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EXPRESS PHOTO BY KELLY BARKMAN Riverton Early Middle School students took part in Operation Christmas Child filling 18 shoe boxes that are sent to impoverished children around the world regardless of gender, race or religion.

By Jennifer McFee

Not every child has a gift to open on Christmas morning, but Interlake communities are endeavouring to brighten their day one shoebox at a time.

Through a Samaritan's Purse initiative called Operation Christmas Child, donors fill shoeboxes with hygiene items, school supplies and toys. The filled boxes are sent to impoverished children around the world regardless of gender, race or religion.

Arborg-based paramedic Kathy Kozminski-Kirby organized pickups for the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's EMS staff, with help from Riverton paramedic Terrell Kerbrat.

For the past decade, Kozminski-Kirby has volunteered for Samaritan's Purse by collecting and distributing shoeboxes.

This year, about 350 shoeboxes were collected for boys and girls aged one to 14, with a special drive for cold-weather clothing for kids in Ukraine as well as small tools for young boys.

Pickup locations included Arborg Christian Fellowship, Arborg Early Middle School, Broad Valley Hutterite Colony, Riverton Early Middle School, Bayview Church, Komarno Interlake Full Gospel Assembly, Teulon Collegiate Institute and Omega School in Teulon.

The boxes contained a variety of fun items like yo-yos, books, teddy bears, musical instruments, balls, dolls, toy cars and more.

As well, they were packed with school supplies such as scribblers, pencils, erasers, pencil crayons and pads of paper. In addition, hygiene items included hair elastics, barrettes, T-shirts, socks, washcloths, soap, toothbrushes, combs and brushes.

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Arborg's Zamboni makes its debut at Ice Dawgs game



Recreation Commission chairperson Phil Bauernhuber thanks Co-op president Reg Perry and vice-president Robin Toni for the company's generous \$15,000 donation.

By Patricia Barrett

When it took to the ice at the far end of Arborg's arena last Friday evening, the town's new Zamboni turned some heads.

The ice resurfacing machine's eyecatching cherry red, hot-rod tires and graceful demeanour around corners had players and fans commenting on its appeal.

After it prepped the ice for the hockey game between the Arborg Ice Dawgs and the North Winnipeg Satelites, Phil Bauernhuber, chairperson of the





EXPRESS PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Tom Bjornson took the Olympia ice re-surfacer out for its inaugural run prior to the Arborg Ice Dawgs hockey game last Friday.

Arborg-Bifrost Parks and Recreation Commission, took Interlake Co-op representatives onto the ice and formally thanked them for their \$15,000 donation.

As players looked on, Co-op president Reg Perry and vice-president Robin Toni said they were glad to help the community purchase the new machine.

"We're known to support community events," said Perry after the brief ceremony.

"It's not just for hockey but for figure skating too."

The Recreation Commission had asked Co-op whether it would consider making a contribution towards the Olympia ice resurfacing model, which cost about \$118,000.

Co-op sponsors a number of community events and worthy causes in towns across the Interlake.

Perry and Toni did more than donate

money. They also contributed to the logo.

"Reg did the design," said Bauernhuber, referring to the My Co-op logo in big white letters on body and the statement of its values.

He said the Rec Centre looked at different models of ice resurfacing machines before choosing the Olympia about six months ago.

"The Zamboni came bone white," said Tom Chwaliboga, who oversees the recreation centre's programs."Jason Symynyshen from Paint it Black in Arborg did the custom decal."

The arena's old Zamboni was about 25 years old and becoming too costly to repair. It was traded in as part of the negotiations for the new one. It may get refurbished, said Chwaliboga.

"We once had an old ice resurfacer that was pulled behind a tractor," he said. "A Hutterite colony bought it to clean their own ice."

West Interlake council vote to split RM into two wards

By Brian Bowman

After months of ongoing challenges the RM of West Interlake and its council have voted on a resolution that appears to have made all parties happy. Council members voted unanimously at a special meeting Nov. 16 to effectively split the RM's two wards.

Since the provincial government

forced amalgamation a year ago, the RM of Siglunes, RM Eriskdale, and the newly elected council have not seen eye-to-eye on municipal business. Challenges have included a petition asking for the municipality to be dissolved to its former state, the

Aboriginal youth recognized for outstanding achievements

By Natasha Tersigni

For the 21st annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards (MAYAA), held on Nov. 19 in Winnipeg, 16 aboriginal youth excelling in various areas including academics, arts, athletics, business/entrepreneurship, community involvement, culture, employment in a traditional field, health and personal achievement were recognized for their successes.

This year's winners included Tracie Léost for the Athletic Junior award and Fisher Branch native Carter Wilson for the Personal Achievement Senior award.

Wilson is currently attending the University of Manitoba and is on the university's track and field team as a shotput and javelin thrower. Wilson, who is studying business, was named a 2014-15 CIS Academic All- Canadian honour and also attended the 2014 Indigenous Games.

This past summer, 16-year-old Léost made headlines across the country for her 115 kilometres down Highway 6 from Oak Point to Winnipeg. Her Journey of Hope was to raise awareness for missing and murdered indigenous women. The Métis competitive runner chose to start her run in the Interlake as she has spent most summers in Oak Point with her grandparents.

Along with continuing to lobby the federal government to call a national



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fisher Branch native Carter Wilson received a Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award in the Personal Achievement category. Wilson is currently in his second year at the University of Manitoba where he is studying business and competes on the school's track and field team.

)rrec

In the article "Freak accident takes life of Eriksdale man" in the Nov. 19 edition of the Express Weekly News, we incorrectly reported that the man's sons had dug him out of the collapsed trench. In actual fact, it was the man's son and brother.

The Express apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.

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but also the people that it is going to

Over its 21 years, MAYAA has given

out nearly 300 awards and thousands

of dollars in scholarships to continue

to support the youth. Award recipi-

ents are chosen from a committee and

the criteria is based on the recipient's

success in their chosen activities and

ability to be a role model for fellow

for their people.

Léost.

impact."

aboriginal youth.



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Riverton Elks propose new 55-plus housing development

By Patricia Barrett

A philanthropic organization in Riverton is proposing to build condominium housing in town to meet the need of adults aged 55 and over.

The Riverton Elks will be holding an Open House at the Curling Club Nov. 24 to provide the public with details of its plans to build two separate housing developments containing four units each. The units will either be sold or turned into rental properties.

"One of our Elks members said, 'We're tired of exporting our seniors to other communities,'"said Doug Anderson, secretary of the Elks' Housing Committee, which is overseeing the project.

A shortage of available condo or rental housing for adults who want to downsize has some of them moving to Gimli or Arborg.

"We're filling a gap for the 55 plus in Riverton," said Anderson, who served as the Elks Exalted Ruler (president) a few years ago.

The Riverton Elks Lodge (No. 530), established in 1969, is a non-profit corporation that works to improve the community at large. It built the first seniors' housing development in town, which is now known as the Icelandic Lodge.

It also funded the town's handi-van service, the Riverton hall when it was first established, and purchased an automated external defibrillator for the curling rink and an outdoor track for the Early Middle school, to name



The Riverton Elks will be holding an open house on Nov. 24 to provide the public with details of its plans to build two separate housing developments containing four units each.

just a few fundraising efforts.

Every year the organization contributes to various community and sporting events and provides scholarships for students.

"We go beyond our immediate area," said Anderson, who used to work for the Evergreen School Division. "We also contribute to the national Elks organization, which funds hearing aids for children."

Each year the Riverton Lodge raises money through the raffle of a Harley Davidson motorcycle. It sells 400 tickets at \$100 each. It also holds a Winner's Choice fundraiser, in which the winner can choose between a tractor, boat, car or \$20,000 cash.

With sufficient capital to launch the housing project, the organization hired Countryside in Fisher Branch to provide the design.

And Noventis Credit Union, with whom the Elks have already spoken, has agreed to let the organization make a 10 per cent down payment.

The development, which would be

situated on Thompson Drive, consists of eight two-bedroom suites with one and a half baths and five appliances. Each unit will have an attached garage. Prices range from \$150,000 to \$180,000.

"The Elks' mission is to help in sickness and distress," said Len Loewen, chair of the Elks Housing Committee. "Our group feels there is a need for 55-plus housing."

He said that particular demographic wants to retire into smaller dwellings and not have to worry about cutting grass, shovelling snow or making major repairs. They also want their family close by, he said.

In a community that is near Lake Winnipeg and which has a medical clinic — like Gimli — Loewen said he feels the development has a lot of potential.

"When I grew up, I didn't see Gimli as different from Riverton," said Loewen.

If the project goes ahead, the Elks hope to use as many local contractors

as possible, he said.

Over the past few years, members of the Housing Committee have visited a number of Interlake communities to see what sort of 55-plus housing is currently on the market. That gave them ideas for their own project.

They've also asked lawyer David King from Taylor McCaffrey LLP to be at the Open House to explain condominium rules to interested parties.

Anderson said if there's enough interest from people after the event, the Elks will go ahead with the development. Its Housing Committee would then become an incorporated body (registered company) separate from the Elks.

"We need at least three people to commit to buying a condo or renting it to go ahead with the first complex," said Anderson. "If we get seven, we'll go ahead with both complexes."

The Open House at the Riverton Curling Club takes place Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.

> WEST INTERLAKE COUNCIL VOTE, FROM PG. 2

dismissal of CAO Alice Darknell, the hiring of an interim CAO, the hiring of a new CAO, three financial statements and an unhappy council since the beginning of the newly amalgamated West Interlake.

"This amalgamation wasn't in the best interest of either community. The government should've given an extension until 2019. [Amalgamation] is not achieving what the government's goals were. It's supposed to bring economic development and financial stability and that's just not happening. It would be in the best interest of all West Interlake citizens if [the Municipal Board] made the decisions quickly," said Deputy Reeve John Wainwright.

The resolution will turn Ward 1, into the local government district (LGD) of Eriksdale and will have Ward 2, the former Siglunes region, remain as the RM of West Interlake. The LGD of Eriksdale will have until the next municipal election to find a suitable partner for amalgamation. The resolution needs to be reviewed by the municipal board before anything becomes concrete.

"Our CAO rewrote this resolution four times before it hit the table and a vote was taken," said Randy Helgason, reeve of the RM of West Interlake who believes that this solution is the best for all the citizens within the municipality.

"This was our response to the [West Interlake Citizens Group] petition to dissolve. As far as dissolution goes and my understanding of the Municipal Act, it wouldn't be good for anyone, no matter where you live. We're trying to look after the best interests of everyone in the RM."

If the Municipal Board agrees with

the resolution and allows the split to take place, Helgason believes that councillors from Ward 2, Arnthor Jonasson, John Bezemer and Carol Hull, will create a new council with Helgason as reeve as the RM of West Interlake. The head office will be in Ashern and Larissa Love will be the CAO. The RM of West Interlake hired Love, so it stands to reason that she will continue to work with the RM.

"It would be representation by population, so there would likely be a byelection in Ward 2 for another councillor," explained Helgason.

Ward 1 would become the LGD of Eriksdale, with councillors Keith Lundale, Merle Day and John Wainwright and would become a council on its own. It is unknown if one of the three will be appointed reeve or if a byelection would take place. It is also unknown whether or not the LGD of Eriksdale would require a CAO or if the government would place an administrator.

"Any employees of Ward 1 will remain as a part of the LGD of Eriksdale and any employees of Ward 2 will remain as part of the RM of West Interlake. However [the municipal board] may come back and say that we stay as we are now," said Helgason, who's remaining optimistic that that won't be the case.

In spite of council voting to split the wards up, the councils will have work to do. Regular meetings will continue to be held and bids for things like snow clearing will continue to come in and be vetted by council. It will be business as usual.

There has been no timeline given by the Municipal Board on when a decision will be made or if a public hearing will be necessary.

Students gain valuable literacy skills reading to seniors

By Jeff Ward

Students from Ashern Early Years School (EYS) have bolstered their reading skills and made strong connections with seniors during the weekly SaY Read program.

The Grade 1 to 4 students spend approximately 30 minutes every Tuesday morning reading to seniors at Pioneer Manor in Ashern. Students read a book of their choosing and gain valuable literacy skills while reading out loud. The students learn how to read through punctuation, the pronunciation of words and just gain confidence in reading aloud. The SaY (Seniors and Youth) Read program is made possible by the staff of Ashern EYS who work together with the Ashern LIFE (Living Independence for Seniors) staff who help organize the weekly reading times.

"We figured it would be something we could do as a fun inter-generational program," said Sandra McDougall, who helped start the program back in 1999 in partnership with Ashern EYS.

"Seniors will follow along in the book and help [the students] when they get stuck. [The seniors] bonded with [the students] quickly and developed a friendship. I know that students look forward to starting the program every year because they really get into it and get a lot out of reading to someone."

Every student in the EYS takes part in the program, with the Grade 4 students going first, followed by the lower grades as the year progresses. When a classroom doesn't have enough students on a certain day to read, there are students who jump at the opportunity to fill that spot. A nice byproduct of the program is that all students get a taste of what volunteering is like, and some even develop quite an appetite for the selfless act.

Last year the program went through an evolution, expanding into the Ashern Personal Care Home (PHC), and the results were incredible. Seniors responded so well to the students reading to them that some of them started to identify as family.

"I know that the personal care home is now arranging to come to our Christmas concert because they want to see 'their kids,' "said Karen Carmichael, principal of Ashern EYS.

"The seniors are calling them their own kids because of the connection they've formed just through reading. The students have gone to [Pioneer Manor] and the personal care home in their Halloween costumes and even made valentines for the seniors as well. The students really love their



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ashern Early Years School Grade 3 student Brian Altman reads to llene Shultz while gaining valuable literacy skills and making a meaningful connection in the process.

time reading to the seniors."

The positives outcomes of this program don't end there. Some students, who started this program back in the early aughts, have even become interested in careers in this area — working in the personal care home or even as summer students volunteering at Pioneer Manor or even through the LIFE office.

What started as a way for students to gain some additional reading skills, and for seniors to engage with the youth, has evolved into a deep connection between generations. And one that is likely to continue providing value for students and seniors for years to come.

Eriksdale Christmas hampers help families in need

By Jeff Ward

The organizers of the Eriksdale hamper program are turning to the community for donations to make sure that no family goes without a meal and presents this Christmas.

In the past, approximately 20 families in the Eriksdale area benefited from the hampers and put food on the table and presents under the tree. Operating out of the United Church of Eriksdale, organizers buy, sort, wrap and pack each hamper with care, providing each family with all three meals for the day and gifts for children as well as the adults. The hampers are made possible by the generous monetary donations the organizers receive from the community each year, enabling the purchase of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables as well as toys and more essential items like shampoo and soap.

"It's only a few of us ladies that organize it and we're always the ones being thanked, but it's really the whole community who donates that make it possible. We just wrap everything up," said Debbie Lundale, one of the organizers. Lundale works closely with Sandra Hogue, Wandis Day and Dawn LeStrat to collect and organize the food items for each hamper, noting any dietary restrictions of a family, like celiac or diabetes. The team works hard to make sure that every family will get a meal they'll actually enjoy.

Focusing on purchasing the gifts for the hampers, Nicole Jeffers and Amber Monk have lists of the ages of each child so that they can purchase gifts that are appropriate. All of the wrapping and tagging of the gifts is done by the pair.

"For all of us, it's a feel-good thing. Every one of us have never had to worry about putting food on the ta-



ble of buying gifts during Christmas. We have people that come and pick up their boxes and hug us and cry. It means something to us to be able to help out and give back like this," noted Lundale.

The deadline to register to receive a hamper is Dec. 7. Families interested can do so by calling the RM office in Eriksdale at 204-739-2666.

Monetary donations for hampers will be accepted until Dec. 21 and can



be made by calling Debbie Lundale at 204-739-2606. Hampers will be available for pickup starting on Dec. 17. Those who are physically unable to pick up their hamper can have a delivery arranged.







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ECRED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

> ARNIE WEIDL It looks like a perch, it swims like a perch, but it's a pickerel

Hi folks. We had a story of an angler who fished from his kayak last year, and not long ago I met another one by the name of Kareem Ezzat from Winnipeg.

How these guys can keep from tipping over while playing a fish is beyond me. In our conversations, Kareem told of a time when he was fishing in Nutimik Lake. He got such a hard strike, he immediately used his foot rudders to line himself up with the tremendous pull on his line. His rod doubled over and the line sang for an instant like a guitar string under great tension; then he took off. Instantly Kareem found himself being towed across the lake, his body stiff, his hands locked onto his rod. Suddenly the line fell limp so Kareem reeled in the slack. Slowly coming up, the long light grey sides of a giant sturgeon began to appear. As it broke the surface, it began thrashing about. Kareem kept his kayak facing the huge fish until it settled down. Then with a paddle, he came broadside of the beast measuring it at 54" and quickly released his hook from its mouth.

The monster then came alive and with a powerful sweep of its tail, it made for the depths. As Kareem told his story, I got the impression that his take on fishing like this was a lot like cowboys calf-roping at a rodeo. He also loves to fish the Lake of the Woods for musky, saying you can see them deep in the water and when they bite, you have to constantly manoeuvre your kayak to stay in control of the play because musky like to dash back and forth until they tire.

Thanks for giving us a peek into your world of kayak fishing, Kareem. Early last week on a thick foggy afternoon, I drove over to Breezy Point to swap stories with anglers. It was warm without a breath of wind and the water on the Red was like glass. I could hear a boat motor coming toward me. Then a small boat with a fellow and his short-haired chocolate brown lab glided out of the mist and ran up onto the mud of the riverbank with a scraping sound.

The well-behaved dog leapt onto the beach and waited for its master, an average-sized chap with a black beard and moustache laced with a little grey. His kindly eyes and quiet amiable nature made it easy to ask how the fishing was as he left his boat. He said his fish finder showed fish all around him but they refused to bite, which contrasted with yesterday when he caught his limit.

As we got to know each other, our new friend Moses Waldner said he retired from Thompson and resettled in Steinbach. His lab sat by his side as he told an unusual experi-



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED A pickerel with perch-like markings caught by George McPherson in Netley Creek.

ence when he was up north fishing in a lake by Thompson on a cold fall day. Huge chunky snowflakes were falling, the kind you will only see up north. Sitting in his boat, Moses couldn't believe his eyes when he saw trout leaping out of the water catching the snowflakes, thinking they were bugs.

About a week ago, I ran into George McPherson of Matlock who went fishing in Netley Creek with his buddy Dino Annuik. They had an acceptable catch during a relaxing day but what was out of the ordinary was the pickerel George caught. Dino took a picture of this fish, but you tell me, have you ever seen a pickerel with strips on its sides like a perch? I sure haven't.

It was cold the other day on the Hnausa pier. Even in the bright sunlight, the icy wind coming off Lake Winnipeg had the stalwart anglers in heavy clothes. I talked to a young couple, Mike Betts of Bruster Bay and Lindsey George of Winnipeg. Mike lives to fish and, as far as he's concerned, Hnausa and Bruster Bay, a little further south, have the best fishing anywhere on the lake. Actually Bruster has a magic winter fishing spot that many anglers have not yet discovered.

Well, let's enjoy the last days of open-water fishing. Bye for now.

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Seafood Watch needs to get their facts straight

Recently California-based Seafood Watch stated publicly that people should not buy or eat fish from Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba because the lakes are not managed in a sustainable manner.

This is a ridiculous statement, as in their very own report, they admit that they have no information to go on and quote three anonymous scientists (really, anonymous!) who have come to a conclusion based on no information. Plus the three lakes are vastly different.

The province has responded as if terrified, insisting that they will launch an intensive review of the fisheries on the three lakes. What is this?

I can't speak for the other lakes, but I started fishing on Lake Winnipeg in 1943, and in my personal, albeit anecdotal, experience, the fish stocks are just fine — in fact, better now than 72 years ago. In fact, Seafood Watch's own report indicates that walleye stocks are not an issue.

I want to make some points here.

- fishing starts in the spring two days after test nets reveal that 80 per cent of the walleye/sauger have spawned, a practice that has been going on for at least 20 years and has ensured the sustainability of the fishery.

- Fishers are limited to a minimum size net of three inches, which allows pickerel to reach maturity. In fact, because stocks are good, most fishers use even bigger mesh.

- In the 1960s, the practice of fishing with trap-nets was disallowed by the province because they were too effective, caught everything and overfished the lake.

- Since trap-nets were disallowed, a quota system came into place, and now the amount of fish harvested each year is finite. This is thanks to the federal government of the day that realized fishers lived in poverty, economic slaves to fish companies. The individual quota system eliminated that and freed the fisherman to make a decent living, while ensuring the sustainability of the fishery. Fishers are now small businessmen able to support their families — something it appears Seafood Watch wants to destroy. In fact, because of good management, there is some speculation that we are UNDERFISHING Lake Winnipeg.

- Seafood Watch points out that some whitefish may be



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being discarded by fishers, or bushed, and that may be true. We have an abundance of whitefish in the lake for many reasons, most of them historical. If Seafood Watch is right about anything, it would be this issue. Fishers have long asked for whitefish to be taken off of their quotas and the province has consistently refused to do so. This is indeed an example of mismanagement by the province, simply because they do not communicate with fishers. That situation is indeed a sad state of affairs, one that can be rectified, however. Fishers need a seat at the table.

My main point here is that Seafood Watch is-

sued a report without any information. To my knowledge, they had not contacted any fishers, merely looked at a few past catch records, numbers on a paper and came to an ill-informed conclusion that could have disastrous effects on our province and so many, many families. But we are far from California, where Seafood Watch comes from, so who cares? Well, we do.

Again, this is ridiculous. I could go on and on but haven't the space here to do it. Suffice it to say, get your facts straight, Seafood Watch. Sincerely,

Harvey Benson, Gimli, Manitoba

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Funding for Red Bartsia and other noxious weeds discussed

By Patricia Barrett

At its regular meeting Nov. 18, Arborg councillors discussed the issue of noxious weeds in the RM Bifrost-Riverton.

Coun. Susan Bauernhuber said Red Bartsia — a weed that overtakes pasture and hay land and robs livestock of feed — is becoming a concern.

The RM's Weed Control Board stopped spraying roadsides when it reached the limit of its budget, she said. That budget is set by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT).

"There is \$10,000 Highways has not paid. Fred [Paulson of the Interlake Weed District Control Board] talked to Tom [Nevakshonoff, MLA for Interlake] about it," said Bauernhuber. "They're [the province] not following their own noxious weed act."

Funding for spraying was also discussed by the RM at its Nov. 12 meeting. The RM said it had spoken with MIT Minister Steve Ashton about the need for the province to allocate more funding to roadside spraying because farmers are losing a lot of land.

Bauernhuber also reported that the Weed Control Board is losing two staff members and will be hiring in spring 2016. The new posting(s) will be available January.

Other council briefs:

The Town will officially celebrate its new bandstand Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that is expected to attract a sizable crowd. The party will follow the Town's Parade of Lights and Moonlight Madness events.

Bauernhuber, who was reached by



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Red Bartsia flourishing in a hay field north of Teulon in September. The noxious weed is difficult to spot until late summer when it turns red. Roadside spraying in the spring is vital to help contain its spread.

phone before council met, said Conservative MP James Bezan may attend the launch.

"The lights go up Saturday on the tree," said Mayor Randy Sigurdson.

Council provided an update on the two access roads MIT wants to remove from Sunset Boulevard and Highway 68. Council had heard from Kevin Nimchuk of Highway Planning and Design at its Oct. 28 meeting.

Mayor Randy Sigurdson said MIT proposes to build a new access road between the existing two paved roads onto the highway. There is no indication as to when the work could begin.

Council reviewed two tenders to remove 10 sick/dying trees. CAO Lorraine Bardarson said Krautter Tree & Yard Services of Arborg provided one quote for felling the trees and cutting them into pieces, leaving cleanup to Public Works, and another for felling, cutting and site cleanup. Council went with the second quote, which will cost \$2,595 to have Krautter remove the debris after the trees are cut down.

Krautter also provided a third quote for pruning three linden trees near the Co-op. Council accepted its quote for \$150 plus GST. The work will be completed in spring 2016.

Drainage work along River Road near St. Peter Street should be completed by Nov. 27, said Deputy Mayor Rob Thorsteinson.

Workers are installing and pressurizing new pipes. Hydro has to pull out a pole and replace it so the drainage work can be completed, he said.

"It's a bit slow driving up there."

The mayor said he has received feedback from the contractor doing the work.

"He said, 'Arborg is a great place to work,'" said the mayor. "'No one touches anything, breaks windows or knocks down signs.'"

Coun. Larry Speiss, who sits on the board of Parks and Recreation, up-

dated council about the new dressing rooms at the arena. The piles are currently being put in and Manitoba Hydro attended to remove the gas meter.

Speiss said he also attended a Community Futures East Interlake board meeting at which Lakeside PC MLA Ralph Eichler was in attendance. The board discusses immigration and settlement issues in the Interlake.

"He asked a lot of intelligent question," said Speiss."He asked that he be kept informed."

Coun. Vivian Leduchowski reported on a rural handi-van meeting she attended in Selkirk. She said handivans will have to start documenting mileage, location and incidents jeopardizing passenger safety.

She said she also attended an Arborg-Bifrost Community Development Corporation meeting at which Interlake NDP MLA Tom Nevakshonoff was in attendance. Leduchowski said the organization brought him up to date with regard to roads and the proposed personal care home to be built in Arborg.

Mayor Sigurdson said the RM and the town have agreed to split \$3.5 million (60/40 respectively) for the proposed 80-bed personal care home. The commercial land on which the facility could be built is owned by the Town. Council is unsure whether that was factored into its 40 per cent share. The mayor said the town will follow up.

Depending on property values, ratepayers could possibly pay more taxes each year to help offset the cost of the facility.

Arborg bandstand ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for Nov. 27

By Patricia Barrett

The grand opening of Arborg's bandstand will take place Nov. 27 in the park beside the library. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will start at 7:30 p.m.

The man who donated \$10,000 to make the bandstand a reality will be on hand to help cut the ribbon.

Albert Sutyla from Ledwyn won the money in a Toyota contest that helps communities fund building projects, and he turned it over to the Arborg Street Festival Committee. He recognized a need for a permanent covered stage in town.

"The total cost of the bandstand was just over \$13,000," said Coun. Susan Bauernhuber, who sits on the Street Festival Committee and will be attending the launch. The Town had asked local businesses whether they could contribute to the outstanding balance.

For the immediate future, there are no events scheduled on the bandstand, but it could get booked for upcoming winter-themed events.

"We do have power on the bandstand," said Bauernhuber, "so it may be used for Carolfest."

The annual Parade of Lights will take place an hour before (6:30 p.m.) the bandstand ceremony. And the town is holding Black Friday sales that day.

Mayor Randy Sigurdson and members of council will be attending the bandstand ceremony.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The new bandstand (shown here in early November) will be officially launched Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Pauline Johnson Library benefits again from philanthropist

By Jeff Ward

The man responsible for the initial donation that got the Pauline Johnson Library built is making yet another donation to help renovate the facility 20 years later.

Philanthropist and former resident of Lundar, Don Johnson returned to Lundar to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the library that he was instrumental in building. Johnson donated \$25,000 in honour of his favourite teacher, Pauline, 20 years earlier and is once again donating to assist with much needed renovations.

"I'm very happy to provide further financial support to make sure the library is in great shape," said the 80-year-old philanthropist who calls Toronto home.

"It was great. Wonderful to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the library and was great to know that the people

who use the library are from all age groups. It also provided my brother and I with an opportunity to reconnect with people who are old friends and former neighbours. We have such fond memories of our time in Lundar. It felt so good to be back," said Johnson.

On Nov. 7, 1995, the ribbon to the Pauline Johnson Library was cut and the doors were officially opened. Pauline Johnson herself did the ribboncutting at the age of 103. Johnson said that the library was his way of honouring his favourite teacher and it was a 100th birthday gift to her.

Johnson has spent most of his professional career as an investment banker and the last 52 years with the firm BMO Nesbitt Burns. His own personal wealth has allowed him to donate generously to many charitable organizations but it's the donations to



Physician Departure – Gimli Community Health Centre

Please be advised that Dr. Dana Calin has chosen to conclude her practice in Gimli. We thank her for the care she extended to Gimli and area residents and we wish her well in the future.

During this period of physician absence, Dr. Cary Chapnick has agreed to see Dr. Calin's patients who require ongoing care. He has agreed to be in clinic on a once a week basis. Appointments for Dr. Chapnick need to be booked in advance by calling Sylvia at 204.642.4595 ext. 595.

Interlake-Eastern RHA is currently in the process of recruiting additional physicians to Gimli. More information will be provided once details are in place. We apologize for the inconvenience you incur during a physician absence. For those seeking a regular care provider, please call Family Doctor Finder to register at 1-866-690-8260.

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his hometown of Lundar that carry a bit more meaning for him.

"It always feels good to give back and it's very important for those who have the ability to do so to give back to the community they grew up in. One of my favourite expressions is 'It's better to give it away with a warm hand, than a cold hand, "noted Johnson.

According to Johnson, he would be

happy to consider providing additional financial support to the Pauline Johnson Library in the future and is very proud of the work the library board has done in establishing a bold vision for the future.

The work on the library hasn't started yet but is anticipated to be complete by spring 2016.

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Bezan urges Trudeau to rethink refugee policy

By Lindsey Enns

Selkirk-Interlake Eastman Conservative MP James Bezan is urging the Liberal government to be cautious when it comes to bringing thousands of Syrian refugees to Canada.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the Liberal government will make good on its campaign promise to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada before the end of 2015.

"It is logistically impossible to properly identify, screen, transport and settle 25,000 refugees to Canada over the next six weeks," Bezan said in a statement to media last Wednesday. "I urge the Trudeau government to rethink their flawed refugee policy, to slow down and implement a refugee program that will still embrace Canadian compassion while improving public safety."

Further details regarding the Liberal government's plan was expected to be rolled out on Tuesday, according to



JAMES BEZAN

The Canadian Press.

A document obtained by *The Canadian Press* suggests the cost of the rapid resettlement program could reach \$1.2 billion, exceeding the \$250 million the Liberals budgeted for in their platform.

"Campaign promises should not override logistical realities," Bezan said."The safety and security of Canadians must be paramount in governBezan named National Defence critic **Staff**

Selkirk-Interlake Eastman MP James Bezan has been appointed to the Conservative's shadow cabinet as the critic for National Defence.

Bezan previously served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence under the Conservative government and was also the chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence.

"I am grateful that the Leader of the Official Opposition, Rona Ambrose, has put her trust in me," Bezan said in a statement to media last Friday. "It is truly an honour to be asked to serve as the Conservative defence critic and to be part of

ment decisions.

"Canadians are extremely concerned about their safety and are expressing their desire to ensure that such a dynamic team."

Bezan added he looks forward to working with Charlesbourg-Haute-Saint-Charles MP Pierre Paul-Hus, who will serve as the associate National Defence critic.

Bezan said their team is prepared to work with the Liberal government when it comes to national defence efforts and hopes they will be able to vote on any changes to Canada's military mission against ISIS.

"There is no doubt that at this point in time, we need to be standing with our allies in the war against ISIS," Bezan said. "Following the Paris attacks, we will also support a more robust training mission by our Special Operations Forces."

security screening of refugees is not compromised for the sake of political ideology."

Lakeside Sno Drifters spreading Christmas Cheer

By Jeff Ward

The Lakeside Sno Drifters Snowmobile Club is gearing up to support families in need this Christmas and are asking for the community's help.

A meal for every family and a present for every child is a tall order, but the local snowmobile club is taking on the challenge and plans to fulfill its commitment by making sure Christmas is enjoyed by all.

Last year, the club organized 59 hampers and this year that number is expected to be about the same. Finan-

cial donations along with donations of non-perishable food items are being accepted at the Noventis Credit Union in Moosehorn and Ashern.

Last year the Lakeside Sno Drifters answered a call for help and have decided to continue with the giving once again.

"Last year the [RM of Grahamdale staff] put an ad in the paper looking for people to take over the hampers. I took it to one of our meetings and asked the club if they would help me out with it. Everyone got on board so

quickly and before long we had drivers, packers, gift wrappers and we got it done," said Sylvia Fisette, one of the organizers of the hamper program.

The size of the family denotes the size of the hamper. Smaller families will receive a full chicken or ham, or even a half turkey, whereas larger families will receive the full turkey to accommodate their needs and to ensure that nothing goes to waste.

"We're really lucky this year as the Home Hardware in Ashern is giving us a reduced cost for kids' toys. They've really gotten behind our goal and that will really help us," explained Fisette, who was humbled by the generosity.

"It's very rewarding to do this be-

cause when you see the kids' faces light up when they open the door, it just makes you feel so good."

Hampers are delivered the Friday and Saturday before Christmas. If you want to help by donating, you can do so at either of the Noventis Credit Union locations in Ashern and Moosehorn or by donating your canned goods to the Co-Op located in Ashern or Moosehorn.

Any families interested in signing up for a Christmas hamper can call Devan McCoubrey at the RM of Grahamdale at 204-768-2858 to have their name placed on the list. All names are kept confidential.





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Ashern artist creates intricate sculptures from raw steel

By Jeff Ward

The annual Country Christmas Craft Sale will be a hotspot for interesting handmade items this Friday, Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ashern Centennial Hall.

And one of the sellers attending this year will be local artist Roger DeGeuldre, whose steel sculptures are one of a kind. DeGueldre has been attending the sale for many years and his sculptures continue to be a popular item. The sculptures that he handcrafts from steel range in size and weight and include steam engines, miniature canons, rings and fridge magnet bugs made from forks. It's in De-Geuldre's ability to look at one object and use his machining skills to turn it into something completely different.

"Roger is the artist in the family," said Denise DeGueldre, Roger's wife, who will be making the majority of the sales at their booth.

"He didn't even realize this was something he could do until I asked him to make me a candle holder for a party. Ever since then, he's been creating anything you can think of. And he's always trying to come up with something different." DeGueldre has built everything from bar stools, tables and chairs to tiny ornaments. The only real limit to his creativity is his own imagination. Roger's work is all done cold, using machine and hydraulic power. DeGueldre forms his steel by making his own dies and uses them to create his pieces.

At 68 years old, DeGueldre doesn't make as many sculptures as he used to. Working on his art is time consuming and physically demanding on his body. Standing in one spot for hours and using his strength to mould metal is difficult. But his passion and desire to create art is much stronger than any pain that exhaustion might bring.

"Now he picks and chooses what he wants to work on, but he has to be in the right mood to do it because he has to change his shop around so much. When he starts a piece, he wants to work on it until it's done," said Denise.

Roger's work is special and something that's difficult to find in a world where lots of things are no longer made by hand but by machines and computers. DeGueldre's work stands alone as a labour of love and the passion to do something that makes him happy.

There is no admission to attend the craft sale and all money raised from the lunch concession will be donated to the Interlake Trail Blazers.

Doors will be open at 10 a.m. on Friday.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY JEFF WARD Roger DeGeuldre will have his sculptures on sale this Friday at the Ashern Country Christmas Craft Sale.



Noventis Credit Union in search of holiday spirit



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIENNE PERCY Noventis staff member Sue Steinmetz gets into the holiday spirit. Steinmetz will be participating in a number of charitable initiatives.

By Patricia Barrett

Every year Noventis Credit Union sponsors a number of community events, infrastructure projects and social programs through its Community Connections program.

"One of the things we enjoy doing," said Adrienne Percy, Noventis' manager of branding and communications, "is being connected to the community."

Percy said the credit union sets aside a certain percentage of money to distribute to the communities it serves.

This past year, it helped the Riverton Recreation Centre, the Arborg Ag Society, Evergreen Basic Needs and the Matlock Recreation Centre, to name a few.

"Some of the communities are smaller and take a long time to raise money," said Percy. "They have to sell a lot of cookbooks."

The credit union also made a sizable donation to school breakfast programs in the Interlake.

"It's nice to start the day with a full belly," said Percy. "Some kids have a long bus ride." The credit union issued \$14,000 to school breakfast programs in communities such as Ashern, Eriksdale, Moosehorn, Winnipeg Beach, Gimli and Riverton.

Staff from the credit union visited a number of schools last year to take part in school breakfasts, said Percy. She herself helped out in Ashern.

With the Christmas season approaching, credit union staff will be taking part in Breakfast with Santa in Arborg, which will take place Nov. 28 at the Arborg Hall from 9 a.m. to noon. 'We're giving \$750 to that," said Per-

cy. Some credit union staff volunteer their time to act as drivers for Operation Red Nose in Gimli while others put together Christmas hampers.

In Fisher Branch, Noventis is offering a draw for a \$200 gift certificate.

Helping businesses and small communities with projects and fundraising initiatives is important to the credit union.

We're a member-based organization," said Percy. "We feel it comes full circle."



Tony jenkins' mountain snowmobiling safety gear

Gy Tony Jenkins,

Ski-Doo Backcountry Expert

A lot of guys are taking their sleds out west, and with our first substantial Mountain snow storm hitting us I figured it would be a great time to get my avalanche and survival gear out and start getting it prepared. If you're anything like me, your buddies will call you up before you know it and it will catch you off guard. So why not get prepared and freshen up your gear to stay ahead of the game? My Summit X 163 is already waiting for me! Let's take a look...

Here is what I use day-in and day-out when I ride the backcountry. I'm not here to tell you that you have to have the same things, but this gives you a place to start. Here are my main BIG 6 items.

BCA Avalanche pack. Make sure to check the seal and pressure regulator, and check for damage.

Avalanche probe. Practice deploying it and make sure it's in good condition. Shovel. Have a well-built shovel with

an attachable saw. Transceiver/Beacon. Replace batteries

and practice with it! Survival gear

• Fire starter

- Fire starter
 Pocket knife
- Rope
- Flashlight
- Compass
- Mirror (for signaling)
- Zip ties and duct tape
- Candle
- Culture

•Tampon (You would be surprised how well these work to start a fire. Pull it apart, attach the string to a stick and dip the tampon into your fuel tank to soak it.)

- Warm hat
- •Siphon hose (There's always that friend who runs out of fuel!)
- Flare kit
- Spare batteries
- Saw
- An assorted small tool kit
- Handwarmers
- JB weld puddy (Works great if you throw a rock through your heat exchanger. Trust me – I would know!)
- Electrical fusesSpace blanket

- First Aid Kit
- Bandages
- Wraps
- Tape
- Splint
- Tourniquet

I know there are a lot of items here. But with all my years of riding, I have used EVERY ONE of these items. Make sure you know your gear and don't be afraid to practice with it. Don't forget to throw in some extra gloves and wool socks...and go have fun!





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Documentary team in St. Laurent showcasing rich Métis culture

By Jeff Ward

Following local hunters, trappers and fishers is a team of documentary filmmakers hoping to capture the spirit of Métis culture to present to a national audience.

Au pays des Michifs, which roughly translates to Métis Country, will be an eight-episode documentary series.

These episodes will follow hunters, trappers and fishers from the St. Laurent area to capture how they've kept such a vibrant Métis culture alive in the area. Following a cast of five main protagonists — Gerry and Roland Bruce, Charles and Norbert Langelier and Laurent Dumont — the series will be shot over the course of one year



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Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

- Create a story that starts with this sentence:
 "All the elves were hard at work in Santa's workshop ... all but one, that is ..."
- 2. Write a story about Rudolph's cousin, the unknown reindeer who loves to sing.
- 3. If you were in charge of building the best snow fort ever, what would it look like?
- 4. Describe your family's holiday traditions. What's your favourite tradition?

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Mail or email you letter to us by Wednesday, December 9th, and we'll make sure it appears in our special section on December 17th.

Please remember to include your first name and age on your letter!

Email: santa@expressweeklynews.ca or mail to Box 39, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0 and will air on Canal D in 2017.

"We already know that we'll have a tough time deciding what goes into each half-hour show," said André Clément, director of the series.

"It's a good problem to have. We've got 80 days of shooting and we'll be shooting 20 days for each season. We're coming up on 20 days of shooting right now and we've shot duck and geese hunting. We've also shot content for deer and elk hunting and we'll be transitioning into the winter where it'll be more about trapping and fishing on the ice."

According to Clément, the French broadcaster Canal D found the concept of the series fascinating and they believe audiences will feel the same way. Clément also said that the aspect of how these hunters use subsistence food gathering can really make for exciting, tension-filled television.

The actual production itself has raised quite a few new challenges for Clément and his team of camera operators. He mentioned that much of the production is about being patient because he doesn't want their presence to affect the hunt in any way. "The crew has to assimilate to the hunters way of being. We have to be patient like they are. Our biggest challenge is how to be invisible because if we're going to get the good shot of the animals coming out of the forest, we have to be very quiet," said Clément.

This close proximity to the hunters has led to some good relationships, according to Clément. The hunters have really opened up during the production and, as a result, the production crew has started to form some special relationships.

"It's extremely exciting because it feels like we're still at the beginning of our adventure. Now 20 days into shooting and the relationships between our crew and protagonists are really evolving. Many of these people we'll revisit throughout the whole year," noted Clément.

The film crew will continue to shoot through the winter and around this time next year will be completing production on the project. Clément said he hopes to do a screening of the series in the community once the project is complete.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY NADIA GAUDET Charles Lavac, director of photography, shoots the tranquil sunset on the St. Laurent horizon. The documentary team will follow several hunters over the course of a year to document their Métis culture.

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Ashern student empowered to make sure every child has Christmas

By Jeff Ward

Grade 8 student Korissa Gasper of Ashern Central School is feeling empowered and ready to help her community after attending a We Day celebration in Winnipeg last week. Gasper wants to make sure that every underprivileged child in the Ashern area receives a Christmas gift this December and is going to organize a gift drive.

More than 16,000 Manitoba students took part in the five-hour extravaganza that included musical performances and motivational speakers like actor Henry Winkler, a.k.a. The Fonz from Happy Days, Oscar-winner Marlee Matlin and First Nation teenager Rinelle Harper who was assaulted and left for dead in the Assiniboine River less than a year ago.

But the one speaker who had the most profound effect on Gasper was Spencer West who lost his lower body to a genetic disorder.

"There was a man who had no legs, nothing below his belly button, and he climbed mountains and learned to drive after everyone told him he couldn't," said thirteen-year-old Gasper.

"I was thinking that if he could do all that with no legs, I should be able to do so much more. It was really inspiring to hear his story and it got me thinking about running my own program, which I didn't even know I could do until then."

The idea came to Gasper on the bus ride back to Ashern after spending the day at the MTS Centre.

Ashern Central School took 38 We Act program students to the event with hopes of empowering them to make a difference through community action when they returned home. "I was thinking that if he could do all that with no legs, I should be able to do so much more. It was really inspiring to hear his story and it got me thinking about running my own program, which I didn't even know I could do until then."

We Day left Gasper with an emboldened confidence about how much power she has and how important her contributions can be. According to Gasper even though her teacher, Shannon Kosolowski told her what to expect, it was still an overwhelmingly emotional day. Listening to stories from people like, Henry Winkler who's battle with Dyslexia has made it near impossible to read and write but hasn't stopped him from being a celebrated actor. Or Marlee Matlin, who's hearing impairment hasn't stopped her from achieving her dreams, and winning an Academy Award.

"The speakers really pulled at the heartstrings and gave a variety of situations that students could relate to," said Shannon Kosolowski, who teaches the We Act program alongside Dana Emilson.

"There were so many touching stories that really made you think. It really pumped a lot of them up, especially Korissa who was throwing out lots of ideas on the way home. It really struck a chord with her and that's exactly what we wanted to see."

Gasper is currently planning her Christmas gift drive and will be sending out letters requesting donations shortly. After attending We Day, Gasper said she's learned that her age isn't a barrier to do big things in her own community, and that the changes she makes locally can reverberate around the globe.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

Korissa Gasper (right) is empowered to bring Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in the Ashern area this year after attending We Day on Nov. 16. Pictured with Gasper is We Act program tteacher Shannon Kosolowski,

Niki Ashton invites former MLA to join her team

By Patricia Barrett

When Parliament opens Dec. 3, NDP MP Niki Ashton will be ready to address the concerns of her constituents in the Churchill-Keewatinook Aski riding, which encompasses a slice of the north Interlake.

With about 60 communities across her riding to mind, Ashton has invited former Interlake MLA Clif Evans to join her team.

"I'm very happy that Clif ... has agreed to come on and be part of our constituency team," said Ashton, who was first elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2011 and 2015.

Evans played a "key role" in her recent federal election campaign, she said, and will be serving as her outreach and constituency contact to help address pressing issues in the Interlake region, which includes First Nation communities of Little Saskatchewan, Peguis, Fisher River and Pinaymootang (Fairford).

She said one of her primary commitments to her riding is to be accessible and to visit with her constituents.

"That's my priority as MP. It has always been to visit and listen and to

fight for our issues."

Evans will serve as a key liaison while she works in Ottawa.

"[He] will work with me in terms of key issues affecting Interlake communities that I will be advocating for at the federal level."

Having served as MLA for the Interlake for almost 10 years (1990-1999), Evans knows the ground well. On a regular basis, he'll be visiting various Interlake communities in the massive riding that acquired territory during the 2012 electoral boundary change and covers about 495,000 square kilometres. Evans will be keeping Ashton apprised of constituent concerns.

"I know the Interlake," Evans said in a recent interview regarding his appointment as lieutenant governor for Manitoba's youth parliament. "I'll be here to listen and do what's possible to address their concerns."

He'll also be on the road with Ashton before she returns to Ottawa next month.

"Over the course of the next two weeks, we'll be visiting road-accessible communities," said the 33-yearold MP from Thompson. "I will be



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED Niki Ashton said she'll be bringing the concerns of her Interlake constituents to Ottawa when the 42nd Parliament opens Dec. 3.

touching base with chiefs, councils and community leaders and determining their priorities to take back to the House."

Last week Ashton set out for The Pas, Flin Flon and various communities on the west and northwest side of her riding. This week she'll be meeting with constituents in Easterville, Grand Rapids and Fairford.

"I definitely want to send the message that we're up and running," said Ashton. "That's why we're hitting the road so soon after the election, getting out in the communities meeting with people, and having serious discussions about the issues that we need to bring forward."

Some of the Interlake issues she'll be broaching in Parliament include the fisheries.

"Fishing is such a big part of the economy in the Interlake," she said, "and I think there are ways above and beyond what they're [the federal government] currently doing ... to support northern and First Nations fishers in a bigger way."

She said she'll be reaching out to the new Minister of Fisheries, Hunter

Holding back the tide: Pallister's plans for water management

By Patricia Barrett

Progressive Conservative Party leader Brian Pallister paid an early morning visit to the Interlake last Wednesday to outline his recovery plan for the province ahead of the provincial election next April. Speaking at the Waterfront Centre in Gimli to a 70-plus crowd that included a number of Conservative incumbents and candidates, Pallister addressed a range of problems facing the province and later spoke to reporters about his party's strategy to address chronic drainage and flooding woes, particularly on Lake Manitoba.

Against a panoramic view of Gimli's harbour and Lake Winnipeg, Pallister spoke of a proactive and preventative approach to water management, especially with regard to waters coming from away. He said the province has failed to adopt such an approach until just recently.

"I've already met with Brad Wall [premier of Saskatchewan] on the issues of water management," said Pallister, who became party leader in 2012."I'm a farm boy. I said to Mr. Wall, 'We don't drain our fields onto our neighbours, so we need to develop a strategy as teammates in our two provinces because, as you know, the drainage practices on farmland have changed dramatically.'"

Pallister said those practices have contributed to the rapidity of runoff after snowmelt or heavy rainfall, which creates problems along the Assiniboine and Souris river basins. And the destruction of wetlands (which absorb water) compounds the problem.

"You can't stop it once it's already coming down the pipe," said the PC leader and MLA for Fort Whyte. "So you've got to work very ambitiously with your partners."

He spoke of farmers' need to retain some of that runoff for future dry cycles that the Prairies will surely experience.

"There's an approach that we've been advocating for some time called alternative land use strategies, which involves ... offering some type of monetary compensation to let the economy generate solutions for farmers who will manage their wetlands and ... allow for better land management strategies that retain water rather than simply shipping it off to the neighbour all the time."

Pallister said in the long run, flood prevention will cost less than having to pay millions afterwards.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT Progressive Conservative Party leader Brian Pallister explains the PC party's platform to a 70-plus audience at Gimli's Waterfront Centre Nov. 18.

If the Conservatives reduce the PST, as promised, Pallister said they will still be able to pay for various projects and protect frontline services such as health and education.

"We'll shrink the top of government, decrease the cabinet size by about a third, amalgamate government departments and reduce overlap and duplication."

On other fronts, the former high school teacher doled out a failing grade to a government he said has not provided satisfactory results.

"There's no sign of steady growth in Manitoba's economy," said Pallister, addressing the crowd, "but there's steady growth signs [on highways] all over the province, and you've paid for them."

He said the province has the longest medical wait times in the country, the highest child poverty rates (predominantly among First Nation children), an ineffective education system and a secretive government.

Pallister said if elected, the first thing his government would do is bring in an open government bill so that the people of Manitoba could see exactly how their tax dollars are being spent.

"We need a government that will be open with its people about how it spends money, about what it does, about why it's doing it," said Pallister, who toured 13 rural communities last week over the course of three days. "And we need a more ethical government. We need a government that is held to account just like we all are in our lives."

Citing a need to change an education system that fails to challenge pupils who aren't performing, the former teacher said, "How are we ever going to get ahead if we tell teachers they've got to put the kid ahead to the next grade no matter how lazy those kids are in that class?"

He said he would have teachers give students a zero for not completing homework because businesses will not be hiring people who "can't spell and do math in their head. They won't have jobs. They'll be on welfare, and we'll all be paying for it like we are now."

Under the Selinger government, Pallister said Manitoba has had a steady out migration of people to other provinces. He said he thinks immigration is healthy for the economy, but he wouldn't rely on it. "We've got to have our own people find a future here."

When Pallister invited questions from attendees after his 30-minute address, Gimli's Mayor Randy Woroniuk stood up to ask whether the Conservatives would make a monetary commitment to rural communities that have to shoulder many of same infrastructure costs as Winnipeg does but with reduced provincial funding.

The PC leader cited the need for an infrastructure plan for the whole province.

Although the Conservatives have lost four elections in a row, said Pallister, they have learned from losing.

"And now we're working hard and more effectively together than we ever have before, and that allows us to say we're the team of the future."

> NIKI ASHTON INVITES FORMER MLA TO JOIN HER TEAM, FROM PG. 16

Tootoo, to ask him "to find sustainable solutions for the fishery that's so critical to our economy." Another key issue is the "crisis of unemploy-

ment," especially in First Nation communities. "I've long advocated for the federal government

to be a partner on this issue," she said. "Since the '90s, the government has retreated and unemployment is increasing in rural communities."

She said there are some initiatives First Nation communities have taken to address unemployment – and the province has helped generate jobs – but they face some barriers at the federal level.

In Garden Hill, for example, a social enterprise initiative to generate small-scale agriculture and fish processing has seen some success, but it

needs government help to ramp up production and create paid jobs, she said.

And in Berens River, a home construction initiative faces some barriers with regard to federal regulations.

The MP also said she has plans to open a constituency office in the Interlake part of her riding.

"We are committed to establishing a presence in the new part of the riding," she said. "We're currently in discussions around possible office spaces."

She said Evans will be helping her establish the office.

"For me, it's an absolute priority to have an office in the Interlake, and I'm so glad that ... just a short few days after the election, Clif ... was able to come on board," said the MP. "He's already out there doing the work."

Part of Ashton's duties now include a role as shadow critic to Labour Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk.

A few weeks ago she was appointed critic for Jobs, Employment and Workforce Development and will be working closely with other members of the NDP shadow cabinet to address rising unemployment.

"I'm hopeful about ... the commitments that have been made by the new federal government – they've made significant commitments to First Nations," she said. "And I certainly will be working hard to hold the government to account on the commitments they've made."

DOTES & RECEPCIÓN INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

MJHL encourages fans to help paralyzed player

By Brian Bowman

Tragedy struck the Manitoba Junior Hockey League recently with the sad news of Portage Terriers' defenceman Braden Pettinger getting severely injured during a game against the Winnipeg Blues at the MTS Iceplex on Nov. 12.

The 20 year old suffered paralysis following a fall into the boards. He fractured his C5 vertebra in his neck in several places and has no feeling from his chest down.

Pettinger had been acquired from the Waywayseecappo Wolverines in a trade just three days earlier.

Hockey fans throughout Canada are being encouraged to visit the Go-Fund-Me page: https:// www.gofundme.com/77ag2dq4. As of Tuesday afternoon, \$130,756 had been raised to help Pettinger and his family cover the medical and travel expenses that they will have.

"It's a terrible injury and now we can all show our support for Braden and his family by assisting financially," said MJHL commissioner Kim Davis in a media release last week. "The hockey community is very tight knit. Fans are passionate and giving. Braden and his family would appreciate all help."

The Manitoba hockey community is rallying to support Pettinger.

All proceeds from last Saturday's Bantam Southwest Cougars' game - including the gate and 50/50 sales - are going to Pettinger and his family. On Dec. 26, Souris is hosting a benefit social.



EXPRESS PHOTO SUBMITTED

The MJHL is asking individuals to donate money to cover medical costs for Portage Terriers' defenceman Braden Pettinger. Pettinger is paralyzed from the chest down after falling into the boards in a game against the Winnipeg Blues earlier this month.

Dyck named Bisons' female athlete of the week



Rachel Dyck

By Brian Bowman

Goaltender Rachel Dyck was named the University of Manitoba Bisons' female athlete of the week, the school announced last week.

The 5-foot-8 Dyck led her Bisons to a road sweep over the Nov. 6-ranked Lethbridge Pronghorns on Nov. 13-14.

Manitoba did not give up a goal during the full 120 minutes of action as Dyck, a third-year goalie, had a shutout to start the weekend.

The Winnipeg Beach native made 26 save for the shutout and was named the game's second star.

Last weekend, the Bisons earned a road split with the Saskatchewan Huskies. Manitoba lost 3-2 in double overtime on Friday and then won 3-1 on Saturday.

Dyck made 21 saves in the loss and 29 more in the win.

The Bisons' (8-6) next conference action is this Friday and Saturday when they host the Regina Cougars.

Female bantam action

Interlake Ice goaltender Mercedes Ward and defenceman Hailey Charison keep a keen eye on a Twins player during Winnipeg Female AA Bantam league play last Sunday. Interlake lost 8-1 to the league's first place team.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER



Local teams see plenty of KJHL action

By Brian Bowman

Local teams saw plenty of action in the Keystone Junior Hockey League last weekend.

On Sunday, the Fisher River Hawks lost 6-5 at home to the St. Malo Warriors.

Tyler Kembal led Fisher River with two goals and an assist while Todd Maytwayshing, Larry Traverse and Wyatt McCorrister netted singles.

Jessi Freund (two), Jordy Hill, Jared Magne, Jeff Froese and Bryden Johnson scored for St. Malo.

Jarrett Hogue made 56 saves in the loss.

Last Friday, the Hawks were outscored 7-4 by the Lundar Falcons.

Lundar's Bryce Horning had a game he will remember for a very, very long time, scoring six goals — including three in the second period — in the home win.

At press time Tuesday, Horning was tied for the league lead in points (33) along with Cross Lake's Kenley Monias.

Cody Paul had a goal and four assists for Lundar while Trent Laycock also had four helpers.

Martin Swan, Jared Thickfoot, Dalton Woodhouse and Johnny Bealieu scored for Fisher River.

Travis Ridgen made 38 saves for the win.

The Arborg Ice Dawgs were also in action Friday, doubling the North Winnipeg Satelites 4-2.

Clint Torfason led Arborg with two goals while Spencer Kilbrei and Nico Morrow-Litke also tallied.

Colin Yarchuk and Glen Paupanekis replied for the Satelites.

Jon Narverud stopped 45 shots for the victory.

On Nov. 18, the Ice Dawgs were doubled 6-3 by the league-leading Peguis Juniors in Arborg.

Peguis trailed 2-1 midway in the game but then scored five consecutive goals.

Roman Paul scored two of the goals back-to-back in the second period while Harold Linklater and Theoren Spence each had a goal and two assists.

The Juniors' other goals were scored by Christian Cochrane and Ian Sutherland. Jesse Flett and Keevan Daniels-Webb each had two assists.

Torfason and Travis Kilbrei scored first-period goals for Arborg and then Carter Comeau added a power-play goal in the third.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Peguis Juniors doubled the Ice Dawgs 6-3 in Keystone Junior Hockey League action Nov. 18.

Thunder score at midget awards banquet

Staff

The Interlake Thunder Midget football team struggled on the field this year with a 2-6 record but several players had personal success this past season.

And that success was celebrated during the Midget Football League of Manitoba's awards banquet Nov. 17 at the Norwood Hotel in Winnipeg.

For the second consecutive year, Mike Tillett was a finalist for the Outstanding Lineman award.

And the 6-foot-3, 290-pounder from Petersfield didn't go home empty handed this year. Tillett was named co-winner of the lineman of the year award, a league all star, and player of the month for September.

Interlake's Austin de Laroque, meanwhile, was a finalist for the President's Trophy and league's most valuable player award. He was also named a league all star along with teammates Thomas Dunlop and Alex France.

The Thunder's Carter Safiniuk and Driano Silvari were named rookie all stars.

Josh Schellekens.



RECORD PHOTOS BY KIM DELAROQUE Interlake Thunder Midget players, pictured left to right, Mike Tillett, Alex France, Austin de Laroque, Thomas Dunlop, Carter Safiniuk, Driano Silvari and Leagu



Mike Tillet was named cowinner as lineman of the year at the Midget Football League of Manitoba awards banquet.

Lightning offence goes AWOL on the road

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Lightning are finding out the hard way that if you don't score goals, the losses will start to pile up in the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League.

Interlake scored just one goal in three games last week — all losses — as the Lightning were outscored 15-1. The Lightning are now mired in a six-game losing streak.

Interlake lost its sixth in a row after a 7-1 road loss to the Yellowhead Chiefs on Sunday.

Jordan Kristjanson scored the Lightning's lone goal on the power play in the second period.

Josh Belcher (two), Mackenzie Belinski, Brian Mentuck, Dayton Heino, Layne Toder and Ryan Heino scored for Yellowhead.

Last Saturday evening, the Lightning were blanked 3-0 by the Southwest Cougars in Souris. Southwest scored all three of its goals in the second period. McCullough Park, on the power play, Jared McCorrister, and Carson Boyechko scored for the Cougars.

Southwest outshot the Interlake 45-26, including 20-7 in the second period.

On Nov. 18, the Lightning were shut out 5-0 by the Winnipeg Wild at the MTS Iceplex.

The Wild, which scored three power-play goals, grabbed a 3-0 lead just 15:42 into the game and then added two more goals in the third.

Brett Namaka, Riley Stotts, Caiden Daley, Jesse Gibbons and Tanner Mole scored for Winnipeg.

The Wild outshot the Lightning 42-17 as Matt Radonsky earned the shutout.

Interlake will have a pair of home games this weekend in Teulon. The Lightning will host the Brandon Wheat Kings on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and the Parkland Rangers Sunday (2 p.m.).

Arborg skaters preparing for provincial competition

By Patricia Barrett

Four members of the Arborg Skating Club and their coach were on the ice last Friday night at the Arborg arena practising their lunges, split jumps, sit spins and ice-dancing routines.

The club has eight STARskate competitors and two bridge (faster-paced learning) skaters.

STARskate stands for Skills, Tests, Achievements and Recognition, a program that teaches skaters of all ages fundamental figure-skating skills.

"Even though we started late, about

the third week of August," said Tracey Finnson, who has been coaching with the skating club for 15 years, "they're competing already."

Some of the skaters competed at Sectionals about three weeks ago.

"They came home with two medals from Sectionals," said Finnson, who also used to teaches skating in Riverton.

The Arborg arena will host the Manitoba Open figure skating competition Feb. 12-14, 2016.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Arborg's Sydney Burak, 9, is busy preparing for the Super Skate competition taking place this weekend in Winnipeg. Burak has been skating for six years and is looking forward to competing in front of her home town at the Manitoba Open competition in February.

Manitoba	Но	ock	ey	Sta	anc	lin	gs	AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE Eastman Wild	GP 20 18	W 19 16	L 0 1	OTL 0 0	PTS 39 33	GF 102 73	GA 28 22
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	Yellowhead	18	12	3	0	27	58	40
Portage Terriers	25	22	3	0	44	104	50	Thrashers	17	11	5	1	23	78	39
Winkler Flvers	24	19	4	1	39	105	51	Central Plains	17	9	6	0	20	59	51
Steinbach Pistons	24	16	6	2	34	97	66	Brandon	17	9	7	0	19	48	42
Winnipeg Blues	26	13	8	5	31	99	75	Kenora	17	8	8	1	17	53	60
Virden Oil Capitals	23	14	9	0	28	83	55	Southwest	16	7	7	1	16	57	61
OCN Blizzard	26	10	14	2	22	77	97	Interlake	18	6	12	0	12	40	77
Swan Valley Stampeder	s26	9	14	3	21	69	90	Parkland	17	4	11	0	10	47	76
Dauphin Kings	21	9	11	1	19	74	83	Pembina Valley	18	4	13	1	9	37	81
Selkirk Steelers	23	9	13	1	19	82	104	Norman	21	2	18	1	5	51	126
Waywayseecappo Wolverines		5	14	3	13	57	91	AAA CITY MIDGET							
Neepawa Natives	24	6	18	0	12	46	131	HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	w	Τ.	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
KEYSTONE HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	No stats available at pr		me	-	• • •			
North Division								AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	w	L	OTL	PTS	GE	GA
Peguis Juniors	12	11	1	0	22	91	32	Winnipeg Monarchs	14	14	0	0	28	86	28
OCN Storm	14	11	3	0	22	86	42	Winnipeg Warriors	11	8	2	õ	17	67	22
Cross Lake Islanders	13	7	6	0	14	78	74	Winnipeg Sharks	13	6	5	2	14	53	54
Fisher River Hawks	14	3	11	0	6	64	85	Eastman Selects	13	6	6	Ō	13	56	49
Norway House North Stars	16	1	15	0	2	52	162	Winnipeg Hawks	13	5	7	ĭ	11	44	43
South Division	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS		GA	Interlake Lightning	11	1	10	ò	2	19	58
Selkirk Fishermen	14	10	4	0	20	58	38	0 0		•		•	-		
St. Malo Warriors	14	9	3	2	20	65	55	MANITOBA FEMALE MI				_			-
Lundar Falcons	13	8	4	1	17	58	49	AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	Т	010	OTL	Pts
Arborg Ice Dawgs	15	7	7	1	15	70	58	Westman Wildcats	14	9	2	-	-	3	21
North Winnipeg Satelites	15	3	12	0	6	47	74	Central Plains	12	7	2	-	2	1	19
MANITOBA SENIOR								Yellowhead Chiefs	8	7	- 3	2	1	-	16
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS		GA	PV Hawks	11	6 5	3	2	2 2	-	16
Gimli	2	2	0	0	4	17	4	Winnipeg Avros	13 11	5 4	4 6	-	2	2	16
Lac du Bonnet	3	2	1	0	4	25	8	Eastman Selects	11 14	4	ь 12	-	-	1	9 4
Beausejour	3	1	2	0	2	14	22	Norman Wild	14 11	2	12	-	-	-	4
Stonewall	2	1	1	0	2	10	11	Interlake Lightning			11	-	-	-	-
Lakeside	2	0	2	0	0	2	23	STATS AS OF TUESDAY	NOV	26					



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The Rural Municipality of Gimli invites written applications for the position of **OPERATOR B**

This position will be under the supervision of the Manager of Public Works and Utility Operations. Duties will include utility repairs, operation of dump trucks, light and heavy equipment including but not limited to a 315 DL CAT track backhoe, loader, grader and various other duties.

Valid Class 1 with air endorsement drivers' license required

A minimum of 10 years' experience operating a track backhoe (size of 315DL CAT or equivalent) is required.

Candidate must be physically fit- able to lift at least 50 lbs.

Excellent communication and organizational skills, and a demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team environment are required.

The incumbent may be required to work shift work, including weekends, and to be on-call and/or available for any call out emergencies that may arise from time to time. Previous municipal and or heavy construction (sewer, water and LDS installation) experience will be

considered an asset.

Salary is in accordance with the Collective Agreement.

Resumes complete with 3 references will be received by the undersigned until 4:00 p.m. on December 18, 2015

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those individuals considered for an interview

Joann King, CMMA

Chief Administrative Officer

Rural Municipality of Gimli PO Box 1246, Gimli, MB ROC 1B0

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WEEKLY DEWS

cont. on next col. FARMERS & RANCHERS **Plan to attend the Bred Cow sale** Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. **Ashern Auction Mart** There will be 2 separate lots sold:

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Lakeshore School Division is accepting applications for a permanent Head Custodian at the Fisher Branch Early Years School and Fisher Branch Collegiate, commencing as soon as possible.

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Must be physically fit

 Must be capable of working from elevated platforms and ladders

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Monday to Friday (8 hours/day) Shift:

Salary:

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As soon as possible

A complete job description is available at the school.

Please submit a resume no later than Friday, December 4, 2015

As per Collective Agreement

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Mr Mark Parkes

Director of Operations & Infrastructure

Lakeshore School Division

Box 100

Eriksdale, MB ROC OWO

Phone: (204) 739-2101 Fax: (204) 739-2145

Email: parkesm@lakeshoresd.mb.ca

We thank all who applied for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Lakeshore School Division may contact former employers.

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Mini calzones



8 oz (250 g) lean ground beef

- 1/2 small yellow onion, diced
- 1 cup (250 mL) sliced mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4 tsp (20 mL) canola oil, divided 1/4 tsp (1 mL) dried Italian seasoning
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) freshly ground black pepper
- 14 oz (400 g) prepared pizza dough ¹/₂ cup (125 mL) shredded reducedfat mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup (250 mL) reduced-sodium marinara sauce, warmed

Directions:

In large non-stick skillet, brown

beef over medium heat until beef crumbles; drain and set aside. In separate large skillet, sauté onion, mushrooms and garlic in 1 tbsp (15 mL) and 1 tsp (5 mL) canola oil over medium heat 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in Italian seasoning and pepper. Add to ground beef and set aside.

Preheat oven to 450 °F (230 °C). Divide dough into eight pieces. Roll each dough piece into 3 inch (7.5 cm) diameter. Spoon beef mixture equally over half of each piece, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (1 cm) border. Top equally with cheese.

Fold dough over filling until edges almost meet. Bring bottom edges over top edges and crimp dough with fingers to form rim. Prick tops of calzones with fork to allow steam to escape. Place on large baking sheet lightly greased and floured. Brush each calzone with canola oil, if desired.

Bake in preheated oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve with warm marinara sauce.

Tip: You can make these one day ahead and heat before serving the next day. Lightly brush calzones with canola oil before placing in the oven for a nice golden colour and crisp texture. These calzones will keep in the refrigerator as leftovers.

The Skill: Taking Your Eating Habits on the Road



Part 3 At work, you may feel like a victim of circumstances as far as your eating habits go. As we've seen, research shows that

we tend to eat more food if it's readily available, when there's a greater variety to choose from, and when we have easy access to it. So when a tray of cookies is sitting on the conference room table during a meeting, or a bowl of candy is always filled to capacity on a colleague's desk, it can be difficult to resist. (By the way, you might consider whose hands have been in the bowl and where those hands have been. I'm just sayin'.) Think of it this way; you don't let anyone else decide what you'll wear on a given day or whether to take an umbrella if it looks like rain, so why would you let someone else decide what you should eat?

The ideal solution would be to involve your entire office in the quest to replace unhealthy snack options with healthier ones, such as a bowl of fresh fruit or fruit salad or a platter of raw vegetables and hummus, salsa, or guacamole. Try to work within your organization's management structure - many employers will welcome the chance to improve the health of their employees, since healthy employees will cost them less in health care costs and absenteeism in the long term.

If you can't succeed on that front, keep a stash of healthy snacks in your own desk – packaged instant (plain) oatmeal and small bags of fried cranberries or raisins and chopped walnuts; homemade energy mix with dried cherries, apricots, nuts, and a whole-grain cereal; or portable fruits such as apples, bananas, or oranges. This way, you can take a preemptive strike against hunger before meetings or bring your own healthy snack to the table; you'll also be less likely to dip into the communal candy dish. These healthy nibbles can even help you get through a long commute with your appetite control intact.

If you find it tempting to join in when you see others eating junk food at work, remove yourself from the workplace during mealtimes. Bring a healthy lunch and leave the office for a brisk walk, then eat your thoughtfully prepared food outside or in your car while listening to relaxing music. Time away may be just what the doctor ordered!

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Double Pork Party Sliders



Ingredients

- 4 New York pork chops, 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch thick
- 2 slices bacon 8 cocktail buns or 4 burger buns 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- Salt and pepper
- 4 tablespoons steak sauce
- Preparation Slice burger buns in half horizontally. If desired, toast or warm

through. Spread cut sides of buns with butter.



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enough bacon fat to coat bottom of pan, stirring occasionally. Push bacon to side of skillet and add chops. Sprinkle chops with salt and pepper. Cook chops for 3 to10 minutes or until lightly browned and cooked between 145°F (medium rare) to 160 degrees F (medium), turning once halfway through. Remove chops and bacon, draining bacon on paper towels and rest chops at least 3 minutes.

For cocktail buns, cut each chop in half for 8 pieces. Place chops in buns. Top chops with steak sauce and bacon strips.

Preparation Time 5 minutes



Cook Time 4 minutes Serves Yield:

8 appetizer sandwiches or 4 entrée sandwiches

Serving suggestion:

For gatherings, use smaller, cocktailsize buns available in the grocer's bakery. Offer coarse-grain mustard and halved dill pickles for sandwiches.







2015 Focus "SE" 4dr 0% - 84 MTHS **\$135 per/week**



S BACK

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*All prices are plus taxes and fees. See dealer for details

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2015 Focus 84 MTHS | 0 FINANCE CHARGES | \$750 CASH **ALT DOWN, INCLUDES ALL TAXES A** ND FEES



2016 Escape 84 MTHS | 2632.73 FINANCE CHARGES \$750 CASH ALT + \$1000 COSTCO DOWN, INCLUDES **ALL TAXES AND FEES** YOUR PRICES ARE AFTER ALL CASH **BACKS, PLUS TAXES**

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*All purchase prices are after all delivery allowances include all taxes and fees and freight. 96 months @4.99% bi-weekly payments. Lease payments are 48 months. Leases 20,000 km per year plus taxes. OAC. See dealer for details. Cash prices are after all rebates plus taxes and fees. Dealer Permit #5358.