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## Feast or famine

EXPRESS PHOTO BY TYLER SEARLE

Sellkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan speaks with members of the crowd following an ag producers rally on July 21. Farmers all across the Interlake are desperate for financial help from the provincial and federal governments. See full story on pg. 12.

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# SuperDog trainer helps owners connect with their pets

By Nicole Brownlee

Dogs have found a vacation home in a Winnipeg Beach hideaway.

Sammy Mar's SMART Dogs training has been active for seven years in the Interlake, but Mar has been involved in dog training for almost 20 years working with several facilities and even SuperDogs.

Mar moved her business from Teulon to Winnipeg Beach two years ago to establish a boarding facility.

"Where we are now, I call it a paradise for dogs," said Mar. "My goal has always been so someone [can] drop off their dogs. They don't have to worry about the dogs having fun. It's a safe place."

The property offers lots of room for the dogs to run and play outside, as well as an air-conditioned shelter for the furry friends to cool off on warm days.

"We have two play areas upstairs and downstairs, and then down the halls we have our boarding rooms, so when dogs stay with us overnight or anything like that, they don't stay in kennels. Each dog actually gets their own little room," said Mar.

The facility can accommodate approximately 20 dogs, but every day is different, especially as COVID-19 restrictions begin to loosen, said Mar.

"I'm seeing dogs [and people] that I



Mar studied dog behaviours through several courses, lectures and conferences over 10 years after adopting her first rescue dog 25 years ago.

haven't seen in a year and a half that are now coming out again," said Mar. "It's my business, but it's also my social life."

Jodi Coultas has been using SMART Dogs for over two years to work with her four-year-old American pitbull terrier, Capone, and plans to bring her recently added seven-week-old puppy of the same breed too.

"I'm so happy and so impressed with how my dog responds," said Coultas reflecting on her dog's time at Mar's. "She did all the groundwork and taught me how to correctly work



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Sammy Mar worked with SuperDogs for several years, training dogs to perform tricks, skills and routines before opening SMART Dogs in Winnipeg Beach.

with a dog."

Coultas lives a few hours north of Pine Falls in Bissett but said Mar is worth the drive.

"I've had such a good experience here. My dog's clean, you know, he's happy. He's well-balanced. I don't see a reason to go somewhere different," said Coultas.

"I have a great relationship with my dog because of all of the help she's given me."

Andrea Bjorklund has also been bringing her bulldog, Cane Corso and pitbull to Mar for over two years but initially found SMART Dogs when looking for a kennel.

"It's hard to find someone to look after three big dogs," said Bjorklund from Stony Mountain. "Sometimes people are scared to look after big dogs because they don't know if they

can necessarily control them."

While her dogs were at the facility, Mar assessed Bjorklund's dogs and gave her suggestions on how to help their behaviour.

"She's more training me to look after my dog than training the dog," said Bjorklund with a laugh.

Mar found Bjorklund's Cane Corso had anxiety issues, which Bjorklund had believed was aggression, and within a week of following Mar's guidelines, Bjorklund saw vast improvements.

"Every so often, when they do go to board, they do come back almost better trained," said Bjorklund. "Even though they're not there for training, they do get that one-on-one time with her."

To learn more about SMART Dogs, visit the SMART Dogs Facebook page.

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# Pasture well drilling increases tenfold during drought

By Tyler Searle

The demand for pasture wells in the Interlake has multiplied tenfold this season, and farmers are desperate to get water to livestock, said Sonny Rohne, owner of Interlake Water Supply.

The business typically drills between one and three pasture wells in a season, but this year Rohne estimates his team has drilled 20 pasture wells and are fielding requests for at least 20 more.

On top of drilling new wells, Interlake Water has also been busy refurbishing old ones, installing water pumps and — in emergency cases — transporting water in trucks directly onto farmers' fields.

Rohne and his staff have implemented a triage system and are prioritizing their jobs based on need. The demand for emergency relief means customers looking for residential services may have to wait up to three weeks, he said.

In the past, pasture wells were not a commodity because the Interlake usually is well saturated. Now, he is finding the static water table down 12 to 15 feet in some areas.

The lower table is not necessarily cause for concern, Rohne said.

He has seen levels fluctuate over the years, citing a period in the early aughts when the table was similarly low.

Despite the increase in the number of active wells, Rohne does not expect them to put a strain on the water table, he said.

The Interlake is situated on a productive carbonate limestone aquifer. The region — which accounts for Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba and several lakes and rivers — is known for its abundance of water.

Even the prolonged dry spell is not enough to drain the groundwater, he said.

In 2011, the Eastern Interlake Watershed District (EIWD) prepared the Netley-Grassmere Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

The plan identifies wells as posing a potential risk to groundwater quality of the aquifer in areas with less than six metres of overburden.

In geological terms, overburden refers to the sedimentary rock material covering a useful deposit.

To protect and improve the quality of drinking water in the district, the plan recommended the sealing of unused, abandoned, poorly constructed and problem-flowing wells in areas with shallow overburden and areas serviced by public water systems.

The EIWD identified Stonewall,



**EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED**  
The team at Interlake Water Supply uses machinery to drill a new well.

Stony Mountain, Argyle, Inwood and other parts of Rockwood as having less than six metres of overburden.

Most towns in the region filter public water through a treatment facility, but a study from the East Interlake Conservation District indicated one in every four wells in the EIWD failed to meet drinking water guidelines.

The study recommends residents who drink from private wells test the water frequently.

The pasture wells drilled by Interlake Water hydrate livestock and are not for public consumption.

The plan also called for further studies to identify the safe groundwater withdrawal and recharge rates.

"In addition to groundwater quality concerns, some watershed residents expressed concern about groundwater supply due to possible future drought conditions, reduced recharge, or overuse of the water supply," it reads.

This year, the Interlake is one of the driest places in the province with less than 50 per cent normal precipitation this growing season, said Shawn Cabek, who works for the provincial government as a livestock and forage specialist.

The region has been under drought advisory since the spring, but precipitation levels have been declining for up to five consecutive years, Cabek said.

"Not only did we have a dry growing season this year, but we had a dry winter. We've been super dry since last fall, so we've been really dry for about a year now."

While the province has not declared a state of agricultural disaster, multiple communities in the region have, including Woodlands, Rockwood, Armstrong, Coldwell, West Interlake and St. Laurent.

Cabek recommends farmers in need



When the well is ready, Interlake Water Supply uses a pump to carry water from the well to dugout.

of support apply for funding through the province's Ag Action and GROW programs. The programs provide money for constructing new wells, dugouts and fencing, or developing alternative watering systems.

Applicants can receive support up to \$10,000, Cabek said.

Representatives from both the Western and Eastern Interlake Watershed Districts said they are inundated with calls from panicked farmers.



A barren dugout can be replenished with water from a newly drilled pasture well within 24 hours.

The districts process funding applications and subsidize water resource development with provincial money.

The money is there, but applying for funding, waiting for approval and developing solar, wind or grid-powered watering sources take time.

Beef cattle require between 10 and 13 gallons of water per day, possibly more in higher temperatures.

Continued on page 7

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# Interlake livestock farmers using winter feed; province, federal assistance a Band-Aid solution

By Patricia Barrett

It's only mid-July but some Interlake livestock producers are using up feed they would normally reserve for the winter in a bid to keep their animals alive and hang on to their farms.

Pastures have shrivelled from lack of moisture, crops are failing to thrive and grasshoppers are eating everything they can as the region continues to suffer from extreme drought and intense heat.

The unfolding agricultural disaster has already seen some producers sell all or part of their herds at emergency auctions while others have already started to use or shortly anticipate using winter feed.

Allen Pfrimmer and his wife have a cow-calf operation of almost 200 head near North Shoal Lake, where most of his pastures have been decimated.

"Our pastures have been grazed right off. What the cattle haven't eaten, the grasshoppers have cleaned right up," said Pfrimmer last week. "You can almost see the soil. That's how bad it is."

Pfrimmer hasn't been able to cut much off his hayfields because there's "nothing to cut," he said. And he currently has his herd in a pasture that's probably going to "run out of grass in a couple of weeks."

"I'll have to put the cows in my hayfields and let them graze those off until their gone. Then I'll have to start feeding them," he said.

He's looking at all options to feed his animals before he starts buying hay. He's trying to find better parcels to hay before pastures "dry right out." And he has gone back to work as a carpenter "so I can buy some hay and feed and what we need as a way to generate a few dollars to support my

cattle."

By mid-August, he said he'll probably have to start feeding his herd.

"What we are going to feed our cattle in the middle of August is usually what we need to get them through the winter," said Pfrimmer. "But once that hay is gone, I don't know what I'm going to do for the winter."

He's not ready to sell right now because his cattle would be valued at half of what they're worth. He has spent about 25 years building up his herd and his family would have "nothing in the end" if they had to sell.

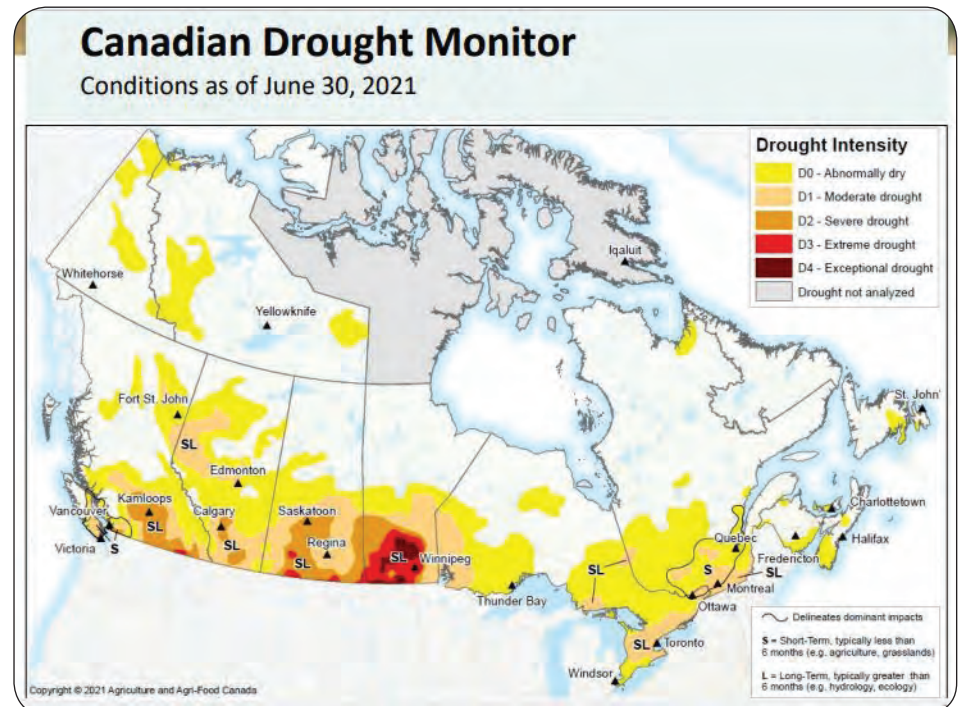
Other producers in the Shoal lakes area are resorting to cutting cattails (for feed) off parcels they used to hay before the massive flood of 2011, said Pfrimmer. The area east of Lake Manitoba was waterlogged for years. Now, North Shoal Lake is drying up, he said, estimating it has receded a couple hundred feet from the shoreline.

The provincial government needs to step in with relief. "They need to understand producers have been in a drought cycle for I would say almost four years and under constant stress," said Pfrimmer.

Peter Doerksen of Vestfold Ranches has a 1,200-head bison operation in the municipality of Coldwell along the borders of St. Laurent and Armstrong municipalities. He said he has no pasture left and no hay he can make.

"We've gone to feeding our bison full feed just like we would be in the wintertime," said Doerksen last week. "Our pastures are done and we won't be harvesting any hay. We hope to get a bit of our corn, but it's starting to tassel [early tasseling indicates stress]. Unless we get a good amount of rain from here on in, we won't get a lot of corn."

He has begun cutting bull-rushes for feed, he said, even though they're not a "good feed



## CANADIAN DROUGHT MONITOR

Manitoba is Canada's drought epicentre. The Interlake area has received approximately 50 per cent of normal precipitation since April, according to the Canadian Drought Monitor's June 30 update. Livestock producers report very little surface soil moisture, and dugouts and pastures have run dry.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Peter Doerksen of Vestfold Ranches has no pasture left for his bison.

source" in terms of nutrition, and has lined up a supply of straw.

Doerksen said his best guess is

that cattle numbers in the Interlake will shrink by 75 per cent, and that will give rise to "ghost towns." He has

Continued on page 8



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# Poetry anthology connects the Interlake to the land down under



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Judith McCudden's first anthology, titled *The Stroke of a Foot*, explores her journey moving from Victoria, Australia, to the Interlake in 2016.

By Nicole Brownlee

An Australian poet who found a home in the Interlake has published her first anthology chronicling her journey through travelling, drastic lifestyle changes and finding love.

Organized into four concepts — water, journey, navigation and landscape — Judith McCudden delves into starting a relationship later in life, the transition from a “comfortable” lifestyle in Victoria to a rustic environment in the Interlake and more in *The Stroke of a Foot*.

“One of the things that I wanted to try and get across ... is why did I come and do this? What made me sell up everything and come and live in another country?” said McCudden.

In a press release for her anthology, McCudden writes, “I’ve gone from living in a comfortable modern house close to the Pacific Ocean with all amenities to living in a two-room log cabin with no power or running water but an outside well surrounded by 155 acres of boreal forest.”

McCudden answers her question in *The Stroke of a Foot*’s foreword explaining, “My new home, and its original inhabitant, are my solace and joy. ... It only took a few seconds for someone to stroke my foot one night to change my life forever.”

She got her first taste of the Interlake in 2012 when she visited Manitoba on a teacher exchange. On a tour of the West Interlake to view rural communities in the province, McCudden was taken to observe commercial fishing, where she met a fisherman.

“I’ve come and gone ever since,” said McCudden.

She committed to moving across the world to the Interlake, and the pair were married in 2016.

Writing the anthology has offered her a means to reflect. “I find the writing of poetry is quite therapeutic for me,” said McCudden. “I’ve been writing poetry now for probably over 25 years, but seriously starting in about 2000.”

Around the early 2000s, McCudden started attending workshops at Australian Poetry, an organization that hosted opportunities for writers to edit, advise and enjoy each other’s work.

“I learned a lot about the skill and the art of poetry writing through those workshops,” said McCudden.

Despite her inaugural anthology being published last year in North America, McCudden has been published in several anthologies in Australia.

“I never took the opportunity to actually publish my own anthology,” said McCudden. “When I came here, and I felt I had gone through drafts and felt more confident, that’s when I started searching for some way to publish.”

Writing and working with creative organizations in North America also encouraged McCudden to explore different formats and poetry styles.

“One of the great things about coming to live in the northern hemisphere is being exposed to whole different

types of poets,” said McCudden. “I don’t mean that Australian poets aren’t varied, but you’re getting a much wider exposure to many different styles of poetry here.”

McCudden is now working on her second anthology titled *Mapleized*.

To purchase *The Stroke of a Foot*, visit <https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000116551448> or contact Judith McCudden at [judithmccudden@gmail.com](mailto:judithmccudden@gmail.com).

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## Proof of COVID vaccination in IERHA hospitals required for visiting, not for medical care

By Patricia Barrett

A man who attended Gimli's Johnson Memorial Hospital for a medical appointment last week said he's disappointed the hospital is not requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination status, and allowing unvaccinated people to mingle with the vaccinated.

At the hospital's check-in desk, where all visitors must report before they can proceed to other areas, the Gimli resident said he saw a home-made sign saying vaccination QR codes are "not accepted."

A QR or Quick Response code is a machine-readable barcode that stores information and can be read by phones and other devices.

Everyone entering the hospital should be required to show either a COVID vaccination card or a QR code downloaded on their phone, he said.

"Gimli hospital is failing to separate the anti-vaxxers from those who were compliant and got their COVID shots," said the resident, who does not want to be named as he's concerned about possible health-care service repercussions and being targeted by social media users. "Why can't the hospital have this extra level of security to keep us and their health workers safe? I don't feel safe going into the hospital and sitting there with others who aren't vaccinated."

In the past few months, it has become apparent that the virus and/or its variants are capable of infecting fully vaccinated people. The vaccines are said to mitigate against serious health complications, but none can mount a failsafe defence to keep the virus from entering the body in the first place. A few recent studies have also shown vaccine-induced antibodies waning over time although there is as yet no scientific data to indicate a corresponding susceptibility to infection or at what point in time that

begins to happen.

A number of residents at the Arborg Assisted Living facility were fully vaccinated by the end of March but were infected with COVID earlier this month (see July 22 *Express*). Some countries, such as the U.K., and vaccine-maker Pfizer-BioNTech have suggested a third booster shot may be necessary this autumn.

The Gimli resident said he's still waiting for surgery he was scheduled for long ago. Manitoba Health has postponed certain procedures so that health-care resources and personnel could be allocated to care for people with COVID.

The majority of Manitobans being hospitalized with COVID as of late are those who haven't been vaccinated, according to the province's chief public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin during an update a few weeks ago.

"Why are they letting in unvaccinated people to the hospital when we've already got a backlog of procedures in the health-care system?" said the man. "Unvaccinated people with COVID will use up the medical resources and we'll have an even longer delay getting our surgeries. My elective surgery is on hold."

He has a QR code on his phone and could walk into other establishments that have the technology to read it and prove he is fully vaccinated, he said. Gimli hospital should have that same technology set up and be using it. He is still waiting for a paper card he ordered from the province.

"How can Manitoba Health issue a vaccine card and a QR code and then not accept them in their own hospitals?" said the man.

A spokesperson for the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority said proof of COVID vaccination status is only being checked in certain situations, such as when visiting a

hospitalized patient. To do that, people need to be fully vaccinated. The name on their vaccine card/code is also being checked against personal identification.

"Currently, anyone who has confirmation they are 14 days past their second dose of COVID-19 vaccination may visit someone in hospital who has two vaccinations and is 14 days past their second dose as well," said the spokesperson by email last Wednesday.

Other restrictions are also in place. Visitors should call the hospital to "ensure all conditions can be met" before they come for a visit.

"For instance, if a patient is sharing a room, we need to confirm all patients in the room have been vaccinated twice and are past the 14 days or try to make other accommodations for the visit to occur," said the spokesperson. "In certain situations, we may accommodate visitors regardless of vaccination status (such as end of life). As more people get vaccinations, we expect some restrictions will be eased."

COVID screening protocols are still in place at all IERHA hospitals. Everyone who enters a hospital is screened and provided with a medical mask they must wear at all times.

But people seeking medical care from an IERHA clinic, some of which are attached to or embedded within hospital buildings, are not required to show proof of their COVID vaccination status.

"For people attending primary care appointments with their local physician or nurse practitioner in an Interlake-Eastern RHA clinic, we currently do not check vaccination status upon entry," said the spokesperson. "People attending appointments will be screened and expected to wear a mask while in the facility."



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1-204-407-6099  
patricia@expressweeklynews.ca



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# getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > GIMLI > ARBORG > HIGHWAY 6 > SURROUNDING AREAS



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DAVE JOHNSON

On July 19 Dave Johnson and family went to Lundar beach to dip their feet in the water. Although the water has receded and they had to walk out a ways, it was sometimes hard to see the division between water and sky due to the smoke. The point north of the public beach drew a horizon line. Help the *Express* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or families enjoying the outdoors. Email: [weather@expressweeklynews.ca](mailto:weather@expressweeklynews.ca).

## College programs enable Interlake students' remote learning

By Nicole Brownlee

Red River College releases new programs in the Interlake region to accommodate changing needs in the community.

The RRC Interlake Peguis-Fisher Branch campus released 11 programs they're now accepting applications for, including new programs.

"We do deliveries based on the employment needs of our communities," explained Darlene Bouvier, Interlake campus manager. "We do a lot to encompass and understand the needs of the region prior to making plans."

After consulting with industry leaders, like the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority, business professionals and educational organizations, RRC found the need for intermediate business classes, trades programs and health care programs at the Interlake campus.

"Of course, right now, with COVID-19, health-care aides are in just high demand. They are hired even before they complete their practicum," said Bouvier.

A new addition to the campus is a four-month certificate program, Introduction to Business Information

Technology, which is a first step to the two-year Business Information Technology program. The preparatory program accepts mature students who are 19 years or older who have completed up to Grade 10. The BIT program previously only admitted students who completed Grade 12.

"[The introductory program] would get them prepared as a mature learner, and they can have the opportunity for an amazing career," said Bouvier.

The Social Innovation and Community Development program is another addition to the campus available during the fall semester. The two-year diploma program focuses on socioeconomic development and environmental issues.

"Students can opt to exit with a one-year certificate if they wish, or they could move into the second year and choose one of two majors — either community development or Indigenous social entrepreneurship," said Bouvier.

Several of the programs offer theory virtually with opportunities to learn on-site depending on the class.

"If we have enough students, we can actually deliver some hands-on, criti-

cal skills right in the communities," said Bouvier.

The college's main campus sits in Selkirk, but RRC also offers community-based programs across the Interlake through connections with educational institutions in the areas for in-person classes and opportunities to work in the community.

"There's just a huge benefit to be able to deliver programs directly in the community," said Darlene Bouvier, Interlake campus manager. "Our numbers show that I have a higher success rate when I can deliver programs directly in the communities for the students."

Virtual learning has enabled the campus to broaden its reach to students in exterior communities, said Bouvier.

"Students from throughout the region, no matter where they are, can learn online," said Bouvier. "A larger volume of students [has] enabled us to provide more opportunities for more training and courses."

To learn more about the offered programs, visit [rrc.ca/interlake](http://rrc.ca/interlake).

## Highway construction project to close intersections permanently on north Perimeter

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba Infrastructure officials advise construction will begin on the north perimeter starting Monday, July 26.

This project will involve intersection improvements including:

- construction of turning lanes, concrete pavement repairs and graveling of existing service roads; and
- removing intersections and median openings.

Work will begin on the west perimeter working toward the east and the project is scheduled to be completed by October 2021. Traffic control will be in place, and will include temporary lane closures and reduced speed zones.

The project will permanently close the following intersections on the perimeter highway:

- Road 64 North,
- Inkster Boulevard,
- Prairie Dog Trail,
- Summit Road,
- Klompke Road, and
- King Edward Street.

The annual road repair season is underway and motorists are reminded to slow down and drive safely when they see construction signs and flaggers at the roadside. Drivers are required to reduce speeds to specific limits in construction zones under the Highway Traffic Act.

For more information on the project, visit <https://engagemb.ca/north-perimeter-safety-review/>.

The latest information on Manitoba's road conditions are available any time at 511 (toll-free), at [www.manitoba511.ca](http://www.manitoba511.ca) or by following the Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/MBGovRoads](https://twitter.com/MBGovRoads).

## > DRILLING, FROM PG. 3

Farmers who rely on dugouts to water their livestock are finding them completely barren.

Drilling or refurbishing a well and then pumping to fill a dugout can be completed within 24 hours and is the best option in an emergency, Rohne

said.

WIWD has processed 31 applications for alternative watering systems at the time of print and received up to 30 more inquiries — with more coming daily.

EIWD has received 14 applications from landowners. More than 1,780 cattle in the district are affected by

the drought, and farmers have reported at least 16 dugouts as barren.

Farmers who need to drill wells or install pump systems can reach Interlake Water Supply at 204-278-3328 or via their website <https://www.interlakewatersupply.ca>.



## > LIVESTOCK, FROM PG. 4

spoken with producers near Gypsumville, Brandon and other areas and they're having to sell all or part of their herds.

"They're being forced out. Guys in their 60s won't get back in," said Doerksen, who has had 32 years in the industry. "I'm hoping people don't make the decision to starve their animals. That could be a shame in all of this."

People with hay to sell may try to get as much as they can for it because they need the income like everyone else, he said. But there may be limited supply as the drought is bigger than just Manitoba; it stretches across Canada and dips down into the U.S.

"Who knows if there will be enough feed in the country to feed all the animals that farmers are trying to hang on to," he said. "There could also be a shortfall of feed produced by feed mills."

Although some livestock producers are insured under AgriStability and others under crop insurance programs, Doerksen said the programs "aren't as producer friendly as they should be." And he has had recent discussions with provincial and federal politicians about making them worthwhile.

"Politicians can't make it rain, but they can make adjustments to these programs to help our industry," he said. "And adjustments can't happen at turtle speed. The severity of this [drought] has increased tenfold. When I have to make a decision about my operation, I don't spend a year making that decision."

Last Thursday the federal and provincial governments announced a financial top-up under the jointly funded AgriInsurance program for those with drought-damaged crops. Insured forage producers can turn their crops into livestock feed by cutting them while the plants are still green and get \$44 a tonne extra.

A forthcoming plan was also announced to implement a livestock tax deferral for beef producers forced to sell a significant number of animals, as was possible assistance for the cost of purchasing livestock feed, transportation and water infrastructure.

Federal agriculture minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and provincial agriculture minister Ralph Eichler were among a group of politicians and ag association representatives touring parts of the Interlake last Thursday to see the devastation.

"Our government is working closely

with our provincial partners to respond on a rapid basis to the evolving drought situation in Western Canada," said Bibeau in a July 22 federal news release. "I am here to listen and help those farm families hard hit by this extreme weather."

In addition to addressing the immediate feed crisis, Bibeau reiterated a previous federal offer to raise the AgriStability compensation rate from 70 to 80 per cent. She "urged Prairie governments to match it." Manitoba had taken part in talks last year about improving the program but didn't sign on.

Eichler said in a provincial news release issued the same day that the government recognizes it has been an "extremely difficult year" for many producers. "With pastures drying up and minimal sources of feed for livestock, it's important to give producers the resources they need to secure feed to maintain their herds."

The governments' immediate focus on feeding livestock is only a short-term "band-aid" solution to the disaster, said Paul Gregory, Keystone Agricultural Producers' Interlake representative. And the relief applies to producers who are insured under AgriInsurance.

"The \$44 a tonne sounds good, but in reality it won't help the majority

of producers, which is unfortunate," said Gregory last Friday. "I would say around here, in the north Interlake region, three quarters of the producers don't have insurance for hay because it's a marginal program. A bunch of cattle producers have never been in it. They look at the cost and the benefits and say, 'No, we're not going to do it.'"

Even if the weather takes a turn for the better, he can't envisage producers being able to bounce back quickly. It will take time and they'll need assistance.

"With our pastures and hay fields beaten up this badly, this crisis isn't just going to blow over. It will be years before these fields return [to good condition]," he said. "And if you're having to pump water to fill up dug-outs, that's a huge amount of work and cost. Given the outlook on the weather, I think people are going to sell. There's simply no feed."

Gregory said it typically takes livestock producers about 30-40 years to build up a nice herd, and many won't recover from this disaster. If they have to sell, it will be a "very emotional thing."

For free, confidential counselling, farmers can call Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services at (toll-free) 1-866-367-3276.

# Taking steps to a post-pandemic Manitoba

By Lorne Stelmach

Provincial officials remain encouraged by the continuing positive trend with COVID-19 case counts, but they also still stress the need remains for

more Manitobans to be vaccinated.

"This is continuing our path to a post-pandemic Manitoba," chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin said during his daily update on Monday.

"We know COVID-19 is still going to be with us," he noted. "In that post-

pandemic Manitoba, this is going to be a Manitoba with public health guidelines rather than public health restrictions.

"We know we have some Manitobans that still are hesitant ... the more Manitobans that become vaccinated, the sooner we'll be to that post-pandemic Manitoba."

Roussin touched on what further measures might be considered in terms of tighter or looser restrictions depending on vaccination rates, which remain notably lower in the RM of Stanley and City of Winkler.

"When we see low rates, especially clustering geographically, it does put us at risk for that fourth wave," he said. "We have had in the past local restrictions, and so nothing is off the table."

"We really recognize that vaccine is our way through this pandemic ... we really want to encourage Manitobans to hit those targets," Roussin stressed.

The province is hoping to see at least 80 per cent of all Manitobans aged 12 and over with a first dose of the vaccine and over 75 per cent with a second dose by Labour Day. At press time, 78.7 per cent of eligible Manitobans had had their first shot and 66.5 per cent their second.

Also on Monday, Roussin announced

103 new cases of the virus were identified over the weekend, including 62 on Saturday, 30 on Sunday, and 11 on Monday.

Of the 11 cases reported Monday, two were in the Interlake-Eastern health region.

Active case counts are on a downward trend in the Interlake-Eastern region this week, with Beausejour reporting seven cases on Monday; Eriksdale/Ashern, eight; Fisher/Peguis, 78; Northern Remote, 18; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet, one; Powerview/Pine Falls, 63; Selkirk, two; Springfield, one; St. Clements, two; Stonewall/Teulon, four; Teulon, four; Unknown, four; and St. Andrews/Winnipeg Beach, five.

Provincially, there were two new deaths in people with COVID-19 reported from the weekend. The total number of COVID-19 deaths in Manitoba is 1,172 with 47 of those in the Interlake-Eastern region.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was at three per cent provincially and 1.8 per cent in Winnipeg.

There were 528 active cases overall and 55,756 recoveries. A total of 110 Manitobans were hospitalized with COVID-19 at the start of the work week, including 26 in intensive care.



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## RECYCLING NOTICE

**Riverdale Place workshop will not be picking up recycling on the below mentioned dates due to the small group of workers available.**

Mon. August 2, 2021 at Riverton Business places  
 Tues. Aug. 3 at Arborg Curbside pickup  
 Wed. Aug. 4 at Arborg Business places  
 Thurs. Aug. 5 at Riverton Curbside pickup

Mon. Aug. 16, 2021 at Riverton Business places  
 Tues. Aug. 17 at Arborg Curbside pickup  
 Wed. Aug. 18 at Arborg Business places  
 Thurs. Aug. 19 at Riverton Business places

Mon. Aug. 30, 2021 at Riverton Business places  
 Tues. Aug. 31 at Arborg Curbside pickup  
 Wed. Sept. 1 at Arborg Business places  
 Thurs. Sept. 2 at Riverton Curbside pickup

**The workshop will be CLOSED on Mon. Aug 2 Civic Holiday. Please rinse containers Thank you for Recycling**



# Summer school offers students job opportunities

By Nicole Brownlee

Lakeshore School Division's alternative educational program gets an extension this summer, offering students more opportunities to succeed.

Don Nikkel, superintendent of human resources, policy and public relations for LSD, started the Lakeshore Educational Growth Opportunities program five years ago. The program encompasses two semesters filled with life skill seminars, volunteer experience and work placements.

Interlake youth aged 16 to 21 have the opportunity through LEGO to learn independence while getting experience in their desired fields and earning high school credits.

"Either they're looking to excel their employment or they need help with like barriers. ... We help our students also get their licences and get their first aid, CPR, other certifications," explained Jemini Beroud, LEGO program director.

Beroud led the charge to expand the program into a third semester during the summer with the help of her team, Tyler Medeiros and Tyler Friesen.

"We did have to think outside of the box and be able to figure out how can we get the same type of skills but in a different field," said Beroud. "It was quite a bit of extra work on the research side."

While a normal LEGO semester spans three to four months, the summer semester is condensed to two months to give some students who wouldn't normally be able to access the program a chance to apply.

"With the summertime programming, it actually gives us an opportunity to work with students that we

wouldn't generally get the opportunity to work with because they would be in full-time classes," said Beroud.

Offering the program in the summer also gave students who struggled with online learning a chance to earn extra credits.

"In rural Manitoba, there isn't much open right now. ... There's not a lot for participants to do, so this gives them something else to be able to focus on," she added.

The eight students attend regular classes at Fisher Branch Collegiate and spend several days at Camp Assiniboia for group-based employment skills training, prepare for their respective co-ops and work in their home communities.

"We have some really interesting participants, and they all have just really cool opportunities this summer," said Beroud.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, students were also allowed to participate in co-ops in Winnipeg and in their home communities, but to promote students' safety, LEGO vetoed the Winnipeg placements for the time being.

This summer, LEGO students are working at a library in Lundar, the Eriksdale Personal Care Home and more.

Willow Rink is working at Myriad Village for her co-op this semester and said the LEGO program has helped her grow and presented a fun and unique work opportunity.

"Sometimes school isn't for everyone, and then you got to take a step back and go and do something else and then come back to it, and that's a huge benefit for this program," said



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Tyler Medeiros, Jemini Beroud and Tyler Friesen worked together to extend the LEGO program to include a third summer semester, offering students an additional chance to gain valuable experience.



Willow Rink is spending her summer working at the Myriad Village as a part of the LEGO program's summer semester.

Beroud.

To learn more about the LEGO pro-

gram, visit <https://www.lakeshoresd.mb.ca/LEGO>.

## Province opens applications for the Healthy Hire Manitoba program

Submitted by Manitoba government

The province is now accepting applications for the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program, a wage support program designed to help private-sector employers reopen and encourage employees to get fully vaccinated, said Ralph Eichler, former Economic Development and Jobs Minister.

"Our government remains focused on getting all eligible Manitobans vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible, and the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program helps support that goal and complements our '4-3-2-One Great Summer' Reopening Path that rewards Manitobans with fewer restrictions as more and more Manitobans get fully vaccinated," said Eichler. "The goals of this program benefit employ-

ers, employees and Manitobans alike as it encourages vaccination and helps to safely restart our economy as it increases staffing levels and brings more employees back to work to provide Manitobans with the goods and services they depend on."

Under the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program, local employers can apply for up to \$50,000 in provincial support to help cover the wages of new employees who can attest they have been vaccinated, intend to be vaccinated or are unable to be vaccinated. Eligible employers will receive a grant equivalent to 50 per cent of wages for a maximum of 10 employees, with a maximum of \$5,000 per employee. The wage support covers full pay periods for employees hired on or after June

10 with the last pay period ending Oct. 15.

Eichler noted the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program will be amalgamated with the previously announced Manitoba Youth Jobs Program for a total of \$45 million available to support employers as they bring employees of all ages safely into the workplace. New applications will no longer be accepted under the previous Manitoba Youth Jobs Program and employers that have already applied will be notified regarding next steps.

Employers are encouraged to view the guidelines and resources online to support them in the application process. A larger list of eligibility requirements is also now available online. Along with confirming em-

ployee attestation that they have been vaccinated, will be vaccinated or are unable to be vaccinated, eligible employers must declare they have supported public health protocols in the workplace including providing new hires with public health vaccine information.

Key dates, full eligibility criteria, and more information on the new Healthy Hire Manitoba Program can be found online at [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/programs/healthy-hire-mb.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/programs/healthy-hire-mb.html).

Questions about the Healthy Hire Manitoba Program can be directed to a new email address at [HealthyHire@gov.mb.ca](mailto:HealthyHire@gov.mb.ca).



# Flicks Cinema gearing up to reopen after being forced to close for months

By Sydney Lockhart

After a long 16 months of being shut down, The Flicks Cinema is preparing to open in three or four weeks for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Owner Don Smith said he has been working on upgrades to the local theatre while being closed so that when he opens, the community can enjoy the space even more.

"I've been working on building our soffit over top of the concession counter with lights in it," he said.

Smith is happy to be in a position where he can be open finally.

He added that he doesn't feel the need to rush to open his doors because he wants to understand the regulations and keep his customers safe fully.

"The problem was originally that it's all six feet apart. My lobby is very small. So how do you line people up or so on?" he said.

On top of the lobby renovations, Smith has painted the interior and installed a new popcorn fan.

"The big thing seems to be popcorn. People tell me that is what people miss," said Smith.

For over 40 years, Smith has owned

The Flicks Cinema, and this is the most extended period he has had to close his doors.

"It's been pretty doggone quiet, and the bills keep coming and you still gotta keep paying," he said. "It has consumed a lot of my saved money paying the bills."

At age 77, Smith said he has seen many seniors miss going out to the movies and is looking forward to giving people a place to come and enjoy them again if they are fully vaccinated.

The movies have always been what Smith had a passion for. Since he was eight years old, he would hang around the booth at the old theatre in Stonewall. Then, after 14 years of teaching high school, he decided to start his own theatre where other movie lovers could come in town.

Smith said he is excited to open with the new provincial COVID-19 restrictions changing and can't wait for people to see the new changes.

The Flicks Cinema is located at 319 First St. E. in Stonewall and will announce its opening in advertisements in the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* and the *Express Weekly News* or on their website flickscinema.com.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY SYDNEY LOCKHART

Don Smith, owner of The Flicks Cinema, has been working to renovate the inside of his theatre while being closed due to COVID restrictions.

## Armstrong reeve's roles to be decided at the discretion of council; new bylaw

By Patricia Barrett

The Municipality of Armstrong is in the process of passing a new organizational bylaw that will formalize council's power to decide who will act as its spokesperson and appoint — or not appoint — Reeve Susan Smerchanski to whatever committees it chooses.

If passed, Bylaw No. 6-2021 will govern council and its committees and replace Bylaw No. 2-2018.

The new bylaw, which already passed first reading, comes after a majority of council decided in March to have its chief administrative officer (CAO) draft responses to media queries then hired a private consultant to draw up organizational procedures.

Section eight of the new bylaw states that council "shall by resolution appoint one of its members to serve as official spokesperson for council." That will occur each November or at the inaugural meeting of council each year.

The official spokesperson can change at the whim of the current spokesperson.

"The official spokesperson may, as circumstances dictate, delegate the

responsibility of official spokesperson on a particular topic to another member of council or designated officer," states the bylaw.

At council's March 9 meeting, a majority of council had voted in favour of a resolution (No. 2021-79) to appoint a spokesperson for the RM and to respond to media.

The minutes of that meeting state that all council members would be given an "opportunity to respond to newspaper reporters by sending comment to the CAO who will draft up the response, and further that before submitting the response to the papers, a draft is to be emailed to all of council."

Reeve Susan Smerchanski and Coun. Allen Evanchyshin had voted against the resolution while councillors Paul Humeny, Adam Krochenski, Ted Sumka and Ralph Hazelton voted in favour.

It's unclear what prompted the resolution. If the new bylaw passes second and third reading, it will give council other powers, such as deciding what committees the reeve will sit on.

Section six states: "The Reeve is a member of only those committees to which the Reeve has been appointed."

### OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON

8.0 At the regular council meeting in November or Inaugural Meeting in each year, the council shall, by resolution, appoint one of its members to serve as Official Spokesperson for council.

8.1 The Official Spokesperson may, as circumstances dictate, delegate the responsibility of Official Spokesperson on a particular topic to another member of council or designated officer.

EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF RM OF ARMSTRONG

Section 8 of the new organizational bylaw appoints an official spokesperson.

The *Express* asked both CAO Corlie Larsen and Reeve Smerchanski why it appears that the powers of the reeve are to be limited at the discretion of council.

"After receiving advice from a municipal adviser council decided to follow his recommendations," said Larsen last week by email. First reading of the new bylaw passed with "council majority voted in favour."

Smerchanski did not respond as Larsen is responsible for drafting responses to the media.

The advisor Larsen referred to is Ernie Epp from Way To Go Consulting

Inc., a private firm based in southern Manitoba, according to its website.

The consulting firm was given the green light at council's March 9 meeting "to supply support services to the Rural Municipality of Armstrong in updating its governance documents." And at its April 13 meeting, council authorized the company to "make changes" to the municipality's existing documents and generate new ones.

Council typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Fraserwood Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 10.



# Gimli residents try to educate MLA Derek Johnson about Indigenous issues

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli residents held an educational gathering outside the constituency office of Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson after he failed to denounce remarks made by fellow Conservative party members Alan Lagimodiere (Selkirk MLA) and Premier Brian Pallister.

The remarks were considered racist and an attempt to rewrite Canada's history of colonialism and residential school system under which Indigenous people greatly suffered.

Gimli resident Cameron Adams organized the gathering, called the TRC, Telling the Truth Gathering, which took place July 23. He said the purpose of the event was to have an open discussion with Johnson about Canada's treatment of Indigenous people.

"Over 30 people came. It was bigger than I expected," said Adams by phone after the event. "And there was a lot of interest in holding another one."

Johnson did not show up and the office was closed, said Adams. He had spoken with Johnson earlier last week by phone after making several attempts to speak with him.

"During the call, I asked Derek if he would denounce his colleagues' remarks, but he just circled around the issue. He was using buzzwords and saying things like, 'We have to listen to our elders,'" said Adams, who is of Cree and Ojibway descent and has family members from Norway House First Nation and Berens River First Nation.

After statues of two English queens were pulled off their pedestals on the grounds of the legislature on Canada Day, Pallister said settlers coming to Canada wanted to "build" and "build better," not destroy. His remarks were censured by Indigenous leaders and others. At least three of Pallister's ministers have publicly distanced themselves from his remarks.

After he was sworn in as Manitoba's new Indigenous reconciliation minister on July 15, Alan Lagimodiere, who is Métis, said the people who ran residential schools thought they were doing the "right thing." He issued a statement the next day, apologizing for offending people.

The educational event in Gimli attracted teachers, a university instructor, a residential school survivor, parents and their kids, municipal staff and members of the RCMP, said Adams.

Johnson was aware the gathering was going to take place, said Adams. The day before the gathering, the RCMP contacted Adams after receiving a call from the constituency office



Gimli resident Cameron Adams organized and hosted the education session.

that there was going to be a protest.

"His office contacted the RCMP and misconstrued the gathering as a protest instead of what it was: an opportunity to get together and have a peaceful discussion and share truths," said Adams. "This shows Derek's further lack of willingness to engage on Indigenous issues."

Adams said Johnson also blocked him from commenting on [Johnson's] Facebook page, and told him it was a technical glitch.

Johnson, who is the municipal relations minister, was asked last week by the Canadian Press whether he supports Pallister's comments.

"If we're talking right now, we're not listening. We need to listen, continue to listen, have input and move forward with reconciliation," Johnson was quoted as saying during a press conference.

Adams, who saw Johnson's response reported in the media, said he "doesn't believe he's sincere."

"I think he can be educated on Indigenous issues, but he's avoiding doing that and he's avoiding me," said Adams. "By not denouncing what the premier and his colleague said, he has dug himself a hole and that makes him complicit."

Johnson told the *Express* he had spoken with [Adams] a few days before the gathering and said he is committed to listening, learning and being educated.

"On Tuesday, in a 20-minute phone call, I shared with him that my priority is to engage with and listen to Indigenous leadership, residential school survivors and their communities," said Johnson by email. "There must be continued dialogue and sharing knowledge to move toward truth and reconciliation. I am committed to continually listening, learning and being educated to advance and sup-



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMERON ADAMS

Gimli residents participated in an educational gathering outside Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson's office to discuss the legacy of residential schools and recent remarks made by the premier and the Indigenous reconciliation minister.



Among the participants were a residential school survivor, teachers, a university instructor, municipal staff and parents with their kids.



Gimli resident Cameron Adams organized and hosted the education session.

port the necessary process of healing and truth-telling on this important path forward."

As regards his constituency office contacting the RCMP, Johnson said that was part of a safety protocol.

"When staff at our Gimli constituency office learned of the planned gathering, they provided notice to the RCMP as part of the safety protocol to

ensure that the right to peaceful protest is respected while ensuring the safety of everyone," said Johnson.

"The police response to the information supplied is entirely the purview of the police. Our paramount concern is always for the safety of all citizens while supporting the right to democratic peaceful assembly."



# Interlake ag producers host rally asking for government intervention

By Tyler Searle

Politicians from the three major parties met with Interlake ag producers last Wednesday to discuss government aid for farmers whose livelihoods are at stake.

Longstanding drought conditions have brought many farms in the Interlake to the brink of disaster. Water and feed are commodities as high heat and low precipitation wither crops and leave watering holes empty.

Dugouts where cattle once sought water and relief from bullseyes (black flies) have become empty pits, forcing farmers to either drill new wells to replenish them or haul water to the animals, said Lake Francis farmer Barry Oliver.

To make matters worse, swarms of grasshoppers are sweeping large swaths of farmland, eating everything in their path, and the price of supplementary feed, steel and fuel is reaching unprecedented heights, Oliver said.

Producers who've been making do with progressively less feed, cattle and profit every year are past the point of sustainability. Many are working non-stop, but the effort seems futile, and this is not a problem that will end with summer. Without adequate and affordable access to winter feed, cattle will starve, he added.

"There will be a lot of good cattle on hooks this summer."

Already farmers are selling their herds.

Ashern Auction Mart hosted an emergency drought sale on the same day as the rally. The timing was coincidental, and the mart does not typically host a summer sale until the end of August, said manager Kirk Kiesman.

The auction saw 1,498 cattle, including cows, bulls, feeders and cow-calf pairs.

The price of slaughter cows was

down around five cents, but bulls and feeders remained steady when compared to the last sale, he said.

To see that many cattle go in a July sale is foreboding of the state of Manitoba's cattle industry.

Two cattle herds left the Interlake, and when farmers sell their herds, they are unlikely to return, Kiesman said.

Without government intervention, more producers in the region will liquidate their animals, and rural communities will suffer, he said.

The Erinview rally allowed the politicians to speak directly to their constituents and explain how each party is advocating for help.

Woodlands councillor Orval Proctor arranged the event on a day's notice, and former president of Manitoba Beef Producers Dianne Riding put the word out on social media.

It took place at the Erinview Fire Hall at 11 a.m., with nearly 100 people in attendance.

**"SEE THAT HAY OVER THERE. IT'S NOT WORTH TWO CENTS."**

Conservative MP James Bezan, Liberal MLA Jon Gerrard and NDP MLA Diljeet Brar represented their respective political factions.

MLAs Ralph Eichler and Derek Johnson could not change their schedules on short notice and were unable to

attend, Bezan said

Bezan spoke first.

"There's no question that we need answers, and we need direction right now," he began.

"We're going to be losing a great big chunk of our beef factory this year if we don't save the cow herds and get some money rolling into farmers' hands."

Farmers in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are reeling from the heatwave engulfing western Canada. The shared plight is an advantage for the Manitoban government who can



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY TYLER SEARLE

Liberal MLA Jon Gerrard (far left), NDP MLA Diljeet Brar (middle) and Conservative MP James Bezan spoke to the crowd.

unite with other provinces to garner federal attention, Bezan said.

The MP suggested ad-hoc payments and a three- to five-year tax deferral allowing farmers who cull their herds time to recover.

He also asked the province to allow farmers to harvest hay from wildlife management areas in the region.

"This is a disaster. It has to be recognized as a crisis, and there has to be provincial and federal help," Gerrard said when he addressed the crowd.

Sourcing feed for cattle is paramount, he said, and he too called on the province to open up conservation land for harvest and considered ad-hoc payments.

Gerrard recognized that the problem has been building over the last three seasons and said crop assistance programs are not a solution for multiple-year events.

"What I'm hearing from most of the people I've talked to so far is that a payment based on per animal would be a better way to go and would be fairer. It would allow producers to make their own decisions in terms of how they manage their stock," he said.

Gerrard promised to negotiate with both the province and the feds.

Brar spoke last.

The problem is multifaceted and needs to be addressed by both levels

of government, he began.

"Insect problem, moisture problem, debt problem, Crown land lease increase problem. So many issues.

"We have to stand together to face this problem, and if we're positive, we will get through it," he said.

The NDP is advocating to the federal government, he said, and asked those in attendance to email him their suggested solutions.

When all the representatives finished speaking, the floor opened for comments from the crowd.

Riding called for the politicians to take action before a federal election.

"If they do call a federal election, there will be a blackout, and then there will be no AgriRecovery for us if they don't have it in the works," she said.

Interlake cattleman John Dyck expressed his concern opening conservation land for harvest would not sustain the industry. To illustrate his point, he brought a truck and trailer full of round bales.

"See that hay over there," Dyck said, pointing at his trailer. "It's not worth two cents.

"That's the kind of stuff you're talking about on wildlife land."

Bison farmer Ken Overby asked all to consider the needs of alternative farms raising bison, sheep and goats.

Bison farms don't have access to auctions until fall and cannot liquidate their herds if they need, he said.

Shepherds typically source their feed from the excess of dairy and beef cattle, so their herds are particularly vulnerable, Bezan said.

Another man in the ground raised concerns over Crown-land leases.

The politicians all remained after the rally to speak with the public.

Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude Bibeau and Ralph Eichler also toured the Interlake last Thursday and spoke with farmers on behalf of the federal government.



Jon Gerrard speaks with Ken and Iris Overby after the rally.



Diljeet Brar speaks with John Dyck after the rally.



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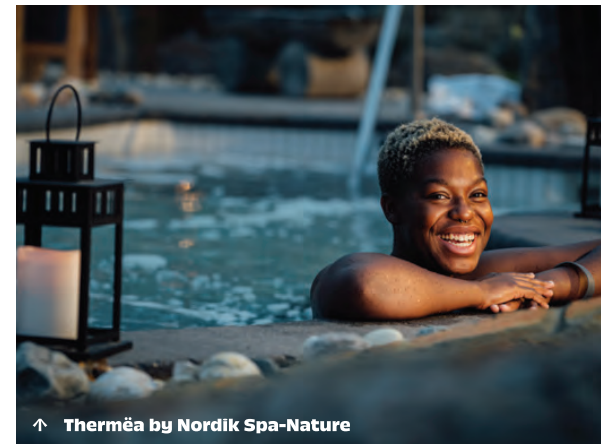
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↑ St. Boniface Cathedral



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## 1 PASSION & HISTOIRE

When you visit Winnipeg's **St. Boniface** neighbourhood, you'll find its Francophone history, architecture and culture lining the streets. Cross the striking **Esplanade Riel** pedestrian bridge that links The Forks and downtown Winnipeg to St. Boniface.

Start at the information centre inside the former **St. Boniface City Hall** building on Provencher Boulevard. Here you can book a walking tour, get information or watch a documentary about the history and passion of Manitoba's Francophone community.

Next, check out le **Musée de Saint Boniface Museum**, the oldest building in Manitoba. Built more than 170 years ago, the building was originally a convent. Today, it is full of Francophone history and art, including a permanent exhibit on Louis Riel, the founder of Manitoba. A block away is the **Saint Boniface Cathedral**.

The current church was built in 1971 after a fire burned the majority of the previous church. The old facade from 1894 still stands tall in front of the modern building, making for stunning photographs. Louis Riel's tombstone sits in the cemetery in front of the cathedral, where a plaque informs visitors about his life and legacy.

Another St. Boniface treasure is **Fort Gibraltar**. This replica of a 19th century North West Company fur trading fort features costumed interpreters who bring the fur trade period alive. You can also visit **la Maison Gabrielle Roy**, the original home of the renowned Franco-Manitoban author. Her hometown and the house itself are featured throughout much of her work. Round out your visit to St. Boniface with a croissant from a local bakery, a beverage from a neighbourhood coffee shop or a meal at a bistro.



↓ Assiniboine Park Zoo

## 2 A WALK IN THE PARK

A day spent at the **Assiniboine Park Zoo** is an absolute must. The Journey to Churchill exhibit features an underwater viewing tunnel to watch swimming polar bears and playful seals. See Arctic fox, caribou and wolves, along with tigers, gibbons and other exotic animals. Check

out Aunt Sally's Farm, where colourful bridges give safe passage to goats and kids can play next to the animals. Another playground option in **Assiniboine Park** is the wide open space in the **Nature Playground** or spend some time in the tranquil **Leo Mol Sculpture Garden**.

## 3 THE ART OF RELAXATION

The **Winnipeg Art Gallery's** iconic downtown building features a modernist design and more than 27,000 works of art. Browse the galleries where local Manitoba and Canadian artists are at the forefront, along with international works representing various cultures, centuries and mediums.

Now open is **Qaumajuq**, the WAG's Inuit art centre. The architecture was inspired by Canada's northern landscape and it is home to more than 14,000 pieces of Inuit art, many of which are on display in the visible vault. The first of its kind in the world, Qaumajuq offers a space where Inuit voices are held front and centre. This accessible space combines art and technology to create direct connections to the land, people and culture of the North.

After all that exploring, you're probably ready to relax.

Check out the outdoor oasis set in a quiet nook of the city, **Thermëa by Nordik Spa-Nature**. The signature thermal experience is the ultimate way to relax. It follows a hot-cold-rest cycle. Steam rises over the dreamy temperate and hot pools, while the cold plunge beckons the brave. Enjoy a variety of saunas and steam rooms. During the rest period, lay down on a slab of hot rock or lean back on a heated seat and be soothed into a slumber with the aid of relaxing music overhead.

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# COVID variants shown to pose a challenge to Moderna's vaccine

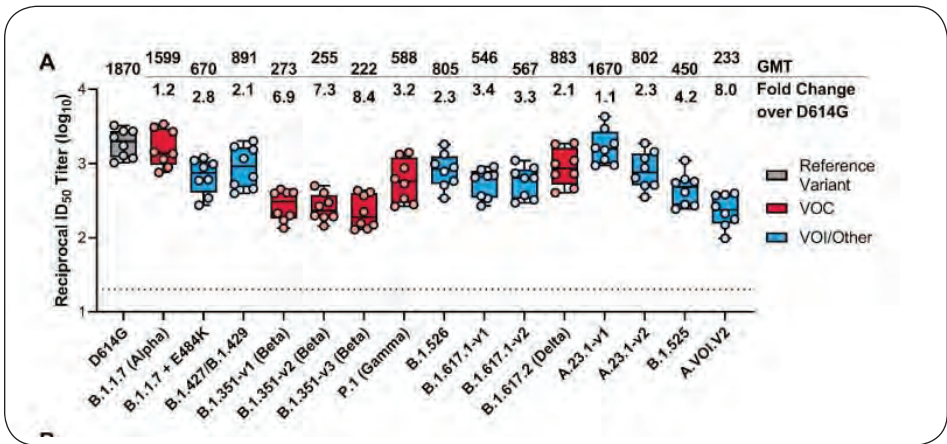
By Patricia Barrett

The ability of COVID-19 variants to partially escape natural and vaccine-induced immunity is a growing concern around the world, and Moderna is looking at ways to modify and strengthen its vaccine.

The virus's variants are known to be several times more contagious than the original COVID strain and have more severe health outcomes, including death. They, like the original strain, can be transmitted by people who have no symptoms.

A study carried out by Moderna researchers shows certain variants of concern (VOCs), which are well-established around the world, and variants of interest (VOIs), which have emerged in worrying clusters, are able to get around immune defences induced by the company's mRNA vaccine. That said, the variants studied were still found to be "susceptible" to the vaccine, meaning the vaccine provides protection against serious illness.

The study titled "Serum Neutralizing Activity of mRNA-1273 against SARS-CoV-2 Variants" was published June 28 as an online preprint and has yet to be peer-reviewed for scientific accuracy.



**PHOTO BY PREPRINT DATA**  
Data from a Moderna-led study show COVID variants' resistance to the company's vaccine. The resistance is expressed as an X-fold reduction compared to the vaccine's effectiveness (95 per cent) against the original COVID strain, which is called D614G. For example, the delta variant (B16172) shows a 2.1-fold reduction compared to D614G. The beta variant (B1351 v.3) shows an 8.4-fold reduction.

Researchers used the vaccine's known effectiveness against the original strain (also referred to as D614G or the "ancestral" strain or the "wild type" strain) as a comparator when assessing its strength against several VOCs and VOIs. The vaccine is about 95 per cent effective against D614G but was found to be less potent (expressed as an X-fold reduction) against variants in terms of decreased neutralizing an-

tibodies produced by the body. Using sera (the liquid component of blood) from the same participants the company had enrolled in its Phase 1 clinical trial, Moderna's researchers measured neutralizing antibodies against the variants a week after the second dose of the two-shot vaccine was administered. Variants of Concern were found to have a range of resistance to the vac-

cine. Alpha (B117) showed a 1.2-fold reduction compared to the original strain while delta (B16172) showed a 2.1-fold reduction. The three beta variants (1351 v.1, v.2 and v.3) were even more resistant, showing 6.9-, 7.3- and 8.4-fold reductions respectively. Gamma (P1) showed a 3.2-fold reduction.

Variants of Interest also demonstrated a range of resistance to the vaccine. The kappa variant (B16171) showed a 3.3-3.4-fold reduction compared to the original strain, eta (B1525) showed a 4.2-fold reduction, and iota (B1526) showed a 2.3-fold reduction. The A.VOI.V2 variant (which has multiple spike mutations) showed an 8.0-fold reduction.

The Manitoba government is tracking and reporting — through its online variant dashboard — cases of the alpha (B117), beta (B1351), gamma (P1) and delta (B16172) variants that are circulating in the province. It also reports case numbers under a variant category called "unspecified."

Moderna's study underscores how important it is for researchers to fine-tune COVID vaccines in order to target existing variants and attempt to

Continued on page 25

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# ICELANDIC AT HEART

## JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 2021

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## EVENT SCHEDULE 2021

### FRIDAY JULY 30<sup>TH</sup>

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FORMAT
12:00PM	Icelandic Hecla (Video Release)		📺
3:00-11:00PM	Food Vendors	Gimli Harbour	👤*
4:00-11:00PM	Vingólf Beverage Gardens	Gimli Harbour	👤*
7:00-8:00PM	Volunteer Meeting – Get involved!	Gimli Park Pavilion	👤*
8:00PM	Icelandic Music Feat. Sin Fang (Video Release)		📺

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# ICELANDIC AT HEART

JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 2021

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## SATURDAY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> EVENT SCHEDULE 2021

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FORMAT
9:30AM	Sandcastle Contest Registration .....	Gimli Beach North.....	👤*
10:00AM	Sandcastle Contest .....	Gimli Beach North.....	👤*
10:00AM-5:00PM	Art Show .....	Lakeview Gimli Resort - Darren Hall.....	👤*/📺
10:00AM-6:00PM	Craft Vendors .....	First Avenue .....	👤*
10:00AM-9:00PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
1:00PM	Icelandic Fashion Show .....	Waterfront Centre, Johnson Hall .....	👤*/📺
1:00-11:00PM	Vingólf Beverage Gardens.....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
7:00PM	Music on the Rooftop Live Music.....	Waterfront Centre, Johnson Hall .....	👤*
7:30-10:30PM	Saturday Nite at the Park Live Music ..	Gimli Park, Main Stage.....	👤*

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# EVENT SCHEDULE 2021



## SUNDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FORMAT
10:00AM-5:00PM	Art Show.....	Lakeview Gimli Resort - Darren Hall	👤*/🔪
10:00AM-6:00PM	Craft Vendors .....	First Avenue .....	👤*
10:00AM-9:00PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
1:00-9:00PM	Vingólf Beverage Gardens.....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
1:00PM	Fris-Nok Tournament .....	Gimli Park .....	👤*
7:00-11:00PM	Alternative Folk Festival Live Music.....	Gimli Park, Main Stage.....	👤*

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## MONDAY AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	FORMAT
10:00AM-4:00PM	Craft Vendors .....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
10:00AM-5:00PM	Food Vendors.....	Gimli Harbour .....	👤*
12:00-3:00PM	Art Show.....	Lakeview Gimli Resort - Darren Hall	👤*/🔪
1:00PM	Music and Poetry in the Park.....	Gimli Park, Main Stage.....	👤*
1:40PM	Scholarship Award.....	Gimli Park, Main Stage.....	👤*
2:00PM	Traditional Program .....	Gimli Park, Main Stage.....	👤*

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# Gimli Glider story lives on



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Westshore Community Foundation finance chair Don Mathewson, left, Gimli Glider exhibit treasurer Gwen Harp, middle, and Gimli Glider president Barb Gluck.

By Jules Stevenson

The Gimli Glider recently received an endowment from a fund established by those with a philanthropic attitude toward supporting the organization. In an endowment fund, the money donated stays and continues to work for the same organization while gaining annual interest.

"The money isn't a one-time thing that gets spent; it continues to work and work and work. It's attractive to people who like to do these things that support organizations that are charitable," said Barb Gluck, the founder and president of the Gimli Glider Museum.

This endowment fund was donated through Endow Manitoba, an organization connected to the Winnipeg Foundation. The Westshore Foundation is Gimli's local charity, and they will oversee the fund.

"The establishment of this Endowment Fund will encourage others to donate to a fund that continues to keep on giving as it is built," said Gluck.

The endowment fund was started with a \$5,000 donation from Marge and Oli Narfason. This donation will be matched by a current provincial program established for Endow Manitoba and the annual revenue from the growing fund is received in March of each year. Donations over \$20 receive a federal tax receipt.

"The board of directors and staff, all volunteers, are very grateful for the interest and desire of Mr. and Mrs. Narfason to assist with our continued

presence in the community to educate our visitors from around the world about the famous Gimli history," says Gluck.

This donation will help set up a heritage trust fund for the Gimli Glider Museum. The Government of Manitoba has established the Heritage Trust Program, which gives matching donations. The Heritage Trust will match the first \$5,000 donation with a \$2,500 donation of their own.

"It's really a long-term financial instrument that provides sustainable revenue literally forever because the capital is always preserved and the earnings are continually paid out under the agreement," says Don Mathewson, the finance chair of the Westshore Foundation.

The Gimli Glider Museum commemorates the brave actions of the flight crew aboard Air Canada Flight 143. Capt. Bob Pearson and 68 others on board 767-200 Air Canada Airliner headed to Edmonton from Montreal. They had a fuelling stop in Ottawa and ran out of fuel at 41,000 feet over Red Lake, Ont., on July 23, 1983.

They had to make an emergency landing on the motor racing track in Gimli. The landing required a high level of skill and narrowly avoided hitting three boys on bikes who were on the track.

The 69 people aboard Flight 143 survived with only minor injuries, and now their story lives on in the Gimli Glider Museum thanks to the hard work and donations from the people of Gimli.

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# St. Andrews council approves new residential subdivision despite objections

By Patricia Barrett

The municipality of St. Andrews council approved a proposal to build a new residential subdivision close to the border of Dunnottar despite a substantial outcry from area residents over the destruction of the environment along Lake Winnipeg.

A 20-acre lot at 2560 Gimli Rd. will be developed by Steinbach-based Castlerock Realty. The lot is 500 metres (just over a quarter mile) from the lake and borders a conservation area called the Netley-Libau Marsh Important Bird Area.

The subdivision will have lots for 43 dwellings and two small lots for public reserves. The lots will be serviced by wells for drinking water and holding tanks for waste.

St. Andrews council held an online public hearing July 13 to discuss the development. It received over 40 letters of objection from area residents and several more letters expressing concern.

Gwen Armbruster, a seasonal but soon to be full-time Dunnottar resident, said the 20-acre lot was a former bee farm and is mostly forested land. The land and surrounding area are vital habitat for wildlife, insects and plants.

"This shouldn't be allowed to proceed until they've done an environmental impact assessment," said Armbruster by phone a few weeks ago. "All over the world governments are protecting existing ecosystems and rehabilitating those that have been degraded because of the environmental crisis we're facing. This is a treed lot with a nature-based solution to climate change. Trees capture and store huge amounts of carbon."

Armbruster is a member of the Dunnottar Bird Watch group, which conducts annual bird counts that are used by scientists and organizations trying to save dwindling habitat. She said the whole area around Warner Road (near the development) is a "birding hotspot."

"It's also part of an Important Bird Area where we document migration and count species," she said. "The IBA runs along the shoreline, and this development is about a block from there."

The group has documented around 20 species that stop and nest in the area, she said. Several are listed in the Canadian federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, which protects and conserves migratory



EXPRESS RED RIVER PLANNING DISTRICT

A schematic of the subdivision south of Matlock.

birds (either as populations or individual birds) and their nests.

"We've also discovered one species at risk here — the eastern wood pewee," said Armbruster.

She and other residents have requested that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the area be undertaken before the development goes ahead.

"We think a full inventory has to be done of the birds on that lot. That would be done under an EIA," she said. "We've also got bees and butterflies declining. We walked around the rail tracks that border the back end of this property and we could see milkweed and other native plants growing there. Pollinators are vital to our food system. We could have fewer crops without them."

The province has 36 IBAs. Each one is significant in terms of birds and biodiversity. Manitoba IBA coordinator Amanda Shave said Netley-Libau contains a variety of habitats for migratory and breeding birds.

"During fall migration, upwards of 100,000 waterbirds use the IBA as a stopover site to rest and recuperate on their way south. The IBA status has also been triggered by high concentrations of rusty blackbirds (federal species of concern) also using the site as a stopover on spring migration," said Shave by email. "Both the west and east sides of the IBA are home to nesting red-headed woodpeckers, which are classified as endangered at a federal level and threatened provincially."

Other important species in the area are the eastern wood pewee (federal species of concern), least flycatcher, American redstart, eastern kingbird and cedar waxwing.

"Most of these bird species are facing increasing threats due to habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change and associated impacts, pesticides and invasive species," said Shave.

Birds are important pollinators, distributors of plant seeds, consumers of insects and can be a tourist draw, she said.

In addition to concerns about habitat destruction to make way for development, Armbruster said there are other issues relating to



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

A photo submitted to St. Andrews council by Charlie McPherson shows a similar type of habitat to that which will be lost when the subdivision is built.

the environment.

"They haven't studied the aquifer which provides the same water we use in Dunnottar," she said. "You're putting in an additional 43 wells and we're in a drought. This is the third year of drought. They haven't done any studies to see if this property can actually accommodate 43 wells."

Residents from different communities in the area are also opposed to destroying habitat and questioned the effect the subdivision will have on Dunnottar's services and ratepayers.

Del Sexsmith from Matlock wrote: "Will this entire area be clear-cut to accommodate dwellings and driveways alone? I notice that several of the proposed lots are not in compliance with the minimum lot requirement of 100 feet. This is a formula for crowding and the elimination of habitat," she wrote. "I also do not see a letter of support from the adjoining municipality of Dunnottar (in which we reside). Is there support for mutual resources such as the aquifer for potable water?"

Doug Hillier wrote that "the decision to approve this piece of land for development without accounting for the many environmental impacts is short-sighted. Currently, the potential damage to flora & fauna (including damage to critical migration areas) and the effect on the infrastructure of the current community is unknown."

Louise Buelow-Smith and Eric Smith from Ponemah also noted their concern about the aquifer.

"There is no confirmation that there is sufficient water within the aquifer system to sustain this level of development, nor an assessment of impacts to existing settlement," they wrote. "There may be statements from government departments, but no evidence of the level of scrutiny or assessment."

They said the development will push people to Dunnottar to access beaches and other services.

"Almost all activities related to the use of this land as proposed require getting in a car and going to the Village of Dunnottar, which itself is struggling with the impacts of increased road and off-road ve-

Continued on page 22

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for MOOSEHORN CONSUMERS CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Thursday, September 2, 2021  
7:30 p.m.

Moosehorn Community Hall  
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# Unite 150 announces artist lineup for free live-streamed event

By Jennifer McFee

Unite 150 plans to bring together an impressive lineup of Manitoba talent for a free live-streamed event next month.

On Saturday, Aug. 28, the Manitoba 150 event will be live-streamed through CTV Winnipeg.

The event was originally planned as a free all-day live concert on the Manitoba legislature grounds, but the pandemic pushed those plans back to the drawing board.

Instead, the long-anticipated concert will be moved to Shaw Park in Winnipeg, where limited admission will be available to fully vaccinated audience members. This venue will allow for contract tracing and adherence to current health and safety regulations.

In an effort to increase the live audience capacity, Unite 150 will feature two separate shows, with one scheduled for the afternoon and the other for the evening. The venue will be cleaned during intermission.

A limited number of tickets will be available for those interested in attending the live taping at a cost of



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Bachman Turner and Burton Cummings will be together again live in concert celebrating the music of the Guess Who on Aug. 28.

\$4.99 each. Funds will be donated to the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres.

The capacity is still being determined, but organizers expect that it will be capped at about 6,000 attendees per show.

The afternoon show will start at noon, hosted by Tom Jackson and Jocelyne Baribeau. Chantal Kreviazuk with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra will headline the concert. Other performers include William Prince, Fred Penner, Tal Bachman, Andrina Turenne, Rainbow Stage's MA-BUHAY!, Red Moon Road, Jocelyn Gould and Indian City.

The evening show will start at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Ace Burpee and Laura Lussier. Bachman Cummings will headline the concert, which will also feature Tom Cochrane, Begonia, Doc Walker featuring Sierra Noble, Tom Jackson, The Lytics, Sebastian Gaskin, Kelly Bado and The Manitoba Youth Chorus.

A series of short videos on Manitoba and its history will be interspersed throughout the performances.

Tickets will become available at Ticketmaster.ca on Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. The live stream of the Unite 150 concert, which is presented by Bell MTS with support from the provincial and federal governments, will be available to view through CTV Winnipeg at manitoba150.com.

## Gimli Betel Home has air conditioner problems on hot summer day

By Sydney Lockhart

The Gimli Betel Home, a seniors care home, had one of their air conditioning units stop functioning during one of the warmest Manitoba summers.

The building is equipped with two air conditioning units, one on the service side of the building and the other cooling the side of the building where the residents live. On July 9 the air conditioner that keeps residents cool had issues that started to prevent it from functioning.

"The resident care unit started having oil pressure issues that caused it to shut down and restart. It was repaired on the next day and has been effectively cooling since that time," said Angela Eyjolfson, CEO of the Betel Home Foundation.

She added that in the event they should experience any further issues with the air conditioner on

the resident care side prior to its impending replacement, they have installed a portable air conditioner on the second floor, which is typically where temperatures become the warmest in the building.

"We are also looking at other cooling options if we should happen to lose function of our air conditioner in the midst of the warm temperatures we are experiencing," she said.

The building has a 60-ton air conditioner on the service side and a 40-ton unit on the resident's side. The 60-ton unit was replaced in 2017, but the resident side unit was not. However, Betel Home had already received approval for replacement of the 40-ton unit but was waiting for a cooler time of year to replace it because the entire system would not be functioning during the upgrading process.

"This work will not take place until we have moved

through the warmest part of the year. It will affect air flow in the resident care part of the building and it needs to be timed and planned to ensure an alternative is in place so our residents are not affected," said Eyjolfson.

She said during the air conditioner issue on July 9 nursing staff was monitoring residents to maintain their comfort and address any issues with temperature.

"While the air conditioning unit on the resident side of the building was not functioning, we had a portable air conditioning unit running. We also provided large fans in the resident wings upstairs. Residents were monitored frequently by staff who also ensured extra hydration passes occurred during that time," she said.

### > SUBDIVISION, FROM PG. 20

hicular traffic," the Smiths wrote.

In the planning package from the Red River Planning District — which recommended the subdivision application be approved by council — concerns were noted by entities such as Canadian Pacific Railway, the Evergreen School Division and Manitoba Conservation and Climate (regarding wastewater).

The lot is sandwiched between a CPR line and Gimli Road. According to a map of the layout, seven lots along the western border touch the rail line.

"The safety and welfare of residents can be adversely affected by rail operations and CP is not in favour of residential uses that are not compatible with rail operations," CP

wrote in an email. "CP freight trains operate 24-7 and schedules/volumes are subject to change."

It's unclear whether council required the establishment of a buffer zone.

The Evergreen School Division asked that council consider land for a school or require the landowner to provide money to the municipality or school board/district in lieu of land for school purposes.

ESD secretary-treasurer Amanda Senkowski wrote the division made the request in the interest of "long term planning of any growth or development in the area as sufficient growth over time will result in a future need for a school."

The provincial department Conser-

vation and Climate asked Castlerock to "obtain confirmation from the RM of St. Andrews that there is sufficient capacity for the additional volumes of sewage at the wastewater treatment lagoon."

It's unclear whether the wastewater lagoon being referred to is next door in the Village of Dunnottar or in St. Andrews (at Petersfield).

St. Andrews Assistant CAO Colleen Sailor said council approved the subdivision with conditions.

"Council passed a resolution conditionally approving the subdivision. What this means is that there are many conditions that must be met prior to the subdivision actually being registered at Winnipeg Land Titles," said Sailor by email. "This could

take up to two years to complete and in some cases for larger subdivisions such as this one, a one-year extension is required."

She declined to answer other questions including what conditions were imposed and whether the RM has an agreement with the Village of Dunnottar to use Dunnottar's wastewater lagoon.

The *Express* left a message for Dunnottar Mayor Rick Gamble requesting comment about the subdivision but he didn't respond. The *Express* also contacted the CAOs at the Dunnottar municipal office but did not receive a response.



# Incredible creatures: A scavenger hunt for flying, crawling and cryptic critters

By John Gavloski

Look closely and there are usually a lot of interesting insects living in or visiting any yard. Got some down time this summer, or the kids need an outdoor activity? This month's Incredible Creatures is a scavenger hunt; see if you can find these six types of insects over the summer.

## A bee, or not a bee?

At first glance, the insects in the first photo may look like bees, but they are not. They are called hover flies. Look for them around flowers. They can be valuable pollinators. There are 593 species of hover flies in Canada. Adults of many species resemble bees or wasps. But don't worry, they can't sting you. Flies do not have stingers. Hover flies can often be seen hovering and darting around. Their larvae feed on aphids.

## Night-time hunters

Ground beetles are common, mostly predaceous beetles. They mainly hunt at night, and like to hide during the day. Look for them under stones, boards, etc. Many ground beetles like to feed on caterpillars, slugs, larvae and pupae of flies such as root maggots, etc. There are some ground beetles that in addition to being pred-

ators also eat plant seeds and are considered valuable consumers of weed seeds.

## Green Lacewings

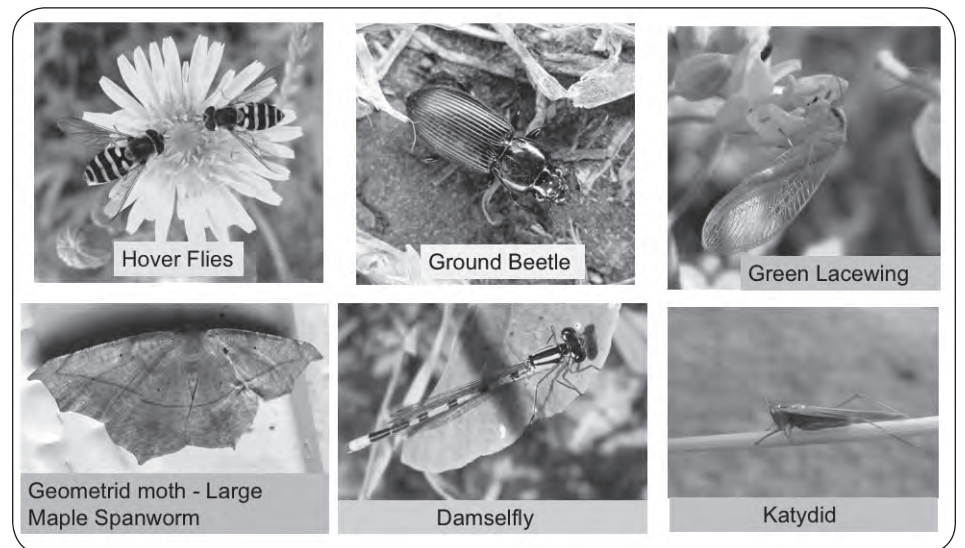
Adults of green lacewings have wing veins that look like netting, and gold eyes. Adults feed on nectar, honeydew produced from aphids, and a few species are predaceous. There are 26 species in Canada. Look for them on plants. They may also come to lights at night.

## Cryptic Moths

To many, moths may seem bland, but have a second look. Some can be quite fascinating. The moth shown here belongs to a group called geometer or geometrid moths. The front pair of wings in this group of moths are usually relatively broad, and intricate wavy patterns on the wings are often continuous from forewing to hindwing. When at rest, many will hold their wings flat against what they are resting on, in contrast to some other groups of moths that tend to fold their wings over their abdomen. They are often highly camouflaged. You may see many species and variations of geometrid moths over the summer. The species shown here is the large maple spanworm, and is a fall-flying leaf mimic.

## Darting Damsels

Damselflies are very closely related to dragonflies; they are different sub-



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A scavenger hunt in your backyard can be a fun, outdoor activity.

orders of the same order of insects (called Odonata). In dragonflies, the rear wings have a broader base and are larger than the front pair. Damselflies, by contrast, have front and hind wings similar in shape, and as a result they fly slower than dragonflies. Also, dragonflies can't fold their wings together when resting, and damselflies can. Both feed on other insects, which as adults they catch on the wing. In Canada there are 154 species of dragonflies and 60 species of damselflies.

## Calling Katydid

If you see what looks to be a grasshopper, but it has antennae that are

larger than the body, odds are it belongs to a group called the katydids. None of our species of katydids are pests species that will devour crops, like a few of the short-horned grasshoppers (those with shorter antennae) can. Katydid are usually green, and male katydids are noted songsters.

See how many of these insects you can observe this summer, or get a field guide to insects from your library and add other insects to the list. You may find it amazing what you can find in your yard, or out for a summer walk. Have fun exploring!



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF HEALTH CANADA

Neutrogena Ultra Sheer aerosol sunscreen is among five sunscreens consumers shouldn't use because of benzene, a carcinogen.

## Johnson & Johnson recalls aerosol sunscreens; Health Canada issues alert

By Patricia Barrett

Johnson & Johnson Inc. voluntarily recalled two brands of its sunscreen with various SPF's after detecting benzene, which can cause cancer with repeated exposure.

The American pharmaceutical and consumer health company pulled all its Neutrogena and Aveeno aerosol sunscreen lines and has asked consumers to stop using them as benzene is classified as a human carcinogen.

"While benzene is not an ingredient in any of our sunscreen products, it was detected in some samples of the impacted aerosol sunscreen finished products," states J & J in a news release issued July 14. "We are investigating the cause of this issue, which is limited to certain aerosol sunscreen products."

The affected products are Neutrogena Beach Defense aerosol sunscreen, Neutrogena Cool Dry Sport aerosol sunscreen, Neutrogena Invisible Daily defense aerosol sunscreen, Neutrogena Ultra Sheer aerosol sunscreen, and Aveeno Protect + Refresh aerosol sunscreen.

J & J said the public could call its

consumer care line or contact their health-care provider if they have concerns related to the affected products.

The company makes other well-known brand-name products such as Tylenol, Motrin, Lubriderm, Listerine, Nicorette, Reactine and Polysporin. It also makes a one-shot COVID-19 vaccine.

Benzene is an industrial chemical found in petroleum and is produced naturally by forest fires. It's used to make detergents, dyes, pesticides, plastics, synthetic fibres and drugs. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, it can be found in gasoline, glue, cleaning

products and paint stripper, and be absorbed through the skin.

Benzene is on the Government of Canada's toxic substances list, and Health Canada issued an alert asking Canadians not to use J & J's affected aerosol sunscreens.

"While there is no safe level of benzene," states the health agency's July 17 alert, "long-term (over a year or more) and repeated exposure to elevated levels of benzene may lead to serious health effects, including various forms of cancer such as leukemia, anemia (low red blood cells), and bone marrow failure."

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THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS



# Fisher fire department receives new set of Jaws of Life

By Nicole Brownlee

After 30 years, the Fisher Fire Department has received a new life-saving tool.

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson relayed the good news to the RM of Fisher in February that the municipality would receive the fire protection grant, which awarded them \$43,293.32.

"One of the top 'wish list items' the Fisher Fire Department had was a new Jaws of Life to replace the 30-year-old set they currently used," said Kelly Marykuca, RM of Fisher CAO, in a statement.

The new set is smaller and easier to handle, she added.

Jaws of Life are a hydraulic rescue tool that is used in emergency rescues to help extract victims from vehicle crashes and small spaces. Devices like these were first used in 1963 to rescue race car drivers from crashes.

Before the Jaws of Life, circular saws were used to cut away car material, but the saw cut slowly and could potentially create sparks, which could lead to a fire.

Modern rescue tools use cutters, spreaders and jacks to cut, open and, if needed, lift a vehicle. These tools have improved each decade, getting lighter and more powerful.



The Fisher Fire Department purchased a new set of Jaws of Life.

"Without grants like these provided to us by the provincial government, we would never be able to financially purchase state-of-the-art equipment like this," said Marykuca.

"The safety of our residents is our number one priority, and by applying for these types of grants, we are able to better prepare our department to face these challenges and types of calls."

The grant covered the majority of the



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED/RM OF FISHER

Fisher fireman started training with the new set of tools on July 16.

cost of the tool, which totalled \$44,253.

The fire department was unavailable to answer how often they used the

previous Jaws of Life, but Marykuca said they responded to six motor vehicle collisions last year.

## The Manitoba 55+ Games have been extended through the rest of the summer

By Sydney Lockhart

The Manitoba 55+ Games is usually a three-day event. But this year, because of COVID restrictions, they have morphed into a virtual summer-long activity challenge for those wanting to participate and stay active throughout the warm season.

"That was pretty exciting basically we are about halfway through now," said Karyn Heidrick, the Manitoba 55+ Games co-ordinator, "We wanted to be able to give seniors at least something that they could look forward to and stay connected to the Games and to each other because a lot of them are friends and they see each other, year after year."

The Games usually gather approximately 800 to 1,000 participants in a Manitoba community. Communities bid to be the host of the Games, but due to the pandemic they have not been able to do that the past few years. As a result, the 2020 Games were outright cancelled with the risk of COVID-19 too high.

"We still want anyone who is interested to be able to sign up because

we still have a lot of summer to go in Manitoba. We kind of like to get every inch of summer out of that we can," said Heidrick.

By keeping track of activities as a registered participant, prizes can be awarded at the end of the Games, things such as walking poles, exercise bands and gift certificates. All events are done virtually by participants tracking their own activity, preventing travel during the pandemic.

"It's really interesting to see the participants that have already signed up. What they've been doing is challenging their friends or their relatives or their neighbours to some friendly competition," she said.

Participants such as 82-year-old Ida Theodore from Swan River participate every year. Although Theodore has played golf in all but one 55+ Games since she became eligible to participate, she has been golfing almost every day this month to participate in the games.

The Games started in 1983 and have aimed to keep seniors healthy and active through sport and community.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ida Theodore taking part in the Manitoba 55+ Games virtually this year.

Some of the oldest participants are in their 90s. The Manitoba-wide competition includes walking, running, cycling, golfing, bocce ball, pickleball and many more.

Manitoba 55+ Games is asking that

participants submit stories and photos of their virtual experience this year to share them within their community.

To sign up, visit [activeagingmb.ca](https://activeagingmb.ca) found at <https://sirlibrary.com>.



# Drive-in theatre a hit at annual Gimli Film Festival

By Tyler Searle

The RBC Sunset Drive-in Theatre sold 90 per cent of its available tickets at this year's Gimli Film Festival (GFF).

Tickets sold out for screenings of Indian Road Trip, Some Kind of Heaven, and Star Wars last week and all other shows were well attended said festival manager Alan Wong.

The drive-in garnered around \$3000 in sales, Wong said.

In total, the outdoor cinema showed six films between July 21 to 25.

The lineup featured two newly released comedies, a BIPOC drama, a documentary, a grindhouse flick, and Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back.

The Gimli Theatre and Kiwanis Club provided concession, serving popcorn and mini donuts, respectively.

GFF organized the event in the stead of its staple RBC Sunset Screenings on the beach.

Staff built the outdoor theatre in Gimli's Pavilion Park using the same 35x20ft beach screen and a cinema-quality projector purchased last year.

The festival bought a radio FM transmitter to broadcast film audio to parked cars.

Festival organizers were familiar with setting up the equipment, screen,

and lights, so the challenge became managing traffic flow and parking, said Wong.

Public Health guidelines required two metres of separation between vehicles, so volunteers and staff measured 64 separate parking stalls. After an initial test run, they recognized there was room for more spots and expanded the theatre's max capacity to 73.

The days leading up to the theatre's opening night were hectic, but seeing everything come together was very satisfying, Wong said.

"We've got a great team this year, and all of our volunteers have been amazing, and so I'm just glad we have good people."

The stringent restrictions ended up being an organizational advantage, Wong said.

"Having that level of specificity when it comes to the placement of vehicles means that we can really optimize people's viewing angles and make sure that everybody has a good sightline."

The event would've been impossible without the support of the RM and festival sponsors, he said.

"They were very keen to do something, and when we proposed doing



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Festival staff used an FM transmitter to broadcast film audio during the RBC Sunset Drive-in.

a drive-in at the park, they were very supportive."

Long-time sponsor and production company William F. White provided lighting to decorate the park and make it festive.

Dozens of organizations sponsor the festival, including RBC, Manitoba Arts Council, Telefilm Canada, and the Province of Manitoba. Communi-

ty support comes from the Lakeview Gimli Resort, Red River Co-op, and others.

The community, local venues, organizational sponsors, volunteers, and the GFF team all collaborated to make this year a success. The festival thanks them all for their hard work and dedication, Wong said.

## Lundar RCMP respond to fatal collision

Submitted

Lundar RCMP responded to a report of a head-on collision on Highway 6, approximately 10 kilometres south of St. Laurent, at approximately 11:40 p.m. on July 23.

When officers arrived on scene, there was a vehicle in the ditch and another vehicle in the middle of the highway. Both had significant front-end dam-

age.

The 28-year-old female driver of the vehicle in the ditch was pronounced deceased on scene. The 33-year-old female driver of the vehicle on the highway was transported to hospital with serious physical injuries. Both drivers were from Winnipeg and were the lone occupants of their vehicles.

Initial investigation has shown that

the 28-year-old female was travelling southbound on Highway 6 and the 33-year-old female was travelling northbound when they collided in the southbound lane. A RCMP forensic collision reconstructionist and the RCMP Criminal Collision Investigative Team are assisting with this ongoing investigation to determine the cause of the collision.

### > VARIANTS, FROM PG. 14

prevent new ones from emerging.

"These data emphasize the need to continually assess the ability of mRNA-1273 [the Moderna vaccine] to confer protection against prevalent and emergent VOIs/VOCs," wrote the researchers. "Such data are crucial to inform necessary modifications to COVID-19 mRNA vaccines going forward, which may help to mitigate the ongoing spread of SARS-CoV-2 and the emergence of new variants."

In a company news release dated June 29, Moderna confirmed that it's pursuing a "clinical development strategy" against COVID as the virus continues to evolve. That strategy includes the development of a multiva-

lent booster.

A multivalent vaccine would have the ability to protect against more than one COVID strain.

Worldwide, over 187 million people have been infected with COVID or its variants and more than 4 million have died (World Health Organization data, July 14). Lately, in the U.K. and Africa, cases and deaths are surging. Spain is imposing curfews in some regions to try to stem a rise in infections.

Because of the virus's ability to kill people and disable economies, several countries, including Canada and Spain, have approved administering different vaccine types (for first and subsequent doses) despite limited scientific data on the safety and efficacy of doing so. That rush to mix vaccines resulted in a warning last week

from the World Health Organization's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan, who called it a "dangerous trend" and a "data-free zone." She later walked back her comments, saying public health authorities should decide on a course of action.

A few preliminary studies on administering a combination of AstraZeneca (viral vector vaccine) and Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA vaccine) have found no safety concerns. There are no studies as yet on administering a combination of different types of mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna, which have the same medicinal ingredient (i.e., mRNA) but different non-medicinal ingredients. Studies on other vaccine brand combinations have yet to be undertaken and/or published.

**get inspired**  
MEAL IDEA

### Vegetarian Stuffed Peppers

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: about 1 hour

Servings: 4

4 red bell peppers

1/2 cup, plus 1 tablespoon, vegetable oil, divided

1 cup white onion (about 1 medium), 1/4-inch diced

4 cups cremini or brown mushrooms (about 1 pound), 1/4-inch diced

1 teaspoon garlic salt

1 teaspoon black pepper

1 cup Real California Oaxaca cheese, shredded

cooked white rice, for serving

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Rub bell peppers with 1 tablespoon oil then use grill, broiler or gas stovetop burner to cook peppers, turning occasionally, until well charred, 12-15 minutes. Transfer to bowl, cover and set aside until cool enough to handle, about 10 minutes.

In large skillet over medium heat, warm remaining oil. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to brown, 3-5 minutes. Add mushrooms, garlic salt and black pepper; cook, stirring occasionally, until mushrooms are browned and liquid is almost entirely evaporated, 7-10 minutes.

Rub charred skin from bell peppers. Slice off tops and remove seeds. Fill bell peppers with mushroom mixture, top with cheese and arrange in baking dish. Replace bell pepper tops and bake until cheese melts, 8-10 minutes. Serve with cooked rice.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Program of Excellence Summer Camps to take place Aug. 13-15

### From Hockey Manitoba's website

Hockey Manitoba is pleased to announce that the Program of Excellence (POE) Summer Camps for the Female U18 and Male U16 programs are scheduled to take place from Aug. 13- to 5 at the Bell MTS Iceplex.

The 2021 Program of Excellence will be invitation only. Invited players will be notified via email with full details on registration and cost. On-ice activities will be dependent on public health orders at that time.

The summer camps will be the first step in the evaluation process for the 2021 POE. Players that are ultimately selected to represent Team Manitoba will compete at the 2021 National Women's U18 Championship and the 2021 Western Hockey League (WHL) U16 Cup.

### Male U16 POE Eligibility/Selection

Athletes are selected utilizing a network of scouts (WHL/MJHL) designated by Hockey Manitoba.

Athletes for the 2021 U16 Program of Excellence must be male and must be born between Jan 1, 2006, and Dec 31, 2006.

For an athlete to be eligible for selection into POE they must be a permanent resident of Manitoba and be registered with a sanctioned program within Hockey Manitoba (AAA, AA, A or Sport School) or Hockey Canada/USA Hockey sanctioned programs.

### Female U18 POE Eligibility/Selection

Athletes are selected by Hockey Manitoba utilizing scouting information from Hockey Canada, Hockey Manitoba scouting staff and club team coaching staffs.

Athletes for the 2021 Female Program of Excellence must have been born between Jan 1, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2005.

For an athlete to be eligible for selection into POE they must be registered with a sanctioned program within Hockey Manitoba (AAA, AA, A or Sport School) or Hockey Canada/USA Hockey sanction programs.

Athletes that participate in the WWHSHL are ineligible for the Female Program of Excellence unless they are also registered to a sanctioned minor hockey program.

While there have been positive changes within the Manitoba Public Health orders in recent days, the 2021 Program of Excellence will be significantly different than the usual program format. Hockey Manitoba realizes that athletes have had limited, or in some cases, no access to ice time for

the better part of the past 15 months. As a result, the circumstances surrounding the 2021 Program of Excellence are not ideal when it comes to the selection of athletes. Despite these difficult circumstances, Hockey Manitoba is committed to doing its due diligence when it comes to all decisions related to player selection and evaluation.

Hockey Manitoba is pleased to recognize CCM Hockey and the Western Hockey League as official partners of the Program of Excellence, along with Gatorade as the Official Sport Drink of Hockey Manitoba. The POE is Hockey Manitoba's high-performance program that offers developing athletes who are on track to be elite with the opportunity to represent their province while providing a solid development path to the national and international stages.

## Interlake Blue Jays drop pair of lopsided games

### Staff

The Interlake Blue Jays were roughed up in a pair of Manitoba Junior Baseball League games last week while being outscored 21-2.

On Friday, Interlake was defeated 11-1 on the road by the Carillon Sultans.

Last Wednesday, the Blue Jays were crushed 10-1 by Winnipeg South in Stonewall.

Interlake, now 2-7 and in last place

in the seven-team league, is back in action Wednesday when it hosts the Altona Bisons at Quarry Park. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Blue Jays will then host the Elmwood Giants in a doubleheader Aug. 2. Games start at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

In Winnipeg Senior Baseball League action, the Stonewall Blue Jays were defeated 7-4 by the Carillon Sultans at Fines Field.

On July 20, Stonewall whipped the

St. James A's 12-2 in Winnipeg.

Chris Norquay led the Blue Jays with two hits and three runs scored while Quentin Dredger added a pair of hits and scored twice.

Stonewall's other runs were scored by Derek Petrasko (two), Derrick Funk, Adam Kirk, Chris Fines, Scott Harris, and James Stolar.

Zach Campbell pitched five solid innings, allowing six hits and a run while striking out a pair.

Harris pitched two innings of relief, giving up two hits and a run to go along with a strikeout.

Stonewall (1-2) hosted the Elmwood Giants (2-1) on Tuesday but no score was available. The Blue Jays will visit the St. James A's (1-2) this Thursday (7:30 p.m.) at Optimist Park.

Stonewall will then host St. James on Aug. 3. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

## Bonivital Black Sox beat Interlake Orioles U18s twice

### Staff

The Interlake Orioles played a pair of close games against the Bonivital Black Sox in 18U "AAA" action last week.

Unfortunately, they lost both of them.

Bonivital beat Interlake 9-4 on July 20 and then squeaked out an 8-7 vic-

tory just two nights later.

With those two losses, Interlake is now 0-9 on the season. But they are getting better each week and a victory could be right around the corner.

Interlake hosted the St. James A's on Tuesday and will continue their three-game homestand against the Elmwood Giants Thursday (7 p.m.)

and the Carillon Sultans on Monday (1 p.m.).

On Tuesday at 7 p.m., the Orioles will play the North Winnipeg Pirates at Koskie Field.

In 15U action, Interlake was defeated 14-11 by the St. James A's in Grosse Isle on July 19.

Interlake hosted Red River Valley on

Monday but no score was available. The Orioles will then play the Carillon Sultans on Wednesday in Ile des Chenes. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

The U13 Orioles, meanwhile, were beaten 13-1 by the Bonivital Black Sox on July 20.

Interlake will host Carillon this Thursday (6:30 p.m.) in Stonewall.

**What's *Your* story?**

**We want to hear from you.**

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

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news@expressweeklynews.ca or Phone 204-467-5836



# Classifieds

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## AUCTIONS

Ward's & Bud Haynes Firearms Auction, Saturday, August 21st, Edmonton, Alberta. Hundreds of lots in all classes. [www.WardsAuctions.com](http://www.WardsAuctions.com) Call Brad 780-940-8378; Linda 403-597-1095 to consign.

## SCRAP METAL

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

**BUYING SCRAP METAL, CARS, TRACTORS, COMBINES, FARM SCRAP, ANY METAL MATERIAL, ANY FARM MACHINERY. PH LONNIE AT 204-886-3407 LVE. MESSAGE OR CELL AT 204-861-2031.**

## FISHING

Wanted south basin fishing quota. Call Tiberius Benson 204-290-9962.

## GARAGE SALE

Huge Yard Sale - Saturday, July 31 & Sunday, Aug 1. 78116-Two Mile Rd. 2 quonsets full! Household, craft, some male & female clothing, sewing, seasonal, tools, small electrical appliances, & much more!

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Do you own rental property in Winnipeg? Are you tired of dealing with long term renters and the mess they can leave? We can provide you with a different option to earn a rental income. Pawluk Realty 204-890-8141.

Support Local business

## APARTMENT FOR RENT

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

## HELP WANTED

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

Office Clerk required immediately. Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Must know Microsoft Excel and Quickbooks. Wages are negotiable based on experience. To join our team at Bonded Mobility drop resume in person or email the bert@bondedhealth.ca

## McSherry Auction Service Ltd

ONLINE CLOSE OUT AUCTION FOR D & G ARCHERY & FIREARMS SALES

Bidding Closes Thurs Aug 12th @ 7:00 PM

Steinbach, MB  
2 Miles North On Hwy 12  
Then 4 Miles East on Hwy 311 Then 100 Yards North on Rd 38E #39026  
All New Inventory - Over 30 Guns - Long Guns \* Pistols \* Reload \* Ammo \* Accessories \* Scopes \* Archery \* Compound Bows \* Targets \* Shelving \* Some Household \* Go To Web!  
Stuart McSherry, Stonewall, MB  
(204) 467-1858 or (204) 886-7027  
[www.mcsherryauction.com](http://www.mcsherryauction.com)

## HELP WANTED

Farmhand required for livestock operation, Balmoral area. Must be mechanically inclined. Includes fencing, feeding, haying, welding. Full time - some weekends required. Text 204-770-3554.

**WE ARE HIRING!** We have an exciting opportunity to join the Danny's Whole Hog team! We are seeking seasonal part time catering staff to bring the flavour to our customers. Part time casual hours, must be available weekends with some weekday availability preferred. Must have driving license and be willing to travel reasonable distances. Excellent rates of pay plus gratuities. Please send your resume to Sharon at office@dannywholehog.com

## MISCELLANEOUS

**LIMITED TIME OFFER:** Décor Melamine Cabinets fully assembled, soft close. Eight-week lead time. Contact Fehr's Cabinets for a quote. Install available. Email: office@fehrs cabinets.com Phone: 204-746-2223.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Toy Truck: \$50 obo - 2014 Dodge Ram 3500 series with hitch 16" in length, Case Front-End Loader sits on a 21" long trailer, operates on 6 "AA" batteries (included). Purchased for \$94 (original receipt from the dealership will be provided). Also: 1 chest of drawers (x8) with attached mirror, 1 Red-white Cooler, 1 glass top dining-room table (5' x 3'), 1 Proctor-Silex toaster, 1 small Crock-Pot Slow Cooker, 1 Rechargeable 3,000,000 candle power Spotlight, 1 "AirHawk" cordless Tire Inflator, 1 "ConAir" cordless, Haircutting device, 2 x raised Toilet Seats (originally priced at \$40 each), 1 x 4 quart oval Slow-Cooker, 1 Walker with a seat (originally priced at \$250), will let it go at half price obo, 1 pair foot rests for a wheelchair. Everything can also be bought as one package. Must be seen to be appreciated. Open to all serious offers. Located @ 14-2nd Ave, South, in Ashern. Phone 1-204-768-3546.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Do you need staff urgently? Are your efforts to recruit staff on social media and the internet NOT creating the results that you need??? Let us help. Trust the newspapers to get your message out! Advertise in the 37 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers! We could be helping your organization right now. Get noticed in over 352,000+ homes, for as little as \$189 + GST! To learn more, Call 204-467-5836 or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association 204-947-1691. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

## NOTICES

**Urgent Press Releases** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having an event? 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](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab or Email classified@mcna.com for more details.

Do you have a unique service you would like to advertise? Get the word out with an ad in the Express!



Rural Municipality of  
**FISHER**

## OFFICE CLERK FULL-TIME - OFFICE CLERK POSITION

The Rural Municipality of Fisher invites written applications for the position of full-time Office Clerk.

The successful applicant will be required to provide a variety of administrative and financial clerical duties associated with municipal and utility services. A detailed job description and duties are available upon request.

The successful candidate shall possess the following qualifications:

- Ability to communicate effectively with Council, employees and the public.
- Strong written communication skills.
- Computer Knowledge
- Attention to accuracy and detail.
- Honesty, reliability, integrity, team player and ability to work well with others is a must.
- Graduate of Municipal Administration an asset or willing to acquire
- Previous Accounting/Business knowledge an asset
- Able to handle stressful situations and deadlines
- Willingness to learn and grow within our organization

Salary is set out in the CUPE Local 4348 Collective Agreement and is dependent upon qualifications and experience.

Written applications including resume, cover letter and three work related references to be submitted in confidence by 4:00 July 30, 2021. Open until suitable candidate is found.

RM of Fisher "Office Clerk Position"  
PO Box 280, Fisher Branch, MB ROC 020  
Fax: (204) 372-8470  
Email: fishercao@mymts.net

The RM of Fisher thanks all applicants for their interest. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.

## HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY?? CALL 204-467-5836

Rural Municipality of Armstrong



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

### Tractor Operator/Road Side Cutter

Require experienced tractor and mower operator for the 2021 season for roadside cutting along municipal roads.

Work Term: August to September, 2021 (work term dependant on completion and may be extended or reduced)

Wage dependent upon work experience please include expected salary with application.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office at 278-3377.

Written applications to be submitted by 4:30 p.m. Friday August 6th, 2021 to:

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

We thank all that apply; only those selected for interview will be contacted.

Rural Municipality of Armstrong



## INVITATION TO TENDER ON SIDEWALK

**CLOSING DATE:**  
Friday, August 13, 2021 at Noon

The Rural Municipality of Armstrong is accepting tenders for 80 meters of concrete sidewalk renewal in Inwood, including removal of existing concrete and landscaping with top soil & seed to pre-construction condition.

Please contact the municipal office at the address or phone number below, or visit the municipal website [www.rmofarmstrong.com](http://www.rmofarmstrong.com) to obtain detailed tender packages.

The RM of Armstrong reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to award the tender in the best interest of the RM of Armstrong in its sole discretion. Lowest bid may not be accepted. Contractors must comply with Municipal requirements for liability insurance, WCB coverage to be eligible to be awarded the contract.

Corlie Larsen, CAO  
RM of Armstrong  
Lot 55 Highway 17  
Box 69, Inwood, MB ROC 1PO  
Phone: 204-278-3377

Rural Municipality of Armstrong



## INVITATION TO TENDER

### FRASERWOOD PARK MAINTENANCE

The RM of Armstrong invites submissions for regular grass cutting at the Fraserwood Park as well as submissions for regular washroom cleaning and garbage pickup at the Fraserwood Park for 2021.

For grass cutting you would be required to cut the grass, trim around trees/buildings/structures and rake/pick up grass as required.

For washroom cleaning you would be required to clean up each of the 2 stations, refill toiletries (provided by the RM), arrange for sewage pump-out with the RM, communicate with the RM if the units are in need of repairs.

For garbage removal you would be required to empty garbage and recyclables and dispose of at the Meleb Waste Disposal Grounds.

Inspections and cleanings are needed frequently including evenings, weekend and long weekends.

Your quote should be a lump sum and include all costs such as: your own equipment, gas, cleaning supplies, mileage and your wages for the remainder of the 2021 season starting August 11th ending October 31st. Written submissions must be received by the RM office by 4:30 pm on August 6, 2021 by 4:30 PM.

Quotes are to be submitted for either or both "Washroom Cleaning & Garbage Pickup" and/or "Grass Cutting Maintenance".

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

## Land for Sale by Tender NE31-24-2W RM of Fisher (Fisherton)

Approx. 160 acres: 90 acres of cropland and 70 acres of bush and yard site. Tenders must include a 10% deposit.

Tender deadline: **August 26, 2021.**

Deposits will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. Vendor reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Mail tender to: J&C Plett  
Box 336, Fisher Branch, MB ROC 020

Everything you need to promote your business  
Call Today! 467-5836







Rural Municipality of  
**FISHER**

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE EMERGENCY GRAZING LEASE

THE RM OF FISHER IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A GRAZING LEASE FROM AUGUST 3, 2021 to OCTOBER 31, 2021 ON:

- SE 7-23-2W
- SW 7-23-2W

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL **AUGUST 3, 2021 BY 9:00 AM** TO BE REVIEWED AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND AWARDED BY RANDOM DRAW ON AUGUST 3, 2021 AT 10:00 AM.

LEASE TERMS ARE TO OCTOBER 31, 2021.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE 204-372-6393 OR EMAIL [fishercao@mymts.net](mailto:fishercao@mymts.net)

THE RM OF FISHER IS NOT OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE ACCESS, WATER, or FENCING TO THE LEASED LAND. APPLICANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO VIEW THE LANDS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION.

LEASE RATE WILL BE BASED ON ANIMAL UNITS, 2021 TAXES, FENCING COMPENSATION.

OPEN TO RM OF FISHER RESIDENTS ONLY

Kelly Marykuca, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of Fisher



Rural Municipality of Armstrong

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LONG TERM FORAGE LEASES/CASUAL HAY PERMITS

Applications are made by filling out an application from the R.M. Office in Inwood.

Applications for Long Term Forage Leases take precedence over applications for Casual Hay Permits.

Long Term Forage Lease Applications will be brought forward to the next monthly council meetings for consideration.

Casual Hay Permits will be issued on a first-come, first served basis as long as there are no pending applications for long term leases.

Casual Hay Permits will be issued for the current year only.

Annual Lease rate is 1.5% of the current year assessment for 2021.

LAND	ROLL NO.	ACRES	ASSESSMENT
SE 13-20-1E	99300	157.46	23,200
NW 8-20-2E	111900	160.00	36,800
SE 8-20-2E	112000	160.00	36,800
SW 9-20-2E	112500	160.00	36,800
SW 17-20-2E	117000	160.00	41,600
NE 31-20-3E	134200	80.00	32,000
SE 32-21-2E	165600	160.00	41,600

For further information please visit our website [www.rmofarmstrong.com](http://www.rmofarmstrong.com) or call the Municipal Office 204-278-3377

Corlie Larsen, CMMA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RM of Armstrong



## Town of Arborg PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION

Public Notice is hereby given that the **2022 Assessment Roll** for the Town of Arborg will be open for public inspection during regular business hours at the Municipal Office at 337 River Road no later than August 23, 2021. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 & 43 of *The Assessment Act*.

### APPLICATION FOR REVISION 42(1)

A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property; or
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under Subsection 13(2).

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS 43(1)

An application for revision must:

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- set out which of the matters referred to in Subsection 42(1) are at issue, and the grounds for each of those matters; and
- be filed by
  - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office indicated in the public notice given under Subsection 41(2), or
  - serving it upon the Secretary, at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the Board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit to hear applications on **Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 at 10:00 AM** in the Town of Arborg Council Chamber, 337 River Road.

The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is **Monday, August 23th, 2021**.

Dated at Arborg, in Manitoba, this 23rd day of July, 2021.

Cindy Stansell, Secretary  
Board of Revision  
Town of Arborg  
Box 159 – 337 River Road  
Arborg, MB R0C 0A0



## VILLAGE OF DUNNOTTAR PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF REVISION FOR 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the 2022 Assessment Roll for the Village of Dunnottar has been delivered to the Municipal Office at 44 Whytewold Road, Dunnottar, Manitoba and is open for public inspection during regular business hours. Applications for revision may be made in accordance with Sections 42 and 43 of *The Municipal Assessment Act*:

### Application for revision

42(1) A person in whose name property has been assessed, a mortgagee in possession of property under section 114(1) of *The Real Property Act*, an occupier of premises who is required under the terms of a lease to pay the taxes on the property, or the assessor may make application for the revision of an assessment roll with respect to:

- liability to taxation;
- amount of an assessed value;
- classification of property; or
- a refusal by an assessor to amend the assessment roll under subsection 13(2).

### Application requirements

43(1) An application for revision must

- be made in writing;
- set out the roll number and legal description of the assessable property for which a revision is sought;
- state the grounds on which the application is based; and
- be filed by
  - delivering it or causing it to be delivered to the office at the address below, or
  - serving it upon the secretary, at 44 Whytewold Road at least 15 days before the scheduled sitting date of the board as indicated in the public notice.

The Board of Revision will sit on **September 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** in the council chamber of the Village of Dunnottar at 44 Whytewold Road to hear applications. The final date on which applications must be received by the Secretary of the Board is August 23, 2021.

Dated at Dunnottar, Manitoba this 13th day of July 2021.

J.M. Thevenot  
Secretary to the Board of Revision  
Village of Dunnottar  
Box 321  
Matlock, Manitoba R0C 2B0

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### FEED AND SEED

**\*\*PREMIUM PRICES PAID\*\*** for High Protein Peas, Yellow and Green and Faba Beans. FOB Farm Feed & 2 or better. Vicki Dutton. 1-306-441-6699.

### HIP/KNEE Replacement? Other medical conditions causing TROUBLE WALKING or DRESSING?

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including heat/hydro/water

No stairs, in building laundry, new kitchen and wonderful common area! Extremely close to all of Teulon's amenities.

**Call Kirt 204-886-7717 to get your chance to view your next home!**

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Interlake Auto & Tractor Parts Ltd. - Arborg**

**is seeking immediate additional staff**

### \* Parts/Counter Person

Benefit plan available.

Mechanically inclined, knowledge with farm machinery and hydraulic fittings an asset. Must be capable of heavy lifting and comfortable cutting chain/metal pipe.

Interlake Auto & Tractor Parts Ltd.  
ARBORG, MANITOBA  
...YOUR **Auto Value** source  
Parts Store

Apply in person,  
fax or email:  
[iauto@mymts.net](mailto:iauto@mymts.net)  
Phone  
204-376-2667



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3 bedrooms, ensuite, huge kitchen, quartz countertops, walk-in pantry, island. 9 ft walls and double cathedral ceiling. James Hardie Siding.

Pictures available

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## McSherry Auction

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Stonewall, MB

Online Timed Auctions  
@ [iCollector.com](http://iCollector.com)

### Estate & Moving

Closes Wed Aug 4th  
@ 7:00 PM

### Estate & Moving

Closes Wed Aug 11th  
@ 7:00 PM

### Consignments Welcome!

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(204) 886-7027  
[www.mcsherryauction.com](http://www.mcsherryauction.com)



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[www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)



## FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

## WELDER & HEAVY TRUCK & TRAILER MECHANIC

The successful candidate will work independently to perform welding work on heavy trucks & trailers and complete some service and repair jobs. Experience is an asset. The successful individual will receive training, all necessary tools, competitive wages & benefits package.

[Sales@jbrandtent.com](mailto:Sales@jbrandtent.com)

**Call 204-364-2775 for more information**



## PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

## Office Custodian & Automotive Detailer

Duties will include detailing the interior of trucks, cleaning offices, and other janitorial duties. Successful candidate must be physically fit, able to work independently, and be detail oriented. The successful candidate will receive competitive wages & benefits package.

[Sales@jbrandtent.com](mailto:Sales@jbrandtent.com)

**Call 204-364-2775 for more information**



## EVERGREEN SCHOOL DIVISION

Evergreen School Division is seeking applications for the following positions:

### Administrative Assistant, Temporary (7.0hr/day)

Effective November 12, 2021 to November 11, 2022

### Administrative Assistant, Regular (3.0hr/day)

Effective September 7, 2021

See [www.esd.ca](http://www.esd.ca) under Employment & Human Resources/ Support Staff Postings for detailed information on qualifications and application procedures.

**Closing Date: August 12, 2021 (3:30 p.m.)**

Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks.



## FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a dedicated, organized and self motivated individual for the position of

## HEAVY TRUCK & TRAILER MECHANIC & SAFETY TECHNICIAN

Duties will include, but are not limited to performing inspections on units, mechanical repairs, and more. Must be red seal certified. The successful candidate will receive training, all necessary tools, competitive wages & benefits package.

[Sales@jbrandtent.com](mailto:Sales@jbrandtent.com)

**Call 204-364-2775 for more information**



**GREEN ACRES ART CENTRE**  
IMAGINE INSPIRE CREATE

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

## EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Green Acres Art Centre Inc. (GAAC) is seeking a positive, enthusiastic and reliable community minded individual to fill the position of Executive Assistant who will provide administration and leadership support for GAAC's Board of Directors, instructors and members.

### Job Description

GAAC is a non-profit offering arts, culture and wellness programs for residents of all ages in the Town of Teulon, RM of Rockwood and surrounding municipalities. The Executive Assistant is responsible for the centre's daily operations under the direction of the GAAC President.

The Executive Assistant position is part-time for a total of **20** hours a week. This is a Monday to Friday position that includes working two Saturdays a month. Attendance at the monthly evening board meeting is expected.

Employment is a term for 25 weeks starting August 16th and ending February 25th, 2022. The position has potential to be permanent after February 25th. The office is closed over Christmas so there will be two unpaid weeks at this time.

### Qualifications & Skills Required

- Experience working as an Office Administrator
- Excellent organizational and administrative skills
- Excellent time management and multi-tasking skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent working knowledge and understanding of banking/ accounting procedures;
  - o Accounts Receivables, Accounts Payables, Payroll, General Ledger
  - o Monthly Reconciliations & Financial Statements
  - o Simply Accounting experience an asset.
- Experience with Excel Spreadsheets
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office and Outlook
- Creativity and the ability to do Graphic Design; experience an asset
- Experience with Grant writing
- Experience with Fundraising – creating, organizing, coordinating events
- The ability to work independently and with groups of people
- The ability to be flexible with scheduling an asset.
- Must provide Criminal & Child Abuse Checks
- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a reliable vehicle
- Understanding of how a Board of Directors for a not-for-profit organization operates
- Salary will be on an hourly basis and will be determined based on experience

Please email resumes to [gaac@mymts.net](mailto:gaac@mymts.net) Subject: Executive Assistant by noon, Friday, August 6th. Only candidates considered for an interview will be contacted.

## BOOKKEEPER NEEDED

in the Gimli area to work in a small practice.

### The Candidate must have experience:

- Working with Sage and Quickbooks (Desktop and Online)
- Full cycle accounting
- Calculating and posting GST / PST / WCB
- Calculating payroll
- Proficient with Computer, Word & Excel
- Office administration
- Strong attention to detail and proven analytical and problem solving skills

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## ANNIVERSARY



John and Sara Plett  
Congratulations  
Mom and Dad, Grandma and Grandpa  
on 50 years together, July 23rd!  
We love you and wish you  
many more years of  
health, happiness, and God's blessing!  
-Love, Daphne and Eric, Darcy and Mandy  
and all the grandkids

## GRADUATION



Clint Torfason  
Congratulations, Clint  
on graduating from the U of M  
with your Bachelor's Degree in  
Recreation Management and Community  
Development,  
Dean's Honour List.  
We are so proud of you,  
and know that you have a bright future ahead  
of you!  
-Love Mom, Dad, Cole, Alina, Baba  
and all your family

## OBITUARY

### Marilyn Jean Kehler

On July 19, 2021 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre, Marilyn Kehler of Poplarfield, Manitoba, passed away at the age of 74 years.

She leaves to mourn her husband Jim and daughter Leah.

According to her wishes, cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held.

Condolences may be left on Marilyn's memorial page at: [www.interlakecremation.ca](http://www.interlakecremation.ca)

Arrangements entrusted to:

Interlake Cremation  
& Memorial Services  
204-462-1040

## OBITUARY

### Alex Medwid

May 17, 1937 - July 18, 2021

Longer obituary to follow.

*KL*  
KEN LOEHMER  
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204-886-0404

## OBITUARY

### Michael Marko

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Father, Gigi and great Gigi on Sunday, July 11th at the Fisher Branch Personal Care Home at the age of 101.

Mike will be lovingly remembered by his daughters Nellie (John Burak), Pauline Troyan and son-in-law Dennis Prociuk. Mike also had seven grandchildren, 11 great-grand children and four great-great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife Jennie of 66 years who passed in 2009, his daughter Shirley Prociuk, grandson Cory Prociuk, son-in-law Melvin Troyan, his four brothers John, Nick, Roy and Harry, as well as his two sisters Pauline and Mary.

Michael Marko was born November 12, 1919 on the farm in Hamlik MB. Mike married Jennie Boyko in 1942, where they farmed at Skylake. They worked hard and raised three beautiful

daughters. They eventually retired to Arborg in their later years. Mike was always a strong willed and stubborn man who was lucky enough to remain in his home until this past year. He was a family man and loved to have his children and grandchildren around him. He will be fondly remembered for his large gardens, his hand knit mittens and his wonderful stories from the past. He could always be seen cruising around Arborg on his scooter chatting with everyone on the street.

He lived a wonderful long life but will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Thank you to the Home Care workers, the Arborg Hospital staff and the Fisher Branch Care Home staff. Thank you to MacKenzie Funeral Home and to Father Harry Chuckry and his wife Joan.

A private family funeral was held on Monday, July 19th at 11:00 a.m. at the Arborg Ukrainian Catholic Church.

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## In Memory

A remembrance of  
**Ray Wright's life**  
will be held August 1st  
3:00 pm at

Winnipeg Brookside Cemetery  
Section 27, Row 3.

## IN MEMORIAM



In loving memory  
of my dear cousin Marie  
We love and miss you very much.  
Many times I pick up the phone to call you,  
Just to hear your voice.  
Thinking of you always,  
And all the good times we shared.

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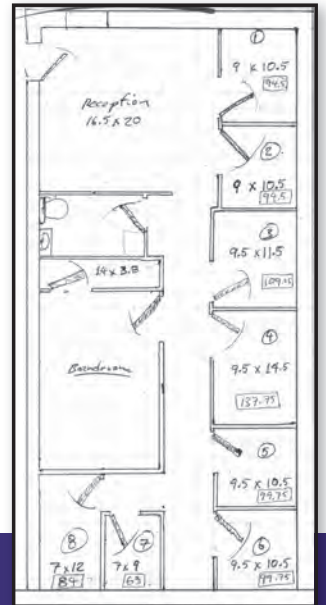


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For information please contact:

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