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WEEKLY NEWS

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Passing the torch

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
 Gimli Legion president Bob McCormick passes the torch to Austin Porteous of the Gimli 182 GM Stefnufastur air cadets at the Remembrance Day ceremony last Saturday in Gimli. See pg. 4 for full story.

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ACS students inspired to continue local actions following We Day

By Jeff Ward

Two students from Ashern Central School (ACS) say that are looking forward to carrying on with their philanthropic Live We club following an inspiring day of speakers at last month's We Day in Winnipeg.

ACS Grade 7 students Samantha Reykdal and Rae Ramsey have been participating in the Live We club all year. They've both taken ownership of projects designed to help benefit their local community, like the recent We Scare Hunger food drive, and to earn their ticket to We Day, a one-day event that brings together influential youth speakers in an effort to empower youth. This year, speakers included Jully Black, George Takei and Alexandre Trudeau, among others.

As part of their club, Reykdal and Ramsey work with other students to bring meaningful change to their communities through ideas they come up with and execute on their own. Their teacher, Shannon Kosolowski, said that the students can lean on her for help and guidance, but at the end of

the day, they're in control of their own success.

"So for We Scare Hunger, for example, they were in charge of everything," said Kosolowski.

"It was 100 per cent independent and they created announcements, collection boxes and posters. They didn't need any help or guidance because this was something they were very passionate about."

"AFTER WE'RE DONE SELLING THOSE BRACELETS, WE'RE THINKING OF HAVING A TOY DRIVE FOR CHRISTMAS."

Reykdal said that she is looking forward to continuing these local actions because it makes her feel good to know that she's making a difference. Both she and Ramsey will start selling Rafiki Bracelets at the school soon. These bracelets, made by women in Kenya, cost \$10 each and supply their village

with clean water for a month.

"After we're done selling those bracelets, we're thinking of having a toy drive for Christmas. We can take all the toys we collected and bring them to the [Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre]," said Ramsey.

Both students were very inspired by the speakers at We Day and say that



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHANNON KOSOLOWSKI Students from ACS got inspired to continue to follow through on local actions to help better their community during last month's We Day.

what they learned has made them want to work harder to do good in their community.

"Spencer West was inspiring to me because he has done so much with only his upper body," said Reykdal, speaking of the motivational speaker who appears often at We Day. West lost both of his legs from the pelvis down when he was five years old due to a genetic disorder and has since

climbed mountains. West preaches a can-do attitude that resonated with both Reykdal and Ramsey.

The two students have a lot of spirit and ideas on how to continue giving back, and they were both emboldened by their We Day experience. Their efforts locally will have a strong impact as they work to better their surroundings and hopefully inspire fellow students to do the same.

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Eriksdale family wins over \$60K at Lundar Chase the Ace

By Jeff Ward

After 54 weeks of draws, the Lundar Legion's Chase the Ace finally came to an end last week after Scott Le Strat's ticket was chosen.

Le Strat went home with \$60,622 after his ticket was selected from a drum of 10,000. Le Strat's wife Jackie said that, like most lottery winners, they didn't expect to win and that it didn't seem real when it happened.

Even now, days later, she said that it still hasn't sunk in. Jackie She said that they didn't even bother checking their tickets the first time the number was called because they were fairly certain that, with a one per cent chance, their ticket wouldn't be called.

"I thought he was mistaken when he read the number," said Jackie LeStrat. "I don't think it's really set in yet that we won, even with all the calls and texts of congratulations."

Bob Harris and his wife Ann have been a part of the committee organizing the Chase the Ace. He said that he's relieved this is finally complete. The money has been a great boon to the legion, he said, and it is the reason the doors will stay open and renovations will take place. But it's been an

exhausting road to walk for the last year, especially with how popular it's become over the last 10 weeks as the pot swelled.

"There was a lot of excitement this week because we knew we would be giving away the money for sure this time," said Harris.

With the immense and statistically improbable success of this Chase the Ace, the organizing committee is planning on doing another one. Harris said that they're not going to start up right away and was uncertain as to when exactly a new one would begin but he does anticipate there being another Chase the Ace this year.

Jackie Le Strat said that she and Scott are very grateful for the legion's many hard-working volunteers who worked to put this event on every week. They have been attending the event since the beginning of September and said it's been a great Friday night experience.

Harris said that he estimates the legion raised approximately \$55,000 through this lottery.

Le Strat was given the ever-elusive Ace of Clubs to keep, proving to everyone that the card actually did exist.



EXPRESS PHOTO VIA LUNDAR LEGION FACEBOOK

Lundar Legion president Darlene Sweetland presents Chase the Ace winner Scott Le Strat with his oversized cheque for \$60,622 for winning on the final week of the draw.

Lundar welcomes crafters, home-based businesses to Christmas sale

By Jeff Ward

Crafters, bakers and even candlestick makers will be in Lundar in just a few short weeks so that hundreds of attendees can buy their wares during the annual Lundar Farmers Market Christmas Craft Sale.

The sale takes place Nov. 25 at the Lundar Community Hall from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wendy Sweetland-Budge is the chairperson of the Lundar Farmers Market and one of the organizers of the event. She said hundreds of buyers come to Lundar each year to participate in the annual

sale. This year, there will be 35 tables for vendors to display their items.

Sweetland-Budge said some of the items will be baked goods, preserves, sewn items and other crafts. There will also be a selection of home-based business items like Scentsy and Epicure as well as Lundar-based businesses like Bomby Manitoba and The Rustic Nest.

"I'm really happy with the variety of our vendors this year. I think there will be something for everyone," said Sweetland-Budge.

"We even have Cody Fjeldsted, who is an amazing photographer from Lundar, coming to sell some of his photos. It's going to be a very busy but fun day."

There will also be three fundraising tables — one each for the HandiVan, Lundar New Horizons and the Lundar Agricultural Society — for those who want to help those organizations. Sweetland-Budge said this event, given the time of year it takes place, is an excellent backdrop to help other community organizations.

"That's what we do as a community: we help each other. And it's important to give them the opportunity to be here and help raise some money," she said. Tickets for the door prizes can be earned by spending \$15 or more at a single table and there is no admission for the sale.

"I'M REALLY HAPPY WITH THE VARIETY OF OUR VENDORS THIS YEAR. I THINK THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE."



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Gimli honours those who served

By Patricia Barrett

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #182 led a Remembrance Day ceremony last Saturday in Gimli to honour those who served and to ensure the sacrifices of our war veterans are never forgotten.

Legion member Peter Holfeuer hosted the service in Gimli High School's gymnasium. About 300 people, including veterans, legion members, dignitaries and the general public, attended the commemoration.

"Veterans paid a price for our freedom and they want all Canadians to share this understanding," said Holfeuer. "They are passing the torch of remembrance to us, the people of Canada, to ensure that many of the sacrifices will not die with them."

Mona Josephson, lay pastoral assistant from Gimli Lutheran Church, provided the opening prayer, a scripture reading and the Remembrance Day address.

"We have come together today to remember ... the suffering, the destruction and pain caused by conflict," she said. "To remember with gratitude those whose lives, love and friendship has been a privilege to share. To remember with sadness those whose death has caused us loneliness and pain."

Josephson spoke about the importance of remembrance in that it not only reminds us of those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live in freedom but also serves as a warning for mistakes made in the past.

"If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations," she said. "If there's to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in cities. If there is to be peace in cities, there must be peace between neighbours ... and peace in our hearts."

David Podolchuk, a major in the Royal Canadian Air Force with 21 years' service, attended the service. He said he has been to Remembrance Day services across Canada and around the world but feels small-town services like Gimli's capture the day's mood and spirit as good as or better than most. And he appreciates Gimli's connection to the RCAF even though the air base has been closed for 45 years.

Members of 182 GM Stefnufastur Air Cadets read First World War poem In Flanders Fields and the Westshore Singers sang a hymn.

The service also paid tribute to seven veterans who passed away in 2017: Johann Arnason, Clifford Hinds, Bernard LeCompte, Angus Macdonell, Fraser McLelland, Frank Philpott and Ed Wilcock.

The audience paused for two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. to commemorate the end of the First World War (Nov. 11, 1918) at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

Individuals and representatives from several community organizations then laid the wreaths. They included a representative for MP James Bezan, Marielle Wharton on behalf of Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton, Mayor Randy Woroniuk on behalf of the municipality and the Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rotary Club of Gimli, the Kinsmen Club of Gimli, Gimli Lutheran Church, the Gimli Fire Hall, St. Michaels Women's League, the RCMP's Gimli detachment, Gimli New Horizons Club, Heima Er Best and Dr. George Johnson Middle School.

Legion members provided a light lunch after the service.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Legion president Bob McCormick laid a wreath on behalf of Branch 182.



The RCMP paid its respects to the men and women who served the country.



Mona Josephson provided the Remembrance Day address.



Veterans brought in the colours.



Piper Gordon Rawdon played Amazing Grace.



Air Force member David Podolchuk with Mayor Randy Woroniuk.

St. Laurent residents to receive Indigenous Indspire Award

By Natasha Tersigni

Two St. Laurent residents are the recipients of the 2018 Indspire Award, the highest honour bestowed on Indigenous people in Canada, for their work supporting and bringing awareness to issues within the indigenous community.

Métis youth Tracie Léost, who ran 115 kilometres in four days to raise money and awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, and Métis lawyer and retired law professor Paul Chartrand travelled last week to Ottawa, where it was announced that they were among the 13 recipients of this year's award.

"We not only recognize the recipients' individual successes, their discipline, drive and determination to set high standards and accomplish their goals but also to share and celebrate the impact of their stories and journeys with all Canadians," said president and CEO of Indspire Roberta L. Jamieson in a press release.

Chartrand, who grew up and still lives in St. Laurent, has spent his law career advocating for aboriginal people and the issues they face. He has held many notable and high-profile positions where he was able to influence change through policy. Chartrand worked with the United Nations (UN) for 30 years helping to write the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has consulted on similar documents. In Canada, Chartrand was appointed to Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in 1988 and then was appointed by the federal government in 1991 to serve on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Chartrand entered into a career in law to make a difference for people in his community.

"Just before graduating from law school, I was debating with myself what I should focus on and maybe I should get rich and focus on corporate taxation. I decided to focus on aboriginal law so I took a program in Saskatchewan that specialized in that," said Chartrand.

"I thought it would be an opportunity to help people in my community. My dad was a trapper, my grandfather was a trapper and I am one of 12 children. I didn't grow up surrounded by professional people. Most of my friends from school are seasonal trappers and fisherman still. I thought this would be a way for me to do something for the people that I understand and the people that I am so seeded with."

At the age of 74, Chartrand is still involved with law and he is a counsel to a private law firm that specializes in aboriginal law. Being recognized with the Indspire Awards is way to give back to the community he has spent a career advocating for.

"The award is an honour but not something I seek. The reason I accepted the award is that Indspire is an organization that raises millions of dollars for the promotion and education of young aboriginal people," said Chartrand.

"I always believe, and still do, that the way forward for people that have been looked down upon for many, many years is education and economic opportunity. These are critically important ways to get ahead. Indspire was created to promote indigenous education."

The Inspire Awards reception will be held on March 23 with a ceremony in Winnipeg where all 13 recipients will be recognized for their work in the indigenous community.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED
St. Laurent's Tracie Léost, right, along with Ashley Callingbull, left, and Donna May Kimball are to receive the national Indspire Award for their work and commitment to the raising awareness on indigenous issues in Canada.

Eriksdale Christmas Craft Sale this weekend

By Jeff Ward

An opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done early will take place in Eriksdale this weekend during the Eriksdale Museum Christmas Craft Sale.

The sale is one of many annual events throughout the Interlake that features local handmade items as well as home-based business products. Each year, dozens of vendors set up their tables to showcase what they have to offer while hundreds of attendees drop by to do their Christmas shopping. The sale in Eriksdale takes

place this Saturday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Eriksdale Recreation Centre.

The \$2 admission fee is used as a fundraiser for the Eriksdale Creamery Museum and the Eriksdale Skating Club and Rodeo Committee. The admission ticket also enters attendees into a draw for tickets to a local Manitoba Theatre Centre production of *A Christmas Carol* on Nov. 27.

Andrea Sweetland, one of the organizers for the event, said that she's already heard from people in town who are excited to get all of their Christ-

mas shopping done at the event.

"We have our delicious goodies as usual. We have the lady who does wildlife crafts and a gentleman who works with wood. We have quilts and jewelry and lots of Christmas items," said Sweetland.

She said that she had people phoning her in August to pre-book a table spot just to be sure they were guaranteed a place to sell. The demand for vendor tables at events like these has risen in recent years with more and more people looking to sell their crafts.

Sweetland said that it looks like there are a great variety of items available for purchase this year.

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Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP Bezan to seek re-election in 2019

By Lindsey Enns

Conservative Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan says he plans to seek re-election in 2019.

"I have been honoured to run in the past five federal elections as the Conservative candidate," Bezan said in an emailed statement last Sunday evening. "It has been a privilege to represent the great people of Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman over these past 13 years at the national level.

"I will be seeking re-election in 2019 in a bid to defeat Justin Trudeau's Liberals and make Andrew Scheer the next Prime Minister of Canada."

Over the course of his parliamentary career, Bezan has chaired the House of Commons Standing Committees for Agriculture and Agri-Food (2006-08), Environment (2008-11) and National Defence (2011-13).

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence from 2013-15, Bezan was active on files dealing with military procurement, mental health issues in the Canadian



EXPRESS SUBMITTED PHOTO

Conservative Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan has officially announced his plans to see re-election in 2019.

Armed Forces, the war against ISIS, and Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Bezan currently serves in the Official Opposition Shadow Cabinet as

the Conservative Shadow Minister for National Defence and the Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence.

"I have the support of my family, I've enjoyed and am honoured to be the member in Parliament and carried the Conservative banner in the last five elections and believe that I still have more to contribute and have the confidence of our leader Andrew Scheer," Bezan said during a telephone interview with the *Record* on Monday.

"I still believe that there's a lot of things in the riding that I've been successful carrying forward to Ottawa and I believe there's more that need to be done."

If re-elected, Bezan said he plans to continue fighting for the things that matter to his rural constituents.

"There's still a lot of work in providing infrastructure to our municipalities and ensuring that we have the money there," he said. "We all pay taxes and want to see those taxes come back into our communities."

Bezan added the election nomination process closes on Dec. 2 and he doesn't expect anyone will step forward to challenge his seat.

Past the Perimeter earns Manitoba Country Music Award

By Jennifer McFee

Three cheers for Past the Perimeter for earning a sought-after award to add to their list of musical accomplishments.

The local band earned the title of Emerging Artist of the Year at the Manitoba Country Music Awards, held in Winnipeg on Nov. 10.

The event started off on the right track since Past the Perimeter opened the show with a live performance of Let Your Country Show, the first song on their latest album.

When they heard the announcement that they won the Emerging Artist category, it was a surreal moment for bandmates Derek Peters, Evan Taplin, Devin Biy and Lachlan McLean.

"It wasn't really anything that we expected," Peters said. "Of course, we went in with high hopes, but when they called our name, we had to think of something to say because we hadn't prepared anything."

They used the moment to thank the people they work with and keep close in their lives.

"We work with only the best people and the most likeminded people," Peters said.

"Our team is fantastic from our manager Bambi to our producer Murray Pulver. We get along with everyone so well that it doesn't even feel like work."

Other contenders in the Emerging Artist category included Rhianna Rae Saj of Stonewall as well as Aaron Prociuk, Elsie Morden, Emma Peterson, Greg Arcade, Jade Turner and Russell Lee.

"In that category, anyone could've taken the award," Peters said. "The cool thing is everyone is rooting for one another. It's not exactly competitive. It's more like a family."

After clinking champagne glasses at the awards event, the band is ready to get down to business



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Past the Perimeter bandmates, left to right, Evan Taplin, Lachlan McLean, Devin Biy and Derek Peters won the title of Emerging Artist of the Year at the Manitoba Country Music Awards in Winnipeg on Nov. 10.

again.

"It was fun on the weekend to celebrate, but it's back to work now," Peters said. "We've got to continue focusing on our singles and our songwriting for new material next year."

Coming up on Saturday, Past the Perimeter will be performing in Brandon at The 40. After that, they'll

entertain the crowds at Meadow Lea Hall for a fundraiser on Nov. 24. On New Year's Eve, Past the Perimeter will take the stage at South Beach Casino.

And, of course, fans can always listen to the tunes of their latest album *Lost With You*, which is available on iTunes, Google Play and Spotify.

Arborg and Riverton combine chambers for strength in numbers

Creation of North Interlake Chamber Of Commerce will provide economic clout

By Patricia Barrett

Members of the Arborg Chamber of Commerce and the Riverton Chamber of Commerce voted this month to dissolve their respective organizations and create a new chamber that will provide collective economic clout across the north Interlake.

Business-to-business mentorship opportunities, network building and a unified voice on common economic concerns such as infrastructure support, housing and taxation are some of the advantages of having a regional chamber of commerce.

Arborg COC president Owen Eyolfson and Riverton COC president Mark Myrowich found themselves on the same page with regard to creating a unified front to address business concerns and to helping shape local, provincial and federal governmental policies that affect businesses.

"Having small chambers and not having a unified voice makes it difficult for our politicians to know what decisions are best for the business community," said Myrowich, owner and CEO of Erosion Control Blanket north of Riverton. "The role of a chamber should be to get a message to those governments who make fundamental decisions, and say this is what the chamber feels we should do on this policy or on the growth of our businesses."

The new entity will be called the North Interlake Chamber of Commerce and is expected to be up and running in the new year with an estimated 100 members.

"Our identity is the north Interlake," said Myrowich, who became president of the Riverton COC this spring. "Our goal and objective is to make this a large regional chamber. It's not going to be an Arborg chamber and it's not going to be a Riverton chamber. And we have invited Gimli to be involved. We're not opposed to having others join so that we can have a more regional voice for business people in the Interlake."

Creating a new organization with

more members will translate into greater efficiency on the administrative side of things, said Myrowich. Chamber members devote a lot of time to running their respective organizations while trying to juggle the demands of their everyday business operations. That can lead to burnout.

"We need to get ... enough members to afford at least a part-time staff person that can help do the heavy lifting when it comes to member contact and all the administrative stuff you need to do to run a chamber," said Myrowich.

Individual communities in the Interlake share common concerns that a larger regional chamber can tackle.

"The reality is I employ people from Gimli, Arborg, Riverton, Fisher Branch, Peguis and Winnipeg Beach," said Myrowich. "People commute and I am just as concerned about what happens [in those places] and the communities around them where my employees live. For me, things like housing and taxation are just as important in Arborg as it is in Riverton and as it is in Gimli because my business is the whole area."

Arborg COC president Owen Eyolfson, who owns and operates the Arborg Hotel and the Travelling Inn, also employs staff from across the region and thinks training and upgrading the existing skill sets of potential employees is one of the keys to enhancing economic growth.

"One of the big issues that we've been focusing on with the Arborg chamber is training for health-care aides and trying to get an LPN course," he said. "And we've also offered multiple courses from resume writing to QuickBooks for beginners that were open to everybody, not just chamber members. That was out of our Arborg-

based training centre [the Central Interlake Training Facility]."

A number of organizations such as Manitoba Workplace Education, Community Futures and Red River College rent the facility to "educate as many people in the area as possible."

"What we found is that we have a big population, but we don't always have people able to fill positions," said Eyolfson. "We do have a decent sized immigrant population and ... we've been trying to help them transition their skills."

Business-to-business mentorship is another key area on which the new chamber will focus, and it will especially benefit new business owners who can tap seasoned business owners for advice.

"We want to provide opportunities for wider dialogue and have meet and greets with business owners so people can say, 'Hey, I had this issue and this is what I did.'"

Concerns about losing local chambers and a "business identity" will be put to rest through the creation of new committees that will focus on unique community events.

Creating new business growth across the region is something Eyolfson said is paramount, even if it means a bit of

competition at the local level.

"The more businesses in the area, the better. People are sometimes worried they'll have competition, but competition is good because it sharpens your game," he said. "When Subway came to town, I told them, 'Any business is good business.' I got rid of subs on my menu and changed my menu, and I'm still making more money than last year with a new menu."

The next steps in creating the new chamber entail legally dissolving the two existing chambers, incorporating the new entity, implementing by-laws and providing members of both chambers with an opportunity to vote in a new executive.

Eyolfson and Myrowich are working with Chuck Davidson from the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce to help them through the process.

"We are leaving it open in case other areas want to join," said Eyolfson. "We're open to working with the region because we feel that regionally we have a bigger voice."

The Arborg and Riverton chambers will be holding a joint meeting Dec. 6 at the Arborg Hotel from 6 to 8 p.m. to bring members up to speed on the creation of the new chamber and to provide an opportunity to mingle.

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getfishing

RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

> ARNIE WEIDL First ice fishers of the year hit the ice last week

Hello, my good friends.

It's probably an understatement to say that Mother Nature was harsh in her delivery of early first ice. Come last Saturday, my grandson Keenen Park and I slowly cruised the #320 along the Red River downstream of Selkirk looking for our first ice angler.

Suddenly, north of Sugar Island, we saw a lone figure on the ice. I pulled Old Red off the road and Keenie and I made for him. We stopped at the shoreline and called out to the angler, asking how thick the ice was. "It's five to six inches. I drilled a hole every 20 feet on my way out to make sure it's safe," his voice carried in the still overcast morning. We tread out carefully, having forgotten our clip-on foot spikes, and met Barry Paddock of Winnipeg. Unshaven and swarthy, his voice was deep and strong, his body all muscle, just the kind of guy you would expect to be a first icer.

To be sure, there are spots where the water runs fast and is able to hold off the ice, like beside the fish ladder at the Lockport locks, which is where I found Carlos Oliveira and Rui Machado of Winnipeg last Tuesday.

These 20-something, agile, long-haired buddies hadn't pulled any fish from the roaring, frothing waters there, but they were very adamant about pointing out all the empty minnow tubs, drink cans, fish line and food packaging strewn along the shore. As they spoke of how poorly this litter reflected on sports anglers, I mentioned that the gang at the Manitoba Ice Fishing Association were just about to embark on this winter's publicity and garbage drive to reinforce anglers' mindset of practising good housekeeping on the ice. It's always amazed me how, in just a few short years, the gentle prodding of MIFA and other similar organizations have changed fishers and outdoor enthusiasts from careless littering to leaving nothing out there but their footprints. Good for all of us.

Another spot where the water runs fast is on the downside of the Winnipeg River's Powerview hydro dam. I stood on the shore a week and a half ago watching in fascination as a half-dozen small boats would slip downstream with the current then turn and rev their outboards, struggling upstream with a "netter" at the bow working a net with a long handle to catch whitefish from the bottom of the river. It was odd watching them jockeying their little boats, jostling each other for the best position.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

Left to right: Alex Fust, Viktor Borau, Leon Fust, and Jan Englmann from Lorette with some of their netting catch at Powerview.

Time and again, each boat would periodically come to shore to hand their catch to their families for boxing. One huge family, who would switch netters in the boat from time to time, were from Lorette. Some of them — Alex Fust, Victor Borau, Leon Fust and Jan Englmann — stood with some of their catch so I could take a picture. Thanks guys!

Recently, I met Jack (get ready for his last name) Bugsdrucker, one of the most relaxed young guys I ever came across. That ease, however, was in stark contrast to his exacting manner. He was boat fishing with two chaps on a small lake in the northern Interlake, and one of them, let's call him Harvey (he didn't want his real name used), didn't have much in the way of fishing gear so Jack gave him one of his prize lures. Harvey cast out and soon got snagged. Tim, Jack's other friend, was an impatient sort, and after watching Harvey pull his rod this way and that, he grabbed it and reefed hard, breaking the line. An awkward silence ensued for a moment as Tim could feel Jack's glare boring through his back. Tim turned, saying, "What's your problem?" to which Jack responded, "That was my lure."

Tim, feeling responsible, gave Harvey one his lures and fishing resumed. Then Tim got a snag. He tried to free his

Continued on page 9

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National Addictions Awareness Week

'We don't focus on recovery enough,' former addict says

By Lindsey Enns

A former drug addict who managed to turn his life around says a stigma surrounding addictions still exists.

"When I was growing up as a little kid, my first thought wasn't 'Hey, I want to be an addict when I grow up and lose everything including my family and my career,'" Ian Rabb said, adding addiction doesn't discriminate. "I was a doctor living quite a successful life and then I ended up on the streets homeless before I came to Winnipeg to get clean."

The Winnipeg and Winnipeg Beach resident, who has been sober since July 7, 2001, is now the director of business development and spokesman for the Aurora Recovery Centre in Gimli.

National Addictions Awareness week, which runs until Saturday, Nov. 18, is putting the spotlight on how stigmatizing language can perpetuate harmful stereotypes through this year's theme, "words matter." With that in mind, Rabb said he wanted to get the word out that "addiction is a disease and recovery is needed."

"We don't focus on recovery enough so when I think about words matter, I think about the messaging that we need to get across, which is that there is success in treatment after care ... and ultimately treating a whole family when there's an addicted member of a family," he said.

When asked what his advice is for someone who is currently struggling with an addiction, Rabb simply said: "there's life after an addiction."

"You have to imagine that your life is pretty much in a box when you're in an addiction ... your life gets smaller and smaller," he said. "The hardest thing for families and addicts is they don't see a way out. They don't see how their life can get better."

"There's a sense of denial that sur-

rounds addiction that's just so deep."

Rabb said working in addictions and helping others is what helps keep his life on track.

"I maintain a very, very close contact with the recovery community and my No. 1 goal is to actually help others," he said. "From being a selfish, self-centred, addicted person, the best advice is to become self sacrificing and help others through it."

"And it's never too late to reach out, it's never too late to get help."

Aurora Recovery Centre, located at 20025 Lakeside Rd. in Gimli, the former site of Misty Lake Lodge and Conference Centre, is a privately run 24-7 facility which offers individualized treatment based on a 12-step program and offers treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, depression, anxiety, eating disorders as well as gambling and sex addiction.

Along with offering various services including one-on-one counselling, the centre is also home to a medical detox program.

Rabb believes what's missing in Manitoba is more centres that offer a full continuum of care like Aurora does. In the future, the centre is planning to offer scholarships to help people cover the cost of care, which is often one of the biggest barriers preventing addicts from reaching out for help, Rabb said. The average cost for a one-month stay at the centre is roughly \$15,000 while 60 days is closer to \$25,000.

"A lot of our calls are people that are reaching out, they are desperate for help, they have tried every other means and they are absolutely in turmoil," he said. "We are the only medical withdrawal unit that exists in the whole province."

For more information about the Aurora Recovery Centre, visit aurorarecoverycentre.com.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO

Ian Rabb is a former drug addict who turned his life around and has been sober since July, 2007. Rabb is now the director of business development and a spokesman for the Aurora Recovery Centre in Gimli.

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> GET FISHING, FROM PG. 8

line but no luck. Jack stared at Tim, waiting. Slowly Tim turned to Jack and said, "OK, you want to get even, here reef on my rod!" Jack, with a devilish grin, took Tim's rod and pulled up on it as hard as he could, breaking the line. Tim looked at him with a stern smile, saying, "Are you happy now?"

"Yea, I'm good," Jack responded with a smirk. Harvey just sat there concerned at the way Jack and Tim talked to each other. He needn't have because they had been trash talking each other since they were in school together.

Till next week. Bye for now.

Westshore Singers: a community choir giving back

Submitted

The Westshore Singers, a community choir made up of singing enthusiasts from around the Interlake, is pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Lamb as its new choir director.

Lamb is an experienced choir direc-

tor and music educator, and she is excited to be joining the Westshore Singers.

The choir is actively looking for new members. Anyone interested in singing with the choir is encouraged to join. Membership is \$25 per season, including music and recordings for

practising at home. Bringing seasonal music to local communities is a rewarding way for Westshore Singers members to give to our community.

In June 2017, the Westshore Singers gave a birthday present to Canada and the people of the Interlake with a spring concert program that highlighted Canadian songwriters and songs. It was a tuneful way for the Westshore Singers to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Concert-goers were pleasantly surprised by the varied selection of Canadian music. Familiar classics like Gordon Lightfoot's "The Canadian Railroad Trilogy" and "Log Driver's Waltz," made famous by the charming animated National Film Board vignette, were mixed with less familiar Canadian songs. "Away from the Roll of the Sea" introduced audience members to the beautiful harmonies and peaceful visuals created by Canadian singer-songwriter Allister MacGillivray. Inspired by boats in the small harbours of Cape Breton, the fishing fleets returned home and safe, "Away from the Roll of the Sea" resonated with audience members who

have family and friends in our own Lake Winnipeg fishery.

This regional choir gives back to the community by sharing concert receipts with local community organizations. After the spring 2017 concerts, aptly named "This Land of Ours," the Westshore Singers donated \$750 to Evergreen Basic Needs and \$750 to Palliative Care. The choir also supports the Evergreen Festival with an annual scholarship of \$100.

Rehearsals begin for the winter concert series, "Winter's Heart," on Sept. 6 at the Gimli Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday until Nov. 22 when the choir performs a dress rehearsal at The Betel Personal Care home. This kicks off the Winter concert series, with performances at the Arborg Lutheran Church on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. and the Gimli Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Join the choir or the audience — either way, you'll be giving back to the community.

For more information, contact membership chair Candice Murphy at candicep@mymts.net or 204-642-9792.

Attention Kids...



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Choose any of the topics and create your unique story.

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3. Write your own version of "The Night Before Christmas."
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6. What kind of technology should Santa use in his sleigh?
7. What family traditions will you keep for your family when you are older?

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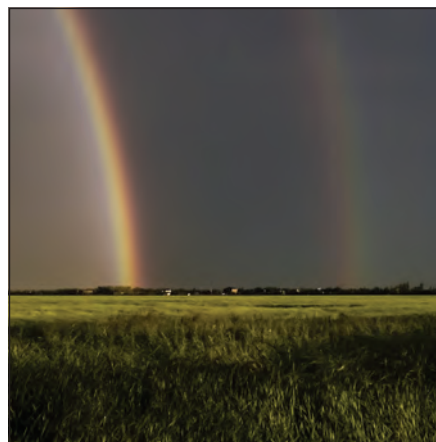


Our Canada Exhibit & Demos

WAVE artists explore, question, & celebrate Canada in a show of new works at the New Iceland Heritage Museum, Gimli, until Dec. 30.

There are several special events with a discounted museum entry. On Saturday, November 18 1:30-3:30 pm there will be a Paper-making presentation by Milli Flaig Hooper. Michael Long will be doing a Polymer Etching Process presentation on Saturday, November 25 from 11:00am to 12:00 noon. On Saturday December 2 from 1:30-2:30 pm Olive Hnatiuk will be demonstrating Watercolour technique. Then the final demonstration will be Saturday December 9 1:00-3:00 pm a Stretch Throw Clay with Gayle Halliwell and Alan Lacovetsky. For more details on Facebook, Twitter or on our website at www.watchthewave.ca

ADVERTORIAL



Alex Reinhardt – Under the Rainbows



Matt Jenkins – Canadian Shield

Workshop aims to provide key skills in predator control and trapping

By Jeff Ward

Three Interlake trappers with a combined 150 years of experience will be teaching a free one-day workshop to anyone interested in learning how to trap, skin and prepare pelts to be sold.

The workshop takes place Dec. 2 in Inwood at the RM maintenance shop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be instructed by Neil Brandstrom, Kris Fjeldsted and Donnie Zemik. The workshop is designed to be a crash course on predator control, which is an issue that has plagued many Interlake cattle and sheep producers this year. Dozens of animals have been killed or maimed by coyotes, wolves and even bears throughout the Interlake. The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District (WIWCD) is hosting the free of charge workshop.

Brandstrom said that the goal is to make producers more self-sufficient in their fields so that they can be more proactive in predator control but also

to impart some of these skills on to a new generation.

"Guys like us [Brandstrom, Fjeldsted and Zemik] aren't going to be around forever and we need people to know how to do this," said Brandstrom.

"We've had quite a bit of predation this summer, so it's in the farmers' best interest to learn more about this. And right now is the best time to be proactive so the numbers of predators aren't as big come the spring time."

Brandstrom said that for novice trappers, the wintertime is the best time to learn as the conditions make for easier trapping. Tracks are easy to find in the snow, setting snares is easier because you know exactly where the animal is travelling, and with food being harder to come by, these animals are more inclined to take bait. Brandstrom explained that animals caught during this time of year until the end of January are also going to fetch dollar

from fur auctions as well.

"We don't like to see any resource wasted so we know that animals caught can be used and sold for good prices so it's more advantageous to do this now," said Brandstrom.

The seasoned trapper explained that he is also available to take producers out into the field and show them how to do trapping more in depth if they're interested. Brandstrom wants people to know how to do this so that the trade and the art isn't lost. Trapping is an important skill that fewer and fewer people know how to do these days, and with there being an influx of predators, it might be a good idea for producers to get some knowledge on how to best protect their investments.

Anyone interested in registering for the workshop can do so by calling 204-762-5850 or by email at admin.wiwcd@mts.net.

Steep Rock subdivisions to have seasonal gate constructed

By Jeff Ward

The conclusion to a multi-year conflict between two Steep Rock subdivisions could see an end next year as council putting forth a resolution to explore the cost and legal planning requirements to install a seasonal gate.

Grahamdale council carried a resolution that would begin the aforementioned process at their regular Oct. 26 meeting. CAO Shelley Schwitek said that with the help of a third-party agency, Health

in Common, a public meeting was held with stakeholders in the affected areas to determine what would be the best possible outcome. Health in Common presented the data they collected, which indicates that the most agreeable outcome would be a seasonal gate to separate the subdivisions that will be closed in the summer time and open during the winter.

The issue stems from a stretch of public reserve land that separates the two subdivisions. The mu-

nicipal rule doesn't allow for a road to run through that land, and residents on literally both sides of the fence have been arguing about placing a barrier there for years. Since 2014, RM barriers, including steel gates, boulders and piles of rubble, have been vandalized or moved to allow vehicles to pass.

"So now council will have to investigate what they need to do in order to bring this solution," said Schwitek.

Continued on page 12

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Gimli health centre launches new ultrasound technology



Dr. Thompson demonstrates Gimli's new point of care ultrasound.



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

From left to right: Dr. Dylan Thompson, Jennifer Thompson (CTM), Tanis Poworski (nurse – CancerCare), Ryan Bennett (physician assistant), Dr. Jessica Chan, Julie Kumps (nurse – CancerCare), Paulette MacGregor, Guenter Doerr, Dr. Michele Matter, John Bucklaschuk, Dave LeBlanc.

Notice of Closure of the CIBC Ashern Banking Centre effective Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

The **CIBC Ashern Banking Centre** at 20 Main St. Ashern, MB ROC OE0 will be closing on **Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 4:00 pm** and relocating to the **CIBC Arborg Banking Centre** at 282 Main St. Arborg, MB ROC OA0.

If you have any questions or concerns about the closure of this banking centre, please don't hesitate to ask for information at the banking centre or call us at 204 768-2727.

You are invited to a Community Meeting.

CIBC will be hosting a community meeting to answer any questions and discuss alternative banking options as a result of the CIBC Ashern Banking Centre closure. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2018 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The meeting will be convened at the Ashern Centennial Hall, 1 Provincial Road 325 E. Ashern, MB ROC OE0.

At CIBC we are focused on meeting your financial needs. While the CIBC Ashern Banking Centre will no longer be in operation after April 5, 2018, you will be able to bank with us using your mobile device, online, or by phone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We would be pleased to show you how to use these services to make your day to day banking easier.



You may wish to contact the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC), which has the authority to ask CIBC to hold a formal meeting between the bank, representatives of the FCAC and interested parties in the vicinity of the branch, in order to exchange views about the closure of the branch. The FCAC may require the bank to hold such a meeting if the bank has not consulted the community in the area affected by the closure well enough to ascertain the views of interested persons in the community with regard to the closure, or an individual or community representative from the area affected by the closure, has submitted a written request for the meeting to the FCAC, and that request is not frivolous or vexatious. For more information you can contact the FCAC at 1 866 461-FCAC (3222) or visit www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca.

Submitted

Gimli Community Health Centre in Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority now has access to a new point of care ultrasound thanks to a local fundraising campaign. Funding for the ultrasound was made possible by a community campaign led by Gimli residents Guenter Doerr and Dave LeBlanc.

The campaign generated \$57,900 in donations from November 2016 to April 2017, which covered the purchase of a point of care ultrasound for the community's health centre. When asked what he would say to Gimli's generous residents, Doerr said, "A big thank you to them all — this machine belongs to them."

Access to this new diagnostic technology will be a great benefit to community members, as the point of care ultrasound represents cutting-edge technology that is quickly becoming a standard of care in many emergency departments.

This portable ultrasound has the flexibility to provide doctors with the ability to visualize blood vessels, muscles, tendons, nerves, internal organs and eyes so they can diagnose or rule out potentially serious medical issues in the emergency department. This will reduce the need for patients to be sent for tests in other hospitals. The ultrasound can also be used to guide medical procedures. Dr. Michele Matter described it as "opening the curtain" so doctors can see what is happening inside the body. Two physicians have already been trained to operate the ultrasound, opening the door for other doctors to access training.

Dr. Matter, chief of staff of the Gimli Community Health Centre, congratulated Doerr, LeBlanc and the fundraising team for their initiative to gather funds for such an important community cause. "This is fantastic for the hospital. Guenter and Dave and the other fundraisers have done a tremendous thing. It's so important to us."

> SUBDIVISIONS, FROM PG. 11

"Their job over the winter is to figure out the price and community planning. They'll have to get a surveyor and make a bylaw closing the public reserve and another opening the public road. It's not as simple as just put a gate up."

Council will also need to figure out what the design of the gate will look like as well as how it will operate and who will be in charge of operating it.

Schwitek said that much of the concern about through-traffic was during the summertime when there are higher volumes of children riding bikes and playing in the area. Having the space closed during peak vacation time could serve to keep those roads safer.

As for a timeline, Schwitek said that it's simply too early to know when a gate would be installed. Council has a lot of planning to do over the winter and they have to also figure out how to pay for it.

One stripe, two stripe, white stripe, black stripe

By Patricia Barrett

The mayor of Gimli's infamous derring-do with *Mephitis mephitis* (striped skunk) once again came under intense scrutiny after he submitted to council his annual invoice from his skunk-removal service.

Randy Woroniuk, a retired provincial conservation officer, traps skunks that lodge under residents' porches and crawl spaces and is reimbursed by the municipality for his services.

The mayor's skunk tale took a new twist this year, pardon the pun, and it included a blatant attempt to cover up vague statements about the numbers of captured skunks with something called "striped theory," which didn't quite pass the smell test.

Nevertheless, council still approved Woroniuk's skunk-control invoice for \$1,602 during its regular meeting Nov. 8. The mayor claimed he caught a "range" of skunks over the course of 2017, somewhere between 25 and 30.

In 2016, he billed the municipality \$1,556.60 for an alleged 35 skunks.

What could account for this \$46 increase and fewer skunks?

As he had last year, Coun. Danny Luprypa led the charge to get to the bottom of the mayor's evasive statements, demanding a precise reckoning of how many beasts were caught.

"I'd have to get my receipt book," said Woroniuk.

He did not, however, make any attempt to do so.

That got CAO Joann King thinking.

"He provides his own skunk traps, so it's hard to say," she said almost to herself.

The mayor then promised he would deliver the skunks' ears as proof — but not until next year's intake.

That failed to satisfy Luprypa.

"How many [skunks] were the same ones?"

Readers may recall the story in the Jan. 5, 2017, edition of the *Express* in which the mayor stood accused of allegedly releasing the skunks he caught on one street onto another and then creating multiple invoices for the same animal.

He had also claimed he delivered the beasts to a skunk park an unspecified number of kilometres north of Gimli. That park was said to be akin to a detox facility where skunks were weaned from a dependency on unhealthy fare found in curbside rubbish.

There was no mention of the park this time around, and there's seemingly no end the mayor will go to in order to avoid providing proof of capture.

"I can tell you right now they're not

coming back," said Woroniuk.

"They're not coming back?" said a shocked Luprypa. "Let's call the humane society."

Council continued to back the mayor into a corner until Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck rose to his defence.

"I have copies of all the skunk receipts," said Peiluck, who serves as finance chair. "It's all here."

Every eye in the room instantly swivelled to him.

Peiluck quickly grabbed a sheaf of papers on the desk and fluttered their edges, but he did not allow anyone to get close enough to see what information they actually contained.

Concerned about transparency and holding the line on unnecessary expenditures, Luprypa challenged him.

"Can we ask that those [invoices] be attached to the resolution next time, like a pump-out is?"

Put on the spot, Peiluck dug himself deeper into a hole by inadvertently revealing two different compensation schedules for the mayor.

"We pay him more for the ones with two white stripes," he said. "Some have one, some have two. Males have one stripe, females have two stripes."

Assailed by dismissive remarks, Peiluck made a great show of consulting Wikipedia, as though it were the be all and end all of evidence-based zoological information.

The striped skunk is bushy-tailed and lives up to three years in the wild, agreed. Striped, ditto.

But what the deputy mayor failed to make clear was how the numbers of stripes could possibly compound the difficulty of catching them and why that should drive up the mayor's compo.

Are two-striped skunks wlier than their one-striped counterparts? Is



EXPRESS PHOTO BY TOM FRIEDEL, WIKIMEDIA CREATIVE COMMONS
Gimli ratepayers may have been over-billed for the capture of two-striped skunks.

there a whole other skill set that must come into play while attempting to capture the two-striped stinkers? Are two strippers more fetid than one strippers?

There's no doubt their special anal gland can emit something more noxious than the vapours released during a septic tank pump-out. And Gimlites should count their lucky stars to have a mayor who's willing to get between them and the hindquarters of *Mephitis mephitis*.

"No sewer ever smelled so bad," recounts a Jesuit living in 17th-century New France (Quebec). "I would not have believed it if I had not smelled it myself. Your heart almost fails you when you approach the animal: two have been killed in our court, and several days afterward there was such a dreadful odor throughout our house that we could not endure it." (Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents. Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610 – 1791).

That particular Jesuit did not indicate how many white stripes those two stinkers had.

And what about folks who see black stripes instead of white stripes? That kind of throws a spanner in the works, doesn't it?

"The one on Bugs Bunny only has one white stripe," said Coun. Richard Petrowski, clearly skeptical of Peiluck's one-stripe, two-stripe theory.

Petrowski was spot on. Through historical footage via YouTube, the *Express* verified the numbers of Pepé la Pew's stripes and found only one.

The illusion that skunks have two stripes is explained succinctly by Canadian Geographic online.

"The striped skunk has thick, sleek black fur and a white stripe that splits into two at the shoulders and continues along each side of the back to the base of the tail." (Animal Facts: Striped Skunk).

So there you have it: a single white stripe that splits down the centre. That begs the question as to why the municipality is paying the mayor more money than is warranted.

Council did not indicate whether it will launch an inquest.

The Consultation process for the proposed Canadian Coast Guard Boat House has begun.

On November 9th, 2017 the RM of Gimli Council met with the current harbour users. Participants at this meeting were from Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Coast Guard and board members of the Gimli Yacht Club and the Gimli Harbour Authority.

The construction of the Boat house has been paused until the public consultation process is complete.

We wish to advise there will be work done on the site in the near future with respect only to the foundation.

The foundation will be tarped and heated to prevent any damage over the winter months. There is some work that is needed on the vessel to be completed before the 2018 operating season begins therefore the Vatka will be placed on or beside the foundation.

Notices will be provided in the near future once dates have been established for the public to participate in the consultation process.



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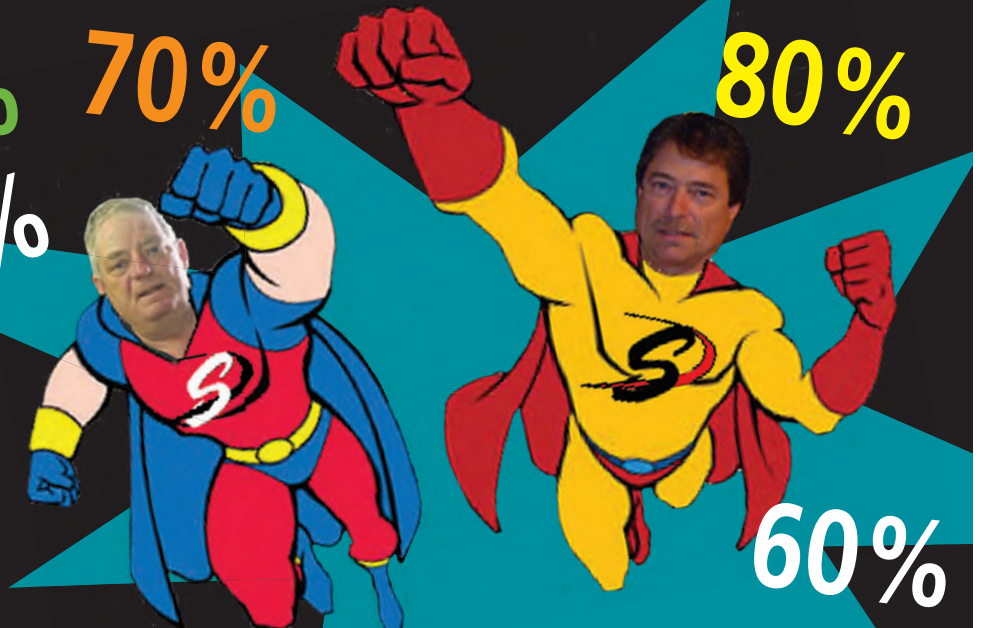
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Gimli council approves secondary suite

By Patricia Barrett

At its regular meeting Nov. 8, Gimli council approved a proposal for construction of a secondary suite on the second storey of a detached garage on Ethel Avenue in the South Beach neighbourhood.

During a council meeting a few weeks ago, neighbouring residents opposed to the project expressed concern that both the primary dwelling and the secondary suite will become rental units and possibly disrupt the peacefulness of the street.

There are no provisions in the RM's zoning bylaw that prohibit property owners from renting their homes and/or secondary suites.

However, if the property owners had applied for a provincial grant to build the secondary suite, they would have been required, under that program, to live in the primary residence.

"There was a [provincial] grant program, and what they were not wanting to happen is people — who had been buying property just for the purpose of renting — to create another rental space on the property," said CAO Joann King. "The idea of a secondary suite was to initially accommodate family members and older parents. But there is nothing in law that allows us to stop anybody from renting their property."

A secondary suite is defined as an accessory dwelling unit from, attached to or within a dwelling that provides basic requirements for living, sleeping, cooking and sanitation.

Coun. Danny Luprypa, the only councillor to vote against the proposal, asked King whether council could add a clause to the zoning bylaw stipulating that residents have to live in their primary dwelling.

"You can make it a condition, but you could be challenged," said King.

Mayor Randy Woroniuk said the manager of provincial planning (Municipal Relations) advised against inserting such a clause in the bylaw.

King added that council would be "making assumptions about individuals and how they would manage properties, and taking away their right to rent it."

A resident attending the Nov. 8 meeting asked whether he could address the issue.

"Should we not get a chance to speak against this?" he asked. "This property is being built to be rented out. This is a commercial enterprise in a residential area."

King said residents had an opportunity to voice their opinions at the Oct. 25 meeting.

At this meeting, council's intent was to review the legal advice they had sought on whether there was a requirement to have an owner live in his/her primary residence.

Other council briefs:

- Council approved a resident's request to construct a guest house on his property in Bay Shore Heights, north of Gimli.

The property owner has a 30-year-old son who is quadriplegic and is on a ventilator, requiring 24-hour care. The guest house, which will be used ex-

clusively by his son, is to be built behind the main dwelling and will contain a washroom and a ceiling-track system to enable the man's caregivers to lift him.

A guest house is defined as an accessory detached dwelling located on the same site as a single-family dwelling for use as an extension to the main dwelling. The maximum building area allowed is 320 square feet. It is not to be rented separately from a single-family dwelling or contain cooking facilities.

A couple living to the west of the property owner forwarded an objection to council, outlining concerns with noise and light — based solely on negative experiences with another area resident.

"They are concerned about the future," said King. "They understand this guest house is for your son and they're not objecting to that use, but their concern is noise. They currently have one neighbour who rents out his property, resulting in new renters every weekend, some of which can be quite noisy and party to the early hours. He's not saying that about you, but he's experiencing it in the area, so

he's concerned that in the future if you sold the property, someone would use the guest house in that manner."

"I think the main concern was bright lights," added Coun. Richard Petrowski.

"We have no intentions of putting lights in the back [of the guest house]," said the property owner. "And we're not a noisy bunch."

Deputy Mayor Peter Peiluck said there's a 20-foot walkway between the two properties and enough trees to block light emanating from nearby residences.

"You'd probably have more light from the moon than you will off neighbours' yards," he said.

- Council approved Gimli Snowmobile's proposal to erect an eight-foot frost fence at the back of a property it recently purchased to store its recreational vehicles.

A resident who lives across the lane from the site expressed concern with snow piling up along the new fence.

"We have snow problems with the back lane being inaccessible. My paper lady got stuck five times in one year because of snow," said Gary Anderson. "I'm just wondering with that new fence coming in, is that going to affect the snow flow in the back lane?"

He also expressed concern about his view.

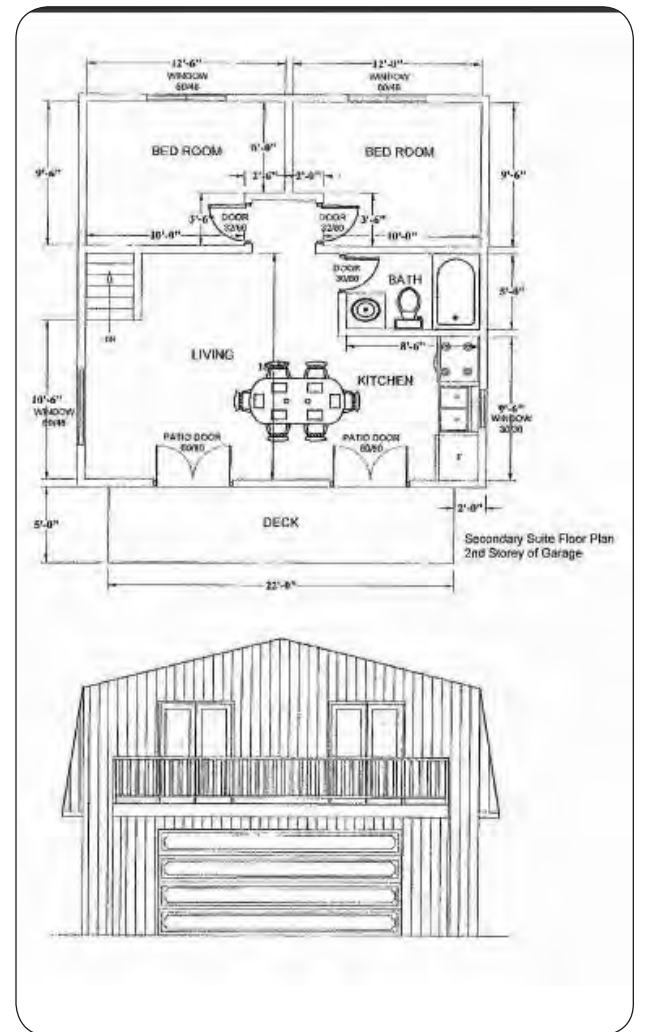
"I'm looking at an open lot [now]," he said. "I look at a sunset. I look at the geese flying through the air. A fence will go up and ... I'm not necessarily in favour of that."

Coun. Peiluck said there are no rules against putting up fences — other than their height — and that there are fences all the way down the back lane.

As chair of Public Works, Coun. Luprypa said he'll make sure the lane is cleared properly.

- Council deferred a decision on whether to accept a quote for \$3,957 plus taxes from NRG Management for preventative maintenance to the municipal building's mechanical equipment.

- The RM's new Handivan was put into service last week. Earlier this year, the provincial and federal



EXPRESS COURTESY RM OF GIMLI

A secondary suite located on the second storey of a new detached garage will have two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, bathroom and deck.

governments provided a public transit infrastructure grant for the new van. Council approved payment of \$77,498.23 for the new van.

- Council designated Anson Street in the Industrial Park an "official" road. The road, which has existed and been used for years, runs parallel to the airport and joins up with Gimli Park Road to the south.

"We're not really creating a new road," said Coun. Petrowski. "It just slipped through the cracks for [many] years."

- Council approved the appointment of Kelly Cosgrove to the Assistant CAO position effective Nov. 8. Cosgrove was formerly assistant manager of finance.

- Gary Anderson, who attended the Gimli Snowmobile hearing, asked that council speak up.

"All of you seem to be having a personal conversation," he said. "I have not heard half of what you've spoken during the discussion on the previous amendments. I find it's difficult to hear Mr. Luprypa and Joann King, who have been speaking back and forth. I haven't heard a darn word you said. You speak in very low tones."

In the past, council has indicated it will look into providing microphones in the chamber.

"We should look at it," said King. "I've had some complaints."

In the meantime, councillors agreed to let reporters sit closer to them.

Veterans await court decision on life-long pensions

By Patricia Barrett

A promise made by the people of Canada during the First World War to take care of their wounded veterans is the premise of a class-action lawsuit seeking to restore life-long pensions the federal government revoked in 2006 and replaced with lump-sum awards.

Six Afghanistan veterans launched the lawsuit in 2012 on behalf of all Canadian veterans impacted by the New Veterans Charter of 2006, but they're still waiting for a B.C. court to make a decision.

Vancouver law firm Miller Thomson, which offered its services on a pro bono basis, and the Equitas Society, an organization founded in 2011 to represent injured veterans' interests, are supporting the plaintiffs.

A senior partner with Miller Thomson, who's now retired, volunteered his services after learning of the effects the Charter was having on veterans – inadequate payouts, lack of mental-health supports and a spate of suicides.

Sorochan said the pension system for wounded veterans was established at the time of the First World War (1914-1918), when Canada, like other British Dominions, was required to raise a citizens' army. The pension system arose from a social covenant (a promise) that veterans would be cared for if injured.

"It was said to be a covenant from the government and the people of Canada to those who had served and become wounded, or to the dependents of those who had been killed in the First World War," said Sorochan by phone from Equitas' office. "To give effect to that promise, the government brought in pensions for people who had incurred wounds and injuries. And it continued on through all other military engagements – the Second World War, the Korean War and UN deployments."

The pensions were significant in that they recognized armed forces personnel as the only people in Canadian society required to give their lives for their country, he said.

But the New Veterans Charter marked a shift in the way veterans were viewed, he said. It was prompted in part by a natural decline in First and Second World veterans and by the influence of insurance companies competing for government benefit programs.

"That year a number of paradigm shifts occurred as regards the care of veterans, from the places they were treated [veteran hospitals] to the type of pension and the cost of maintaining that pension," said Sorochan. "There was getting to be this view among the federal bureaucracy – why are we treating veterans differently from any other person receiving health services ... and why are we giving them a special pension? There was a pressure by the insurers to remove this distinction."

A major issue with lump-sum awards is that they're usually far less than what wounded veterans would receive from a life-long pension, said Sorochan.

Gavin Flett, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, received a \$14,000 lump-sum award for his injuries, something Sorochan called "inadequate by any stretch of the imagination. And in any event, it doesn't do what was intended by the social covenant – and that is to



COURTESY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA. ACC NO. 1983-28-897 COPYRIGHT EXPIRED 1914-1918 POSTER OPEN ACCESS
During the First World War, an agreement referred to as the social covenant was made between armed forces personnel and the people of Canada. It promised to take care of wounded veterans and their families.

look after the injured person."

Flett's compensation was based on a personal injury "meat chart," which assigns a price to the loss or damage of a body part. But the chart doesn't take into account one's future ability to earn, said Sorochan.

And he doesn't think it's "very wise" to give wounded veterans lump-sum payments because those funds might be utilized for immediate financial needs.

"I speak from experience from my early days dealing with residential school clients," he said. "We had seen that giving a lump sum to somebody...to compensate them going forward in their future years would be spent on [other things]. It's not up to me to be paternalistic towards the people getting these payments, but that's a fact of life. And it leaves people in a situation where they do find they need it later on."

In addition to reduced compensation, the federal government began closing health facilities dedicated to treating injured veterans. Veterans are now experiencing delays accessing mental-health care, and more and more are dying by suicide.

Chilliwack-based veteran Aaron Bedard, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, suffered a brain injury when his tank drove over a mine in Afghanistan in 2006. He

later developed post-traumatic stress disorder.

He said a major source of stress for veterans suffering from PTSD is getting timely and appropriate access to mental-health services. When veterans are ready to reach out for help, they experience pushback from Veterans Affairs and/or months of delay trying to get a referral to a medical professional who specialises in PTSD.

"That's the biggest stumbling block. I get troops that come to me that have been out for five, 10, 15 years saying, 'I need to get some help now, what do I do?'" said Bedard. "I get them to call Veterans Affairs and half the time they're pushing them away, saying...you don't have an injury so you don't have a file open with us."

Veterans have also a hard time finding a general practitioner because many are loath to accepting Veterans Affairs' clients that come with "mountains of paperwork," he said. "There's nothing in place to ensure doctors have to take...a mental-health injury."

Another obstacle facing veterans is a lack of mental-health services in rural areas, where many veterans with PTSD prefer to live.

"We have tons of veterans with PTSD who choose to go out and live in a rural setting way the heck up north somewhere in a cabin with no service and what have you," he said. "When they decide they need help, it's often at a point where they're drinking and self-medicating and they've lost their job. They finally reach out for help and there's no mental-health support in rural settings."

Bedard himself spends hours on the highway travelling to and from Vancouver where he attends an OSISS (operational stress injury social support) clinic. The drive is harrowing for him because it takes him back to situations he experienced in Afghanistan.

"Some of the biggest issues from my tour are driving," he said. "I went over an anti-tank mine and I have issues with vehicles that cut me off."

Bedard said he sees no reason why the government can't offer telehealth services to veterans living in rural Canada. He's been advocating for years to get teleconferencing and video-conferencing services.

"They come up with excuses that are so complex," he said. "Then they'll do things like the Invictus Games, a big Kumbaya gathering, saying, 'Look how great we're doing and look how much we're helping veterans.' Change the music."

The B.C. Court of Appeal has yet to rule on the lawsuit. In the meantime, Conservative MP John Brassard has introduced a private member's bill to amend the Veterans Affairs Act. The bill, said Sorochan, intends to add "some teeth" to the social covenant.

"We relied on our citizens to come forward and defend us," he said, "and that's why the covenant is with...the people of Canada. It's for our benefit that veterans were wounded or gave their lives."

For more information about the Equitas Society, visit www.equitasociety.ca. Bedard has a Facebook page called Veteran Guerrilla Radio to keep veterans up to date on pertinent issues.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Interlake bull rider sensational at provincial championship

By Brian Bowman

It takes one tough hombre to be a bull rider.

And Tyson Salmon was the toughest of them as he was crowned the 2017 Manitoba Bull Riding Champion in Brandon at the end of October.

"I had a pretty busy day the first day," Salmon explained Monday evening. "I also team rope and I was team roping that day. I went right from team roping to bull riding, back-to-back, and I ended up winning the bull riding the first night."

Salmon finished with the highest score (85) in bull riding. That was a point better than the second-place finisher.

"It's a pretty small difference," Salmon explained. "It's out of 100 points. It's 50 points to the bull and 50 points to the rider."

Salmon was very pleased with his performance.

"When I look back, it was a pretty good weekend," he said. "Not only did I win in the finals of bull riding but I also got rookie of the year. I had the highest amount of points (450) from the year for all of the rookies."

Scores are based on how difficult the bull was and how much the rider was in control.

"If it looks like you are really in control of the ride, then you get a higher score," Salmon noted. "But if you are flailing around or hanging off to the side, and you're not in

control, then you're docked points."

Salmon had the "bull of the year" for the MRCA, which was picked by all of the riders, when he won in Brandon.

The 19 year old was in the first year that he bought his senior card. He competed throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta this past summer.

He was part of both the Manitoba Rodeo Cowboys Association and the Canadian Cowboys Association (which is referred to as a type of semi-pro circuit).

Salmon also did bull riding in high school.

"I did pretty well in high school rodeo," he recalled. "I was second in my Grade 12 year in bull riding and the year before that, I was third."

So, what makes a good bull rider? It's actually not that easy, said Salmon, who broke a toe earlier this summer.

"It's not as easy as it looks," he stressed. "When you get on (the bull), you're only thinking about the moment that you're in. You're not thinking about anything else. You, basically, have to wipe your mind."

"The minute you start thinking, or give up, it's the moment that you're going to get hurt. And, in bull riding, it's not if you're going to get hurt, but when and how bad because you're doing the most dangerous sport on earth."



EXPRESS PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Interlake bull rider Tyson Salmon was crowned the 2017 Manitoba Bull Riding Champion in Brandon at the end of October.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Goaltender Gavin White made 36 saves in Interlake's 7-3 loss to the Pembina Valley Hawks last Thursday.

Hawks fly past Lightning in Bantam action

By Brian Bowman

The Pembina Valley Hawks swooped in on the Interlake Lightning and stole a couple of victories from the local club last week.

Pembina Valley won 7-3 in Stonewall last Thursday and then cruised to a 10-5 triumph on Sunday in Morden.

In Thursday's loss, Jacob Plett opened the game's scoring for the Lightning and then Brett Tataryn and Logan Resch (shorthanded) tallied in the third.

Tataryn, Lane Bond and Zachary Halldorson each had an assist in the game.

In Sunday's defeat, Tataryn led Interlake with two goals and two assists

while Ashton Fisher scored twice and added a helper.

Peyton Bateman scored the Lightning's other goal, assisted by Tyson Barylski.

On Nov. 8, Interlake was defeated 11-1 by the Eastman Selects in Landmark.

Cole Emberly scored Interlake's lone goal in the second period. Barylski drew the assist.

Interlake played the Winnipeg Monarchs on Tuesday and then will host the Winnipeg Sharks Saturday (4:30 p.m.) in Stony Mountain.

On Sunday at 2:15 p.m., the Lightning will play the Winnipeg Hawks at the Maples Multiplex.

Lightning Midget suffer pair of weekend losses

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Lightning were part of two entirely different games against elite opponents last weekend.

One was a close affair in a tough 6-5 loss to the Winnipeg Bruins and the other was a blowout 7-2 defeat against the Eastman Selects.

"We were playing some pretty good hockey for a while," said Lightning head coach Dwayne Swanson. "The Bruins game was really good. We controlled a lot of that game and they're (a top) team."

It was a different story, however, against Eastman.

Eastman, which held period leads of 3-0 and 5-0 against Interlake, saw Cole Dekoninck score twice and add an assist while Josh Beauchemin had a goal and two helpers.

Rylan Hoffman, Hunter Sexton, Kieran Thiessen and Matthew Smith also scored for Eastman.

It wasn't exactly the Lightning's best effort against Eastman.

"That was probably our worst game of the year," Swanson said. "We didn't show up ready to play and I think what happened was our guys threw everything that they could at the Bruins the night before and weren't ready for that Eastman team."

"That's something our guys have to do if they want to play junior hockey."

Connor Dowhy and Bryce Krauter scored third-period goals for the Lightning. Hunter Halcrow assisted on Dowhy's marker.

Eastman outshot Interlake 49-22 as Justin Powers posted the win in goal.

The game, meanwhile, took a sombre tone when Selects' defenceman Matthew Boonstra of Garson was seriously injured late in the second period.

Boonstra, attempting to deliver a check, went into the boards awkwardly and an ambulance was called.

Boonstra, a very talented defenceman suffered a vertebrae injury.

Saturday evening saw the Winnipeg



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Lightning's Dylan Fontaine scored a hat trick Saturday night during Interlake's 6-5 loss against the Winnipeg Bruins.

Skating excellence



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Arborg figure skating club members Chloe Howell and Olivia Orbanski competed at the Skate Canada Manitoba Sectional Championships hosted by Skate Virden & Skate Canada Manitoba on Nov. 4 and 5.

Howell finished seventh in women's Juvenile U14 while Orbanski finished 10th overall in women's pre-novice. Both girls had personal best scores. Left photo: Howell with coach Tracy Finnsen, and right photo: Orbanski with Finnsen.

Several Arborg skaters will be performing their solos at a holiday show on Saturday, Dec. 16 in preparation for the regional competition in January.

Bruins beat the Lightning by a goal as the visitors erased a 5-2 deficit.

"We played right with them but it just didn't go our way," Swanson said. "And that's what hockey is all about. Sometimes it goes your way and, to be honest with you, we're still trying to teach our kids how to win games."

"That's a habit you have to learn because a lot of our guys have come through the Lightning (program) not winning a lot of hockey games. They're still trying to learn what it takes to win in the third period."

Winnipeg scored a pair of goals late in the second period and then added two more in the third.

Jason Szun had three of those Bruins' goals while Luc Masse, Corbin Mariash and Ty Naaykens also tallied.

Dylan Fontaine scored a pair of first-period goals for the Lightning and then Marcus Dewey, Gabe Odowichuk and Fontaine notched second-period goals.

Fontaine also added an assist for a four-point game.

"He's brand new to our team and he now has five goals in the last three games," Swanson said of the Brandon product. "He's an offensive kid, which we are sorely lacking of, and he's been a nice addition to the squad. "He's a good, young man and

he brings a lot of attributes to our hockey team and were glad to have him."

Both Interlake and Winnipeg scored three power-play goals in the game.

On Nov. 8, the Lightning lost 6-2 at home to the Central Plains Capitals.

Central Plains led 3-2 after two periods in a good battle between the two clubs but then scored three times in the third.

"We showed some immaturity in the third period, I guess, and lost our composure," Swanson noted.

Tyler Van Deynze scored a pair of power-play goals and then Cameron Trimble added an even-strength marker midway in the period.

Brandon Kochon, Kian Calder (on the power play) and Mitchell Wilson scored the Caps' other goals.

Fontaine answered with a pair of power-play goals for the Lightning. Krauter assisted on both goals while Corey Soorsma and Odowichuk added helpers.

Interlake, now 4-8, will hit the road for a pair of games this weekend. The Lightning will be in Brandon on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and Dauphin Sunday (2 p.m.) to play the Parkland Rangers.

Interlake's next home game is Nov. 25 when the Winnipeg Wild travel to Teulon for a 7 p.m. game.

Falcons edge Ice Dawgs in OT

By Brian Bowman

The Lundar Falcons and Arborg Ice Dawgs needed some extra time to settle the score on Saturday evening.

Lance Laycock scored the game winner in overtime to lift Lundar to a 2-1 victory in Keystone Junior Hockey League action.

Arborg had tied the score at 1-1 in the third on a Dalton Woodhouse goal. Lundar's Landen Gray opened the game's scoring in the second period.

Christopher Lesage made 37 saves for the win.

With that victory, Lundar improved its record to 7-1-0-2 and now have 16 points to trail the Selkirk Fishermen by just three points in the South Division standings.

Lundar also has two games in hand.

The Falcons will host the Fishermen in a key matchup this Friday and then the North Winnipeg Satellites will make the trip to Warren on Saturday. Both games start at 8 p.m.

The Ice Dawgs, meanwhile, started the week by defeating the Fisher River Hawks 10-2.

Arborg led 2-0 after 20 minutes and then started the second period by scoring seven goals in a 14:29 span.

Clint Torfason led Arborg with two goals and two assists while Cal Finsson also tallied twice and had an assist.

The Ice Dawgs' other goals were scored by Braydon Peterson (two), Byron Gard, Jordan Kristjanson, Woodhouse and Colton Davies.

Dwayne Catcheway and Nicolas Murdock replied for Fisher River.

Travis Rigden made 36 saves for the win.

Arborg will play in Peguis Thursday (8 p.m.) and then will host Fisher River on Saturday (7 p.m.).



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Falcons' goaltender Christopher Lesage made 37 saves for the overtime win against the Ice Dawgs Saturday night.

Juniors win pair of KJHL games last weekend

By Brian Bowman

One could say the Peguis Juniors had a pretty good weekend.

Peguis won both of its games last weekend, beating Fisher River 20-0 on Saturday before downing St. Malo 5-1 on Sunday.

In Sunday's win, Peguis' Darian Murdock opened the game's scoring with a power-play goal late in the first period and then Keevan Daniels-Webb (also on the power play) made it 2-0 early in the second.

St. Malo's Tyler Bueckert and Peguis' Romano Paul traded goals late in the middle frame and then it was all Juniors in the third.

Christian Cochrane scored 3:29 into the third and then Wyatt Bear closed out the scoring midway in the period.

Luke Penner made 26 saves for the win.

On Saturday, Peguis scored early and often in the lopsided win.

The Juniors, who held period leads of 5-0 and 13-0, scored two power-play goals and had five shorthanded markers.

Christian Cochrane scored twice and added six assists while Bear had two goals and three assists.

Also scoring for Peguis were Travis McPherson (three), Tyrome Spence-Bair (three), Daniels-Webb (three),

Dylan Stevenson (two), Tyler Ross, Keifer Tacan, Ethan Daniels, Dalen Schulz and Tristan Starr.

Peguis outshot Fisher River 68-13 as Allan Kohli posted the shutout.

The Juniors are now 8-1 and lead the Central Division standings by a point

over Arborg with a game in hand.

Peguis will host Arborg tonight at 8 p.m. and then will play a pair of road games this weekend. The Juniors will be in Norway House Saturday (8 p.m.) and then in Cross Lake on Sunday (1:30 p.m.).

Manitoba 1-3 at U18 women's nationals

Staff

Manitoba finished with a 1-3 record at the 2017 National Women's U18 Hockey Championship in Quebec City.

After finishing with an 0-3 record in pool play, Manitoba edged Atlantic 2-1 in its final game of the tournament to place seventh overall.

Manitoba earlier suffered Group B losses to Quebec (3-1), British Columbia (3-0) and Saskatchewan (4-0).

Gimli's Olivia Cvar led Manitoba with two goals and an assist while

Keyara and Keyanna Lea, formerly of Riverton and now playing in Boston, also recorded points.

Keyara collected a goal and an assist while Keyanna added an assist.

St. Andrews' Hailey Karbonik was also on Manitoba's roster.

Amy Martin of Stonewall officiated at the tournament.

Ontario Red won the national title after defeating Ontario Blue 3-1. In the bronze-medal game, B.C. edged Saskatchewan 2-1 in overtime.

Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Steinbach Pistons	19	16	3	0	32	110	45
OCN Blizzard	22	15	5	2	32	84	70
Winkler Flyers	21	15	6	0	30	77	44
Virren Oil Capitals	19	13	6	0	26	91	54
Portage Terriers	20	12	6	1	26	78	54
Selkirk Steelers	19	12	6	1	25	74	62
Winnipeg Blues	23	10	10	3	23	77	85
Neepawa Natives	22	10	10	2	22	81	80
Swan Valley Stampede	19	6	10	3	15	47	70
Dauphin Kings	22	4	16	1	10	50	103
Waywayseecappo Wolverines	22	1	20	0	3	40	142

KEYSTONE HOCKEY LEAGUE							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Peguis Juniors	9	8	1	0	16	65	20
Arborg Ice Dawgs	10	7	2	1	15	47	28
Fisher River Hawks	12	1	11	0	2	26	110
South Division							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Selkirk Fishermen	12	8	1	3	19	64	34
Lundar Falcons	10	7	1	2	16	49	33
St. Malo Warriors	11	6	3	2	14	50	32
North Winnipeg Satellites	11	3	8	0	6	39	56
North Division							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
OCN Storm	9	6	2	1	13	62	38
Cross Lake Islanders	9	4	5	0	8	53	42
Norway House North Stars	9	1	7	1	3	31	93

AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Brandon	16	14	2	0	28	90	40
Eastman	16	13	2	1	27	74	48
Wild	15	13	2	0	26	79	30
Bruins	16	12	3	1	25	71	51
Pembina Valley	15	9	4	1	20	50	46

AAA CITY MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Monarchs	9	9	0	0	18	69	13
Hawks	9	6	3	0	12	47	30
Selects	8	5	3	0	10	42	26
Sharks	7	4	3	0	8	20	24
Warriors	9	3	6	0	6	29	46
Lightning	12	0	12	0	0	19	87

AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTLPTS	GF	GA	
Hawks	14	13	1	0	26	118	32
Monarchs	11	10	0	1	21	75	22
Sharks	11	9	1	0	19	58	24
Selects	11	9	2	0	18	77	24
Lightning	15	5	10	0	10	46	88
Warriors	12	0	11	0	1	23	75

MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE										
	GP	Reg W	Reg L	T	OTW	OTL	Pts			
Westman Wildcats	9	5	1	-	1	2	14			
Eastman Selects	12	6	5	-	-	1	13			
Yellowhead Chiefs	7	6	1	-	-	-	12			
Winnipeg Avros	8	4	2	-	2	-	12			
Central Plains	8	3	4	-	1	-	8			
PV Hawks	9	3	5	-	-	1	7			
Interlake Lightning	9	-	9	-	-	-	-			

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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ANNOUNCEMENT

SHOWER ANNOUNCEMENT



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Ryan Gulay and Olga Velyt
Join us in celebration of their engagement on November 18th, 2017 for a pre-wedding social and shower in their honour at Arborg Community Hall
Shower at 1 p.m. and Social at 8 p.m.
A July 2018 wedding is planned

ANNOUNCEMENT

SHOWER ANNOUNCEMENT



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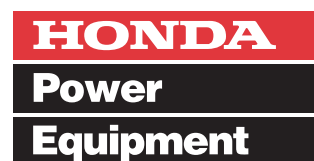
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