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EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Debbie Johnson and Leo Johnson with their great-nephew Dexton Lowdon took part in the 7th Annual Women's Wellness Walk, or Kvennahlaup.

> everything you need to know in your locally owned and operated community newspaper



Lot 1, Hwy 17 S, Fisher Branch, MB 204-372-8501



Women's Wellness Walk in Arborg lifts community spirits

By Patricia Barrett

The Arborg Icelandic Club, also known as Esjan, brought the community together for good cheer and good exercise last Saturday during its 7th Annual Women's Wellness Walk.

Modelled after Kvennahlaup (which means Women's Walk) events that began in Iceland 31 years ago, the club invited everyone in the community — not only women — to get their run-

ners on and enjoy the beauty of Arborg's riverside.

"The walk emulates the Women's Walk in Iceland, but in Arborg we call it the Women's

Wellness Walk and we want everyone to join us. Not everyone in town is Icelandic and we want to get our whole community involved," said Debbie Johnson, who organizes the walks. "In Iceland they walk for solidarity, for women and to get together for exercise, companionship and to have fun."

About 25 people turned out for the event, which started at the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village and took participants along the winding Icelandic River, through town and

over walking bridges.

Club member Svava Sigmundsson kicked off the event by providing participants with a history of the walks in Iceland.

Because COVID-19 is still circulating in the province, participants who weren't from the same household had to stay two metres away from others. The club also got permission from the Town of Arborg to hold the walk.

Esjan is a chapter of the Icelandic National League of North America. Other clubs in the League started holding walks of their own to promote companionship and soli-

darity.

"NOT EVERYONE IN

TOWN IS ICELANDIC."

"They've been holding the walk in Gimli and in Winnipeg longer than we have," said Johnson. "Arborg is kind of the new kid on the block."

The event was free but participants could donate money to help the Heritage Village, which showcases buildings from the pioneer era and the diversity of cultures in the area.

"It was so good to do something like this for positivity and to just get outside again," said Johnson.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY DEBBIE JOHNSON

Participants walked along River Road beside the scenic Icelandic River.



The 7th Annual Women's Wellness Walk, or Kvennahlaup, was held June 13 in Arborg. Participants, back row (standing on deck), Alexa Roche, Chrissy Olason, Karen Gislason, Wynter Erlendson, Skylar Robinson, Makenna Robinson, Candace Robinson, Doris Benson, Lynne Bazilewich, Denise Stobert, Erla Jonasson, Leo Johnson, Linda Bardarson, Alice Bjornson; front row, standing, is Diana Thorsteinson, Fran Frederickson, Colleen Sigvaldason, Lillian Skulason, Kris Laxdal.; seated, Dexton Lowdon, Carla Lowdon, Blake Lowdon, Janet Blanchard, and Svava Simundsson. Missing from photo is Tanya Jonasson.

Riverton Co-op to celebrate graduates by hosting barbecue

By Sydney Lockhart

Riverton Cooperative Association Ltd. and Riverton Transportation and Heritage Centre are hosting a barbecue for the 2020 graduates of Riverton Collegiate.

With approximately 14 graduates this year, the Riverton Co-op decided to donate the food for a barbecue to celebrate the grads before their graduation.

"We wanted to have a pre-grad barbecue for them to come together and see each other as a group one last time," said Darlene Yaremus, retail manager of Riverton Co-op.

Yaremus said that they recognize

that it was a difficult year for the grads and wanted to do something nice for them.

This barbecue will take place on June 24 at noon. Grads and the Grade 12 teachers will be in attendance.

Yaremus said the outdoor picnic area at Riverton Transportation and Heritage Centre will be used so that social distancing can be practised during the barbecue to keep the grads and teachers safe.

The Riverton Co-op will also be putting up a grad bulletin board displaying all the graduates' photos to recognize their achievements with the community.



Arborg graduates looking to the future

By Evan Matthews

As banners honouring Arborg Collegiate Institute (ACI) grads go up around the Town of Arborg, graduates look not to the banners but to the future.

Hannah Pearce, a 2020 ACI graduate, said while her graduating year is drastically different than what she would have expected coming in, she's thankful for the opportunities and the memories.

"We're still all really excited to celebrate with one another even though it won't be our full class," said Pearce, alluding to the fact that the graduation ceremony will be broken down into three separate ceremonies in order to accommodate social distancing and appropriate seating.

"It is a bit disappointing. It's going to be so different. We've been planning this day since the beginning of the school year, even before. But I know I'm happy to at least get something."

Once a graduate, Pearce said she hopes to pursue the sciences — more specifically, biology — at the University of Winnipeg.

Having always had interest in the subject, Pearce said she's more excited than ever for what comes next.

"I've always had an interest in animals and nature. Getting to study those things feels natural and would be really interesting," said Pearce.

"Sometimes our generation is known as the 'lazy ones,' but we're going to change the future and change the world. We're going to be the ones to pull the world out of this pandemic."

The Town of Arborg installed banners for each of the graduates on Monday, June 15 as a way of honouring its graduates in a different way, according to Pearce's mom, Melanie. Melanie said the town randomly selected locations for each banner.

Once it became clear grads would look different in 2020 due to COVID-19, Melanie said celebrating the grads in an untraditional way became somewhat of a priority.

"We're just so proud of our kids and our grads, and we want to celebrate the community's graduates," said Melanie at the time of the project's inception.

"Despite the pandemic and not being able to celebrate the way they would have thought, they deserve to be honoured for their years of hard

Funding for the \$1,400 project was available through the ACI graduation committee's fundraising, its parents and its sponsorship contributions including Crackle Weik Apartments, Jaci and Andy Platt, Norstar Consulting, Arborg CIBC, Carol McNicol, Gordon and Shirley Rosenfelt, Justin Rosenfelt, Mary Anne and Ron Cram, Lynne Bazilewich, Kathe Meseman and Kelly

Home Hardware provided all materials to hang the banners and Hnausa General Store sold the banners at cost.

The ACI grad is planned for June 26, followed by a parade starting in the rec centre parking lot and heading down Main Street in town.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY MELANIE PEARCE Hannah Pearce points to her graduation photo hung in Arborg as a two-foot by three-foot banner. Though her hair colour has changed as much as the times, she is as excited as ever to graduate with her classmates.





Icelandic Festival and RM of Gimli award tender to Minerva Tree Farms

Submitted

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba (IFM) and the Municipality of Gimli are pleased to announce tender to build the Viking Parking Connectivity Project (Viking Park Phase 2) has been awarded to Minerva Tree Farms, Nursery & Landscaping Ltd. (Minerva).

Minerva started construction on First Avenue for Phase 2 of Viking Park last week. Work is scheduled to be completed by late summer.

Both the IFM and the RM are pleased to have found a local landscaping firm to undertake the work. Minerva Tree Farms is owned by the Wuthrich family and has been operating in the Interlake since 1993.

Phase 2 will connect Viking Park to 1st Avenue and Centre Street, creating a parklike feel. Improvements include safer pedestrian pathways and sidewalks, street signage and street safety markings. Beautification features will reflect Gimli's unique culture and heritage in landscaping, tree planting, park benches and in the newly constructed Timber Boardwalk. A full set of plans for the project can be viewed by contacting the IFM office.

Donation and recognition opportunities are available at a variety of levels. All donations provide an opportunity to recognize family or bestow a dedication to a milestone in life or that of a loved one. All donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

The Breakwater Timber Boardwalk will run alongside the historic breakwater beside Betel Home to First Avenue and will be constructed with beautiful timber boards. Like the pathway stones in Viking Park, donations of \$250 will enable supporters to engrave a timber board with a personal tribute that will last for generations.

Enhancements to First Avenue are many, including planting several different disease-resistant trees like elms and hackberries. Donors can honour a loved one and invest in

the environment with donations of \$750 to plant a tree. Contributions will be recognized with a laser-etched aluminum plaque near a tree of the donor's choosing.

Donors may wish to help honour the Fjall-konur, past, present and future, by making a contribution to the Fjallkona Walkway. The Fjallkonur will be represented on a settlement marker located near the east entrance to Viking Park and will share the story of the Fjallkona. The festival will be inscribing the names of the past Fjallkonur on timber boards this summer and will leave room to add the names of the new Fjallkona each year.

The IFM is grateful to the Westshore Community Foundation and to the province (Military Memorial Conservation Grant) for supporting the IFM's efforts to make improvements to the cenotaph. Donors can designate their contributions toward the redevelopment of this honoured space. Donations of \$250 or more will be recognized by having the donor's name inscribed on a plaque in the cenotaph area. The deadline date for donations is June 30 in order for recognition pieces to be installed by late summer. The IFM will continue to provide opportunities for recognition for future donations.

"It's more important than ever to support this project. Phase 2 will improve and beautify our community and support the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba. Projects like these will also help kickstart our economy in Manitoba and in Gimli," said Tim Arnason, campaign cabinet member

for Viking Park.

"By sharing your story in Viking Park Phase 2, you will become part of the rich tapestry of stories that began with the unveiling of Viking Park in August 2017. These tributes will last for generations," said Lorna Tergesen, campaign cabinet member for Viking Park.

To date, over \$2 million has been raised by the Viking Park Campaign Cabinet, and \$1.1 million was used to create Viking Park. Donations have been made by all three levels of government, corporations, foundations and private individuals. On Aug. 9, 2017 the Government of Canada and Government of Manitoba announced that the Viking Park project was approved under the Small Communities Fund Program, with approved federal and provincial funds of \$300,000 per share for the project. The Small Communities Fund program supports priority public infrastructure projects in communities with fewer than 100,000 residents across Canada. The Municipality of Gimli matched the contributions made by the provincial and federal governments with a \$300,000 investment that was announced in 2019.

A portion of the funds raised in this final phase of the legacy project will be directed toward an endowment fund for Islendingadagurinn in order to keep the family-friendly festival low or no cost so that everyone can gather to celebrate their Icelandic heritage for generations to come.

For more info, call Kristine Sigurdson at Icelandic Festival of Manitoba office at 204-642-7417



By Becca Myskiw

A Manitoba RCMP officer is facing perjury charges following a complaint regarding his testimony in an Arborg courtroom.

Const. Paul Lacoursiere was serving as a witness for a prosecutor in provincial court in September, the province's police watchdog says.

RCMP notified the Independent Investigation Unit (IIU)

of a complaint they received on Sept. 23 about Lacoursiere's testimony, according to a news release issued last Tuesday.

On Sept. 24, Manitoba RCMP told the IIU of a complaint they received the previous day about an officer's testimony in Arborg court.

The IIU spent months investigating the complaint and in a statement released on June 9, they said civilian director Zane Tessler "has determined there are reasonable grounds to believe a criminal offence occurred."

As a result, Lacoursiere has been charged with perjury.

Merriam-Webster defines perjury as "the voluntary violation of an oath or vow either by swearing to what is untrue or by omission to do what has been promise under oath."

Lacoursiere was arrested and released with a scheduled court appearance on Aug. 10 in Arborg. The charges have not yet been tested in court.

Manitoba RCMP said Lacoursiere is currently suspended with pay but cannot comment further as it is an IIU investigation.

The IIU refused to comment further on the matter as it is now before the court.





Additional COVID-19 testing to offer rapid results for northern Manitoba patients

A federal-provincial partnership is bringing rapid-response COVID-19 testing to northern Manitoba, ensuring patients at higher risk of transmitting the virus are able to quickly access their results.

The Public Health Agency of Canada and the Manitoba First Nation Pandemic Response Co-ordination Team, in partnership with the First Nations Inuit Health Branch, have deployed four GeneXpert machines to be used by health-care providers in Thompson, The Pas, Norway House Cree Nation and the Percy E. Moore Hospital at Peguis First Nation, to supplement COVID-19 testing already being conducted at facilities throughout Manitoba's north. The GeneXpert machine, which can provide test results in as little an hour, is already used in a number of Canadian jurisdictions to test for infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and influenza.

"As part of our response to CO-VID-19, we continue to work closely with provinces and territories to prevent the spread of the virus. The Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory deployed the machines into these remote communities and will continue to provide COVID-19 testing support to them," said Patty Hajdu, Canada's Minister of Health.

"Measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within northern communities have been a high priority since efforts to fight this virus within our province began several months ago," said Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen. "This new equipment has the capability to provide a COVID-19 test result in about an hour and will be used to quickly confirm the presence of the virus in those patients who may require additional support to self-isolate."

Health-care providers will use the GeneXpert test kits for patients who may not be able to self-isolate easily if they test positive and therefore pose a higher risk of transmitting the virus. These may include patients who are experiencing multiple symptoms associated with COVID-19 or have other factors that put them at greater risk of contracting the virus. Northern Manitoba patients who do not fall within

one of these categories will continue to follow the established process, which includes transport to Cadham and Dynacare labs for COVID-19 test-

"Residents throughout the north are to be commended for their vigilance in preventing the spread of this virus in our region," said Dr. Michael Isaac, medical officer of health for the Northern Regional Health Authority. "Targeted rapid-response testing provides public health officials with another tool that will help us quickly suppress the spread of the virus if and when it reappears in our region."

The first three GeneXpert machines have been installed. Two are located at hospitals operated by Indigenous Services Canada in Norway House Cree Nation and Peguis First Nation, and one is on loan to Shared Health for operation at Thompson General Hospital. A fourth machine, destined for St. Anthony's General Hospital in The Pas, is expected to be operational in the coming weeks.

GeneXpert is a product manufactured in the United States and Canada receives a limited supply of devices based on the high demand for this product. As additional devices, cartridges and the necessary testing becomes available, phased expansion of GeneXpert testing can be considered on a broader scale.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a number of northern-specific initiatives have been launched to protect residents in Northern Manitoba from the spread of COVID-19 including travel restrictions and the opening of community testing sites in Thompson, Flin Flon and The Pas. To date, three people living in northern Manitoba had tested positive for COVID-19. All three have since recovered. There have been no cases of COVID-19 involving people living on-reserve in Manitoba First Nations.

For current information on COV-ID-19 in Manitoba, such as steps people can take to reduce their risk and workplace guidance for businesses, visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

A comprehensive list of Manitoba government COVID-19 measures can be found at https://manitoba.ca/ bg/2020/04/covid19.html.

Town of Arborg delivers property tax decrease in 2020 budget

By Patricia Barrett

The Town of Arborg delivered a property tax decrease in its budget for 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic ate away at the town's overall economic prosperity.

"Budget 2020 for the Town of Arborg was certainly challenging given the current pandemic," said Chief Administrative Officer Cindy Stansell by email. "Council took into consideration the economic ramifications of the pandemic and the affect this had on residents and businesses within the town."

The Town's mill rate and the provincial education levy mill rate both decreased (from 21.730 in 2019 to 20.713 and from 9.770 in 2019 to 8.828 respec-

tively) while the Evergreen School Division mill increased slightly (from 11.050 in 2019 to 11.137).

That means a dwelling worth \$100,000 will pay \$932.09 in municipal taxes (excluding education) in 2020, down \$45.76 from \$977.85 in 2019.

The assessed value of rateable property in the Town of Arborg is \$52,829,480, according to the latest revised assessment role.

Total expenditures in 2019 were \$1,942,195.87 while revenues were \$1,945,128.03. The town has budgeted \$2,024,183.46 for expenditures in 2020.

Fewer dollars have been budgeted this year for the town's reserve funds, including the fund for a proposed new 80-bed personal care home (\$25,000 this year compared to \$50,025 last year) that has yet to be approved by the province, and the fund for equipment replacement (\$20,000 this year compared to \$40,000 last year). Actual reserve fund totals for 2019 were \$319,178. For 2020, the town has set aside \$146.302.

Total recreation and cultural services costs last year were \$226,090.22. This year the town is budgeting \$300,503. The town spent \$108,198.54 on fire protection services last year and has budgeted \$110,655 this year. Budget lines for sewage collection and disposal have increased over last year, including operator salaries and certifications. Last year the town spent \$35,631.40 and budgeted \$79,977.50

this year. Budget lines for administration costs have also generally increased over last year. The total fund last year was \$107,282.25. For 2020 the town has budgeted \$119,860.

Stansell provided a list of projects planned for 2020, which include sidewalk construction and renewals, drainage projects, replacement of the cedar shingles on the Arborg Library building, which is a designated heritage site, a water and sewer extension study through the Manitoba Water Services Board, a recreation review in partnership the RM of Bifrost-Riverton and the purchase of a lawn and litter vacuum.

Show Manitoba some love this summer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to relax, Travel Manitoba is reminding people that "home is where the heart is."

The provincial travel association launched a tourism campaign last week encouraging Manitobans to rediscover what's available right in our own backyards.

"[Now is] the perfect opportunity for Manitobans to see what the province has to offer and at the same time support local businesses and local tourism operators by doing a bit of a staycation and seeing their own province,"





Continued on page 16

€XPR€SS



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Making the case for social media abstinence

By Evan Matthews

Though we're only approximately halfway through 2020, it's feels like a really long year already.

The internet allows our global community to be connected more than ever through social media, so the world's events feels a little closer to

Sometimes unplugging makes things feel a little easier.

Let's recap 2020.

Though dating back to June 2019, in January 2020, we started off with the Hong Kong protests against plans to allow extradition to mainland China, further demanding a full democracy and inquiries into police actions. Violence between police and protestors have become more and more violent. Still in January, we had the Australian wildfires, the U.S. drone strike and killing of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, the impeachment trial of U.S. President Donald Trump, the replacement of the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement, and the very beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Neil Peart, the drummer of the Canadian band called Rush, dies. Then former-NBA star Kobe Bryant dies.

In February, Trump is acquitted, and the stock market crashes (largely due to COVID).

In March, COVID devastated Italy, oil prices plummet by up to 30 per cent, the global stock market crash continues, and COVID's worldwide death toll eclipses 23,000 with the

U.S.A. passing both China and Italy in both total cases and deaths. Henri Richard, former-NHL star and brother of Maurice Richard, dies. Kenny Rogers dies.

COVID continues its ruthless spread in April. Total cases worldwide pass 2 million, and Trump suspends all funding to the World Health Organi-

"ALMOST

EVERYTHING

AGAIN IF YOU

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YOU."

zation for the organization's relationship with and handling of China throughout the pandemic. Kim Jung Un disappears from the public eye as he recovers from a heart procedure. Still in April, Portapique, N.S., is hit with the deadliest mass shooting in Canadian history.

In May, the COVID silver lining starts to show through a bit, with the number of

worldwide patients to have recovered reaching 1 million, though the total number of worldwide cases eclipses 6 million. Then, we see the killing of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police.

Spanning the rest of May and into June, protests and conversations about systemic racism have taken

The events detailed here barely scratch the surface of what 2020 has brought, and this version comes from a very biased North American perspective. Internationally, there has been so much more. When we go online and log in to social media, to say this has been a rough (and perceivably negative) year is to put it mildly.

But, then again, when we look outside, the sun is shining, the birds are chirping and there is so much to be thankful for.

> When we unplug from social media and the negativity going on in the world, we're so quickly reminded that things aren't so bad.

> This is not advocating for a passive approach to life. We all need causes to get behind and push for to make our world a better place.

> This is, however, a reminder that the world is in a better state than it's ever been. We just hear about the negative more than

If you find yourself overwhelmed by social media and the negative stories; if you find yourself feeling pessimistic and depressed about the state of the world and our society; never forget that you have the power to unplug.

As we are reminded by Anne Lamott, an American novelist, non-fiction writer, essayist, and memoirist, "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

INCLUDING ever, too.

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@expressweeklynews.ca. Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.

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Winnipeg Folk Fest AT HOME! Virtual concert July 11

Submitted by Winnipeg Folk Festival

With the cancellation of the festival this summer, we know many hearts, including ours, were broken.

So we set out in search of a way to keep the music alive and celebrate our amazing community, which includes YOU and our volunteers, sponsors, donors and, of course, the artists both past and present.

We are so excited to bring you Winnipeg Folk Fest at Home presented by Assiniboine Credit Union and

Bell MTS. We will virtually transport you to Birds Hill Provincial Park for a night of music on Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 7 p.m.

From the comfort of your backyard, couch or cottage you will enjoy performances from Sheryl Crow, Tash Sultana, Alan Doyle, Courtney Barnett, Vance Joy, William Prince and so many more.

Winnipeg Folk Fest at Home will stream online through our Facebook page and YouTube channel.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Winnipeg Folk Fest at Home will stream online through Facebook on Saturday, July 11 at 7 p.m. and will feature William Prince.

Community Futures delivers COVID-19 support loans for rural businesses

Submitted

Rural businesses in Manitoba impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can now access new financial relief and recovery support.

Community Futures offices throughout Manitoba are offering tailored small business loans as part of the Government of Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF). These partially forgivable loans ensure that rural businesses that do not qualify for other federal business

support programs receive support to meet regular business expenses during this crisis.

"COVID-19 has severely impacted rural businesses and communities throughout our province," said Jim MacMillan, chairperson of Community Futures Manitoba. "Rural businesses need our support now more than ever, and we are pleased to offer it through the Government of Canada's RRRF program."

The funding is part of an announced

\$95.7 million to be delivered through Community Futures organizations for rural and remote small businesses in Western Canada that were impacted adversely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have costs that have not been covered through other COV-ID-19 support programs such as the Canada Emergency Business Account

Small- and medium-sized businesses can apply for loans of up to \$40,000 with terms that include:

- No interest accrual or principal payments through Dec. 31, 2022
- If 75 per cent of the loan is repaid by Dec. 31, 2022, the remainder of the loan is forgiven
- Blended principal and interest payments beginning Jan. 1, 2023, and loans must be repaid by Dec. 31,
- No prepayment penalties To apply for Community Futures RRRF loans, visit: https://cfmanitoba. ca/rrrf-search.

RM of Fisher presents decreases in 2020 financial plan

By Evan Matthews

The RM of Fisher has presented its 2020 financial plan.

The RM presented its plan at a public hearing on June 10, with 11 ratepayers in attendance.

The RM of Fisher can look forward to paying less in taxes in 2020, according to CAO Kelly Marykuca, providing their assessments remained the same.

With mill rates in the RM remaining the same in 2020, and when factoring in decreases to the School Division Levy and the Education Support Levy, CAO Marykuca said ratepayers in the RM can expect to see the following savings:

- \$8.34 on a LUD residential property assessed at \$96,500.
- \$868.90 on a LUD commercial property assessed at \$1,178,800.
- \$5.22 on a rural farm only property assessed at \$102,400.
- \$9.26 on a rural residential farm property assessed at \$147,100.
- \$143.46 on a rural commercial farm property assessed at \$181,800.

The RM of Fisher's 2020 capital

projects and purchases include a new cell at the Poplarfield Waste Disposal Grounds (\$250,000), a new grader (\$165,000), flood mitigation equipment (\$100,180), a new mower (\$4,000), building repairs (\$10,000), furniture and office equipment (\$11,677.80), and the fixing of streets, ditches and drainage in the LUD of Fisher Branch (\$26,700).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of dust control program

Homeowners along gravel provincial roads and main market roads in unorganized territories may apply to have dust control applied in front of their homesites at a cost of \$200 for a single application.

The formal application is available from your local Manitoba Infrastructure office. The deadline for these applications will be no later than July 3, 2020.

For more information, please contact one of the following Infrastructure offices:

Steinbach 204-346-6266 Dauphin 204-622-2061 204-239-3292 Swan River 204-734-3413 Portage la Prairie 204-677-6540 Brandon 204-726-6800 Thompson Boissevain 204-534-2030 204-627-8272

Manitoba 📆

Marykuca said the RM will pay for all capital projects and purchases through reserve funds and grants.

Any ratepayer with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact the municipal office at 204-372-6393.



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We are once again in desperate need of funding for the 2020 grass cutting season. Please help keep our cemetery maintained by sending a cheque payable to:

Geysir Cemetery Fund

Box 796, Arborg, Mb, ROCOAO



'You can't go out and fish for 90 cents': Lake Winnipeg fishers sitting out the season

By Patricia Barrett

Many Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers are sitting out the spring season because of market losses and fish prices that are so low, they'd have to dig into their pockets in order to go to work.

With COVID-19 having toppled world markets like dominoes — particularly the American fish market where 90 per cent of Manitoba's fish ends up — fishers in different areas of the lake have nothing to fish for, according to those who've been in the business for decades.

Only a few fishers from Gimli and area are fishing in the south basin right now, said Robert T. Kristjanson, who's in his 80s and has been fishing since he was a boy.

"The guys aren't fishing because there's no place to sell it. There are only a few guys fishing locally. Our son is fishing locally but there's only so much fish you can sell locally. I'm just fishing locally myself, but very little, and selling it at my gate," said Kristjanson, who earned the Order of Manitoba in 2018 for raising the alarm about algal blooms on Lake Winnipeg.

The federally run Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) buys the majority of Manitoba's fish. As COVID began to close markets, the corporation had to cut the winter season (2019-2020) short. For the current spring season, FFMC slashed the price of pickerel (the big money-making fish) to 90 cents a pound.

"You can't go out and fish for 90 cents. It can't be done," said Kristjanson

He has strong words for the provincial Conservative government, saying it has done "nothing" to help the commercial fishing industry weather the COVID crisis and "can't see beyond the Perimeter Highway." During the Great Depression of the 1930s, he said fishers in Manitoba could still eke out a living.

"And now there's nothing. The marketing board [Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation] is trying everything it can to do something and this province under the Conservatives are kicking them in the [you-know-what]."

The Conservatives' long-standing antipathy to FFMC, the legislated removal a few years ago of Manitoba from the corporation (the majority of Manitoba fishers signed contracts with FFMC right after that) and favouritism towards the angling industry have contributed to the province's reluctance to help find solutions, said Kristjanson.

Because FFMC was unable to sell into the markets it had always sold



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TERRY TERGESEN COLLECTION, NEW ICELAND HERITAGE MUSEUM While researching the history of the Lake Winnipeg commercial fishery, Gimli-based filmmaker Andy Blicq acquired a photo of sled dog teams, pictured here in 1907 in front of the Lakeview Hotel (now Betel Home). Teams would travel on the lake between Gimli and Norway House in sometimes perilous conditions to transport fishers and fish. Fishers are facing new perils in the form of COVID-19.

into because of shutdowns, it's stuck with freezers full of fish it bought in the winter season.

"The marketing board needs help and equipment and can't get it, and nobody is saying anything about it," said Kristjanson. "This is the oldest fishery there is and the government has walked away from us. There's been no help to move it [the frozen fish] out. This is a terrible thing."

Fishers in the channel area and "all these places up north" aren't fishing either, said Kristjanson.

With COVID having brought markets to a standstill, Kristjanson said this is a game-changer, and the way we do business may have to change; we may have to return to a system dominated by domestic markets rather than relying on global markets.

"The whole of the Interlake, the people here that make products and raise food are standing at the same gate," said Kristjanson. "We have to do something."

Commercial fisher Al Johnson, who runs the Frog Bay Fishing Station in the lake's channel area, said he was unable to open for the current spring season because it's "just not profitable." The station accepts and ships fish on behalf of FFMC.

Johnson said "basically all of them aren't fishing except for maybe two." And those two fishers have to truck the fish themselves to FFMC's Riverton plant. That entails added expenses and another two hours tacked on to their working day.

To fish under the current conditions, with 90 cents for pickerel and FFMC-imposed limits on how much fish it

can accept, fishers will lose money.

"Are you going to go to work if it costs you money?" said Johnson. "I'm sitting out this season. That way you won't make any money, but you also won't lose any money."

Johnson said the pandemic has revealed how tenuous the fish business is, with all its various working parts wholly dependent on each other, and what the industry has traditionally relied upon most heavily.

"The American market is the creamof-the-crop market; that's your toppaid market for pickerel so that's what you go for when marketing fish. And the restaurant market gives you the biggest bang for your buck," he said. "Now those markets have disappeared."

Retail markets (grocery stores) are where the "margins are probably the thinnest," he added, and "you're competing with fish from all over the world, from countries where labour costs are low. We're also competing with farmed fish. We're all fighting for that same market."

The creation of a robust domestic market where "we could be pushing Canadian fish" would go a long way to helping the industry, he said, and insulating fishers against future crises.

"We should be able to do something with our high quality wild-caught fish. Everything's geared to multinationals and global markets. If we were allowed to ship our product over provincial borders, that would help us," said Johnson.

"If people in Manitoba can eat the fish the way we're selling it here now, we should be able to market that fish to other areas of the province and across Canada without going through all the red tape and [government] regulations. You can regulate things to death sometimes."

Realizing how dire the situation has become for commercial fishers, the provincial Liberals called upon the Conservative government last month to help fishers and have now gone ahead to help fishers salvage their season.

Manitoba Liberal Party Leader Dougald Lamont (St. Boniface MLA) told the *Express* he and Jon Gerrard (River Heights MLA) have met with Freshwater to discuss how to clear its "huge backlog of fish," and that he's spoken several times with the federal government — both the fisheries and agriculture ministries — to find a solution to getting fishers back to work.

Lamont said he's asked the federal government to let inland fishers to tap into a program called the Surplus Food Program, which purchases unsold inventories of items such as milk, chicken and beef from farmers and donates it to places such as food banks.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the creation of the program May 5 along with an investment of \$252 million. He had also announced in May two aid packages specifically for the fishing industry.

The key to getting Manitoba's fishers, along with everyone involved in processing, marketing and shipping that fish, back to work is clearing out

Continued on page 9

COVID-19 numbers put Manitoba in a good spot for reopening

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Three new cases over the weekend brought Manitoba's COVID-19 numbers to 304.

Public health officials announced on Monday that the province is dealing with five active cases of the illness, none of which currently require hospitalization.

A total of 292 people have recovered from COVID-19. Seven Manitobans have died.

"Our numbers have remained favourable, but certainly COVID-19 has not gone away," stressed Dr. Brent Roussin, chief public health officer. "We still need to deal with this virus moving forward.

"As we reopen it's likely that we will see and continue to see new cases identified," he said. "We will continue to identify them early, perform contact tracing and isolation to limit the chances of ongoing community-based

transmission."

The restrictions that have been in place in recent months were created to protect those at most risk of severe outcomes with COVID-19 as well as to avoid overwhelming the health care system with cases.

Those efforts have been successful, allowing us to now look to the future, Roussin said.

"Manitobans have learned to live with this virus and we're going to need to continue to learn to live with this virus," he said. "We can never be in a zero-risk situation, and so as we reopen our economy we have to continue to accept some level of risk.

"We continue to follow a number of indicators daily, including case numbers, our test positivity rates, the community-based transmission rates, as well as the many demands on the health care system," Roussin continued. "There certainly won't be a sin-

gle indicator there that would make us dial back our reopening strategy, but we'll look at a number of things over time to decide on whether we'll continue ... or implement measures to further restrict things if we saw much community-based transmission."

The province has spent several days gathering feedback on its plans for phase three of reopening.

The draft plan unveiled last Thursday scales back restrictions in numerous areas, including increasing public gathering limits indoors to 50 people and outdoor gathering limits to 100, doing away with the requirement to self-isolate for 14 days when entering Manitoba from Western Canada and Northwestern Ontario, allowing day cares to return to their maximum capacities, removing occupancy limits at retail businesses and all health professions, and increasing occupancy limits at restaurants to 75 per cent of total capacity.

"We're loosening a number of restrictions, but our numbers show us that this is a safe time, a prudent time to be doing this," Roussin said. "We'll continue to watch things very care-

The detailed phase three plan is available online at www.gov.mb.ca/ covid19/restoring/phase-three. html. Implementation is tentatively planned for June 21. More information is expected this week.

Meanwhile, on Monday the Manitoba government extended the provincewide state of emergency another month to allow it to continue responding to the pandemic in a timely manner.

The state of emergency was first put into place under The Emergency Measures Act March 20 for 30 days. It was extended for another month in April and again in May.

Armstrong presents a decrease for 2020 financial plan

By Evan Matthews

The RM of Armstrong has presented its 2020 financial plan.

The RM held its public hearing at the Fraserwood Hall on June 10, with 10 guests pre-registered for the hearing due to COVID-19 but only seven attending.

The RM of Armstrong's residential mill rate will decrease by 1.167 mills (6.1 per cent) to 17.865 in 2020, according to CAO Corlie Larsen.

Based on an assessed value of \$100,000, tax comparisons show a residential property owner would see a decrease of \$79.07, depending on spe-

The RM's farmland mill rate will decrease by the identical amount, 1.167 mills (or 6.1 per cent) to 17.865.

The school division levy (factoring in all three school divisions) decreased by 4.8 per cent and the education support levy decreased by 9.6 per cent, according to mill rate comparisons, which means taxes have decreased in 2020 depending on a person's specific assessment, according to Larsen.

Armstrong's main capital project and purchase in 2020 is the Meleb Waste Disposal Grounds new waste cell, with an estimated price tag (in-

cluding Hydro install) of \$300,000. The funding for the project, according to Larsen, comes from the gas tax as well as waste management reserves.

"Our main priority right now is the new cell and hydro hook up at the Meleb landfill," said Armstrong Reeve Susan Smerchanski.

"The tender has been advertised and we will be awarding the contract shortly."

Nobody in attendance spoke for or against the RM's budget.

Ratepayers in attendance asked questions about specific drainage issues on their lands, RM graders bringing up rocks on the road and pushing gravel into the ditches, rationale for using limestone when gravelling, CO-VID-19 and cancellation of events, the brushing left behind stumps, as well as damaged and plugged culverts.

Burn ban lifted

As a side note, Smerchanski noted the RM has lifted its burn ban as of June 15.

"Please be careful and burn responsibly," said Smerchanski. "If you are unsure of conditions, please call your fire chief."

> 90 CENTS, FROM PG. 8

FFMC's freezers, said Lamont.

"We made it clear to the feds that this is a super important issue. Look at the number of people who are fishers: there are 1,800 on the lakes just in Manitoba plus all the other people involved in the industry," said Lamont. "[The federal governmentl has been really flexible; every time a new problem has popped up, they've been willing to adjust their programs."

As of last Friday, Lamont said federal departments "are talking" about how to change the program to make it work for fishers.

Lamont said both the feds and the province have a role to play to protect the commercial fish-

ery and help people return to work, but the province hasn't been "very engaged" on the file.

"The province can and should have been doing much more to step up and help people, whether that's for small businesses or fishers. They've let the feds do all the heavy lifting, which is really shameful," said

"There is nowhere for the [frozen] fish to go right now. We've made this recommendation to the feds and to the province. The province could step up and buy a ton of fish from Freshwater and help clear this backlog. There's no reason they technically can't do that, but they've been unwilling."

Miss B Haven lands store in Stonewall

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg's Miss B Haven Boutique has branched out from its online domain, making its reusable products available in a brick-and-mortar business in Stone-

Miss B Haven owner Christine Sutyla said people can still order her reusable products online through Etsy, but now they have the option of checking them out in person at the Dirt Road Creations gift shop in Stonewall.

"I had been looking to be placed in a retail setting because I felt it would make my products more accessible to people who like to shop in person," said Sutyla, "and it would make them available Monday to Friday during normal business hours."

Craft shows and farmer's markets were two means of showcasing all the reusable products she makes and sells from

her home-based shop, but she said she realized not everyone can make it out to those events. Most have been cancelled because of COVID-19.

Sutyla said she met Dirt Road's owner at Interlake craft shows and the woman later reached out to her, asking whether she'd like to have some space at her Stonewall store.

Dirt Road is now carrying Sutyla's reusable feminine pads, wipes, cloth diapers for real babies, play diapers for dolls and pouches for stainless steel straws.

Sutyla also secured retail outlets in Brandon (Prairie 204) and in Lethbridge,

"I'm always looking at growth and branching out even further especially now that craft sales have been cancelled because of COVID," she said. "Because my product is popular it can help get people in the door of a business."

"THEY'LL HAVE

TO PRACTISE

DISTANCING

AS BEST AS

POSSIBLE IN

THE POOL."

SOCIAL

Splashing good time this summer in Arborg as province opens public pools

By Patricia Barrett

You won't have to pack away your swimsuit this summer as the province is allowing swimming pools to open across Manitoba after the number of new COVID-19 infections continue to remain low.

The Noventis Aquatic Centre in Arborg will be opening next week, offering swimming lessons, public swimming times and private poolside parties, albeit with a number of public health restrictions in place to maintain the safety of pool-goers.

"We feel confident we can meet all the health guidelines," said recreation director Tom Chwaliboga of the Arborg-Bifrost Parks &

Recreation Commission. "That's why we're opening. We wouldn't be opening if we thought we couldn't keep everybody safe, as well as provide a safe and comfortable environment for our staff."

A cleaning crew will be sanitizing the pool facility between daily programs as recommended by a provincial public health officer with whom Chwaliboga met to determine what needed to be done.

"We have met with the health inspector and got guidelines on how we should proceed, and we'll be imple-

menting everything the health inspector said needs to be done," he said.

That will entail cleaning and sanitizing the facility after swimming lessons in the morning and before and after public swims in the afternoon. Because of the enhanced cleaning protocols, public swimming won't start until 2:30 p.m.

"We'll be doing a lot of cleaning every after-

noon and evening," said Chwaliboga. "We will be having a hand sanitizing station, as well, when people walk into the facility."

The province is currently allowing a maximum of 50 people at outdoor facilities, and that will "drastically" reduce the Arborg pool's capacity of about 180 people, he said. Pool users will also have to maintain the two-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Noventis Credit Union aquatic centre in Arborg.

metre (just over six feet) physical distancing guideline (except people who live in the same household).

"They'll have to practise social distancing as best as possible in the pool and deck area. I know it can be almost impossible in a pool facility, but that's why the numbers are down to a maximum of 50 people," said Chwaliboga "We're hoping our users will understand and be patient with the guidelines. Our staff will also have to adapt to the new rules."

As far as concerns about water transmitting viruses, Chwaliboga said everything they've heard from Manitoba Health and from the public health inspector indicates there are no issues with people being in chlorinated water.

"If things change we'll act accord-

ingly, but right now swimming pools are able to operate in Manitoba," he said.

The Arborg pool will be offering some new programs this year, including an adult-only swim (18+) starting at 6 p.m. on Mondays, Aqua Zumba on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and \$5 Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m.

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the pool can be rented to groups for birthday parties, anniversaries or business functions.

Swim lessons start June 22. For schedules, fees and online registration, visit the Town of Arborg's website and click on "Recreation." Call Tom or Karen at the recreation centre at 204-376-5576 for more information on public swimming and pool rentals.







Nearly 60 years of combined experience retiring from LSD

Randy Chartrand sits in his woodshop 31 years after starting in one, coming full circle.

Chartrand started as an apprentice carpenter, then got into education in 1989 during a round of layoffs. He was an educational assistant for three years, then decided to go to university and get his teaching degree.

From there, he began his teaching career in Grand Rapids for 10 years. But for the last 21 years, Chartrand has been teaching in the Lakeshore School Division.

He's taught a few subjects over the years, but in his last four with the division he's returned to the woodshop to teach.

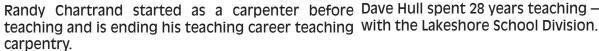
"I've come full circle and I've had just a tremendous career," said the 59-vear-old.

That tremendous career ends 31 years after starting. Chartrand said it just felt like the right time to step

When he wasn't in the physical classroom, Chartrand was a principal for Ashern Central School.

One highlight in his teaching career that won't soon be forgotten was being able to hand his youngest son a





diploma.

His favourite part about all those years spent with students was getting to see them years after graduation when they're on their own path to success. One of Chartrand's current graduating students, he said, is going into industrial arts to teach wood-

"That's quite a compliment and an honour," he said.

Lakeshore adult education teacher Dave Hull agrees. After his 28-year **EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

Randy Chartrand started as a carpenter before Dave Hull spent 28 years teaching — 23 of them were

teaching career, Hull's favourite part is still building relationships with his students and seeing them grow.

Hull started teaching in 1992 after falling in love with tutoring in university. He started in New Brunswick, but after five years of term positions there, he applied across Canada and got a full-time job in the Lakeshore School Division and has been here ever since.

"I loaded up the U-Haul and it was just me and a husky," said the 58-year-

In his 28 years of teaching, he's taught almost every subject there is. He started in the division as a resource teacher, became a consultant at the division, moved to principal, then went back to the classroom.

For the last five years, Hull's been teaching learners at the adult education centre. He said he loves watching them gain the confidence to graduate. Now, Hull said it just felt like time to

Continued on page 12

Interlake Real Estate - Playing it Safe

Since 1962, Interlake Real Estate has weathered many storms... and come out stronger every time. They know from experience that in 'challenging' economic times, it is critical to focus on their clients and ensure they are providing superior service and expert guidance.

COVID-19 has created some real challenges for the Real Estate industry. Sellers need to sell, buyers want or need to buy, but there is a responsibility on the Realtor® to keep everyone as safe as possible. The company protocol includes pre-screening buyers, maintaining social distancing and using appropriate sanitization protocols for client interactions as well as the properties.

To further aid this process, Interlake Real Estate has invested in two specialized camera systems to allow them to create interactive 360°, 3D virtual tours. Most virtual tours are a collage of 2D photos that are attached one after the other. The 360° 3D virtual tour is a collage of 3D scans that have been 'stitched' together and similar to a video game, it allows purchasers to move through the property as if they were there in person. Buyers are able scroll up to see detail in the crown moldings, maneuver through the house to see how the layout flows and even position themselves from any vantage point to see the views from any perspective. This will allow purchasers to pre-screen the property and determine if an in-person viewing is warranted. This is not only an incredible marketing advantage for the properties they list, but also minimizes unnecessary exposure for both buyers and sellers.

"While the Interlake is where we started, we have always worked with clients in other areas as well. Whether it is someone moving to the Interlake, from the Interlake, or referrals from our vast network of previous clients, we can assist you. We now have a Realtor® who lives in Winnipeg, as well as another who lives in the East Beaches areas... east of Lake Winnipeg. We can work with clients throughout Manitoba." states Kim Giesbrecht, General Manager.

Interlake Real Estate's 18 Realtors® have over 200 years of combined experience, most of them having over 10 years with the company. Their Realtors have a strong support structure that includes not only experienced administrative staff, but also the guidance of three Real Estate Brokers.

The company is always looking for the right people to join their team, whether as an experienced Realtor® looking to make a move, or someone thinking about starting out. If you are interested in speaking with one of their Realtors®, please contact them at one of their three offices or visit the website at www.interlake. mb.ca. If you are interested in discussing whether Interlake Real Estate is the right place to grow your career, contact Kim Giesbrecht at 1-888-482-5806.



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To reduce physical contact we offer 360* 3D virtual property tours, so buyers to 'virtually' walk through a property. When a show-ing is warranted, and after screening they will follow screening, they will follow distancing and disinfec-tion protocols. To contact a Realtor for more info or to view available listings, go to interlake.mb.ca

> LSD, FROM PG. 11

do other things in life. He plans to go to New Brunswick to spend time with his dad once he can and he hopes to do some substitute teaching.

Chartrand said there's no doubt in his mind that he'll substitute teach as well.

JUNE IS TURKEY MONTH!

Since 1994, Manitoba's Agriculture Minister has declared June is Turkey Month in our beautiful province & now is the time to celebrate! Enjoy locally produced turkey to show your support to our local farmers!





Summertime fun





EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CHELSEA MEIER

Addy, right, and her little sister Harlow Meier were camping at Winnipeg Beach earlier this month. The girls enjoyed the skate park and walking along the boardwalk.

Why dentures are still so popular

BY ELISHA VANDOR

Yes, you've probably heard of the other alternative to traditional removable dentures already. If not, let me provide a brief refresher here. Dental implants can be used to replace full arches of missing teeth permanently, or just secure a loose denture. They have A LOT of benefits, but dental insurance coverage isn't one of them. Dental insurance is one reason why dentures are still so popular.

Those with dental insurance really have an upper hand when wanting to replace their dentures, because most insurance companies provide excellent coverage and will allow replacement every 5 years. Within those 5 years, you can get them re-fitted and repaired (if necessary) usually at a higher coverage percentage, which means more money back in your pocket.

However, we know that not everyone has dental insurance. If you don't have dental insurance, but you're missing teeth and want dentures or are wearing dentures and need to replace them, then this next reason is for you.

Dentures are still the most inexpensive option out there, which makes them the most popular. That reason alone should put a smile on your face. Additionally, other benefits of replacing your dentures can include:

- An automatic face-lift (see photo of actual patient)
- Being able to chew food properly
- Regaining confidence
- Having the best fit possible





By looking at the photo above, can you tell if this person is wearing a dental implant supported denture on the right or a traditional one? The answer is no. So, whatever you're willing to spend on teeth replacement options, the aesthetics will be great. At no extra cost, dentures can be made to look as natural or as Hollywood as you want. The same can be said for a dental implant supported denture. One patient recently brought in a picture of herself as a young professional and wanted Brock to recreate the look of her natural teeth with dentures. This is completely do able and actually encouraged!

If you're thinking it's time to replace your dentures or are ready to discover how dentures can work for you, then call to book a free consultation.



Donna discovered what a new denture can do for her and she's all smiles!

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Historic Lemiez statues open for another season

By Becca Myskiw

Along Highway 6 is a hidden art escape in the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale.

One mile south of Grahamdale sit 21 life-size statues. They depict animals and people doing all kinds of things — one is a lion chasing a deer; another is a bird man choking another statue.

The now maintained park was once the homestead of Armand Lemiez, a man from Belgium who came to Canada at 18 years old.

Melissa Van Soelen from Interlake Tourism said Lemiez essentially stepped off the train with his mother and sister and built his homestead

artist with hundreds of paintings left in a storage unit upon his death.

Van Soelen said once the payments for the unit stopped coming, the paintings disappeared. Not so easy to lose sight of, however, are the 21 statues Lemiez created when he was 72.

Starting in 1966 and finishing the pieces nine years later, Lemiez made his most ambitious art project yet and turned his home into an art gallery.

"When you go there, it's really inspiring," said Van Soelen, "because you're like, 'OK, this 72-year-old man can do it."

She said Lemiez had wanted to pre-

right there. He was a farmer and an serve his work as best he could and petitioned to the provincial government to turn his homestead into a park, but to no avail.

> The government decided his work had no cultural value.

> Now, years later, Interlake Tourism promotes his pieces as a must-see art gallery in the Interlake. On the drive up to the Lemiez statues, Van Soelen said there are also 13 other sites to stop at — some of which are the Canada Goose in Lundar, the Sharptail Grouse in Ashern, and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The statues, she said, have been vandalized but are important to maintain and keep.

"It shows somebody's persistence in artistic technique," said Van Soelen. "It's more of a spot where you can go to be inspired."

She said Lemiez's work is proof great work comes from this often-underestimated province.

The Lemiez statues are open to the public from June until October, with signage at the highway pointing the wav.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Armand Lemiez built 21 sculptures in his homestead starting in 1966.



The statues were built to "react to their surroundings."





Burrowing owls can't survive on their own

Bv Ligia Braidotti

A Garson resident is hoping she can help keep an endangered species alive.

Jane Seniw, a licensed arborist at Tree Care, recently donated a painting of burrowing owls she was gifted when in Saskatchewan for a watershed conference in 2003 to the Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program. The painting by Saskatchewan artist Fred Lahrman was part of a series of artwork to draw attention to grassland species at risk. He created the painting from memories dating back to the 1930s when it was common to see burrowing owls nesting in Western Canada.

Seniw was touched when she heard the recovery program was facing funding challenges due to cuts from the provincial and federal govern-

"When I heard about the program, I thought 'I will donate this,' and they can do with it whatever they wish to raise funds to keep the program going," she commented. "The more promotion that they get on the whole program, it may prompt somebody else to say 'Maybe I'll donate some-

Alexandra Froese, project manager at Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, said it costs about \$100,000 a year to run the program at its fullest — research, recovery, educational programs and supplies for burrowing owls.

"We rely mostly on the public and private sector donations," Froese explained.

The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program started in 2013, a year after Froese completed her master's research and found out that the number of burrowing owls had dropped. The program focuses on three goals — reintroduction of burrowing owls, research and monitor of the birds, and education.

"We do surveys all around southwestern Manitoba, and then we look for habitat, open grassland, no trees, no shrubs, there's got to be ground squirrels and burrows available because burrowing owls can't dig their own nest, so they need some holes available," Froese said.

Burrowing owls are the only North American bird that nests in the ground, and because they are not able to dig their own, they rely on abandoned nests that were previously oc-



The burrowing owl population has decreased by 96 per cent since 1987.

cupied by animals like badgers, foxes, ground squirrels, coyotes and pocket gophers. According to the recovery program, the burrowing owl population has decreased by 96 per cent since 1987.

"You hear people here in Manitoba saying that they haven't seen a burrowing owl since the '80s," Froese commented.

"I have never seen one in my life," Seniw added.

The recovery program works with landowners to arrange suitable locations for artificial nest burrows.

"There's not one factor (that endangered the species); it's a combination, but the main one is the loss of habitat. So the conversion of grassland to cropland, modern agriculture, loss of burrows goes along with that, too, because if you're changing over grassland area to cropland you're not going to have burrows in there and animals burrowing in those sections anymore," Froese explained.

Road development is also one factor that's attributed to the owl's decline. Froese commented that the owls like to sit on the top of a fencepost and they will dive down into a ditch to grab small rodents and insects. Then when they fly up to the next highest spot, which is usually the road, they get hit by vehicles. Inclement weather is also another factor that impacts on their survival rates because of the lack of food for the female and male at the time they are nesting the eggs.

"If she is hungry, those eggs won't be warmed in a way that they would be if there's tons of food there. And if

Continued on page 17



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY LIGIA BRAIDOTTI

Jane Seniw, left, and Alexandra Froese, project manager at Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, stand beside the picture Seniw donated on June 14.



CHILDREN'S CAMPS (Ages 5 to 11) 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

SEWING & MORE July 6-10

FLIGHTS & FOSSILS July 13-17

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READER'S THEATRE & MAKING SHORT FILMS July 27-31

> **WOODWORKING & GAMES** August 3-7

MUSIC CAMP August 10-14

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN ALL THE CAMPS

Campers will decide together at the beginning of the week, the different activities that they would like to do. These could include the following: Rock Painting; Drawing & Painting; Sketching; Cooking Bannock over an open fire; Create your own T-Shirt design; Science Experiments; Nature Hikes; Daily Physical activity including basketball, tennis, badminton, or baseball; and much more.

Special Additions/Events added to the above Children's Camps:

Thursday, July 23 (Sports Camp) - BUBBLE SOCCER Thursday, August 6 (Woodworking & Games Camp) - LASER TAG Thursday, August 20 (Sports Camp) - LASER TAG

(Ages 12-17) 5:00 TO

Missing your friends and activities?

These camps run the same weeks as those listed for the Children Campers (Ages 5-11). Each week of camp will include a variety of activities including archery tag, portable laser tag, dance, art,

theatre/fun film making, and sports such as basketball, golf, badminton, tennis and baseball. They will also include fun activities like cooking bannock over an open fire, science experiments and much more!



Special Additions/Events added to the TEEN Camps:

Each Tuesday DANCE (45 Minute session with Ms Alycia/Miss Elena) Thursday, July 9 & 30 - ARCHERY TAG Thursday, July 23 & Aug. 13 - BUBBLE SOCCER Thursday, August 6 & 20 - LASER TAG





REGISTRATION FEE for All Camps (5 Days) \$150 - Members \$155 - Non Members

mum numbers for campers is in effect, so please register early to secure your spot. GAAC reserves the right to change or cancel camps. Camps are Non-refundable Students bring Lunch Adult Supervision for All Camps

Registration Deadline Tuesday, June 30, 2020

To register E-mail: gaac@mymts.net Subject: Camp Registration or call **204-886-3192**

For more info see details of camps - facebook.com/gaac.teulon

SAFETY - COVID 19

The GAAC Team has reviewed the Provincial Health Regulations for camps and created a plan which we are confid as safe as possible while having a Funtastic Experience.

**Screening for symptoms will take place everyday.

**Bach camper will be given his or her own bag of supplies to reduce contact.

**Maximum campers is 24, but campers will be split into smaller groups for majority of the day.

**Facilities used for camps include: Green Acres Art Centre, the Teulon Arena and the Park.

**Cleaning and Sanitizing of locations and equipment will take place at all locations.

Historical snaps enthral Gimlites under lockdown

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli-based filmmaker and writer Andy Blicq revived area residents' thirst for the past, stirred up old memories and lifted spirits during the COVID-19 lockdown by sharing decades-old photos of the area and Lake Winnipeg.

Blicq posted a photo a day with commentary on the Meanwhile in Gimli Facebook page, which showcases people and events in a bully-free space, to bring a richer understanding of the past to those in the present. He started with harbour pictures then moved to other scenes as interest grew.

"People care about and embrace this long history we have in the community and which is associated with the lake and the fishery," said Blicq, who's still posting photos on the site, although not as frequently as the province moves out of lockdown."The most gratifying thing I found about putting pictures up is how it generated a lot of dialogue and a lot of facts and memories about life around the lake, as well as family members who were out on the lake. It was interesting how it started to pick up speed."

Blicq said he has a hard drive containing several hundred historical photographs that historian Ed Ledohowski had collected for their jointly authored book, Gimli Harbour & Fishery: An Illustrated History, which was published in 2017 and covers 140 years of the commercial fishery on Lake Winnipeg.

Some of the photos came from collections held by the New Iceland Heritage Museum and others from university archives.

They depict people, buildings, the harbour, the ships that plied the waves of Lake Winnipeg and the fishery, including the "hardships, the dangers and the challenges of life on the ice," said Blicq.

He said he had the who, what, where of many photos already at hand, but he had to occasionally do some further research to round out the picture, so to speak.

"I know from my newspaper days [at the Winnipeg Free Press] that you need to add a bit of context to a photo, that there has to be a bit of a story to it. What does that picture mean? What details does it tell us?"

People in Gimli and the area have always been very good about documenting events through photos, said Blicq, and the Icelandic community in particular did a "very good job documenting the history of the past" with a lot of supporting information.

Because the photos touched a chord, Blicq said he's considering writing another history book.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Gimli Harbour is 120 years old this year. The Tempest and the Chieftain, tied up at the pier some-time between 1910 and 1920.



The dance pavilion in Gimli Park in the 1930s. Oli Thorsteinson — who was a music teacher, made violins and wrote The Gimli Waltz — was the lead builder.

"I think there's interest. I noticed how many people responded to the pictures and how much dialogue there was around that," he said.

Lots of people took to Meanwhile in Gimli to express appreciation for Blicq's showcasing the past while others offered insight about a particular event and the names of people involved in them.

Evie Thordarson said she has pictures of her dad's dog team in Hecla Island in response to a photo of a sled dog team that used to transport fishers and supplies between Gimli and Norway House, a journey of roughly 700 kilometres.

Marie Elseth reminded people of their school days when history class was perhaps a little dull: "I would have done a lot better in history at school with pictures and stories like this!"



On the lawn of Camp Robertson, now an empty lot at the north end of Loni Beach on Loni Avenue. The camp owned land on the lakefront.

> TRAVEL MANITOBA, FROM PG. 5

says Linda Whitfield, vice-president there are countless attractions and of marketing and communications.

Manitobans are certainly no strangers to exploring the province. Prepandemic, tourism contributed \$1.6 billion to Manitoba's economy, with 85 per cent of visitation and 58 per cent of expenditures coming from Manitobans.

"So we already do a pretty good job of that," says Whitfield, "but we really want to encourage Winnipeggers to get outside the city and we'd love to invite rural folks come to see something in Winnipeg."

Northern Manitoba is opening up again as well, Whitfield notes, and experiences sprinkled through the province to explore.

Those kind of cross-community trips have never been more important. Estimates indicate that tourism spending will decrease between 25 and 60 per cent in 2020, and between 6,800 to 11,600 jobs could be lost.

"People don't realize just what an economic driver tourism is in the province," Whitfield says, pointing out the ripple effect a family's visit to a tourism destination can have in a community as they spend money on lodging, food and other entertainment in the area. "Visitors bring dollars to all parts of a destination: to the restaurants, to the gas stations, to the things they buy retail. So it's a very important sector in Manitoba."

To further spur on local tourism, Travel Manitoba in partnership with Destination Canada has launched a contest that asks people to share how they're showing Manitoba some love.

Entrants are asked to detail where in the province they are travelling this summer and how they'll share their experiences on social media. Winners could receive up to \$500 to offset travel costs.

"One of the best sources of people's inspiration is often word of mouth

and what they see other people doing," says Whitfield. "What we ask is what a lot of people are doing anyway, which is to share pictures, share your stories, share you enthusiasm ... and you may be rewarded for it."

The contest is open until June 26. Details are available at travelmanitoba.com.

Manitobans are reminded to explore their own province while being COV-ID careful: maintain physical distancing, stay home when sick, wash hands frequently, and opt for pick-up services when visiting local restaurants and businesses.

West Interlake presents 2020 financials at public meeting

By Evan Matthews

The RM of West Interlake has presented its 2020 financials.

Four residents attended the public hearing on May 12.

Though the RM is working toward what it calls a "unified mill rate," as of now, different areas in the RM have different mill rates, according to CAO Courtney Roehl.

The mill rate comparison from 2019 to 2020 is as follows:

- The Eriksdale area mill rate increased slightly by .105 of a mill to 15.380.
- Siglunes Rural decreased from .068 to 8.930.
- Siglunes at large increased from .058 to 6.345.
- Ashern LUD increased .0006 to 8.200.
- West Interlake at Large increased .805 to 7.978.

The aforementioned rates, in combination with the fact that the RM applied a special levy in order to finance the remainder of a grader purchase done this year, resulted in most property owners seeing a slight tax increase.

The special levy, Roehl said, is being applied to all residents except those within the LUD of Ashern. Even with the special levy for that debenture, Roehl said the average tax in-crease is roughly \$30 to \$100 depending on specific assessments.

Roehl said the Eriksdale area total municipal mill rate in 2019 was 22.448, whereas in 2020 it will be 23.358.

To give an example in the Eriksdale area in 2020, Roehl said a residential property assessed at \$109,900 or a piece of farmland property assessed at \$101,400 will both be taxed \$1,779.42 before any special levies, school taxes or credits.

In 2019, Roehl said those same properties would have been taxed a total of \$1.710.31.

In Siglunes area, Roehl said the rural total municipal mill rate in 2019 was 22.458, whereas in 2020 it will be 23,253.

To give an example in the Siglunes area, a residential property assessed at \$163,600 residential or a piece of farmland property assessed at \$44,400 will both be taxed \$1,983.23, this before any special levies, school taxes or

In 2019, Roehl said those same properties would have been taxed a total of \$1,915.67.

LUD of Ashern's municipal mill rate in 2019 was 21.654. In 2020 it will be

Roehl said both the education support levy and the Lakeshore School Division levy decreased this year, a total of 1.121 mills.

Some of the RM of West Interlake's more notable 2020 Capital Projects

The Ashern Fire Department is getting a new fire hall with a budgeted cost of roughly \$700,000, according to Roehl. A portion will be coming

from reserves with the remainder to be borrowed.

- The RM of West Interlake in its entirety will be getting civic addressing at a rough cost of \$70,000, which will be paid from reserves.
- The RM also received \$85,000 from the Manitoba government to use towards flood preparedness funding, Roehl said. This money will be used towards pumps, a new steamer, signage, updating the emergency plan, and sand bags, amongst other items.
- New street lighting going in at Lake Manitoba Narrows and in Eriksdale.
- The LUD of Ashern is continuing to work on building a pavilion in Railway Park.

Anyone with questions or who would like to obtain copies of the 2020 financial plan should call the RM office at 204-768-2641.

races go virtual for 2020 **Icelandic Festival running**

Submitted

The Icelandic Festival of Manitoba is hosting the 131st festival virtually this year to help keep communities safe and stop the spread of COVID-19.

The annual 10-mile, 5K and onemile running races will be offered in a virtual run format for 2020 as part of the festival celebrations.

Virtual races allow participants the chance to compete for prizes (and glory), while enjoying the flexibility of choosing a time, date and route to run that works best for them.

Runners can register now via ice-

landicfestival.com and will be provided information on how to track and submit their run times using a specialized running app between noon (CST) on Friday, July 19 and noon (CST) on Sunday, Aug. 2 to be considered for judging. Winners will be announced Monday, Aug. 3 during the Islendingadagurinn weekend.

As part of the 2nd Annual 5 Kilometre, 29th Annual Jan's Memorial One Mile Fun Run and 52nd Annual 10 Mile Road Race, participants will receive a digital race kit, a customdesigned medal or ribbon (one-mile

entrants), a chance to enter exclusive contests and purchase limited edition 2020 Islendingadagurinn race gear.

Race director Brett Lamoureux has also provided optional run routes in Gimli and Winnipeg with Icelandic significance.

"I'm really excited about this year's virtual run. It's a different format than we're used to, but runners will still get the chance to compete and take home one of our beautiful medals."

The Iceland Festival of Manitoba is grateful to all of its sponsors, participants and volunteers who will make

the running races a memorable part of their summer festival experience.

The 131st Islendingadagurinn will take place August long weekend virtually. Full details and event schedule to be released June 17. Visit icelandicfestival.com or follow @icelandicfestival on social media sites to keep informed of the latest news.

For more information, contact Brett Lamoureux at brett.lamoureux@ gmail.com or Kristine Sigurdson at 204-642-7417 or info@icelandicfestival.com.

> OWL, FROM PG. 15

there's not enough food for young, they won't survive as well," she said.

Biodiversity plays a huge role in the ecosystem and people's health and species' health that to lose one species can have major ripple effects in the ecosystem, Froese said as she explained what the imbalance caused by the decline in the owls' population could result.

"Some people may say 'Oh, it's just this little owl. Oh well, it's gone. It doesn't matter,' but it does. You don't know what can happen. They eat a lot of insects, a lot of small rodents, so then now those become more like a pest. So it's creating another issue in another area."

Since public funding for ecological projects has been cut from both provincial and federal government and because of COVID-19, the Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program had

to significantly scale back. In the last three seasons, they received only \$12,500 when before that, they have received approximately \$400,000 since the program started. This year, the program is running on \$15,000 from one private donation, Froese said.

"We can't do any education. We can't do any of the artificial nest burrows installs. We don't have money to survey, to go out, so it's all focused on reintroduction at this point.

"The thing with burrowing owls is that if there's no one helping them. They are not getting off the endangered species list ... and they won't be here anymore."

To learn more about the Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, go to http://www.mborp.ca/ and check their social media pages for updated information.

What's Your story?

We want to hear from you.

The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

Do you know someone who has a unique hobby? Will be recognized by a local organization for volunteer service? A teacher that goes above and beyond? A hometown hero? A sports star? A business celebrating a milestone or expansion? A senior celebrating their 100th birthday? A young entrepreneur starting out?

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



inspired **FamilyFoods**



Recipe courtesy of "Always Eat After 7

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 1 hour, 35 minutes

Servings: 6 6 sweet potatoes (8 ounces each) nonstick cooking spray

salt, to taste pepper, to taste

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds ground chuck
- 2 yellow onions, diced
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3 cups low-sodium beef broth 1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 can (15 ounces) butter beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 Anaĥeim chile, minced
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

Chili Loaded **Baked Potato**

Phone 467-5553

1/4 cup fresh cilantro leaves 1/4 cup red onion, minced Heat oven to 400 F. Line baking sheet or pan with parchment paper. Rinse and scrub sweet potatoes; pat dry with paper towel and pierce several times with fork or knife. Place in prepared pan. Lightly spray sweet potatoes with nonstick cooking spray and season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bake 45 minutes- 1 hour until tender when poked.

In pot, heat olive oil. Saute chuck until fully cooked. Drain fat and return to pot; add onion, garlic, chili powder, cumin, oregano, paprika and cayenne pepper. Reduce heat to medium-low and saute until onions are soft, about 10 minutes, stirring often.

Add broth, crushed tomatoes and vinegar to pot. Increase heat to high and bring to boil. Reduce to medium-low and simmer 10 minutes. Add butter beans, cilantro and chile; cook 5 minutes. Season with sea salt. Split potatoes lengthwise; fluff flesh with fork. Top evenly with chili, yogurt, cilantro leaves and red onion.

Rotini with Sausage and **Mushrooms**

Recipe courtesy of Sylvia Melendez-In large skillet, heat oil over medium Klinger, MS, RD, on behalf of the Grain heat. Cook sausage 2-3 minutes, Foods Foundation or until well browned. Add leeks, onions and mushrooms; cook until tender Add chicken stock and simmer 3-5 minutes, or until hot. Fold sausage mixture into warm pasta. Add parsley, tarragon and Romano cheese; toss again. Top with Parmesan-Romano cheese, if desired.

Prep time: 18 minutes Servings: 8 1 box (13 1/4 ounces) whole-grain rotini 1 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil 1 pound chicken sausage, sliced 1 cup leeks, thinly sliced 1 cup green onions, thinly sliced 2 cups mushrooms, sliced 1 cup chicken stock 1/4 cup parsley chopped 6 leaves from tarragon sprigs, chopped 1 cup Romano cheese grated Parmesan-Romano cheese (optional) Prepare rotini according to package

directions. Drain and transfer to large



Call 204-467-5836 to advertise



Dear Money Lady, The stock market is so crazy right now and I am afraid to keep investing in it. What do you think?

James

Dear James,

I understand your apprehension James however vou must remember that we have seen the markets do this many times in the past. It is important to remember that what goes down, always comes right back up when you are looking at the stock market throughout history. This truly is an unprecedented event that we are witnessing worldwide and although we currently see epic spikes in market volatility and a global stock market crash, I can guarantee this will indeed change.

When we find a cure for the Coronavirus (which we will) and things slowly get back to normal, there will be an enormous amount of pent up demand worldwide that will catapult our economy, business and commerce to higher highs than we saw before this crisis. Looking at the last hundred years, there are some facts that are just undeniable. The stock market is very "aggressive-reacting" and "regressive-reacting" which means it swings excessively to one side or the other, in like what seems like, breakneck speed. Knowing this, we have observed in the past that the market has endured countless wars, epidemics, major shocks, always managing to reach significantly new highs over time, than before a crisis, often with highs that we never thought possible. To put it bluntly, there may be a lot of money to be made here if you continue to invest when the market is

AsktheMoneyLady.ca

While we can't say that we are out of the continued downward trend of equity markets, the sharp sell offs will soon dissipate and as we have always witnessed in the past, markets will begin to rebuild. Talk to your advisor and see if this new market landscape is something you can take advantage of. This is the time to be buying good stock picks that are at record low prices and a great value. We don't want to be short sighted when investing for the future. Consider the longterm advantages of buying into the market at low price points to capitalize on future profit when the market turns again.

Here is a Trader's Tip: When you are looking to get into a very volatile, downward swinging market environment it is hard to know when it has bottomed out. Resist the urge to try and time the market. This is virtually impossible and extremely difficult even for the most experienced traders. If you do decide to buy in, and your portfolio goes down further just leave it. It will come back up. Do not be too greedy here and be going in and out. Often times, this causes a lot more stress, mental anguish and actual true losses. If you want to know when to really get in, it is said that a"Trader's Tip" is to buy in when the stock market has three full consecutive increasing days. This will mark a shift in the sell-off momentum and although it may go down a little later, it is usually viewed as sure sign of improvement and recovery.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,

Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of two new books, "Don't Panic - How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus" and "How to Retire Debt Free & *Wealthy*" available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: www.askthemoneylady.ca

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SDOPES& recreation INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Reimer nominated for Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy

The Carolina chapter of the Professional Hockey Writers Association announced last week that goaltender James Reimer has been selected as the Carolina Hurricanes' nominee for the 2019-20 Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy.

The Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy is awarded annually by the PHWA to the player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to ice hockey.

"Rather than become an afterthought in Carolina's crowded goaltending situation, the 32-year-old Reimer instead became a key part of the team's rotation," read a statement from the PHWA.

Reimer, a Morweena product, posted a 14-6-2 record with an impres-

sive 2.66 goals-against average and .914 save percentage to go along with three shutouts in his first season with Carolina.

Reimer was red hot in 2020 before the season was halted, going 6-0-2 in his last eight games.

Reimer, 32, is in his 10th NHL season and first with the Hurricanes. He was acquired from the Florida Panthers on June 30, 2019.

The Masterton Trophy honours the late Bill Masterton, the only NHL player to die from injuries sustained in a game.

First awarded in 1968, the Masterton Trophy is under the trusteeship of the PHWA. Members of the PHWA also vote on the NHL's first and second allstar teams as well as the Hart, Norris, Calder and Frank J. Selke trophies.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Morweena's James Reimer has been nominated for the 2019-20 Bill Masteron Memorial Trophy.

Manitoba junior golf championships receives a new sponsor

From Golf Manitoba's website

Golf Manitoba announced a new presenting sponsor for the July 12-14, 2020 Manitoba junior women's and junior men's provincial golf championships to be contested at Selkirk Golf & Country Club.

Starting this year, this annual event will be known as the Manitoba Junior Women's and Junior Men's Golf Championships presented by the Alex & Peggy Colonello Foundation.

In addition to recognizing the incredible support for Manitoba junior golf provided by the Alex & Peggy Colonello Foundation through the renaming of these events, we are very pleased to announce that there will be funding from the foundation towards subsidizing event entry fees in 2020 for all competitors.

For ages 12 and under athletes, entry fees will be reduced from \$140 to \$90. For 13 and older athletes, entry fees will be reduced from \$185 to \$120.

"We wanted to acknowledge and honour Mr. and Mrs. Colonello in the naming of these championships and we cannot think of a better way to recognize the contributions that they both had on our sport and also what the foundation will mean for the future of junior golf in Manitoba," said Jared Ladobruk, executive director of Golf Manitoba. "The naming of these championships are just one of many ways that their legacy will continue on in our golf community and will be a perpetual reminder of the commitment of the Colonellos to junior golf

in Manitoba. Reducing the entry fee for this season is consistent with the spirit of why Mrs. Colonello established the foundation and that is to increase accessibility and to promote junior golf participation at all levels. We are encouraged that this will help to achieve that outcome."

Additionally, the Golf Manitoba junior women's and junior men's bantam championships will also be renamed the Junior Women's and Junior Men's Bantam Championship, presented by the Alex & Peggy Colonello Foundation. The 2020 championships will be contested June 27 and 28 at the Portage Golf Club. Entry fees will also be subsidized by the foundation and reduced by \$50 per player.

In 2018 at the age of 94, Peggy Colo-

nello established the Alex & Peggy Colonello Foundation with a mandate to support junior golf in Manitoba. To support that endeavour, Mrs. Colonello created an endowment of \$3 million dollars that will aid in the development of junior golfers through grassroots golf initiatives and high-performance programming. Since 2019, the foundation has committed \$120,000 to junior golf programs including the Future Links Golf in Schools initiative, provincial junior women's and junior men's team development and the University of Manitoba Bisons women's and men's golf programs.

Registration for both the junior and bantam championships are now available at golfmb.ca.

MHSAA Return to Play statement

As the Province of Manitoba eases restrictions and reopens the economy in a phased approach, the benefits of reopening need to be balanced with the risks of increased COVID-19 transmission, said a statement on the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association's website on June 9.

"School sport activities have numerous physical, mental and emotional

health benefits," read the release. "As organized activities are beginning to be allowed to operate again, we need a thoughtful plan to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission."

The MHSAA's Return to Play plan aims to provide a safe return of school sport in Manitoba and is focused on the following three factors:

The Province of Manitoba has mandated each sport to establish a plan to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission between participants and spectators. The MHSAA is monitoring each provincial sport organization's Return to Play protocol status.

Consensus is needed from Manitoba Education and Training and all of Manitoba's school divisions on their state of readiness to move forward with extra-curricular activities, including school sport.

At a minimum, the Government of Manitoba's Restoring Safe Services: Phase 3 has been fully defined and comes into effect.

The MHSAA reminded member schools that all school sport activities, including all forms of training and practices are on hold until further notice.

"We are committed to protecting the health and safety of our student-athletes, staff, coaches, member-schools and the health of all of our fellow Manitobans."

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Arborg Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission

Employment Opportunity

Facility Manager Position:

Permanent year round position

Closing date: July 15, 2020 Commencement date: To be determined,

no later than September 1, 2020 Commensurate with experience.

The Arborg Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission is a municipal organization servicing the Town of Arborg, Municipality of Bifrost -Riverton, and central portion of the Interlake. The Recreation Commission offers diverse programming and activities throughout the year and operates the following facilities in Arborg: arena, outdoor aquatic centre, curling rink, community centre, parks, baseball and soccer fields.

Qualifications:

- The ideal candidate will possess a valid Power Engineers Certificate / Arena Operators Certificate. Consideration may be given to a suitable candidate willing to obtain the above qualifications.
- Outdoor pool maintenance certificate (or similar) or willingness and ability to obtain same.
- Diverse knowledge and experience in maintenance including but not limited to carpentry, electrical, plumbing and mechanical.
- Experience in operating and maintaining equipment such as ice resurfacer, curling ice scraper, lawn mowers, tractor, trimmers, power and hand tools.
- Knowledge and experience in the making and maintenance of arena
- Excellent written and oral communication skills with the proven ability to effectively communicate in dealings with the general public and co-workers.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision.

Desired: Proven experience in working in arena, pool, and other recreational facility environments. First Aid and CPR training.

Conditions of Employment:

- Must be legally entitled to work in Canada
- Must possess and maintain a valid Manitoba drivers' licence.
- Must be physically fit and capable of performing duties as assigned including heavy lifting of 50 pounds.
- Must be wiling and able to work days, evenings, weekends and statutory holidays as required in order to allow maximum use of
- Must be able to work outdoors in all weather conditions and in an arena environment.
- Must consent to and provide a satisfactory criminal records and child abuse registry check.

Duties:

Under the direction of the Arborg Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission, the Facility Manager will report directly to the Manager of Recreational Services. The candidate will ensure the safe and efficient operation of all recreation facilities (arena, aquatic centre, curling rink, community centre, baseball and soccer fields, and community parks, and ensure that all equipment is maintained and inspected for effective and efficient operation. Effective and respectful communication skills with spectators, coaches, players, staff and the general public is paramount.

Monthly reporting of facility operations and conditions to the Arbora Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission Board of Directors shall be

A probationary period of 6 months shall be established for this position. Apply to: Arborg Bifrost Parks & Recreation Commission Box 555, Arborg Manitoba, ROC 0A0

Attention: Selection Committee

For further information, contact Tom Chwaliboga - Manager of Recreational Services at 204-376-5576 or by email at tom.abprc@mymts.net.

When applying, please include a cover letter, resume detailing educational and prior job experience, along with three (3) relevant references, along with their contact information, as well as salary expectations. ABPRC thanks all who apply, and advises that only those selected for personal interviews will be contacted.

Sandblasting in the Interlake

- Metal resurfacing
- Rust removal
- Restoration projects

Wet or dry media available

Call or text Ryan 204-861-0114



204-467-5836

SUMMER

EMPLOYMENT

Riverdale Place

Workshop Inc.

REQUIRES A

SUMMER

STUDENT

To assist in the recycling department and

ground maintenance. Job description

available at the workshop. Position to

start July 2, 2020 to August 27, 2020.

A criminal record check is required.

Please drop off resume to the

workshop or send to:

Alex Janowner, Manager

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc.

Box 609 Arborg, MB. ROC 0A0

Phone/Fax 204-376-5584

Email riverdalew@mymts.net

EVERGREEN BASIC NEEDS

IS HIRING!

Full Time Store Clerk

30 hours per week

Full Time Warehouse Worker

30 hours per week

Full Time Cook's Assistant

30 hours per week

These positions are

Summer Student Partnerships

with Canada Summer Jobs Program

and the Manitoba Summer Student

Recovery Jobs Program

The program runs from July 2 until

August 28, 2020 and is open to

individuals aged 15 - 30

Send your resume Attention:

Elaine Gibbs indicating which position

you are applying for to:

ebnprograms@mymts.net or

drop off at 71 4th Ave Gimli

Student must be returning to school.

SCRAP METAL

Buying scrap metal, cars. tractors. combines, farm scrap, any metal material, any farm machinery. Ph Lonnie at 204-886-3407 Ive. message or cell at 204-861-2031.

Buyer for all farmyard scrap, any autos, appliances NO ITEM TOO LARGE! Best prices paid, cash in hand. Phone Alf at 204-461-1649.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak Place has 1 & 2 bedroom suites, located at 40 Eveline Street. Spacious suites, with F/S, A/C, storage areas and large balconies; utilities are included, parking is extra. Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg., river view apts. with central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABIL-ITY.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Lake lots \$32,900. Sand beach, no building time restrictions. Established area with cottages. Developer sellout of last lots. Sheldon, Royal LePage 204-371-5131. www.lake lifemanitoba.ca

GARAGE SALES

Moving out garage sale - 26 Westshore Rd., Lake Forrest Estates, Camp Morton. Saturday, June 20th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All Covid regulations apply.

HELP WANTED

Like working with wood and working close to home? 204 Pallet & Packaging in Stony Mountain is looking for full time production workers. Please call 204-344-5404 for details. MISCELLANEOUS

Is your business open?

Let people know! People want to know which businesses are open & operating. Use this window of opportunity to advertise & drive some revenues to yourself/your business right now! The Blanket Classifieds reach over 340,000 Manitoba homes weekly. For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Promote your online auctions, business changes, the need for staff, items for sale in a hurry, cancellations. Keep the people in the loop. The 41 weekly community newspa-pers can help. Call us at 204-467-5836 or email classified@ mcna.com for details. MCNA 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

MISCELLANEOUS

For sale: 2007 Ford Explorer Sport Trac Ltd., 4 dr., 4x4, 4 Itr. V6, good shape, \$4000; 2018 Cub Cadet snowblower, 420 cc, cab, shield, like new, \$1200. Ph 204-389-2127.

truckbeds Trailers, & tires. Full repair & safeties. Vehicle parts, tires & wheels. Vehicle & trailer parts & batteries. Sales, Financing & Leasing. Kaldeck Truck & Trailer Inc. Hwy #1, MacGregor, MB. 1-888-685-3127. www.kaldecktrailers.com

NOTICES

Urgent Press Release &/Media Advisories. The news never stops, and neither do we! We are assisting organizations, businesses, and the public in getting their messaging out about important news, changing operations, cancellations. etc. 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. or email classified@ mcna.com for details. www.mcna.com. We are here to help you.

EMPLOYMENT

Ashern Auction Mart has a casual position available in the office.

Starting in end of August, 2020 Must be able to work Tues and Wed Send resume to icca@mymts.net FMI contact Kirk 204-768-0019



(Part time with potential full time) Will train the right person,

*floral design experience *care & handling of flowers/plants *customer service *co-ordinate staff; purchasing

Mail resume to Box 1305 Arborg ROC 0A0, or drop off at Nic Nacs or Shachtays

ARBORG NIC NACS & FLOWERS **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

but any of the following is an asset:

*price events/ weddings

Or email to Susie@giftwares.ca

LIVESTOCK

Hereford bulls for sale. Semen tested and delivered. Also cow/calf pairs. Call Bob 204-372-6515.

Black and red Angus purebred yearling bulls for sale. Will deliver. Semen tested. Phone 204-383-5802 or 204-383-0100.

KLCC Charolais has polled purebred reaistered yearling bulls for sale. Semen tested. Delivery avail. For more information call Ken at 204-376-2418.

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Classifieds



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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Ashern Auction Mart is looking for a cook(s) to run the cafeteria for 2 days a week starting in August 2020. Hours of operations will vary. Excellent opportunity for individual(s) to start your own small business

FULL KITCHEN, APPLIANCES AND UTILITIES PROVIDED

For more information call: Buddy 204-768-0018 Kirk 204-768-0019 Lic. 1128

TENDER

Tenders are now being accepted for the **REMOVAL OF MANURE**

From the Ashern Auction Mart The contractor of the successful tender will be responsible for the removal of manure, hauling and piling of manure at a location of our choosing approx. 2 ½ miles from the auction mart.

Tenders to be received by June 30, 2020 (4 p.m.) Removal of manure to be done by August 1, 2020

For more info call Kirk at 204-768-0019 Interlake Cattlemen's Coop Assoc Ltd. Box 599, Ashern, MB. R0C 0E0

Fax: 204-768-3690 Email: icca@mymts.net License # 1128

The Express Weekly News Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication

Please Call 204-467-5836

LAND FOR SALE

Lundar- pasture land for sale - 2 quarters attached land for sale comes with 30 cow/calf pairs and 2 bulls iust put on pasture May 28th, Brand new fence. \$221,000. Phone 204-404-0431.

Arborg Bifrost-Riverton

Annual Public Meeting Monday, June 29th, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Community Development Corporation

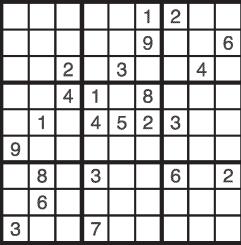
Riverton Curling Rink - 175 Reggie Leach Dr. Riverton, MB The mandate of the AB-RCDC is to foster the social and economic development of Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton. The public is invited to share their insights and suggest directional focus in that regard.

Dave Shott, Chair, AB-RCDC

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 stonewood elkranch@mymts.net

take a break > GAMES

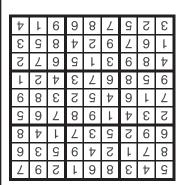


Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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



Sudoku Answer



Crossword Answer

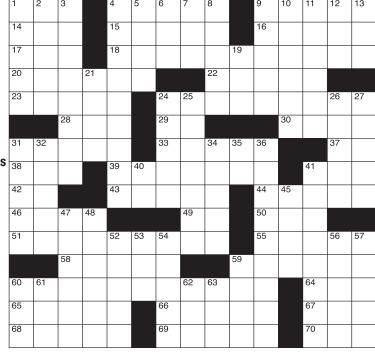
CROSSWOR

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Chess pieces
- 9. Pieces of writing
- 14. Doctors' group
- 15. Capital of Guam 16. Type of turtle
- 17. Swiss river
- 18. MLB Hall of Famer
- 20. Places to sit
- 22. Fancy rides
- 23. One of Washington's Tri-Cities 38
- 24. Without class
- 28. Male child
- 29. Keeps you cool
- 30. Biblical place
- 31. Italian city
- 33. District in central Turkey
- 37. Job for a grad student
- 38. Central nervous system
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. Witch
- 42. Promotional material
- 43. Having certain appendages
- 44. Approaches
- 46. One who did it (slang)
- 49. Of I
- 50. Blood relation
- 51. Works out
- 55. Female given name
- 58. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
- 59. Makes someone happy
- 60. Creative
- 64. Small. faint constellation
- 65. S. American trees
- 66. Makes simpler
- 67. Neither
- 68. We all need it
- 69. Unique plastic utensil
- 70. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Civil Rights group
- 2. Metropolis
- 3. Badgers



- 4. Regular business given to a store
- 5. Gets older
- 6. A bundle of banknotes
- 7. Midway between north and northwest
- 8. Takes to the sea
- 9. Prestigious film prize: d'or
- 10. Baltimore ballplayer
- 11. Removed
- 12. Term of respect
- 13. Genus containing pigs
- 19. Illumined
- 21. One who symbolizes something
- 24. Member of a Turkic people
- 25. The academic world
- 26. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- 27. Hang-ups
- 31. Long, leafless flower stalk

- 32. Categorize
- 34. Loads
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Unreasonable
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Dweller
- 45. Welsh female name meaning "snow"
- 47. Offering again
- 48. National capital
- 52. Firm, dry and brittle
- 53. 007's creator
- 54. Allied H.Q.
- 56. Mackerels
- 57. Month of the Hindu year
- 59. Not odd
- 60. Belonging to a thing
- 61. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 62. Religion
- 63. Equal, prefix



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MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON PUBLIC NOTICE

PURCHASE OF THREE GRADERS FOR \$1,455,000 PROPOSED BY-LAW NO. 3-2020

The Council of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton at its special meeting at the Council Chambers at 329 River Road, Arborg on the 25th day of June, 2020 at 5:00 PM will consider the following general borrowing proposal:

The Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton concluded the debenture of By-law 8-2015 that purchased the last three graders in 2018 and in the 2019 Financial Plan indicated within the 5-year capital plan that three new graders would be purchased in 2020. The total estimated cost of three John Deere 872 GP motor graders is \$1,455,000 plus taxes and levies estimated at \$98,410; with \$225,000 being borne from the 2020 General Fund, \$100,000 being borne by the Equipment Reserve, \$645,000 of trade-in value on the current three graders in inventory, and \$583,410 to be borrowed. The general borrowing was included in the 2020 Financial Plan under Section 162 of The Municipal Act. The maximum anticipated interest rate on borrowing is 4.5% with a quoted interest rate of 2.29% on a five-year term with a fixed interest rate and first payment made October 1, 2021. The maximum annual payments of \$132,895.92 will have an estimated rate of taxation of 0.632 Mills.

At this time, Council will consider this by-law for First reading.

Further information/inquiries/copies of the proposal are available at the municipal office located at 329 River Road in Arborg, MB.

Dated at the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton this 11th day of June, 2020, and issued pursuant to Section 174.1 (1) of The Municipal Act.

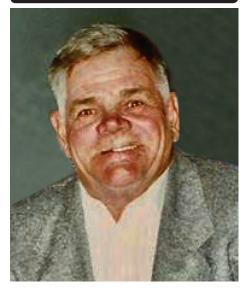
Jordan Willner **Chief Administrative Officer Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton**

CARD OF THANKS

the many Interlakers, our BelIMTS colleagues and Stonewall Flyer teammates, we would like to thank everyone who took time out of their day to send us a message or a card and to those who came to visit or called us on the phone to offer condolences related to the recent passing of our brother Dwayne.

-Blair and Randy Swanson

IN MEMORIAM



In loving memory of our Dad and Afi **Baldur Bergman** July 4, 1930 - June 17, 2019

I thought of you today, But that is nothing new; I thought about you yesterday, And days before that too. I think of you in silence, I often speak your name; All I have are memories, And your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake, From which I'll never part; God has you in His arms, I have you in my heart.

-Love always your family

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Date Change: June 27, 2020 Arden, Manitoba

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204 476 6262 Or visit

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Engineering certificate required.

Résumé with (3) references to pssd@prspirit.org Deadline Noon, July 3rd, 2020

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CARD OF THANKS

Grogan - We would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped us in giving Tony a proper send

First, to the Dr's and nursing staff at Selkirk General. The care and compassion you showed to both Mum and Dad in his last week, will be remembered. Difficult through the best of times, you went over and above during this pandemic. We sincerely thank you.

To Father Barry, The St. John Vianney ladies, and Kenny Loehmer. Thank you for taking care of the details we wouldn't and couldn't possibly have thought of.

To Don, Jim, Barrie and Marty. Thank you for being his honorary pallbearers - he would have been so pleased.

For over 30 years, Cam Ballantyne, you have piped us through all of our family celebrations. You can't know how very special it was to us that you honoured Dad by playing for him one last time. Don Rennicks, we cannot tell you how grateful we are to you for your friendship with Dad. You have been a great friend. He loved you dearly.

Thank you to everyone who bravely attended the funeral. These are unusual times - we appreciate all who were present to stand in support.

To Mum and Dads neighbours, thank you so very much for allowing us to block off your homes in order to safely hold the come-and-go on Wednesday. You have all been so wonderful and supportive. And Beth, thank you for all you do.

We appreciate everyone who dropped off meals, baking, and various platters. We likely would have forgotten to eat if you hadn't.

To everyone who popped by in the afternoon - Thank You! It was comforting to us, and truly helped to provide a small measure of closure. The laughs were many.

Lena and Gwen - you were his girls. Knowing that you were successful in playing a practical joke on him, when we all failed - will give us many years of gleeful satisfaction.

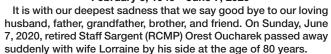
And finally, to all of you who could not be with us on Wednesday, but have taken the time to leave a virtual card on the obituary site, call, write, post, text or email - we thank you. Your stories of Dad bring us comfort and make us laugh.

Appropriately, they say laughter is the best medicine. Dad obviously believed that - and he was

-Renate, Alastair, Peter and Marion.

OBITUARY

Orest Oucharek February 6, 1940 - June 7, 2020



Orest joined the RCMP in 1961, Training "N" Division, and later posted; 1962 Peace River, 1962 Grande Prairie, 1963 Spirit River, 1967 Div S.I.B "A" Section, 1969 Calgary Security & Intel., 1972 Ottawa Security Services, then to Manitoba 1975 Carberry, 1978 Lynn Lake, 1980 Lundar, 1987 "D" Div Readers, 1989 Gimli, 1994 retired and remained in Gimli. His long and illustrious career with the RCMP was however, his second choice. Orest first studied at Teachers College in Saskatchewan, and it was only while walking home after his first practicum experience with a class full of Grade 2 students that he stopped by the recruiting center.

Orest and wife Lorraine were married in Grande Prairie 1963 and raised two boys, Greg (wife Jo-Anne) and Robb (wife Carole), and loved caring for grandchildren Mitchell, Andrew, Nicole, and Kally. Although his career saw the family move on a regular basis,

these opportunities to become involved in each community as a coach, mentor, teammate and friend gave rise to an extended second family that always had him surrounded with love. He has touched the lives of many people and will be dearly missed.

A poem, Heart of Gold (author unknown) clipped and saved by Lorraine is a sentiment to the man we loved:

> A heart of gold stopped beating, Hardworking hands went to rest. God took you home to prove to us. He only takes the best. We will always remember the way you looked, The way you walked and smiled, All the things you did for us Will be with us all the while. You lived your life for those you loved, Your children taught and grown, He called to you to come and dwell, Where no more work is done.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the first responders, RCMP members, and individuals who came to the aid of Orest and Lorraine near Selkirk on June 7th. Your selfless efforts are greatly appreciated.

A Funeral Service, supported by the RCMP Veterans Association, is planned to be held in Gimli at some time in the future when public gatherings are opened up again.

In lieu of gifts or flowers, we request donations be made to the Manitoba Children's Wish

This obituary may also be viewed at www.neilbardalinc.com.



204-949-2200 Gimli 204-642-7124 neilbardalinc.com

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