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2025



Union warns of threat to rural postal jobs

By Patricia Barrett

After a recent Industrial Inquiry Commission (IIC) report recommended lifting a 31-year moratorium on rural post office closures, a post office in the Interlake and its union want to raise awareness that changes to rural postal service could be on the horizon.

Oakview postmaster Beverly Brasted and assistant Robert Brasted, whose post office lies 30 kilometres southwest of Ashern, are concerned future rural mail service could be negatively affected depending on whether Canada Post follows the IIC's recommendations.

"The report suggested that Canada Post could close their rural post offices, which there are quite a few of," said Robert, a Canada Post employee who runs the Oakview Post Office with his wife, Beverly, who's been postmaster for 56 years. "Canada Post hasn't said they will close rural post offices, but our union, the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) [Manitoba branch], is trying to make everyone aware of

what this report says and the possibility that a lot of people could be without delivery."

After the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) staged a month-long strike last November that disrupted national mail service and cost the economy about \$1 billion, Canada Post commissioned the IIC report.

The IIC was established in December 2024 by the federal labour minister to examine Canada Post's competitiveness, financial health and need to diversify or change delivery models. Commissioner William Kaplan released his report in mid-May.

Kaplan wrote that Canada Post is facing an "existential crisis" and is "effectively insolvent." His recommendations are intended to preserve Canada Post as a "vital national institution."

Among them, he said Canada Post could lift the moratorium on rural post office closures, in place since 1994, and allow the Crown corporation to potentially close or franchise

Continued on page 7



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Museum denies pursuing Poplarfield church without support

By Lana Meier

The chair of the Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village says recent media coverage about the possible relocation of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church from Poplarfield to the Arborg museum misrepresents the museum's role and has harmed its reputation.

In a written statement addressed to *The Express Weekly News*, board chair Pat Eyolfson said she was "deeply disappointed" that the museum was not contacted for comment prior to the June 19 article, which reported community concerns about efforts by members of the Ledohowski fam-

ily to have three Poplarfield churches moved to the Arborg museum.

"The article implies that we are actively pursuing historic churches from Poplarfield against the community's wishes," wrote Eyolfson. "This is categorically false and misleading."

She said the museum never initiates transfers or pursues buildings but is sometimes approached by community members, descendants or organizations when a building is no longer sustainable in its current location.

"In the case of St. Nicholas Church, we were also approached — as were members of the Poplarfield community — and we made it clear from the

outset that we would not be involved unless the broader community supported it," Eyolfson said. "We are not, and never have been, in the business of 'taking' anything from anyone."

Eyolfson also addressed references in the article to a previous attempt to move the Arnes Lutheran Church to the museum, saying the museum received a formal letter from the church's board of directors requesting the move. She said this context was omitted from the article and that the museum would never consider relocating a building without proper authorization and community consultation.

"This situation has now grown well beyond reason," Eyolfson wrote. "No one can simply 'take' a church — especially one as historically significant as those in Poplarfield. Legal processes, property rights and board permissions are essential and non-negotiable."

The museum, which has operated for over 26 years, is a designated Manitoba Star Attraction and includes preserved pioneer buildings and artifacts from across the Interlake.

"The Arborg & District Multicultural Heritage Village exists solely to preserve the cultural heritage and stories of this region," Eyolfson wrote.



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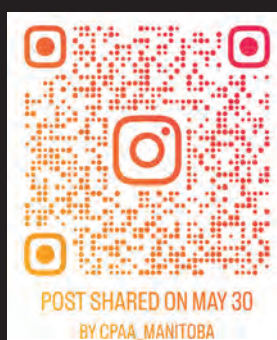
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letter to the editor

Lack of engagement leaves key decisions to a few

To the editor:
It's time for Winnipeg Beach residents to get more involved.
I attended the June 19 budget meet-



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ing at the Rec Centre and was surprised to see only about 20 people in attendance. After the presentation, just one person — myself — got up to speak.


I urged council, the mayor and the CAO to show more restraint in their spending. I spoke for four minutes about my concerns but walked away feeling as though my words fell on deaf ears.

We all want Winnipeg Beach to thrive, but we need to focus our limited resources on essential services — roads, lagoon upgrades and maintaining our crumbling asphalt streets. Instead, we're pouring money into equipment purchases, subsidizing the Rec Centre and curling rink, and beautifying downtown. These may have value, but they come at a cost that taxpayers are shouldering.

Council has pointed to previous administrations as the reason for the current tax increases, but it's this council that is making the spending decisions now.

It's not enough to complain when tax bills arrive. Resi-

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The Express Weekly News Thursday, July 3, 2025 **5**

dents need to attend budget meetings, ask questions and consider putting their names forward in the next election. When I ran for mayor 25 years ago, four people ran for mayor and eight for council. Now, positions are filled by acclamation.

We need leadership that understands the value of a budget — and the importance of living within our means.

Sincerely, Mike Halabura
Winnipeg Beach




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Fisher council balances low taxes with rising costs

By E. Antonio

The Rural Municipality of Fisher has approved its 2025 financial plan with a municipal budget of just over \$3.2 million, prioritizing road reconstruction, equipment maintenance and long-term capital planning while keeping a balanced bottom line.

Council adopted the budget by resolution earlier this year, projecting total municipal expenditures of \$3,236,383, up from \$2.66 million in actual spending last year. The plan includes an allocation of \$314,882 to reserves, a notable increase from the \$222,261 set aside in 2024.

Reeve Shannon Pyziak said council worked to create a budget that includes reasonable increases for rate-payers while addressing the rising costs of municipal services.

"We are one of the lowest tax bases in the region. We would like to keep it that way, but we also want to support growth in our municipality — encouraging people to live here, work here and play here."

Transportation services remain the largest expense, with a total budget of \$1.37 million dedicated to roads, gravel, drainage, snow removal and hamlet infrastructure. Road construction and maintenance alone account for more than \$640,000.

Among the municipality's top priorities this year is the gravel program, with \$370,000 budgeted. Pyziak noted the RM is responsible for more than 800 miles of roads, many of which require regular repairs and maintenance to remain safe year-round.

"The continually rising costs of products, repairs, equipment and services — especially in the last five years — has been a challenge for the RM," she added, noting the municipality has managed the increased costs without incurring a deficit.

Capital spending this year totals \$277,200, covering infrastructure projects, computer upgrades and facility improvements. Highlights include \$141,000 for municipal infrastructure, \$60,000 for a new public works shop, and \$18,000 toward fire department breathing apparatus.

The RM will also draw \$175,000 from reserves to support the overall financial plan.

On the revenue side, the RM anticipates \$1.12 million in transfers and other income, including \$251,000 in basket funding and over \$180,000 in road and infrastructure grants. The tax levy will generate the remaining required municipal revenue, reduced general municipal mill rate, from 17.026 to 15.530, due to a provincial assessment increase.

The Local Urban District of Fisher Branch has adopted its own 2025 budget of \$162,300, with a projected tax levy of \$157,100. That figure is based on a taxable assessment of \$14.34 million and reflects a mill rate increase from 9.986 to 10.955.

Spending priorities include transportation services, recreational programming and beautification efforts. The LUD also plans to transfer \$5,000 to reserves and has budgeted \$2,500 for community grants and scholarships.

The Fisher Branch utility is forecasting revenues and expenditures of \$315,110, with a \$50,000 transfer to utility reserves. No new borrowing or debenture debt charges are budgeted in 2025 for either the general or utility funds.

The RM's five-year capital plan outlines nearly \$2 million in future infrastructure needs, including graders, water tankers and facility expansions. All projects are planned to be funded through reserves, grants or municipal

operating funds.

The municipality reported no deficit carryovers and continues to maintain a balanced budget approach in both its general and utility operations.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$141,000 – municipal infrastructure upgrades
- \$60,000 – public works shop
- \$18,000 – fire department breathing apparatus
- \$35,000 – tank removal at municipal yard
- \$12,000 – well building improvements

Future capital priorities (2026–2030):

- Two graders – \$400,000 each (2026 and 2028)
- Public works garage and office – \$60,000 (2026)
- Backhoe (used) – \$100,000 (2028)
- Land for sewer – \$297,000 (2026)
- Office extension, trailers, trucks and water tanker — among other listed items totalling \$1.9 million over five years

Reserve funding: The RM plans to draw from reserves and continue contributions toward capital needs without relying on new debt in 2025.

Correction

Staff

In the article "Get crackin' — Gimli Lobsterfest returns July 5," published in last week's *Express Weekly News*, we misstated the day of the week of the event. It is scheduled for Saturday, July 5. The *Express* apologizes for the error.

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Lana Meier 204-292-2128
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PHONE 204-467-5836
FAX 204-467-2679

OUR EDITORIAL STAFF

Patricia Barrett -
Reporter/Photographer
Cell 204-407-6099 patricia@expressweeklynews.ca

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them.

"The moratoriums on rural post office closures and community mailbox conversions should be lifted. There is no persuasive case for a moratorium on closure of once-rural, now-urban post offices. Canada Post already has the Delivery Accommodation Program in place. ... It should be reviewed and, if need be, enhanced," Kaplan wrote.

Brasted said closing post offices like Oakview's would negatively affect residents and businesses. Not only would they lose local access to service, but rural communities would also lose stable jobs and local economic activity. Seniors and residents with physical challenges would be hit especially hard.

"My wife and I are the type of people who want to serve our area here. We have 54 old-fashioned boxes — we sort the mail into boxes and hand it to residents. We know who everyone is," said Brasted. "People depend on us. The closest town is Ashern, 30 kilometres away. That's a long drive, especially for seniors and retirees. It would be tough."

Oakview handles a fair amount of parcel business and bill payments by mail, he added.

CPAA is Canada Post's second-largest bargaining union, representing over 8,500 employees managing rural post offices. The union recently signed a new three-year collective agreement with Canada Post. It includes retroactive and future wage increases, a lump-sum payment, increases to allowances and the creation of a childcare fund, according to a June 19 notice on CPAA's website.

Janet Johnson, president of CPAA's Manitoba branch, said the union wants to ensure rural Canadians understand the vital role CPAA members play.

"We are the heart and soul of mail delivery in our rural communities," said Johnson. "We are the front line of Canada Post. We've been serving rural Canada since 1902 and will continue to stand strong."

Johnson said many small post offices are "struggling to survive" due to cuts to service hours and the fact that postmasters must provide a physical post office — often part of their own homes.

She's concerned rural post offices could be replaced with franchises or community mailboxes that don't meet the same service standards.

"Reducing service is essentially putting the final nail in the coffin for some communities," said Johnson. "Canada Post has said that a post office lobby box remains the cheapest and most effective delivery mode for

rural Canadians."

While there's been no word on possible changes in Manitoba, Johnson said the union has heard Canada Post may be eyeing Saturday closures and reduced hours elsewhere.

"CPAA and Canada Post have a good working relationship in Manitoba, and we strive to keep it that way," she said.

She encourages rural residents to reach out to municipal, provincial and federal representatives to voice concerns. Rural postal delivery includes more than letter mail — people rely on it for medication, machine parts, groceries and essentials.

"We understand changes are needed for Canada Post to continue serving all Canadians, and we will work with them," Johnson said. "But we will continue to be the heartbeat of rural Canada."

The Express asked Canada Post whether it plans to close rural post offices and what factors it would consider. Media relations spokesperson Lisa Liu said the corporation is still reviewing the IIC recommendations.

"The IIC report outlines the significant financial challenge we face and proposes recommendations to help secure the future of Canada Post," she said. "We continue to review the recommendations and have no further plans to share at this time."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY CANADA POST
A Canada Post delivery vehicle is shown on the Prairies.

Brasted said that although no decisions have been made, people concerned about losing their post office should speak out.

Residents and businesses in the Oakview area can contact the RM of West Interlake, provincial MLA Derek Johnson (Interlake-Gimli) and federal MP James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman) to voice support for Canada Post's rural service.

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The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPI) has filed the 2026 General Rate Application before the Public Utilities Board (Board) for approval of Basic Autopac vehicle insurance rates and premiums effective on April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

For further details, please contact MPI at inquiries@mpi.mb.ca or visit the Board's website at www.pubmanitoba.ca.

A public hearing on the proposed rate application will be held beginning:

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025
at 9 a.m.**

Please view the hearing via the PUB website link.

If you are interested in learning more about this rate application, you are encouraged to attend the hearing, observe the hearing via live streaming, or provide your perspectives through the Board's online comment tool.

If you wish to speak at the hearing or make a written submission, please contact the Board Secretary, Dr. Darren Christle at 204-945-2638 or toll free 1-866-854-3698, no later than **September 30, 2025**.

For more information, visit www.pubmanitoba.ca.

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Red River Métis honoured



EXPRESS PHOTO BY GLORIA THOMAS

Gimli Red River Métis graduates were awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment and a traditional sash by the Manitoba Métis Federation and Gimli Red River Métis executives, vice-chair Gloria Thomas and treasurer Kim Karish. From left: Brooke Bardarson, Ava Berthaudin, Eastyn Bochoruka, Thomas Borlase, Mitchell Clarke, Chris Desimpelaere-Johnson, Sophie Flasha, Ethan Gatchell, Olivia Harapiak, Jayden Harms-Romaniuk, Rylen Lindell, Jilian Mozdzen, Joree Rusak-Chambers and Maria Ksionzek.



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Gimli Evergreen Library open house this Saturday

By Patricia Barrett

The Evergreen Regional Library's Gimli branch is holding an open house this Saturday and is inviting people to step in to learn what's on offer from the literary world and the variety of services the library offers to the public.

The open house will feature local artist Veronica Green, who will be discussing her children's corner murals.

The open house will be held on Saturday, July 5 at 1 p.m. at the Gimli Library at 65 First St., north of the Lakeview Resort. Light refreshments will be provided.



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ARBORG

GRADUATION 2025

Arborg Collegiate's 2025 grads running at their own pace to the future

By Patricia Barrett

Arborg Collegiate's 18 graduates took to the stage at the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall where they fondly recalled some of the highlights of their high school years, took to heart some words of wisdom and were presented with a number of scholarships to help speed them on their way to a bright future.

Hundreds of family members and friends packed the hall for the school's graduation celebration on June 24.

Valedictorians Ava Smolinski and Willian Caldeira spoke about how their high school years passed in the blink of an eye, and despite their classmates having different personalities and interests, they were able to come together and work as a team.

Smolinski called her fellow grads "amazing" and said that they've never ceased to surprise her.

"We grew up alongside each other. We've learned to deal with different personalities and different ways that people live their lives. And with that, I think we taught ourselves a better lesson than any class could have.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

Eighteen graduates from Arborg Collegiate celebrated their milestone on June 24 at the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall, surrounded by family, friends and community members during a heartfelt ceremony.

You're not always going to get along with everyone. You won't see eye-to-eye, but when you know how to navigate around that and still see the good in everyone — like I know this class does — you will get along just fine out there in the real world," said Smolinski. "We were always able to come together when it mattered, whether it was a spirit-week activity or pushing Mr. P to delay the bio test a cou-

ple more days so we could study. We have always had each other's backs."

Caldeira told his fellow graduates that the memories they made together will live on as they head in new directions and find their way in the world.

"Standing up here, I can't help but think that the most important lesson we learned was not how to hand-in everything last minute so Stadnek ripped his hair out. It wasn't learning

how to factor binomials quickly with Simundson," said Caldeira. "But the most important lesson was that no matter how much time has passed, the roar of laughter and mountains of memories we made will stick to us ... and take up space in our heads."

Smolinski reminded the grads that none of them "could have gotten to where we are without the constant love and support that our parents

Continued on page 10

Congratulations to this year's graduating class!

We wish you all the best as you begin the next chapter.



Congratulations Class of 2025!

Derek Johnson

MLA for Interlake-Gimli

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InterlakeGimliMLA@gmail.com

Congratulations

• CLASS OF •

2025



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> ARBORG, FROM PG. 9

gave us, so we thank you and appreciate you so much more than you know."

The grads' guest speaker, teacher Scott Stadnek, took them through a final literature lesson, using Aesop's Fables' Tortoise and the Hare as a pedagogical tool. Although some of the grads are "always ready to go and come flying out of the gate" while others "live and die by the adage, slow and steady wins the race," they should remember three things as they travel through life.

The first is to stop and smell the roses as they make their "mad dash" to meeting their future goals. Second, they should maintain a "tortoise level" of determination and focus, and try not to get distracted, especially by their phones.

"The hare had it all — speed, flair, maybe even a sneaker deal," said Stadnek. "He should have won the race, but he lost focus."

Third, the grads should run and watch their own race, not the races they see on social media platforms.

"Did [the tortoise] stop to check his phone halfway through the race to see how the hare was doing? No. Was he thinking, 'Should I be going faster? Should I be more exciting? Should I be live-streaming this with a #Shell-

Cam?' No. He just kept going," said Stadnek. "Why? Because everything in life doesn't need to be a highlight reel. The tortoise ran his race at his speed, with a quiet confidence, and he didn't feel the need to post about it."

Principal Brad Harding said he has been in his role with Arborg Collegiate for only a year, but he knows most of the graduates as they came up through the ranks from Arborg Early Middle School.

"I had the privilege of getting to know most of you during your years at Arborg Early Middle School. I've watched you grow from curious and energetic young children into the thoughtful, capable and courageous young adults sitting before us today. And let me tell you, it has been an absolute gift to witness your journey."

Harding congratulated the grads for achieving a major milestone and told them they made him proud. The grads met the collegiate's mission to provide relevant learning and promote responsibility, respect and success. The grads embraced responsibility through their studies and by helping others. They practised respect for their peers, teachers, themselves and their communities. And they achieved success through academic, athletic and artistic accomplishments.




The Governor General medal was presented to Susan Marks by Principal Brad Harding.

Evergreen School Division superintendent Scott Hill told the grads they're about to enter a complicated and challenging world, and they can draw on the lessons they learned throughout high school.

"You're stepping into a complicated world, but you're ready to use what you've learned here to create something, to challenge ideas, to lead with clarity and to do something good in the world," said Hill. "We'll be cheering for you every step of the way. Congratulations class of 2025. Go make us proud."

After the speeches, Harding present-

Continued on page 11



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Today we're celebrating you, graduates!
Congratulations on this milestone achievement and all of the accomplishments you've worked for along the way.

Remember that the best is yet to come, so enjoy your special day, and please celebrate responsibly!

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Vidir Solutions is a fully integrated tech and manufacturing company that provides automated material handling solutions in every industry and in over 45 countries around the world. Operating out of Manitoba's Interlake region, Vidir believes strongly that education elevates excellence and that community creates meaning, and therefore are proud to provide scholarships to local students going into a variety of fields. This year, Rylan Mott is the recipient of the Vidir Grow Our Own Scholarship of \$1,000 for his pursuit of engineering in University. Natalie McGill and William Caldeira are each recipient of the Vidir HERO's scholarship and have received \$1,000 each towards their pursuit of graphic design and engineering respectively. Congratulations Rylan, Natalie, and William!



ARBORG

GRADUATION 2025

> ARBORG, FROM PG. 10

ed graduate Susan Marks with the prestigious Governor General's medal for academic excellence. Marks had achieved an outstanding grade point average in grades 11 and 12.

Local and area businesses, the legion, Evergreen School Division,

post-secondary institutions, family endowments, service clubs, the municipalities of Arborg and Bifrost-Riverton and other generous donors provided several graduates with awards and bursaries to help them pursue their future educational dreams.

To see the grads on their way, family, friends and other residents applauded and cheered them on during their parade through town.



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2025 Arborg Collegiate Graduate Awards & Scholarships

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Calvin Buehlmann - Arborg Family Dental Award (\$500), Icelandic River Health Clinic (\$1000), Arborg Legion Ladies Auxiliary #161 Award (\$500), University of Manitoba Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship (\$2000)
Willian Caldeira - Town of Arborg Award (\$500), Vidir Solutions Inc. Scholarship (\$1000)
Noah Friesen - Interlake Co-Op Scholarship (\$300), Evergreen School Division Award (\$500), Steinbach Bible College Academic Entrance Award (\$1000)
Madison Howell - Arborg Agricultural Society Award (\$500), CUPE Local 3164 Award (\$500), Interlake Co-Op Scholarship (\$300), Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship (\$500), Tracy Smolinski Memorial Award (\$500), ESD Sophomore University Scholarship (\$1500), Friederici Farms Agriculture & Healthcare Scholarship (\$1000), Sylvia & Maurice Sigurdson Bursary (\$200), University of Manitoba Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship (\$2000), Horatio Alger Canadian Scholar Award
Dainen Jacobson - ESD Trade and Technical Vocational Scholarship (\$1500), Arborg Ice Dawgs Award (\$250), Great Plains Mobile Repair Trades Bursary (\$500)
Jaxon Loewen - Phillip Bauernhuber Memorial Scholarship (\$250), Donald Bjornson Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
Susan Marks - Rotary Club of Gimli Scholarship (\$500), Evergreen School Division Award (\$500), Arborg Legion Ladies Auxiliary #161 Award (\$500), ARBC Band Boosters Scholarship (\$250), University of Manitoba Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship (\$2000), Chown Centennial (\$1000)
Ty Plett - University of Manitoba Guertin Centennial Entrance Scholarship (\$2000), Margrét Bjarnason Memorial Scholarship, Canada Iceland Foundation (\$800)
Athena Sigurdson - Derek Johnson Citizenship Scholarship (\$200)
Ava Smolinski - Association for Community Living Arborg Scholarship (\$250), Susan Bauernhuber Healthcare Award (\$250), Quarry Physiotherapy, Part of the InMotion Network Scholarship (\$500)
Carissa Stefanson - Municipality of Bifrost Riverton Scholarship (\$400)



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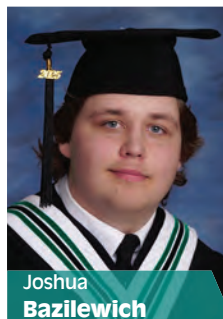
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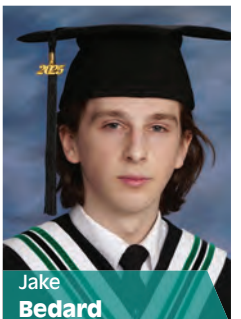
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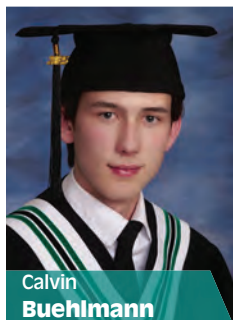
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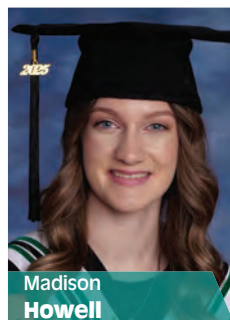
Willian Caldeira



Noah Friesen



Jace Hjorleifson



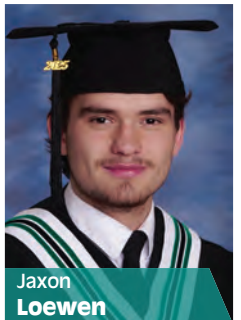
Madison Howell



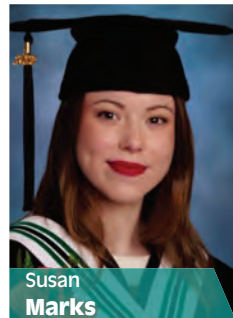
Dainen Jacobson



Sabrina Jarkas



Jaxon Loewen



Susan Marks



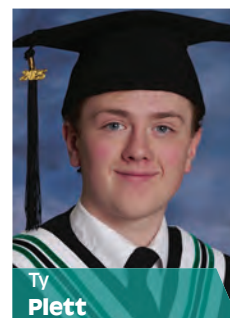
Chad McIntyre



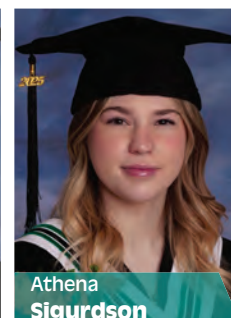
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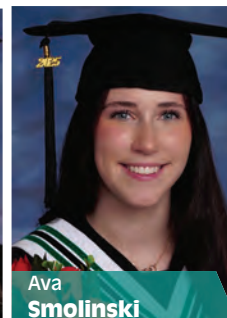
Thomas Platt



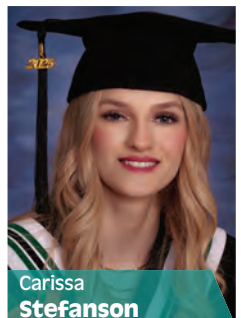
Ty Plett



Athena Sigurdson



Ava Smolinski



Carissa Stefanson

Twenty grads celebrated under sunny skies at Lundar School

By Jennifer McFee

Congratulations are in order for Lundar School's class of 2025. On Wednesday, June 25, the community gathered at the school for an outdoor ceremony to celebrate the 20 graduates. The sunny day mirrored the upbeat atmosphere of the milestone event.

After the procession of graduates, principal Lawrence Grzenda shared some meaningful words with the class.

"I am sure you have experienced a range of feelings in the last 24 hours, last week and last few months of your high school career," he said. "This is common as you go through a life-changing event, which high school graduation is one."

He encouraged the grads to take a moment to notice all the people sitting before them, including family members, friends, peers and community members.

"They are here to see you, support you and celebrate with you. These people are your people," he said.

"They are the ones to help you, guide you and people you can rely on as you move into the next phase of your life. Remember that this group of people care for you."

He stressed the importance of being aware of decisions and their impact. As the principal of the small rural school, Grzenda said he had a front-row seat to all types of decisions, ranging from those that were well-reasoned to others that were impulsive or downright ridiculous.

"In a way, the first 17 to 18 years of your life is a test ground for practising making decisions. Think about it — at some point, your parents finally let you decide what clothes you wear to an event. Later on, you choose if you want a summer job or just want to relax," he said.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARAH DESJARLAIS

Congratulations to Lundar School's Class of 2025!

"You have had years of reflecting back and learning from these decisions, repeating some and altering others. As far as I can tell, living is making one decision after another. Whether it is your diet, occupation, hobbies or taste in music, you will be forever making decisions. Even not making a decision is a decision."

With an air of optimism, Grzenda reminded the graduates to not fret about these endless choices.

"You will have your successes and you will have failures. Celebrate the ones you get right. Learn from the decisions you get wrong," he said.

"My wish for you is to be true to yourself. Know what you want and go chase it. Make decisions that empower you to attain your goal. If you do this, you will have a chance to find happiness in life."

Board chair Donny Thorkelson delivered greetings and a congratulatory message on behalf of the Lakeshore School Division.



Jasmine Arstall won the Governor General's award for having the highest academic average of all Grade 11 and 12 courses.



Andrew Miller and Sigga Vigfusson served as valedictorians.

Then valedictorians Andrew Miller and Sigga Vigfusson reflected on memories and hopes for the future with their fellow classmates.

The graduates' achievements were further recognized through the presentation of diplomas, scholarships and awards.

Jasmine Arstall earned the Governor General's bronze medal award, which goes to the student with the highest academic standing based on the average of all Grade 11 and 12 courses. She graduated with an impressive overall average of 94.4 per cent.

The event wrapped up with a heartfelt rose ceremony in which the graduates gifted roses to special people who have made a difference in their lives.

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Congrats to all 2025 Graduates!

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GRADUATION 2025



Samantha Thorgilsson hardwork won her many awards and scholarships.

Lundar Collegiate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

Andrew Miller - Allan Forsyth Foundation Scholarship \$500, Brendan Moman Memorial Scholarship \$500, Coldwell Lundar Community Foundation's Cal & Dorothy Bennett Memorial Scholarship \$500, Derek Johnson Citizenship Scholarship \$200, Eriksdale Legion Bursary \$500, Eriksdale Legion Scholarship \$1000, Eriksdale Metis Association, Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book, Kyle Spalding Memorial Scholarship \$500, Lakeshore Teachers' Association Scholarship \$500, Lundar School Scholarship \$250, One Insurance Bursary \$500, Furniture Design Technology Medal, Woodwork Technology Medal

Carter Sweetland - Al Hummel Memorial Scholarship \$500, Lundar Legion Scholarship \$500

Samantha Thorgilsson Coldwell Community Foundation Inc. Scholarship \$500, Fjola Johnson Scholarship \$2000, Grettir Co-Operative Amateur Athletic Association Scholarship \$200, Interlake Co-Op Scholarship \$500, Lundar School Scholarship \$250, Ela Transactional Medal

Jayden Cramp - David Sigfusson Memorial Scholarship \$500, Goose Shoot Scholarship \$500

Jasmine Arstall - Ela Comprehensive Medal, Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book, Governor-General's Bronze Medal Award Medal, Psychology Medal

Cash Kinhead - Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book

Anastasia Koch - Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book

Gina Paul - Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book

Ashton Bishop - Eriksdale Municipal Heritage Advisory Scholarship History Book

Laila Mason - Gord Johnson Memorial Scholarship \$500, Lundar Legion Scholarship \$500

Sigga Vigfusson - Goose Shoot Scholarship \$500, Gudjon Johnson Memorial Scholarship \$1000, Lundar Legion Scholarship \$500

Carter Sweetland - Lundar Legion Scholarship \$500, Marla Bonwick Scholarship \$100

Easton Einarson - Applied Math Medal, Biology Medal, Chemistry Medal, Human Ecology Medal

Emma Leonoff - World Of Religions Medal

Austin Harrison - World Of Religions Medal

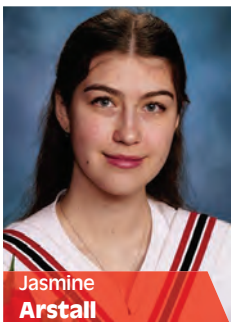
Jazmyne Saunders - Foods And Nutrition 40s Medal

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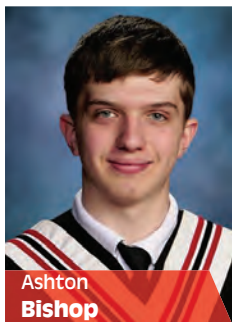
**Congratulations
to all the
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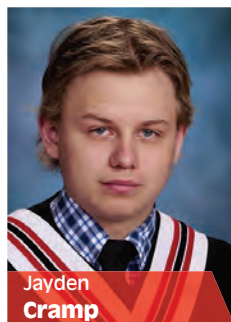
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Arstall



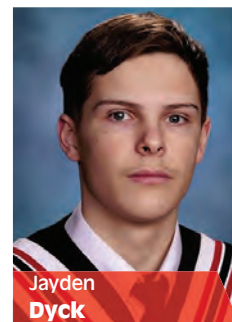
Ashton
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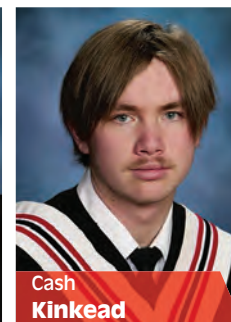
Jayden
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Jayden
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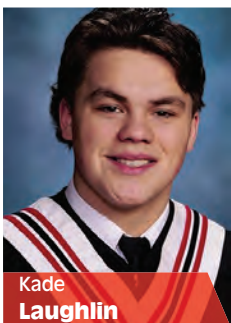
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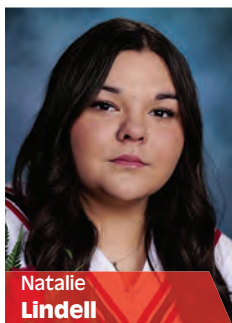
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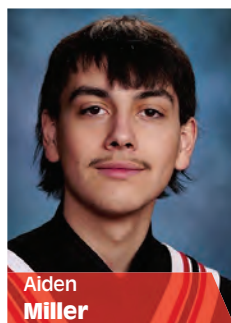
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Natalie
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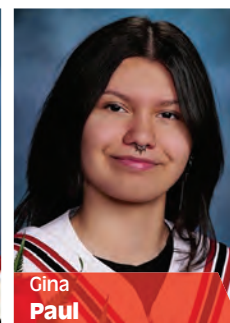
Laila
Mason



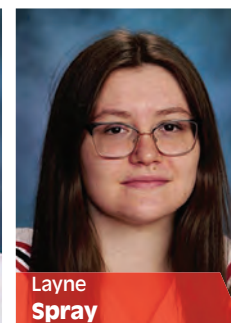
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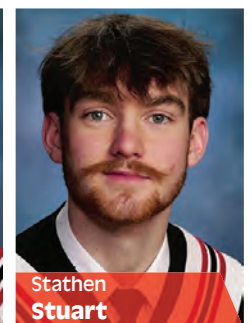
Andrew
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Gina
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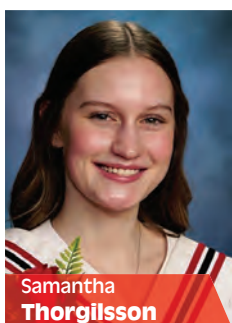
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Gimli High School's graduating class of 2025 made memories to treasure a lifetime

By Patricia Barrett

After 12 long years of scholastic endeavour, Gimli High School's graduating class of 2025 walked up the red carpet and celebrated their triumphant arrival on the graduation stage before hundreds of family, friends and school staff.

The 65 graduates looked back on their high school years with laughter, looked forward to their future journey and paid tribute to the people who encouraged them every step of the way during their graduation ceremony held on June 23 at the Gimli Recreation Centre.

Olivia Harapiak and Traydon Courtland delivered the valedictorian address, fondly remembering shared moments with their classmates that included finding their friend groups, the joy of laughing with friends, taking the bus on field trips and pulling together as a team to get projects done. These are the memories they said they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

"It was once said that school days are the best days of your life. And it's only when you're standing on the edge of graduation that you truly understand why. It's not about the grades, the tests and the deadlines," said Courtland. "It's about the hallway laughter, the quiet moments before class, the group projects that you somehow pulled through and the people who became part of your story. It's about the small things: the glances, the inside jokes, the shared looks of panic during a test that one day will become the memories we treasure most."

Although it's "sad to see this chapter of our lives coming to an end," said Harapiak, they'll always be linked to each other through their hometown. "Small towns are more than just places:



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Diana Diakiv, who moved from Ukraine to Gimli, was among the 65 students who graduated from Gimli High School on June 23.



Valedictorians Olivia Harapiak and Traydon Courtland.

they are tapestries woven into our minds," she said. "We will forever be connected to Gimli and therefore connected to each other."

The valedictorians reminisced about teachers checking in to see they were OK, administration staff that greeted them every morning with a smile, their losing battle with the custodians to leave messy classrooms and teachers that were there for them through tears and laughter.

They also paid tribute to their parents and families for being there "every step" of the way and "lifting" them up through it all.

"Our parents have been our rocks, our motivators



Principal Jamie Gilbert presented Amaris Toews with the Governor General's medal for outstanding academic achievement.

and our emotional support systems, and some of the hardest working people I've ever known," said Courtland. "They've celebrated our small wins, helped us through major setbacks and reminded us that we were capable of more than we knew."

GHS principal Jamie Gilbert told the grads the school is proud of them. They embody the values and traditions that have run deeply through their tight-knit community for generations. Their support for one another, their spirit and resilience and pride in their culture and traditions "lives" in each of them. They made a difference using their voices and

Continued on page 15

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> GIMLI, FROM PG. 14

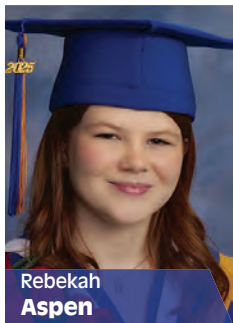
through their actions.

"That's what I hope you carry with you: a sense of pride of where you came from and a sense of responsibility to give back wherever it is you land. You are the next link in a long and meaningful chain," said Gilbert. "Graduates, today belongs to you. You worked hard, faced challenges and persevered through uncertainties that no generation before you quite understands the same way. You've grown not only in knowledge but in maturity, creativity and compassion. That's something no textbook can teach you."

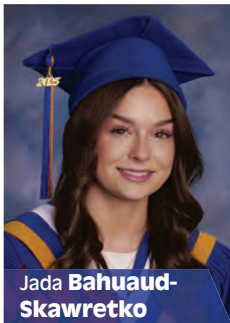


EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

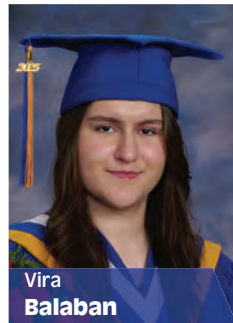
Diana Diakiv, who moved from Ukraine to Gimli, was among the 65 students who graduated from Gimli High School on June 23.



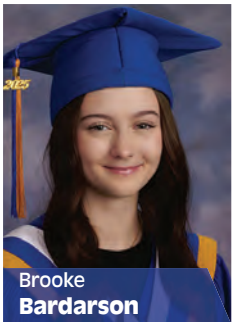
Rebekah Aspen



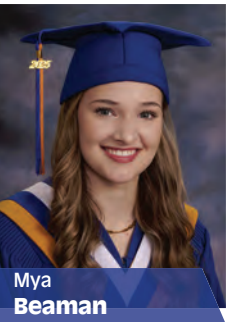
Jada Bahuaud-Skawretko



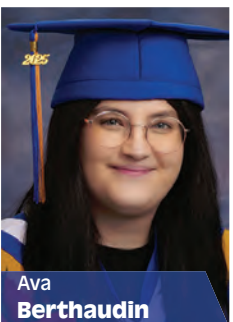
Vira Balaban



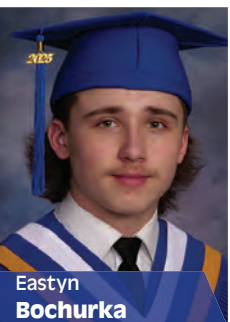
Brooke Bardarson



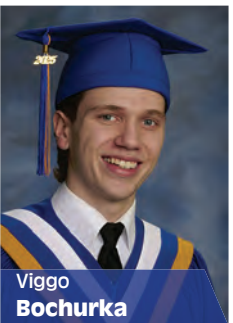
Mya Beaman



Ava Berthaudin



Eastyn Bochorka



Viggo Bochorka



Thomas Borlase

Evergreen School Division Supt. Scott Hill said their standing on the podium to earn their high school diploma is evidence of their learning and willingness to use the educational system to realize their potential.

"You've made it. Not just through exams and essays but through years of learning and adapting and growing. You've done that in a public school system that believes deeply in your potential ...," said Hill. "We said things like, 'Let's make sure every student gets high quality teaching every single day. Let's keep our classrooms calm, safe and focused so learning can actually happen. Let's make sure every student can read because literacy is not optional — it's foundational.' These things are not flashy. They're not complicated. But they work. Your success here today is proof of that."

Gilbert presented graduate Amaris Toews with the Governor General's medal for academic excellence. The medal recognizes a student for having achieved the highest academic average over the final two years of high school regardless of the number of courses taken. It also represents "countless hours of commitment, perseverance and intellectual curiosity."

Over two dozen graduates received awards and scholarships during a separate ceremony held on June 19 with their awards' sponsors. Sponsors included the school



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SHORTT

University of Manitoba entrance award recipients.



RM of Gimli award recipients.

Continued on page 16


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Congrats & Hats Off to the Graduates

Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.

On behalf of Mayor & Council

Happy Graduation!

 **29 Robinson Avenue,
Winnipeg Beach
204-389-2698
winnipegbeach.ca**

 *The RM of Gimli
would like to say
Congratulations
to all our 2025
GRADUATES!*

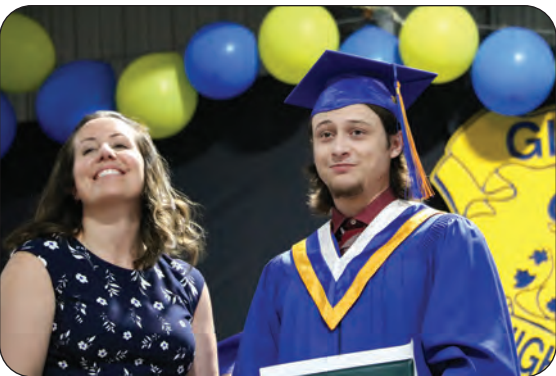
 *Go conquer the world
— it's waiting for you!*

> GIMLI, FROM PG. 15

division, local organizations, service clubs, businesses, family endowments, municipalities and post-secondary institutions.

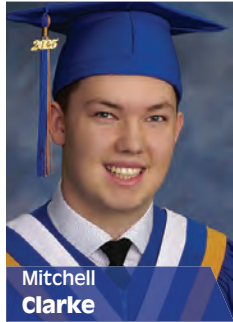
The grads were the toast of the town later in the day as scores of family members,

friends and well-wishers lined the streets of Gimli and cheered them on during their parade.

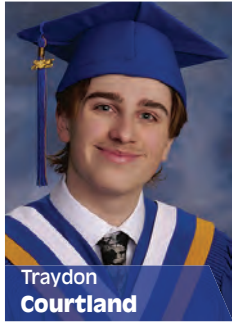


Gimli 2025 Scholarship Recipients

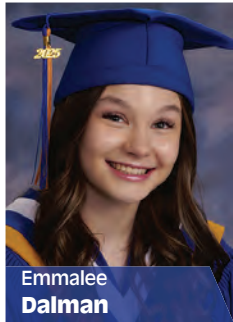
- Rebekah Aspen** - Anna Stevens & Family Scholarship Fund, CUPE Local #3164 Scholarship
Evergreen
Basic Needs - Community Achievement Award, Evergreen School Division Awards, University of Manitoba Entrance Awards, Town of Winnipeg Beach Scholarships, University of Winnipeg Entrance Awards, Lakeside Lions Club Academic Achievement Scholarship
Eva Johannessdottir - Camp Morton Ladies Aid Scholarship
Rayna Lamontagne - Camp Morton Ladies Aid Scholarship
Ava Michaluk - Canada Iceland Foundation - Margret Bjarnason Memorial Scholarship
Evergreen School Division Awards, Evergreen School Division Sophomore University Scholarship
Kim Jonasson Award, Kiwanis Key Club of Gimli Scholarship, Kristine Kristofferson Memorial Scholarship, R.M. of Gimli Awards, Sigurlin Roed (Danielson) Memorial Scholarship Fund,
Westshore Community Foundation Inc. Scholarship, University of Manitoba - Skuli Johnson Award for Excellence in English, University of Manitoba - Harold A.C. Johnson Chemistry Award
University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Ava Vermette - Derek Johnson Citizenship Scholarship, University of Winnipeg Entrance Awards
Ava Berthaudin - Gimli Seniors Resource Council Scholarship, Matthew Thordarson Scholarship Fund
Amaris Toews - Evergreen Band Boosters Scholarship, Governor General's Medal
Traydon Courtland - Evergreen Band Boosters Scholarship
Vira Balaban - Evergreen School Division Awards, Evergreen School Division Sophomore University Scholarship, Gimli District Health Auxiliary Bursaries, Kiwanis Key Club of Gimli Scholarship
University of Manitoba - Chown Centennial Entrance Scholarship, Westshore Community Foundation Inc. Scholarship
Olivia Harapiak - Evergreen School Division Awards, University of Manitoba Entrance Awards, Hidden Treasures Art of Excellence Award, Kiwanis Key Club of Gimli Scholarship
Callie Sylvester - Evergreen School Division Trades & Technical Vocational Scholarship
Logan James - Evergreen School Division Trades & Technical Vocational Scholarship
Westshore Trades & Technologies Scholarship Fund, R.M. of Armstrong Scholarships
Parker Mager - Evergreen Teachers' Association Scholarship, Matlock Recreation Club,
University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Abby Sigvaldason - Gimli Art Club Art of Excellence Award, Gimli District Health Auxiliary Bursaries, Gimli Knights of Columbus Scholarship, Hnausa Harbour Authority Bursary, Manitoba Nurses Union Bursary - Local #51 Johnson Memorial Hospital, Rotary Club of Gimli Awards, University of Manitoba Entrance Awards, R.M. of Armstrong Scholarships
Amaris Toews
Jillian Mozdzen - Hailey Dugay Memorial Scholarship
Abby Frost - Robert Arnason Memorial Scholarship Fund, Royal Canadian Legion - Winnipeg Beach Branch #61 Scholarship, Royal Canadian Legion - Winnipeg Beach Branch #61 Ladies Auxiliary
R.M. of St. Andrews Scholarship, University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Eva Johannesdottir - Town of Winnipeg Beach Scholarships, Brandon University Entrance Awards
Amaris Toews - R.M. of Gimli Awards, Tim & Delphine Arnason Scholarship, Brandon University Entrance Awards
Kat Gallo - Larry & Helen Kristjanson Family Bursary
Olivia Wirgau - Lifetouch Canada Inc. Award
Rylan Graham - Nicholas Melnychuk Scholastic Scholarship
Sophie Flasha - Peter Froese Legacy Fund, University of Manitoba - Skuli Johnson Award for Excellence in Math
Jillian Mozdzen - Quarry Physiotherapy - InMotion Network Scholarship
Duncan Struhan - Royal Canadian Legion - Gimli Branch #182 Scholarship
Vira Balaban - Rotary Club of Gimli Awards, University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Dasha Usupova - R.M. of Gimli Awards, St. Michael's Catholic Church - Women's League Scholarship,
University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Maria Ksionzek - R.M. of Gimli Awards
Eastyn Bochorka - R.M. of Gimli Awards
Ivy Waldner - Town of Winnipeg Beach Scholarships
Brooka Bardarson - University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Traydon Courtland - University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Sophie Flasha - University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Rylan Graham - University of Manitoba Entrance Awards
Lilah Pinsent - University of Manitoba Entrance Awards, University of Manitoba - Sigurbjorg Stefansson Entrance Scholarship, Westshore Community Foundation Inc. Scholarship
Kat Gallo - University of Winnipeg Entrance Awards
Eva Johannessdottir - Valley Fiber Award
Callie Sylvester - Westshore Trades & Technologies Scholarship Fund



**Mitchell
Clarke**



**Traydon
Courtland**



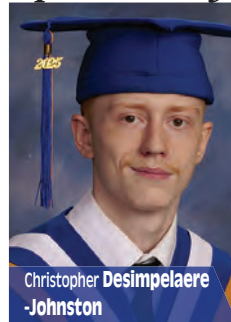
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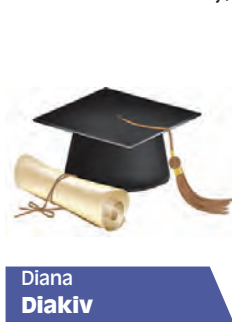
**Kate
Davis**



**Ryder
DeBraga**



**Christopher Desimpelaere
Johnston**



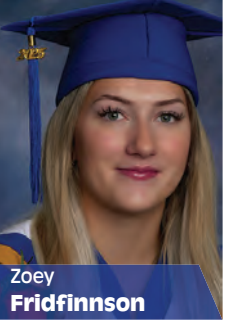
**Diana
Diakiv**



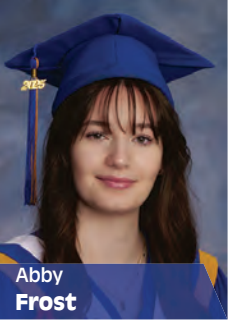
**Joy
Dongon**



**Sophie
Flasha**



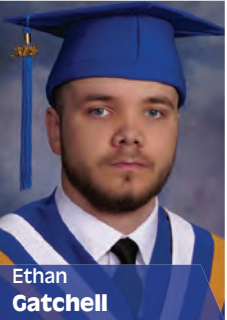
**Zoey
Fridfinnson**



**Abby
Frost**



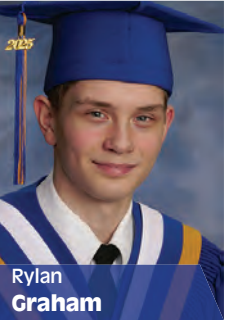
**Kat
Gallo**



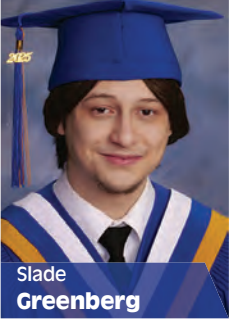
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Gatchell**



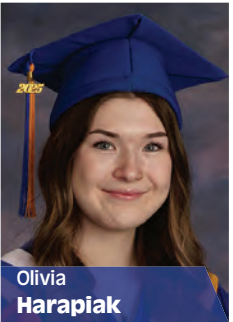
**Jaden
Giles**



**Rylan
Graham**



**Slade
Greenberg**



**Olivia
Harapiak**



**Jayden Harms-
Romaniuk**



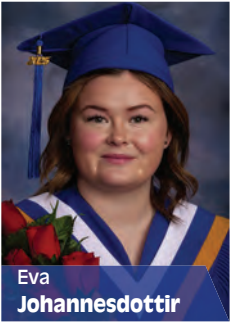
**Saylee Hawryluk-
Siran**



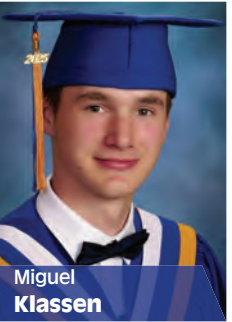
**Bryce
Helstrom**



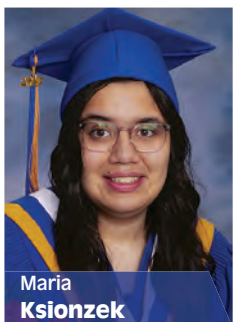
**Logan
James**



**Eva
Johannesdottir**



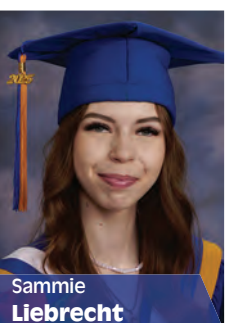
**Miguel
Klassen**



**Maria
Ksionzek**



**Rayna
Lamontagne**



**Sammie
Liebrecht**



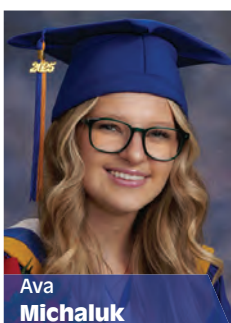
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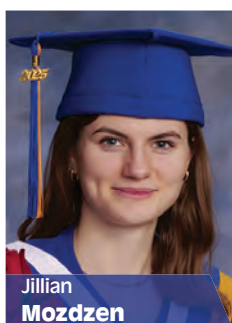
**Parker
Mager**



**Zak
Melsted**



**Ava
Michaluk**



**Jillian
Mozdzen**



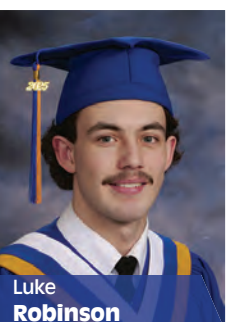
**Veniamin
Petrushevskyi**



**Lilah
Pinsent**



**Nastya
Popovych**



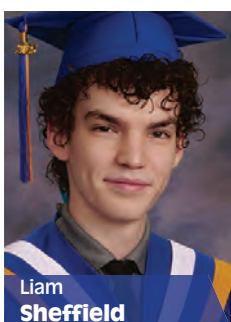
**Luke
Robinson**



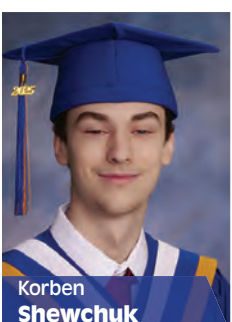
**Joree Rusak-
Chambers**



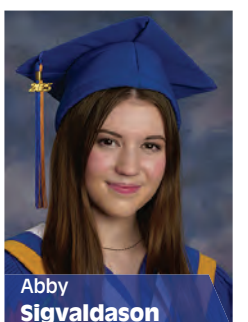
**Nathaniel
Sexton**



**Liam
Sheffield**



**Korben
Shewchuk**



**Abby
Sigvaldason**



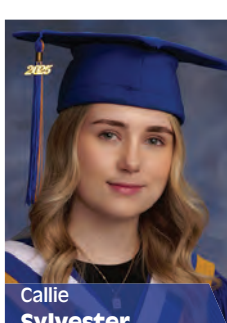
**Duncan
Struhan**



**Erik
Sveinson**



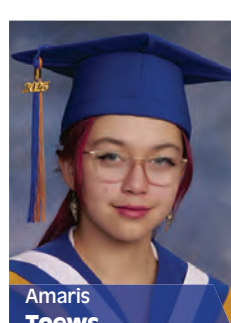
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Swaffer**



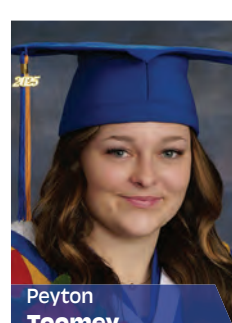
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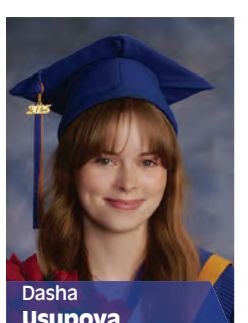
**Eric
Thompson**



**Amaris
Toews**



**Peyton
Toomey**



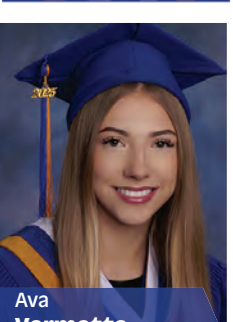
**Dasha
Usupova**



**Blake Valliant
Robillard**



**Jori
Vermaak**



**Ava
Vermette**



**Nick
Waite**



**Ivy
Waldner**



**Alex
Watt**



**Olivia
Wirgau**



**Brooklyn
Yarish**

Graduation fever at Riverton Collegiate shows 2025 grads who they are, what they can be

By Patricia Barrett

Riverton Collegiate's 2025 graduates had a far-out high school graduation ceremony on June 25 at the Riverton Hall, with a disco-themed ceremony, sage advice to accompany them on their path forward and numerous awards and scholarships to help support their post-secondary educational pursuits.

The high school's 18 grads celebrated the end of high school as friends, family members and awards sponsors cheered them on.

Valedictorians Sonja Asmundsson and Averi Kornelsen congratulated their classmates for having overcome challenges and achieved success. They reminded them to stay true to themselves as they embark on new adventures beyond the comfort of the school and community that nurtured them.

"As we head out into the world, the opportunities can feel endless. All of the new places and people to meet is a big change from seeing the same 70 people every day. And yet one piece of simple advice remains the same: that is to always and above all else stay true to yourself. If you ever have doubt in your choices, remember this and it will lead you where you're meant to go," said Asmundsson. "Don't waste your time worrying about what others may think of you or what expectations they might have for you. Stay your authentic self and you will find the people that accept



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY SARA URUSKI PHOTOGRAPHY

Alexander Ostertag, Mike McKay-Kakegamic, Skylar Farrington, Tytan Johnson, Braeden Cormack, Carter Payne, Cody Zagozewski, Jenadaya Berens, Ryder Triska, Damien Rayner; front Angel Berens, Averi Kornelsen, Carrie Ann Spring, Sonja Asmundsson, Kalli Jonasson, Jenna Johannesson, Aurora Herdy and Nora Mitchell.

and value you for who you are."

Kornelsen said as they find their way forward, they might feel as though they're alone. But they should remember that their school and community will continue to support them.

"You will always have this wonderful school and community behind you, to cheer on your achievements and pick you up after your trials," said Kornelsen. "You will always have this place and these people to call home."

The valedictorians thanked their families, friends and teachers for being their biggest supporters and for having put up with their "bad attitudes, bad grades, questionable choices and every bad haircut."

The grad's guest speaker, teacher Rob Jantz, upped the ante on graduation fever, raising some laughs with his striped trousers, Hawaiian print shirt and chunky gold chain.

Fulfilling the grads' desire to have a disco-themed grad day, Jantz got himself stoked about seeing them move on to better things than school. He dug out his meth-



Valedictorians Averi Kornelsen and Sonja Asmundsson.



Riverton Collegiate principal Erin Furgala presented Averi Kornelsen with the Governor General's medal.

od-acting manual and learned all he could about how to become a peace-loving, polyester-clad '70s dude. He told the grads he had lain under a glitter ball in his disco-era garb and let the brass and thumping grove of KC and the Sunshine Band shake him up.

And it worked because Jantz called to mind one of the quintessential films of that hazy decade: Saturday Night Fever starring John Travolta. With themes such as budding love for someone on the opposite side of the economic tracks, a longing to escape from the minutiae of everyday life and a desire for self-realization, the film reflects some of the feelings the grads themselves might be experiencing.

"How many of you are excited to be moving on from high school and nervous about what comes next? How many of you are feeling like they want to escape the local scene and see what the world has to of-

fer? How many of you are feeling like they don't want to disappoint anyone with what you do next? How many of you drive like maniacs around town?" Jantz asked the grads. "So there's some similarities here. Tony Manero [John Travolta's character] wasn't just strutting down a Brooklyn street in platform shoes to the Bee Gees. He was chasing something we all are: meaning, identity and, let's be honest — a way out of our parents' house."

The moral of the story is that Tony has to cross a bridge he's afraid to cross in order to give himself a chance at creating the life he desires and to see if the path he takes will bring him to the place he imagines himself in. And the grads, too, will be faced with crossing their own bridges.

"It's the end of one dance, but it's also the start of a new one with harder steps and no clear choreography," said Jantz. "And like Tony and Stephanie, you don't have to figure it all out

Happy Graduation
★ Congratulations to the ★
Class of 2025!



Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton
329 River Road,
P.O. Box 70, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
1-204-376-2391



Continued on page 19

RIVERTON

GRADUATION 2025

> RIVERTON, FROM PG. 18

on your own. But you do have to be brave enough to show up, try something new and grow."

The grads don't need to have all the answers now, he said, but they'll need to continue to be grounded in the "amazing qualities" they already have including creativity, caring, desire to learn, consideration of other's viewpoints, advocating for others, level-headedness and willingness to "cross that bridge" towards a life they imagine for themselves.

Riverton Collegiate principal Erin Furgala thanked the Riverton community for its support in raising healthy, well-adjusted kids, and said she's so proud to see growth in each of her grads.

"Graduates, as you step into the next chapter of your story, I invite you to reflect on your purpose and your meaning. Your

meaning should change and grow as you interact with others, face obstacles and opportunities, and take targeted action. Seek and create your meaning as you live. Test it, refine it, go deeper. Pursue it with others, including those you disagree with ...," said Furgala. "At the heart of it all are people and relationships — the most important investments we can make. Becoming your best self takes courage, honesty and the willingness to learn from mistakes. It means owning your actions, repairing relationships and moving forward with integrity. Over the years, I've witnessed these values in you — in quiet reflections, in moments of growth and in your willingness to do hard things with heart."

Evergreen School Division Supt. Scott Hill told the grads that what they learned at Riverton Collegiate wasn't just for tests or diplomas, but preparation for life.

"Being able to read closely, think critically,

write clearly and use reason and sound judgment — these aren't just school skills," said Hill. "They're also important to our mission to engage students in learning and become contributing citizens in a democracy. They're important in our shared responsibilities to truth and reconciliation, to serving our communities, to being thoughtful consumers of media and to living well with others."

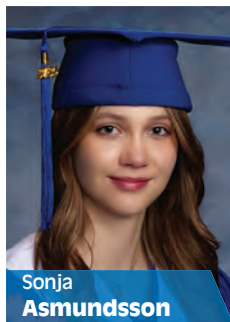
Over a dozen grads received scholarships and bursaries from local and area organizations, family endowments, the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, the school division, Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson and post-secondary institutions, among many others.

Furgala presented Averi Kornelsen with the Governor General's medal for academic excellence. Kornelsen achieved the highest academic average in grades 11 and 12.

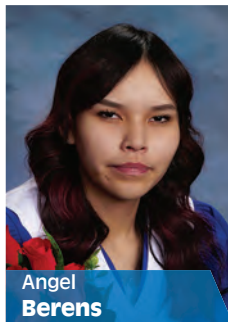
After the ceremony, the grads gathered on Riverton's iconic walking bridge over the Icelandic River, watching the rush of the water under their feet and perhaps reflecting on the journey they're about to take in order to keep "stayin' alive."



Sonja Asmundsson was awarded the Chown Centennial Scholarship.



Sonja Asmundsson



Angel Berens



Jenadaya Berens

Riverton Collegiate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

Averi Kornelsen - Sophie Hurdal Memorial Bursary, Evergreen Teacher's Association, Riverton Elks #530 Bursary, Westshore Scholarship & Bursary Fund, Evergreen School Division Awards

Sonja Asmundsson - Stefan V. and Runa Sigurdson, The Canada Iceland Foundation: Margret Bjarnason Memorial Scholarship, (Canada Iceland Foundation Inc.), Margaret Johnson Memorial Bursary, Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton, Arborg Riverton Band & Choral, C.U.P.E. 3164 Scholarship, Riverton Co-op Bursary, Riverton Elks #530 Bursary, ESD Sophomore University Scholarship, Hnaua Harbour Authority Chown Centennial Scholarship

Damien Rayner - Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton

Skylar Farrington - Jarred Gislason Award for Sustainable, Community Development Evergreen School Division Awards

Jenna Johannesson - ECB Verydal Award

Carrie Anne Spring - Derek Johnson Citizen Scholarship, Bloodvein First Nation

Not yet decided - Berger Peat Moss

Jenna Johannesson - Elements CTS

Nora Mitchell - Elements CTS

Angel Berens - Berens River First River First Nation

Jenadaya Berens - Berens River First River First Nation



Braedan Cormack



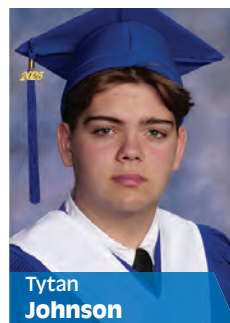
Skylar Farrington



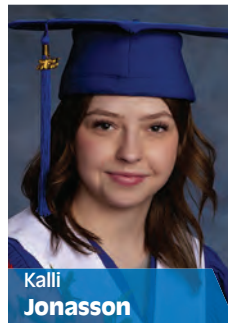
Aurora Hardy



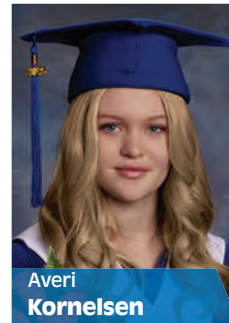
Jenna Johannesson



Tytan Johnson



Kalli Jonasson



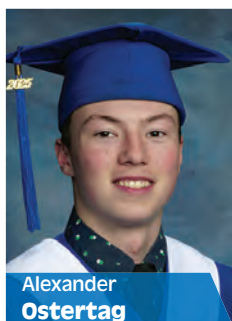
Averi Kornelsen



Mike McKay-Kakegamic



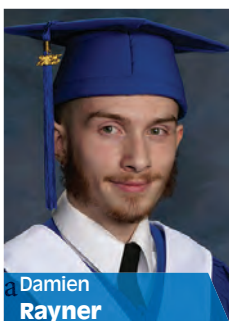
Nora Mitchell



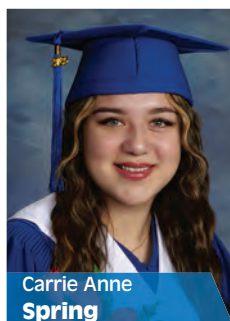
Alexander Ostertag



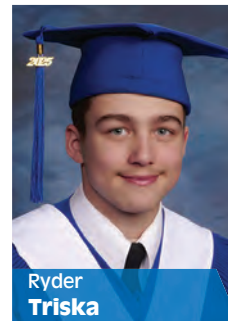
Carter Payne



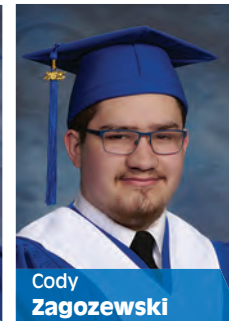
Damien Rayner



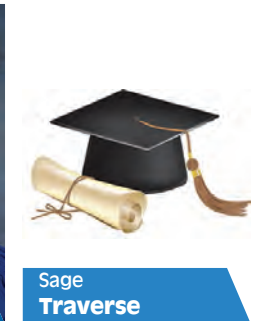
Carrie Anne Spring



Ryder Triska



Cody Zagozewski



Sage Traverse

Congratulations to the Ashern Central School class of 2025

By Emma McGill

Sixteen students from Ashern Central School marked the end of their high school years on Saturday with a graduation ceremony filled with reflection, gratitude and a sense of possibility for what comes next.

Held inside the school hall on a sunny June afternoon, the event brought together family, friends, teachers and community members to recognize the achievements of the class of 2025 — a close-knit group whose final years were shaped by personal growth and shared experiences.

Principal Tracey Kinkead opened the ceremony by congratulating the students and reflecting on their journey.

"Graduation day is one of those special transition points in life," she said. "It's an ending to familiar routines, places and relationships, and it's a beginning for what all those things will next become."

Kinkead noted the significance of graduating alongside the students — having started her job at Ashern Central the same year they entered high school, while also working toward another degree.

"Some of you are going on to post-secondary next year, and some of you are not yet decided. I want you to remember that there's no right or wrong time to add to your education."

She encouraged the graduates to embrace uncertainty as they move forward.

"It's a moment where you stand at the edge of what you know, and a new unknown path," she said. "It reminds me of watching a child step on an escalator for the first time ... caught between bravery and doubt, excitement and reluctance."

She reminded them that discomfort often signals growth and opportunity.

"Some of the best things come from plans that didn't work out. Some of the greatest opportunities show up in ways you don't expect — but only if you're open to seeing them and willing to risk trying."

Kinkead also spoke about the diverse interests and goals among the graduates, from health care and trades to social services and the arts.

"These last four years you've spent with us have been a foundation to prepare you for what's next," she said. "Whatever that learning will be has now become fully yours to choose."

Before closing, she thanked the families, staff and supporters who helped guide the students to this milestone.

"Knowing your hand is still there, when needed,



EXPRESS PHOTOS SHARON NORTHCOTTE

Ashern Central School's class of 2025 marked the end of their high school journey with a celebratory cap toss outside the school.



Valedictorian Riley Oswald received the Governor General's academic medal.

can make all the difference," she said. "And one last bit of advice as you take this next big step: Remember, an escalator can never be broken. It can only turn into stairs. So if you feel stuck somewhere along the way ... just start walking ... and I promise you'll get there."

Valedictorians Riley Oswald and Tanas Rawluk then addressed the crowd, offering a mix of humour and heartfelt thanks.

"It's truly an honour to stand here today and share this special moment with all of you," said Rawluk.



Valedictorians Tanas Rawluk and Riley Oswald delivered a speech that brought both laughter and tears.

"Today marks the finale of years of hard work, late-night study sessions and countless memories that have shaped us into who we are."

Oswald reflected on shared experiences of the class, including sports like hockey, golf and badminton and a school trip to Europe alongside

Continued
on page 21

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> ASHERN, FROM PG. 20

teachers Mrs. Bjornson and Mr. McPherson.

Rawluk recalled ski trips, English class videos and field trips to Winnipeg to see live theatre and visit The Forks.

"The 16 of us standing on this stage today have achieved something incredible, but we couldn't have done it without the help of the people in our lives," said Oswald.

They offered thanks to families for their constant encouragement.

"Your unwavering support, encouragement and guidance have helped us reach this milestone," said Rawluk. "We're incredibly grateful for the sacrifices you've made and the love you've shown."

Oswald acknowledged the road ahead may bring setbacks but urged classmates to stay resilient.

"Our plans will go awry, we may struggle, and we will all make countless mistakes," he said. "But instead of giving up or succumbing to hopelessness, my hope is that we always find the strength

within ourselves to keep trying."

Rawluk closed the speech with a message for the future.

"My hope is that each and every one of us finds success not just in our careers but in our happiness and fulfillment. Good luck to the class of 2025."

Following the speeches, the graduates joined the audience to watch a farewell video created by teachers and students, offering personal messages and well-wishes.

At the end of the ceremony, awards were presented by Kinkead, including the Governor General's academic medal for the highest average, which went to valedictorian Riley Oswald. Oswald also received the Lakeshore School Division Proficiency Award.

Special guest Jay Ruchotzke of Snoman Manitoba presented graduate Trinity Tindal with a \$1,000 scholarship on stage.

Sports awards were also handed out, with Chanelle Sumner named top female athlete and Torger Bjornson top male athlete. Academic achievement awards with

monetary value were presented to Troy Anderson for Essential Math 40S and Breanna Taylor for ELA Transactional Focus 40S.

With help from the Grade 11 class, the grads decorated the hall for the ceremony,

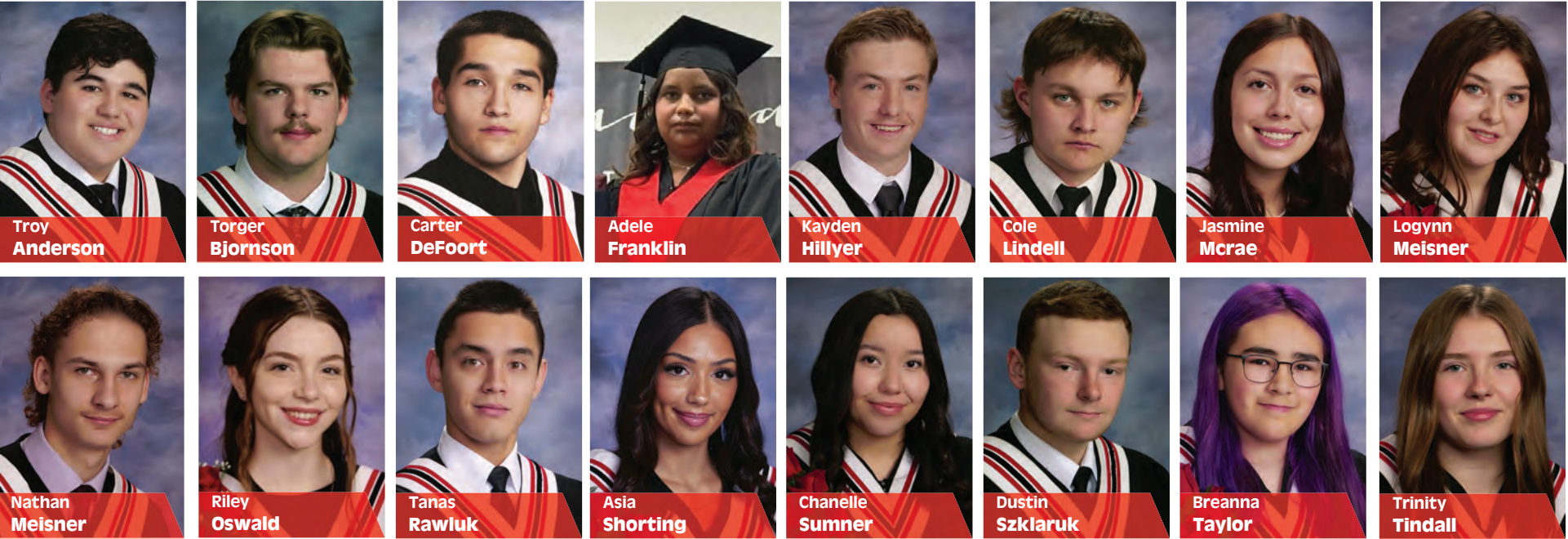
dinner and safe grad celebration. During the dinner, Miss Clow shared classroom memories, while Riley's mother, Joël Oswald, spoke about the experience of watching children grow and transition into new chapters of life.

Ashern Collegiate Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries

Non-Graduate Name Award		Donor	Amount
Craig Kosolowski	ACS Appreciation Award	Ashern Central School Certificate,	ACS Swag & Cheque
Klayton Kinkead	Applied Diagnostics 40S	Ashern Otto Shop Inc.	\$200
Miles Metner	Essential Math 40S	Talbot & Associates	\$200
Graduate		Donor	Amount
Troy Anderson	Essential Math 40S	Talbot & Associates	\$200
Torger Bjornson	Automotive Electrical Systems 40S	Lundar Napa	\$150
	Top Male Athlete	Alf Cuthbert PAC	\$100
	Entering College/University	Graymont Western Canada	\$800
		Manitoba Metis Federation	Metis Sash
Logynn Meisner	Global Issues 40S	Whitetail & Walleye Game & Fish Association	\$100
Nathan Meisner	Manitoba Metis Federation	Metis Sash	
Riley Oswald	ELA Comprehensive Focus 40S	Ashern Esso	\$250
	Biology 40S	North Interlake ATV Club	\$200
	History 30F	RM of Siglunes Scholarship in Memory of Lorne Park	\$200
	Pre - Calculus Mathematics 40S	Ms. Tamara Decelles	\$175
	French 40S	Whitetail & Walleye Game & Fish Association	\$100
	Physics 40S	Ashern Eye Care - Dr. Robert Yale	\$100
	Valedictorian	Ashern Insurance Agencies	\$150
	Derek Johnson Citizenship Award	Derek Johnson MLA	\$200
	Lakeshore Proficiency Award Candidate	Lakeshore School Division	\$400
	Musical Achievement Award	Moosehorn Community Club	\$400
	Top Academic	Sharptail Motor Inn	\$750
	Governor General Award	Certificate & Bronze Medallion	
Tanas Rawluk	Woodworking 40S	Ashern McMunn & Yates	\$150
	Valedictorian	Ashern Insurance Agencies	\$150
Asia Shorting	Voted Most Improved	Camper Hall	\$300
Chanelle Sumner	Foods & Nutrition 40S	Ashern Chicken Chef	\$150
	Top Female Athlete	Alf Cuthbert PAC	\$100
	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Awareness	The late Eric & Hilda Hjartarson	\$500
Dustin Szklaruk	Voted Most Improved	Camper Hall	\$300
	Top Academic in Automotive Technology	International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Local D 575	\$300
Breanna Taylor	ELA Transactional Focus 40S	North Interlake ATV Club	\$200
	Voted Most Congenial	Ashern Legion	\$500
	Second Highest Academic	Ashern Petro	\$500
		Manitoba Metis Federation	Metis Sash
Trinity Tindall	Steep Rock Beach Park Student Leadership Award	Steep Rock Beach Park	\$500
	Entering College/University	Northern Wellness Pharmacy	\$300
	Scheske Family Award	Carl Szczerski & Family	\$350
	Snoman Bursary	Snoman Manitoba	\$1,000
	RM of West Interlake	Rm of West Interlake Bursary	\$500
	West Interlake Watershed District	West Interlake Watershed District Bursary	\$750



Congratulations to all
2025 Graduates



Fisher Branch grads celebrate their success ahead

By Jennifer McFee

It was a celebration to remember for Fisher Branch Collegiate graduates who marked their milestone moment last weekend.

On Saturday, June 21, a total of 20 graduates celebrated the culmination of their secondary school experience.

As master of ceremonies, vice-principal Donna Gislason welcomed everyone to the momentous occasion, which took place in the school gym.

Principal Amanda Garton shared some special memories with the grads, who made a lasting impression — regardless of whether their learning was online during COVID times or in person at school.

“This group has left a mark on our school. They’ve brought energy, leadership, creativity and a sense of community that’s hard to describe,” she said.

“Whether leading activities, participating in class, putting on a questionable skit for the seniors’ Christmas tea or just hanging out in the hallways, they brought joy and connection to those around them.”

She said they’ve been role models for younger students as well as staff, and they will be missed.

From her vantage point as the school’s principal, Garton shared some sage words with the Class of



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JOANNE SMITH

Fisher Branch Collegiate's Class of 2025 toss their caps to celebrate their graduation.

2025.

“Keep being exactly who you are. Keep asking questions. Keep speaking your mind. Keep laughing. Keep showing up for each other. The world needs more people like you — people who are thoughtful, kind, humble and quietly remarkable,” she said.

“You’ve already proven that you’re capable of great things, not just in what you do but in who you are. We are proud of you. We believe in you. And wherever you go next, don’t forget that you’ve already made a difference.”

On behalf of the Fisher Branch Collegiate staff, Tim Beyette also shared a celebratory message with the grads. For Beyette, his first year teaching was the same year this group started

Grade 9, so they shared the experience of starting at the school together.

“We were stepping into uncharted waters side by side — navigating new schedules, new systems and, in some cases, figuring out where everything was,” he said. “I didn’t just get to watch you grow; I got to grow with you.”

He told the students that it’s been an honour to witness their growth over the years, and he stressed that they’re ready for the next step, wherever that might take them.

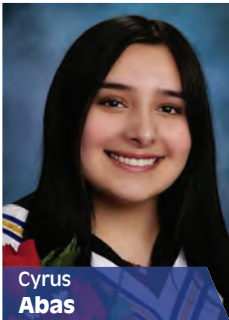
“You’ve got the tools. You’ve got the curiosity. You’ve got the playlists. Go out there and build something you’re proud of, even if it takes a few detours and a couple of wrong turns,” he said. “Live boldly. Embrace the opportu-



Brandt Cochrane was the valedictorian.

nities ahead. Be fearless in pursuing your dreams, and never let fear hold you back. Congratulations, Class of

Continued on page 23



Cyrus Abas



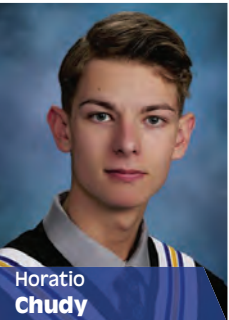
Calise Andrews



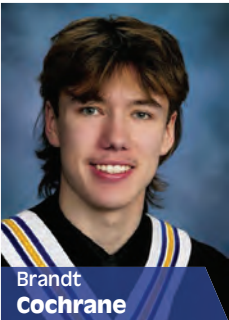
Bobbie Bale



Curtis Benoit



Horatio Chudy



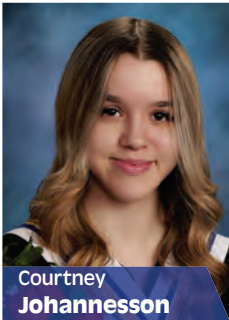
Brandt Cochrane



Tan Dotig



Klarissa Heinrichs-Emms



Courtney Johannesson



Rori Lindal



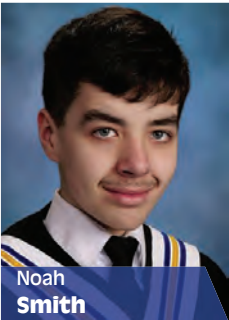
Axel Meza Flores



Michael Sanderson



Abigayle Simard



Noah Smith



Nathan Stodgell



Trey Sumner



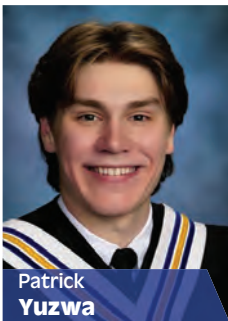
Jaden Sutherland



Malique Thomas



Brody Webb



Patrick Yuzwa

Fisher Branch Scholarships

Brandt Cochrane
Will be the recipient of the following awards:
Governor General's medallion
Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow – U of M
Lakeshore School Division Proficiency Award

FISHER BRANCH

GRADUATION 2025

> FISHER BRANCH,
FROM PG. 22

2025. We'll miss you. We'll cheer for you. And we can't wait to see what you do next."

Their former French teacher Leanne Kochan also shared some insights with the graduating class through a frog-related theme.

"Graduation is more than just a ceremony — it's a transformation. It marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of an entirely new adventure. While stepping into the unknown can feel a bit like a frog staring at a vast pond for the first time, remember this: you are not starting from scratch," she said.

"You are launching forward with everything you have learned. You carry the lessons of the classroom, the friendships that supported you like lily pads on tough days, the slips and splashes that taught you resilience, and the leaps that gave you confidence. You carry creativity, empathy, courage — and, most importantly, your unique voice."

Patrick Davy, deputy fire chief of the Fisher Fire Department, offered words of congratulations and best wishes for the future. He also presented awards to Horatio Chudy and Rori Lindal for volunteering with the local fire department.

Next up were presentations of diplomas and awards. Brandt Cochrane received the Lakeshore School Division's proficiency award and the Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow award from the University of Manitoba, where he plans to study engineering. He also earned the Governor General's award with an astounding average of 99.1 per cent.

In addition, Brandt delivered the valedictory address to his classmates and encouraged them to give a round of applause for all the teachers, coaches and parents who supported them along the way.

"It's strange to think that something we've been looking forward to for so



Brandt Cochrane received Lakeshore School Division's proficiency award, Governor-General's award and Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow award.



Patrick Davy, deputy fire chief of the Fisher Fire Department, presented awards to Horatio Chudy and Rori Lindal for volunteering with the local fire department.



Teacher Amanda Bouchard with Nathan Stodgell, who put together a slideshow for the event.



The graduating class took time for a photo with the same car they posed with for their kindergarten grad.



Guest speaker Leanne Kochan shared memories with the grads.

Continued on page 24

Congratulations!



May every step of your journey be filled with health, happiness and meaning.



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**All the Best to
All of Our Graduates**



It's your day, and we hope you enjoy every moment as you celebrate the culmination of your hard work. May your graduation be the beginning of a bright and beautiful future.

We look forward to celebrating your continued success!



Rural Municipality of
FISHER

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FISHER BRANCH

GRADUATION 2025

> FISHER BRANCH,
FROM PG. 23

long is suddenly here. We've spent years building memories, friendships and figuring out who we want to be. And now we're stepping into what-

INTERLAKE MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP
SCHOOL – OKNO



Arcenio
Hildebrand



Gordon
Hildebrand



Amanda Garton with graduate Bobbie Bale.

ever comes next," he said.
"It won't all be easy, and it won't all go the way we plan. ... But if there's one thing we've learned throughout



Graduate Noah Smith

our first chapter of life, it's how to keep moving, how to figure things out even when they're messy and how to lean on each other when we



Amanda Garton with graduate Calise Andrews.

need to."
The festivities continued with a graduation dinner that evening at the Fisher Branch Community Centre hall, complete with toasts, class histories and a memorable slide show.

INTERLAKE MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP SCHOOL – OKNO

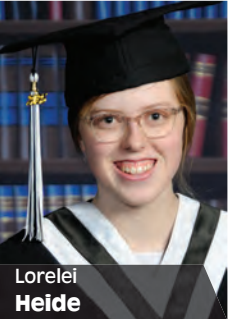
GRADUATION 2025



Javan
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Kayshawna
Penner



Lorelei
Heide



Lynette
Sawatzky



Tina
Martens

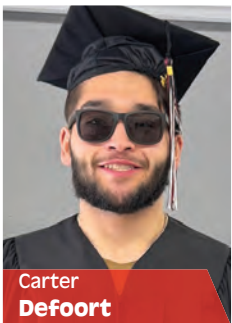


Jonathan
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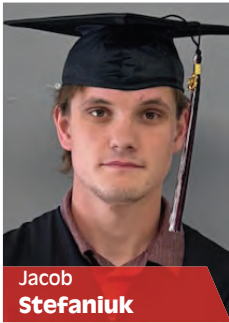
FIELDSTONE VENTURES - GIMLI/ASHERN

GRADUATION 2025

FIELDSTONE VENTURES - CIMLI/ASHERN



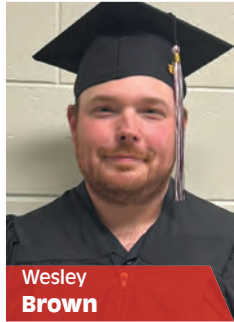
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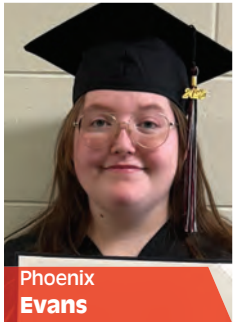
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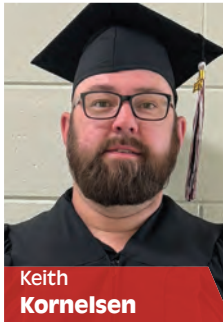
Megan
Harrison



Wesley
Brown



Phoenix
Evans



Keith
Kornelsen



Frieda
Sawatzky



Abraham
Awtajew



Samuel
Awtajew



Autumn
Kuusselka

MORWEENA

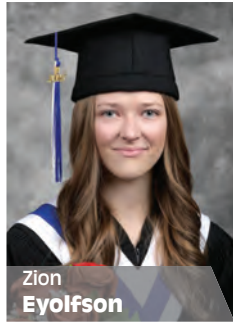
GRADUATION 2025



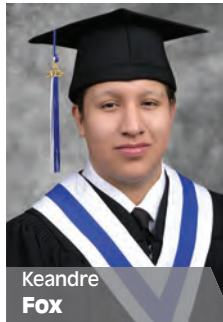
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Kylee
Enns



Zion
Eyolfson



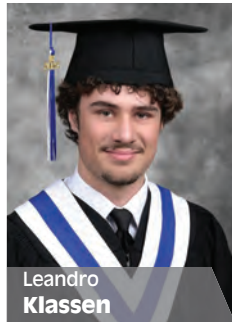
Keandre
Fox



Philip
Harder



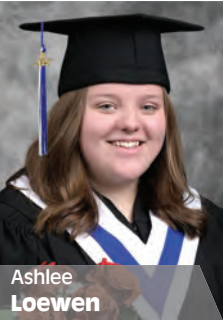
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Klassen



Leandro
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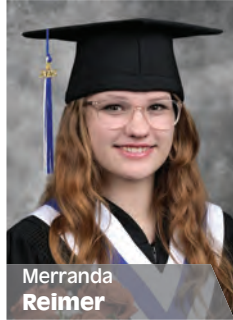
Ashton
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Ashlee
Loewen



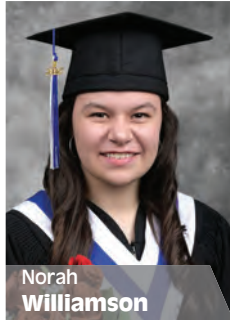
Jenika
Penner



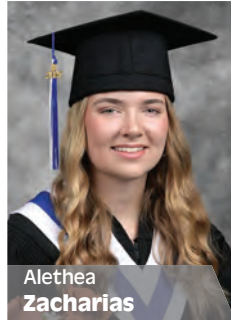
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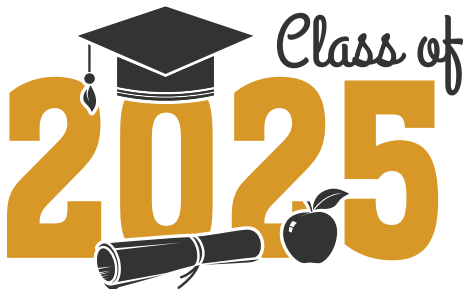
Tobias
Wall



Norah
Williamson



Alethea
Zacharias



ERIKSDALE CREAMERY DAYS

Fair and Rodeo JULY 5 & 6, 2025

"Thank You"

The Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo would not be a reality without the generous support from all our sponsors, the commitment of our volunteers and the encouragement from the community. On behalf of the Eriksdale Creamery Days organizing committee, we would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you who has played a part in making our event such a success. We could not do it without you!!! We hope to see you next year at the Eriksdale Creamery Days Fair and Rodeo.

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Kids Activities

BBQ Lunch Saturday 12 noon

Eriksdale Chamber Market Garden Saturday 10-2

Bluestem Band Saturday after the Rodeo

Softball Tournament July 4-6

Parade Saturday at 11 a.m.

Tractor Pull

Heartland Rodeo

Pancake Breakfast Saturday 8 a.m.

Prairieline with Special Guest Michael Lauze

Saturday at the Creamery 1 p.m.

Admission Saturday - Free (Creamery Museum Grounds)

Saturday and Sunday McEwen Park/Rodeo Grounds

\$18 Weekend Pass (13 yrs to adult)

\$10/day (13 yrs to adult)

12 & under Free



Volunteer Sponsor



Enjoy Eriksdale Creamery Days July 5th & 6th



Derek Johnson

MLA for Interlake-Gimli

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204-376-3401 (Arborg)

InterlakeGimliMLA@gmail.com

ERIKSDALE CREAMERY DAYS

Fair and Rodeo PROGRAM

SATURDAY JULY 5



**ERIKSDALE
—FREIGHT LINES—**

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Kell

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8:00-9:30 a.m.

Free Pancake Breakfast @ Eriksdale Recreation Centre (Sponsored by the RM of West Interlake & Prepared by Eriksdale Fire Dept members)

10:00 am-2:00 pm

Eriksdale and District Chamber of Commerce Market Garden under the Pavilion on Railway Ave, Memorial Park

11:00 am

Parade Starts - "Colour Theme - Red and White"

12:00 pm-3 pm Opening Remarks and Guest Speakers

Creamery Museum Grounds
Eriksdale Curling Club BBQ Lunch Fundraiser
Kids Zone -Bouncing Inflatables, face painting, gitter tattoos & more
In the Museum - Home Living section exhibits, museum displays, silent auction, ice cream & more (please sign our Museum guest book

1:00 pm

Entertainment by "Prairieline" with pedal guest Michael Lauze

3:00pm

McEwen Park Rodeo Grounds - Tractor Pull (Weigh-in 12:30 pm -2:30 pm at the grounds)
Kid's Activities - Bounce Houses & more

3:00pm Canteen (supper specials) & Beer Gardens Open

3:30-5:30 pm

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides by Bamford Homestead (Sponsored by Eriksdale Metis Association)

5:00 pm

Heartland Rodeo
Mutton Busting - at intermission
Following Rodeo - Live Entertainment - Bluestem Band



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ERIKSDALE CREAMERY DAYS

Fair and Rodeo

SUNDAY, JULY 6

12:00 noon - McEwen Park Rodeo Grounds, Canteen Open, Tractor Pull, Beer Gardens Open

12:30pm-2:30pm - Horse Drawn Wagon Rides by Bamford Homestead

1:00 pm - Heartland Rodeo, Mutton Busting - at intermission

4:00 pm - 50/50 Draw - Maximum payout \$1,000

License #2545. Get your tickets at the canteen

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Prairieline is a Manitoba-based country group fusing traditional Metis fiddle music with the nostalgia of 90's country and the energy of new country. Led by Aaron Lavallee, their infectious sound has captivated audiences across the province, including performances at Dauphin's Countryfest, Steinbach's Summer in the City and Valley Ag's Rumble in the Valley. Seamlessly blending past and present, they earned significant industry recognition in their first year, receiving three Manitoba County Music Award nominations. Prairieline shows no signs of stopping in 2025, with a headlining spot at this year's Manitoba Stampede, the release of their first original single and more exciting show announcements on the way.



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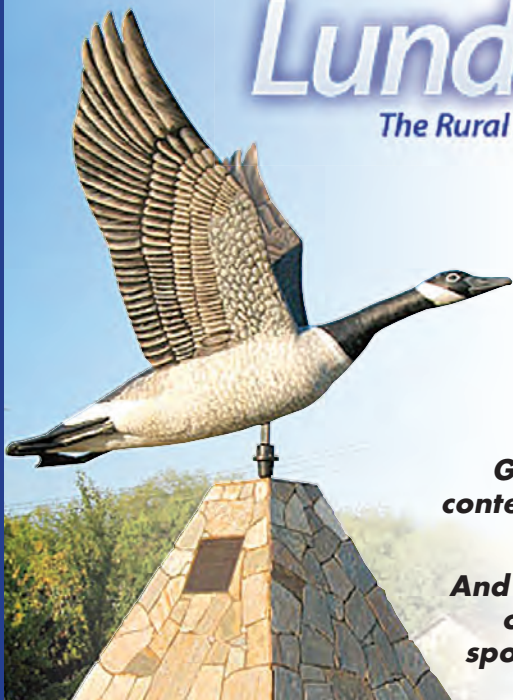
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For sale - Model #800 Flex-coli cultivator, 33' 9" spacing, 350 lb. trip, 7" sweeps with tine harrows, \$1900; Leon earth scraper 8.5 yard triple hyd. \$18,750; Model #1610 Flex-coli air tank dual wheels front, \$1900. All equipment in good condition, field ready. IHC #810 header 20' Hart-Carter reel floating cutter bar, \$1900. Ph or text (preferred) 1-204-981-7618 or email orsulaktc@gmail.com

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For sale - lightly used Macdon 5010 16 ft. swinger haybine, exc. cond. A few fields of light standing hay, 3110 TR Degelman Bale King bale shredder, right hand discharge, 40 bu. gr. tank, top of the line shredder. Inquiries to Brian, Teulon 204-918-0765.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

For sale - 17.14 acres with treed yard site with 24x40 fully wired shop with heated floor and washroom; also, 36x44 truck shop with 3 doors, fully wired with 200 AMP service; approx. 15 acres is pasture with heated drinker; property has hydro service, 4 year old well & septic field. Ready for mobile home, RTM or build on site. Located 9 miles NW of Riverton. Call or text 204-642-2249.

**News Tips?
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call the Express
204-467-5836

HELP WANTED

Farview Place in Teulon is looking for an individual for a cleaning contract. Pay would be \$240 bi-weekly upon completion of a weekly checklist of duties. Please contact Andrea at 204-886-2760 or farviewplace1989@gmail.com for details.

NOTICES

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

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Special Care Supervisor

Riverdale Place Workshop Inc. requires a Special Care Supervisor Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Start Wage: \$17.50 per hr. to provide one to one care and assistance and daily activities with a person with intellectual disabilities. A Criminal Record Check and Adult Abuse check required. Additional Details and information about the job position is available at the workshop. Please send resume or drop of at the workshop to Alex Janower Manager Riverdale Place Workshop Inc. Box 609 Arborg Mb. ROG OAO Phone: 204-376-5584 Email: riverdaleplace111@gmail.com



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Deadline for tender: July 21, 2025

For more info call:

Kirk @ 204-768-0019 (cell)

or send quote to: Interlake Cattlemen's Co-op Assoc. Ltd. (Hay Tender)

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MUNICIPALITY OF BIFROST-RIVERTON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Office Clerk

Applications are invited to fill the position of Office Clerk. This is a full-time position based at the Municipal Office of Bifrost-Riverton located at 329 River Road in Arborg, eligible for municipal benefits after 6 months.

Ideal Start Date: ASAP.

Job Summary:

The Office Clerk is responsible for providing clerical and administrative support in order to ensure that municipal services are provided in an efficient and effective manner and ratepayers concerns are addressed in an accurate and timely manner.

The Office Clerk reports to the CAO and is responsible for providing reception services in the municipal office. As the first point of contact, the Office Clerk will provide an inviting and pleasant atmosphere to ratepayers/visitors and will direct inquiries to the appropriate personnel. The Office Clerk will issue receipts and permits, and collect payments at the reception desk utilizing the specialized municipal software in place. The Office Clerk will provide administrative support including correspondence, data entry, etc. as directed by administrative personnel. The Office Clerk will at all times maintain the confidentiality of the municipal office.

Working hours are 8:30 am-12 pm, 1 pm-4:30 pm,

Monday to Friday.

Rate of pay is based on experience.

A detailed job description is available upon request.

Applications will be received until a suitable candidate is found.

Please submit your resume and cover letter in person or email to:

Ms. Larissa Love

Chief Administrative Officer

Email: cao@bifriv.ca

R.M. of ARMSTRONG UNDER THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

**Tuesday July 22, 2025
1:15 pm.**

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

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

CONDITIONAL USE: # 4/2025

ROLL NO: 0120530.000

OWNER: SIMON LEIHKAUF & BRYNN SHORE

APPLICANT: SIMON LEIHKAUF & BRYNN SHORE

AREA AFFECTED: Legal Description: 2-39245
Civic Address: 11031 RD 117NE
MELEB, MANITOBA

ZONE: General Development Zoning District

SUBJECTS: ~R.M. of Armstrong Zoning By-Law No. 6/04
Part 9.3.57 Modular Home Dwelling

~R.M. of Armstrong Zoning By-Law No. 6/04
Part 3 46.0 Temporary Additional
Dwellings/ Mobile Homes

CONDITIONAL USE REQUESTED: To allow for a 70'x 16' modular home as a temporary residence for parents as an additional dwelling on the property.

WE REQUIRE ANYONE ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TO PRE-REGISTER BY NO LATER THAN 4:30 pm THURSDAY July 17, 2025, by calling or emailing the below email and/or number.

For further information, please contact:

Colleen Mayer -CAO

Phone: 1 (204) 278-3377

Rural Municipality of Armstrong

Fax: 1 (204) 278-3437

Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0

e-mail: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

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

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Email resume to: swl@sprucewoodloggers.ca

or call 204-378-2997 References required.



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TOWN OF ARBORG INVITATION TO TENDER

The Town of Arborg is accepting tenders for the following:

• Concrete Sidewalk Construction

A detailed tender package is available for pick up at the Town Office, 337 River Road in Arborg, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Completed tenders must be submitted by **Noon on Tuesday, July 18th, 2025.**

The Town of Arborg reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the project in the best interest of the municipality in its sole discretion. Lowest bid may not be accepted.

Justin Hoplock
Operations Manager
Town of Arborg
337 River Road, Box 159, Arborg, MB R0C 0A0
Ph: 204-376-2647; operations@townofarb.org.com



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GENERAL LABOURER

Charisons Turkey Hatchery is currently hiring for general labourer type positions.

- Full time and part-time positions available with competitive compensation and benefits package which includes health and dental coverage.
- Training will be provided for the ideal candidate.

Please submit resume to shaunne@charisons.ca or call 204-886-2922 for further information.

R.M. of ARMSTRONG UNDER THE PLANNING ACT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

Tuesday July 22, 2025
1:00pm.

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

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

CONDITIONAL USE: # 3/2025

ROLL NO: 0075400.000

OWNER: CHASSI-LEA ENGBAEK

APPLICANT: CHASSI-LEA ENGBAEK

AREA AFFECTED: Legal Description: 7-16246
Civic Address: 10109 PR 231 RD 111
FRASERWOOD, MANITOBA

ZONE: General Development Zoning District

SUBJECT: R.M. of Armstrong Zoning By-Law No. 6/04
Part 9.3.57 Modular Home Dwelling

Modular Home Dwelling: means a building assembly or system of building sup-assemblies manufactured in its entirety, or in substantial part, off-site and transported to the point of use for installation on-site, with or without other specified components, as finished building or as part of a finished building in accordance with CSA building regulations. Modular homes need not have electrical, plumbing heating, ventilation, insulation or other service systems, but when such systems are installed at the off-site manufacture or assembly point, they shall be deemed a part of such building or system of building assemblies. Modular homes do not include open frame construction which can be completely inspected on-site

CONDITIONAL USE REQUESTED: To allow for a 76'x 16' modular home as a permanent residence.

WE REQUIRE ANYONE ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TO PRE-REGISTER BY NO LATER THAN 4:30 pm THURSDAY July 17, 2025, by calling or emailing the below email and/or number.

For further information, please contact:

Colleen Mayer -CAO Phone: 1 (204) 278-3377
Rural Municipality of Armstrong Fax: 1 (204) 278-3437
Box 69, Inwood, MB R0C 1P0 e-mail: cao@rmofarmstrong.com

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

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Duties/Responsibilities:

- **Approach to Work:** To come to work with a positive, professional approach and attitude.
- **Opening/Closing:** To complete all opening and closing procedures as per schedules.
- **Guest Service:** To help ensure outstanding courteous Guest service is provided at all times.
- **Policy & Procedures:** To help ensure all Policies & Procedures are adhered to in accordance with Interlake Co-op Policy & Procedures manual.
- **Attendance:** To be dependable for all scheduled shifts
- **Merchandising:** To prepare, wrap, price and stock product as required and assigned.
- **Maintenance:** To engage in the proper & safe use of equipment and report any breakdowns to the Bakery/Deli Manager
- **Inventory:** to replenishment inventory as required in accordance with production sheets, to remove all merchandise not fit for sale and to keep proper mark-down reports
- **Administrative:** To be responsible for knowing the operation and administrative requirements of the department.
- **Housekeeping:** To be responsible for maintaining housekeeping standards for the department at all times.
- Other duties as required

Competencies/Qualifications:

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

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

Submit questions/applications to:
Interlake Co-op
Nancy Arias (B&D Manager)
204-376-5245 ext. 04
bakery@interlake.crs

Now Hiring: Full-time & Part-time Grocery Clerk/Cashier

Duties/Responsibilities:

- **Approach to Work:** To come to work with a positive, professional approach and attitude.
- **Check out Procedures:** To demonstrate proficient operation of the cash register
- **Guest Service:** To help ensure outstanding courteous Guest service is provided at all times.
- **Policy & Procedures:** To help ensure all Policies & Procedures are adhered to in accordance with Interlake Co-op Policy & Procedures manual.
- **Attendance:** To be dependable for all scheduled shifts
- **Merchandising:** To ensure the department is properly stocked with merchandise and faced at all times
- **Administrative:** To be responsible for knowing the operation and administrative requirements of the department.
- **Housekeeping:** To provide a neat and clean store at all times
- Other duties as required

Competencies/Qualifications:

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

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

Submit questions/applications to:
Interlake Co-op
Jessica Mccutcheon (Grocery Manager)
204-376-5245 ext.
grocery@interlake.crs
Interlake Co-op

BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday
Kimber Lee Vandersteen
2 years old
June 30th, 2025

IN MEMORIAM



George Kowalchuk
May 5, 1917 - July 8, 2003
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed, and very dear.
- Loving you, Eddie and Tom always
and missing you everyday,
your wife, Mary
and your children, Rosalie (Mike),
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live forever Engraved
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IN MEMORIAM



Victor Krupnik
March 30, 1965 to July 2, 2010
On July 2, 2010 of a tragic accident, God placed Vic's hard working hands to rest into eternal peace in heaven.
Vic was a jack of all trades, and a master of all. He restored the family farm and cottage from top to bottom. He'd been good to everyone and never complained of the toils of work.
-Greatly missed,
never forgotten,
brother Ed

Thank You

The Narcisse WI would like to Thank everyone who donated items and came out to support our 1st Annual Yard & Bake Sale that ran June 21st through 22nd, making our weekend a success!
Congratulations to our 50/50 winner Joyce Dziadek!

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OBITUARY



Vaughan Valgardson
March 17, 1947 – March 23, 2025

With sorrow we announce that Vaughan passed away unexpectedly on March 23, with family by his side. Interment will be held at 1:00 p.m. July 13, 2025 at the Gimli Cemetery, with a Celebration of Life to follow at the Gimli Legion. Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com
Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements

Gilbart Funeral Home,
Selkirk in care of arrangements.



OBITUARY

Donald David Henry Schledewitz

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Don on Friday, June 27th, 2025, at the age of 88.

The family would like to thank the staff at Betel Home – Gimli for their compassion and care. As per Don's wishes, cremation has taken place, and there will be no formal service. Tributes: www.gilbartfuneralhome.com
Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements

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