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VOLUME 7 EDITION 46 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

WEEKLY NEWS

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Honouring our veterans

Dorothy Bailey places a commemorative stone on the grave of a veteran at Gimli Cemetery on Remembrance Day. Bailey's parents were both in the Navy.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY CAROL SIMONSON

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

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Indigenous commercial fishers exonerated by province for overfishing

By Patricia Barrett

Indigenous commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg were given an absolute discharge last month for overfishing their quotas after participating in a restorative justice process.

Henry Traverse and his son Herman Traverse from Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation (Jackhead) were exonerated on Oct. 6 by Manitoba provincial court judge Ryan Rolston, who heard the case in community court in Peguis First Nation.

"I think it's the first time this has happened [i.e., acquitted by the province] as far as I know because we went through an Indigenous court justice program," said Henry Traverse, who is president of the Keewatinook Fishers of Lake Winnipeg and an advocate for Indigenous fishing rights. "That was the driving force of what took place here."

The province, which regulates the commercial fishery, doesn't recognize the rights of Indigenous people to fish commercially, said Traverse, nor does the federal government although Section 35 of the 1982 Constitution Act recognizes fishing as an Aboriginal right along with rights to land, hunting, their own culture and the power to make treaties.

Section 35 rights apply to subsistence living, said Traverse, and the province will impose penalties if commercial fishers exceed their allotted quota.

"We're trying to get the province to understand Indigenous rights," said Traverse. "It's the same thing that's happening on the east coast with Indigenous [Nova Scotia lobster] fishers that are under federal jurisdiction. It's a big issue. Regardless whether it's provincial or federal jurisdiction, they're still neglecting our rights as a First Nation people."

Kinonjeoshtegon has about 40 quotas in total and roughly 20 active fishers, said Traverse, and it's the only First Nation community in Manitoba that sells commercially caught fish to a private buyer in Ontario rather than through the federally run Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

"We're moving in a direction of being our own masters. We want to be able to market and sell our products without interference," said Traverse, who is the Assembly of First Nations' Manitoba representative on a fishery advocacy committee that works with the federal government. "Fishing is a way of life for us. Indigenous people have thrived on it for thousands of



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Winnipeg pickerel and pike in totes.

years and it has got to continue for the next generations."

The Traverses' legal counsel, Cynthia Westaway, who is director of the Westaway Law Group in Ottawa, said she recommended a restorative justice approach as the case was heading to court because it was in keeping with the principles of reconciliation.

The process saw discussions take place over a number of months between the Traverses, Westaway, Manitoba conservation officers and the prosecutor (the provincial department of Sustainable Development) in order to provide an opportunity for all parties to understand each other's perspective, as well as discuss the importance of Indigenous fishing rights in Manitoba. Efforts to build a relationship between provincial conservation officers and fishers were also one of the goals.

"During these conversations, the parties discussed Section 35 Aboriginal rights and the importance of building a relationship between conservation officers, the province and Indigenous fishers," said Westaway by email. "The Traverses earned a greater understanding of the roles of conservation officers under the regulations, while the conservation officers learned about the vital role that fish plays in the Traverses' community and identity."

The Traverses were charged for violating Section 12(2) of the Manitoba Fishery Regulations. Henry has a commercial fishing quota of 19,970 kilograms of walleye/sauger and whitefish and went over his quota by 2,986 kg on his 59th delivery. Herman has a commercial fishing quota of 11,430 kg and went over by 2,200 kg on his 45th and final delivery.

They were facing provincial fines of up to \$100,000.

The Traverses depend on fishing for their livelihood, said Westaway, and fines and/or fishing suspensions are

harmful to families and communities that rely on fishing.

Kinonjeoshtegon has faced many challenges, she added, including a lack of clean drinking water, regional flooding and lengthy power outages, all of which are exacerbated by poor economic outcomes, historic racism and systemic discrimination.

She also cited the monopoly held by FFMC, which was "problematic" and "detrimental" to Indigenous fishers, and the province's formal withdrawal from FFMC that occurred without meaningful consultation.

"Canada and Manitoba have not stepped in to provide marketing capacity to Indigenous fishers in order for them to successfully participate in an open market. As a result, Indigenous fishers are struggling, especially during this pandemic," said Westaway.

Although Westaway was able to have the charges against the Traverses dropped, she said Indigenous fishers are still not exempt from Manitoba's fishing regulations.

"Justice Rolston did not make any determination on the applicability of Manitoba fishing regulations on Indigenous fishers in Manitoba as Henry and Herman pleaded guilty and took full ownership of fishing beyond their quotas," she said. "Justice Rolston stressed that the goal of the criminal justice and regulatory system is to ensure we all live peacefully together."

Westaway said while the provincial government doesn't recognize an inherent or treaty right for Indigenous people to fish commercially, it must consider the potential impacts on them "before making decisions" that affect their rights.

"This includes how Manitoba enforces fishing regulations on Lake Winnipeg, through fines or other penalties for Indigenous fishers," said Westaway.

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Arborg and Gimli RCMP respond to hunting accident

Submitted by RCMP

On Nov. 11 at approximately 7:20 a.m., Arborg and Gimli RCMP received a report of a hunting accident that occurred in a field across from municipal Road 11 East, just east of Malonton.

When officers arrived, EMS were on scene preparing to transport a 45-year-old male to Winnipeg hospital with a gunshot wound.

Initial investigation has determined that two hunters — the victim and a 41-year-old male — were inside a wooden hunting blind on the treeline looking onto the field. The two were preparing to hunt for the day and watching a deer in the middle of the field when a white pickup truck

pulled up and parked at the entrance to the field. Two males exited the vehicle. Both were wearing orange. Shots were fired at the deer in the field. The shots entered the hunting blind, and the victim was struck by one of the bullets.

The victim's injuries are non-life threatening.

RCMP are looking for the two individuals who were in the truck. It is believed to be an older model white Chevrolet pickup truck.

RCMP are asking anyone with information to call the Gimli RCMP at 204-642-5106, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

RCMP are looking for two individuals after a 45-year-old hunter received a gun shot wound inside a hunting blind.

Roussin calls Manitobans, urges them to stay home

By Becca Myskiw

Last Thursday evening brought an opportunity for many Manitoba households to learn about the current Code Red restrictions in the province.

Those with a landline heard their phone ring just after 6:30 p.m. Picking it up and answering "Hello?", they heard Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer Dr. Brent Roussin on the other end.

Roussin, along with other doctors and government officials, took their Thursday evening to host a phone town hall, talking about the new restrictions and why they came into place.

Most of the information came after a caller dialed *3 — they were then connected to a moderator who put them through to Roussin or another official to ask their question.

One of the first questions of the night was about why schools are open and why churches are closed. Roussin said there are cases brought into schools, but there's no significant transmissions in them. Schools also need to remain open, he said, to keep up the mental health of the students within them and give them a sense of normalcy.

As for the closing of churches, Roussin said many outbreaks have been linked to faith-based gatherings and that called for closing them down for now.

Then the question came on the gathering restrictions. A caller said his family of six can't go visit their grandparents because it goes against the limit of five people allowed only. The caller was upset and his family was being discrimi-

nated against because they're large. Roussin put it simply: people are not supposed to be going out to visit family anyways; they are supposed to be socializing only with members of their own household.

"The best way to limit the transmission of the virus is to limit gatherings," said Roussin. "The message is clear — stay home."

Staying home, he said, saves lives.

Engage MB also had a survey up at the time of the call. Of all the questions and answers, one piece of data stood out after 10,000 replies. Forty-eight per cent of Manitobans somewhat or strongly agreed it is OK to expand their circle with people they trust. The chief provincial public health officer said that mentality is not OK; it creates 60 COVID-19 cases in itself.

"It's not about limiting the amount of contact at one time," he said. "It's about limiting it in total."

Roussin went on to say this is the first time the Public Health Act is being used in Manitoba. He said the restrictions have to be realistic of what the government expects from Manitobans.

"We need Manitoba to step up," he said. "To follow public health advice."

Roussin suggested writing down the names of every person you've been in contact with in one day — that's possibly who's all been exposed to the virus.

The main point for the restrictions comes down to the rising case numbers and the hospitals reaching capacity. The phone town hall went on for a while, but Roussin had one main takeaway for Manitobans: stay home, save lives.

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Gimli High School students planning grad in midst of pandemic uncertainty

By Patricia Barrett

With COVID-19 having scuppered some of the festivities Gimli High School's class of 2020 had been looking forward to, students currently in Grade 12 are unsure of what their 2021 graduation is going to look like.

But the school's grad heads — students who plan, organize and execute a plethora of tasks leading up to the big day — have launched their first fundraiser to help pay for next year's graduation despite the uncertainty.

They know two things are certain: people like to eat, which is why they chose a Mom's Pantry fundraiser, and that they want a "memorable" festivity, not just a "diploma-and-go" ceremony.

"The [2020] grads worked for years to come up to an apex moment and it was a little bit of a let-down," said Indiana Humniski, who is one of four grad heads and is taking the lead on their first fundraiser. "Graduating during coronavirus is very hard and we're figuring it out. We've just came out the gate for fundraising with Mom's Pantry and it's the first of probably many fundraisers that we'll be doing."

Mom's Pantry allows people to order online from a selection of over 200 food items, including perogies, baked

goods, desserts, spices and teas, with free delivery. A large percentage of the proceeds are then turned over to the fundraisers.

Graduation is not only expensive, but it also has to run with military-like precision and attention to detail. With assistance from an undergraduate committee, the grad heads held their first meeting last week to discuss strategy and gather ideas as to how to hold grad should COVID still have a grip on the province.

"It was nerve-wracking coming into this because nobody knew what to expect. That's been a big point of discussion with the entire graduating body," said Humniski, who will be graduating alongside about 70 other students. "Everybody's a little nervous and morale is kind of down right now because it's hard to get excited about graduation week when you don't know what your graduation is going to look like."

Despite a few COVID jitters, the grad head team and other students who aren't formally part of the committee have been coming up with resourceful ideas and are starting to build a positive vibe around grad.

"We've really come together and are coming up with new ideas, which is pretty cool and exciting," said Humniski. "One of the members of the graduating body — who isn't a grad head — made an Instagram page for all the girls who are graduating. They can post their dresses online and make sure they don't accidentally wear the same dress. And she went the extra mile by highlighting information about body positivity. That started painting grad in a more uplifting manner."

Although there are positive cases of COVID in the Gimli community



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF GIMLI HIGH SCHOOL GRAD HEADS
Gimli High School's grad heads, from left, Samantha Kmet, Indiana Humniski and Malia Berthaudin (missing: Lin Howelko) have launched their first fundraiser to support graduation day next year despite uncertainty around COVID-19.

(five as of Monday morning), as well as positive cases in communities surrounding Gimli such as in the Arbrog-Riverton district (seven cases), the Evergreen School Division (which draws its students from the communities) has not reported a case of the virus as of Monday morning.

Humniski, who works on "the frontlines" as a cashier during non-school hours, said Gimli High has a lot of extra space where students can spread out unlike some schools in the city where students have been unable to sit two metres away from each other.

"Our school has been able to distance properly. For instance, my English class is split into two English classes right now so everyone is distanced properly. For cohorts, we were able to match what the government's recommendations were. Each grade is a cohort; everyone in Grade 12 is one cohort," said Humniski.

"We're lucky we've been OK so far. And we're so fortunate to not have had a mass outbreak in a place like Betel [personal care home]. I'm very proud of what we've been able to sus-

tain here in Gimli so far. Same with the high school. We believe the science. When we look back on this time, we'll realize wearing a piece of fabric over our mouths wasn't an inconvenience."

As for plans for a grad parade through the streets of Gimli, Humniski said there's no reason why the class of 2021 couldn't stage one as the 2020 grads pulled it off during COVID without a hitch.

To help people who aren't familiar with ordering through Mom's Pantry but who want to support the grads, Humniski put together a step-by-step guide that she posted online: go to momspantry.ca - shop now - add items to cart - checkout - first fundraiser button - order number is 321583 - group passcode is 21626 - Gimli High School grad - validate - seller's name (your grad's first and last name) - checkout - personal billing info - free shipping - continue to payment method.

The deadline for ordering is Nov. 24. Orders should be available for distribution or pickup the week of Dec. 14.

RCMP release statistics on COVID-19 enforcement

Between Nov. 2 and 13, the Manitoba RCMP received 253 calls related to COVID-19.

In 42 instances, officers issued a verbal warning. In eight instances, fines were issued for Failing to Comply with a Provincial Emergency Order, under the Public Health Act:

November 4, Cross Lake RCMP fined an adult male who was not self-isolating as directed

November 7, Cross Lake RCMP fined a Winnipeg teenager for travelling to northern Manitoba

November 7, The Pas RCMP fined an adult male who was not self-isolating as directed

November 8, Cross Lake RCMP fined an adult male who was not self-

isolating as directed

November 12, Fisher Branch RCMP fined an adult male who was not self-isolating as directed

November 13, St-Pierre-Jolys RCMP issued a fine to an adult female for having more than 5 people at her residence

November 13, Peguis RCMP fined two adult females who were not self-isolating as directed

Since April 9, 2020, Manitoba RCMP have issued 119 warnings and 50 fines.

Manitobans living outside of Winnipeg are reminded not to call 911 for COVID-19 related issues. Reports of non-compliance can be made to the Manitoba Government Inquiry line at 1-866-626-4862.

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Riverdale Workshop WILL NOT be picking up Recycling

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Thurs. Nov 26 in Riverton

Tues. Dec 8 in Arbrog

Thurs. Dec 10 in Riverton

Tues. Dec 22 in Arbrog

Thurs. Dec 24 in Riverton

This includes all business places on the mentioned dates due to the small group of workers available.

Please keep your recycling at home on the dates mentioned above when there is not recycling pickup. The workshop will update if something changes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Manitoba Bridge Grant available for businesses impacted by Code Red closures

Submitted by Manitoba government

Manitoba businesses and organizations required to close under current public health orders are now able to apply online for a \$5,000 Manitoba Bridge Grant, Premier Brian Pallister announced Monday.

"We recognize the significant sacrifices our local business community has made in the face of this pandemic in order to protect all Manitobans," said Pallister. "We have been working and will continue to work side-by-side with our business community to help them do what they do best — employ Manitobans, and offer services Manitobans rely and depend on. Many of them can't do that right now, which is why we offering a \$5,000 grant to help bridge them through this unprecedented time."

The application form is now live for the Manitoba Bridge Grant, which provides a \$5,000 grant upfront to eligible small and medium-sized businesses and organizations that were required to fully close their premises to the public because of Manitoba

COVID-19 public health orders in effect as of Nov. 12.

The list includes non-essential retailers, restaurants, bars, beverage rooms, brewpubs, microbreweries, distilleries, recreation and sport facilities, museums and galleries, theatres and concert halls, not-for-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and registered charities. The full list and application criteria is available on the program page at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/programs/bridge-grant.html.

"The best thing we can do for our businesses is to bend our COVID curve down. I encourage all Manitobans to follow the advice of Dr. Roussin and our health leaders to stay home in order to halt the spread of this virus and protect our most vulnerable Manitobans. Manitobans can safely show their support for our local businesses through online shopping and curb-side pickup and delivery options," the premier said.

He noted that businesses that received other federal or provincial funding, such as the Manitoba Gap

Prevention Program, are welcome to apply for the Manitoba Bridge Grant. He noted the Manitoba Gap Prevention Program has concluded, with \$59 million paid out to more than 9,800 businesses in the province.

"We would like to thank the province for making these grants available to businesses like ours," said Costa and Ernie Cholakakis of Broadway Florists. "The Cholakakis family has been running Broadway Florists for 97 years (three generations) and this type of support will make the difference and allow us to continue on for years to come. We also appreciate all of the Manitobans who are buying local and supporting businesses like ours during these challenging times."

Businesses and organizations that were actively conducting business in the province immediately before the implementation of applicable public health orders are able to apply for one immediate \$5,000 grant per business number. The payment will be automatically deposited within 10 business days after their application is ap-

proved.

The program application deadline is Dec. 15. Should the public health orders remain in place past Jan. 1, 2021, the Manitoba Bridge Grant may be extended to provide an additional \$5,000 to eligible organizations.

The premier noted the province is committed to making at least \$250 million available to protect Manitoba's business community at this critical time in the pandemic, through the first and potentially second round of Manitoba Bridge Grant payments as well as initial supporting funds of up to \$50 million for business groups, such as the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, that were asked to provide government with a long-term recovery funding plan for Manitoba businesses coming out of COVID-19.

For assistance to complete the online form, applicants can contact Manitoba Government Inquiry at 204-945-3744 or toll-free at 1-866-MANITOBA (626-4862).

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@expressweeklynews.ca

My thoughts only

As a family member who has been involved with several relatives in care homes, recently my dad in Betel care home, I have observed some issues that we as Canadians have to start having the conversations about how we treat our elders.

Most importantly I have to acknowledge that most care homes seem to be understaffed, underfunded and in desperate need of extra help with the COVID crisis. Bottom line: they need more help, support, to receive better pay and benefits.

As a young person, I have no problems yet getting out of bed, going to the bathroom, using the bathroom, having a bath, getting dressed, eating, reading, listening to the news, walking, sitting, falling and finding out what's going on in the world.

However, in a care home there are people, our family members, who are limited in their mobility and their cognitive ability to know or read what's on the weekly agenda for events that are occurring in the care home.

The COVID crisis has put a spotlight on how as a society we have allowed our elderly to be treated. Until it happens to someone you love, do you really understand the serious impact on the mental, physical and quality of life our elderly?

Last week was Remembrance Day, and my dad, being a vet and recently honoured for having served in World War II and being part of the legion for 75 years, was looking forward to a service, obviously not attending a ceremony at the legion. The weekly schedule came out and he missed it because he could not read the agenda adjustments of the social events. Nov. 11 had no event or activities. This is not a life and death situation, merely

an observation of the need to be aware.

There is a certain routine that many of the folks become adjusted to while in lockdown at care homes. When there is a change in the agenda and no one lets them know, those with visual and cognitive limitations miss out on events. It's incredibly important for the quality of life, physical and mental health of our family members to be busy, to be included, to be valued by asking their opinions, by creating opportunities for them to be productive citizens at all ages.

I would suggest that anybody who wants to work in a care home, anybody who wants to be on the board of a care home to create policy, that they try empathizing what it's actually like.

Wear a bodysuit that limits your mobility, put in earplugs so you can't hear properly, wear glasses or cover your eyes so you have visual obstructions.

Let's see how long it takes before you become frustrated, hungry and thirsty. Now imagine you're sitting in a wheelchair and no one talks to you, no one has time to get you ready in the morning and it's a rushed experience. Imagine someone having to help you in the bathroom; most of us dread that inevitability. Imagine every evening and

weekend without activities to break up the monotony?

We have an opportunity here to create positive changes for the elderly in our care homes and to voice our concerns about staffing problems for those who are dedicated in working to protect our family and friends.

To date, our community has been lucky without a COVID case in our care home due to the care of the staff. Let's talk about what positive changes can be made for the future.

We have an opportunity to keep the conversation going.

We can learn from each other and we can learn from our seniors.

Thank you.
Sherry

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Prioritizing economy over public health

By Evan Matthews

Last week's changes to public health orders caused a bit of a scare, but for sure a stir.

To generally blame the government for people's inept, inconsiderate and unfair behaviour — not wearing masks, not social distancing and improper hand hygiene — is ridiculous.

People need to be accountable for their individual roles as it relates to spread of this virus.

However, what has become clearer is the province prioritizing economy over public health.

Last week, Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer, had said he advised the provincial government to restrict citizens to associate only with people in their households.

Meaning, the interpretation was that social gatherings of any kind would not be permitted.

But when the province announced their new public health orders last Tuesday, Nov. 10, to the surprise of many, the gathering size remained at five people, which had been the case since Nov. 2.

That five-person limit does not include people who reside in a household.

So, the government didn't actually take Dr. Roussin's advice.

From a medical standpoint, whether the government has opted to restrict people or not, Dr. Roussin continues to stay on message: Stay home, leave for essential reasons only, only socialize with people in your household.

If the provincial government had listened to Dr. Roussin, inevitably there would be outraged people citing the Canadian Charter of Rights and Free-

doms, more specifically citing their freedoms to assemble and associate.

One could argue the provincial government is actually protecting our rights, currently.

But the interesting and unfortunate part about this discussion is what comes next.

If COVID numbers don't improve and the government needs to take next steps, those next steps relating to COVID risk mitigation measures involve restricting citizens but managing businesses.

It seems as though the next part of this conversation will become about you: Who you as an individual citizen are allowed to associate and congregate with, and in what numbers, and those who are displeased with your behaviour (having available snitch lines), etc.

It's unsettling, before scrutinizing and restricting people from exercising their rights, we must ask the question have we as a society done all we can do before restricting those rights and freedoms?

The simple answer, right now, is no.

The best example is Winnipeg's CF Polo Park Shopping Centre. While non-essential businesses have their doors closed, businesses like Apple, Bed Bath & Beyond, DAVIDsTEA, Hudson's Bay, Nespresso, Purdys and Showcase have been deemed essential and remain open.

This is not the complete list of businesses remaining open in the shopping centre.

The simple fact is, under the current Public Health orders, you couldn't congregate with five people (who live outside your household) in a low-risk

environment. But you could all plan to go to CF Polo Park and wait in line — socially distanced, of course — at DAVIDsTEA?

How does that make any sense? Maybe someone can point out how one situation is better than the other?

It seems as though certain behaviours are not acceptable, unless you're potentially ready to open up your wallet.

No one disagrees with the idea that we all need to do our part to curb this virus, but is keeping the doors of so many businesses open, allowing people to congregate for the sake of commerce and nothing else, the right way of doing that?

The economy has to be a concern, too — most will concede that — but not at the expense of public health and the rights of citizens.

Clarification

Staff

In the story "Gimli council terminates wastewater treatment plant contractor" in the Nov. 12 edition of the *Express*, we reported that in 2019 council approved a 20-year loan for \$6 million with total interest of over \$3.6 million. The interest we reported was based on an amortization table that was later finalized with a new interest rate. The correct interest to be paid is \$4,041,519.60. To clarify the one-third contribution, the RM of Gimli will be collecting the \$6 million (plus interest) under Bylaw No. 17-0003.

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Interlake-Eastern RHA actives COVID cases on the rise

Staff

Public health officials advise 10 additional deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported Monday that include:

- a male in his 80s, a female in her 80s and a female in her 90s from the Winnipeg health region and linked to the outbreak at Maples Long Term Care Home;
- a male in his 90s from the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region and linked to the outbreak at Bethesda Place;
- a male in his 90s from the Winnipeg health region and linked to the outbreak at Victoria Hospital;
- a male in his 80s from the Winnipeg health region and linked to the Seine River Retirement Home cluster;
- a male in his 70s from the Winnipeg health region;
- a male in his 80s from the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region and linked to the outbreak at Carman Memorial Hospital;
- a male in his 90s from the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region and linked to the outbreak at Brooklyn Terrace; and
- a male in his 70s from the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region and linked to the outbreak at Bethesda Regional Health Centre.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate is 13 per cent provincially and 12.8 per cent in Winnipeg, and 392 new cases of the virus have been identified as of 9:30 a.m. Monday, bringing the total lab-confirmed cases in Manitoba to 11,339.

Monday's data shows:

- 21 cases in the Interlake-Eastern health region;
- 25 cases in the Northern health region;
- 19 cases in the Prairie Mountain Health region;
- 72 cases in the Southern Health-Santé Sud health region; and
- 255 cases in the Winnipeg health region.

The data also shows:

- 7,011 active cases and 4,156 individuals who have recovered from COVID-19;
- there are 234 people in hospital with 42 people in intensive care; and
- the number of deaths due to COVID-19 is 172.

Laboratory testing numbers show 2,391 tests were completed yesterday, bringing the total number of lab tests completed since early February to 312,238. Case investigations continue and if a public health risk is identified, the public will be notified.

The Interlake-Eastern total case breakdown by district as of Monday, is as follows: A total of 668 cases, up by 164 from last Monday: 468 active cases, 357 recovered, 16 currently in the hospital with six of those in ICU and 7 deaths.

Arborg/Riverton 7 active cases, 21 recovered; Beausejour 11 active cases, 18 recovered; Eriksdale/Ashern 77 active cases, 3 recovered and 3 deaths; Fisher/Peguis 153 active cases and 98 recovered; Gimli 4 active cases, 2 recovered; Northern Remote 26 active cases, 41 recovered and 1 death; Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet 21 active cases, 7 recovered; Powerview/Pine Falls 8 active case and 11 recovered; Selkirk 11 active cases and 7 recovered; Springfield 30 active cases and 38 recovered; St. Clements 17 active cases and 15 recovered; St. Laurent 3 active cases and 6 recovered; Stonewall/Teulon 36 active cases, 44 recovered and 2 deaths; Unknown District 24 active cases and 16 recovered; Whiteshell 6 active cases, 2 recovered and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 34 active cases and 28 recovered and 1 death.

Public health officials have advised that an outbreak has been declared at St. Paul's Residence (personal care home) in The Pas and at Oakview Place personal care home in Winnipeg. The sites have been moved to Critical (red) on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System.

Possible exposure locations are listed online by region at

the province's #RestartMB Pandemic Response System webpage. For up-to-date information on possible public exposures to COVID-19 in regions, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/flights.html#event and click on your region.

The chief provincial public health officer urges Manitobans to only leave their homes for essential purposes. When leaving the house to obtain essentials, be sure to physically distance, wear a mask in indoor public places and avoid crowded spaces. Do not leave the home if you are sick, or when any member of your family is sick. Further, do not socialize with anyone from outside your household.

Public health officials are also advising that anyone who is symptomatic, or has a household

member who is symptomatic, the entire household needs to self-isolate pending COVID-19 test results. For information on self-isolation, visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/resources.html#collapse2.

The online assessment tool can be found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> and COVID-19 symptoms can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/about.html#collapse4.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

For up-to-date information on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System, visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>.

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

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Add a layer this fall. Get a flu shot to help protect your grandparents.

The annual seasonal flu vaccine is available to all Manitobans at no charge. It offers protection against four seasonal flu strains.

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If you are 65 or older, or have a chronic illness, talk to your doctor about also getting a vaccine for pneumonia. One pneumococcal vaccine may give you a lifetime of protection.

To get your free flu vaccine, contact your public health nurse, doctor, pharmacist or call Health Links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free 1-888-315-9257.

Learn more at manitoba.ca/flu

Manitoba 

Gimli residents' heartfelt tribute to veterans in Gimli Cemetery

By Patricia Barrett

With Remembrance Day services cancelled or severely curtailed because of COVID-19 and provincial public health restrictions, some Gimli residents took it upon themselves to pay tribute to Canada's veterans.

Carol Simonson, her dad, Carl Simonson, and a couple of neighbours held a small ceremony at the Gimli Cemetery where dozens of veterans are buried.

"My dad is a Korean War veteran, and with no Remembrance Day service that we could participate in, I thought it would be nice to remember the veterans on our own, to make a gesture of not forgetting them," said Simonson, who is the supervisor of the cemetery.

She put her artistic abilities to work, creating small stone memorials to the veterans. Before Remembrance Day, she collected different sized stones from Gimli Beach and spent evenings painting them in a variety of colours and with messages such as "Lest We Forget," "In Flanders Fields" and "Brave," she said. She also painted poppies on many of the rocks using a design on a set of coasters for inspiration.

As cemetery supervisor, Simonson said she sees many veterans' graves left unattended, without floral or other tributes, indicating they've not been forgotten. And that's why she felt it was important to mark their contributions on Remembrance Day.



A painted stone was placed at every gravestone.



Carol Simonson painted some stones in pink for women veterans.

"I just thought it was time to recognize a lot of those veterans whose families don't come out and visit or those who have been there a long time and deserve some recognition for being a veteran," said Simonson, who is a member of the legion.

Simonson's dad, Carl, served in the Korean War (1950-1953) with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces. Canadians were part of United Nations' forces that fought alongside South Korea to stem the spread of communism from North Korea, the Soviet Union and China.

When Simonson told her dad that she was planning to place her rocks on the graves on Remembrance Day, he asked to go with her.

"He's very a proud veteran. I had taken all the rocks I painted to his place and showed them to him and he started to cry," said Simonson.



EXPRESS PHOTOS BY CAROL SIMONSON AND VICTORIA SMITH
Carol Simonson with her dad Carl Simonson placed commemorative stones on veterans' graves in the Gimli Cemetery.



Carol Simonson reads In Flanders Fields.

"He said, 'Oh my gosh, I'm so proud of you for doing this.' When I said I was going to do this on my own, he said he would come with me."

Along with her dad and a few of her neighbours, who also wanted to take part, Simonson laid the painted rocks on about 20 graves.

Victoria Smith was one of the neighbours who accompanied the Simonsons to the cemetery. She was joined by another neighbour whose parents had served

Fields and paid their respects to the veterans for fighting for Canada's freedoms.

"I just thought it was a beautiful thing Carol was doing," said Smith.

They helped lay the decorated stones on the graves of male and female veterans.

"She painted a few of the stones pink for the female war vets. There are only one or two in the Gimli Cemetery," said Smith. "She spent quite a few days hand painting all the stones. They were beautiful."

Simonson's rocks will stay on the graves over the winter until spring when she'll gather them up so that they don't interfere with grass-cutting or whipper-snipping. But she said she has plans to make the personalized ceremony an annual event.

"I thought it might be nice to keep doing this every year," said Simonson.

"I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS TIME TO RECOGNIZE A LOT OF THOSE VETERANS WHOSE FAMILIES DON'T COME OUT AND VISIT."

in the Navy.

As a group, they read In Flanders



R.M. of Grahamdale and Ashern Christmas Cheer Board

The R.M. of Grahamdale and Ashern Christmas Cheer Board are again preparing for the Christmas season. Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre has volunteered to coordinate and distribute Christmas Cheer Board hampers in the area. We are appealing to the community for donations of non-perishable food items, new toys, knit items, home-made baked goods, vegetables or donations of any kind. If you can help in any way or need more information please call Janice at (204) 768-3016.

Please have all donations in by NOON on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020.

Non-perishable food items and new toys are being accepted at Moosehorn and Ashern Co-ops and Ashern Shop Easy. Cash donations can be made at the Noventis Credit Union (Moosehorn and Ashern Branch).

To request a hamper please call Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre at (204) 768-3016.

NOTE: Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre IS THE ONLY OFFICE RECEIVING REQUESTS. NOVEMBER 30TH TO DECEMBER 4TH WILL BE THE ONLY DAYS TO CALL IN TO REQUEST A HAMPER. PLEASE CALL BETWEEN 10:00am and 5:00 pm. Only names registered will be considered (last year's list will not be used).

Respectfully we ask that you only request a hamper for your family, not on behalf of someone else and you MUST reside in the R.M. of Grahamdale or Ashern.

Spectacular hoar frost



EXPRESS PHOTO BY DRENN CAMPBELL

Drenna Campbell took this photo while on her walk in Inwood last week.

MPI and municipalities partner up for road safety

Submitted by MPI

Over the next couple of months, Manitoba Public Insurance will provide 25 highly visible speed display boards in 13 communities, thanks to a pilot road safety partnership between the public auto insurer and various municipalities.

The speed display boards are electronic signs that use radar to detect the speed of an approaching vehicle and display the speed on an LED variable message display. The speed display is typically combined with a static (non-electronic) display that includes the text "Your Speed" or similar.

"The intent of the speed display board is to encourage compliance with the posted speed limit by making motorists aware of their actual speed," said Satvir Jatana, vice-president of employee and community engagement for Manitoba Public Insurance.

"These high-visibility signs are intended to be used as reinforcements to the maximum posted speed signs

to encourage compliance when transitioning to a lower posted speed, such as school zones and communities located along highways."

Confirmed participating communities are Brandon, Steinbach, Winkler, Portage la Prairie, Thompson, Morden, The Pas, RM of Springfield, RM of West St. Paul, Altona, Ste. Anne and Rivers.

Location criteria consisted of roadways that have a high frequency of collisions; roadways to have a known issue of speed, rural highways that pass through a residential area that require drivers to be aware they need to decrease their speed (i.e.: 100km/h down to 70km/h).

Results of the pilot for this road safety partnership will be monitored and evaluated to determine success and evolution of the program.

Exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for road conditions can prove fatal. Last year in Manitoba, at least 21 per cent (about one in five) of fatalities had speed as a contributing factor.



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Riverton Elks donate \$26,000 to RM of Bifrost-Riverton for park upgrades

By Patricia Barrett

The Riverton Elks Lodge No. 530 generously donated \$26,000 to the municipality of Bifrost-Riverton for upgrades to Centennial Park in the heart of Riverton.

The Elks Lodge is supporting the Riverton Centennial Park Revitalization Project as a way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its establishment (1969) in Riverton.

“This donation will be added to funding from municipal, provincial and local non-governmental organizations to complete the project,” said Elks member Doug Anderson, who is the chair of the revitalization project.

The Riverton Elks Lodge raises money to support a wide variety of community projects each year through charitable donations, including an elevator for the Riverton Curling Rink to allow those with mobility challenges to access the second floor of the building.

Nestled on the winding banks of the Icelandic River, Centennial Park was established in 1967 to commemorate Canada’s Centennial, said Anderson. The site originally contained the gravesites of three Fridriksson cousins and the daughter of John Ramsay, an Indigenous man who helped the first Icelandic settlers to the area survive through the winter.

The park has an outdoor stage where community and cultural events are held and monuments that commemorate the arrival of the first Icelandic settlers to the New Iceland reserve in 1875. Icelanders settled in Lundi, which was later named Riverton, as well as in Sandy Bar, Hecla and Gimli along the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

Some park monuments commemorate the pioneers who arrived in Riverton between 1875 and 1900, while others mark the contributions of the poet laureate of New Iceland, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, and the founding of the first North American Icelandic newspaper called *Framfari* (Progress). The paper’s founder, Sigtryggur Jonasson, was first Icelandic member of the Manitoba Legislature, and he’s known as the “Father of New Iceland.” The park also contains a monument to Fridrika Bjornsdottir, a descendant of a Danish king. She is buried on her homestead, Arskogur, near Riverton.

Proposed upgrades to the park include several plantations of elm, spruce, oak and birch trees, parallel parking spaces, entrance areas or “nodes” with large boulders, two-metre wide pathways, picnic shelters and a two-stall vault washroom.

“To date, the most critical repairs have been completed,” said Anderson. “Those include relocating and repairing the Sigtryggur Jonasson monument, recladding the outdoor stage, adding drainage and repairing the Framfari monument.”

In the fall, Anderson said a wheelchair accessible sidewalk system was begun and is scheduled for completion next spring.

“Next year the project committee plans to add interpretive signage, a senior’s games area and a public washroom,” said Anderson.

Donations to the park project are welcome. Please contact project chair Doug Anderson by email at doander-son@mymts.net



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF RIVERTON ELKS
From left, RM Bifrost-Riverton Reeve Brian Johnson, Deputy Reeve Colin Bjarnason, Elks Leading Knight Doug Thorarinson and Coun. Chad Johnson. Council accepted a cheque for \$26,000 from the Riverton Elks Lodge for upgrades to Centennial Park on Nov. 7.



IMAGE COURTESY OF RYAN WAKSHINSKI LANDSCAPE DESIGN
The illustration shows upgrades for Riverton’s Centennial Park.

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Anti-bullying advocate from Gimli honoured in Manitoba Legislature

By Patricia Barrett

Interlake-Gimli MLA Derek Johnson paid tribute in the Manitoba legislature to a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer for speaking up against bullying and sexual harassment.

Johnson singled out Sherry Benson-Podolchuk as a remarkable individual who brought to light the degrading working conditions and personal attacks she and other women endured while serving in the RCMP.

"Sherry was part of two federal government reports focusing on sexual harassment and bullying in the workplace, providing testimony and recommendations for changes in the RCMP," Johnson told the legislature Oct. 16. "Her motto is the power of your voice can create a positive change."

Benson-Podolchuk stood up to the

bullying and sexual harassment and is now an author and motivational speaker.

She chronicled her experiences and her efforts to end the "culture of silence" in the RCMP in her book *Women Not Wanted: One Female Officer and Her Journey for Justice*, which she wrote after a 20-year career in the service. She also offered a number of coping strategies and self-care techniques in a subsequent book, *Find Your Voice: Surviving Workplace Conflict*.

Benson-Podolchuk, who lives in the Gimli area, said she had spoken with Johnson at the 2020 Gimli Ice Festival after she gave a presentation for International Women's Day.

"He was clearly moved by the speech and years of bullying. He also mentioned he liked the positive message of being empowered, self-care tools and the importance of speaking

up about bullying," said Benson-Podolchuk, who received a Canada 150 Senate Medal for her efforts to help others speak out. "It was a surprise to find out and hear his speech [in the Legislature] and his very kind words."

The former RCMP officer said bullying is no longer about her anymore but about helping others cope as it can often affect one's mental health.

"It's incredibly important that no one suffers in silence from bullying at home, in school, at work and in public spaces. Learning to find your voice takes time and it's never too late to learn," she said.

People being bullied can't change the bully, but they can change how they react and respond to him/her, she added.

"Creating your own self-care tools and strategies helps us cope and is key to finding our own unique way to



Sherry Benson-Podolchuk

be happy," said Benson-Podolchuk.

Local taxpayer frustrated with Coldwell council

By Evan Matthews

A resident in the RM of Coldwell has concerns about a neighbour's unsightly property, but the RM is telling him his concerns are resolved, whether he agrees with it or not.

Frank Minaker said his complaint dates back to 2018 when he first brought the issue forward to council. The property owner next door uses the property as a junkyard, Minaker said, more or less, with a dozen broken down cars, and tires, broken Ski-Doos and ATVs, and garbage piles.

"The property owner is in contravention of the bylaw in so many respects. ... The property, by definition, is unsightly," said Minaker, adding his property is just off Highway 6, west of Provincial Road 229.

"Council keeps telling me the bylaw was designed for the community of Lundar, but nowhere in the bylaw does it say that, as it refers to the entire municipality."

Minaker added he's tried to speak with the property owner directly, but those conversations quickly become hostile, and Minaker is unwilling to entertain his neighbour's hostility.

After originally bringing the issue to council, the property owner and council came to a resolution in which the property owner would construct a fence. However, Minaker said the fence is haphazard at best or incomplete at worst.

However, the RM of Coldwell is seemingly satisfied with the property owner's efforts and fence, as Minaker said he keeps getting snuffed by council.

When the *Express* contacted RM of Coldwell Reeve Brian Sigfusson, he declined to comment other than to say, "We're done with it," and "It's resolved."

But Minaker disagrees. Given an unsightly property can affect other property's value, and the bylaw speaks to the entire municipality, he said council should revisit the issue.

"Why are you resistant to enforcing a municipal-wide bylaw?" Minaker asked council at its September meeting, emphasizing if it was in Lundar, the issue would be dealt with.

"Why discriminate against rural people?"

Though Minaker was quick to say he doesn't feel council is discriminating against him specifically, he thinks the re-

sistance to enforce the bylaw is due to low population near his home.

With nobody else around and no other neighbours, Minaker said he suspects he is the only resident displeased with the unsightly property.

"If nobody else comes forward, it's easy to put it off," said Minaker. "But if this property was next to you, you'd be upset, I'm sure."

Minaker said in speaking with the RCMP, he was told the RCMP would issue a fine in a situation where an RM does not have a bylaw officer.

The RM of Coldwell does not have a full-time bylaw officer, so Minaker said RCMP instructed him they just need the "OK" from the RM to issue a bylaw-related fine.

Ultimately, Minaker said he just wants the property tended to so he can enjoy his rural life-

style.

"Council should be shamed into this. Other taxpayers should know how their government is avoiding local people's concerns," said Minaker.

"We've asked the property owner. We've asked council. It's not an unreasonable request. We've done everything we can. We're at our wit's end. Our council isn't prepared to act."

"IF NOBODY ELSE COMES FORWARD, IT'S EASY TO PUT IT OFF."



Nurse practitioner to serve Winnipeg Beach after resident petition for health services

By Patricia Barrett

Winnipeg Beach will be getting a nurse practitioner to replace the town's doctor after residents signed a petition for health-care services.

The petition was signed by 239 community members who were in favour of having a doctor or nurse practitioner fill the void left by Dr. R. C. Patel.

"Last year when we lost Dr. Patel, we approached the [Interlake-Eastern] regional health authority to see if we could get another doctor or a nurse practitioner in the community," said Town of Winnipeg Beach Mayor Tony Pimentel last week. "After negotiations, the IERHA was able to provide us with a nurse practitioner. I think it works out to two days a week."

The health authority is looking after the cost of providing the nurse practitioner and is paying to have the clinic Dr. Patel used to work in upgraded, said the mayor. It's also paying for clinic staff and part of the yearly lease for the building — about \$3,000 of the \$12,000 lease. The town will be paying the remaining portion of the lease.

Pimentel said the town applied for grants to help cover the cost of the rent but it won't hear until mid-December as to whether funding was approved.

The clinic is located on Murray Avenue close to Main Street.

"We're hoping to have the contract finalized in December and in place for January when we start with the program," he said. "We're really fortunate we could get a nurse practitioner."

Other council news:

With the entire province now under Code Red on the government's pandemic response system, Winnipeg Beach council closed its administration office to the public and will be offering virtual council meetings starting Nov. 25.

"We have a couple of variance hearings that were booked when we were still under Code Orange. One was a delegation we had postponed earlier. We'll hear those [on Nov. 25]," said Pimentel. "But we'd rather not have the public attending the meeting. The public will be able to watch council meetings through a virtual platform. We're working on the details of that right now."

Future delegations will be postponed until the Code Red ends.

- The Winnipeg Beach Community Centre, which offers recreational hockey and public skating, has been closed under provincial health orders for a month.

The provincial government released a new set of COVID-19 prevention orders under The Public Health Act last week. The orders started Nov. 12 and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m.



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A number of businesses in Winnipeg Beach will be closed for a month under provincial Code Red health orders. The Shears of Glory hair salon (pictured here) cannot provide hair services but is offering curbside pickup of products and gift certificates.

on Dec. 11. They include the shutdown of community recreation facilities.

The town still has to pay hydro and other bills, as well as monitor the facility's equipment, during the one-month mandated closure, and there is some maintenance work that has to be completed.

"We're having staff in the community centre to do some maintenance work," said the mayor. "They'll be on a modified work week."

The canteen in the community centre, however, will be offering take-away orders.

"We have a person contracted to run the canteen's food service. They're making curbside pickup available. People can phone in a food order and pick it up," said Pimentel.

The town has plans to build an outdoor ice rink at the volleyball courts in the park but needs a good snowfall and cold temperatures, said the mayor.

"We're still going forward with [the outdoor rink], but of course we can't do it because there's no snow and it's still relatively warm," said Pimentel. "We build a rink at the courts because we have sand and it won't destroy the grass. We also have a warm-up shelter there and we'll be making sure people follow COVID rules about physical distancing."

- The town's bylaw officer will not be enforcing COVID-19 rules. The provincial government suggested municipal bylaw officers could help monitor gathering sizes, business compliance, the wearing of face masks and failures to self-isolate if infected or exposed to an infected person.

"It's a provincial regulation so it's a provincial role. I know some communities pay for a bylaw enforcement officer seven days a week, but we have only a part-time bylaw officer," said Pimentel. "We're suggesting that if people are concerned [about others breaking COVID orders], they call the RCMP or a provincial phone number."

The mayor said council just met (Nov. 12) to discuss enforcement issues, and the town's interim chief administrative officer will be contacting the RCMP to determine how the service will be responding to COVID enforcement.

In the meantime, people can report public health order breaches by calling the province's tip line, 1-866-626-4862 (toll free) or 204-945-3744. People can also report violations by completing a "COVID Tip Line - Reporting Form" online at www.manitoba.ca/COVID19

- The federal government provided COVID-19 funding support to municipalities across Canada last month. Funding from the Safe Restart Agreement will be shared on a per capita basis by Manitoba's 137 municipali-

ties to help them with COVID-related operating costs.

"The money will go towards extra costs municipalities incurred through purchasing sanitizer and face masks and other things to prevent the spread of COVID," said Pimentel.

The Town of Winnipeg Beach received \$65,550.89 in federal funds.

- Some businesses in town have had to scale back services under Code Red orders. Restaurants, for example, can offer only take-out service.

The mayor said the province is offering a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to small businesses impacted by the provincial public health orders.

The Manitoba Bridge Grant will provide \$5,000 to businesses, not-for-profit organizations and charities. The grant includes restaurants, bars, casinos, recreation and sports facilities and museums, according to a Nov. 10 news release from the province. The application deadline is Dec. 15

- Council is looking into the rules for changing street names after resident Marielle Wharton requested the town change the name of Maple Crescent, which is often mistaken for Maple Avenue.

"We had a presentation at our council meeting (Oct. 28) about the name confusion, where deliveries and people go to Maple Crescent thinking it's Maple Avenue. The group felt it would be better if it had a different name to reduce confusion for people coming into the area," said Pimentel.

There are only a few homes on Maple Crescent, a small lane that's close to Maple Avenue, he said. Council would have to weigh a possible name change against the inconvenience that could arise for people living on the lane; they would have to change their address on vital documents such as driver's licences, insurance and so forth.

"We're in the process of getting information on what we would need to do to change the name," said the mayor.

- The jointly run town-volunteer Halloween party was a great success. The annual event didn't take place at the community centre as usual, where kids get to dance and take part in other festivities, but outdoors at the Caboose across from the provincial park.

Volunteers handed out pre-packaged goody bags to over 200 kids.

"The volunteers we had did a great job ensuring the kids had a Halloween this year," said Pimentel. "Ninety per cent of the work was done by the volunteer group, which is headed by [resident] Darlene Shkawritko. There were strict distancing protocols and other COVID prevention measures."

"WE'RE SUGGESTING THAT IF PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED (ABOUT OTHERS BREAKING COVID ORDERS), THEY CALL THE RCMP."

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Province of Manitoba behind on the bills for weed control

By Evan Matthews

The RM of Bifrost-Riverton has put its support for a local organization in writing, as Manitoba Infrastructure owes the Interlake Weed Control District over \$139,000 in outstanding invoices dating back to 2019.

RM of Bifrost-Riverton Reeve Brian Johnson said the Interlake Weed Control District plays an important role in the region and thus needs to be paid the \$71,760 it is owed from 2019 and the \$67,689 it is owed from 2020.

"We do a lot to control the spread of weeds into agricultural lands and drainage areas, etc., which can become expensive and almost impossible to control if it gets out of hand," said Johnson.

"Interlake Weed Control District obviously plays an important role in that."

The Interlake Weed Control District is a municipal organization comprised of the RMs of Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton, Fisher, Gimli and the Town of Arborg, according to the organization's weed supervisor Fred Paulson.

Geographically, the Interlake Weed Control District is the largest district in Manitoba, Paulson said.

"The district provides various vegetation management programs for our members, as well as fulfils their responsibilities under the Provincial

Noxious Weeds Act.

"Chief among these responsibilities is to ensure, when necessary, land-owners control noxious weeds on their properties," said Paulson, noting noxious is defined as harmful or poisonous to living beings.

"The Act specifically notes that the Crown is bound by this Act; this includes provincial property such as Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) rights-of-way."

He emphasized that roadside rights-of-way are undoubtedly the single greatest corridor for noxious weed movement in the district.

The district has worked with Manitoba Infrastructure since the 1960s, according to Paulson, while balancing cost effectiveness and legal obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act.

This changed in 2019 when Manitoba Infrastructure adopted a tendering process for noxious weed control, according to Paulson.

For literally decades prior, Paulson said the Interlake Weed Control District had offered Manitoba Infrastructure effective noxious weed control at an exceedingly reasonable cost.

"The decision to implement a tender process was unbelievably poor timing and obviously not well thought out," said Paulson.

"No notice of this process was given until the beginning of May, just as the weed control season was beginning. The decision was made at Manitoba Infrastructure's upper levels, with no consultation at the regional level as to what impacts could be expected.

"The new tender process even caught Manitoba Infrastructure's own regional managers off guard, as many had already allocated their budgets and sent out budget approval letters to weed districts," he said.

The poor timing by the provincial government did not negate its responsibility to control noxious weeds, according to Paulson, nor to delay weed control measures. The contract was eventually awarded to Davey Tree, a company from British Columbia.

"We submitted a bid that only covered our costs, and Davey Tree underbid it by roughly 33 per cent," said Paulson.

"There was no possible way any company could perform the required work for the price Davey Tree had bid, not without severely compromising the level of weed control."

Such was the case, as Paulson said the company had neither the manpower nor the equipment to perform the work, nor did it have a plan to implement the work as required by the

tender.

Due to the contractor not completing work as required, Interlake Weed Control District was left to execute all required spraying and weed control, Paulson said, which Manitoba Infrastructure's maintenance manager approved estimated costs for.

"At the AMM annual convention in November 2019, the minister (of Infrastructure) publicly acknowledged the province's weed control program on highways was a complete disaster, and he was committed to fixing the problems in 2020," said Paulson.

"Unfortunately, nothing has been resolved, and 2020 was once again a fiasco."

Paulson also added that in 2020, many municipalities in the province did no noxious weed control on highways whatsoever due to uncertainty as to whether the invoices would be paid.

While Manitoba Infrastructure did not offer any sort of apology, it did release a statement on the matter.

"Manitoba Infrastructure is currently processing 2019 invoices and expects payment to be made by the end of the week," the statement reads. "In the future, the invoicing process will be paid in a timelier manner."

MMF offering \$5.5 million to assist businesses during code red closures

Submitted by MMF

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) is setting aside \$5.5 million to assist Métis businesses during Code Red closures in the Winnipeg area caused by a steep rise of COVID-19 cases.

Eligible businesses will be able to receive a non-repayable grant of up to \$10,000 if they commit to staying open after Code Red restrictions are lifted.

"Not only has Canada answered the call and offered a wide variety of supports tailored to businesses and entrepreneurs across Canada, but they have also recognized the importance

of partnering with Indigenous Governments to help address our unique needs," said MMF president David Chartrand in a Nov. 2 news release. "We have openly praised the Trudeau government and their response and approach to this unprecedented challenge that is COVID-19."

The MMF made the decision to provide funding in recognition of the negative impacts that the mandatory closures will have on all businesses.

"During the first wave, the MMF offered \$40,000 loans to Métis entrepreneurs. This helped, but is it enough?" said Chartrand.

"Investments made by small and medium businesses are the backbone of our economy. No one hesitates to collect their taxes, but yet some leaders hesitate to offer support in their times of need. But rest assured, our Métis families and businesses can rely on their Métis government to support them in these uncertain times. Our provincial government has failed you; we won't."

This funding will be available to all Métis citizens, including those still in the application process for receiving their citizenship.

Noted examples of eligible busi-

nesses that can apply include:

- Restaurants and bars
- Fitness facilities
- Retail stores
- Spas and beauty salons
- Hotels
- Many other businesses

Métis entrepreneurs who are negatively affected by the recently implemented Code Red and Orange restrictions and closure in Winnipeg and the surrounding areas can contact the Louis Riel Capital Corporation at 1-800-387-6004 for more information and to apply for this new funding.

Province names more than 7,000 geographical features after Manitoba's fallen soldiers

Submitted by Manitoba government

In honour of Manitoba's fallen soldiers who served in the First World War, the Manitoba government has commemoratively named 7,764 geographical features in the province, Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen announced last week.

"It's important that we honour those Manitobans who sacrificed their lives for our country in the First World War," said Pedersen. "In addition, the

Manitoba Geographical Names Program is currently engaged with the Geographical Names Board of Canada to ensure all of these names are also transferred into Canada's Geographical Names Data Base."

These new commemorative names add to the more than 4,200 lakes, islands, bays and other geographical features named to honour fallen Manitoba soldiers who served from the Second World War to the present day.

"Ahead of Remembrance Day in a year like no other, preserving the names of our brave men and women along with their stories will be a lasting legacy resulting from the commemorative naming of these geographical features," said Jon Reyes, Manitoba's special envoy for military affairs. "I am proud of our Manitoba government and those who provided input into the project so their names will be remembered forever throughout the province."

In 2016, the Manitoba government launched the geographical naming project to honour formally the men and women from Manitoba who lost their lives while serving Canada in the First World War. The project was open for comment on EngageMB and more than 1,000 individuals participated in the geographical features proposed for naming, the minister noted.

To access a copy of the geographical

Arborg baker still needs votes



Lexi Orbanski of Arborg would move her cake hobby from her home kitchen to a storefront if she won the Greatest Baker title.

The Express Weekly News

By Jennifer McFee

An Arborg-based baker needs your online votes to continue to move forward in The Greatest Baker competition.

Lexi Orbanski is still holding strong in the competition after ranking in the Top 10 of her group in the first level, followed by Top 5 in the second level.

Currently, she is ranked third in her group for the third level. Public voting will end on Nov. 19 to reduce each group to one preliminary winner, who will then proceed to the quarter-finals.

Michelle Weselake of the Warren area was eliminated after ranking eighth

Thursday, November 19, 2020 **15**
in her group in the second level of the competition, which required competitors to rank in the Top 5 to proceed.

Voters can cast a free online ballot for their favourite baker once every 24 hours at www.greatestbaker.com. Voters can also purchase additional "hero" votes for one or more bakers, and a portion of the proceeds will go towards the No Kid Hungry organization.

Several more levels of the competition will continue until The Greatest Baker is determined through public voting on Dec. 10.

> **FALLEN SOLDIERS, FROM PG. 14**

features named, Google Earth needs to be downloaded, then visit http://mli2.gov.mb.ca/geognames/kml_files/Manitoba_WWI_Commemorative_Names.kmz.

For inquiries regarding the commemorative naming of geographical features to honour those who made

the supreme sacrifice, including ordering a commemorative name certificate, contact the Manitoba Geographical Names Program at (toll-free) 1-800-214-6497 or visit https://gov.mb.ca/forest/land-management/geographical_names/index.html.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Grape and Apple Sheet Pan Pie

demerara sugar, for garnish

To make dough: In large bowl, whisk flour, sugar and salt. Add butter and toss with flour mixture. Smash each butter cube flat then use fork to stir in cold water. Knead lightly until dough comes together in ball. Transfer to floured work surface and use well-floured rolling pin to roll into 10-by-15-inch sheet. Fold each short side into middle and close like a book. Fold once more to make thick block and cut in half. Wrap each piece in plastic and chill at least 30 minutes or overnight.

To make filling: In large bowl, combine apples, grapes, sugar, flour, lemon juice and salt; set aside.

To assemble pie: Heat oven to 375 F.

Roll one half of dough out to 18-by-13-inch rectangle. Transfer to 10-by-15-inch heavy baking sheet; place in refrigerator to chill while rolling out top sheet. Roll out remaining dough to 18-by-13-inch rectangle and use pastry cutter to cut into 1 1/2-inch wide strips.

Transfer filling into chilled pastry and spread evenly. Lay dough strips on top of filling in lattice pattern and crimp sides together. Mix egg with water and brush top of pie. Sprinkle with demerara sugar and bake until filling is bubbling, and crust is nicely browned, about 45-50 minutes.



Delight your guests with individual appetizer plates this season by considering color, texture and presentation. Remember, this is the prelude to the meal, so small portions are perfectly fine. Consider this starter list:

- Cheese

Create the Perfect Appetizer Plate

- Nuts
- Fresh grapes
- Olives
- Hummus
- Marinated artichoke hearts
- Salami slices
- Spinach or other dips
- Dolmades (stuffed grape leaves)
- Roasted red peppers
- Crackers
- Pita triangles
- Thin breadsticks
- Pretzels
- Jam or honey

Prep time: 1 hour
Cook time: 50 minutes

Servings: 16

Dough:

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 3 1/2 sticks cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

- 1 cup ice water, plus additional if needed

Filling:

- 3 pounds Granny Smith or other tart apples, peeled and thinly sliced (about 9 cups)

- 4 cups black California grapes
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water



Prep time: 20 minutes

Servings: 8

- 8 cups fresh baby spinach, washed
 - 4 1/2 cups California grapes
 - 1 1/4 cups mandarin orange segments, drained if using canned
 - 1/3 cup thinly sliced red onion
 - 3/4 cup bottled light balsamic vinegar and oil dressing
 - 1/4 cup orange juice
 - 3 tablespoons raspberry jam
 - 3/4 cup crunchy chow mein noodles
- In large salad bowl, combine spinach with grapes, oranges and onion.

Grape and Spinach Salad with Raspberry Balsamic Dressing

Whisk together dressing, orange juice and jam. Pour over salad and toss until greens are coated with dressing. Divide among eight plates and top with crunchy noodles.

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Basketball Manitoba shuts down all activities

Staff

In light of the news announced on Nov. 10 by the Province of Manitoba that moved all health regions to the Critical Red Pandemic Response System, all Basketball Manitoba sanctioned and insured programs and activities taking place in Manitoba will cease to operate.

The announcement was made on Nov. 10.

"The stoppage of all basketball activities in Manitoba will remain paused until a time the health status is changed from Red to Orange and is expected to run for at least four weeks," read a statement on Basketball Manitoba's website.

Volleyball Manitoba, meanwhile, made a similar announcement on Nov. 10.

"The provincial government has once again announced more restrictions for the entire province due to increases in COVID-19 case numbers across the majority of the province," read a statement on Volleyball Mani-

toba's website.

"Beginning Nov. 12, the entire Province of Manitoba will be in the Critical (Red) Response Level. This means that all volleyball activities must be suspended for a minimum of two weeks throughout this Critical (Red) period."

Winnipeg Blues, Freeze ignore MJHL's COVID-19 shutdown

By Brian Bowman

Two Manitoba Junior Hockey League teams — the Winnipeg Blues and Winnipeg Freeze — were booking ice time at Warren's Sunova Centre last week.

One unmanned MJHL head coach said that is "definitely not allowed."

The Blues and Freeze, both owned by 50 Below Sports and Entertainment, had been booking ice in Warren

under the name "Laker Academy."

On Nov. 2, Hockey Manitoba announced that teams within the Winnipeg Metro, which included the Selkirk Steelers, Blues and the Freeze, could not travel for games or practices.

The Sunova Arena's online calendar originally showed the Blues and Freeze slated to be on the ice Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of last week.

It was later changed to Laker Academy but video footage from Nov. 9 shows the Blues and Freeze on the ice.

As of press time, there had been no comment or release made by the MJHL regarding the incidents.

The league did, however, provide a further update regarding regional restrictions on Nov. 10.

"Any hockey activity that takes place outside Hockey Manitoba restrictions

for regions identified as Critical (Red) is not permitted and is not sanctioned by Hockey Manitoba, the governing body of the MJHL," read a statement.

"Any teams or individuals who participate(d) in hockey activities outside of the restrictions would be choosing to do so in an un-sanctioned environment outside of Hockey Manitoba and MJHL jurisdiction."

Einarson, Jones head home early from women's curling event in Alberta

Staff

Camp Morton's Kerri Einarson's start to the curling season was a very short one.

Einarson, along with St. Vital Curling Club's Jennifer Jones, headed home from Okotoks, Alta., after each playing just one game.

The women's curling event was abruptly shut down last Thursday

after the Alberta government implemented new restrictions to combat against COVID-19.

Einarson defeated Ottawa's Rachel Homan to claim the women's national title last February. But all curling events were shut down in March due to COVID, eliminating her opportunity to compete for a world championship.

MJHL shuts down until 2021

From the MJHL website

Just two days after the Manitoba Junior Hockey League made a change to its schedule, the league announced last Thursday that it will shut down until 2021.

All hockey activities have been paused effective immediately, said a statement on the league website.

As of 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 12, the entire province of Manitoba moved to the Critical Level (red) on the #Re-

startMB Pandemic Response System to halt COVID-19 transmission and protect Manitoba's citizens. These Public Health orders will remain in effect until at least 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 11.

The tentative date planned for MJHL hockey activities to resume is Jan. 1 which would be dependent upon public health guidance as outlined in the #RestartMB Pandemic COVID-19 Response System.

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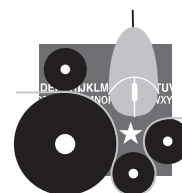
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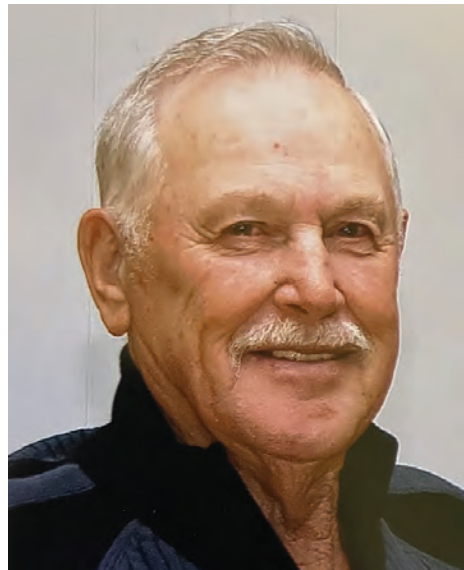
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Announcements

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IN MEMORIAM



Victor Dola
November 20, 2019

It's hard to believe that one year
Has passed since you left us.
Every day in some small way,
We miss you more than words can say.
In our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day.

-Forever loved and missed,
Elsie and family

IN MEMORIAM



**In Loving Memory of
my Mom
Helen (Chuba) Lysack**
November 14, 1982

So many years have passed
So many tears I shed
For my dear Mom and my friend
Never forgotten, close in my heart
You will always be
Smiling down from heaven,
My guardian angel.
Until we meet again.

-Missed and loved every day,
your daughter Cathy

CARD OF THANKS

Riley Kowalsky
1983-2020

There aren't adequate words to express our gratitude for the support, love and compassion we have received since Riley's passing. We thank you for the messages of support, cards, baking, memorial trees planted in Riley's name, donations to Stars Ambulance, and the happy memories of Riley you have shared with us. We appreciate and thank you for the comfort you have given us.

"Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday." (author unknown)

-The Family of Riley Kowalsky

OBITUARY

Stanley Dudar

Peacefully, on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at the Arborg Personal Care Home, Stanley Dudar, aged 77 years, passed away. In keeping with his wishes cremation has taken place and a private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Gilbart Funeral Home,
Gimli in care of arrangements.



**Don't forget to send your special
wishes to your friends and family.**

THE EXPRESS WEEKLY NEWS 204-467-5836

OBITUARY

Margaret Kristfridur Lukiw
(nee Johnson)

Passed away at the Johnson Memorial Hospital, Gimli, MB on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at the age of 90 years, Margaret Kristfridur Lukiw (nee Johnson), of Gimli, MB.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband Jack Lukiw (2002); son Larry Lukiw (2017); mother and father Anna and Torfy Johnson; sister Gwen (Jack) Phelps and by brother Laurence Sveinsson.

She leaves to mourn her passing her daughter Linda Orestes of Gimli, MB; son Allan (Sharon) Lukiw of Airdrie, AB; daughter-in-law Lisa Lukiw of Pitt Meadows, BC; grandchildren Laura (John), Lindsey, Lee, Michael, Joshua; several great-grandchildren as well as extended relatives.

Margaret was a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother and aunt who devoted herself to her family. She enjoyed baking and cooking, loved country music and liked to play bingo. Many afghans and slippers were crocheted and given to family and friends. Her warm heart and tight, loving embrace will be greatly missed.

A Private Family Graveside Service will be held at a later at the Glenboro Cemetery.

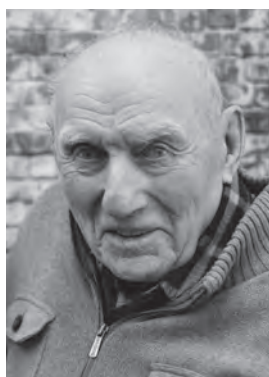
Memorial donations can be made in Margaret's memory to a charity of choice.

Thank you to Dr. S.V. Patel for his care over the years and to the staff at the Gimli Hospital for the past few months.

Online condolences can be sent to the Lukiw family by visiting www.willmorchapel.com.

Jamieson's Funeral Services
of Glenboro
in care of arrangements

OBITUARY



Wesley Cook

January 19, 1931 – November 5, 2020

Wesley L. Cook, 89, of Moosehorn, MB went home to meet Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

Dad passed peacefully on November 5, 2020 at Concordia Place Personal Care Home, in Winnipeg, MB.

Wesley is survived by his wife, Martha (Newman) and their three children: Lyle (Pam) and children, Tyson (Christina) and Jordan: Ralph (Dorothy) and children, Drayton (Deanna) and Karissa; daughter Alana; and was blessed with five great-grandchildren: Lydia, Isabel, Olivia, Annika and Andrew.

He is survived by his sister, Rose Stabner.

Wesley was predeceased by his grandson, Drew Cook.

Dad was born in Winnipeg and raised in Steeprock, MB. He was an athlete and runner and as a young man won many community mile races. His desire was always to farm. He married Martha in 1952 and settled at Moosehorn. November 1st marked their 68th wedding anniversary. Dad was actively involved in the community during his farming career. He was a founding member of the Moosehorn Credit Union - now Noventis Credit Union. He was a long standing member on the board of the Moosehorn Co-op. He was a founding board member for the Manitoba Indian Agricultural Program. He was an active member of the local Farmers Union in the Moosehorn area. In addition, he was a school bus driver for over 33 years in the Steeprock and Moosehorn communities.

Dad was a member and deacon of the Moosehorn Pentecostal Church while it was active in the community. He then attended the Moosehorn Baptist Church and Men's Fellowship gatherings regularly in his later years. Wesley always believed it was important to gather together with other believers and celebrate the goodness of God.

Dad had an excellent memory and sense of humour, and up until the last year of his life, was able to recite poems and prose from his school years. Dad was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, enjoying time spent with family. He was a great story teller and enjoyed treasure hunts with his grandchildren. He was a very capable hunter and one of the best sausage makers around. He had an interest in science and physics and was an able repair man for the farm and the community. Dad had a giving heart and was always willing to help those in need.

Dad will be missed by his immediate family, but we rest assured that he is rejoicing in heaven with his family, in-laws, cousins and friends that have gone on before!

Due to the current restrictions, a celebration of Dad's life will be held at a later date.

The family would like to thank the Concordia Place staff for their kind and compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Wesley may be made to the Concordia Place Personal Care Home - Spiritual Care.

Arrangements entrusted to
ANDERSON FAMILY FUNERAL HOME
Ashern, Manitoba 1-866-293-4951

OBITUARY

James (Jr) Richardson

With sadness we announce the passing of James C. Richardson, aged 84 years, on Wednesday, November 11th peacefully with family, at the Johnson Memorial Hospital, Gimli, Manitoba.

Jim was born in Clearwater, Manitoba August 13th, 1936 and then spent the majority of his life in Winnipeg.

Predeceased by his parents Charlie and Charlotte, sister Gail Johnson and sister-in-law Pat Richardson.

Jim lived his life to the fullest, told jokes, played pranks, loved to dance and play cards or any games, and he usually won! His zest for life and joyful spirit will be deeply missed by all. Jim and his beloved wife Beverly had over 61 years and only had eyes for each other. Their life was full with two children, Wendy (Andre), Michael (Nancy); his grandchildren Monica (Jared), Stasha (Jay), Sarah, Morgan (Kyle) and Carson (Quinnell); his great-grandchildren, Callia, Fintan, Max, Zoya and Mani; his brothers Mel and Brian (Dorothy); his sisters Marilyn (Murray Huff), Sandra (Don Briscoe); his in-laws Casey Johnson, Gerry Sawyer (Alice), Barb (Brian Davis), Christine (Len Kowalchuk), Chuck Sawyer (Diane); numerous nieces and nephews who all adored him.

Jim and Bev's love of family and travel was combined and they traveled the world with their brothers and sisters. From Europe, Alaska, China, to Australia and New Zealand. Jim also loved his home away from home, Cancun where he spent his winters with many family and friends. Jim and Bev enjoyed their cottage life Spruce Bay and Spruce Sands brought years of joy! Jim loved his job sorting mail and drinking coffee in Arnes. Jim kept to his roots by attending the annual baseball tournaments in Clearwater with the Johnson family. He always played golf in the annual Pop Sawyer Open wherever it was held! Jim had a 31 year career with Winnipeg Transit, starting as a driver and then a Garage Supervisor. He worked many late night shifts, drinking coffee and shooting the breeze with drivers and loved every minute of it. Jim decided to retire early to spend time with his family, relax and travel. In Gimli, Jim was a part of the New Horizons Senior Center and he loved to floor curl. He lived with Bev in Rotary Towers and played Bridge regularly.

Jim passed away on Remembrance Day so we will never forget and always hold him near. His spirit lives on in all of us!

Thanks again to the team at the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg and the Comfort Care staff of the Johnson Memorial in Gimli.

In keeping with Dad's wishes cremation has taken place, celebration of life at a later date.

If you would like to donate in Jim's name, his favourites were the Siloam Mission or The Interlake Women's Resource Center in Gimli.

Condolences may be left on his tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Gimli in care of arrangements.



Announcements Classifieds

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OBITUARY



Daniel Joseph Trachuk

Our hearts were broken on Sunday, November 1st when Danny could struggle no longer with the pain he had lived with for so many years. It was that day that he made his final decision to end his life, a decision that will forever change the lives of all those who loved him so much; as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, friend and a kind, loving man. It couldn't have been an easy decision for him because he loved his family deeply, they were his whole world.

He is survived by his wife Bev; daughters Krisy (Dave Nahuliak) and Ashley; and his beloved grandchildren Kanasha, Sydney, Christian and Nicki Nahuliak and Raleigh and Brixton Burns. His is also survived by a special sister-in-law Linda, his siblings and Bev's family.

He was predeceased by his parents, Charlie and Elizabeth, and in April of this year his sister Gladys and his brother, best friend and farming partner Eddie.

In addition to his farming career Danny was a proud member for 47 years of the Boilermakers Local 555.

If you wish to honour his memory, donations to the Andrew Dunn Memorial Fund Box 89 Oakbank, Mb. R0E 1J0 would be greatly appreciated.

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