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Happy Birthday Canada!

Gimli coun. Thora Palson, with her daughter and husband participated in the annual Gimli parade to celebrate Canada Day.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

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Peguis Grads celebrate achievements and look ahead to bright futures

By Jeff Ward

Family, friends and elders flooded into the Peguis Multiplex last week for Peguis Central School's celebration of the graduating class of 2018.

The occasion was a special moment for the 33 grads on stage who were able to fully enjoy their moment as they were escorted down a laid out carpet by family members. The graduation had a theme of "The Great Gatsby" and saw many people dressing like vaudeville movies stars in deep blacks and sparkling white. The art deco style carried over in the decorations and the program. Graduates heard from many special speakers. Clementine Spence gave the elder's message in which she took the time to tell the grads that this moment in their lives is special and one to hold on to and remember for years to come. She mentioned the importance of knowledge and how it will play a role in their bright futures.

"We expect that you will take the best teachings from your parents and your grandparents and also each and every respective teacher that has taught you over the years. And it is in your very best interest that we encourage you to continue to think on and practice the seven teachings of our people," said Spence.

Chief Glen Hudson also spoke during the ceremony and related his congratulations to the grads. He said that the whole community is proud of their achievement and that he knows each grad will go on to do great things. Some of them might choose to leave the community and pursue a life, a career or more education elsewhere, but that they carry the Peguis name with them.

"I know these young ones are going to go on and do the [great things]. Be the ambassadors of our people, of our community and certainly be ambas-

Continued on page 3



Chief Glen Hudson wished the new graduates well in their futures.

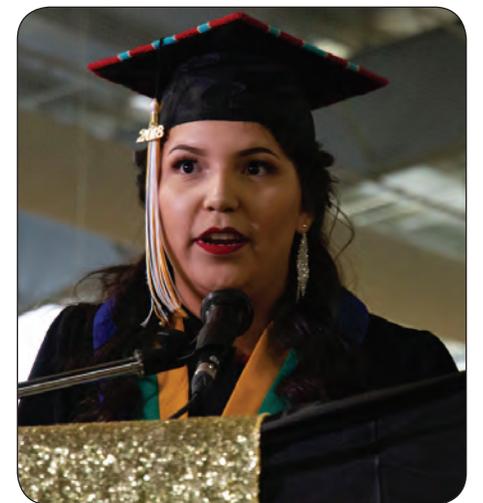


EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD

The Graduating Class of 2018 for Peguis Central School is all smiles.



Elder Clementine Smith gave the Elder's address.



Class Valedictorian Trinity Hope Stevenson made a short but sweet speech during the ceremony that reminded her fellow graduates to be proud of their past and their community.



Loud Eagle performed an honour song before during the graduation ceremony.

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Free Day Camp this weekend at Silver Bay Bible Camp

By Jeff Ward

A free day camp this Saturday will act as a proof of concept for a new type of event the Silver Bay Bible Camp hopes to implement next year.

Warren Erickson is the director of the camp and said that this Saturday, July 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as many as 60 kids from ages 6-12 will take part

in fun activities like swimming, crafts, outdoor games and a bible lesson, all at no cost to parents. Erickson said that the camp is looking to add a day camp to next year's roster of events as there are many kids at that age that are uncomfortable with staying at the camp overnight. Silver Bay runs three, week-long camps beginning in July

and ending in August where youth stay overnight in the bunkhouse. He said that adding a day camp might allow for more kids to take part.

"So we wanted to do a dry run of this concept with a day camp just to see how it could work so that next year we can provide a whole week," said Erickson.

He added that kids who really enjoy their day at this weekend's free camp might also want to register for the

week-long camps later this month. The week-long camps cost only \$1 a week. Erickson said that the free camp is nearly full right now but sometimes there are last minute cancellations. Parents are encouraged to call ahead and see what the availability is to find a last minute spot.

For more information you can call Silver Bay Bible Camp at 1-431-302-4309.

> PEGUIS GRAD, FROM PG. 2

sadors for their families," he said.

Class valedictorian Trinity Hope Stevenson's address was short and to the point. She told the grads to take the time to look back on their time at the school and reflect and then spoke about what the future holds.

"Everything after today is unpredictable but here is something I know for a fact. This past year you have all shown that you are capable in whatever it is you put your mind to... I hope all of you go on to do amazing things. Always remember that you come from a background of strong, brave and resilient people."

Stevenson is right that the future is unknowable, nevertheless these

students will now embark on the next phase of their lives armed with knowledge and brimming with a positive outlook.



Taylor McCorrister is escorted down the walkway by her dad, Clint McCorrister.



Sixteen year old Marcus Krywenko is the youngest person to graduate from Peguis Central School.



Valedictorian Trinity Hope Stevenson and her dad, Stanley Stevenson.

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Fisher River booming with new developments; solar farm nearing completion

By Patricia Barrett

Fisher River Cree Nation will soon become home to Manitoba's largest solar farm thanks to initiatives by chief and council to secure a funding partnership with the federal government and a power purchase agreement with Manitoba Hydro that's in the final stages.

The one-megawatt, \$2.2 million-dollar farm will contain about 3,000 solar panels stretching across a site the size of two football fields. A viewing platform for tourists and others who want see the farm in action will be built at the head of the structure. The project will offset energy consumption in the community – enough to power 350 of its approximately 500 homes – and surplus power will be purchased by Manitoba Hydro.

The work is scheduled to start within a few weeks with 100 piles a day driven straight down to bedrock so that the panels remain stable in the spring when frost swells the ground. The farm is located a stone's throw from the band office and is expected to be completed by September.

"We received funding support of \$1.1 million from Western Diversification and the balance comes from our own source revenue," said Chief David Crate, who along with Coun. Carl Cochrane took the Express on a tour of the community June 14. "We're hoping in the near future to bump the farm up to possibly a three megawatt. We have land available for it on the same lot."

The solar farm is not the only structure that's putting Fisher River on the economic development and tourism map. A spanking new community centre, with an attached gaming room that has 20 VLTs, is nearing the final stages of completion. The parking lot is currently undergoing prep work for asphaltting.

The hall's foyer features a number of large colourful panels painted by artist Gayle Sinclair. Using photographs, she created a collage of different community scenes, including the annual powwow, a York boat and a Fisher River veteran. And artist Celecia Amos created intricate beadwork on strips of leather that are affixed to the panels' frames.

Historical photos that tell the story of Fisher River's fishing, farming, lumber and hunting industries, as well as the families who flourished at the time, line an entire wall inside the massive hall, which has a stage, a kitchen and washrooms.

Members of the Treaty 5 First Nation moved from Norway House to Fisher River's present site along the western shore of Lake Winnipeg in



From left Chief David Crate, community member Crystal McKay and Coun. Carl Cochrane in front of one of the large colourful panels in the foyer of the new community centre.

the late 1870s after the Hudson's Bay Company began to wind down its fur-trading operation and introduced steamboats, which reduced the need for York boats and the First Nations people who paddled them.

One of Fisher River's biggest economic success stories today is its two-year-old Castle Building Centre, only one of two in Manitoba that are owned by a First Nation community (the other is in Nelson House).

Chief Crate said he visited a Castle store in Onion Lake Cree Nation (Alberta) about five years ago and brought the idea home before applying to the Canada-wide company for a store. It has created about 18 local jobs and provides material and labour to the band's housing projects, as well as to housing projects on other First Nations.

"The idea is to capture as much revenue for the local economy as we can," said Crate. "Castle Buying Group is more than just lumber and material for housing. We funnel our special needs through the Castle for beds, fridges, stoves, and they did a lot of supply on our new community centre."

Crate said the store's sales hit about \$1.3 million in its first six months of operation, and it's supplying a lot of material to Grand Rapids. The store stocks just about everything you need in and around the house – tools, locks, plumbing, electrical, flooring, paint, lamps, curtain rods, kitchenware – and what it doesn't have, manager Al Johnson will get for you.

With housing materials at the ready and the building know-how of Castle staff, council has been discussing the possibility of building a duplex or triplex to permanently house employees



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Castle Building Centre staff from left front: Thelma Beardy, Doug Govereau, Preston Murdock, Dylan Kirkness. Back left: Mervin Murdock, Dylan Favell, Rod Murdock and Al Johnson.



From left Chief David Crate, community member Crystal McKay and Coun. Carl Cochrane in front of one of the large colourful panels in the foyer of the new community centre.

such as teachers and nursing staff at the community-run personal care home. Increasing its stock of housing will provide an incentive for people to apply for jobs in Fisher River, said the chief.

Using federal infrastructure funding, council has already furnished the central part of the community with sewer and water lines (from the water treatment plant) and plans to extend them to other areas.

"That was just the first phase," said Cochrane. "We have them mapped out and we'll be pushing lines out to the community in three other phases."

Cochrane said the old school, which will become a K-6 school when the new 7-12 school is completed this fall, will be renovated to bring it up to today's standards (it was built in 1972). And it may include space for an early childhood daycare centre.

The new high school is heated and cooled by a geothermal system and has home economic and shop rooms, a music room, large gymnasium and

an elders' room.

Outside the community, at the top of PR 224, lies the First Nation's 88-lot cottage development, which is classed off reserve. Although it's taken some time to get off the ground, Bay River Developments has two cottages on site with a third being built this summer. And a show home currently being rented is up for sale. Buyers assume title to their lot. Nestled between forest and Lake Winnipeg's Fisher Bay, the development was a joint initiative with the former NDP government.

Those just passing through Fisher River can stay at a spiffy two-story motel built about three years ago in the central district and clean their vehicle at the carwash just down the road.

With several projects recently completed, and those currently underway, the question that naturally springs to mind is what's next for Fisher River.

"I can't tell you," said Crate, chuckling. "But, oh yeah, we've got other things."

Fisher cadets impress commanding officer during annual inspection

By Jeff Ward

To say that the 158 Fisher Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron (RCACS) was well rehearsed during their annual inspection a few weeks ago, would be an understatement. The cadets pushed well beyond their physical and mental limits to perform as a complete unit in front of a very rare and special guest.

Lt. Col. Denis Letellier is the Commanding Officer (CO) of the RCSU for the Northwest region which includes, Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. His visit was a rare surprise and 158 CO, Capt. Jocelyn Burzuik said that in her 17 years in Fisher Branch she's never had this high ranking of an officer come and be the reviewing officer for the annual inspection. It is a privilege to have her squadron on display like this but it also puts on another layer of pressure in an already pressure-filled experience.

"The idea of the annual inspection is to be the pinnacle of all of their training," said Capt. Burzuik.

"Everything we've done to teach them to have discipline, how to be good leaders, take direction and have confidence in themselves comes to

fruition here. They get to demonstrate everything they've learned."

The culmination of a year of learning and hard work for one moment is mentally and physically tough. Cadets push each other to be the best version of themselves they can be, and then see if they can reach higher. It's mentally draining and physically exhausting, but the end result is something truly special.

Capt. Burzuik said that the cadets blew away Lt. Col. Letellier and that he was extremely impressed with them and the Fisher Air Cadets Parent Committee who worked hard to organize the annual review and awards dinner, which took place June 8.

"Not only are the cadets on display but it's also myself, the staff, the parents, everybody. Our goal this year was we wanted to prove to the entire region that we are strong and vibrant and that we have a really good program here in our rural community. We do so much with far fewer resources than squadrons in the city," said Capt. Burzuik.

158 Fisher focuses on the fundamentals. They focus on developing and honing skills. They focus on coming together as a unit to act as one unified body. And that training doesn't



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

158 Fisher Royal Canadian Air Cadets Squadron (RCACS) performed their parade for the annual inspection last month for Lt. Col. Dennis Letellier.

come easy. Cadets are put to the test in survival training, endurance and fitness training and more. They struggled with the demand, but Capt. Burzuik said they persevered and came through in the end.

"We wanted to prove that we can be as robust and as competent as any other squadron out there, and we did

it."

This was a big opportunity for the cadets, staff and parents who all came together to achieve their goals in front of a very illustrious high-ranking officer.

"I'm extremely proud of all of them. It was truly a fantastic night," said Capt. Burzuik.

'You can't spoil a baby' program coming to the Interlake

By Jeff Ward

Support to help families living in poverty is coming to the Interlake thanks to the volunteer efforts of Lundar resident Delaney Appleyard.

Appleyard heard about the organization, You Can't Spoil A Baby through Volunteer Manitoba and hopes to lessen the financial burden of having a new baby. The organization helps new families with their newborn babies (up to 18 months old) by supplying them with baby clothes and other items. The program is mostly based in Winnipeg but there are needs all over the province. Families register with the website, www.youcantspoilababy.org and request a package that is delivered to them. Appleyard is a gift coordinator and takes donations from all over, packages them and delivers them to the family. She just started volunteering a month ago and said she's excited to be helping out.

"I'm still in the process of collecting donations and starting to put gifts together," said Appleyard.

"It certainly seems like a worthy cause and I've had some personal interaction in other jobs with people in poverty. It's something where I want to help people in that situation."

Appleyard explained that each gift package also contains one "big ticket item", which can be things like a stroller for instance. As explained on the You Can't Spoil a Baby's Facebook page their mission is to help newer families. This is accomplished with these donations by allowing them to spend their money on things like travel, food, bills or other areas. The money saved is significant as babies go through clothing quickly as they grow.

One of the other big benefits of this organization is that parents with older children who've outgrown their baby clothes and other items can upcycle them instead of throwing them away. The items donated go directly to a family in need and that donation frees them of having to spend money when it could be better used elsewhere. Currently there are 278 families awaiting gifts and the average wait time is 157 days. If a family was to apply today they could

see their gift in November.

And that wait period is one of the reasons why donation drop zones and gift coordinators like Appleyard are so important. She said she wants to encourage people to donate as much as possible to reduce that wait time and get these gifts out faster.

Appleyard said that donations of breast pumps, books, toys, clothing and really anything a baby could need are accepted at her drop location, which is her home in Lundar.

Not all donations will stay in the Interlake, as families from the region need to sign up. However, Appleyard said her coordinator will prioritize finding Interlake families for her to send these gifts. Either way all donations are being given to families in

need at a vital time.

"I've already had some friends and family members donate and also some people on our community too," said Appleyard.

For those wanting to donate you can get in touch with Delaney Appleyard at delaney@youcantspoilababy.org

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PUBLISHER
Lana Meier



SALES
Brett Mitchell



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Patricia Barrett



SALES
Branden Meier



REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeff Ward



PRODUCTION
Debbie Strauss



PRODUCTION
Nicole Kapusta



SPORTS EDITOR
Brian Bowman



ADMINISTRATION
Corrie Sargent



DISTRIBUTION
Christy Brown



ADMINISTRATION
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letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca

Could Stony Mountain face a water shortage with the Canada Sheep and Lamb expansion?

Dear Customers of the Stony Mountain Water and Wastewater Utility, Canada Sheep and Lamb has requested that they be allowed to draw 34,642 litres of water per day from the Stony Mountain Water and Wastewater Utility, in order to expand their operation from 2000 ewes (182 animal units) to 8000 ewes, 100 rams, and 4558 lambs (1333 animal units). The RM of Rockwood has acknowledged, in the Province of Manitoba Technical Review Committee Report (TRC-12-033), that they are able to accommodate this request. This is the equivalent of 70 new two-person households using almost 500 litres of water each day.

It wasn't that long ago we were told by council that we were facing a possible water shortage and should con-

sider connecting to the Cartier water line, which draws its water from the Assiniboine River, at great expense to each household. That idea was very unpopular with the utility's customers and was ultimately dropped. We are now supposed to believe that there is enough water to supply current customers, new commercial and residential developments in and around Stony Mountain, and still have enough water to meet the needs of Canada Sheep and Lamb.

Why were customers of the Stony Mountain Water and Wastewater Utility not notified by council of Canada Sheep and Lamb's request to draw such a large amount of water from the utility?

While council has already told the province that the utility can meet

the water needs of Canada Sheep and Lamb, the expansion from 2000 animals to 12,658 animals has not yet been approved. A public hearing is scheduled for July 11, 2018 at 10:30 am for people who wish to speak for or against two variance requests made by Canada Sheep and Lamb. These variances need to be approved in order for the expansion to happen. If approved, the water will come from the Stony Mountain Water and Wastewater Utility.

Only one councillor voted against the variances that would allow this expansion and result in this large daily draw on our public water system. If you disagree with council's decision to use our public water source to accommodate Canada Sheep and Lamb's expansion, let your councillor know. Your voice is louder than ever right now with elections coming up in October.

- Eric and Angie Labelle

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

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

Corrections for July 5 edition

Staff

In the article "Air conditioning failure at Arborg Hospital has patients and staff roasting" in the *Express Weekly News* June 28 edition, we referred to the combined Arborg/Riverton Chamber of Commerce

as the Northern Interlake chamber when it should have said the Central Interlake chamber.

In the same edition, we forgot to credit photographer Anders Kuuselka for the outdoor group photo of Arborg Collegiate's graduates and

in the Gimli grads story, we called the RM of Gimli's CAO Joann King when we should have noted her name change to Joann Murphy.

The *Express* staff apologizes for the errors.

ADVERTISING OR PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION

Branden Meier 204-641-4104
ads@expressweeklynews.ca

Stephanie Duncan 204-461-4771
ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca

PHONE 204-467-5836

> **EMAIL US**

Letters to the Editor: letters@expressweeklynews.ca
Classifieds: classifieds@expressweeklynews.ca
News: news@expressweeklynews.ca
Print: igraphic@mymts.net

OUR EDITORIAL STAFF

Patricia Barrett 204-914-1293
patricia@expressweeklynews.ca

Jeff Ward 204-298-3381
jeff@expressweeklynews.ca

Brian Bowman Sports Reporter
sports@expressweeklynews.ca

PAPER DELIVERY OR FLYER CONCERNS

Christy Brown, Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

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Only a few with fishermen's luck this week

Welcome my good friends.

The afternoon heat was again oppressive last Friday as it had been for some days. Anglers were few and far between on the Red from Lockport past Selkirk to Breezy Point.

The fish seemed to be lying in the deepest coolest water they could find and needless to say were not biting. Yet, I persevered in my search for a fishing story for us as I bounced through the soft gravel ruts of the 320 on a third day try at Breezy.

I parked and strolled over to a loader operator who was fixing the boat ramp and offering my card asked if he was a fisherman. Our new friend looked at me with a subdued smile.

He had the body bulk of a weight lifter and the most magnificent, bushy, white hair, mustache and beard I had seen in a long time. He leaned against the huge loader bucket saying he was Weldon Proctor from Woodlands and without hesitation began telling of a time two years ago when he with friends and family were boat fishing on Kashabowie Lake in Ontario.

He was in one boat with his wife and friends while his wife's family were in another about ten boat lengths away. They had a family game where whoever didn't catch a fish or caught the smallest one had to do all the dishes that evening. It was getting late with dusk setting in and Weldon was the

only one who hadn't caught a thing. He thought and thought, then a possible way out of dish duty flashed in his mind.

The lake was full of little islands so he trolled over to one, jumped to shore and picked up a long slender piece of birch bark. He quickly fashioned it by hand in the shape of a long jackfish and jumping back in the boat called out to the other boat that he had caught a master. In the dim light those in the other boat thought they saw a giant jack.

Not wanting to push his luck, Weldon thrust the "bark jackfish" down into the water and shouted that he had released the monster. That night Weldon escaped dish duty. His boat mates kept his secret, they so admired his inventiveness.

A couple of weeks ago Ed Kalmot of Arborg gave us a cold winter fishing story to get our minds off the heat. Here's another one for this week.

A few days before meeting Weldon I found myself on the Balsam pier looking down at two anglers, Matt MacDonald and Don Paulus, who were also having little luck fishing off the hot sheltered sand bar below. We chatted for a while then Don, an averaged sized chap with short white hair and thoughtful manner told how last winter he was ice shack fishing about a kilometer north of here.

It was a still, cold, sunny day with the flat white ice pack stretching out to the horizon where it met the cloudless powder blue sky. It was cool in the shack and the ice hole was freezing up so Don went out to get some wood from the truck. His breath left him in a cloud of icy vapor. His cheeks and ears felt pinched in the cold. His shoe spikes squealed on the thick clear ice as he tread carefully. Returning to the shack with wood, as he opened the door he saw his rod and line shuttering violently. He grabbed the rod from its holder and reeled in. Soon a pickerel about hand to elbow length sprang twisting from the ice hole spraying cold water all about, then just as quickly it slipped Don's hook and disappeared back down the hole tail first.

Don was stunned for a moment then regaining his composure rebaited his hook and let it down into the water of the ice hole. The hook stopped. Leaning over, Don couldn't see anything in the ice hole so he got his auger and prepared to clean out some ice. The auger went down a foot then hit something solid. He revved the auger motor to punch through and suddenly a piece of the wayward pickerel came flying up at him as the auger bit sank through to open water. It was the pickerel that had plugged the hole, not the ice.



Brad Cook with his beautiful Perch from the Icelandic River by Riverton.

With the end of last week fast approaching, I was still without a feature picture of an angler with a catch and having struck out at many places something kept telling me to try Riverton. Construction on the town pier by the Icelandic River was finished and as I drove up on it I saw a chap who I found out later to be Brad Cook of Winnipeg reeling in a perch.

I laughed getting out of my car, shouting at him that he had accomplished a rare success amongst anglers this last week. He graciously let me take a picture so ending our luckless streak.

Till next week, bye now.

Nurse Practitioners can be Canada's solution to health care gaps

Submitted

Canada's health ministers and nurses union leaders gathered today in Winnipeg for the unveiling of a landmark report from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU), entitled Fulfilling Nurse Practitioners' Untapped Potential in Canada's Health Care System. The report includes the results of the largest-ever national survey of Nurse Practitioners (NPs), shared with policy makers at the Fort Garry Hotel during the annual Federal, Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers Summit.

"NPs are the solution to Canada's long-standing shortage of primary care providers, access and wait times issues, especially within underserved

populations, communities and settings," said Linda Silas, President of the CFNU. "The findings in this report chart a path forward for governments to tap into the potential of NPs and improve access, from primary and long-term care to mental health and acute care."

In an effort to understand why Canada has failed to take advantage of NPs' full potential, the CFNU commissioned this study exploring barriers to the retention and recruitment of NPs. Issues such as limited employment opportunities, inappropriate remuneration, outdated funding models, lack of interprofessional collaboration and legislative/regulatory barriers still negatively impact NPs.

"The evidence reveals that NPs improve access to holistic, cost-effective, high-quality care that reduces wait times and costs throughout the broader health system," said Lisa Little, the study's lead researcher. "With a supply of only about 14 NPs per 100,000 Canadians – one fifth of the per capita supply in the U.S. – there is a great potential for NPs to meet Canada's growing health care needs."

With a 22% pan-Canadian response rate, the national survey is the largest NP survey of its kind in Canada, including NPs from twelve provinces and territories.

"About three million people in Canada already receive care from Nurse Practitioners, but more are needed to

meet the needs of the one in six Canadians without a regular health care provider, as well as our aging population and rural and remote communities," said Silas. "Now is the time for governments across the country to plan for tomorrow's health human resource needs."

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The full report and CIHI provincial/territorial geo-maps of primary care provider access can be viewed here.



Ashern business hub to host open house

By Jennifer McFee

Business is booming in Ashern for a group of entrepreneurs who have banded together under one roof.

Caitlin Trakalo, owner of CT Physiotherapy, has enjoyed a bustling first year in business.

In October, she embarked on a new adventure by purchasing a three-unit building and renovating it, along with her business partner and spouse Jon Ross.

"We ended up getting in there full time in March of this year," she said. "It's an exciting time."

In addition to housing her physiotherapy practice in one of the units, another unit is now home to a massage clinic featuring two registered massage therapists: Jenn Heroux and Olivia Bauch. Adding to the offerings, Sandahl Reykdal comes in once a week to provide services as a threading technician and brow specialist.

In the third unit, hairdresser Glynis Monkman has set up shop in the building, which is located at 29 Main St.

Monkman has been working in the area for seven years and has an established client base.

"People have been coming in since about the end of March and it's been wonderful. The building has really beautiful fresh and clean spaces. This is something the town hasn't had for ages. It's a really awesome hub that people can go to, kind of like a one-stop shop," Trakalo said.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
CT Physiotherapy owner
Caitlin Trakalo

Continued on page 16

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Gimli celebrates Canada's 151st birthday

By Patricia Barrett

Hundreds of Gimplites and visitors from away lined the town's main drag last Sunday to cheer on colourful floats and celebrate Canada's 151st birthday since Confederation. Local businesses and stalwart festival organizations, such as the Gimli Film Festival, handed out goodies to celebrants along the route as did local politicians. A number of commercial fishers took part in the celebrations. Bruce Benson and his son Tiberius carried the Flag of Humanity, which has made its way around the world, to remind people that we are one. The Diageo distillery pulled out all the stops, bringing a convoy of floats, including a semi loaded with barrels of Crown Royal. The Grizzlies piping band from Winnipeg kept the beat steady as the parade made its way down Centre Street and First Avenue. The day also included the Lakeview Resort's 2nd Annual Summer Sale, a Huldufolk picnic and scavenger hunt, a heritage tour led by the Gimli Heritage Committee and the official opening of Gimli's outdoor aquatic centre by Mayor Randy Woroniuk, who was first in the pool a few weeks ago.



Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk officially opened the Gimli Aquatic Centre July 1.



Anyone for a little Crown Royal. The Diageo distillery took part in the parade.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT
Pipers from the City of Winnipeg's Grizzlies Squadron 402 lead the parade down Centre Street.



Sherry Benson-Podolchuk (left) and a friend carry the Canada flag.



Gimli Pharmasave crew take part in the annual parade.



A Viking lad keeps watch over the festivities.



Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton hands out goodies to parade-goers.



This young lass drove the Coast Guard's rescue vessel.



Leona Johnson (right) and Elva Simundsson (left) hoist the Gimli Film Festival banner during Gimli's Canada Day parade.

Lake Line Railroad asks for road closures in Winnipeg Beach

By Patricia Barrett

Lake Line Railroad has asked Town of Winnipeg Beach council to consider permanently closing roads north of downtown to help it deal with the cost of repairing crossings, but council raised concern about the viability of the proposal.

The railway company suggested closures on Oak and Spruce avenues (at the crossings) on the east side of Highway 9, as well as on Alder Avenue on the west side of the highway in the RM of Gimli.

Lake Line's acting general manager Peter Brooks said the department of Manitoba Infrastructure recommended the road closures after it completed a railway inspection.

"It's going to involve having a few people inconvenienced possibly," said Brooks during council's regular meeting June 27. "Manitoba Infrastructure didn't seem to think it was a great inconvenience to a lot of people. And so it was on their recommendation that brought me here today."

The crossings have been a bone of contention for almost a decade, according to Mayor Tony Pimentel. Although crossings over Highway 9 and PR 229 were shored up, the crossings at Ash, Oak and Spruce are in dire need of repair. Drivers use a back lane that's accessible from Highway 9 – and which runs parallel to the tracks – to get to and from downtown rather than risk damaging their vehicles on the crossings.

Replacing a single crossing would cost between \$12,000 and \$14,000, said Brooks, and Lake Line would assume financial responsibility for the ties under the track. But the planks would be the responsibility of "whoever came last."

Although Brooks said he doesn't have historical data showing whether the road or the railway came second, he preferred not to get into a debate about ownership. He would rather work together with council and possibly secure a funding partnership.

"We have very limited funds to work with and we have a lot of work to do this year," he said. "Let's identify where the money can be best spent, if it's more feasible to re-route a couple of crossings, close them off or make the crossings a little bit better."

Lake Line was established in 2012 with about \$1.25 million in financial support from the NDP government and agricultural producers. The company purchased 50 kilometres of track between Gimli and Selkirk from the Canadian Pacific Railway to serve farmers and the Diageo distillery, which pays Lake Line a fee that goes into line repairs. There is one



Lake Line's acting general manager Peter Brooks.

grain elevator on the line at Netley. In 2017 the company asked the provincial Conservatives for funding to help with track repairs and to re-build a rail bridge over Netley Creek, but it's not clear whether the government stepped up.

Brooks said the track had been neglected as far as "real repairs" were concerned long before Lake Line purchased it. The company is now under "extreme pressure" to fix crossings. All crossings north of Netley are presumed to be in need of a "complete restoration."

Pimentel asked whether Manitoba Infrastructure carried out traffic studies on Oak and Spruce, but Brooks said there's no such report. MI's report only pertains to the railway.

Pimentel said traffic volumes might have come down considerably because drivers are avoiding the tracks and using the lane as a preferred route.

"We've gotten several complaints already about traffic flow going down that back lane, and going down at a much higher speed than they should be," he said. "And we're looking at posting signs there because of the problem of that railroad track being in such rough shape."

Closing the roads at the crossings, he added, would also pose a problem to the town's grader and snow plow, which would have no room to turn around on narrow dead-end streets and be forced to back out onto Highway 9, creating a safety hazard.

Coun. Daryl Carry asked Brooks for an update on Lake Line's public notice of discontinuance, which the company issued about a year ago. The notice still stands despite ongoing repairs and negotiations with municipalities for funding assistance.

Brooks said the notice was his rec-



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Lake Line train heads north through Gimli to the Diageo distillery.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The Spruce Avenue crossing is in rough shape.

ommendation, and that he would have "abandoned [the railway] at that time, shut it down. It's not viable the way we're going."

He added that he was under the impression the NDP government had committed to replacing the Netley and Wavey Creek bridges, but that changed when the Conservatives took power.

"The new government said we're not spending any money," said Brooks. "I looked at that and thought, 'There's no money to fix those bridges.' Netley Bridge, for one, is condemned and it shouldn't have any traffic on it. There's no asset there."

In addition to noting the precarious state of the tracks, Brooks said he wasn't sure if Diageo would "maintain what they're doing in Gimli" without the railway. And that was enough to put pressure on the government "to come back with a Band-Aid" measure.

Although he didn't specify whether that entailed financial support, Brooks said it "isn't enough. So right now I'm trying to find a way to make that Band-Aid stretch to cover things

off, to get it to the point where someone can say it's even worth going to work tomorrow."

Carry said it's difficult for council to make a decision on road closures without knowing the railway's long-term plan. "That's where our concern is when you suggest possibly closing the roads, and a year from now the railway might not be around."

Council asked that Brooks supply a detailed cost estimate of fixing the crossings before it decides how to proceed.

As far as the crossings in the RM of Gimli go – notably the RONA crossing where tow trucks are allegedly required to rescue vehicles that get stuck on the tracks – Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk said he was told Lake Line's proposal is to have the municipality front the cost of replacing asphalt.

"We'll have to get the crossings fixed, but we haven't talked about money yet," said Woroniuk. "If Lake Line doesn't rehabilitate the base, we won't contribute."

Off-road club asks for official use of former CP rail line and streets of Gimli

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake Off Road Club has asked Gimli council to consider letting off-road and all-terrain vehicles share a former Canadian Pacific Railway line that runs north of town, and wants permission to drive the vehicles on all roads and laneways in the town of Gimli, with a few exceptions.

The former rail line, which travels along the west side of PR 222 up to Camp Morton then crosses to the east side of the highway, is used by cyclists, joggers and dog walkers from the cottage and residential communities that stretch from Gimli proper to Arnes. But ATVs and dirt bikes are frequently on the trail – even though they're prohibited – or are seen driving in ditches or along the verge of the highway.

The IORC wants official use of the line that runs north from Seagram Road (at the Diageo distillery) to Boundary Road (123 N) between April 16 and December 15. The trail will be restricted to only IORC members and "affiliated club members."

When encountering non-motorized users on the trail, drivers will be required to pull over to the right and stop until people have passed, or slow down and proceed with caution until people are overtaken, states one of the club's proposals, which are posted under council's June 27 agenda.

The club also wants non-exclusive use of properties fronting and accessible from Road 17 E (to the motocross

track facility and the mud bog pit), as well as permission to drive ORVs in Gimli on all roads and lanes except Centre Street and First Avenue.

"Use of ORV/ATV continues to grow rapidly and in popularity across all regions – many communities have moved to allow greater access, to encourage access to local business and to promote recreational use....," says the proposal.

The IORC is a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting safe and courteous ATV recreational use in the Interlake. It lists a number of benefits in its proposals, including enhancing access to businesses in Gimli, creating economic spinoffs for camps, hotels and food establishments, attracting recreational drivers from near and far and exercising "greater control over a small segment of riders who disregard current and all regulations."

"IORC and its members are committed to developing and promoting safe, courteous use in and about our Interlake communities. All primary members are licensed, their vehicles registered and insured."

Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk said the municipality owns the former rail bed, and ORVs are not supposed to drive on it.

"[I was told] this issue [allowing access to the rail line] came up several years ago, and the council chamber was overflowing with people that said no," said Woroniuk a day after council's meeting. "I don't know if that's



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A dirt bike rider zips between the operational rail line and the ditch along Highway 9 near Gimli Ford last Saturday.

changed."

Council will have to hold a public hearing to get feedback from seasonal and permanent residents as to

whether to allow ORVs access to town streets and the rail line, he said. The date of that hearing has not yet been set.



A beach day celebration

EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD

Hundreds flocked to Winnipeg Beach last weekend for fun in the sun with live music by Harry and the Armpits who played music from The Beatles and from the 50's and 60's. Free Ride, pictured, also took the stage at the pavilion to tribute the Rolling Stones. Both Minister of Municipal Relations, Jeff Wharton and Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP, James Bezan brought greetings before the live music started. Bezan commended the hard work of volunteers who make events like this possible. The pair wished everyone at the beach a Happy Canada Day weekend.



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Red-striped beetle bugging harebell and lady's slippers



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JOANNE SMITH

With the school year having come to a close, music teacher and avid birder Joanne Smith had a little time on her hands to traverse the back woods, bogs and swamps around Hodgson and enjoy the great outdoors. She found a red-striped beetle "bugging" a harebell and a yellow lady's slipper showing her chops. In mid-August, Smith will be leading another weed-pulling crew to Sandy Bar to make the spit more habitable to the piping plover (bird), which has all but disappeared from the province. Sandy Bar is a protected special conservation area and important bird area (IBA). It's off limits to ATVs, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles.

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- 9:30 pm B-Side Champs (Rhythm and Blues)
- 10:30 pm Soul Fever (Motown)

Saturday, July 14

- 6:30 pm The Teakle Family Circus
- 7:00 pm Dreams and Rumors (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)
- 8:00 pm The Incredible Hip (Tragically Hip Tribute)
- 9:00 pm Pop Vegas (Pop Band)
- 10:00 pm Rattlesnake Suitcase (Gun N' Roses Tribute)
- 11:00 pm Free Ride (Salute to the Rolling Stones)

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Manipogo Golf Course a fun 9 holes with very unique features

The par-36, nine-hole Manipogo Golf and Country Club in St. Laurent rewards golfers who know their game. If you know your clubs well and their individual yardages you can carve up this course and card an impressive score.

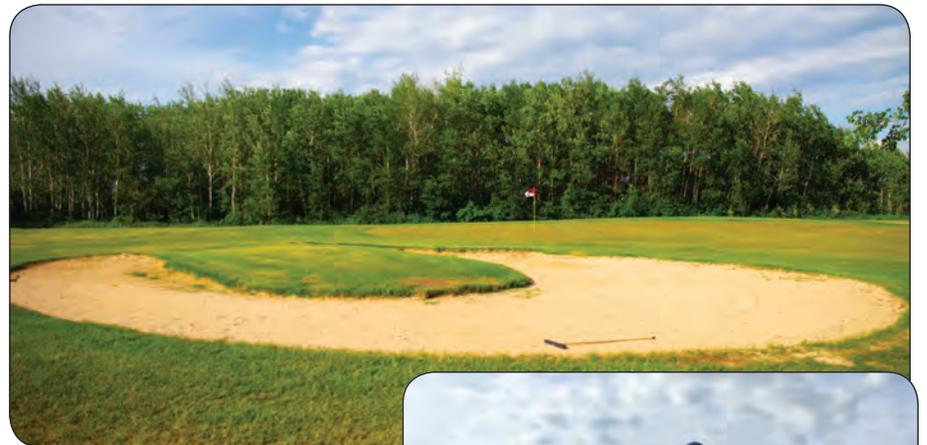
At face value the course sets up simple with two par-5's and two par-3's. The yardage is also quite short at just over 3,000 yards from the white tees. The first shot you'll hit on the open course will test your shot shaping ability as the dog leg right will have longer hitters picking a target to the left of the fairway in hopes of fading the ball to a landing spot they can't see. Picking a target is also difficult as the absence of large hulking trees makes finding your shot trajectory a bit more challenging.

Longer hitters will be rewarded with accurate power off the tee with the opportunity for an eagle on the second hole which is only 487 yards from the white. A small stream breaks up the fairway making going for the green a bit more risky. Greenside bunkers also guard against approach shots that land short so aiming pin-high is a more conservative approach.

The par-4 7th hole is another that tests shot shaping ability. The dog leg right gives hitters an open fairway to start that narrows at the joint of the leg with thick trees that pinch in the shot from either side. Stronger players will likely aim left and play the fade into the dog leg and have an open look at the green.

One of the more interesting and unique aspects to the course is the bunkers. Boomerang and kidney shaped bunkers guard many greens on the course making approach shots require more accuracy. The par-4 5th hole is only 346 yards from the white tees but has one of these bunkers positioned right in front of it. A tree outcropping on the right also protects the pin when it is set into the back portion of the green, which is also uniquely shaped.

Manipogo offers strong players the ability to be aggressive and card a strong score through a quick nine holes. Average players and weekend warriors will also have a great time as using the driver off the tee isn't as necessary as with other courses. Taking a mid-iron will reward those players with better looks on the shorter yardage course.



You can play Manipogo for only \$1 a hole on Wednesdays and this Friday, July 6 they're hosting a bud, spud, steak and golf, which includes a cart, for just \$25.

The course has a fully licensed restaurant that will fill your stomach before or after you fill your card.

You can get more information on daily and weekly specials and book your tee time by calling 204-646-2100.

EXPRESS PHOTOS BY JEFF WARD

This horseshoe shaped greenside bunker protects the pin on the par-4 5th hole at Manipogo Golf and Country Club. These bunkers are some of the unique aspects of the fun 9-hole course.

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Swine-genetics research centre opens in Woodlands

By Caitlyn Gowriluk

A new research centre for a Dutch swine-genetics company opened in the RM of Woodlands on June 27.

Topigs Norsvin celebrated the completion of its \$15-million facility, called Delta Canada, with a grand opening event that was attended by about 1,000 people.

The new centre will house around 2,600 hogs, and is equipped with a CT scanner to test the animals for things like growth, fat, muscle and bone structure.

The company's interest in building a facility in Manitoba came at the perfect time, said Manitoba Pork chair George Matheson.

"The previous government wasn't overly friendly to the pork industry. This government is. Now we've got companies settling in Manitoba," said Matheson. "It's a wonderful thing. It can only mean good things for the industry, for the province, and for this municipality.

Topigs Norsvin International CEO Martin Bijl said the RM of Woodlands – a farming community – was the perfect spot for the new facility.

"The health status of the animals is of great importance, so to keep them healthy," said Bijl. "And Canada – Manitoba – has the right infrastruc-



International CEO Martin Bijl explained why the Netherlands based company chose Manitoba for their \$15 million investment.

ture, and low disease pressure for pigs."

The new research centre is far from other pig production facilities, but still close to the Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, making export easier, said Bijl.

The first boars will leave the centre at the end of this year.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Dutch swine genetics company Topigs Norsvin officially opened a \$15 million hog research centre in Manitoba on June 27.



The company's Delta Canada facility will house around 2,600 animals and test 7,500 nucleus boars in the company's TN Tempo sire line and Z-line dam line every year.



The facility is equipped with a CT scanner for measuring carcass composition, robustness, and meat quality faster and with greater accuracy.



Approximately 1000 people attended the Topigs Norsvin official opening of its new research center Delta Canada.

Citizens, scientists and boaters come together to save Lake Winnipeg

By Patricia Barrett

Beleaguered Lake Winnipeg was front and centre last Saturday when Gimli's Yacht Club teamed up with the Kiwanis Club to raise funds for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation, an environmental organization that monitors threats to Manitoba's waterways and advocates for protecting the lake.

The inaugural "Save the Lake Fundraiser" featured presentations from scientists dedicated to the cause, sailboat and kayak rides, raffles and eco-demonstrations for kids presented by staff from the East Interlake Conservation District. And it wouldn't be lunch without a pickerel fillet straight from Kiwanis' fryer.

It was standing room only inside the Yacht Club as LWF's executive director Alexis Kanu and the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium's managing director Al Kristofferson provided an overview of research carried out on the lake, along with plenty of shocking statistics and gruesome photos to hammer home the message that the time has come for all levels of government and citizens to take substantial action to save the lake (see full story next edition).

Kanu and Kristofferson spoke about the City of Winnipeg's contribution to phosphorus loading from its wastewater treatment plants, citizens' roles in helping monitor waterways, the rise of toxic algal blooms, potential harms to fish stocks and their food web, commercial fishers' assistance in alerting scientists to changes on the lake, as well as the two organizations' tireless efforts to promote responsible stewardship of the world's tenth largest freshwater lake.

The Yacht Club's commodore Charlie Burns, who helped organize and MC the fundraiser, said everybody, including yachters, has a role to play in protecting the lake, whether that entails avoiding plastic or advocating for change to address the root causes of harmful algae.

"Our yacht club members have a deep love for the lake. We sail all over it and it's critical to what we do," said Burns. "And we thought ... we needed to do something to help put a focus



After a one-day 56-kilometre paddle, Alex Martin still had the energy to run from his kayak berthed in Gimli Harbour to the Yacht Club's podium where he officially launched the first-ever "Save the Lake Fundraiser."

on this lake. And we're hoping we involve all of the community."

Burns said Kiwanis, which helps youth develop into responsible leaders, were vital partners in the fundraiser.

After the scientists' presentation, Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk encouraged seasonal Gimlites from Winnipeg to vote in the upcoming civic election with their environmental spectacles securely fastened, and to bring the phosphorus issue to their councillors' attention because his own attempts to get the City to listen to him has been like "beating his head against a wall."

"In my discussions with Mayor [Brian] Bowman and many councillors with the City of Winnipeg, I can assure you they do not take this very seriously," said Woroniuk. "One of the councillors said, 'C'mon Randy, it's only 4.9 per cent [phosphorus]. Well 4.9 per cent hurts our lake and this is where your people come for recre-



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

From left Gimli Mayor Randy Woroniuk, kayaker Alex Martin, Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton, and Lake Winnipeg Foundation director Dr. Alexis Kanu launch the fundraiser.

ation. They do not take us seriously. We need them on our side."

Special guest Alex Martin, an 18-year-old Winnipeg-based kayaker who's embarking on a two-month solo journey around Lake Winnipeg, said he was motivated to raise awareness of the lake's health after a paddling excursion near Poplar River.

"The water is very clear there and you come out into Lake Winnipeg and it's gross, it's smelly, it's yucky and the group I was with was commenting on how much they didn't like the lake, how they wanted to be back on clean waterways," said Martin, whose family has a cottage on the east side of the lake. "It was kind of like a personal hit."

Although he said his journey is not a fundraiser, anyone wishing to donate

to him will be re-directed to the LWF or the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

Martin will be paddling from the south basin to the north basin and is not worried about getting bogged down with fatigue or experiencing loneliness.

"I paddled 56-kilometres on the second day and was a day ahead," he said. "It's not anything that's physically draining for me, but it's mentally draining. Alone is a physical state versus lonely which is emotional. I can be in the middle of nowhere and not be lonely."

Martin cut the ribbon to officially launch the fundraiser with help from Woroniuk, Kanu and Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton.

> OPEN HOUSE, FROM PG. 8

"We've had super positive feedback and we're really happy that we're able to provide these services. I can only speak for myself, but I get people from Lundar, Gympsumville, Fisher Branch. They're coming in from all over so it's been a really positive re-

sponse."

On Friday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the business hub will host an open house so that people can check out all there is to offer.

"Everyone can come to see the building, to see the new spaces and

get an idea of what they have access to," Trakalo said.

"We're all female business owners, and I'm extremely proud of that. It just took off like wildfire. It's very humbling and I'm grateful that there's been such a good response."

For more information about CT Physiotherapy, visit www.interlake-physio.ca or call 204-768-4876.

The other businesses also welcome calls for Heroux (204-280-0852), Bauch (204-768-4499), Monkman (204-768-2453) and Reykdal (204-768-0524).

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Arborg's Jermaine Loewen is the first Jamaican-born player to be drafted to the NHL.. Lowewen was drafted by the Dallas Stars on June 23.

Loewen drafted by Dallas Stars

By Brian Bowman

The National Hockey League draft is always a special day for junior hockey players in Canada.

But it was extra, extra special for Jermaine Loewen on June 23 in Dallas.

Loewen, an extremely talented forward with the Western Hockey League's Kamloops Blazers, was selected in the seventh round (199th overall) by the Dallas Stars.

Born in Jamaica, and adopted at an early age by Arborg's Stan and Tara Loewen, Loewen became the first Jamaican-born player to ever be drafted by the NHL.

"It was a dream come true for me to become the first Jamaican-born player to be drafted to the NHL," Loewen told CFJC Today. "I cried - all the things I have gone through in my life, I was just really happy to be drafted."

Loewen knows making the NHL is not an easy process.

"It's just a step but it's big for me, because of where I've come from," he said. "I think it's placed in me to be a leader - to help young kids who have been adopted - who have come from Jamaica who are trying to pursue

hockey, or any sport.

"You're an underdog. I'm still an underdog, playing that position. Being a leader for that is very special for me. It's not something I just take for granted."

Loewen was one of eight Manitoba players - including seven from the WHL and one from the Manitoba Junior Hockey League - that had their names called at the 2018 NHL Entry Draft.

Of the 217 players called in the draft, 20 played in the WHL last season.

Loewen was passed over in the NHL draft in his first two seasons of eligibility. The towering 6-foot-4 and 220-pound forward had a career season with the Blazers.

In 66 games, he scored 36 goals and produced 64 points.

Loewen has played four seasons with the Blazers after originally being drafted by them in the third round of the 2013 WHL Bantam Draft.

Loewen didn't have much time to celebrate being drafted, though, as he headed to Dallas last week for the Stars' development camp.

Neepawa signs Bremner



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Interlake Lightning captain Rhys Bremner of Stonewall recently signed with the Neepawa Natives of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Midget 'AAA' Pirates remain in first place

By Brian Bowman

The North Winnipeg Pirates and Bonivital Black Sox were involved in a real pitcher's duel in Midget "AAA" baseball action last week.

Despite a great pitching performance by Brittney Langlais, the Pirates lost a 3-1 decision to the Black Sox on June 26.

"We lost to a very good pitcher," said Pirates' head coach Gary Dear. "He pitched extremely well...and we had Brittney and she pitched extremely well."

The same two teams hooked up on June 24 with Bonivital winning a wild one, 21-14. North Winnipeg pitchers issued an astonishing 17 walks while hitting four Black Sox batters.

It's not easy to win with those kinds of ugly numbers.

"When we throw strikes, we do well," Dear offered. "We had a lot of games in a row."

A day after that blowout loss, North Winnipeg split a doubleheader with the Carillon Sultans, losing Game 1 by a 4-1 score before rebounding for a 6-5 victory.

Heading into this week's action, North Winnipeg was in first place with a solid 16-7 record.

"I'm very happy with that," Dear said. "We have a lot of first-year kids that are doing really well. All of our Interlake kids are doing extremely well."

When the Pirates are playing good baseball, they are a tough team to beat.

"Any game we don't make mistakes, we do very well," Dear said. "With the exception of that Boni game, where our pitchers couldn't find the strike zone, and we went through six or seven pitchers because of the pitch count and I couldn't throw half the guys that I would have liked."

The Pirates were scheduled to play Team Manitoba in a doubleheader at Koskie Field last Saturday but those games were postponed until this Sunday (at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.).

The Pirates will wrap up its regular season Tuesday and then the Midget "AAA" playoffs are slated to start July 18.

Announcements Classifieds



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MANITOBA FORAGE SEED ASSOCIATION



FORAGE SEED CROP TOUR & BBQ

Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2018
Location: Meet at Arborg Heritage Village (Hwy #68 just east of Arborg turn off)
Registration: 5:30 pm, Bus leaves @ 6:00 pm
Cost: \$20 (Includes Bus, BBQ & Refreshments)

The MB Forage Seed Association invites you to join them on a Summer Crop Tour. The event will highlight local agriculture and the latest research in the forage seed industry. Please pre-register to ensure room on the bus by contacting Heather @ 204-376-3309 or hmbey@forageseed.net.

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West Interlake

RM of West Interlake
REQUEST FOR TENDER

For the construction of 522 ft. x 6 ft. x 4 in. of new sidewalk. Along the South side of Main Street from Second Ave. S to Ashern Early Years School. Tender to also include the removal and disposal of current sidewalk. Bid amount will be by the square foot. Expansion joints shall be placed every 5 feet and will be at least 1 inch deep.

Supply all materials necessary to complete removal and construction of sidewalk. Base material for new sidewalk will have to be approved by RM of West Interlake and compacted to the satisfaction of the RM of West Interlake.

For more information or to view the location, please contact: The RM of West Interlake Office (Ashern) at 204-768-2641.

Please forward all tenders to:
 R.M. of West Interlake (Ashern office)
 Box 370, #38 Main Street, Ashern, MB ROC OEO
 Fax: 204-768-2301
 Email: info@rmofwestinterlake.com

Tender closing July 13, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT
CARD OF THANKS



We would like to say a big thank you to our coach Sean for a fantastic season. We would like to thank all the coaches in the Interlake and their teams for a great season. All the kids had so much fun. Landon, Athan and Mya are sad to see the season end but they did such a good job on their first season as did all the kids. Looking forward to 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



George Kowalchuk
 May 5, 1917 - July 8, 2003

In our hearts your memory lingers
 Sweetly tender, fond and true,
 There's not a day dear George, Dad and Gido
 That we do not think of you.

-Loving you and Eddie always
 and missing you both everyday,
 your wife, Mary
 and your children,
 Tom (and Chris), (Patty), Rosalie (and Mike),
 Lucy (and Terry), and their families

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM

Mattern
Philip and Ernest
 In loving memory of
 our dear brothers and uncles
 Philip - June 27, 2007
 Ernest - June 22, 1968

Deep in our hearts,
 A memory is kept;
 For the ones we loved,
 And will never forget.
 Each of us in our own special way,
 Remember them with love today.
 Forever loved, never forgotten,
 And sadly missed.

-Mina, Dody,
 Nieces and nephews

OBITUARY



Sandra Leschyshyn
 July 7, 1949 - June 27, 2018

Left to cherish Mom's memory are spouse, Carl Blahey; children, Brian, Melanie (Jody), Kyle (Denise); grandchildren, Logan, Jordyn, Liam, Leah, Jase, Jody Leo; step-daughters, Kelly (Scott), Jennifer (Paul), Stephany; step-grandchildren, Andrew, Cody, Morgan, Melissa and Michaela; brothers, Melvin and Warren Johnston.

Mom was predeceased by her husband Leonard Leschyshyn and parents, Raymond and Agnes Johnston.

Mom attended Framnes School and then Arborg School. She worked at Chicken Chef for 25 years. When not working Mom enjoyed cutting her grass and spending time with her grandchildren and friends.

Mom always looked forward to the holidays and spending time with the family. Mom made many good friends from school and her years at Chicken Chef.

Mom was President of The Ladies Auxiliary in Arborg and she took that role to heart. Mom always had something cheeky to say.

Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion 161 306 Main Street, Arborg, MB.

We welcome the sharing of stories as we honour our Mom's life. Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Ladies Auxiliary Board in Arborg.

Rest In Peace
 Baba, Granny and Grandma

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