compete in Group B alongside Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar and Switzerland in the expanded 48-team format.

The top two teams from each group, along with the eight best third-place finishers, will advance to the knock-out stage.

The tournament runs from June 11 to July 19, with Canada opening against Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 12 at Toronto's BMO Field.

> MJHL, FROM PG. 30

stops in the loss.

With the win, Niverville sits two victories away from the championship and a berth at the 2026 Centennial Cup, set for May 7-17 in Summerside, P.E.I. Virden, meanwhile, now faces elimination with little margin for error.

The Oil Capitals will look to get back into the series when it returns to Niverville for Game 3 on Tuesday.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Game 3: Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC

Game 4: Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. at Tundra Oil & Gas Place

Game 5: Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC*

Game 6: Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m. at Tundra Oil & Gas Place*

Game 7: Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. at Niverville CRRC*

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Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton PUBLIC NOTICE 2026 Financial Plan

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton shall hold a Public Hearing to present the Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 on:

Thursday, May 7th, 2026 at 9:15 A.M. Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton Municipal Office 329 River Road, Arborg, MB

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection in respect to the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton's 2026 Financial Plan.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available Monday, May 4th at the Municipal office.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2026.

Larissa Love
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Interlake Metis Employment - Summer Students

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the following positions:

Yard/Park Maintenance Office Assistant

Eligible Students

- Red River Metis students ages 14+ living in Manitoba
- Students must have attended school full-time in the current academic year and be returning to school on a full-time basis in the upcoming year.
- Part-time & Distance Education students are not eligible
- Proof of Red River Metis Citizenship (MMF Citizenship #) is required
- Students aged 15 and under must complete the Safe Work Manitoba Young Worker Readiness Certificate course prior to starting employment
- Available from June 29 to August 28, 2026

Further information may be obtained by contacting the office at (204) 278-3377.

Written applications to be submitted by 4:30 p.m., Friday May 29, 2026 to:

RM of Armstrong Office
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0
Fax: 204-278-3437
Email: clerk@rmofarmstrong.com

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF COLDWELL PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the 2026 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the RM of Coldwell intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year of 2026 at a public hearing in the Lundar Lutheran Church, 16 First Ave.N. Lundar MB on the **1st day of May, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

Council will hear any taxpayer who wishes to make representation, ask questions or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided. Copies of the Financial Plan will be at the hearing for review or Contact the office (204-762-5421) prior to.

Dated this 25 th day of March, 2026
Nicole Christensen, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer

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

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.

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Summer Student Partnerships
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The program runs from June 29 until August 29 and is open to individuals aged 15 – 30 who are returning to school full time in the fall.

Send your resume Attention: Karen Bowman indicating which position you are applying for to:
office@evergreenbasicneeds.com or drop off at 71 4th Ave Gimli



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026 BUDGET HEARING

**MAY 7, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

**RM OF FISHER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
30 TACHE ST, FISHER BRANCH**

At this time the 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.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available upon request, May 6, 2026 at the RM of Fisher Municipal Office, 30 Tache Street, Fisher Branch, MB during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may also be directed by letter to the Chief Administrative Officer or through e-mail at fishercao@mymts.net

PUBLIC NOTICE



**R.M. OF WEST INTERLAKE
ADDITIONS TO THE VOTERS LISTS
AND /OR PERSONAL SECURITY
PROTECTION REQUESTS**

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act* (MCSBEA) The RM of West Interlake Voters List is open for changes and revisions

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the RM of West Interlake can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- **Voter Eligibility** A person is eligible to have their name added to the Voters List if they are a Canadian Citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to the election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to the election day.
- **Non-Resident Voters Qualified in More Than One Ward** In accordance with Section 25(2) of the MCSBEA any non-resident voter who owns property in more than one ward is responsible to notify the Senior Election Official (SEO) in writing no later than September 22, 2026 of the ward in which they desire to vote. Failing the foregoing, the voters name will be placed on the list as chosen by the SEO.
- **Application for Personal Security Protection** Any person can request to have their name and address obscured from the Voters List. A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. That person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advanced voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the SEO before Sept. 22, 2026 at 4:00pm

Jackie Jonasson Senior Election Official
RM of West Interlake
#38 Main ST. Box 370
Ashern MB, ROC OEO
204-302-0277
Email: seo@rmofwestinterlake.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE



**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR
2026 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
FOR THE RM OF WEST INTERLAKE**

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 HEAD OF COUNCIL:
Between May 1, 2026 and Sept. 22, 2026

For the office of COUNCILLOR:
Between June 30, 2026 and Sept. 22, 2026

at the Municipal Office, #38 Main St. Ashern MB during the regular hours of business. To obtain a registration form please schedule an appointment with the SEO at the email or telephone number listed below.

Jackie Jonasson
Senior Election Official (SEO)
#38 MainSt Box 370
Ashern MB, ROC OEO
204-302-0277
Email: seo@rmofwestinterlake.com

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Youth Summer Employment

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong invites applications for the position of:

Seasonal Labourers

Qualifications

- Valid Class 5 Manitoba Drivers' license
- Knowledge in the operation and maintenance of riding mower, push mower, weed eater
- Knowledge of safety procedures and of the use of safety equipment
- Interpersonal skills with the ability to work well with all employees and the public effectively and in a courteous manner
- Available from May 1 - September 1, 2026
- Must be 16 to 29 years old
- This position will require physical effort and include outdoor work, in a variety of conditions

Further information may be obtained by contacting the office at (204) 278-3377.

Written applications to be submitted by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 27, 2026 to:

RM of Armstrong Office
Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1PO
Fax: 204-278-3437
Email: clerk@rmofarmstrong.com

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

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Farview Place in Teulon has 1 & 2 bedroom suites available for \$921 to \$1088 per month. Includes hydro, water, Valley Fiber TV/Phone/Internet. This 55+ Seniors independent living cooperative housing building is 5 storeys and has an elevator, paid outdoor parking, 4 laundry rooms, exercise room, lounge for family gatherings and events, fridge & stove in each suite. Local amenities include grocery store, post office, Shoppers Drug Mart, Access Credit Union, medical clinic, several restaurants & small shops. Please contact Andrea at 204-886-2760 or farview-place1989@gmail.com for more information.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: **LYNNE BEVERLY HAMBLIN** late of the R.M of Armstrong, in Manitoba, Deceased. ALL claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 72A Centre Street, P.O. Box 6500, Gimli, Manitoba, R0C 1B0, on or before the 21st day of May, 2026. DATED at Gimli, Manitoba, this 23rd day of April, 2026. **BAKER LAW CORPORATION SOLICITORS FOR THE EXECUTORS** Attention: Grant D. Baker

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**TRUCK DRIVER/ SUPERVISOR
FULL TIME POSITION Mon. - Fri.
8:30am - 4:30pm**

RIVERDALE Place Workshop Inc. requires a driver for our truck and 16 ft recycling trailer.

Residential/business curbside and bin collection in Town of Arborg and RM of Bifrost-Riverton and assist in recycle depot. Benefits and pension plan provided.

Criminal record check and Adult Abuse check required.

Full job description available at RPWI.

Drop off resume at 111 St. Phillips St. or Email at riverdaleplace111@gmail.com
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Winnipeg Condo Corp. 20 - Gimli, MB

Winnipeg Condo Corp. #20 in Gimli is looking for a seasonal maintenance person.

The successful candidate should have basic knowledge of building maintenance, various yard equipment, and lawn tractors.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Mowing and trimming lawn
- Performing minor landscaping tasks
- Painting and basic repairs as needed.
- Operating and maintaining lawn tractors and yard equipment
- Assisting with general building maintenance

Salary will commensurate with experience.
Please submit resume with work experience to shorepointev@gmail.com

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Apply in person, fax, mail or e-mail resume to: 276 Ardal St., Box 190, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
shachtays@hotmail.com
Ph: (204) 376-5233
Fax: (204) 376-5234

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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
Subject line: Bakery Position



Rural Municipality of GRAHAMDALE
www.Grahamdale.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST VOTER ELIGIBILITY PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION REQUESTS

VOTERS LIST
In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale Voters List is open for changes or revisions. Any person who is eligible to vote in a municipal election in the Local Authority of The Rural Municipality of Grahamdale can have their name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter corrected.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY
A person is eligible to have their name added to the voters list if they: are a Canadian Citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and a resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to the election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to the election day.

NON-RESIDENT VOTERS QUALIFIED IN MORE THAN ONE WARD
In accordance with Section 25(2) of the MCSBEA any non-resident voter who owns property in more than one ward is responsible to notify the Senior Election Officer (S.E.O.) in writing no later than September 22, 2026 of the ward in which they desire to vote. Failing the foregoing, the voter's name will be placed on the list as the SEO may select.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION
Any person can request to have their name and address obscured from the Voters List. A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. That person may only vote by a Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.
To implement the above, a written request must be received and submitted to the S.E.O before September 22, 2026 at 4:30pm.

Sandra Falk, Senior Election Official
Rural Municipality of Grahamdale
23 Government Road, PO BOX 120 Moosehorn, MB R0C 2E0
Office Phone: 204-768-2858 Fax: 204-768-3374
email: seo@grahamdale.ca
Cell 204-768-0069

Rural Municipality of GRAHAMDALE
www.Grahamdale.ca

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.

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

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

Rural Municipality of GRAHAMDALE
www.Grahamdale.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION PERIOD OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE'S FOR THE 2026 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION R.M. GRAHAMDALE

The General Municipal Election will be held on October 28, 2026.

In accordance with Section 93.1(1) of the Municipal Councils and School Boards Act, prospective Municipal Election Candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) or delegate 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 or delegate will be receiving candidate registrations during the times frames and location indicated below.

For the Office of Head of Council:
Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the Offices of Councilor's:
Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the R.M of Grahamdale office, 23 Government Rd., Moosehorn, Manitoba
during regular business hours.

To obtain registration forms please contact the S.E.O. at the email or telephone number listed below. Campaign Financing Packages will be provided to the prospective candidates upon completed registrations.

Dated at Moosehorn on this 20th day of April 2026.

Sandra Falk
Senior Election Official R.M. of Grahamdale
204-768-0069
email: seo@grahamdale.ca

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We are willing to train and tailor positions for the right applicants.

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- Equipment operating experience is an asset

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Darcy Timchishen
Ph: 204-641-1288

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> GAMES

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

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

Sudoku Answer



TOWN OF ARBORG PUBLIC NOTICE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Arborg shall hold a Public Hearing to present the Financial Plan for the fiscal year 2026 on:

Wednesday, May 13th, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
Town of Arborg Municipal Office
337 River Road Arborg, MB

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection in respect to the Town of Arborg's 2026 Financial Plan.

The 2026 Financial Plan includes the following general borrowing proposals:

- Borrowing of \$200,000 at 5% over 10-years for the purchase of land for Recreation;
- Borrowing of \$400,000 at 5% over 10-years for the replacement of arena ice plant; and
- Borrowing of \$750,000 at 5.25% over 15-years for the Arborg Water Treatment Plant filtration system upgrades.

Copies of the 2026 Financial Plan will be available for review on April 24th, 2026 and may be examined by any person on the Town of Arborg's website at www.townofarborg.com.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2026

Cindy Stansell, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Arborg

BIRTHDAY



Happy 14th Birthday Matteo.
-Love from your family

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SAT. MAY 9TH 2026

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Classifieds Announcements



OBITUARY



Kimberly Dawn Ostafichuk (nee Howse)
November 9, 1963 – October 15, 2025

It is with broken hearts we announce the passing of Kimberly Ostafichuk on October 15, 2025 at the Lakeshore General Hospital, Ashern, MB at the age of 61 years surrounded by the love of her family.

Kim was born in Winnipeg, MB and grew up in Thompson, MB and Grahamdale, MB. Throughout Kim's life she held many jobs including 20+ years with the Moosehorn Credit Union. Most recently Kim held the position of Economic Development Officer with the RM of Grahamdale, a position she held until she was no longer able to. Kim was very proud of her involvement in the development of the Moosehorn Park and playground as well as the Gypsumville playground.

Kim enjoyed many activities including curling, fishing, and snowmobiling. She had many hobbies like cooking, baking and sewing, and took great pride in her gardens and flowers. Of all her interests, her passion was her quilting. Kim spent many hours creating the perfect pieces. Whether it was at home in her sewing room or at quilting retreats with her friends, one thing was for certain every piece was put together with love. Kim had recently bought a "long arm" to help her bring her quilts to life. Many friends, family and community members were lucky enough to be recipients of her beautiful quilts. No matter what Kim was doing her loyal companions Rex and Snoop could often be seen by her side.

Kim really leaned on her faith over the last few years and was an active member of the Peace Lutheran Church. She held many positions within the church including being president of the ELW.

Left to mourn are her husband Greg, son Cody and daughter-in-law Tasha, parents Alfred and Brandon Howse, brother Craig (Nancy), sister Kerri (Mike), nephews and nieces Kyle (Brittany), Brendan (Katie), Jared, Jacob, Katelyn, Lindsey, Addison and Kylie, father-in-law Del, brother and sisters-in-law Brad (Darlene), Tammy (Mark), Todd (Laurie), and special friends Rosemary, Mary, Dali and Kurby.

Kim also leaves behind daughters Carly (Jason) and Kristy (Chris) and grandchildren Ryker, Randi, and Emerald.

Kim was predeceased by her first husband Randy Otto, grandparents Jack and Helen House and Lyle and Edith Lang, and mother-in-law Judy Ostafichuk.

Special thanks to all the doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers that helped care for Kim, and to all those who visited, sent flowers, cards, food and prayers during Kim's illness.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Kim's life will be held on Saturday May 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, Moosehorn, MB with Dawn Tober officiating.

Urn bearer will be Kim's son Cody. Honorary Pallbearers will be Kim's nephews and nieces Kyle Howse, Brendan Howse, Jared Howse, Jacob Szmon, Katelyn Szmon, Lindsey Szmon, Addison Szmon, and Kylie Ostafichuk.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Peace Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, PO Box 68 Moosehorn MB, R0E 2E0 or CancerCare Manitoba Foundation 1160-675 McDermot Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R3E 0V9.

OBITUARY



Gladys Humeniuk (nee Davidow)
1927 - 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Gladys Humeniuk, on March 23, 2026, after a short illness.

Gladys is survived by her son Allan and his wife Lorie, her special daughter Sue, husband Rick, and their children Kelly and Dianna, along with their families.

She was predeceased by her parents, Charlie and Mary Davidow, baby Clarence Davidow, and her longtime partner, Tom Cochrane.

Throughout her life Gladys embraced many roles with dedication and pride; she was a homemaker, a babysitter, and a hardworking contributor to her community. In her younger years, she delivered fuel for her father's business, later worked at the Hersfeld Store in Hodgson, then at the Ukrainian Farmers Co-op and eventually

concluded her career as a Home Care support worker for the Province of Manitoba.

At age 65, Gladys retired and joyfully filled her days with travel, gardening, and caring for her home and yard. She cherished her friendships deeply - sharing baking, dainties, and warm conversation over morning coffees. Her generosity, loyalty, and kindness extended far beyond what the word friendship can express.

When it came time to downsize, Gladys moved to the Poplarfield Seniors Villa, and later to the Fisher Branch Chalet, where she continued to build meaningful connections and bring warmth to those around her.

Gladys will be remembered for her strength, her compassion, and the unwavering love she gave to her family and friends. Her legacy lives on in all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday April 25th at 11:00 a.m. at the Ukrainian National Hall in Fisher Branch. Pastor James Thiesen is officiating.

To My Family...

Remember me in your heart,
Your thoughts and your memories,
Of the times we loved, the times we cried,
The times we fought,
And the times we laughed.
For if you always think of me,
I will never have gone.
Love... Mom

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- **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.

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Tori Goodman (Branch Manager)
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E: ehardware@interlake.crs
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Duties/Responsibilities:

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- **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.

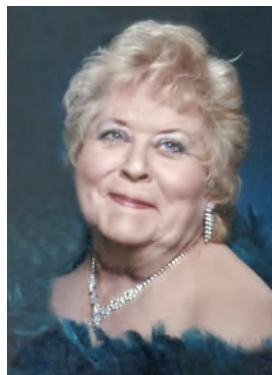
WE THANK ALL CANDIDATES FOR THEIR INTEREST, HOWEVER, ONLY THOSE SELECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL BE CONTACTED.

Join Our Team!

Classifieds Announcements



OBITUARY



Kay Ellen Sigridur Byron (nee Eirickson)
October 4, 1932 – January 31, 2026

On January 31st, at the age of 93, Kay Byron of Lundar, MB, passed away peacefully with her loving family by her side.

Kay was born on October 4, 1932 in Lundar, MB. During her youth, she enjoyed playing sports, attending community picnics, riding horses, spending time with her family, and helping on the family farm. In her early teenage years, she started with her first job at the local hotel. A few short years later, Kay met the love of her life, Harry Byron. Together, they built a beautiful farm and homestead west of Lundar, where they began raising their family. Kay naturally became a devoted wife and mother to Iris, Orval, Morris and Owen. She and Harry took pride in the farm they built with their own hands, raising their children by their side.

When not working on the farm, Kay could be found in the kitchen preparing hearty meals for family, friends and anyone who came through the door. Her home was always filled with warmth, laughter and the comforting aroma of fresh coffee...visiting was a daily ritual.

After moving into town later in life, Kay continued her tradition of hospitality. Following Harry's sudden passing on April 10, 1992, Kay's strength and independence carried her forward. She worked as a cook at the Lundar Hotel, the Lundar Hatchery and for Sigfusson's Northern, where her kindness and cooking made her beloved by many.

Her passion for feeding others became a lifelong calling, leading her to start a bread-baking operation from her kitchen, sharing her homemade loaves with friends, family, and the local farmer's market.

Kay's greatest pride was always her family. She loved watching the generations grow, attending countless birthday parties and sports games, cheering everyone on with a smile. In her later years, she enjoyed watching curling and hockey, especially cheering for the Winnipeg Jets.

Kay leaves to mourn her two sons, Orval (Rhonda) and Owen (Wanda); 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter. She is also survived by her brother Wayne (Judy) Eirickson along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents Thorberger and Olafia, brother Clifford, sisters Margaret and Lois, daughter Iris, son Morris, grandson David, and special friend Lloyd.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the Eriksdale Personal Care Home for their compassion care and dedication to Kay over the years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kay's memory to the Eriksdale Personal Care Home c/o Sharon Thorgilsson, PO Box 130, Eriksdale, MB R0C 0W0.

A Celebration of Life for Kay Byron will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026 in the Lundar Legion with Cindy Thorkelson officiating. Interment to follow in the Lundar Municipal Cemetery.

Honorary Pallbearers are Ryan Desjarlais, Shane Byron, Kaley Byron, Frazer Byron, Kent Eirickson and Claude Foster.

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OBITUARY



Jacob Martens
January 22, 1937 – April 14, 2026

Jacob Martens passed away peacefully on April 14, 2026, at the age of 89 years, 2 months, 3 weeks and 2 days.

Dad was born January 22, 1937 at Aberdeen, SK to Jacob and Maria (Nickel) Martens. In April of 1948, the family moved to the Altona area. He and Mom were both part of the first baptismal class in the Manitoba Reinland Church on May 25, 1958. Shortly after that, they began dating and were married on October 11, 1959. Mom and Dad lived in the Plum Coulee area with their growing family until May 1973.

Being concerned that their children would receive a Christian education, they moved to the Rainy River district in ON and sent their children to the Pineview Mennonite School. In August 1974, they moved to Tolstoi where Dad was instrumental in starting a

private Christian school. August 1976, they again moved back to ON until October 1979 when they moved to Fisher Branch, MB and joined the Lake Centre Church, where he was a member until the time of his death.

As a youth, he worked as a farm hand for the neighbours south of Horndean. Then needing a more steady job, he worked for Wiebe Brothers in Plum Coulee delivering fuel and later as mechanic in the Ford dealership, starting with simple things like oil changes and fixing what was broke. He began doing night classes and became a licensed Ford technician. He enjoyed working as a mechanic throughout his life, having his own shop for many years on the farm in Fisher Branch. He then worked away until the age of 83 and still enjoyed tinkering on various projects in his small garage on the yard until this last winter when his health did not allow it anymore.

Dad was grateful for the good health that God granted him. His cancer journey began in fall of 2022. He had two surgeries but when they found spots on his lung, he did not want any further treatment. He felt well until this past winter. On February 13, we took him in for a scan and they found a tumor in the brain which explained the confusion he was experiencing. Through these last two months, he remained so grateful for the care he received, often commenting that he was being treated like royalty and he didn't want to be a bother. He really appreciated when people came to visit and sing.

Dad was predeceased by his parents and parents-in-law, brother Cornie and his wife Mary, sister Helen and brother-in-law John Wiebe, brothers-in-law Henry Penner and Bill Reimer, sister-in-law Helena Elias and three grandchildren.

Left to mourn are his wife Tina (nee Penner) of 66 years; the children: Gertrude (Jake) Friesen, Dave (Val) Martens, Henry (Jeannine) Martens, John (Geraldine) Martens, William (Michelle) Martens, Jacob (MaryJane) Martens, Peter (Shirley) Martens, Dan Martens, Margaret (Carl) Friesen, George (Mary) Martens, Dora (Martin) Friesen, Phil (Lena) Martens, Lisa (Jonny) Metzler, daughter-in-law Christine Martens, along with 81 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren; his sister Mary; the in-laws: Jake and Tina Penner, Trudy Penner (Henry), Henry and Mary Wieler, Dave and Margaret Penner, Jake Elias (Helena passed away April 9, 2026) as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

We want to express appreciation to the doctors, nurses and staff at Percy Moore Hospital, as well as the home care staff and all the loving people that helped, thank you very much. Thank you too for all the many friends and family that came to visit and sing, and the many other acts of kindness done, it made the journey so much easier. May the Lord bless each one for the love and care shown.

We are grateful for the example Dad left, let's follow Jesus and meet Him in heaven.

A funeral service will be held at the Arborg Bifrost Community Centre at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, with a viewing at 12 p.m., and interment to follow at Morweena Lake Centre Mennonite Cemetery.

Friends FUNERAL SERVICE In Care of Arrangements
Tributes: friendsfs.ca

OBITUARY



Linda Ruth Zimmerman (nee Sturgess)
June 8, 1952 – April 17, 2026

Following a long and courageous battle with cancer, Linda peacefully passed away at the age of 73 at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, MB with her loving husband Keith and family at her side.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. A private gathering to celebrate her life will be held at their home later this summer. Linda will be laid to rest at All Hallows Tennyson Cemetery.

Longer obituary will follow at a later date.

Arrangements by:

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OBITUARY

Loreley Jean Nelson (nee Breckman)
May 15, 1930 – March 3, 2026

Peacefully on March 3, 2026, Loreley passed away at the Lundar Personal Care Home at the age of 95.

Loreley was predeceased by her husband Arnold.

She is survived by her children Murray, Garry (Lucille), Darrell (Donna), Craig (Leona), Alona (Ed) and Lyndon; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren, along with other family members.

Loreley was very involved in the community for many years such as the Lundar Fair Home Living Section and concessions. She was a member of the Ladies Aid Auxiliary, held the position of President of the Lundar Legion Auxiliary, was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star as a Worthy Patron, also holding many other offices in the order, as well as offices in the Grand Chapter.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 2, 2026 in the Lundar Legion Hall with Cindy Thorkelson officiating. Interment to be held in the Lundar Municipal Cemetery with a luncheon that will follow in the Legion.

We wish to thank all the staff at the Lundar Personal Care Home for the wonderful compassionate care they gave to Loreley.

Arrangements by:

Arnason Funeral Home
Ashern - Lundar
1-204-768-2072
1-866-323-3593



Reginald Sigurjon Sigurdson
May 16, 1952 - April 13, 2026

Reginald Sigurjon Sigurdson, born May 16, 1952, unexpectedly passed away on April 13, 2026 at the age of 73.

He is survived by his wife, Kimberly; his daughters, Amanda (Duncan), Melissa and Desiree (Tyler); his grandchildren, Henry, Eli, Stella, Reid, Bodie, and Myer; and his siblings, John (Bev), Irene, Linda (Ken), Frank, Kathy (Brian), Jeff (Jinny), and Ron (Yana); long time brothers-in-law Craig, Lynn and Tim, as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was predeceased by his parents, Sigurjon and Doris Sigurdson; step father Donnie Gibson; his father and mother-in-law, Ronnie and Gudrun Finnsson; and his siblings, Joan, Shirley, brothers-in-law Dave and Wally and infant brother Leslie.

Reginald found joy in life's simple moments—time spent with family, conversations with friends, and the comfort of familiar routines. He dedicated his life to farming, building a legacy of hard work, care and resilience. He was known for his reliability and his willingness to lend a helping hand.

Above all, Reginald cherished his family. He was a devoted and loving presence who adored his wife, children and grandchildren. The memories he created with those closest to him will be treasured always.

Reginald leaves behind a legacy of kindness, integrity, and love. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A celebration of life will be held at the Geysir Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Geysir Hall.

Forever remembered, forever missed.



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