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Dynamic duet

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CHRISTY BROWN

Arborg's Brenda Gulay and her granddaughter Emma Argue from Warren teamed up to play a piano duet in the Multi-Generational category of the 65th Rockwood Festival of the Arts at the New Life Church in Stonewall last Wednesday. The duo played "Flute Song" by Leila Fletcher. Gulay teaches her granddaughter virtually through FaceTime.

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GREEN THUMB ITCHING? HERE'S HOW!



Friendly feline finds furever home after FIV diagnosis

Neighbours pitch in to save shabby tabby

By Becca Myskiw

A beloved community cat has found its furever home.

Leo, a friendly neighbourhood cat, spent the last two winters sitting in front of Gimli residents' screen doors, begging for food and scratches. The entire neighbourhood fell in love with the fluffy feline, but they left him to his own devices. Leo was someone's pet — he just didn't really want to be.

Amanda Greenberg is one of the people who saw Leo frequently throughout the winter.

This year, she started bringing the cat in to eat in her kitchen, and she found out a few of her neighbours had been doing the same thing.

"Everyone's just in love with him," she said.

However, when the cat started spraying on everyone's decks, the community quickly wanted Leo neutered to solve the problem.

Greenberg's son took a liking to the cat, so she brought him inside one night and Leo cuddled with the child. She then decided to contact Leo's owner to see if they could adopt him,

and the old owner — knowing Leo was an escape artist who wanted to be elsewhere — said yes.

Greenberg took their new pet to the vet before fully adopting him, paying a few hundred dollars for medications to help his wounds from the cruel outside world. The community then pitched in to get the four-year-old cat neutered, but bigger issues arose before Greenberg could book the appointment.

Leo showed up to her house one day, beaten up and with an extremely full, oozing bladder. She quickly took Leo to Gimli Veterinary Services, and within a day of her neighbours finding out, they raised a collective \$500 for related treatment.

That \$500 went a long way — Leo got neutered, had the wounds cleaned and a bladder draining, and had blood tests done. Those tests found Leo positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

Before Leo gets treatment for FIV, the vet wants the wounds to heal. Once Leo is better, the cat will likely start taking medication to protect its immune system for as long as possible.

Cats with FIV typically live seven years after contracting the virus, though some have lived more than



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

After a few years roaming Gimli, this shabby tabby has found itself a loving home and veterinary treatment for feline immunodeficiency virus.

15. Greenberg is hopeful they'll have more than seven years with Leo.

Right now, the Norwegian forest cat/Bengal/Savannah mix is liv-

ing within two rooms in Greenberg's house, being trained to live as a house

Continued on page 14

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Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer helps residents in need

Service helps breast cancer patients with increased needs that stem from cancer and treatment

By Katelyn Boulanger

A cancer diagnosis is something that often changes people's lives.

Though our provincial health-care system covers treatment for breast cancer, there are often small costs that add up even for someone who isn't losing income because of time away from their place of employment.

To help with some of those costs, Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer Inc. was established in 2005 and continues to work towards assisting low-income Manitobans to who need a helping hand.

"We call it expenses that simply fall through the cracks that no other organization, governments or private organizations such as [health insurance companies] will cover for the person who is low income. We also cover for rural clients in Manitoba — and that's been part of our mandate is to help people from rural Manitoba get into cities to be able to get the care that they need. We cover, if they qualify, accommodation, meals and transportation costs for people who have to come into Winnipeg in order to get the proper care," said Val Poole, secretary for Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer.

The volunteer-run organization is a grassroots non-profit.

Helping Hands was started in 2005 when the provincial government covered fewer expenses.

"Back then, if a woman had a mastectomy, which is a removal of the breast, she would need to have a mastectomy pocket bra and also a form called a prosthesis. The government paid very little for these two items," explained Poole.

Another area where they saw a need was with a medication that breast cancer patients needed to take for five years after having breast cancer.

"Those five-year medications help control the estrogen production in the patient because the estrogen feeds the breast cancer. None of those were covered by the government," said Poole.

Now, the government covers prostheses and a portion of pocket bras as well as the medication needed after breast cancer treatment for patients regardless of gender.

Poole explained that though lobbying has changed what they help with, expenses still fall through the cracks. Regardless if it's chemotherapy treatments, radiation treatments, surgery or doctor's appointments, they aim to help low-income patients.

They find the patients they help through a breast cancer navigator who connects them with people in need.

Poole explained that though other groups support research, small specialized groups like Helping Hands are important to our communities.

"We want to make sure everybody on their breast cancer journey is getting assistance. It affects the whole family; it doesn't just affect the person. The money that a person has to spend for items that aren't covered by anybody else takes away money for food on the table, gas in the car, [adds to] the high cost of living, and it takes away money for children's activities. It can take away money for clothing; it can put people into food banks, and there's enough of that going on in society today," she said.

She also wants to emphasize that



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Helping Hands for Manitobans with Breast Cancer helps with the expenses not covered by health care or private insurance.

though breast cancer is often thought of as a disease that affects women that, that is not the case and that they helped male patients as well.

Poole says that donations are the key to their ability to help people, and

Continued on page 7



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Gimli councillor blows whistle on management issues and financial losses at CDC

Dormitory housing refugees has deficiencies pegged at \$1 million

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli councillor Andy Damm said he would be “remiss” in his duties if he failed to tell municipal taxpayers about management issues and financial losses at the Gimli Community Development Corporation, which had just under \$1 million in 2019 but has now trickled down to around \$130,000.

And the only way he said he could let the public know of the losses and compel council to deal with it — this after raising the issue “several times internally” since 2023 — was to bring a resolution to the council table.

He did so during council’s regular meeting on April 17, and Coun. Richard Petrowski enabled that to happen by seconding Damm’s motion.

Damm said he wants council to make a decision on the CDC, some of whose members are also RM councillors, in order to avoid a trajectory that could see the CDC’s bank balance drained to zero and a possible bailout by the RM.

“This resolution was put on the floor

for exactly this reason: that this comes into the public light and that council is able to speak in public about the Gimli CDC. For those who don’t know, the CDC is an arm’s length corporation apart from the RM, but all of the assets that are within the CDC are actually RM assets. I believe [it] was incorporated in 1996,” said Damm. “Over the past few years, I’ve seen some of the financials because I’ve looked at it at various points when I was invited to some of the meetings, and I saw a trajectory that was heading towards zero in the funding.”

Damm said the CDC has lost large sums of money over the past few years.

“The last few years there has been between \$200,000 to \$250,000 lost. What I’ve seen in the last notations is the bank account is somewhere at \$130,000 or below. If we do the calculations on that, that means the CDC is probably done without additional revenues before September,” he said.

Damm’s resolution asks for a “transition” of the CDC to RM manage-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Gimli councillor Andy Damm said he’d be remiss in his duties if he failed to tell ratepayers about financial losses of about \$900,000 by the Gimli Community Development Corporation.

ment starting on Jan. 1, 2025, as well as the following:

That the current CDC board continues to manage the corporation for the remainder of 2024; Limit expenditures “within the residual funds remaining”; Address deficiencies with the CDC-run dormitory (also known as the CN Training Centre and which currently houses Ukrainian and other refugees) to “limit risks”; Conduct a review of the CDC’s assets; “Work toward” vacating the refugees staying

at the dormitory with a target date of Dec. 31, 2024; Determine the status of the CDC as a corporation.

The CDC’s mandate is to bring economic opportunities to the business park (also known as the Gimli Industrial Park), provide economic development services to the RM, increase employment and grow the business sector in the RM, among other functions.

In 2018 the CDC had a balance of \$777,184. The following year that increased by \$190,963 for a balance of

Continued on page 8

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WIWD subsidizing and covering costs for private water testing

By Becca Myskiw

Residents in the West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD) will have the chance to get their water tested this year for free.

WIWD is offering one coliform and E. coli water sample and one advanced drinking water quality sample for a subsidized cost of \$95. Watershed employees will take both samples to a lab, making the process as easy for homeowners as possible.

These tests will monitor wells for total coliform bacteria, which can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea and headaches. The testing will also indicate the general sanitary condition of the water.

An advanced drinking water quality test will also test water for com-

pounds present, including lead, mercury, pesticides and nitrates. This test shows homeowners whether their water contains materials that harm human health.

Irina Zotter, WIWD manager, said they haven't seen any harmful minerals in the district, but testing for it at least every five years is still important to be sure.

"It's a good practice for our well owners," said Zotter. "That's your house. People drink that water and use it to wash dishes and themselves."

Any home in the boundaries of WIWD is eligible to have its water tested.

The watershed district's borders run through some communities, so residents of the RM of Armstrong and In-

wood can also get the tests done with WIWD.

The district is running the tests on two days this year: May 21 and June 25.

To register, people must fill out the request form, which can be found on WIWD's website at <https://wiwd.ca/page.php?id=40>.

Once the watershed district approves a request, people will receive instructions to pick up the test tube bottles at their RM office. Those doing the test will fill their tubes according to the instructions and drop them off at the RM office before 10 a.m. WIWD will pick them up to take them to the lab.

Zotter said it's important people fill the tubes on the day of testing as

there's a short 24-hour window from when they're filled to when they can be tested.

Homeowners will receive their test results directly — anything above zero is considered a failed sample, and though uncommon, if someone receives a failed test, they'll have to do another one (at no cost) and go from there.

To decontaminate a well, chlorination is necessary. WIWD subsidizes the cost of this: \$250 for a half-chlorination and \$500 for a full one.

WIWD also offers a well protection program, which assists landowners in protecting their water supply.

Protect your future. Get immunized! National Immunization Awareness Week - April 22-30

By Lana Meier

It's National Immunization Week from April 22 to 30, 2024 — and this year, it is important for Manitobans to check if they are up to date with vaccinations.

According to Marcy Timchishen, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's immunization co-ordinator, vaccinations are essential in building immunity and preventing illnesses for both you and your loved ones. Countless diseases, including polio, measles, meningitis and whooping cough pose significant public health risks due to their contagious nature. Fortunately, the development of vaccines has made it possible to prevent these conditions from spreading.

As new evidence and findings emerge, vaccine recommendations are periodically revised. This can create confusion for individuals in determining which vaccines they require and are eligible for. Consequently, some may be unaware of the need to catch up on their vaccinations. For instance, adults and pregnant individuals may not be aware of the necessity to receive immunizations against specific illnesses.

While it may be commonly believed that vaccines are only necessary for children, the truth is that immunizations play a vital role throughout our entire lives. It's important to note that a tetanus shot is not just for emergencies resulting from an injury; in fact, all adults should receive a booster every 10 years. Additionally, those who have not received an adult dose of whooping cough are eligible to do so.

According to Timchishen, National Immunization Awareness Week presents a great opportunity for Manitobans to communicate with their health-care provider or public health nurse regarding the status of their children's or their own vaccinations.

"Public Health encourages all health-care providers to take the opportunity, when

presented, to ensure that their client's or patient's immunization records are up to date," she said.

Manitoba Health provides publicly funded vaccines to Manitoba residents who are registered with Manitoba Health, per Manitoba's routine immunization schedule and vaccine eligibility criteria. Over the last couple months, Public Health has been focusing efforts on ensuring that those who are eligible for measles vaccination are up to date due to a significant rise in measles cases in many parts of the world and with some cases occurring in other provinces across the country.

As a result of amendments to the preschool immunization schedule, Public Health has been offering a greater number of meningitis vaccine doses. This measure aims to enhance safeguarding against various strains currently prevalent in the province.

For instance, children who are at least 12 months old and were born after Jan. 1, 2020, can receive the Meningococcal Quadrivalent Vaccine, regardless of whether they have already received their Meningococcal C Vaccine as part of their regular immunization schedule.

During National Immunization Awareness Week, public health nurses across the region will be increasing their outreach efforts to raise awareness of immunizations. There are clinics happening throughout the region as well as information boards, posters and community advertising around the importance of getting your vaccines up to date.

Anyone with questions regarding their own or their child's immunization records, who wants to schedule an appointment or is unsure if all immunizations are up to date is encouraged to please contact their local public health nurse (www.ierha.ca/find-us).

For further information on the suggested vaccination timelines for both children and

adults, refer to:

- www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/schedules.html

ing vaccines and their importance, visit:

- <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/about.html>

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Manitoba government helping more seniors age at home

New program helps seniors remain safe in their homes

By Lana Meier

Seniors who meet the requirements can now submit their applications for the Safe and Healthy Home for Seniors Program, a \$1.5-million initiative that aims to assist in the expenses of enhancing home accessibility and safety, as revealed by Minister Uzoma Asagwara of health, seniors and long-term care.

According to Asagwara, our government is dedicated to enhancing care for seniors and offering additional assistance for aging in their own homes and communities. This program is one aspect of our strategy to aid vulnerable seniors. Often, minor changes or additions are sufficient in creating a safer living environment.

These measures can greatly reduce the risk of injury at home and alleviate strain on emergency departments. Additionally, they are crucial for seniors transitioning out of hospitals or seeking greater independence while remaining at home.

Individuals who are 65 years and above, as well as those residing with seniors, have the opportunity to receive financial assistance of up to \$5,000 (\$6,500 in rural and remote regions) to cover essential home modifications for daily activities. The grant can be applied for once every three years, with a total limit of \$15,000 per lifetime. To qualify, the household income must not exceed \$60,000.

The funding can be put toward the cost of essential accessibility solutions and could include:

- adaptations that increase safety, like grab bars, bathtub safety rails and increased lighting; or
- accessibility improvements for daily activities, such as zero-threshold showers and widening doorways.

The program will be administered by March of Dimes Canada, a national charity committed to championing equity and empowering ability.

According to Jason Lye, vice-president of community support services at March of Dimes Canada, the organization has a solid history of changing lives through home adaptations. He explained that even minor modifications to a person's home can have a significant impact, allowing them to maintain safety and independence in their own living space. The team is eager to assist seniors in Manitoba with achieving this goal.

To find out more about the Safe and Healthy Home for Seniors Program, such as application instructions, visit www.gov.mb.ca/seniors/index.html.

For more information about March of Dimes Canada, visit www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/am/mshhs/Pages/SHHS.aspx or call 1-866-906-6006.

Gypsumville RCMP investigate shooting

By Lana Meier

Gypsumville RCMP responded to a shooting at a business in Lake St. Martin First Nation at approximately 8:05 p.m. on April 18.

Officers and Emergency Medical Services responded immediately and located an injured 34-year-old male. He was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

RCMP identified a suspect and he was arrested.

Memphis Beardy, 20, has been

charged with:

- Discharge firearm with intent
- Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose
- Possession of firearm knowing possession is unauthorized
- Disguised with intent to commit offence
- Possession of restricted firearm with ammo without licence
- Pointing a firearm

- Possession of firearm/ammunition in motor vehicle
- Fail to comply with probation order
- Careless use of firearm
- Weapon possession contrary to order x2
- Aggravated assault
- Using firearm in the commission of an offence

Gypsumville RCMP continue to investigate.

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EXPRESS PHOTO BY MARNO OLAFSON

It was a balmy 10 degrees C. in Gimli on April 20 when Marno Olafson took his first dip of the year in Lake Winnipeg. Last year, Olafson took his first cold water swim on May 9. Help the Express record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@expressweeklynews.ca.

> HELPING HANDS, FROM PG. 3

though they may not have the same reach as other larger groups, their services are very important.

"Our money comes from donations. It comes from grant applications because we apply for grants from organizations that cover us. It comes from third-party fundraisers. [For example], there are groups around the province that'll run an event and then say a percentage is going to go to Helping Hands, or they'll have a garage sale and they'll donate \$100 to the group from the garage sale to help. Those are the third-party donation fundraisers that are often done on our behalf," said Poole.

She says that donations, however large or small, are key to helping Helping Hands make a significant difference for people with breast cancer. They also want to expand their board of directors if anyone is interested.

Residents can donate to this group or learn more at <https://www.helpinghands4mbwbc.com/>.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pesticide Control Program

Environment and Climate Change and Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources is introducing the 2024 Pesticide Control Program.

The program is needed to:

- control invasive plants and noxious weeds in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and provincial parks
- control vegetation encroachment on WMA and park infrastructure
- rejuvenate native prairie in Beaudry Provincial Park

Scheduled application dates are from June 12, 2024 to October 31, 2024.

Pesticides to be used include:

- | | |
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| <i>Nufarm Trillion Tur Herbicide</i> | <i>Restore Nxt Herbicide</i> |
| <i>Round Up Transorb HC and Poison Ivy</i> | <i>Navius VM Herbicide</i> |
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> CDC, FROM PG. 4

\$968,147, according to financials for the period 2018 to 2022 that the RM's chief administrative officer Kelly Cosgrove provided to the *Express* upon request. After that, revenues began to fall.

During the years of the COVID pandemic when the province had imposed various restrictions on public gatherings, the CDC's revenues show a decline. One of the corporation's major revenue sources was the air cadets, which used to rent the dormitory for its flying program. The cadets cancelled the program during COVID. The corporation saw a loss in 2020 of \$176,212, ending with a balance of \$791,935. In 2021 that balance dropped to \$583,207. In 2022, the balance fell to \$329,000.

An unaudited Statement of Financial Position the *Express* obtained shows the CDC's "net financial assets (net debt)" were \$416,696 on Dec. 31, 2022. On March 31, 2023, the balance showed \$335,778, a decline of \$80,918 over a three-month period.

Gimli Mayor Kevin Chudd is currently the chair of the CDC board, having assumed the position in January 2023 after Coun. Richard Petrowski stepped down as chair then left the board altogether in June of that year. Coun. Kurt Reichert currently sits on the CDC board, although his name is not posted on the CDC's website.

Questions about the CDC's financial losses started swirling last year, and in August 2023 the *Express* attempted to get the RM to respond to questions such as how much money the municipality gave to the CDC, the current balance in its accounts, whether financial reporting was provided by the CDC to council, whether the RM had required the CDC to invest its revenues in a trust account and whether the RM had questioned the CDC regarding financial losses.

It's unclear whether the corporation's board held an AGM and whether minutes were kept for the entirety of 2023, as required under bylaw.

A huge point of contention during council's discussion was the clause in the resolution stating council work towards vacating the refugees living in the dormitory by the end of this year and get the building's deficiencies fixed.

"In no uncertain terms — and I am with council on this — do I wish to see residents that are in that building [on the street]," said Damm. "What I want to see is a safe environment for them to be in. And what that requires is funding. The funding that is in the CDC that goes forward may not achieve that. And it has been on that trajectory for quite a while."

He cited issues with a lack of financial transparency and disclosure vis-a-vis the CDC's accounting practices, suggesting uncertainty of where exactly money has been spent.

"One of the issues that comes up each and every time is that there isn't records of accounting that go all the way along. The fiduciary responsibilities that the board is supposed to maintain, some have been dumped by the wayside," said Damm. "There's also issues, too, that we have to look at as far as the operation of the dorm [so that it's] not by the volunteers."

The dormitory began to house Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Canada after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. There was no rent charged to the refugees for approximately a year.

It now has 79 people living there. Two hundred and twelve people are working in the community and there are 16 children attending local schools [figures provided by the CDC].

Damm said council is "well aware" that the dormitory has a number of deficiencies. Those were spelled out in a report by the local planning district last month.

The Eastern Interlake Planning District's Occupancy Inspection Report of the CN Training Centre dated March 7, 2024, which was obtained by the *Express*, shows a number of safety issues including non-compliance to the fire code.

For instance, the dorm rooms where the refugees are currently living do not have an egress window, evacuation plans need to be posted in each dorm room, handrails in the stairwells "do not meet code requirements," the ventilation system needs inspection and servicing by "qualified personnel," fire dampers need be located and inspected, loose floor tiles in the basement could pose a tripping hazard, loose ceiling tiles in the basement could "easily fall out on occupants," the basement kitchens should have proper exhaust ventilation at or near each stove, fire extinguishers should be placed by all cooking stations, exit doors in the basement are locked and exit doors on the east side of the hall are blocked with stored items.

Damm said an internal report given to the RM estimated it would cost \$1 million to fix the dorm's deficiencies. Over time, that could end up costing about \$2 million.

"I just don't want this to end up in a bankrupt corporation that we have to deal with ... that the next thing the CDC board walks into Gimli council and says, 'We need money to operate,'" said Damm. "... I know the CDC board has transitioned, but the majority of the board has been in

place since just after January 2023. In that [time] I haven't seen a plan to date. I know there hasn't been, realistically, any meetings since a period last year, with the exception of a hasty meeting that was put together last week to deal with this because this resolution was sitting out there and going forward."

Throughout the hour-long debate on the CDC, Mayor Kevin Chudd spoke about various issues (e.g., the cost of the airport, the need for oversight on the smell of the sewage treatment plant, the motorsport park) not wholly germane to the spirit of Damm's resolution.

Chudd also said the dormitory is "safe," has an "occupancy permit" and that Damm's saying \$1 million is needed to repair the dorm is "non-factual." He chastised Damm a number of times for bringing the CDC's affairs to public scrutiny while at the same time lamenting a lack of livestreaming of council meetings and making repeated references to transparency and full disclosure. More than once the mayor urged council members to defeat Damm's resolution.

"The [industrial] park has to be cleaned up so it's attractive and safe. Same with the airport, same with the motorsport park. There are potential revenue sources. I have to thank Coun. Petrowski on this farmland revenue ...," said Chudd. "I find it very troubling and, unfortunately, it's out in the open. But if we had livestreaming, we don't have the luxury of livestreaming yet. Once we have livestreaming, not only at council meetings but I'd like to see at committee meetings, then people can be very much more engaged in this process than what we have here. We all have to work together for the betterment of our community so that people that are trying, and the other component of this is our sewage treatment plant. We need plans."

Chudd added it would be "nice to see" Damm's resolution withdrawn and that "we have a plan I believe will work all the way around."

The mayor didn't speak to the details of that plan.

Chudd went on to provide a brief history of Canadian Forces Base in Gimli since the 1950s and lamented the loss of residential housing units (now condos) in the Gimli Industrial Park after CFB left. He called for other levels of government to provide funding assistance so that the dormitory can continue to house the refugees, who have been "subsidized" by the RM. Over 200 refugees have been "placed" in [jobs and housing] the community, said Chudd, who is part

of a family-owned business that sells vehicles and who has hired a number of Ukrainian refugees to work at the dealership.

"That's the last thing I want to see is anybody — I want this loud and clear publicly — no one will be kicked out of that place, period," said Chudd.

Coun. Thora Palson said that in her mind, the dormitory is not necessarily "a home maybe more transitional temporary" housing, but that she's not prepared to make any decision without speaking first with the CDC board and council. She stated she would abstain from voting on Damm's resolution.

The mayor told her: "We should deal with this [i.e., vote]."

Exactly how council will deal with the CDC's financials and its future as a corporation was left unanswered during the debate.

Council voted unanimously against the resolution. Damm said he ended up voting against his own resolution because it "did what it was supposed to do: brought this out in the open."

After Damm's resolution was defeated, Coun. Richard Petrowski asked: "We're walking back on these [dormitory] deficiencies?"

Because Damm's resolution was defeated, it has no binding power, including the clause suggesting council work towards having refugees vacate the dormitory. But Chudd insisted council pass a new resolution "so with the public and the press here, people that are living there know they are safe and secure." He instructed Cosgrove to create a new resolution on the spot and suggested how it should be worded.

The mayor and councillors Richard Petrowski, Thora Palson and Kurt Reichert voted in favour of the new resolution, which states: "Council approves and supports the residents in the Gimli Training Centre who reside in the facility."

Damm abstained from voting on that resolution. He said he didn't feel it was "wholesome to what the intent was" and it also failed to mention the deficiency report.

Public question period is no longer part of council's agenda so the *Express* asked Damm after the meeting ended whether the dorm deficiencies noted in the EIPD's report will be addressed.

"We are aware of the report. We have to make sure it's acted upon," said Damm.

Fisher Branch Women's Institute holding drug awareness open house

By Patricia Barrett

The Fisher Branch Women's Institute is spearheading an initiative to raise awareness of increased drug use in the Interlake and is inviting surrounding communities to collaborate on strategies to tackle the issue.

Debra Barrett, president of the Manitoba Women's Institute, said the Fisher Branch Women's Institute formed a committee that's organizing an open house to bring together people from the region to discuss drug use and addictions. The open house will also be live streamed for people to attend virtually.

"We're finding that all the Interlake communities are struggling with drug addictions and the associated costs to the community. There are not just financial costs but costs to society and the family," she said. "We thought we'd gather some experienced and knowledgeable speakers and invite communities within the Interlake to take part in our open house where they can gather some information."

Barrett said the focus will be on the use of on street drugs such as weed, cocaine and crack but also opioids and to a lesser extent alcohol, all of which can lead to breakdowns in families.

"We're finding that a lot of families are experiencing a breakdown. It not necessarily just young people using drugs; there are adults consumed by it," said Barrett. "Children are winding up in care, marriages are failing or the cost of drugs means families don't have the financial means to provide what's necessary for the family unit. Addictions are expensive and they have to be funded. So there's a lot of theft taking place."

The WI has a number of speakers lined up, said Barrett. Representatives from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, St. Boniface Street Links, Harm Reduction from Eriksdale and the Youth Treatment Program (Teen Challenge) will be part of the evening. There will also be individuals such as Chris (from Alcoholics Anonymous), who sits on community committees and boards and will speak on addiction impacts on the person, family and community; Ron (from Fisher Branch), who has been a speaker on addictions at the Manitoba Youth Centre; and Kevin, who will speak on the signs and behaviours of cocaine-addicted persons.

"We are also discussing speaker availability with Ian Rabb of Two Ten Recovery and Destiny House. He was formerly with Aurora Addictions Centre. And we've reached out to the RCMP regarding the process for

enforcing an involuntary psychiatric assessment order from the Court of King's Bench," said Barrett.

The topics will include how to tell whether a person has an addiction, how addictions impact families and communities, resources available for individuals with an addiction and their families/loved ones, where treatment programs are located for persons living in the Interlake, and the development of a comprehensive multi-community approach to addictions, associated mental health issues and the impacts on Interlake communities.

The WI will be also providing attendees with educational materials on services available to individuals and families, treatment programs and facilities, and legal issues surrounding addictions.

What the WI is hoping to accomplish from the evening is to raise greater awareness of drug use and encourage collaboration on a strategic plan.

"Our hope is for the Interlake communities to work together in developing a strategic plan, which would result in a cohesive approach focused on reducing addiction dependency and the related effects on families and communities," said Barrett.

She added that programs to treat addictions either have a waiting list, are beyond the financial means of people or are tailored to specific groups such as Indigenous programs at the Aurora Recovery Centre.

"At Percy Moore Hospital we've got an addictions centre and the program is excellent, but it's maxed out. The availability is just not there," she said.

The women's institute has invited a number of communities to attend the meeting either in person or by Zoom. Those include Teulon, Arborg, Riverton, Gimli, Peguis, Fisher River, Jackhead, Moosehorn, Ashern, Eriksdale and Lundar. And all reeves and councillors from the Interlake municipalities have been invited to attend.

"There seems to be interest in this. Unfortunately, some communities are still ignoring the issue although this is knocking on everybody's door and nobody should be ignoring it," said Barrett. "We've had people as far as Sundance ask to be involved and they'll be joining us on Zoom."

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 in the Ukrainian National Home (hall) at 33 Provencher St. in Fisher Branch. There will be room for 100 people at the hall. Email Debra at wicommunityprograms@gmail.com to register for a Zoom link.

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Location: Ukrainian National Home (Hall)
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Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson weighs in on NDP budget

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba's NDP government's first budget promises to restore a health-care system that's currently delivering long wait times for ER and diagnostic services, delays in treatment and lack of access to services in a number of communities in the Interlake.

The Arborg hospital's ER had been out of service for months on end because of staffing shortages, and the Eriksdale hospital's ER continues to limp along with availability reduced to a handful of days each month.

The NDP says Budget 2024 will "start to fix the staffing crisis in health care" and include investments in infrastructure. The NDP is allocating \$310 million to retention, recruitment and training to address staffing shortages and plans to hire — this year — 100 doctors, 210 nurses, 90 paramedics and 600 health-care aides. The party also plans to open a dedicated recruitment and retention office and expand education programs for health-care workers, including medical laboratory technologists.

"Rebuilding health care starts with staffing. For seven years, health-care staff were disrespected and ignored, but our government is committed to taking better care of the health-care workers that care for us," states the government in the budget.

Interlake-Gimli MLA (Progressive Conservative) Derek Johnson said rural areas of Manitoba, including in the Interlake, saw 16 emergency rooms close under the NDP when the party was in power prior to 2016. While he welcomes a new ER in Eriksdale, he's concerned there won't be enough staff to operate it.

"You can have all the fancy stuff you want, but staffing has always been a concern. It's not only about having enough doctors, but you also need a lab tech and an X-ray tech or a cross-trained tech (X-ray and lab) on call to keep an ER open," said Johnson. "It's

often overlooked but support staff are important to ensure emergency rooms stay open."

He added that the Conservative government had been working with Shared Health on a cross-training technologist program so that in a staffing crisis "you can keep an ER open through cross-trained staff."

Johnson said the NDP government is riding on the Conservatives' coattails as far as retention and recruitment of staff go in areas such as pay incentives.

"We had implemented premium shifts where if you're working evening and weekends, you're getting a larger paycheque. A larger paycheque doesn't necessarily stop you from getting burnt out, but it provides more of an incentive for someone to pick up a shift and offer help on evenings and weekends," he said.

More concerning in the overall scheme of recruitment and retention is the failure to increase residency seats for graduates completing their first four years of medical training, he said. That will only drive doctors out of Manitoba rather than keep them here.

"The Conservative government doubled the doctors' training seats and we're starting to see those students graduating. But the NDP has not followed up on increasing the residency seats where doctors start getting clinical practice. That was part of our plan. All these students are graduating and there are only a few residency spots that are accommodating them," he said. "These doctors are looking to leave the province. These are our home-grown doctors from Manitoba who'll have to seek residency in another province. Often what happens is they'll meet Mrs. or Mr. Right and decide to lay down roots elsewhere."

The NDP's budget promises capital investments in hospital emergency rooms and personal care homes. For the Eriksdale hospital in particular, the government has so far committed funding to only the design phase rather than to the cost to build it.

"So far there's zero dollars budgeted towards the work on the new ER for Eriksdale," said Johnson. "The budget for that would

come next year. They're only moving forward with a design phase."

The NDP has also promised a one-time investment of \$110 million for health system capacity expansion that will focus on clinics and hospitals. It includes "four personal care homes, starting with one in Lac du Bonnet in 2024-25, followed by two in Winnipeg and one in Arborg."

Last summer, the Conservative government had announced \$15 million in funding for the pre-construction phase (planning and design) of six new PCHs, including in Arborg and in Stonewall. The Town of Arborg and the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton have been working towards and advocating for a new PCH since at least 2015.

Johnson said the Conservatives had also approved \$50.3 million in funding to build the new Arborg PCH. That could not be formally announced as the government was in a blackout period prior to the election.

"We approved that \$50.3-million funding. It was put through the treasury board and ratified by cabinet," said Johnson. "We fully funded three of the six PCHs — Arborg, Bridgewater [in Winnipeg] and Lac du Bonnet — but the NDP government put a pause on most PCHs."

He added that the NDP has only approved funding for one of four PCHs it announced — Lac du Bonnet.

Johnson said he's also worried about driving doctors out of Manitoba because of the NDP's increasing the tax on the top one per cent of income earners, a category into which doctors fall.

"If you're driving up the income tax on doctors, how are you supposed to attract them?" he said.

On the infrastructure front, which is vital to people living in the Interlake and other rural areas, Johnson said the NDP's budget has reduced funding — \$163 million less — for roads and water infrastructure such as drains.

"The maintenance of drains is not sexy, but drains need maintenance. You can't just build them and leave them," he said. "There have been multiple issues with flooding in the past including around Arborg and along Lake Manitoba. Funding has been cut for drains such as the Lake Manitoba Outlet Channel."

It's also important to maintain drains to prevent crop damages and nutrient loading, he added. When water pools on a field, it soaks up fertilizer (nutrients), which eventually finds its way into Lake Winnipeg. Different areas of the province are currently experienc-



GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA
Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson

ing varying levels of drought, and the ideal time to work on repairing drains is now.

"In dry years, you can get a lot more bang for your buck," he said. "You can get a lot more miles of drains done per dollar in a dry year than in a wet year."

He surmises that the cuts to infrastructure were done in order to fulfil the NDP's multi-billion campaign promise. But the cuts will come at the expense of rural areas.

Another concern in the Interlake for school divisions, such as the Evergreen School Division, are the NDP's cuts to education, said Johnson.

"The Evergreen School Division was earmarked to get 74 new daycare spaces. There's been a \$100-million cut from new schools and daycares at the same time we're seeing a surge in students," he said. "Almost every new school [the Conservatives promised] had daycare spaces included in it. When you cut those new schools, you're also cutting daycare spaces."

Johnson served as agriculture minister under the previous Conservative government and said he sees nothing new in the NDP's budget for agriculture; the government is maintaining Conservative programs that had included budgeting to re-open Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation centres.

"All the announcements I've seen are the announcements I had worked on while I was [agriculture minister]," he said, "whether that's increase to ag in the classroom or an increase to 4-H or any of our projects with our watershed districts — all that programming



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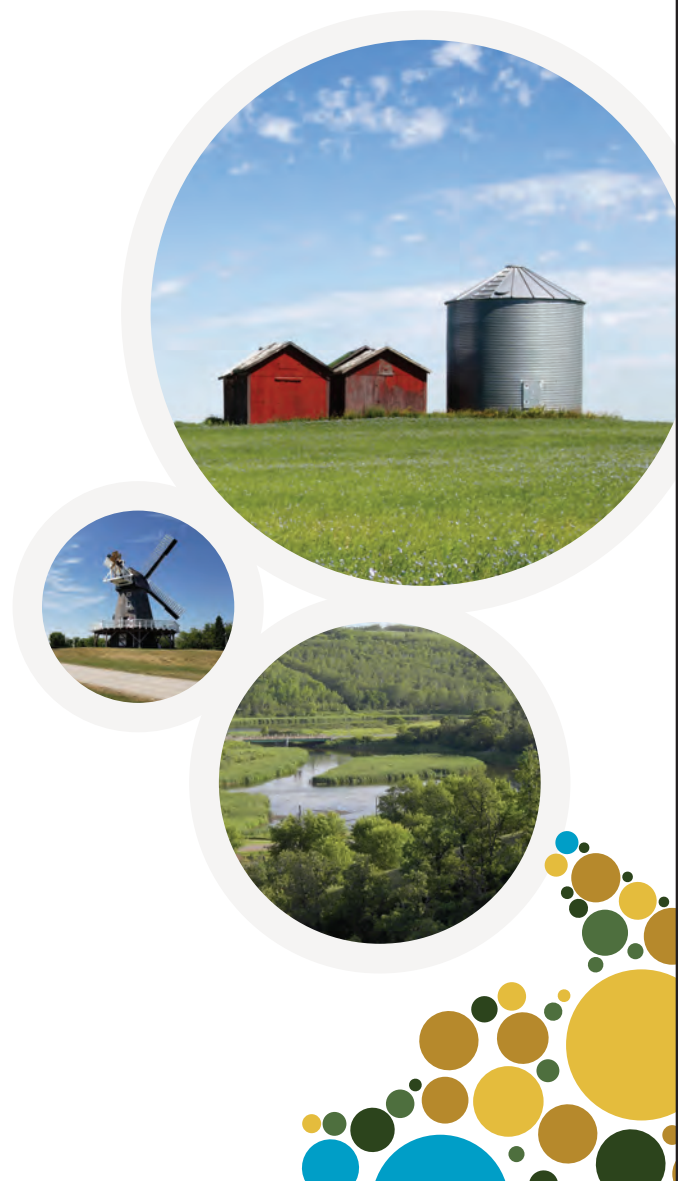
EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JAMES WIEBE

Ice piling up on Lake Manitoba near the RM of St. Laurent provided some mountain-climbing sport for Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson last weekend. Johnson said he waded into the water with rubber boots on and got aboard a stable piece of ice before starting his approximate 50-foot ascent to the top of a spectacular pile of ice. Someone told him the pieces of ice sticking up from the summit resembled a whale's tongue.

April 26 is Community Foundation Day!

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Red River Jigging classes start in St. Laurent

By Becca Myskiw

If you've ever wanted to learn to jig, now's your chance.

Last Wednesday marked the start of jigging lessons in St. Laurent, taught by 18-year-old Eva Kerbrat. Kerbrat started jigging when she was just four years old, and after showing promising talent from the beginning, the dancer was recruited by the Asham Stompers just one year later.

Since she was five, Kerbrat has travelled across Canada, performing around 100 shows a year with the group. Now that she's an adult, the jigger wants to share her love for the dance with others, so she's offering lessons.

Jigging is a traditional dance invented by the Red River Métis in



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Left photo, Eva Kerbrat, right, is offering jigging classes in St. Laurent beginning in June. Above, Kerbrat has been performing with the Asham Stompers since she was five years old.

the 1900s. Accompanying a fiddle tune, the Red River Jig was first performed by those involved in the fur trade during gatherings. The dance involves four men and four women who face each other six feet apart, standing on their toes. It starts with a single shuffle with the right and then the left foot, and for every third shuffle, the foot raises backward to miss the music beat.

Having grown up in St. Laurent and begun her jigging journey there, Kerbrat wanted to return to where it all started.

Her mom, Angelica Kerbrat, said jigging feeds Eva's soul, and they hope it will feed the souls of others too.

"When you see them in person, it's amazing," said Angelica. "It really feeds the spirit. We all have to find that

passion and something that feeds our own spirit."

Eva likes everything about the Red River Jig: the fiddle music, the quick footwork and the partnerships on stage. She describes the dance as "uplifting" and "high vibrational."

Though her jigging classes started last week, Eva will continue to accept registrations as long as they come in. Those starting later can work out a payment plan with Eva upon their start. Right now, there are two classes running until June 17 — a class for children 15 and under and one for adults 16 and up. Eva will start by teaching the fundamentals of the Red River Jig, slowly progressing the students to be able to perform a real square dance.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "And it's a great workout too. It really gets your cardiovascular going and really challenges you."

Classes for those 15 and under will be every Wednesday at 3:45 p.m. and classes for adults will happen right after at 5 p.m. This fall, Eva will be moving her classes to Stonewall so she can service a larger number of people.

"As soon as you hear the music you want to hop; you want to move your feet," said Angelica.

For more information on the jigging classes or to contact the Kerbrats, phone 204-861-2114.

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Year of change and growth for ACU

By Lori Penner

Last year was a foundational year for Access Credit Union with investments in many of their strategic priorities.

At its recent annual general meeting, Access Credit Union board chair Curt Letkeman announced a significant payout of \$13.5 million through the member rewards program.

This allocation, representing about 1.12 per cent of interest paid by members on loan services, was distributed to non-registered accounts during the fiscal year.

Additionally, members holding surplus shares and common or preferred shares, excluding member shares, received dividends in the form of surplus shares with dividends paid out March 27 at rates of 2.25 per cent on surplus shares and 5.45 per cent on common and preferred shares.

President and CEO Larry Davey reported robust growth in both deposits and loan portfolios in 2023. Despite a challenging rate environment, the credit union's loan portfolio expanded by nearly 16 per cent with mergers contributing 9.5 per cent and organic growth 6.5 per cent. Deposits grew by almost 14 per cent, with mergers accounting for 10.75 per cent of the increase and organic growth nearly three per cent.

Davey also highlighted a significant rise in profitability for the financial institution, and with nearly 1,000 staff serving over 200,000 members across Manitoba, it experienced a year of change and growth.

Letkeman emphasized last year's successful integration of mergers with other credit unions, highlighting the teamwork and positive energy displayed throughout the process. While acknowledging challenges such as banking system conversions and service outages from national providers impacting members nationwide, he emphasized the commitment to finding optimal solutions.

"What has stood out most for me during these transitions is the care, teamwork and positive energy that people have brought. It has truly been an example of the whole being stronger than the original parts," Letkeman said.

Meanwhile, he added the institution remains focused on offering competitive pricing and community investments while navigating increased costs for new banking programs and government regulations.

Despite the challenges, Letkeman expressed pride in Access Credit Union's achievements, noting its reputation for providing competitive savings and loan rates and its commitment to community support.

In 2023 alone, staff contributed over 14,000 volunteer hours to various community groups, and the credit union donated almost \$1.8 million to local non-profits and charities across Manitoba. In addition, Access employees raised over \$250,000 for community organizations with donations from their Jeans for Charity program.

Access Credit Union continues to prioritize

its members' financial well-being and the communities it serves and was once again recognized as a top employer in Manitoba.

"Yes, we know there may be bumps in the road, but know that your board and staff are committed to serving the membership in the best way possible and that we want to be where you need us to be," said Letkeman.

Davey added that over the last three years, they've been hard at work on executing and capitalizing on the mergers with other credit unions throughout the province.

"These benefits continue to be seen in the economies of scale, competitive pricing and community investments that we bring to our members," Davey said. "While we continue to focus on bringing many different organizations together under the Access banner, it is our privilege to serve every member to the best of our ability every day."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LORI PENNER

"Over the last three years, we have been hard at work on executing and capitalizing on the mergers with other credit unions," said president and CEO Larry Davey.



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Majority of Gimli council approves \$950K fitness centre

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli is on track to have a new fitness centre built close to the Gimli Recreation Centre after a majority of council adopted a resolution to build the new facility at its regular meeting April 17.

The recreation centre has had a fitness centre in its basement for about 30-plus years, but surveys over the years indicated residents wanting "new environs to stay in shape," according to a synopsis of the fitness centre project.

Phase 1 will see a facility built with 7,000 square feet of space that will include gym space, studio space, washrooms, saunas, showers, change rooms, locker facilities, a snack bar and office. It will have room for cardio machines, weight machines, free weights and a yoga, Pilates and dance aerobic studio. It will allow for personal training, rehabilitation for heart or other surgeries and fitness classes.

"Our proposed building is consistent with what industry experts consider to be normal and appropriate for a community like Gimli," states the synopsis.

Although a fair size, the facility will be too small to house a walking track, pickle ball, volleyball, badminton and basketball courts.

"These are amenities that could be included, if deemed feasible, in future additions or phases in development," states the synopsis.

Currently, the current gym has 95 to 100 regular users, and it's anticipated that the new centre will see a 30 per cent increase in users, states the synopsis. That should result in increased revenue for the RM.

The estimated cost of the fitness centre will be \$950,000.

Chief administrative officer Kelly Cosgrove said prior to the election, the provincial government provided per capita funding to the RM. Those monies could be used for various projects including recreation.

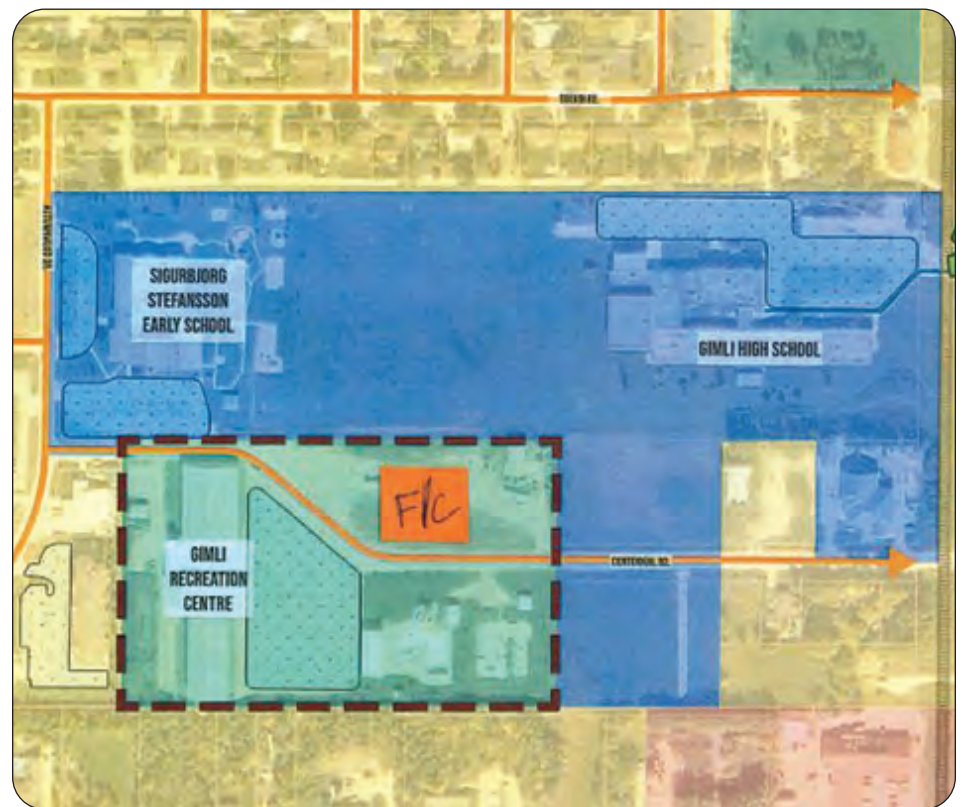
All of the per capita funding of \$503,652.79 will be put towards the fitness centre. An additional \$277,362 will come from the RM's multiplex building reserve fund and \$168,000 will come from municipal revenues.

Mayor Kevin Chudd said the announcement of the new fitness centre was made during a fireman's ball last November.

"This is really exciting for the community," he said.

Chudd and councillors Thora Palson, Kurt Reichert and Andy Damm voted in favour of the fitness centre. Coun. Richard Petrowski voted against it.

"I opposed it because the government's per capita money could have been used for waterline renewal," said Petrowski after the meeting. "I'm very concerned about capital spending as a whole. I feel this project is being rushed along and things don't



EXPRESS PHOTO RM OF GIMLI

A new stand-alone fitness centre will be located on the north side of Centennial Road, close to the Gimli Recreation Centre. The announcement of the centre was made in November at a fireman's ball but the resolution on whether to build it came to council last week. It is estimated to cost almost \$1 million.

always turn out well when things are rushed. There should be a plan for this fitness centre done by a professional outfit."

Given his lengthy time on council, Petrowski said he anticipates the new fitness centre will cost more than

\$950,000.

"I've been on council long enough to see overruns. This centre will be bigger than the pool's changing room building, which was very costly and that was pre-COVID," he said.

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THE EXPRESS
WEEKLY NEWS

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for HD
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May 11, 2024
8:30am

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mraweb.ca/event/huntington-heroes-walk-to-cure-hd

> FRIENDLY FELINE,
FROM PG. 2

cat since it's not allowed outside anymore.

Though it is a struggle to adjust to life indoors, Leo is doing well, Greenberg said.

Greenberg has two other cats and three dogs, all of whom are kept separate from Leo right now. Once he's better and he can roam the house, the family will keep an eye on Leo to make sure the other cats don't contract FIV.

"He's such a sweet cat," said Greenberg. "He's so loving."

Leo waits for Greenberg's son to get home from school every day, running to the door when he does. Leo loves playing with toys, jumping super high and jumping into humans' arms. Neighbours pop by every now and then to check on Leo, bringing gifts when they do.

Run/walk in Lockport raising money for Huntington's disease

Registration now open for May 11 event

By Kaitlin Vitt

The Lockport River's Edge Run is back for another year, with this year's event raising money for Huntington's disease initiatives. The event takes place on May 11 — during Huntington's Disease Awareness Month — and organizers are calling on the community to support the cause.

"We need you, and we need your assistance. We want to make this a good event for everybody," said Vern Barrett, race director and president of the Manitoba chapter of the Huntington Society of Canada.

"Huntington's is like having ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's all at once, so people have cognitive and neurological loss, it affects muscles, it affects memory, and there's no treatment or cure. But what we can do is we can provide the absolute best care for people with Huntington's that we can possibly manage."

Huntington's disease is a hereditary, neurodegenerative illness with physical, cognitive and emotional symptoms, as described on the Huntington Society of Canada's website. It's a rare disease — about one in 7,000 people in Canada have Huntington's.

About 50 years ago, Barrett and his wife found out his wife's aunt had Huntington's disease.

"We had no idea it was in the family, and after that, we became involved and started to fundraise for the resource centre [at Deer Lodge Centre in Winnipeg] for people with Huntington's disease to go to get support

and care from a neurologist, speech therapist and so on. We've been involved for well over 50 years because of this connection," Barrett said.

"One phone call [to the resource centre], and they get connected with everybody they need to talk to. It's a wonderful site, an amazing thing in Canada."

Barrett has a fundraising goal of \$20,000. As of April 15, more than \$3,700 has been raised through the event's web page (<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/86109/lockport-rivers-edge-run-walk-for-hd-2024>).

Participants can register to complete the 30-kilometre run, half-marathon run (21 kilometres), 10-kilometre run/walk or five-kilometre run/walk.

The event takes participants down River Road between Lily Drive, just north of Skinner's, and Larter's at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club. Depending on the distance the participant registers for, they will see a portion or all of this route.

"We're hoping runners and walkers from various parts of the province will come and enjoy this wonderful space," Vern said.

Full event information and registration forms are available on the Race Roster website (<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/86109/lockport-rivers-edge-run-walk-for-hd-2024>). Registration fees increase in price on April 20.

"The Manitoba community has always been there for us, and we would sure appreciate their support with



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

A photo from a previous year's River's Edge Run.

this event. It's really easy to participate," Barrett said. "It would be great to see them out and help us and help the community."

4L Communications in Selkirk is the title sponsor of the event. The company has sponsored the event in past years when the run/walk raised money for neurofibromatosis initiatives.

"It's such a great event. The location is incredible," said Lars Koop of

4L, who has participated in the event with his family.

"Even if it's your very first run, and you're going to sign up for the 5K, there's such little pressure because the track, the scenery and the route are so beautiful that you forget that you're competing or you're trying to beat your pace or something like that because it's just enjoyable. And there's probably no better run for someone who's going to do it for their first time."

Gimli RCMP investigate firearm found during beach cleanup

By Lana Meier

The Gimli RCMP are currently conducting an investigation into a firearm that was discovered during a beach cleanup.

On April 13 around 12:35 p.m., Gimli RCMP were notified of a firearm found on the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg near North Lake Street and Vaughan Avenue. The discovery was made by a 12-year-old girl who was assisting her family in picking up litter from the beach near their cottage. The police were called immediately.

Officers responded and confiscated the firearm, as per standard procedure. All firearms discovered are handled as loaded and necessary measures were implemented. Due to it being rusted shut, the firearm had to be dismantled at the detachment, where officers confirmed it was not loaded.

An ongoing investigation by RCMP aims to determine the source of the firearm and any possible involvement in criminal activity.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli RCMP seized a firearm that was found along the shoreline of Lake Winnipeg by a young girl who was helping her family pick up litter.

> BUDGET, FROM PG. 10

was done under the previous government. I had announced in Lundar that we were going to ensure the rents for Crown lands remain at 50 per cent. And the NDP has kept the Conservatives' campaign promise of doing that."

A major concern facing the agricultural sector is a labour shortage. Workers are processed through the

provincial nominee program (PNP), he said. Because of red tape, workers are facing long processing times.

"The PNP waiting list, in these short six months [since the new government took power], has been increasing substantially. When we took over government, we saw five-year waiting lists on PNP and we got it down to a matter of months," said Johnson. "They haven't been processing the applications. I've had people living in

the Interlake reach out saying they're a matter of a week or two of being deported because their paperwork hasn't been processed. That almost never happened under our government after we got caught up from the NDP backlog."

Although the gas tax cut (14 cents a litre) is appreciated in rural Manitoba, Johnson said it's only temporary and the NDP will have to come up with another revenue source to fund infra-

structure.

The province earns about \$342 million a year from the 14-cent fuel tax, according to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

"Historically in Manitoba that 14 cents a litre goes straight towards infrastructure and improving roads. From where is the government going to make up that money? It has to come from somewhere else or they're going to stop repairing roads," Johnson said. "That said, I'm fine if they remove the gas tax permanently to make life more affordable because that helps rural Manitobans."

In other areas of the budget, Johnson said the NDP made a 50 per cent reduction to the provincial parks budget, which covers things like good toilets, trails and repairs to the Hecla Village Road — all of which could negatively affect tourism.

"That cut trickles down to tourism. If you have great experience in a park, you're likely to return. But if the toilets are falling apart, you twist an ankle on a walking path or pop a tire on one of the roads, you're less likely to return to Manitoba," he said.

The budget also cut the Arts Culture and Sports Grant that had previously provided funding to places like Gimli to enable the town to install a new roof on its recreation centre and repair change rooms.

Johnson said although he has many concerns with the budget, he also has to "commend" the NDP for keeping all the personal income tax cuts the Conservatives made.

"People end up with a lot more money in their pocket every single year, predominantly lower income people, because we indexed the tax," he said. "You only start paying tax in Manitoba now at \$15,000. It had been [very low] before that. People keep every penny of that tax dollar. And they've kept the rest of our tax cuts so far."

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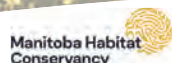
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Students celebrate National Canadian Film Day at Gimli Theatre



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Gimli International Film Festival executive director Teya Zuzek.

By Gloria Thomas

Approximately 160 high school students from Gimli, Riverton and Arborg packed the Gimli Theatre on April 17 for the 10th annual Gimli International Film Festival special presentation on National Canadian Film Day.

Beans, a 2020 film by Mohawk-Canadian filmmaker Tracey Deer, explores the events of the 1990 Kahnawake Mohawk reserves protest of the expansion of a golf course into a historic Mohawk cemetery by the surrounding town of Oka in Quebec.

Deer lived through the events as a child, and the drama plays out through the eyes of a young Mohawk girl whose life was radically changed by these events.

Gimli Film Festival executive director Teya Zuzek chose the film for this year's presentation due to its relevance to the curriculum being taught.

The film *Beans* is not just a captivating story but also a valuable educational resource. It delves into topics that are part of the social studies and history curriculum within the Evergreen School Division, offering a unique opportunity for students to

deepen their understanding of these events, explained Zuzek.

Beans premiered at the 2020 Toronto Film Festival and was second runner up for the Peoples' Choice Award.

Later, the film won the 2021 Canadian Screen Award for Best Picture, the John Dunning Best First Feature Film Award and Best Screenplay at the 24th Quebec Cinema Awards in 2022.

Tips from a CPA to Prepare for Your Taxes

1. Communicate

Make Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and your accountant aware of any life changes that have occurred since last year such as changes to your marital status, legal name, mailing address, or a new dependent. ELM Chartered Professional Accountant Inc. (ELM CPA) uses a tax questionnaire to obtain up-to-date information from clients for preparing their tax returns. This also includes information about the sale of a principal residence, which may not be taxable, but must still be reported to CRA.

2. Compare

Review last year's tax return and Notice of Assessment from CRA to the slips and information you are providing to your accountant this year. Do you have all the slips and information for the income, deductions, and credits you are reporting? If you are using a new accountant this year, it is helpful to provide them with a copy of your last year's tax return so they can continue with any deductions or credits that have carried forward from the prior year.

3. Compile

Many people do not look forward to tax season because it can be a lot of work to gather their documents, especially when self-employed.

Consider setting up a filing system for your tax related documents that you can use throughout the year. It can be as simple as using an accordion folder to compile your tax documents you get throughout the year (e.g. children's fitness receipts, or gas receipts if you are claiming vehicle expenses). For self-employed individuals, consider doing bookkeeping for your business throughout the year instead of just at the end of the year, especially if the task of bookkeeping feels overwhelming to you.

4. Check

It is important to check over your return before filing it with CRA. While you may use an accountant to prepare your return, it is still your responsibility as the taxpayer to ensure that the return is complete and accurate. Erica Minarik, CPA, CGA, of ELM CPA, reviews client's tax returns with them in detail, answering your questions to help you understand your tax return.

Finally, review your Notice of Assessment with your tax return that was filed to see if there were any changes made by CRA. Notify your accountant if there were any changes so they can determine if any steps need to be taken with CRA.

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Arborg's Reechka dancers bring home hardware

By Becca Myskiw

Arborg's Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club stole the stage at the Brandon Troyanda School of Ukrainian Dance Festival.

Reechka performed 20 different dances, ranging from solos to group numbers. Over 30 Reechka dancers ages 6 to 17 took the stage at the three-day festival between April 12 and 14.

Brandon Troyanda School of Ukrainian Dance Festival hosts over 900 dancers and instructors from across the province every two years. It makes for an exciting event for all who attend.

Reechka dancer Sonya Dmitrieva, 16, participated in her first Brandon Troyanda School of Ukrainian Dance Festival, bringing home two silver medals for her Poltava and Hutsul dance groups.

Dmitrieva described herself as a dancer who "was made in Ukraine."

Although initially overwhelmed, the festival was extremely special for Dmitrieva because it made her feel close to home, she said.

"This event is just a meeting of people sharing their dance experiences and culture," Dmitrieva said.

Her favourite aspect of the festival was the adjudication because it allowed the dancers to identify areas where they can improve their skills, she said.

Another exciting aspect was seeing Canadians connect with the Ukrainian culture through dance.

"It is simply fascinating how people can excel in their techniques and performance over generations."

She said she loves seeing Canadians gather and connect to her roots, adding: "That's valuable to me."

Dmitrieva will be aging out of the Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club next year. She said she is thankful for all the dance skills she has learned.



Reechka Senior dancers from left to right: Klarissa, Courtney, Carissa, Sonya and Kylie.

Collectively, the Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club earned one bronze medal, 14 silver medals and five gold medals for its routines.

"We are really fortunate and did really well," said Reechka Ukrainian Dance Club president Jenna Pearce.

Pearce explained that not every dance number gets a medal, but all of Reechka's dances and performers went home with a medal around their neck.

The Brandon festival was the final performance for Reechka dancers of the season.

Reechka dancers were to conclude their season by celebrating their hard work with a spring tea at the Arborg Hall on April 21.

The dance club will commence classes for the 2024-2025 dance year in September.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Reechka Beginner dancers from left to right: Sophia, Emma, Elizabeth, Arina, Nataliya and Olivia getting ready to perform backstage at the Brandon Troyanda School of Ukrainian Dance Festival.



Intermediate and Junior dancers in their Hopak dance costumes. Row along wall from top to bottom: Chy, Carley, Deklynn, Leah, Lucia, Loa, Kylie, Kenley and Avery. Front row from top to bottom: Kyra, Addi, Tenleigh, Gage, Kyle, Harper, Leo and Davyd.



Junior dancers performing their Hutsul dance where they received a silver medal.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Team Lott/Lott keeps Canada on perfect pace at world mixed doubles

By Curling Canada

After three relatively stress-free victories to open the 2024 World Mixed Doubles Championship, Canada's Kadriana Lott and Colton Lott were likely overdue to face some stress at the Oestersund Arena.

And it arrived in full force Monday afternoon against South Korea's Ji-yoon Kim and Byeongjin Jeong, who had the Canadian couple from Gimli in trouble for much of the first half of the game.

But two crucial shots from Kadriana Lott — one in the fourth and one even better in the fifth — turned the tide

as Canada improved to 4-0 with a 6-4 victory over South Korea (1-3).

The win left Canada tied for top spot in Group A with the home-country favourites Isabella Wrana and Rasmus Wrana, with Becca Hamilton and Matt Hamilton of the United States close behind at 3-1.

The Lotts fell behind 3-0 through three ends after South Korea took singles in each of them — forced to one in the first, and steals in the second and third, with Kadriana Lott barely missing a pair of hard runback takeouts that led to South Korean points.

But in the fourth, Canada rallied to score three, with Kadriana Lott making a wonderful draw to tie the game.

An end later, the husband-and-wife tandem had to decide between Kadriana Lott throwing a guard or attempting a difficult takeout to remove a South Korean shot stone that was only a sliver exposed, that would leave Canada sitting two.

They chose the latter option, and it paid off handsomely as Kim was light on her last-shot draw and Canada stole a deuce and took a lead it would never surrender.

"That was, by far, probably the game-changing shot," said Colton Lott. "We could have guarded their draw and let them have one, but I think we were both feeling that pick because it really puts them in a tough situation, and then Kadriana executed phenomenally."

It certainly removed any lingering bad taste from missing the two runbacks earlier in the game.

"Yeah, I think it definitely kick-



EXPRESS PHOTOS WORLD CURLING/CÉLINE STUCKI

Colton Lott and Kadriana Lott remained perfect with a big 6-4 win over the South Korea on Monday morning.

started me, for sure," said Kadriana Lott, who remains the highest-ranked female player in the 20-team field with a cumulative average of 90.7 per cent through four games; next best is Switzerland's Briar Schwaller-Huerlimann at 80.8 per cent. "Missing those last shots and in the first couple ends doesn't put you in the greatest mindset. But I know I can hit so it was great to make that one."

After cruising to three wins to open the event, there was something to be said for getting some pushback from

an opponent, said Kadriana Lott.

"It was good for us," she said. "I mean, it was a slow start but we've done it before. We know we can come back with a few good, key shots in the last little bit and we did just that and we came out strong for the win."

"For sure," agreed Colton Lott. "Playing all eight ends and being in that tight of a game really gets us even more engaged in what we're doing, and it prepares us for the end of the week."

Canada returned to action with a pair of games on Tuesday against Scotland's Sophie Jackson and Duncan McFadzean and against Sweden in a battle of unbeaten. (No scores were available at press time).

The Lotts will take on China at 2 p.m. on Thursday before hitting the ice for the final two games of the round-robin series on Friday. They will play Australia at 10 a.m. and the United States at 6 p.m. (All Eastern time).

World Curling's live-streaming platform The Curling Channel will be the only way to watch games from the World Mixed Doubles Championship, with all sheets being shown.

For Team Canada updates, go to www.curling.ca. Follow on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



Kadriana Lott executed a difficult takeout to remove a South Korean shot stone in the fifth end Monday that left Canada sitting two.

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Eriksdale United Church building

#7 Main Street, Eriksdale (side door)

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AA Winnipeg Beach

Lady of the Lake RC Church

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Winnipeg Beach

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MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON PUBLIC NOTICE

2024 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 2024 on:

Thursday, May 9th, 2024 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 2024 Financial Plan.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available Monday, May 6th at the Municipal office.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2024.

Larissa Love
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton

EVERGREEN BASIC NEEDS

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** Will be held at Evergreen Basic Needs 71 4th Ave **Tuesday May 14, 2024 7:00 pm**

MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON CAREER OPPORTUNITY

FINANCE CLERK

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton is inviting applications for the permanent, full-time position of Finance Clerk.

Job Summary:
The Finance Clerk is responsible for ensuring municipal financial requirements are addressed in an accurate and timely manner, as well as providing efficient and effective municipal services to ratepayers. The Finance Clerk reports to the CAO and is responsible for financial services in the municipal office, including:

- Preparation and processing of accounts payable and accounts receivable.
- Maintaining the General Ledger for three funds.
- Maintaining the tax and utility rolls.
- General accounting duties.
- Administrative support including backup reception duties, data entry, etc.

Applicants must have excellent organizational and time management skills with the ability to set priorities and meet deadlines, use Microsoft Office applications, and be able to work under minimum supervision. Experience using Munisoft Municipal Software, and completion of the University of Manitoba CMMA program (or willingness to enroll) will be considered assets.

Working hours are 8:30 am-12 pm, 1 pm-4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, at the Bifrost-Riverton Municipal office located at 329 River Road, Arborg, MB. The position will be eligible for a full benefits package after 6 months, including employer-paid Blue Cross insurance and a matched pension. A job description is available by request, and human resource policies are available on the municipal website.

Applications will be received until a suitable candidate is found, please indicate your desired starting wage in your cover letter.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:
Tanis Wyant, CMMA
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton
Box 70, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
bifrostriverton@mymts.net

Rural Municipality of FISHER

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Fisher Branch is seeking a Town Gardener for the 2024 Summer Season!

We are looking for a highly motivated and mature individual to help beautify our town for homecoming. Responsibilities will include planting flowers, watering, fertilizing, grass cutting and tree trimming. Maintain the beauty of plants, outdoor grounds, and trees in Fisher Branch. Additional help on projects will be supplied via the Town Green Team. Liaison with other community groups to beautify town spaces. Wages will be based on experience and individuals will be able to work hours suitable to their lifestyle. A vast knowledge of plants and landscaping is ideal. Start date will be dependent on spring thaw and winter freeze up. Deadline for applications will be April 30, 2024, at 12:00 pm.

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RIVERTON CARE SERVICES
We are currently hiring for **Manager Position**

Riverton Care Services provides assistance to individuals living with an intellectual disability in a supportive environment.

Duties of Manager include: Staff supervision, Maintain financial records including payroll, working closely with government funding agencies, overall care and supervision of the home

Qualifications: Relevant post-secondary education or relevant experience, Criminal Record and Adult Abuse checks are mandatory, Must have or willing to complete First Aid/CPR training, knowledge in Simply accounting software (SAGE) would be an asset.

All interested applicants must have a valid driver's license, only those considered for an interview will be contacted. The position is for 32 hours per week, salary dependant on qualifications. Start date effective immediately.

Resumes can be emailed to rivertoncare@gmail.com or dropped off at 245 Thompson Drive Riverton.
204-378-5226

RECYCLING NOTICE FOR MAY / 2024

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc. **Will not be picking up recycling On the below mentioned dates.**

Tues. May 7
at Arborg curbside pickup

Thurs. May 9
at Riverton curbside pickup

Tues. May 21
at Arborg curbside pickup

Thurs. May 23
at Riverton curbside pickup

The Workshop will be closed on Mon. May 20 Victoria Day

Please rinse your containers Thank you for Recycling

Classifieds



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WANTED
Coins,
Coin Collection,
Old Jewelry,
Bullion +!



Cash paid for silver coins, gold coins, rare coins, old coins & paper \$, Olympic coins, Royal Canadian Mint Coins, Franklin Mint, US Mint etc, unwanted jewelry, old Rolex & Omega watches, nuggets, sterling silver, Bullion, all Gold & Silver!

Wanted:
USA, Canada, World Coin Sets & Coin Collections.
Will buy entire collections & accumulations!

Todd
250-864-3521



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www.mcna.com

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Other medical conditions causing **TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING?**

The Disability Tax Credit allows for **\$2,500 yearly tax credit and \$20,000 Lump sum refund.**

Apply NOW; quickest refund Nationwide!

Expert Help: 204-453-5372



UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER. RIDE DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2024. 10 a.m. start - Earls Polo Park (Winnipeg). Visit: ridefordad.ca/manitoba to register or make a pledge.

WANTED

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

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

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- *Marine *RV & more

Shipping/Delivery avail.
THE BATTERY MAN
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Winnipeg
TF 1-877-775-8271
www.batteryman.ca

WANTED

WANTED: Buying estates, contents of homes, farms, barns, sheds, garages, etc. Buying most anything old & interesting! TEXT/PHONE: 204-918-1607. "Junkies Estate, Salvage, Antiques & Oddities.

NOTICES

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

NEED STAFF? SELLING SOMETHING? Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Now booking winter and spring advertising for 2024. Please **CONT. ON NEXT COL.**

Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

HEALTH

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



Town of Winnipeg Beach

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

2024 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act*, the Council of the Town of Winnipeg Beach intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2024 at a Public Hearing to be held at the Winnipeg Beach Community Centre, 32 Hamilton Avenue, Winnipeg Beach, MB on **MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Interested parties may also submit questions, concerns or register and objection by email to Sharon Desiatnyk, CAO at cao@winnipegbeach.ca until Friday May 3, 2024.

The 2024 Financial Plan is available for review on the municipal website at www.winnipegbeach.ca after Friday April 26, 2024.

Sharon Desiatnyk, cmma
Chief Administrative Officer

MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter(s):

THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON BY-LAW NO. **1-2024**
Being an amendment to the RM of Bifrost Zoning By-law No. 04-2011, as amended.

HEARING LOCATION: Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton Council Chambers
329 River Road, Arborg, MB

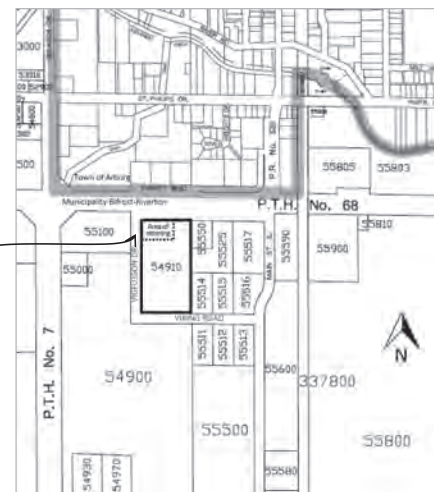
DATE & TIME: May 9, 2024
9:00 am

APPLICATION: RMB-24-01R

AFFECTED AREA: Pt. Lot 45 in 22-2 EPM
Being Lot 1, Plan 49365 WLTO
Roll 54910

GENERAL INTENT: To rezone an area in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton from "MG" Industrial General Zone to "CH" Commercial Highway Zone, to accommodate a subdivision for a hotel currently under construction.

FOR INFO CONTACT: Nancy Thom, CAO/Development Officer
Eastern Interlake Planning District
62 - 2nd Avenue PO Box 1758 Gimli, MB R0C 1B0
Ph: 204-642-5478 Fax: 204-642-4061
Email: eipd@mymts.net Website: www.interlakeplanning.com



A copy of the proposal and supporting material may be provided upon request to the contact person mentioned above.

Please note, if you are within a 100m radius you will receive this notice in the mail that will include the proposal and supporting material.

Please Note: E.I.P.D. recommends that property owner's notify lessee/renter if applicable.



Mazergroup Arborg is currently hiring for a SEASONAL PARTS CONSULTANT

Interested applicants can visit www.mazergroup.ca and click on "Careers" for more information.



Career Opportunity in Arborg Parts, Salesperson

When you join Enns Brothers you are in good company! We're looking for a dynamic partsperson to add to our team, who has high personal standards for quality and takes pride in delivering exceptional customer service to our customers.

Parts experience is preferred but if you wow us with your 'can do' attitude, mechanical aptitude and problem-solving ability, we can train you to be a great Parts Salesperson. Come and talk to us or email your resume to hr@ennsbros.com or find us online at www.ennsbros.com/careers.

We offer a competitive wage, health and retirement benefits, ongoing training through John Deere University, as well as the opportunity to work with a terrific group of people, in a great location and with a quality product. Join us and grow with our successful business!

Enns Brothers is a full service John Deere dealer and has grown to 9 locations in Manitoba. Proudly supporting our local communities for over 60 years.



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or Email ads@expressweeklynews.ca



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FINANCIAL PLAN

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R.M. of West Interlake intends to present its Financial Plan for the fiscal year of 2024 at a Public Hearing in the Ashern Centennial Hall, 325 East, Ashern, MB on Monday, May 13th 2024 at 7:00 pm.

The purpose of the 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 the 3rd of May 2024, and may be examined by any person during regular office hours at the Municipal Offices.

Dated this 19th day of April 2024

Bernardo Pasco
Chief Administrative Officer
RM of West Interlake



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR URBAN CENTRE RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

FLUSHING OF WATER MAINS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE FOLLOWING DAYS

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
From May 6 - May 24, 2024

Between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Water may be discoloured during this time period.
Please take proper precautions.

If you require further information, please call
Public Works Department (204) 642-6688.



Rural Municipality of FISHER

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

NOTICE OF TENDER GRASS CUTTING

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting tenders for grass cutting at:

RM of Fisher Office yard
Water Plant yard

Please state price per cut in the tender.

- Applicant is to supply own equipment and fuel.
- Applicant to be 18 years of age or over.
- Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Submit sealed envelope marked "Tender Grass Cutting" to:

Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Deadline for tenders is 4:00 p.m. April 30, 2024.

For further information, call the RM of Fisher office at 204-372-6393.



TOWN OF ARBORG SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

The Town of Arborg is accepting applications for Summer Employment with the Public Works Department.

Must be 16 - 24 years of age and possess a valid Driver License. Main duties will include maintenance of public green spaces and other Public Works projects as needed.

Applications submitted by **May 24th, 2024** to:

Town of Arborg
Email: townofarborg@mymts.net
PO Box 159 Arborg MB R0C 0A0
In person: 337 River Road

We thank all applicants for their interest however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted.



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GIMLI PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING THE 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Gimli intends to present its Financial Plan for the Fiscal Year 2024 at a Public Hearing to be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Building 62 2nd Ave on the 9th day of May, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Copies of the Financial Plan will be available for review on the 30th day of April, 2024 and may be accessed on the Rural Municipality of Gimli website at www.gimli.ca or at the Municipal Office at 62 2nd Ave, Gimli.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2024

Kelly Cosgrove, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Gimli



MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SEASONAL GRAVEL CHECKER (Full time or Part time)

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton is seeking a summer seasonal gravel checker (Full time or Part time)

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Responsible for staking the dust control areas
- Responsible for gravel checking during the dust control and maintenance graveling program throughout the year.
- The gravel checker is to instruct and direct the gravel contractor with the amounts of gravel needed and the locations within the Municipality.
- Typical working schedule is Monday to Friday
- Self-motivated and the ability to work independently
- Other duties as assigned

Resumes will be accepted by the undersigned.

Jason Comeau, Public Works Manager
Box 70, 329 River Road
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Ph: 204-376-2391
Email: pwbifrost@mymts.net

NOW HIRING SEASONAL POSITIONS AUTUMNWOOD MOTEL & RV RESORT

RV RESORT (F/T): Seeking Mature person to assist in the daily operations of busy Seasonal Campground in Gimli. Use of machinery, cleaning and other projects as required. Experience in light electrical/plumbing is a bonus.

MOTEL (P/T): Housekeeping weekday/weekends/holiday Mondays. Fluent English mandatory, experience a bonus.

Send resume to Michelle:
awmotelmichelle@gmail.com

Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

MECHANIC/SHOP HELP

Heavy Truck/Trailer/Equipment Repair
Competitive Wages, Benefits

Experience required
204-389-2023

info@eddiesgravel.com

102086 Hwy #9, Wpg Beach, MB

Construction/
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Employee
Required

Independent,
experienced. Building
construction, propane
appliances, plumbing,
metal roofs of fishing
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May through
September.
Cabin provided

Call 204-937-4007

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Estate & Moving
Closes May 1st @ 7:00 PM

Estate & Moving
Featuring Farm + Acreage
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Closes May 8th @ 7:00 PM

12 Patterson Dr.
Stonewall, MB

204-467-1858 or
204-886-7027
McSherryLtd@gmail.com
McSherryAuction.com

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rooms, ensuite,
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Winnipeg, MB
www.revolutiontrailers.ca

Call Now:
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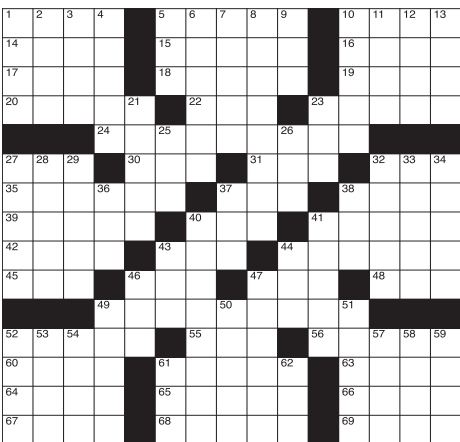
Classified booking deadline is Monday at NOON prior to Thursday's publication Please Call 204-467-5836

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Email ads@expressweeklynews.ca



CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Excessively theatrical actors
5. Footwear
10. A way to disfigure
14. Exchange rate
15. Hawaiian wreaths
16. North-central Indian city
17. Bungle
18. Extremely angry
19. A short note of what's owed
20. Criminal organization
22. Mimic
23. Try to grab
24. U.S.-born individuals
27. Some are covert
30. Order of the British Empire
31. Don't know when yet
32. Payment (abbr.)
35. Winged angelic being
37. Variety of Chinese
38. A way to be anxious
39. Famed wrestler Hulk
40. Partner to cheese
41. Slang for sergeant
42. Canadian flyers
43. Actress Ryan
44. Highly unpleasant vapor
45. Body part
46. Halfway
47. Cool!
48. Consume
49. Salts
52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
55. Housepet
56. Cavalry-sword
60. Symbol of a nation
61. Frocks
63. Used to carry food
64. Portuguese folk song
65. Sharp mountain ridge
66. Ireland
67. Where golfers begin
68. Greek mythological sorceress
69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

1. "Mad Men" leading man
2. Water (Spanish)
3. Annoy
4. Bulgarian capital
5. Japanese title
6. Capital of Zimbabwe
7. Giraffe
8. A mixture of substances
9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Staffs
11. Turkish title
12. Type of acid
13. Thin, flat strip of wood
21. Russian river
23. Ribonucleic acid
25. Partner to flow
26. Airborne (abbr.)
27. Earthy pigment
28. Genus of earless seals
29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
32. By or in itself
33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
34. Partner to trick
36. British Air Aces
37. Ammunition
38. Supervises flying
40. Health care for the aged
41. Flanks
43. Millimeters
44. Where wrestlers perform
46. Not around
47. Flightless bird
49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
50. Expressed concern for
51. Satisfies
52. Flew off!
53. Wings
54. Load a ship
57. Vigor
58. British title
59. Whiskeys
61. ___ Adams: founding father
62. Body of water



TOWN OF ARBORG INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE

The Town of Arborg is seeking proposals from qualified bidders for collection and removal of refuse from properties in Arborg, MB, and disposal at B.A.R. Waste Authority Co-op waste disposal site at 13098 Road 128N in the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton. Contract term to start June 1, 2024.

Proposal packages are available at the Town of Arborg Office, 337 River Road, Arborg, MB or from the Town of Arborg website, www.townofarborg.com.

Deadline for proposal submission is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6th, 2024.

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

Cindy Stansell, CMMA
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Arborg
P.O. Box 159, Arborg, MB ROC 0A0
Phone: 204-376-2647 Email: caoarborg@mymts.net

NOW HIRING SALES ASSOCIATE

We are seeking a full-time, self-motivated, friendly, customer service driven, outgoing individual to work in a friendly atmosphere.

- Must be physically capable of assisting with loading and unloading larger items.
- Able to work Tuesday thru Saturday.
- Experience helpful, but will train the right person.

Apply in person or email
321 Main Street, Arborg, MB
smittysfurniture@mymts.net
204-376-5242

We thank all those who apply, but only those considered for an interview will be contacted



www.smittysfurniture@mymts.net
Locally owned and operated since 1976



Evergreen School Division EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Evergreen School Division has the following 2024-2025 term teaching positions available, effective September 3, 2024

Gimli High School 1.0FTE Humanities
Gimli High School 1.0FTE Various Subjects / Roles TBD
Closing Date: April 29, 2024

Qualifications:

- A valid Manitoba Teaching Certificate
- Experience teaching in the Humanities
- Ability/desire to develop strong relationships with students and staff
- A willingness / ability to be involved in the extra-curricular life of the school
- Experience with a variety of learning needs
- Knowledge of strategies re: Indigenous Education and Inclusion
- Commitment to involvement in a highly collaborative school culture
- Knowledge and experience in current instructional / assessment practice

Qualified candidates should provide a letter of application, complete with resume, three references and necessary documentation to the specific position listed at www.applytoeducation.com.

For information about Evergreen School Division and an overview of our schools and school programs, please visit our website at www.esd.ca.

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks. Please note that reasonable accommodations are available to applicants with disabilities. Please advise us of your needs. Evergreen School Division may contact former employers.



Evergreen School Division Arborg and Riverton Schools 1.0FTE Band Teacher

Evergreen School Division has the following 2024-2025 permanent teaching position available, effective September 3, 2024 (possibility of orientation term May to June 2024)

Arborg and Riverton Schools 1.0FTE Band Teacher

Gr. 7 – 12 Band (may include choral; additional or alternative instrumental/musical programming may be considered)

Closing Date: April 29, 2024 or until a suitable candidate is found

Qualifications:

- A valid Manitoba Teaching Certificate
- Certification and teaching experience in Band
- Knowledge and experience in current instructional / assessment practices
- Ability/desire to develop strong relationships with students and staff
- A willingness / ability to be involved in the extra-curricular life of the school
- Experience with a variety of learning needs
- Knowledge of strategies re: Indigenous Education and Inclusion
- Commitment to involvement in a highly collaborative school culture
- Knowledge and experience in current instructional / assessment practice

Qualified candidates should provide a letter of application, complete with resume, three references and necessary documentation to the specific position listed at www.applytoeducation.com.

For information about Evergreen School Division and an overview of our schools and school programs, please visit our website at www.esd.ca.

We wish to thank all applicants for their interest, however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks. Please note that reasonable accommodations are available to applicants with disabilities. Please advise us of your needs. Evergreen School Division may contact former employers.

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PRE-HIRING ASPHALT FOREMAN AND OPERATORS/ LABOURERS

Competitive Wages,
Health Benefits,
Lift 50lbs

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Please contact us at
204-389-2023 or send resume to
info@eddiesgravel.com

Green Team POSITIONS AVAILABLE in the Gimli Area

May through August (2)

or

July and August (2)
GROUND KEEP ASSISTANTS

Grass Cutting
Weed Wacking
Tree Trimming
Building Repair and Painting
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AT

"VESLKA SUMMER CAMP"

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jimccarron@gmail.com
Bill Duschak - 204-918-5926
or billduschak@gmail.com

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SHOP LOCAL



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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

NOTICE OF TENDER

GRASS CUTTING

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting tenders for grass cutting at:

Town of Broad Valley
Town of Hodgson
Town of Poplarfield

Please state price per cut in the tender and provide separate tenders for each town.

- Applicant is to supply own equipment and fuel.
- Applicant to be 18 years of age or over.
- Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Submit sealed envelope marked "Tender Grass Cutting" for each location to:

Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Deadline for tenders is 4:00 p.m. April 30, 2024.

For further information, call the RM of Fisher office at 204-372-6393.

Maps provided upon request.

BIRTHDAY



Matteo Thomas
Happy 12th Birthday
April 28th
-Love Grandpa Lorne Thomas and family

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you from
Cubby Barrett's Family

Our family would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone for the incredible generosity and outpouring of condolences we received. The gifts of food when we did not feel like cooking were greatly appreciated. The phone calls, messages, and cards were touching and created smiles during an otherwise very sad time for us. We were absolutely astounded by all those who joined us to celebrate a life well lived. The choir was beyond compare and a pleasure to listen to. In addition, the funeral took place without issue due to the guidance and expertise of Archdeacon Reverend Mawejje, the Fisher Funeral Home and Broad Valley Catering. Words cannot express how your acts of kindness impacted all of us. All we can say is Thank You one and all.

-Rosie and Bernice, Debbie,
Doug, Karl, Kris,
and our families

CARD OF THANKS



In Loving Memory
Jack Steven Mann

March 10, 1953 - April 2, 2024

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the exceptional care that Jack was given by Dr. Roos at the Rossburn Clinic, Dr. Sandhawalia and the nursing staff at the Brandon General Hospital and also the Assiniboine Center.

We would like to express appreciation and gratitude for all the kind words, prayers, hugs, and food that was given and to the people who attended Jack's Celebration of Life, travelling near and far. Thank you to the people who gave donations to the Rossburn PCH and the Expanding Community Cancer Care Russell.

A sincere thank you to Father Paul Bisson for his beautiful service and to our grandchildren for being the umbearer and honorary pallbearers. A special thank you to N&L Restaurant, along with their staff for their delicious hot meal. Thank you Rick Tom and staff at Rae's Funeral Home for their comfort and guidance during this difficult time.

We love you.

Rest in peace Jack

IN MEMORIAM



Brian J. Ducharme

October 19, 1943 - April 27, 2023

We think about you always,
We think about you still;
You have never been forgotten,
And you never will.

-Love your family,
Wife Bertie,
Cathy, Chris, Jack, Sarah
Kayla, Alex, Morgan

Eddie's Gravel Supply Ltd. is Hiring

CLASS 1 END DUMP DRIVERS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Must have a valid license
Competitive wages • Mechanically inclined

info@eddiesgravel.com

204-389-2023

102086 Hwy 9, Wpg Beach, MB



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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

NOTICE OF TENDER

GRASS CUTTING

The Rural Municipality of Fisher is inviting tenders for grass cutting at:

Interlake Forestry Centre in Hodgson

Please state price per cut in the tender.

- Applicant is to supply own equipment and fuel.
- Applicant to be 18 years of age or over.
- Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Submit sealed envelope marked "Tender Grass Cutting-Forestry Centre" to:

Rural Municipality of Fisher
Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB R0C 0Z0
Email: fishercao@mymts.net

Deadline for tenders is 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2024.

For further information, call the RM of Fisher office at 204-372-6393.

Maps provided upon request.

Classifieds Announcements



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

OBITUARY



Bruce Albert Moore
August 9, 1938 – April 13, 2024

It is with heavy hearts that we are announcing the passing of our father, grandfather, friend, Bruce Albert Moore on April 13, 2024 with his wife of 60 years plus and daughter Kelly by his side at the Stonewall Hospital.

Bruce was born August 9, 1938 in the small town of Teulon, Manitoba. At the age of seven, he moved with his parents Albert and Leona Moore to Inwood, Manitoba where he grew up on the farm.

Bruce eventually took over the farm, to make it his own along with his siblings, Norman, Merle, Marilyn, Darlene, Cathy and Brian. When Bruce was in his 20's he met his soon to be wife, Lynne Margaret Olson, they were married August 10, 1963. Soon after their marriage they decided to start a family, with oldest son

Curtis, daughter Kelly and son Darcy.

Bruce's passion was dairy cattle, and beef cattle which he did fulltime until 1997 when he sold his dairy herd, continuing with the beef herd until he decided to retire in 2018.

Dad and Mom decided it was time to sell the farm, and moved to Inwood, this is where they reside until today.

Bruce will be sadly missed by his wife Lynne of 60 years plus; his children along with their spouses: Curtis and Maria, Kelly and Randy, Darcy and Lenore and granddaughter Veta Rae Moore.

Bruce was predeceased by his parents Albert and Leona Moore, brother Norman, brother-in-law Jack Palen.

Left to mourn are his four sisters and one brother, Merle and Lloyd of Carman, MB., Marilyn Palen of Teulon, MB., Darlene and Ed of Steinbach, MB., Cathy and partner Joey of Winnipeg, MB. and Brian and Teresa of Inwood, MB., and his favorite aunty Irene Corrigal of Teulon, MB. He will be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, close friends and neighbors, to many to mention.

Private graveside service will be held by family, with a Celebration of Life for family, friends and neighbors at a later date.

If friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, 1200 – 2300 Yonge St, Box 2414, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4 or the Canadian Diabetes Association, 1300 – 522 University Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5G 2R5.

The family of Bruce Moore would like to send a very big thank you to Dr. Zahiri, medical staff of the Stonewall Hospital for their kindness, compassion and most of all the jokes and antics they had with Bruce right until the very end, when he peacefully left us.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Walter Kwasiuk
September 12, 1933 – April 13, 2024

On April 13th, Dad passed away peacefully in his sleep.

He is survived by his beloved wife Irene; son Lenny; sisters Emily Deneka, Jean Lewicki, and Francis (Walter) Chobotar; nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents Stefan and Maria Kwasiuk, parents-in-law Peter and Mary Krupnik; sister Nettie (Paul) Smolinski; and brother-in-law Metro Deneka.

Dad was born in Ledwyn, Manitoba on September 12, 1933. He attended Tarno School. He married Mom on September 3, 1955 and moved to Sioux Lookout, Ontario where he was employed in the transfer business and grocery store.

Dad and Mom then bought his parents' farm where they carried on a mixed farming operation. Dad liked to take on an active role in

his community. He served on the Tarno School Board, Arborg Co-op Board and was a councillor for 27 years for the R.M. of Bifrost, where he served on various committees and boards, and as Deputy Reeve for a while. He was always happy to see improvements in the rural community.

Dad really enjoyed farming and was an avid deer hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed travelling through the countryside and he and Mom took many trips together throughout the U.S., Canada and a couple into Mexico.

After retiring, he and Mom moved to Arborg where they enjoyed their daily morning coffee with their friends at the Arborg Co-op or Chicken Chef.

During fishing season, they were regulars at Hnausa dock, always enjoying the day. Dad was a hard worker and a wonderful role model.

We would especially like to thank all the staff at the Arborg Hospital, Mary Thorarinson Assisted Living and the Arborg PCH for all their incredible care and kindness during Dad's stays there.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Parkinson's Society or a charity of your choice. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at Silver Hall, Silver, Manitoba.

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OBITUARY



Olive Julia Thorvaldson (nee Chomokovski)

Peacefully, Olive Julia (nee Chomokovski) Thorvaldson drew her last breath at the age of 93 on April 17, 2024 at the Arborg Personal Care Home.

A one-of-a-kind social butterfly, Olive was a gem. She chose joy, gratitude and happiness over ruminating over life's hardships and struggles. She forgave because life was indeed short; she wanted to smell the beautiful flowers of her world and she did.

Born in Winnipeg on November 25, 1930 at the old Grace Hospital, Olive is the daughter of Ksenia Szlapak and Max Chomokovski, who came to Canada in 1916 from Ukraine. Ksenia and Max were one of the first to homestead in the Okno-Rosenberg area north of Arborg.

Olive was one of nine kids who grew up a log cabin, in the time of horse and buggy. She had six brothers and two sisters.

"Auntie Olive" was a positive influence in so many people's lives, including her many nieces and nephews. Her kindness made a difference.

After attending Rosenberg School, Olive moved to Winnipeg in 1950 where she worked at a sewing factory for about a year. She grew up listening to "old-time" country music along the lines of The Carter Family and Dolly Parton. She loved to sing; she knew how to harmonize and yodel. Beginning in 1952 she began singing semi-professionally with Art McEwing's Farmer Fiddlers on CKRC radio for several years. She also sang on The Western Hour as a guest on CJOB. Olive was proud of her voice and would add an autoharp as an instrument she played. She also had a fondness for traditional blue grass music.

Olive loved to entertain. She made many friends through her love of curling and bowling. She enjoyed collecting fine China tea cups, she sold Avon cosmetics, she was always learning everything there was to know about Queen Elizabeth. Every Boxing Day she always served her fine Icelandic dessert called vinarterta for those who would gather yearly for her annual come-and-go fest on Lipton. When you visited her west end home, you could always count on CBC-radio playing in the kitchen, with a large hoyo plant looming large and blooming. She would always offer guests to stay for a pot of tea and dainty. She grew beautiful African violets and geraniums and was an accomplished gardener. When she came to visit, she always made sure your plants were watered and if you needed help pruning tomatoes, she was there. She loved strawberry picking and making visits to the lake country in the summer. She had a special fondness for a karaoke. Olive enjoyed making floral arrangements and crafts.

In 1957, Olive began working as a machine operator at Christie Brown and Co. on Notre Dame Avenue until the plant closed in 1977. After taking some time off, she decided to work as a homecare attendant with the provincial government. She provided needed home care to elderly people who could stay in their own homes but needed help with med reminders, cooking and cleaning. She retired in 1992, after open-heart surgery and then shortly thereafter she moved into a seniors block on Burnell.

In 2017, when Olive's own health required more support, her family moved her to a personal care home in Arborg, where her life had begun all those years ago. Her life came to a full circle.

Olive's funeral will be held Thursday, April 25 at 11 a.m. at the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Ukrainian Catholic Church in Arborg, with interment at the Okno Cemetery.

She was predeceased by parents Max (1981), Ksenia (1987); brothers John (1988), Steve (1997), Peter (1974), Walter (2014), Paul (2010), Martin (2000); sister Anne (2010); sisters-in-law: Carol (2007), Kay (2020), Minnie (2018), brother-in-law Thor Stefanson (2002); nephews Rodney Chomokovski (1976) and Randall Stefanson (2009); nieces Lisa Graves (2021) and Susan Lampel (2023).

Olive is survived by sister Rose, sisters-in-law Olga and Doris. Auntie Olive's nieces and nephews include: Richard (Marie) Chomokovski; Irene (Frank) Thomas; Darrell Chomokovski, Ken (Kathy); Cathy (Craig) Smith; Charlene (Burke) Okrainec; Patricia (Larry) Allardyce; Murray (Dafnah) Chomokovski; Janet (Morgan) Stromsmoe; George (Donna) Chomokovski; Gary (Joanne) Chomokovski; Grace Williams; Linda Chomokovski and Sonya Lampel. Olive was also great auntie to Steven, Patrick (Anysley), Derrick (Alexa) Chomokovski; Etan and Enya Chomokovski; Ksenia and Alexi Stromsmoe; Holly and Jennifer Chomokovski; Michael, Amber Chomokovski and step-son Zac and Colleen and Nadine Williams. She was also the two times great "auntie" to Sarah Thomas, Erin Okrainec, Lisa and Adam Stefanson; Wade and Kayla Chomokovski; Stephanie and Chelsey; Everett and Adelaide; and Leo, Annika and Olive, who was named after her.

Thank you to the wonderful staff at the Arborg Personal Care home for their excellent care to Olive over the years.

The family requests no flowers. If so desired, please consider make a donation in Olive's memory to the Arborg Personal Care Home, Box 10, Arborg, R0C 0A0.

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OBITUARY

Donalaine (Donna) Massier
April 24, 1944 – November 20, 2023

Peacefully, with her children and grandchildren by her side, Donna passed away at the Gimli Hospital on November 20, 2023.

A Celebration of Life will be held on April 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Winnipeg Beach Legion. Donations can be made to the Winnipeg Beach Legion, Bayview Evangelical Church or to CancerCare.

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