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Dauphin Herald

Samantha Gallaway

A16 THE DAUPHIN HERALD TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

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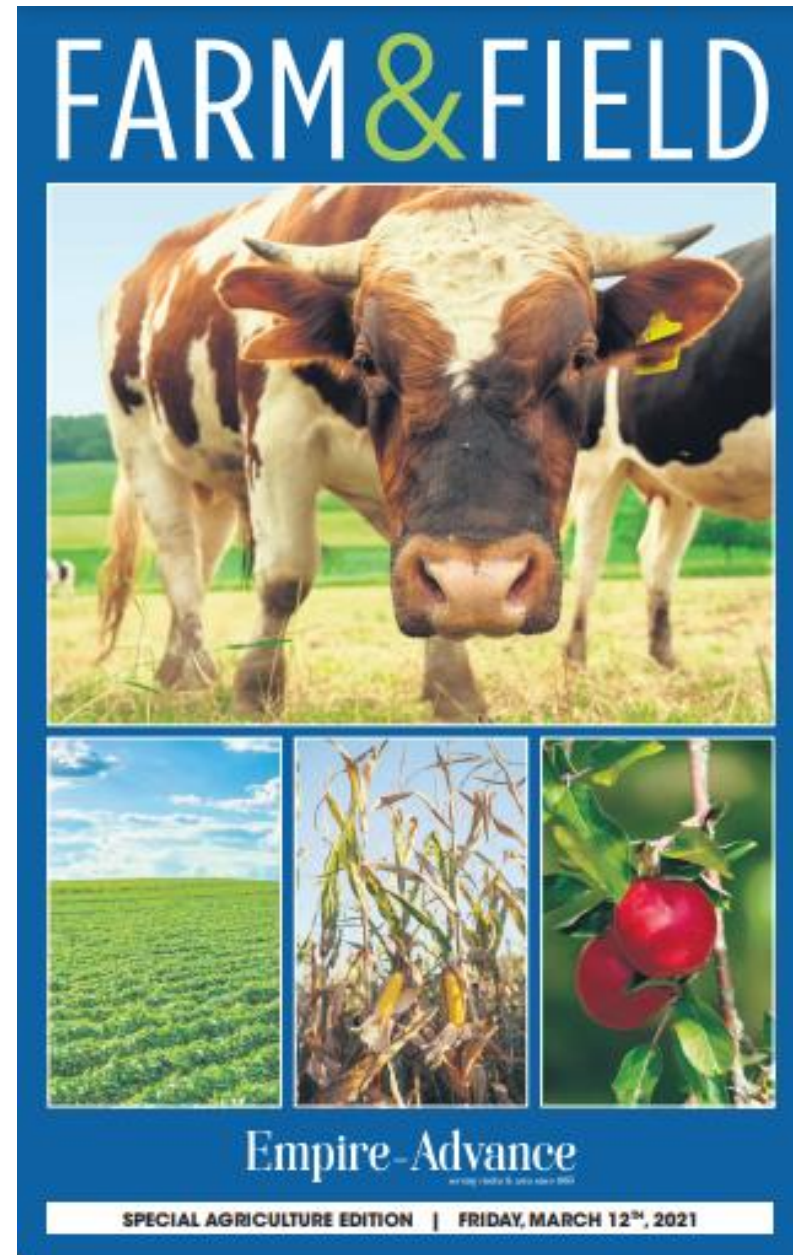
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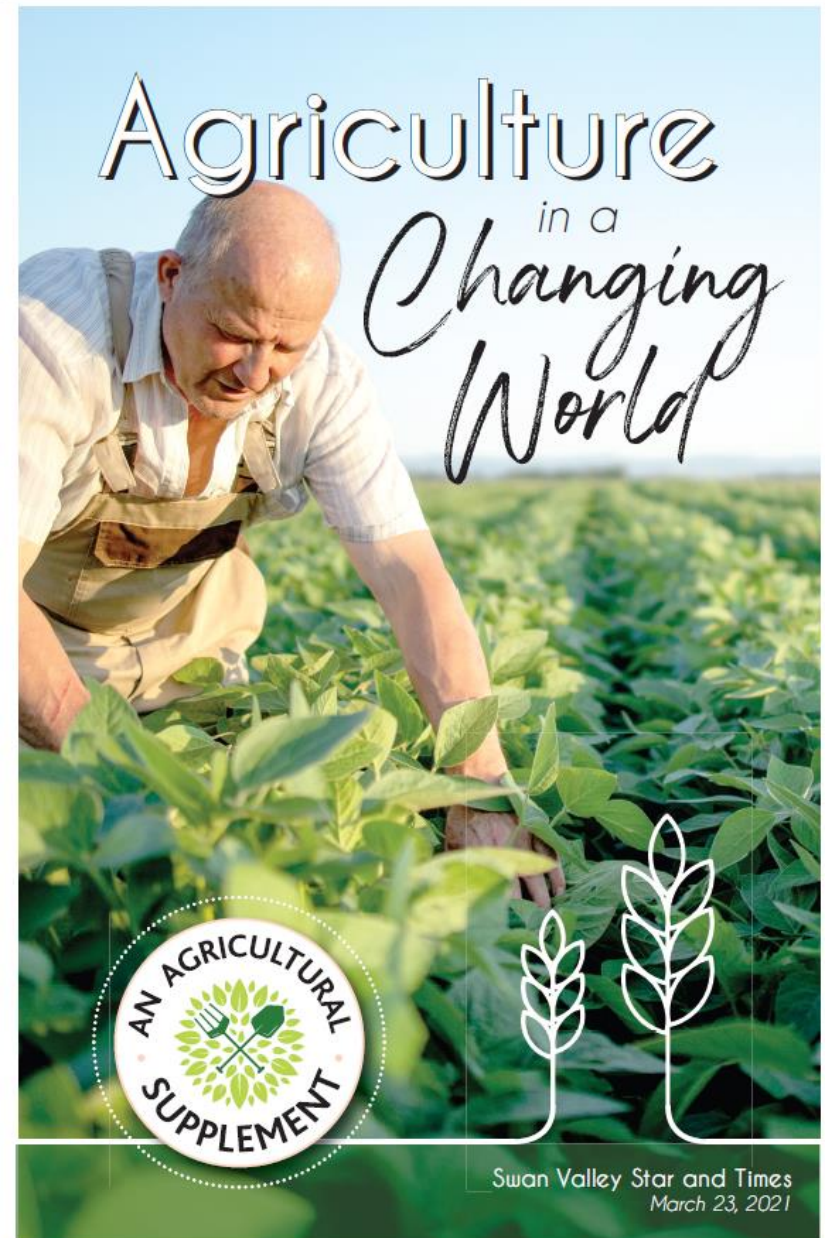
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THE CLIPPER WEEKLY

Vol. 30 No. 9

Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whittemouth, Reynolds and area

March 4, 2021

Beausejour's MB Ag office closed to public

Brokenhead reeve says proposed modernization of rural service will hurt local producers

By Mark T. Buss

Brokenhead Reeve Brad Saluk believes closing Beausejour's Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development (MARD) office to the public in what the province is calling a modernization of rural service delivery will have a negative impact on local producers and the community in general.

The Province of Manitoba recently announced sweeping changes to the MARD department and the Manitoba Agriculture Services Corporation (MASC) by closing 21 offices in rural communities, eliminating in-person service in nine additional towns and replacing it with online or phone help options.

While the 21 communities affected are primarily west of the Red River including Altona, Deloraine, Glenboro, Pilot Mound, Russell and Tisdale, Beausejour's office is one of the nine that will remain open but only as workspace for provincial agriculture staff. The site will be closed to public access. Luc du Bonnet will be one of five service locations focused on integrated resource management.

According to Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen, MARD will leverage existing synergies with MASC to offer a single window for Manitoba farmers and businesses seeking services provided by either organization while reducing their physical footprint. To support the multi-channel service delivery model, an interactive online chat program will allow clients to access real-time assistance from a smart phone, tablet, computer or through a toll-free number, which will be developed in the future, the minister noted.

Pedersen said the launch of the new rural service delivery model on April 1 is an effort to modernize services for clients whose needs and expectations have changed.

"The array of services that will be provided online, by telephone or in-person at agricultural service centres throughout the province will offer producers a convenient and client-focused means to access the programs and services that are available to them," said Pedersen. "By investing in resources and new ideas, we are... building capacity for future technological advances and elevating the client experience."

Saluk said Beausejour MARD office has been closed for a year due to COVID-19, forcing farmers to make agriculture-related connections online or over the phone out of necessity. He said producers were more than willing to make the adjustments on a temporary basis but said the need to go back to personal visits is important.

"This is the way business is being conducted right now, but producers would like to go back to normal," Saluk said. "It is very hard for us to deal in this non face-to-face (business) for parts and paperwork or whatever. You keep thinking more and more 'am I getting screwed?' because you can't talk to anyone, you can't walk around."

Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) president Bill Campbell said producers welcome the option to access forms, applications and information online, but the opportunity to meet face-to-face with specialists is integral.

"The ability to access quality services, reliable information and speak with specialists is essential to the strength of Manitoba's agriculture sector," Campbell

said. "Though we are assured that these measures will not impact staffing levels, our members are concerned about ongoing access to staff and have noted this issue for some time."

KAP welcomes the opportunity to participate in consultations regarding these tools because producers must continue to have access to the services, information and specialists they require," he added.

A producer himself, Saluk added previous customer service involved farmers coming in to town for a personal meeting, which creates economic spin-offs including purchasing groceries, eating in restaurants, shopping in retail outlets and buying fuel.

"There is a face-to-face element that can't be done by a Zoom meeting," Saluk said. "At the end of the day this is a loss for Beausejour and this is just going to be another nail in the coffin for many of these communities."

Manitoba Government Employees Union president Michelle Gawronsky agreed.

"These office closures will be a big blow to rural communities and their local economies," Gawronsky said. "The people who work in these offices support their families and local businesses. They shop at the local hardware store, buy groceries at the family run store, and have kids in school and sports."

With the MGEU representing 223 members at MASC locations across the province, Gawronsky added impacted employees have questions about where they will be working in the future, if they can stay in their home communities and which positions may be eliminated. This concern is underscored as these changes are to take effect the same day that the no-layoff clause in their collective



Reeve Brad Saluk said the provincial closures will negatively impact Beausejour and other rural communities.

agreement expires, she said.

"Will they need to move or commute to a distant community? Will they have a job? Our members in the many impacted communities are understandably anxious about this announcement and deserve answers about their future," Gawronsky said. "Now, too many farmers and rural business operators will have to settle for virtual services and travel further when they need in-person customer service."

A provincial spokesperson

said over the last two decades the province has grown their online offerings to the agriculture and food industry to more than 2,000 downloadable resources and increased options to interact online. The move saves clients time and travel and allows them to focus on growing their operation.

Luc du Bonnet MLA Wayne Ewanko said what the government has seen during the pandemic shut down is producers are still able to

See AG OFFICE on page 5

Best Agriculture
Story — 3rd
Beausejour
The Clipper Weekly
Mark T. Buss

JUNE IS TURKEY MONTH IN MANITOBA

Let's talk turkey

By Tyler Searle

In 1952, two brothers hatched a plan to start a turkey farm on a plot of land four kilometers west of Carleton Place.

Nearly 70 years and three generations later, the Charlsons Turkey Hatchery is one of the largest turkey hatcheries in Canada and still family-owned and operated.

Sam and Alex (pronounced Alec) Charlson started with a few meat birds, a flock of broiler hens and an informal agreement to produce eggs for a hatchery in Winnipeg.

"They were shipping eggs, and after about six weeks, the guy said, 'I got too many eggs, I don't need yours,'" recalls Curtis Charlson, son of Sam Charlson and owner of the Charlsons Turkey Hatchery.

"He said, 'do whatever you want with them, but I'm not taking the eggs.'"

Left in a hatch with thousands of eggs and no way to incubate them, Sam and Alex took it upon themselves to find a solution, Curtis continues.

The brothers purchased two used incubators/hatchers that they saw in the Manitoba Co-op and the Charlsons Turkey Hatchery story began.

The Charlsons now had two incubators but no electricity to run them. So, they struck a deal with their neighbour Harold Cameron who had a dairy farm and electricity.

"He said, 'well, there's room in the corner of the barn here, if you want to put these there and plug them in—go ahead,'" Curtis recalls.

The men produced eggs on their farm and incubated them at the neighbour's—eventually half a mile

in each direction every four hours to turn the eggs. Curtis remembers his father sharing the story of how his dad paid \$25 for hydro that year.

The following year Manitoba Hydro installed an electrical line on the Charlsons property.

In 1952, there were 28 turkey hatcheries across Manitoba, with each one vying for its share of the market. That year, the Charlsons hatched 13,000 baby turkeys, known in the industry as poult.

Today, the hatchery produces between 7.5 to 8 million poult annually. It can hatch 13,000 in three hours and is the second-largest hatchery in Canada.

Suffice to say, the operation has evolved over the years, and any time you eat turkey today, there is a very good chance it originated from the Charlsons.



The fertilized eggs are stored in a temperature-controlled room for up to 20 days before being placed in the incubators.



The incubators are all controlled electronically to control temperature, humidity, ventilation and egg turning cycle.

The modern facility consists of the hatchery, a shop and a truck bay.

Close to the shop, the Charlsons have a commercial turkey farm that produces birds strictly for processing. Two grower barns where birds reach maturity, and two-layer barns where staff collect eggs.

Silver Turkey Breeders, Bay Shore Farms, Frontier Farms, Redrock Farms and Stonewall Turkey Breeders also work as contract farms, grow turkeys and produce eggs for the hatchery.

The hens spend 33 weeks inside the growing barns



cameron and curtis charlson with thousands of eggs.

before reaching maturity. Once they start their laying cycle, they move to the layer barn, where they are artificially inseminated on a weekly basis and produce eggs for up to 32 weeks.

While inside the barns, birds roam freely with 24/7 access to food, water and fresh air.

The Charlsons carefully choose their staff when hiring and ensure that everyone knows the importance of their ILAW protocol - food, clean litter, loss of fresh air and clean water.

The Charlsons' primary concern is always the welfare of their birds, said third-generation turkey farmer Cameron Charlson.

Cameron works in the hatchery and manages their two broiler barns alongside his father Curtis to ensure the daily operations run smoothly—it's a responsibility he takes seriously.

The Charlsons protect their barns and hatchery with stringent biosecurity protocols, which require employees and visitors to remove their clothing and footwear and take a shower before entering each barn.

This process ensures the birds' health and prevents the spread of viruses such as the avian flu, said Cameron.

"The better job we do of taking care of our birds, the better job they're going to do of laying eggs."

Every bird can lay four to five eggs per week, and the collection process is largely automated. Hens are naturally inclined to seek privacy when they lay, so they enter specialized pens on their own accord.

Once inside, a door closes behind them to prevent other birds from entering. After 45 minutes, a mechanized plate raises the hen out and collects her egg.

A conveyor belt transfers the eggs into another area where staff date and assess their integrity—ensuring they have no cracks and are a proper size.

Healthy eggs move on to the hatchery.

The hatchery houses 42 incubators, with each capable of storing 28,000 eggs. Rows of incubators line the hallways. Electronic alarms blare out periodically, alerting staff of fluctuations in humidity or temperature and a strong current of fresh air streams through vents in the ceiling.

The hatchery can process as many as 42,000 poult in one day.

After 25 days of incubating at an average temperature of 99 degrees F, staff transfer the eggs into a hatcher where the eggs will remain for the next three days.

"Once we transfer the eggs over and put them into the hatchers, then we're going in there and manually checking to see what stage the birds are at," said Cameron.

The staff assess the hatchers four times per day to monitor the eggs and poult. They can adjust temperature and humidity levels to soften the shells and facilitate the hatching process.

Contrary to popular belief, poult do not pack their way out of their eggs. The birds hatch using a temporary egg tooth on the tip of their beak, which they use to saw out of their shells. The process takes approximately 20 minutes and resembles a can-opener effect.

From the hatchers, birds move on to be sexed and sorted for shipping.

A team identifies the sex of the poult and separates the toms and hens and counts them into groups of 100.

The entire sorting and sorting process takes less than one second, and the Charlsons take pride in their staff's 99.5 per cent accuracy rate, said Cameron.

Usually, these birds are ready to be shipped.

"Our biggest strength is our team of management and our dedicated staff who show up daily that make this place run," said Curtis.

The Charlsons employ just under 100 staff, including 11 drivers who operate a fleet of 18 poult delivery vehicles—ranging from vans to 48' trailers.

The delivery trucks are temperature-controlled and fitted with vents to allow ample airflow during transit. Drivers operate them in tandem, alternating between sleeping and driving. The longest trip for the poult would be those travelling to Vancouver Island. The poult will arrive at their new farms within 36 hours of being hatched.

Each poult has a yolk sac that provides enough nutrients for up to five days, so the birds never go hungry.

Charlson's turkeys travel to family and commercial farms across western Canada and into the U.S. When the turkeys reach maturity, most are harvested for their meat for grocery stores, restaurants, and homes.

Hens will finish between 10-20 lbs and are more suitable served whole for turkey dinner, while toms are typically 40-50 lbs and are separated into cuts of meat.

Amusement parks like Disney World sell whole turkeys, while chain restaurants such as Subway use processed meat most in their sandwiches.

Turkey isn't only a festive meal of the holiday season, but it can benefit your overall well-being throughout the year. It is a powerhouse of many nutrients and contains minimum fat and cholesterol content. Turkey comes with amazing health benefits that include strengthening the immune system, boosting metabolism, maintaining psychological health, and supporting weight loss. It also promotes cardiovascular health, is a good source of protein, supports teeth and bone health, maintains cholesterol levels, manages diabetes, treats anemia and promotes healthy skin.

The Charlsons Turkey Hatchery is one of the largest employers in the Teulon, Carleton Place and Richmond Hill area. It has employed not only the Charlsons but their friends, neighbours, and community members for generations.

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FEATURE - CHARLSON TURKEY HATCHERY



Charlson turkey hatchery will be celebrating 70 years since their first batch of poult in 2022.

The Charlsons show their gratitude in the form of community donations. Their most significant contributions being toward the Fireman's Hall and the Christmas Cheer Club.

"Basically, anything that comes up locally here we end up being a part of

and supporting," said Cameron. The Charlsons Turkey Hatchery will soon enter its 70th year with no signs of slowing. The Charlson family hopes to keep the legacy alive for many decades—and generations—to come.



Grilled Herb-Infused Turkey Pieces

Ingredients:

- 3.5 lbs (1.5 kg) turkey cuts (drumsticks, breasts, skinless breast or thighs)
- 2 tbs (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbs (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- 3 tbs (45 ml) fresh poultry herbs, (oregano, thyme, rosemary & parsley)
- 1 tbs (15 ml) garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tbs (15 ml) shallots, finely chopped
- 1/2 tbs (2.5 ml) sea salt
- 1/4 tbs (1 ml) ground pepper

Instructions:

Preheat barbecue to 375°F (180°C). Combine all ingredients in a bowl to make rub and coat turkey well. Grill pieces over indirect heat. Pouch should be turned once after 30 minutes. Pieces are cooked when a digital thermometer reaches 170°F (77°C). Remove from grill, cover loosely with foil and let stand for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Find more recipes & cooking tips at: turkeytribune.com



curtis and cameron inspect a shipment of toms headed to the u.s. on wednesday.



once the poult breaks the shell, it uses a beak tooth on its beak to saw its way out. Within three days, most of the eggs have hatched and the turkeys are on their way to their former farms.



Best Agriculture Story – 2nd
Stonewall Teulon Tribune - Tyler Searle

Best Agriculture Story – 1st

Shoal Lake – Crossroads This Week

Brenda Hunter

Canadian agriculture meets big pharma

>> How a little-known contribution by the livestock sector played a vital role in saving the life of Birtle's Avery Hopp

BRENDA HUNTER
For CrossroadsThis Week

Little Avery Hopp of Birtle, recently celebrated her second birthday. Like most two-year-olds, the occasion was marked with much love and celebration from her family and friends as another milestone in her young life was reached. But unlike most other two-year-olds, for her parents, Haley Johnston and Tyrrell Hopp, the celebration was just a little bit sweeter and cherished just a little bit more. For this birthday, and all of her birthdays to follow, the day is a vivid reminder of the pure miracle of her life itself. And for good reason, Avery was born prematurely on March 1, 2019 at just 27 weeks, 2 days.

What makes this story even more significant from an agricultural perspective, is that a little-known contribution by the livestock sector played a vital role in saving Avery, and babies like her. Despite the fact that it is now so commonly used in NICUs across North America, yet is so underappreciated by the public at large, Avery's parents were not even initially aware of its existence. You see, Avery, like most premature babies, received a treatment shortly after birth called BLEES, which stands for bovine lipid extract surfactant (BLEES), a unique substance made up of fats and proteins which is found in the lungs. In other words, she was treated with lung surfactant harvested from a cow.

With a normal term baby being born at approximately 40 weeks, 27 weeks gestation is considered very premature. The good news is that according to statistics, fewer than one percent of babies are born this early. The even better news is that most babies (80%) who reach this stage of gestation do survive with no neurological problems, of which Avery is living proof.

SUFFICIENT SURFACTANT

Since the lungs are the last major organ to finish developing in an unborn fetus, a good majority of premature babies are born without sufficient surfactant in their lung tissues, which



Avery with parents Haley Johnston and Tyrrell Hopp

is crucial for breathing. Surfactant works as a lubricant in our lungs which keeps the tiny alveoli (air sacs) from collapsing upon exhalation. When a baby is born without this much needed surfactant, it further exacerbates their breathing process as they struggle to re-inflate collapsed airways. This is called Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS).

"Surfactant is a phospholipid produced by specialized cells in our lungs," said Deb Fraser, a neonatal nurse practitioner working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. Boniface Hospital. "The analogy that I like to use is that surfactant is like Teflon on a frying pan – it keeps things from sticking together. Alveoli are like balloons – they take effort to inflate the first time and, if they are wet inside, the walls stick together and it's very difficult to inflate them."

Enter the livestock industry.

Vigorous research into RDS was initiated as early as 1963 when the son of then President of the U.S., John F. Kennedy, was delivered at

35 weeks gestation and subsequently died at two days of age due to RDS. Trials began the very next year with such much success. Then, in 1972, it was discovered by a researcher at the University of Western Ontario located in London, ON by the name of Dr. Fred Possmayer, that lung surfactant could be successfully harvested from animals, including cattle and pigs. He later teamed up with Dr. David Björnsdóttir and Dr. Harold Nigh to further investigate the potential for this product. They founded a company by the name of BLEES Biochemicals Inc. and made it their life's mission to manufacture and supply surfactant to save premature babies across Canada and eventually the world. The first infant treated with BLEES in a trial back in 1983 proved to be a monumental breakthrough for the medical community. Wide-spread use of animal-derived surfactant began in earnest following this discovery. Although BLEES is one of many surfactants available, it is unique in that there is no generic form of this product; it is harvested solely from the lungs

of cattle.

"There are now a number

of animal-derived surfactants used to treat newborns

and (they) come from both cow and pig lungs," reported Fraser, who always delivers to determine the babies that would benefit from receiving the surfactant, and then administering it.

She continued, "In premature infants with RDS, animal-derived surfactant is given through a tube inserted into the trachea soon after birth to improve gas exchange and reduce the need for mechanical ventilation."

NEONATAL NURSE

Fraser definitely knows what she is talking about. She was raised on a farm near the community of Franklin, MB and sees the value and importance of BLEES and the contributions of the cattle industry for this very special population of babies. First-hand, every single day of her life. She has been a neonatal nurse and nurse practitioner for 40 years and has written three textbooks including one on respiratory care in premature infants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18-B

AVERY, LIKE MOST PREMATURE BABIES, RECEIVED A TREATMENT SHORTLY AFTER BIRTH CALLED BLEES, WHICH STANDS FOR BOVINE LIPID EXTRACT SURFACTANT (BLEES). IN OTHER WORDS, SHE WAS TREATED WITH LUNG SURFACTANT HARVESTED FROM A COW

Best Arts and Culture Story – 3rd

Killarney Guide

Kim Langen



The Guide

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Volume 128 • Number 26 • Friday, March 26, 2021 • \$1.40 Per Copy (G.S.T. Incl.)

Hoping for movies on the big screen this summer

Killarney's
Shamrock
Drive-In theatre
could re-open
gates in 2021

By Kim Langen

The sun is shining, fresh air movies might soon be illuminating the night at the old drive-in theatre.

Owners of the 1950s Shamrock Drive-In, Joanne and Darren Struss, have been forging ahead this past year to bring the theatre back to life, including the erection of four shipping containers to create a tornado-proof screen.

"It makes me happy to see the new screen up," said Joanne Struss. "Our kids absolutely love it. But I won't be going up the ladder again to paint the top one with another coat of white paint. That was pretty hairy. What would our first movie be? Wouldn't it be cool to show Gone with the Wind? We will play what ever is available."

The last new release film shown at the theatre, just south on Hwy. 218, was 'Cinderella,' said Struss, and that was five years ago.

"We ran some older films on our old 15mm projector that year too, sometimes on just a partial screen," said Struss. "At the end of June last December blew off in a tornado, and one big support post came down, after being hit by lightning and lighting. In July we had around 200 people come in to the drive-in to help us as we shot a video that we were making for fundraising."

Fundraising had been seen during 2015 and 2016 to help the Struss family find a way to purchase a modern digital format

projector for the theatre, an expensive but integral upgrade needed in order to stay in the movie business.

"We raised just around \$6,000 over the two years, through FundRazr, and including a cash pay-out made by our insurance company for the lost screen, and all of that went into the new projector," said Struss. "And while we were doing the FundRazr drive, we were giving out 'perks' to the donors. I still have those perks to give out; they are kind of like gift certificates. There are maybe 25 to 50 of them that we still have here. I will be putting the names of those recipients out on Facebook and Instagram

soon, and people will be able to come in and pick them up, or we can hold them here at the drive-in for them, or I could mail them out."

One savvy moviegoer has been the couple are seeking at the moment is a newer popcorn popper for moviegoers' takeaway treat.

"It would be great to replace the old popcorn machine. If we can find one," said Joanne Struss. "This one overheats pretty quick and burns the popcorn. When we are showing movies, the vintage popcorn machine goes non-stop all night. We are looking for a good used one, because this one is not in too bad a way. A new one would be over

board."

Finding a modern-day solution to replace the old screen of the past took years to solve. Darren Struss was determined to find one that would withstand hurricane force winds, and the power of a tornado.

And late October, in unseasonably fine weather, a quartet of enormous sea shipping containers began arriving at the highway location.

"If we got another tornado, we want something we can run around, not away from," he said last fall.

But the move to provide moviegoers with a high personal price.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



BIG PLANS FOR THE SUMMER – Now that their newly painted big screen (created using four shipping containers) is up and ready, Joanne Struss (above), co-owner of the Shamrock Drive-In, has high hopes that movies under the stars will be coming back this summer. **TORNADO AFTERMATH** – Below, right: Husband Darren Struss grimaces amongst the June 2016 tornado wreckage, after a violent storm ripped a large portion of the old screen down. Visit killarneyguide.ca for more photos and to share this story.



SENIORS ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR VACCINES - 8

ONLINE EQUIPMENT SALE STILL A HOT TICKET - 12

LOCAL HYDRO WORKERS HIT THE PACKET LINE - 13

Best Arts and Culture Story – 2nd

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SAWDUST AND PAINT

CYNTHIA WURTZ, A HUTTERITE MEMBER
WITH OAK RIVER HUTTERITE COLONY,
CREATES BEAUTIFUL WOOD MOSAICS
FOR HER BUSINESS, DECOR BY C.

By RACHEAL FLINTOFT South Mountain Press

There's a noise, sharp and of pine as sawdust dances out of the workshop. At the helm of a motor saw, Cynthia Wurtz, a Hutterite member with Oak River Hutterite Colony, is busy in her shop creating a beautiful wood mosaic for her business, Decor by C.

"Colony and community are one and the same," she smiled. "But I also love my time of creating."

Wurtz lives in Oak River Hutterite Colony located at kilometre southeast of Hinton. There are 60 members, many from Sweden, in the colony. According to Wurtz, her colony is on the smaller scale as for a colony.

"We're very much encouraged as that helps us fill our own time," she said as she made it she saw cut into the wood. "Of course, in a constructive way."

I mentioned artist Wurtz's staining art on my social media network, and for some reason I became instantly interested. The intricate wood pieces all cut, stained, and painted by her very own hands, transported and measured in the double mosaic masterpiece finished as a result. But seeing an independent, skilled businesswoman who also happens to be a Hutterite... all preconceived notions faded as I delved into an intimate

look at the artist.

At present, an estimated 100,000 Hutterites live in Canada, this according to data recorded in the 2016 Canadian census. Across the country, roughly 100 Hutterite colonies exist, and Manitoba has an estimated 110 of them. Oak River Colony is a subgroup of Schmiedelei, which is largely located in Manitoba. The Schmiedelei branch is considered the most progressive of the Hutterite colonies. The modern Hutterites are found in Saskatchewan, and the colonies in Alberta are the traditional Hutterites.

"I would say that we're one of the more progressive colonies," Wurtz added. "The colony absolutely supports my endeavour. Almost all of them have done a delivery for me as some parts, brought supplies or helped out in some other way."

She was in the middle of making a mountain mosaic, inspired with a robin's egg blue sky, and hardwood grey mountains with snow-white peaks.

Between businesses now run, she looked up at her many glasses balanced at the end of her nose.

"I've loved working with wood ever since I can remember," Wurtz beamed. "It's a continuing process to me."

As an artist at heart, she

appreciates every opportunity to work with a variety of mediums – wood as well as coloured paints, especially watercolor. However her clip of the brush sends a be in acrylic due to the art she makes for her business with the occasional mill paint as well.

Measuring her last run Wurtz grabbed the stick a pine, measuring in a repetitive motion as split down into the wood she needs. One by one, they start a take form as she intricately cut down the pattern.

"Acrylic sends a huge and cover the wood whereas milk paint shows into the wood and sends a art more like a stain with a matte finish," Wurtz explained. "There is quite a bit of work to get to the end product."

In the past I've seen similar signs and mosaic pieces at Manitou's South St. Putting it all two are one together, I had no idea that these were also created by Decor by C until I looked at the larger catalogue in her art online. Common to her common - inspirational painting, and sculpture - with thousands of social media followers and hundred of devoted customers, the renowned Hutterite artist from Oak River was taking the world by storm.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Local craftsman replicates traditional Red River cart

By Tyler Searle

With a practiced eye, Vinko Saric, 75, assesses a miniature wheel hub fashioned from a wooden dowel. He extends the piece to his wife, Linda St. Cyr-Saric, 70, who inspects his handiwork.

The couple builds replica Red River carts in their home; this wheel represents just one step in the intricate process. Red River carts are a historical staple of Métis culture. The broad, two-wheeled carts were made entirely of wood and used to transport goods and people across the Prairies in the 19th century.

Today, they are a symbol of Métis ingenuity and craftsmanship.

Saric, a Croatian emigrant, was introduced to the distinct Métis wagons during an unorthodox date with his wife in 2012.

St. Cyr-Saric is an elder and former chair of the St. Norbert Métis council. Eager to share her culture with Saric, she invited him to join her on a five-day journey alongside members of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

They travelled by horse and cart from Emerson to St. Norbert, re-enacting a traditional Métis expedition. At night, the troupe made camp in tents, with some of the party even opting to sleep outside under the carriages.

"The spirits of the ancestors were with us," St. Cyr-Saric said.

The trip inspired Saric's admiration for the robust wagons. He felt a familiar connection to the Métis culture, he said.

"I was raised in a farming community. We worked hard for all we had and relied on wagons that were different but similar," he said.

Saric commits enormous effort into keeping the carts historically accurate. Each one requires between 10 and 12 hours to produce. He cuts the wooden pieces to spec himself but uses glue to fasten the replicas together — rather than the traditional sinew.

"The importance of these (replicas) is in the history and



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY TYLER SEARLE
Vinko Saric and his wife Linda St. Cyr-Saric pose in front of a massive photo of Saric's home city, Pula, Croatia. In the foreground sits one of their handmade Red River carts, complete with a Métis flag.

what they mean to Métis culture," Saric said.

The most elaborate aspect is the wheel design. Every spoke is inset at a 10-degree angle to replicate the trademark dish wheels of the original carts — a feature which added stability and allowed Métis traders to deftly manoeuvre through mud and marsh.

"These were the original all-terrain vehicle," St. Cyr-Saric said.

Saric and St. Cyr-Saric have produced 680 replica carts, and some have found homes in exciting places.

The couple has spotted one sitting on the desk of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during televised appearances. And MMF officials placed another on the gravesite of Louis Riel in St. Boniface.

Last November, the Louis Riel Institute, an adult learning and literacy centre in Winnipeg, commissioned 500 of the replica wagons.

Sharon Parenteau, 55, the general manager at the institute, described the carts as an amazing initiative and said she was stunned by their authenticity. She appreciates Saric's commitment to the craft.

"He (Vinko) knows everything about the carts — their exact dimensions," she said.

The institute plans to incorporate the carts into their Métis educational resource kits and distribute them to schools. They are a valuable learning tool to help connect people to Métis culture, Parenteau said.

So far, the couple has completed 100 carts from the order. What began as a retirement hobby for the Stonewall couple morphed into a full-time commitment, but Saric



Vinko Saric shows off three finished Red River cart wheels. The intricate wheels consist of six separate pieces, and each one can take hours to complete.

doesn't mind the work, and he is happy his carts are making such an impact, he said.

The couple sells the carts under the business name V & L Red River Carts. They come in three sizes and range in price from \$125 to \$150.

Although he has more than enough work on his hands, Saric can be reached via email at vsaric@shaw.ca by people interested in buying a replica.

Best Arts and Culture
Story – 1st

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

Tyler Searle

Best Christmas Edition – 3rd Shoal Lake Crossroads This Week

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CROSSROADS, MANITOBA CROSSROADS, CROSSROADS, MANITOBA & CROSSROADS ONLINE

Spreading cheer in Prairie View Municipality

RACHEAL FLINTOFF
Crossroads This Week

Prairie View Municipality (PVM) is keeping kindness in the forefront this holiday season, encouraging Christmas goodwill and festive spirit through a municipality-wide Random Acts of Kindness Challenge.

"Kindness is only a thought away, and it has layers of generosity, compassion, empathy, and consideration towards others," explained Martyn Lambie, recreation director with PVM's Valley Recreation. "I'd like to encourage everyone to take part in the challenge in any capacity they are able to."

The challenge outlines 16 different and fun activities that can be done over the holiday season, suggesting tasks such as volunteering, doing a chore for someone, holding the door open for a stranger, or just simply saying thank you.

"The list is only a guideline to get you started, your own act is the continuation of really getting into the spirit of the holidays," Lambie said. "Even if you finish an item, try it again because there are no limits to small acts of kindness that you can offer to each other."

Any resident in PVM can participate, either individually or as a group – the more the merrier.

The Christmas season can be a difficult time for many – so that regard, the challenge promises a large sense of unity, generosity, and care.

SEE: NEVER UNDERESTIMATE, PAGE 2-A

"Even if you just complete one item from the list, you would be surprised by the ripple effect that one gesture can have to another person!"
Martyn Lambie



DENIED!

DARRELL NESBITT/CROSSROADS THIS WEEK

Yellowhead Chiefs forward Owen Ruffel of Grande is denied on a point blank opportunity by Brandon Wheat Kings goaltender Mason Lobosov during Manitoba U18 Hockey League action in Shoal Lake on Friday, Dec. 16. Yellowhead knocked off the first place Wheat Kings with a 4-3 shootout win on the night, largely due to an outstanding 46 save performance from Jase Warham in goal which set the stage for Ryan Gage's shootout winner. Through 36 games this season, Brandon has still yet to lose in regulation. Yellowhead, meanwhile, currently sits in seventh place in the 15-team league, two points up on the eighth place Winnipeg Jr. Bruins. For more, see story on page 15-A.

Regional museums receive added funding

RACHEAL FLINTOFF
Crossroads This Week

Three more community museums across the region are receiving provincial support from the Community Museums Grants Program.

The Shoal Lake Mounted Police Museum will receive \$1,300 in grant funding, as well as the Struthair Museum, and the Manitoba Antique Automobile Museum in Killarney each receiving \$3,150.

"The Community Museums

Grant will be used for operating costs," explained Barbara Fetting, secretary for the Shoal Lake Mounted Police Museum. "This particular grant does not require a specific project but is there to help with day-to-day expenses."

Since the onset of the pandemic, tourism has been one of the hardest hit industries, impacting all museums across the region. Many were forced to close their doors for a long, and extended period, leaving independent museums especially see-

ing financial challenges in both the 2020-21 operating years. Relying on busy seasonal times to support operating costs, grant opportunities serve as an important supplement to keep museum doors open.

"The extraordinary times that we are experiencing due to COVID-19 have reminded us that the efforts to preserve and promote Manitoba's rich and diverse heritage are invaluable," said Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Cathy Cox. "Museum activities to protect and interpret

Manitoba's heritage resources ensure that our understanding and appreciation of the province's history contributes to our sense of identity and community spirit."

Community museums play an important role to preserve, and teach about culture, as well as our historical record. Through offering access to these facilities, museums enrich the educational understanding for the present and future generations to come.

SEE: BUDGET WORK, PAGE 2-A

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be Merry and Bright!*

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Steinbach The Carillon



Best Christmas Edition – 1st

Swan Valley
Star and Times

FUNDING ANNOUNCED: Teachers' Ideas Fund to improve education opportunities, A3

IN TOWN: U15 AAA Rangers host Pembina Valley Hawkes in weekend game, B1

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SWAN RIVER, MANITOBA • VOL. 121 • NO. 51 • 72 PAGES • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021



A number of Main Street businesses are left picking up the pieces after a series of weeks of criminal activities has led to a slew of broken windows down and just off Swan River's main drag. Boarded up windows can be seen at businesses such as RMO Motors, Extra Foods, The Forks, Red Apple and Valley Baking with reports of a break into Red Road Company's drop-in spot which posted online, "It gets people's attention when things like this happen," said RCMP Sgt. Steve Hanson. "With the broken windows, it's been a bit of a mixed bag with some instances being broken and enter and some being mischief or hit-and-run damage. There's a lot of factors at play that are leading to this - a bit of a cross-section that is coming to ahead. There's also crime, homeless men and the fact that some people aren't participating in crime. Unfortunately, while in one of the peaks in crime," he continued, noting that crime ebbs and flows with peaks and troughs. "This kind of year is typical of peak. When doing everything we can to monitor the situation and are facing it car happen anytime - day or night. Having the COP program has been so important. They have been eyes and ears for reporting it right away. The Swan Valley is very active with lots of groups and organizations working together to get across some issues and they have some really great ideas. But, unfortunately, there are long-term solutions. RCMP encourage business owners, or any property owners, to consider quality camera systems as well as audible alarms. Other simple actions - like having well lit area or and exterior - can also deter crime from your property.

STAR AND TIMES. DANIELLE DO ROCH-BROCKIE AND CODY BRANCH-OTTIE

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Pineland Nursery cannabis plan up in smoke

By Mark T. Buss

Plans to grow cannabis products at the former Pineland Forest Nursery near Stukelyville have gone to pot, according to the Province of Manitoba.

On Oct. 29, the office of Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Ralph Eichler advised The Clipper the lease on the property involving Botanist Organic Growers Corp. (BOGC) was terminated effective Sept. 23 with BOGC still owing \$500,000.

"While the province entered into the agreement with Botanist Organic Growers Corp. in good faith... it has become clear that BOGC is unable to fulfil its obligations," the statement read. "Manitoba owns the land and is proceeding to conclude its dealings with BOGC after which Manitoba will be exploring new options for the site."

"We are very disappointed," said Ed of Reynolds Serve Trade

Turkyn, noting the cannabis facility was expected to provide 25 to 30 full-time and seasonal jobs. "What was promised and what was received were two completely different things."

Founded in 1933, Pineland Forest Nursery was originally established to produce seedlings for Manitoba but expanded to supply customers in central Canada and the northern U.S. Its seedlings were typically used to reforest areas where timber had been harvested.

The Pineland site is a massive facility. It has 67 greenhouses, including one large greenhouse on acre in size, on a seven-acre parcel of land. It also has 100 acres of growing area.

BOGC purchased the provincial tree-growing nursery when the province put out a request for proposal to find a buyer for Pineland's assets in 2018. With much fanfare following the purchase, BOGC claimed they would create up to 200 jobs and make the Ed of Reynolds site

a major player in the then fledgling cannabis industry. The company reportedly paid \$1.41 million for the nursery.

The province advised they received payment for the property, and BOGC also paid the province a monthly lease fee. The company did not control the entire site. The province retained the research areas for its own research of the University of Winnipeg.

The site was to be used for cannabis production and processing. The hemp there was to be grown to contain negligible amounts of psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Instead, the company was to target hemp for its cannabidiol (CBD) material — a non-intoxicating cannabinoid found in cannabis plants with useful properties as an anti-inflammatory, analgesic, anti-anxiety and cancer-suppressant.

At the time of purchase, Botanist Organic said it planned to make the Pineland Nursery the largest indoor CBD producer in the world. Jobs would be created in the production, marketing, research and sales of CBD. The company also promised to invest tens of millions of dollars into processing facilities, as well as in research and development.

But with no developments on the property, the province remained "unable to proceed" except for some ongoing work by the provincial government. Turkyn said there



The province has advised the lease with Botanist Organic Growers Corp. was terminated effective Sept. 23 with \$500,000 still owing.

were local concerns that the nursery's buildings were being left to deteriorate.

"We want everyone to know that our dedication and excitement for this project hasn't changed," Botanist Organic Growers Corp. said in a statement in 2019. "We expect to have more news to share about operations in the weeks to come."

The statement went on to say the company had "been at work on a number of fronts to make it operational" and that they "expected to have a crop in the ground by now, but we have faced some unavoidable administrative delays."

The company did not

elaborate on the nature of the nursery's buildings or the delays at the time.

Industry sources pointed from the outset the company would have many hoops to jump through before it could be licensed to start production.

Eichler's office noted "businesses in all sectors of the economy have experienced significant challenges during this COVID-19 pandemic and the province is sympathetic, however, BOGC failed to provide an acceptable plan to move forward."

Turkyn said the loss of the tree nursery appears to be a straightforward move by the province in her opinion as locations across Canada

are in need of trees due to timber shortages and increasing numbers of wildfires.

Turkyn said the municipality over time had reached out to Botanist Organic to discuss the facility and future plans but they really had no correspondence with the company.

"We invited them to come out and meet with us, we sent several follow up emails and phone calls but they never even responded," Turkyn said. "Hopefully someone there will be more locally responsible."

— with files from Ed
Reynolds

Best Column or Feature Article on a Business Topic – 3rd
Beausejour - The Clipper Weekly
Mark T. Buss

Grocery store managers reflect on pandemic year

by JORDAN ROSS

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, managers of Steinbach's two largest grocery stores are looking back on a rollercoaster year that posed new challenges to staff and shoppers alike.

Lee Kotowicz, franchise owner-operator of Sobeys, said the past year demanded "a bigger focus on the customer experience."

That entailed not only more cleaning and sanitation measures, but also paying closer attention to the day-to-day actions of government.

"Learning what code orange and red is, that's something that we never had to know before."

By and large, Kotowicz said consumers stopped panic buying once they realized grocery stores wouldn't shut down.

"It took a few weeks before that levelled out, where people kind of got into a new normal."

An empty toilet paper aisle wasn't something Kotowicz was used to seeing after more than two decades in the grocery business (he got his start in 1998 as a clerk across the highway at Safeway).

A year later, Kotowicz said many customers are still shopping less frequently and buying more during each visit to reduce their number of trips outside the home.

Kotowicz said a spring run on baking staples was even more pronounced in Steinbach and persisted into the summer, when shoppers normally trade their electric roaster for a barbecue grill.

"We really noticed that people were buying a lot of flour, a lot of sugar, and doing their own baking at home."

Low COVID-19 case counts in July and August offered a reprieve for staff and customers. In November, when code red restrictions arrived, Kotowicz said shoppers took them

seriously.

"People really hunkered down when the case counts rose out here," he said. "Our customers throughout this whole thing have been very supportive and understanding."

Though the second wave was more severe than the first, it was easier on grocery stores.

"There was no panic buying in the second wave."

When Christmas arrived, Kotowicz said turkeys and hams still sold.

"It was a different Christmas for peoples' buying patterns, but at the same time, you could still tell people were celebrating with whatever immediate family they had in their household."

With grocery stores in Manitoba now allowed to operate at 50 percent, Kotowicz said everyone "can see that there is some light at the end of the tunnel."

He credited the store's 140 staff members for persevering through a difficult year.

"They're really heroes," he said. "I could not do what I do and work hard to keep everybody safe if I didn't have great staff that was willing to do the same thing."

The pandemic continues to cause the occasional supply hiccup. Kotowicz said China Lily Soya Sauce, a Canadian-made product, only recently returned to store shelves.

"It was out pretty much all of COVID," he said. "People just can't get enough of it."

Looking ahead to the future, Kotowicz said some store measures adopted during the pandemic may become permanent.

"It's really hard to know if these things ever do go away again."

Next door at Real Canadian Superstore, store manager Paulo Sousa said he has made a habit of checking in more frequently with staff and customers over the last 12 months.

"I find that I'm doing a lot more of that than I did in the past."

The store he oversees employs just



Lee Kotowicz, franchise owner-operator of Sobeys in Steinbach, had plenty of toilet paper in stock on Monday, unlike a year ago.

over 200 staff.

"No doubt about it, I think all of us have dealt a little bit with fear and anxiety and so forth over the course of the year," Sousa said.

He said he's proud of store staff for providing an essential service throughout the pandemic.

"There's not a day that doesn't go by when one of our customers comes into our store and thanks us," Sousa said.

A 32-year veteran of the grocery business, Sousa has managed the Steinbach Superstore for seven years. He said the past year has taught him to be patient and take

curveballs one at a time.

Sousa said the first wave of the pandemic was the most challenging to navigate, "only because it was still unclear what we were dealing with at that point."

In addition to toilet paper, "stock-up items" like bottled water, flour, sugar, paper towels, and even pet food flew off the shelves, Sousa said.

He surmised that evolving government restrictions have been more challenging for shoppers than for staff, except for the essential items list, which required the store to drape plastic sheeting over entire aisles of product.

"That was very tough because that list kept changing," Sousa said.

The two-month gap between the implementation of store mask policies for shoppers and the Manitoba government's mandatory mask order also posed challenges, Sousa said.

"From time to time we'd have customers that would come into the store and would refuse to put on a mask. As those issues came up, they were a bit challenging," he said.

Today, compliance has become the norm.

"I think it was just a matter of everybody getting used to it."

Best Column or Feature Article on a Business Topic – 2nd
Steinbach - The Carillon - Jordon Ross

Gimli pub gets \$5,000 fine after inspector characterizes staff as members of the public

By Patricia Barrett

It wasn't exactly a case in which a carriage turned into a pumpkin at the stroke of midnight, but to a Gimli business owner a similar mystifying incident took place a few weeks ago when provincial public health said the staff at his pub became members of the public at closing time.

Scott Carman, who owns the Ship & Plough Tavern, received a \$5,000 fine for ostensibly violating COVID-19 public health orders, which say the public must vacate licensed premises by 10 p.m.

Carman said an inspector from the Liquor, Gaming, and Cannabis Authority (LGCA) characterized his staff as members of the public even though they were the only people in the pub after closing, and feels the fine doesn't square up with the spirit of the health orders.

"The intent or the spirit of the law is, fundamentally, to keep Manitobans safe," said Carman by phone last week. "When you look at the issue we were fined for, did we violate the spirit of that law? Absolutely not. There were no members of the public involved because we were closed to the public. Nobody was put at risk. Everybody was safe. In my mind this

is a bogus charge."

Established in 2013, Carman's Centre Street pub is a popular gathering spot for drinks, snacks such as pickled sandwiches and entertainment that includes stand-up comedy, music and pub quizzes.

On Saturday, April 24, Carman said the tavern had shut by 10 p.m. as required by law. The front door was locked, the sign was flipped and the lights were out. Only two of his staff members were in the venue. As in any business, his staff were required to complete closing-up procedures. They also had a drink that a patron earlier in the evening had bought them to show appreciation for their service (staff aren't allowed to drink while a pub is open to the public). When they heard a knock at the door, they answered it, saying the pub was closed. But the person flashed LGCA identification and asked to enter.

"I met with the inspector the following Tuesday [April 27] and I thought it would be an opportunity to discuss the situation with her. But she issued the fine to me at the meeting," said Carman. "She told me that in their [LGCA] mind, staff at the end of their shift become members of the public. The public health orders clearly state



EXPRESS PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT CARMAN
Ship & Plough owner Scott Carman said his staff were alone in the pub after closing time and did not endanger public health.

Business tickets				Manitoba
Name	Address	Fine amount	Total tickets	
1. Christian Church of Morden Inc.	2000 1st St. S. Morden R1M 0T7	\$5,000	2	
2. Ship & Plough Tavern	42 Centre St. Gimli R1C 1B8	\$5,000	1	
3. Casino on Broadway	488 Broadway Ave. Winnipeg R3C 0V6	\$5,000	1	

EXPRESS PHOTO MANITOBA GOVERNMENT
Public health enforcement orders between April 26 and May 2 show the Ship & Plough having been fined \$5,000.

members of the public have to vacate by 10 p.m."

Carman said it was baffling his staff could be characterized as the public when they were the ones taking out the trash and securing the premises for the night.

"We have followed public health orders to a T for over a year now and it's been exhausting. But we've stayed on top of everything and gone above and

beyond when there's been changes," said Carman. "When there's been a lack of clarity, I've reached out to public health inspectors and the liquor inspector because we want to do the right thing."

Businesses serving the public have suffered since COVID was said to arrive in Manitoba in March 2020.

Continued on page 4

Best Column or Feature Article on a Business Topic – 1st
Gimli - Express Weekly News - Patricia Barrett

Manitoba Agriculture a shadow of what it once was

Best Columnist – 3rd
Neepawa Banner and
Press
Ken Waddell

When word came down last week that the Province of Manitoba was closing 20 Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) offices across the province, it came as a bit of a jolt. MASC offices were formed a number of years ago, when Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and Manitoba Crop Insurance were combined. This latest move from Manitoba Agriculture is part of a 25 year shrinking of Ag services by the province.

I guess we will see if anyone agrees, but it is my experienced opinion that Manitoba has a definite problem with its ever shrinking Ag department. Agriculture, along with all the related businesses and food production, processing and export is a huge part of the Manitoba economy. The province, through several different governments and two different political parties, has basically killed off the once strong Manitoba Agriculture department. About \$370 million, or two per cent of the Manitoba government budget, is spent on Agriculture. That seems out of proportion with how important agriculture is to Manitoba.

Let me give a bit of history. Back in the 1950s, the Manitoba Department of Agriculture had about 40 offices across Manitoba. Commonly known as the Ag office or Ag-rep office, they were considered an important part of a district or region. There were offices in places like Carman, Portage, Neepawa, Ste. Rose, Shoal Lake and many other locations. Most were staffed by an Ag-rep, a person who had a degree in Agriculture or possibly a Masters degree. In some places, like Neepawa, there was an Assistant Ag-rep and there was always a secretary. There was also a Home Economist, who might be headquartered in one town, but would serve two or three Ag-rep districts. The

**RIGHT IN THE
CENTRE**

KEN WADDELL



situation remained pretty much unchanged into the 1970s and '80s. In 1971, as a recent graduate with a U of M Ag degree, I came to Neepawa to work as an Assistant Ag-rep under the guidance of Allan Nebbs. Two years later, I was transferred to Gladstone to start up a new office.

Ag offices were responsible for many things, not the least of which was the administration, teaching and guidance of the 4-H program. Most towns, and even many country school districts, had one or more 4-H clubs. Ag offices were responsible to administer all MDA programs and many others, as well. They set up farm accounting, farm management courses and welding courses. They provided advice and written material on every aspect of farming, including crop production, livestock and pasture management, along with farm machinery and engineering advice. If the government had a rural based program, the Ag office administered it. You could order grass seed and shelter belt trees. In short, the Ag office was a rural hub of activity and information. Those functions have been mostly killed off. Much of the "advice" section has been taken over by the agronomy industry and that has been a good thing for the most part. However, there is one major problem with the agronomy based model and that is every last person in the industry has a product to sell. That can be problematic. The Ag-rep gave

out advice knowing full well that the advice handed out was not attached to sales in any way.

Over the years, Ag-reps have been phased out, so were Home Economists, assistant Ag-reps and secretaries. Some would rightly claim that the loss of the secretary was the biggest loss. An Ag office that had a good secretary was a wonderful thing, as they were a huge help and source of encouragement.

From a newspaper point of view, Ag-reps and Home-Ecs actually wrote columns that had good information in them. If a newspaper, radio or TV station wanted information, all they had to do was call the Ag office and get an interview. Oh no, not now. If you want to talk to any government agency now, you have to get an interview arranged by a central person in provincial communications.

The point is that governments have slowly choked off a part of agriculture and its potential for growth by abandoning rural people, farmers and, perhaps worst of all, rural youth.

Some would argue that, oh well, we have the internet and we can find all that stuff out online. Yeah, well how's that working out for us all now? Would it not be better to have trusted local, unbiased information to assist the growth of our most important industry, agriculture? I think so, but as has become the pattern of governments, nobody is listening.

Tails From the Farm

Trudy Andrew is a North Eastman author who writes short stories from life experience. Generally humorous, they are family friendly and suitable for all. Trudy contacted The Clipper asking if we would be interested in putting a series of her stories in print... and we are delighted to do so. After all, we all can use a bit of laughter these days.

By Trudy Andrew

A Comedy of Errors Part I

Life on the farm with animals, is endlessly entertaining. If they can get themselves into trouble, they absolutely will. I swear, they're often worse than kids. Possibly the most difficult part, is that it's darn near impossible to reason with them at those times of trouble. Sure, you can soothe and reassure, but rationalize? Not so much.

The past few weeks have been fine examples of what I mean. It all started with Lucky Jim, our blind horse, and his companion, a beautiful black morgan named Spirit. She became his seeing eye horse, after the loss of Aurora, a previous buddy. Everything went very well while they were out on pasture. She didn't steal away and hide,

as Aurora was prone to do. She would actually return his calls, and didn't try to avoid him. That all changed at the onset of winter. All the horses are taken off the pastures and moved into smaller, very secure pens for the winter. It's not the lack of acres to roam on that created a problem; it was the lack of 24-hour dining.

As it turned out, our lovely Spirit, is quite food aggressive. It wasn't too bad in the beginning, but as the weeks slowly passed, her behaviour has gotten worse. It's not that she bogs all the feed. She actually shares with Jim very well. In fact, though we put out several piles of hay for them to graze at, she prefers to eat with Jim. She'll even follow him, if he moves to a different pile. Sure, she'll make the occasional snarky face his way, but they don't matter. After all, being blind makes him oblivious to snarky mare face. Nope, sharing isn't the problem at all. She gets aggressive, when she knows food is on the way.

As I pushed a wheelbarrow full of hay towards their pen, I witnessed this unpleasant behaviour first hand. One moment they were standing side by side, attention fully on my much anticipated arrival. The very next, she attacked and put

him against the fence.

Poor Jim. He trotted around in their shared space, shaking his head and holding his mouth open, and I couldn't help him. It's not easy to get the attention of a blind horse that's upset. I warned Spirit off, then stood there talking to him. Soothing with my voice, even as I worried about what injuries he may have suffered. Having come from an abused past, he's not the easiest horse to treat. He's simply not trusting of people, and understandably so.

Though she missed witnessing the attack, the girlchild was quick to jump into action. While I made sure Spirit didn't cause any further harm to Jim, she hurried to get something to lead the cranky mare out of the pen.

After Spirit was removed from the pen, we gave Jim time to settle down, before attempting to check him for possible injuries. He didn't make it easy, but from what we could tell, he hadn't bit his tongue. He was hungry and had no trouble eating, so hadn't fractured or broken anything. Our poor guy was simply sore, very sore.

As we went about our chores, we kept an eye on him. Eating wasn't a problem. Neither was drinking, as he did that, too.

By the time we were finished taking care of all the other horses, he was calm enough for the girlchild to take another look at him. It was then that she saw the trickle of red, from a wound on his poor head. Poor Jim hadn't come away unscathed from impacting the fence.

Now, just a couple of weeks before, we had come out on a rather crisp day only to find Jim had quite the gash on his head. Fortunately, the freezing cold had stopped the bleeding. If there's one thing awful cold is good for, it's stopping bleeding. There's also very little chance of infection. There aren't any flies around either. Everything is about as frozen as it could be.

We left it alone, and it swiftly healed. For us and Jim, it was a best case scenario. What with his dislike of being touched and all, it was actually a good thing. We found it rather interesting, how the new injury was right above the other. Had Spirit been responsible for that one as well? I would say, more than likely.

We checked on Jim throughout the day, but he wasn't missing his penmate. No whinnying or stressing. No pacing to search for Spirit. This was our biggest concern, as he likes to have a buddy nearby. Come morning, it was the same. We think



Photo submitted

Blind horse Lucky Jim has been having a grand time in his private quarters after his companion horse Spirit treated him harshly at eating time.

he's actually enjoying the peace and quiet. There's also a big pile of hay that he doesn't have to share. I suppose being alone has its own rewards. For now, Jim gets to enjoy private accommodations.

So Day 1, Jim gets hurt, and Spirit is moved to another pen, where she can now boss around Max. A super lovable gelding that easily dances circles around her, Max is a bit of a doofus. He mistakenly thinks that a lot of her threats are really

invitations to play. Silly, silly Max. He's going to be on a very steep learning curve.

Day 2 appeared trouble free. Lucky Jim still seemed to be enjoying his alone time and private quarters. While we were feeding, he suddenly bounced a good three feet, straight up into the air. All four hooves, lifted off at the same time. Clearly, whatever injury he'd suffered had been forgotten. If nothing else, horses are tough.

Best Columnist – 2nd
Beausejour – The Clipper Weekly - Trudy Andrew

Best Columnist – 1st

Flin Flon – The Reminder

Eric Westhaver

Let's talk about something other than COVID-19 here this week, okay?

Let's talk about the biggest thing impacting the online world this past week. No, it wasn't a story of corporate corruption, or of one country bombing another country. It wasn't any of that.

For some reason, it was a plastic potato.

For those of you who are well-adjusted and don't spend most of your time angry online, let me explain. Last week, Hasbro, one of the world's largest toy companies, announced that it would be dropping the pronouns from its Mr. And Mrs. Potato Head toys, simply calling them "Potato Head". The idea, as announced by the company, was to promote inclusivity.

(Don't worry, I'm not going to dwell on this long. I have a larger point to make and the potato toys are just... well, an entree.)

A certain group of people online – let's call them "angry folk" – received Hasbro's choice with a heavily negative response. Some saw it as an unnecessary change to a toy they've known since they were kids – others saw it as political correctness run amok or as another blow to traditional gender roles, terminology and Western civilization itself.

Except here's the thing – amongst anybody I know who cares about inclusion, it meant nothing. Nobody really asked for this. Changing the pronouns of an inanimate plastic ball of starch doesn't fix actual discrimination against people who don't fit traditional roles. It's a toy.

The entire point of the change lies in the conversation.

In our words

ERIC WESTHAVER

Hasbro's decision to change the toy isn't based on making social conservatives mad or making themselves look good to a diverse market. It's a campaign designed to get people talking about and buying Potato Heads.

For people who support it, it's fine. For people who strongly insist that a toy meant to vaguely resemble a thing you boil for dinner must be either a man or a woman, it's bad. For everybody else, it's noise.

Here's the real question: would we be talking about potato heads right now otherwise? Would I be writing about potato heads otherwise? God no. I thought they were lame decades ago.

Does Hasbro, as a corporate entity, care about being inclusive? Only if it means a bump in sales. Hasbro is a company and companies do not possess the ability to feel things or have political opinions. They aren't human. Much like any major company, the only goal of Hasbro is to increase its own value.

The conversation itself is the ad and the participants, one and all, are deputized to do Hasbro's work for them for free.

This latest campaign is a refined version of something called "outrage marketing". Way back when, this was accomplished by doing things like showing images of a sexual, violent or graphic nature to get you to do something – to buy a brand of jeans or to stop buying cigarettes, for instance. That has changed and now, it's

interactive. Companies have discovered that riling up the "angry folks" can bring a financial benefit.

Do you remember a few years ago, when Nike produced an ad featuring former NFLer Colin Kaepernick – the same player who enraged some people by kneeling during the national anthem as an anti-police brutality protest? The ad saw reactions from people who support Kaepernick's stand and from the "angry folk". There were boycotts arranged and some people burned their shoes and jerseys in protest. Some of the "angry folks" predicted Nike would fail and go bankrupt because so many people were angry.

How did it affect Nike in the end? After that ad began airing, Nike's worldwide sales jumped by 31 per cent and received an estimated \$6 billion increase in their estimated brand value – yes, billion with a "B" and yes, an increase.

Nike is a company and, as such a non-human entity, is not primarily interested in anything but increasing their own value. That's what the ad – and the backlash – ultimately did. You know what word comes up often when people say "boycott Nike" and "I'm burning my Nikes"? You guessed it – "Nike".

Did it make Nike appear to be a good company? Maybe. The company has still, in recent years, been dogged by allegations of third-world sweatshops and child labour, of alleged poor treatment of Nike sponsored athletes, of using offshore

companies to dodge corporate taxes. That stink doesn't just go away with an ad.

Not long after that, Gillette released a long-form ad focused on some aspects of toxic masculinity – bullying, harassment, sexism and so on. That video brought the "angry folk" out in droves, as was entirely expected. Boycotts were announced, butts were hurt and angry comments were left behind – including a lot of navel-gazing by opinion writers. God, we're the worst.

What did that leave Gillette? From the start of 2019 (when the ad aired) to the start of 2020, the company's brand value jumped by over \$300 million. Thanks for playing, "angry folk". Y'all are quite predictable.

This is an effective tactic and it's becoming more common every year. Last June, Quaker Oats announced it would be renaming and rebranding Aunt Jemima pancake syrup in an effort to promote racial equality. Yet more angry comments, tweets and the brief stink of a boycott came – and by the end of the summer, parent company PepsiCo's stock price climbed by almost 12 bucks a share. Keurig coffee machines had a similar spat in 2017 when the company pulled ads from a Fox News show, leading to boycotts and dozens of videos of people smashing their Keurigs – and their shares jumping from \$85 each to about \$122 each within weeks.

So if you're looking for a reason why the family Potato Head is now genderless, know this – it's because it's supposed to make you react. Big companies aren't your friends and aren't trying to make the world better. They exist to separate you from your money. Use that information wisely.



Tech giants to pay media outlets?

By Evan Matthews

Should tech and social media giants of the world be forced to pay smaller media outlets when articles are shared?

Should Facebook pay the *Winnipeg Free Press* when one of their articles circulate?

It's a conversation with growing momentum.

With stock prices being what they are — Facebook is evaluated as having a net worth of \$527 billion — the simple answer should be, yes, share the media wealth.

The debate starts in Australia, where as of Feb. 18, Facebook outlawed viewing or posting of news stories on the platform in the country. Facebook is also preventing Australian media outlets to post content via Facebook to users outside the country.

Why?

It's the corporate response to the Australian government's proposal of a new law.

The new legislation demands social media and tech giants to fork over cash to publishers for articles seen on their platform.

The government rationale is that these same social media and tech giants have sucked the advertising revenues out of news outlets, which in turn limits job availability and resources within a newsgroup.

In other words, social media and tech giants are killing unbiased journalism.

Maybe most interestingly in all of this, as of last week, Canada had committed to become the next country to do the exact same thing: make Facebook (and other tech giants) pay for news.

At this point, it is likely safe to assume Facebook would impose the same technological sanctions on users in Canada as it did in Australia.

But regardless, the debate remains.

Bob Cox, publisher of the *Winnipeg Free Press* and chair of News Media Canada, told CBC last week that social media and tech giants control most advertising and have made it "difficult for other media to make a living."

He's right. While revenue and net worth for social media and tech companies soar, newspapers continue to cease printing more so with each

passing day.

The Canadian federal government doubled down, saying Facebook's handling of the situation won't stop the government from taking its stand.

Regardless of what that stand looks like, it's important to take any stand and push back against these companies.

The reality is, whether it be financially or even simply through human behaviour, it's become increasingly clear that we — the population — are at the mercy of these tech and social media giants.

While it's likely only to ensure they get their piece of the pie, in a roundabout way, it's encouraging to see our government and other governments around the world trying to advocate for independent media and citizens.

No website or platform should have as much power or value associated with it, as any of the big platforms — Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat — do.

The time to take a stand against these companies is now.

Best Editorial — 2nd

Stonewall Teulon Tribune — Evan Matthews

Best Editorial – 1st

Dauphin Herald

Shawn Bailey

Ad

Publisher: R. L. Gibney
Editor: Shawn Bailey

Published by Dauphin Herald
1000 Main Street, Dauphin, S4N 1A1



A proper decision

Dauphin city councillors passed a motion at their regular meeting last night (Oct. 4) asking the province, and specifically the Municipal Relations Department for assistance to bring a by-election to fill the seat left vacant with the death of Mayor Allan Dowhag.

The decision - passed with councillor Kathy Beforsen, Rodney Joba, Devin Shephard and deputy-mayor Christian Langhland in favour and councillor Kent Riehl and Ford Eiken against - was made under provisions of a Temporary Suspension of Local Election Provisions issued by the province last month. It was made with an eye toward public health, given the uncertainty of the pandemic and the fact that a fourth wave of infections is knocking on our door.

It was the right decision.

Now anyone who looks at our numbers today - we have no cases currently in Dauphin and 83 cases were reported provincially on Monday - might wonder what all the fuss is about.

But you only need look at what is happening immediately beyond our borders in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta to know what lies in store for us if we let our guard down now.

Based on the timing requirements laid out in the Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act, the earliest by-election voting could take place would be approximately Dec. 14.

Think about what happened last fall as the third wave of the pandemic approached. In early October Dauphin and the province were in much the same position as we find ourselves in now. Flash forward one month, infections were rising at an alarming rate, Manitoba was back in the red critical level on the pandemic response system and Christmas was cancelled, as then Premier Brian Pallister lamented at the time.

Consider that effective today the province moved up the pandemic response system to the restricted stage level and introduced additional public health orders around proof of immunization and reducing gathering sizes when unvaccinated individuals are present, along with implementing new patient protocols to ensure additional health system capacity when needed. Modelling released by the province yesterday indicates that hundreds of new infections daily could be a reality in Manitoba by early December if we are not careful.

It is true that what happened last fall might not happen again. But then it might, and probably will and there is no sense in taking that chance.

Councillors Riehl and Eiken tried making the argument that not having a by-election would somehow be subverting democracy. It is a thin argument. Remember all of this is happening mere days ahead of the mark laid out in the Municipal Act, which makes a by-election to fill a council vacancy unnecessary less than a year out from the next general election. It is those provisions which came into play in 2017 following the death of Eric Irwin what Dowhag stepped up to fill the mayor's role without being elected to that position. And that turned out pretty well.

The citizens of the community will have a chance to fix their democratic muscles once again next October, as scheduled.

The current council was handed a five-year mandate by the citizens of this community they have fulfilled three-quarters of that commitment with thoughtful, innovative and sustainable governance. Yes the loss of Mayor Dowhag was a blow, given his experience, wisdom on municipal matters and passion for the community. But it was not a crippling blow.

Six intelligent and committed councillors remain. They have fulfilled three-quarters of their mandate and major planning for the final year has been completed. There is no reason that things will go off the rails now.

There really is no downside to not holding a by-election this fall. But there is an opportunity the city had things to happen if an election were to take place. Why take the chance?

SB

Trustees reeling in wake of planned education changes

By Lorne Stelmach

Local school trustees are coming to grips with the government's planned wholesale changes to the provincial education system that among other things will eliminate their roles in it.

Their concerns go far beyond that however as they and many others not only question the rationale and approach but contemplate the impact the changes will have in such ways as the loss of local control and say over schooling in our communities.

"There is a democratic system that has been totally eliminated from this process," said Laurie Dyck, chair of the Garden Valley School Division board. "Any qualifying voter in Manitoba has always had the ability to have that option to vote on your school board representatives, and this sys-

tem does not have opportunity for all Manitobans to have a voice."

"There is no evidence that Bill 64 addresses the root cause of poor education results in Manitoba and will provide the future of Manitoba with what it needs to be successful," said Brian Fransen, chair of Western School Division board.

"Replacing locally elected school boards with a single government appointed body puts Manitoba on the path toward state-run education governed by partisan interests. This is in contrast to public education," he stressed. "The world is getting more and more politically polarized, and

now education in Manitoba will be a new target. Is this the future we want for Manitoba?"

Government officials addressed

"TO PAINT US
ALL WITH ONE
BIG BRUSH ...
WE WOULD
FEEL THAT'S
NOT FAIR."

Continued on page 12



Premier Brian Pallister defended his government's plans to overhaul the education system, doing away with local school boards and divisions in favour of a central education authority. Local trustees are concerned about what this will mean for our communities.

Best Education Story – 3rd
Winkler Morden Voice – Lorne Stelmach

Teachers feeling strain during COVID-19

Former Sunrise admin part of research team studying occupational stress, burnout

By Tony Zerucha

While it is likely no surprise to hear Manitoba's teachers are feeling the strain of teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, research being conducted by a trio of professors at the University of Winnipeg shows how stark the problem is while offering some strategies for those feeling the strain.

One of the research team members is Dr. Lesley Ebble Trudel, a former assistant superintendent at the Sunrise School Division. She was joined by colleagues Dr. Laura Sokol and Jeff Babb. Together they conducted two studies, one which repeatedly surveyed 2,200 Canadian teachers (including 1,000 from Manitoba) and another which intensively studied teachers from an unnamed

Manitoba school division.

Ebble Trudel said the first study followed the Job Demands and Resources Model which assesses occupational stress. Ideally there is a balance between what employees are being asked to do and what resources are made available to them. Those resources include the employee's skills and abilities, family supports, employee assistance programs, peer support and self care.

The team also assessed burnout through the Maslach Burnout Inventory. The road to burnout follows predictable steps, with the first stage being exhaustion. The second stage is cynicism and depersonalization, and this can hit teachers who experience it especially hard.

"With teachers the reality concerning part of the depersonalization stage is

not only are they starting to feel cynical and pulling back from work, they're also pulling back from their students, and that's very concerning," Ebble Trudel said.

The final stage is the loss of accomplishment, the feeling that no matter how hard the person tries they never feel like they are achieving anything or being effective.

The good news is people experiencing the stages can retreat back to a healthier position, Ebble Trudel advised, whether that be from accessing some of the resources described above. One thing they cannot do is cut back their workload as that can cause all sorts of negative feelings.

At the team further analyzed the research, they identified five distinct groups teachers fall into. The first, consisting of 9.2 per cent, were actively engaged. While they acknowledged changes, they were doing well. The next group was moving toward depersonalization but were still well-involved. Roughly one in six (17.2 per cent) fell into this group.

More than one in four respondents (27.7 per cent) were assigned to the over-extended, depersonalized and cynical category, while slightly more (28.6 per cent) were deemed to be ineffective, which is not producing the desired effect. The final category was detached, which represented 17.7 per cent.

Manitoba teachers were over-represented in some

of the more concerning categories.

"When we compared the Manitoba data to the Canadian data, our Manitoba teachers were in that over-extended group far sooner than the Canadian teachers," Ebble Trudel said. "We knew our Manitoba teachers were in worse shape than our teachers across Canada."

She believes a few factors explain why. COVID-19 has hit Manitoba very hard. Manitoba has a high poverty rate. And then there's Bill 64, which is enough to bring stress on its own.

"All of that combined with COVID-19, then you add Bill 64 and the challenges teachers are anticipating over the government making this massive change to legislation, I would tell you that would definitely push teachers over the edge quicker than our Canadian sample," Ebble Trudel said.

It is highly likely there is a sampling of teachers in all five categories at every Manitoba school, Ebble Trudel said, so that makes it a challenge for administrators to meet each of their need sets. There needs to be a continuum of resources available to support staff no matter where they fall on that line. For the engaged, conversations can revolve around job crafting, where the administrator helps them work toward career goals, whether that be a different position of committee work. For others it may mean accessing employee assistance programs or being very firm about



Dr. Lesley Ebble Trudel said Manitoba teachers fall into the over-extended group sooner than their cross-Canada colleagues.

scheduling "digital down time" away from screens.

"The best thing you can do as an administrator is know who you are working with," Ebble Trudel said.

More help is on the way. The researchers are working with the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents to create response models and resources.

"When teachers are well they teach better and students have a better education," Ebble Trudel said.

Teachers unions also have a role to play by serving as opportunity for peer

support and facilitating a sense of common cause. That job got easier with Bill 64.

"It's causing teachers to bond together so I think the work that teachers are doing together to talk about how Bill 64 is not what they envisioned for education, how it is not going to serve students well, how it's not going to help our students in poverty. I believe that work will help teachers reduce their depersonalization," Ebble Trudel said. "It's actually having a counterintuitive effect."

Ebble Trudel credited teachers with adapting well as the pandemic has progressed. One successful strategy is project-based learning where students are encouraged to find things they are interested in and include several areas of study in that process. Other staff-like educational assistants and bus drivers have pitched in too with everything from lesson support to assignment delivery.

"Teachers are telling us they're falling better at remote learning. They know what works, they know what doesn't work," Ebble Trudel said. "They certainly have told us they are not trying to do so much as they used to try to do."

In addition to the workload, there are a trio of other factors affecting many teachers. The first is balancing student needs with having to also teach their own children. The second is worrying about those students who come from troubled environments, who have lost those six hours per day of time at school. In normal times teachers could watch for changes and engage with those in need. That job is much harder now.

Best Education Story – 2nd

Beausejour

The Clipper Weekly

Tony Zerucha

ESD unsure how schools will be supported given education property tax cut

By Patricia Barrett

The provincial government announced last week it plans to eliminate 50 per cent of education property taxes starting this year, leaving school divisions unsure of how that will play out in terms of future funding for schools and students.

The tax break comes a few weeks after the government announced it will dissolve Manitoba's 37 English-speaking school divisions under Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act, and replace them with a single provincial education authority (PEA).

The government's 2021 budget promises to reduce education property taxes by 25 per cent this year for residential and farm properties, and by a further 25 per cent in 2022. Commercial, industrial and institutional property owners will see a 10 per cent reduction.

Evesgreen School Division (ESD) Supt. Kiera Gray said she and the division's school trustees don't know at this point how those tax reductions will directly affect schools, but they're concerned because they represent a loss of \$80 million in general revenue.

Evesgreen has been subjected to provincial funding cuts for the past five years, she said, and is unsure how the further erosion of revenue will affect provincial support for ESD schools.

"The province has not announced a plan to recover this revenue," said Gray.

She added that the government had promised to phase in reductions to education property taxes over a 10-year period.

Quoting information provided by the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), she said the property tax reduction, based on a 365-day year, is equivalent to a month and a half of funding support for all students and schools across the province.

Under the present system, in which "local taxes are raised by the local school board," community members know their taxes go towards supporting schools in their communities, she said. But all that could change when Bill 64 passes as expected.

"With the dissolution of all school boards on July 1, 2022, taxes raised will go to the provincial government to be dispensed at the will of the provincially appointed Provincial Education Authority," said Gray. "It is not known if these funds will flow back proportionately to continue to support our local schools."

The MSBA said the government claimed other provinces have eliminated their education property taxes,

but the claim is untrue. Manitoba is the last province that allows local school boards, with community input, to decide how best to apply funding to local needs.

MSBA president Alan Campbell said on Twitter that "local democracy shouldn't be taken for granted."

The provincial government did promise a number of funding initiatives in its 2021 budget, including up to \$40 million for its new education strategy under Bill 64, called Better Education Starts Today. Of that, \$5 will go towards advancing that strategy. A further \$3.5 million will go towards special needs and \$4 million will go towards virtual learning, according to budget documents.

But Gray said the announced increases in education spending include support divisions would have received from other sources, funding to offset pandemic-related expenses and dollars to fund the provincial government in transitioning to an education system that eliminates the infrastructure for local decision-making.

"For example, this announcement includes \$25 million allocated for the Property Tax Offset Grant, which replaces the two per cent increase in taxes divisions would have been able to raise via local taxation. This is not new money in the education system."

When Bill 64 takes effect, the Evesgreen School Division will lose all the equipment it purchased through local taxation as its assets and liabilities will be transferred to the province's sole school authority (PEA) on July 1, 2022.

"This means that on that day, our staff will no longer be employed by Evesgreen but by the provincial government through the Provincial Education Authority (PEA)," said the board in a statement to the Express.

"Further, all the equipment, buses, computers, supplies, etc., which were purchased by Evesgreen School Division with the support of local tax dollars, will also become property of the PEA."

It's unknown whether that equipment will remain in former ESD schools, whether the schools themselves will stay open or be amalgamated and whether the busing of students may entail longer trips.

The provincial government also promised to introduce a refundable Teaching Expense Tax Credit for qualified teachers in elementary or secondary schools. Teachers who have to shoulder out-of-pocket expenses for teaching supplies will be able to claim a 15 per cent refund for up to \$1,000. The credit is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021.

Many teachers, associations such as



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

questions about possible school closures and longer bus trips have arisen after the provincial government announced it will disband 37 school divisions, buses purchased with support from local tax dollars will become the property of the province. The government announced a 50 per cent reduction in education property taxes last week.

the Manitoba Teachers' Society and critics reacted negatively to the credit, questioning why the government won't just properly fund education. Paying teachers 15 cents on the dollar won't address under-funding.

Evesgreen Teachers' Association president Jay Sweet, who teaches grades 7 and 8 in Arborg, said the credit for expenses is an insult.

"Teachers are consistently taking their own initiatives to meet the needs of their students. Having Mr. Pallister behave as if these personal initiatives taken by teachers are not only necessary but expected is an insult to the incredible integrity of our learning professionals," said Sweet. "My question is, 'Why isn't the government willing to put forth the money necessary in the first place to address the current improvement of our education system instead of acting as if it is the responsibility of the teachers to answer the problems imposed by five years of under-funding?'"

A provincial government spokesperson said the government expects to save "upwards of \$40 million per year" by abolishing the 37 school divisions. That money can be redirected to the classrooms and front lines of education.

In response to a question about how the government will fund education with a reduction in property taxes, along with other reductions for Manitobans such as vehicle insurance, the spokesperson said the money will come out of general revenue.

All grants and transfers to schools and universities, Winnipeg, municipalities, hospitals, etc., come out of general revenue raised by the province and transfers

from the federal government, with any shortfall funded through borrowing in the capital markets," said the spokesperson by email.

When asked if that will be sustainable in the long run, the spokesperson said the province will "continue to manage its fiscal affairs in a manner to ensure it meets its commitment to put more money on Manitobans' kitchen tables."

For more information about how Bill 64 or education funding in the 2021 provincial budget will affect schools, visit the Manitoba School Boards Association's website.

Bill 64 is currently on hold. To register with the Office of the Clerk at the Legislature to speak about the bill when it goes before a review committee in the fall, call 204-945-3636.

Best Education Story – 1st

Gimli – Express Weekly News

Patricia Barrett

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Shoring up Dead Horse Creek

By Lorne Stelmach

A partnership is making progress in shoring up the banks of the Dead Horse Creek in Morden.

The joint effort of the Pembina Valley Watershed District and the City of Morden has tackled the stabilization of a number of areas along the creek, with the latest completing work on a section in the Morden Park near the 13th Street entrance.

It has come a long way from the days when the town just placed chunks of sidewalk or concrete on the banks. The work today involves a more complex two-stage approach, explains PVWD manager Cliff Greenfield.

"Over the years we've done all kinds of different things, but this looks really good, and it will stand up better," he said. "I think maybe it's more the standard now, this benched approach or two-stage approach."

The project approach combines an

armored rock area adjacent to the channel with a tiered and widened slope above that allows for the installation of plant material.

The watershed district supplied the grass seed and woven straw/coconut fabric to help prevent erosion, while the city intends to plant willow and dogwood on the tier with new trees along the upper slope.

Greenfield said there are a few key aspects to this method.

"Instead of hard armor, they're using soft armor, meaning vegetation and plantings," he said. "As the stream gets higher, more energy gets dissipated by the vegetation, so you don't need to spend the money on the rock all the way up. The vegetation can do the job higher up, whereas the vegetation wouldn't work on the lower part."

"It's better for water quality as well. It sort of catches the sediment and the debris; it's not as sterile as the rock," Greenfield added. "And the rock rip-



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Before (left) and after bank stabilization work on Dead Horse Creek in Morden Park.

rap is better because it's sort of flexible and it adapts to a bit of erosion, a bit of movement."

"The project outcomes are twofold," noted Shaun Dias, parks and urban forestry manager for the City of Morden. "We wanted to address the erosion of the creek bank, which was moving further and further into the park space. Secondly, the undercut bank adjacent to the public park became a safety concern."

In conjunction with this initiative, Dias noted the city is extending the no-mow zone along the top of the bank to further encourage and allow plant material to establish adjacent to the creek. As well, they are asking park users to avoid walking on or accessing the creek in this location as the plant material is establishing itself through the spring and summer.

Dias said the city is grateful for the support and expertise of the watershed district.

"We rely heavily on the watershed district staff, such as technician Randy Dow, for his experience in design and

implementation," he said. "This initiative has been working along the banks of the creek for over a decade now, so thanks again to our partners at the watershed district."

"Full credit to Shaun Dias and the City of Morden council for participating financially in the Pembina Valley Watershed District and also for setting an example in regional water stewardship in this project," said Brian Minaker, a former council member and a Dead Horse - Buffalo Creek sub-district member with PVWD. "Although it has always been, water is now being fully recognized as the world's most precious commodity."

Greenfield said there was some potential for them to do more sections of the creek bank, though it is somewhat limited.

"In the park area, there is room for this," he said. "In some of the areas further north in the residential areas, there's areas that are pretty tight and there might not be room for this approach."

Best Environmental Story – 3rd
Winkler Morden Voice – Lorne Stelmach

Wetlands could help wipe out water woes

New pilot project
taking place in ESP

BY SHELDON BIRNIE
STAFF REPORTER

EAST ST. PAUL

A new pilot project being run in East St. Paul could prove to be a gamechanger.

In early July, researchers from the International Institute for Sustainable Development built and planted a total of 10 floating wetlands in two retention ponds in East St. Paul. The project, run by IISD's bioeconomy and water policy lead Richard Grosshans, will test how effective the wetlands are at removing harmful pollutants from freshwater lakes over time.

"We've done a lot of watershed management projects over the past 15 years, working with municipalities and watershed districts to evaluate the other benefits that these systems provide," Grosshans said. "Usually a retention pond is put in to address flooding issues. But we've identified other benefits, (like) carbon storage, water quality, all this really cool other stuff."

East St. Paul has a number of retention ponds throughout the municipality, and the older ones are full of duckweed and algae. The RM connected with the IISD about coming up with a sustainable solution to their water woes.

"We are interested to see the performance of these floating wetlands and how they impact our water quality within these stormwater retentions," Kurtis Johnson, assistant operations manager for the RM of East St. Paul, told *The Herald*. "What we're hoping is

that the floating wetlands will take up some of the excess nutrient loading that's going on in these areas. Hopefully, that will result in better looking ponds."

The wetland project is among a number of sustainable projects the RM is engaged in, including a major renaturalization at Switsun Family Heritage Park.

"This connects very well with our climate action plan and the way the RM wants to move forward with a lot of these projects," Johnson added.

"These are the first stormwater pond islands in Manitoba," Grosshans said of the project, which he described as a pilot scale demonstration featuring one established pond, and one newer pond.

The project builds on years of research the IISD has done at the Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario, as well as research Grosshans was involved in when he was working with Ducks Unlimited.

"I've always been fascinated by these types of systems," Grosshans said. "We started playing around with these islands, building our own out of floating bread trays. We saw that with a very small amount of phosphorus, we can see both visually and analytically how the plants respond quite dramatically."

A good thing for plants, but environmentally you get a lot of problems."

In 2019, the IISD installed a similar floating wetland system in a wastewater lagoon in Dunnotar, Man.

"They're in year three and they're growing exceptionally well," Grosshans said.

Now that they're in the two ponds in East St. Paul, Grosshans added, the wetlands are already at work.

"They'll produce lots of roots into the water, where a lot of the water treatment



Earlier this month, Richard Grosshans (left) lead researchers from the International Institute for Sustainable Development installing temporary floating wetlands in two retention ponds in East St. Paul. Supplied photo

happens," he said. "The plants will create these massive columns of roots. All that slime, bacteria, algae, little invertebrates and minnows will create an ecosystem which will help take up nutrients and break down contaminants."

As the islands become established, residents and visitors who pass the ponds can expect not only flourishing plant life, but increased wildlife activity, as well.

"Already there's a family of ducks lounging along one of the islands," Grosshans said. "They'll be hanging out on and around the islands."

Grosshans said he wouldn't be surprised to see an improvement in water quality as early as this summer.

"Hopefully, we'll see an improvement of

the water this season," he said. "The smaller pond you may actually see that sooner, because the ratio from water to surface on that one is pretty good. The bigger pond may need an additional island at some point."

The data collected in East St. Paul could have impacts internationally.

"This is connected to a much larger research program," Grosshans said. "We have a bunch of islands out at the Experimental Lakes where we look at treatment of oil. We're looking at how they break down hydrocarbons and antibiotics and other contaminants. We've looked at herbicides and pesticides. Plants are amazing tools for treating contaminants."



Five floating wetlands have been installed in two retention ponds in East St. Paul. The pilot project will test how effective the floating wetlands are at removing harmful pollutants and excess nutrients from freshwater lakes over time. Supplied photos



Best Environmental
Story – 2nd

Winnipeg
The Herald

Sheldon Birnie

Best Environmental Story – 1st

Steinbach - The Carillon

Jordon Ross

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

VOLUME 76 NUMBER 45



Mark Wowchuk, CanWhite Sands' operations manager between March and October 2019, displays a glass jar of silica sand on his Vivian property.

Former CanWhite employee alleges well contamination, lax site safety

by JORDAN ROSS

CanWhite Sands Corp. allowed machines to leak into a well, lose an unsafe jobsite, and grossed out its workers for coming to the RM of Springfield, a former employee alleges.

Vivian resident Mark Wowchuk says his conscience and concern for the public good are prompting him to speak out about what he witnessed during his seven months with the Calgary-based mining company, which wants to extract and process underground silica sand deposits located east of Anoda and ship them by rail to market.

According to regulations, the project is designed to produce over 1.5 million tonnes of silica sand per year. Critics of the project worry it will harm the Sandhills aquifer

that supplies the entire Southeast region with drinking water. CanWhite maintains its proprietary slurry extraction method is safe and that its processing plant will be a boon to the local economy.

Brent Bullen, CanWhite's chief operating officer, disputes Wowchuk's account, calling numerous details "fabricated."

In an interview last month, Wowchuk said he doesn't identify as an activist and isn't affiliated with advocacy groups opposed to the Vivian Sand Project.

Wowchuk said he feels a heightened sense of responsibility because he lives in Vivian.

Nine proximity to the company's testing sites off Provincial Road 302 south of Highway 15 factored into his decision to join CanWhite in March 2019. At the time, he was its only full-time Manitoba employee.

An industrial machanic with a background in mining, manufacturing, and management, Wowchuk was working as a facility maintenance supervisor at CN's Springton Yard when a headhunting firm recruited him to become CanWhite's operations manager.

Wowchuk said he knew that joining a startup was risky but took the job because he has "a love for mining" and believed a silica plant could be good for the region, creating jobs and spinoff businesses.

"It's a great opportunity; it just needs to be done correctly, morally and ethically," he said.

Wowchuk reported directly to Brent Bullen—the public face of the company in Manitoba—but said he wasn't privy to CanWhite's discussions with government.

CanWhite's Environment Act Provisions—code for extraction, one for

processing—are currently before the Manitoba government. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is also deciding whether to designate the project under the Impact Assessment Act.

Wowchuk served as a bridge between CanWhite executives in Alberta and contractors in Manitoba. Wowchuk said CanWhite CEO Peter Scordj told him he would be "the face of Manitoba" for the company as it ramped up test drilling and data collection around Vivian.

Wowchuk was given a company truck and keys to an office space in Oakbank. He also joined the local chamber of commerce. But by mid-May, he was noticing red flags. He eventually concluded the company's public presentation didn't align with his conduct onsite.

See "Groundwater contamination" on 2A

Best Feature Photo – 3rd

Dauphin Herald

Doug Zywna

the Dauphin **Herald**

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Getting a ride in



Jaxon Catchway, 12, works on his skateboarding skills, Saturday afternoon at the D-Town Plaza Extreme Skate Park. It will be a while before Catchway and other park users will be able to hop on their boards and scooters thanks to the snowfall over the last two days.

- Doug Zywna/Herald



MAJESTIC SIGHT

MATTHEW HENRY/FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN PRESS

Quite an amazing sight... this Great Grey Owl looks absolutely fabulous as it takes flight on a backdrop of hoar frost. As the owl flew past, soaring images were captured, in-flight and full of character. Once the owl sights a target, it's locked and loaded as it approaches its prey. Big and beautiful, the Great Grey Owl is one of the largest owls in the world and Manitoba's provincial bird, adding to its impressive stature. Prior to the cold snap, there were lots of owl sightings in and around the park, making for many exciting days at Riding Mountain National Park.

Best Feature Photo – 2nd
Erickson – South Mountain Press – Matthew Henry



Best Feature Photo – 1st

Swan Valley Star and Times - Danielle Gordon-Broome

COMMUNITY LIVING

Bringing out her internal Natural Hippie

Valley entrepreneur makes the best out of the hand COVID-19 dealt

Jeremy
BERGEN
Star and Times

Many business owners, both locally and globally, have had to deal with the question of whether they would be allowed to operate their business as governments around the world have had different regulations and restrictions to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year.

This uncertainty has backed entrepreneurs in a corner, forcing them to rely on government subsidies and their own life savings to make ends meet, that down completely, or pivot their business model to adapt to the new pandemic era economy.

One person who has found a new way to express her creativity and support her family is Jessica Hill, who has found new success in The Natural Hippie Co., her business of making handmade, natural soaps and body care products that often almost look as good as real.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Hill enjoyed working in the hair industry for almost 15 years, the most recent years of which were being an independent stylist.

"Throughout my career, I took opportunities to try new things, taking a few years off here and there, but I always found myself being pulled back to the industry," said Hill.

"In early 2019, after a few years break from doing hair, I made the choice to begin preparing to re-open my clients. I spent the majority of the year taking certification courses to update my techniques, extensive research into products, laws, various updates in the business side of things and finally by late 2019 I was ready for business. Within a matter of weeks, my clients were full, and by January 2020, I was having to make cutters to other stylists."

Hill noted that June

and February of 2020 were record months for her business, averaging the most business she has had in her entire career.

That all came crashing down in March with the onset of the world, with the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada and the subsequent shutting down of many businesses deemed non-essential, including hair services.

Hill initially used the time to recharge, but as weeks turned into months, she began to grow the loss of the second income for her family and the opportunities that came with it.

"I have a drive inside of me that never lets me say yes for too long, and I decided to use this time I was given on lockdown to brainstorm any and all possible ways I could use this opportunity as 'growth,'" said Hill.

This is where natural soaps and body care products entered into the equation. "I am passionate about a lot of things, and being eco-conscious is one of them," said Hill, noting that in her past travels around the world, she has seen her fill of pollution and devastation that has ravaged the international landscape. "I decided I was going to build my self in a business that would be as eco-friendly as I could, no remaining mindful of waste."

"In 2016, I began researching and formulating my own body care products for my family. My daughter has very sensitive skin and after trying many over-the-counter options, nothing seemed to help her skin. I took matters into my own hands and started creating soaps, on a whim. After a short time, many of her friends and family told her about my products. "Over the years, I would make soaps to give as gifts to family and friends and people would tell me how much they loved them, how much they have needed a change in their skin since using it, and so on," Hill

continued. "I knew then I had a great product, but as a hair stylist with this type of work as much as I am, it occurred to me no long time lockdown in spring of 2020 that I may be able to use this as an opportunity to generate an income if need be."

Summer saw some relief for her as her personal new business was able to open up again and made her super busy playing catch up with all of her clients. However, she eventually found that she was not getting as much business as before, with some people naturally not looking as many appointments in the summer, and some coming back how many appointments they would book based on decreased spending or a change in style choices brought by the pandemic.

"November and December are some of the busiest months for stylists, and this has been a busy time through 12-hour days getting everyone in before the holidays," said Hill. "What a joy it makes in these months carries me through the slower times in their schedule."

She was ready again for the square in her business, complete with a full stock of supplies and chemicals to provide her services, chemicals that came with an expiration date.

And the second business lockdown came at the beginning of last November, a lockdown that would affect personal services like Hill's for months.

"Not knowing how long the second lockdown would be, I'd be facing a resupplying chemical bill for beyond any way I could," said Hill. "I could ride out the second lockdown, or I can begin to take hold of the situation and do everything in my power to sustain even if it means doing something different."

This is when Hill jumped in with both feet to develop The Natural

Hippie Co., knowing more or less what she wanted to do but not sure what to do with it, she decided to make it all come together.

"Upon days and sleepless nights researching, ingredients sourcing, pulling together my supplies and resources," she said. "I wanted to create a product in a way that not everyone has seen before. I knew I could add my artistic flair to the soap and people would love it, but I wanted the Hippie Co. to be about more than that."

"My dream was to provide a product to the public based on complexity, natural, organic and ethically sourced ingredients. My company as going to be completely free of single-use plastics, avoid the use of palm oil and the packaging as going to be paper products or reusable containers, a company with a minimal footprint left on Earth."

The Natural Hippie Co. is just that, a company based on providing to you a product that is better for your body and better for our planet, said Hill. "We as a society need to go for a dream."

Hill believes the people are responsible for their own actions,

worried that people may not purchase soap on a scale where they can't afford it, I enjoy to look for the positive, and if you can't find it, then make it or change it," she said.

"I don't believe in taking charge of your dreams. No one else will do it for you."

"We are now in our third lockdown, and the COVID-19 pandemic may have closed doors for me as a stylist, but I opened a new one. We will all be forever changed by COVID for various reasons. If you are struggling, I urge you to go creative, look deep within yourself and pull out the courage to show how it takes to succeed, even if it's different."

"The amount of support that I have received and continue to receive from our local community is overwhelming," Hill continued. "Our local community is truly amazing and I appreciate everyone for the words of encouragement and continuing to show up for the families that need you most. The small business that made up our community made up our more than ever."

"As the Hippie Co. grows and evolves, I will have to remind myself that this is real, and to be honest, I have COVID to thank for our path. I needed to go for a dream."

Hill believes the people are responsible for their own actions,

the Natural Hippie Co. is a local business that has been born out of the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic. TDS/The Natural Hippie Co., Jessica Hill, (TDS/TOM) have just a few of the unique soap designs hand-crafted by Hill.

Photo: [Image of Jessica Hill]

Photo: [Image of soap designs]

Best Feature Story – 3rd Swan Valley Star and Times Jeremy Bergen



Hearing aids open 'a whole new world' for Teulon girl

By Iris Dyck

When Kara Powrozniuk put on her hearing aids for the first time, the first thing she noticed was a ticking sound.

It was coming from the clock on the wall of her audiologist's office. It was the first time the 11-year-old had ever been able to hear one.

"I heard the clock. I heard myself breathing. I heard my footsteps," she said.

Kara then asked her mother Brittini Powrozniuk if she was hearing her mother's "real voice." It was then that they realized how limited Kara's hearing had been without the hearing aids.

"When they started talking about my hearing, I was like, 'Wait, so the world isn't supposed to sound so quiet?'" Kara said.

Without the hearing aids, regular voices sound like whispers to Kara. If someone speaks quietly, or isn't directly in front of her, she has trouble hearing them at all. Background noises, like a ticking clock, are completely inaudible to her.

But until just a few months ago, no one, not even Kara herself, knew anything was wrong.

Kara lives in Teulon with her family. The second of four girls, Kara did well in school and played sports. Brittini described her as a happy kid who was always asking questions. Sometimes Kara would withdraw from groups if there was a lot going on but not to an unusual degree.

"She would keep to herself and stuff, but we just thought that was her personality," said Brittini. "There were no real issues that jumped out or concerns to anyone that anything was wrong."

When Kara was in Grade 4, her teacher suggested she get her hearing tested — she'd noticed Kara had to focus extra hard in class and that some concepts just weren't sticking. Brittini made her an appointment with an audiologist in Selkirk, but the earliest appointment was a year out. Kara continued to do well in her classes — so well that Brittini nearly cancelled the appointment.

"If I did, we still wouldn't know," said Brittini.

The audiologist then referred Kara to an ear, nose and throat specialist in Winnipeg. Brittini thought the doctor would tell them that Kara's sinuses needed to be drained. Instead, Kara was diagnosed with conductive hearing loss.

"I tried not to cry in front of her, but I cried because it was not what we were expecting," Brittini said. "We had no clue."

"I just didn't know what was wrong with them," said Kara. "I was born with this, and I didn't even know about it."

Conductive hearing loss is when sound can't reach the inner ear. It can be caused by an obstruction,



Brittini Powrozniuk was shocked when she found out her daughter Kara had conductive hearing loss.

like ear wax or an infection, or by a defect to the ear canal. People can be born with conductive hearing loss, like Kara, or it can develop over time. Kara's case is unusual because of how long and how well she adapted to living without her sense of hearing. She doesn't have any speech issues and was able to get by with what little sound she could make out.

"Even the audiologist was almost in tears because he said he's never seen anything like it," said Brittini.

Once Kara got her hearing aids, she and her family discovered how she'd been able to "hear" without them. She watched other people and followed their lead, and she was always asking questions not because she didn't understand but because she couldn't hear. She learned to read lips and even managed to understand people through their masks when the pandemic hit in 2020. She kept to herself because she sometimes felt overwhelmed trying to fill in the gaps and keep up with what people were saying.

But until her diagnosis, she thought everyone did these things, too.

"I just thought the world sounded quiet," she said.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED Kara Powrozniuk didn't know she heard differently until she got hearing aids at age 11.

Kara is going for more tests in December to see what exactly caused her hearing loss and if surgery could help fix it. For now, she is still getting used to the sounds around her. Her favourite sounds are animals — hearing a cat meow or her dog walking down the hallway. Music sounds "so much better" to her now. Sounds that most people tune out, like birds chirping or traffic, Kara is hearing for the first time.

There are a few instances where Kara takes out her hearing aids — when she doesn't want to listen to her sisters, for example. But for the most part, Kara is "really happy" she can hear what they can.

"When she got those hearing aids, her eyes just lit up," said Brittini. "She had no clue what she was missing out on. "It's literally a whole new world for her."

"KARA'S CASE IS UNUSUAL BECAUSE OF HOW LONG AND HOW WELL SHE ADAPTED TO LIVING WITHOUT HER SENSE OF HEARING."

Best Feature Story — 2nd
Stonewall Teulon Tribune — Iris Dyck

DEEP READS

Behind Flin Flon's queen of drag

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

She's bold, she's brash - and so far, she's been a box office smash.

Flin Flon's own Bijoux, the original winner of the Drag Kween Mermaid pageant and arguably the north's most prominent drag performer, will hit the stage again in the coming days as part of a new kind of Flin Flon Pride celebration.

There's a lot that goes into Bijoux's presentation, but underneath the flamboyant red dress, bright makeup and Quebecois accent sits a performer - Alain Lachapelle.

When interviewed by *The Reminder*, Lachapelle spoke out of character as himself, preferring to let Bijoux speak for herself on stage later while discussing the transformative - and to some, cathartic - aspects of drag.

By day, Lachapelle is an occasional actor and director with the Ham Sandwich theatre group in Flin Flon. On some rare occasions though, he's decidedly more fabulous - the bedazzled, toilette-mouthed de facto French house mother of northern Manitoba drag.

Growing up Francophone in northern Ontario before moving, first to Ottawa then to Flin Flon, Lachapelle always wanted to try drag in his younger years but shied

away from it. When the first Drag Kween Mermaid pageant took place in Flin Flon in 2019, Lachapelle felt it was time to make his move.

"Drag is always something that I've wanted to try. Even in my years in Ottawa and moving up here, it's always something I wanted to do but I never really had either the chance or the guts to do it. Despite what people say about acceptance - and it's great the way society is moving forward and all - doing it for the first time is really nerve-wracking," said Lachapelle.

"When the Drag Kween Mermaid pageant came up for the first time in 2019, I thought, 'This is it!'"

How did that go? Bijoux, stepping out for the first time, left with the pageant winner's tiara and sash.

As the first local drag competition winner, Bijoux has been responsible for some growth in the local scene. The first Drag Kween Mermaid pageant had two participants - last year's had four, not including Bijoux.

Instead of retaining the tiara last year, Bijoux McCed, taking time during the evening to have a performance of her own while allowing new talents to take to the local stage for the first time. Bijoux did eventually attempt to grab the tiara again - this time, it was a short-lived

attempt to steal it and flee the venue that ended with her being subdued by authorities.

Creation

It didn't take much of a journey for Lachapelle to find the right persona, or the right name - "Bijoux" was the name of Lachapelle's former family cat. Bijoux's main inspiration is perhaps the French-Canadian world's musical greatest star.

"I'm very French-Canadian. I love camp. One of my favourite artists of all time - not one of the favourite artists of all time - is Celine Dion," said Lachapelle.

"As much as she is a great songstress, she is also very camp. There's something about that attitude, that French-Canadian kind of... je ne sais quoi, I guess, that I tried to bring out when I decided to create Bijoux."

Creating Bijoux was part of a long process of Lachapelle opening up. Lachapelle, who came out as gay in his early 20s, recalls growing up and playing his favourite cassette - Dion's *Falling Into You* - again and again, but hiding it from his family. Lachapelle is clear that his family is loving and supportive, but that he felt he needed to maintain a "manly" image to the outside world. When Bijoux shows up, that veneer leaves. Being super fish or owning everything is not the main point - it's about self-expression.

"When I grew up in northern Ontario, I only came out when I was 20, 21. I had a lot of repressed, internalized homophobia and all that stuff. I always tried to fishon myself as masculine, so nobody would know I was gay," Lachapelle said.

"Sometimes I wish I would have allowed her to come out sooner, if you know what I mean. Being Bijoux really allows me to be gay AE, to really let that other side of me out."



Bijoux waves from atop the Flin Flon Pride float in the 2020 Canada Day Parade. As the inaugural winner of Flin Flon's Drag Kween Mermaid pageant, Bijoux has taken on a role in growing Flin Flon's still-nascent drag scene.

FILE PHOTO

Realizing Bijoux takes time. Much makeup is applied. Lachapelle, who typically has a beard, shaves it completely off. An over-the-top Quebecois accent suddenly appears, along with a curly brunette wig. For a few hours at least, Lachapelle becomes an eyeshadowed avatar bound for stage, serving up an internal realism.

"As soon as I started putting on that makeup, putting on that wig, that character just came out. Bijoux... she's in me. She's a part of me. When you get into that character, when you get dressed up and put on that hair and everything, it allows that character to come out and really shine," said Lachapelle of Bijoux.

"Deep down, I am a campy bitch. I love that stuff, I love the camp and charm, being cheeky."

Lachapelle has racked up a long list of acting credits on local stage, mostly with Ham Sandwich - a homophobic lawyer in *Regrets Only*, an inebriated journalist-turned-mental hospital patient in *Shock Corridor*, Winston Smith in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and a goon in the Flin Flon Community Choir's *Mamma Mia* to name a few. Lachapelle said

becoming Bijoux is different than those roles - mostly since Bijoux doesn't do scripts.

"You can't really do anything you want with it. That character is set in a particular story, in a particular script. That's your character and those are the traits and you're what the story needs to be," Lachapelle said.

"With Bijoux, I can do whatever the hell I want in a way. It's also an extension of me - it's not a character created by someone else. It's letting myself and that inner campy bitch come out and have fun and say and do whatever I want. You can get away with a lot more too, because it's Bijoux."

Blazing trail

This year, the Drag Kween Mermaid title will take a back seat. There will be no competition this summer - instead, Creighton will play host to its own first-ever drag show July 3, the Drag Me Across Saskatchewan show at the Creighton Sportex, with talent from the Saskatoon-based YXE Drag Collective and organized as part of Flin Flon Pride. Bijoux will be making an appearance, along with Virgo Moon, the

second-ever winner of the Drag Kween Mermaid pageant and current title holder.

"They asked myself and Virgo to participate," said Lachapelle.

"I'm all in, especially since it's going to be a live event. I haven't performed live since the first drag pageant show so I'm pretty excited about it."

When asked about Bijoux's role in the northern drag scene, Lachapelle said he is happy to see the art form is growing and more people are getting involved in different ways. He thanks the Flin Flon Pride committee and the volunteers for holding Flin Flon's major LGBTQ+ events and providing Bijoux with a chance to find her audience.

"I'm really happy to have been able to show that in Flin Flon, in a small, northern community you can have a drag queen in a pageant or in the Canada Day parade and everybody's loving it. I can't take all the credit because there are people on the Pride committee who have organized these events and made it happen so we could tag along," he said.

"You can be a 30-something-year-old man in a dress and still be loved here."

Best Feature Story - 1stFlin Flon
The Reminder

Eric Westhaver



Behind the makeup and persona is Alain Lachapelle, the creator and performer who brings the Bijoux to life. Lachapelle said he based the character of Bijoux on Celine Dion, his favourite chanteuse.

PHOTO BY NOELLE DRIMME

Best First Nations Coverage Story – 3rd

Shoal Lake Crossroads This Week

Racheal Flintoft



Creating through culture

By designing their own traditional Dakota Sioux regalia and garments, Oscar and Faith Bunn have spent the last decade ensuring that First Nation traditions are preserved for generations to come

By RACHEAL FLINTOFT Crossroads This Week

It's a full house at the Bunn residence.

Lindsey (Oscar) Bunn Jr and his wife Faith live with their children on the Birdtail Sioux First Nation, located a few kilometres just west of Beulah. Of course, with two children ages 10, 8, 6, 4 and a newborn, days are full – hectic and busy, but nonetheless warm and loving, filled with a day-to-day routine typical of a strong family unit.

Since the birth of their first son Asher in 2011, the Bunn family has aimed to make cultural preservation, traditions, customs, and values an important focus and core aspects within their growing family's familiarities. They together make traditional Dakota Sioux designed regalia and garments, brightly coloured with intricate beadwork, sewing, and embroidery for each of their five children.

"Telling your story is easier when you have items to show for... for the people you love," Oscar said. "Our aim

and hopes are that the pieces will stay in the family for when our kids have kids... and we have grandchildren."

Without being transcribed, for thousands of generations oral teachings have been passed from generation to generation... combined to preserve the fabric of a community's history, understanding, and background.

Looking at what identifies them as Dakota Sioux people, the couple worked to accrue past teachings from ancestors, traditional Dakota designs, and fundamental tribe aspects to instill in their children a sense of who Dakota people identify as.

"When we had our first child, we wanted to create a connection to our ancestors," the Bunn said. "We want our kids to grow up knowing that our people were always here, and that we still practice the same customs and cultures."

For a First Nation family like the Bunn, oral teach-

ings – spoken words highlighting indigenous culture, customs, and historical preservation – have been an integral part of maintaining a First Nations connection. The couple understands that modern day life will still prevail, however, have worked to ensure their family displays a proud knowledge of their own indigenous culture.

Passing down traditions, "we think it is important because our kids will know where they come from and be proud of the Dakota way of life," they explained. "That, along with being connected to their ancestors, and having that knowledge to carry onto their children one day."

First Nations across the globe are rooted in oral tradition, inherent to their particular tribe. Traditional storytelling is told and retold, passing down historical significance along with oral teaching that practice real skill specific to their people – hunting and fishing activities, harvesting and

preparing medicinal plants, leading healing ceremonies... to name a few. Aspects of cultural dress also help to make a connection for both the older and younger indigenous generations.

"Each piece of regalia has a specific meaning and story to tell, with each tribe comes different origin stories and different beadwork designs," the Bunn said. "A lot of the regalia made in present day is used for powwow dancing or ceremonial items, whereas in the old days, items like moccasins, vests, bonnets, and cradleboards were key items for survival."

Although the day is often the limit, the couple attributes their inspiration from old pictures of the Dakota Sioux people which often becomes embodying in their authentic and time-honoured pieces. Holding the embroidery and sewing talent between the duo, Faith often makes bonnets, shirts, skirts and dresses, also embedding designs onto clothing. Oscar's beadwork is displayed

through baby bonnets, beaded vest, beaded moccasins, keychains, beaded necklaces and earrings, among other things. Together, the two work on various projects to capture the essence of the Dakota Sioux people, gained through a wide variety of accessories and attire, as well as regalia for powwow dancers.

Navigating through the dark past in indigenous history, the Bunn focus on moving forward and imparting positive cultural facets attributed to their tribe.

"We are passing down traditions such as ceremonies, songs, usual medicines – when to get them and when to pick them as well as what we use them for – to our children," Oscar said. "They are also learning Dakota language at school. A lot of the Dakota culture was lost during the residential era but it's slowly coming back to the people."

The impact from the residential school time period is longstanding and overwhelming, but the Bunn are creating an environment for their First Nations children to positively and generationally keep moving forward.

Fundamental aspects spe-

cific to indigenous communities, cultures, and traditions were stripped from children during the residential school era, lasting from the early 1870s to the mid-1990s. As a way to assimilate First Nation people, an estimated 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Metis between the ages four and 16 years were forced to attend residential school locations. Considered a cultural genocide by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there were a total of 139 residential schools across Canada, with one school locally operated within the Birdtail community. The last residential school, located in Punnichy SK, surprisingly didn't close its doors until 1996.

The impact from the residential school time period is longstanding and overwhelming, but the Bunn are creating an environment for their First Nations children to positively and generationally keep moving forward.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Missing loved ones' families want answers

Jennifer
LAVIOLETTE
Star and Times

They're someone's daughter, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, niece and friend.

The rate of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited (MMIWG2S) is climbing at an alarming rate. Sadly many of the cases are going unreported or do not gain enough media coverage to be accurately counted.

Four missing Indigenous women, who were formerly from the Valley area, still haven't been found to date. Their loved ones are left with no answers and the RCMP has no new leads. Two of the missing women's families declined to participate in this story.

There are a lot of negative connotations on how and why Indigenous women are going missing, but before one can judge, it's important to acknowledge they're all human beings and have a story to tell that's worth being heard. Despite the fact that the media has recently



Evelyn Chartrand poses with a red dress in remembrance of all the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people. STAR AND TIMES JEREMY BERGEN

started focusing on the issue, it has been going on long before anyone has publicly talked about it.

"I think it's really important to establish that this has been ongoing since the advent of colonization," explained Manitoba NDP St. John's MLA and MMIWG2S advocate Nahanni Fontaine.

"MMIWG2S families have been trying to bring attention to the issue for well over 40

years.

If you look across Canada, some of the earliest files reported to the police, actually come along what is known as the Highway of Tears in British Columbia. There are women who have gone missing along the Highway of Tears and their families have filed these reports as far back as in 1952."

There is a strained relationship between the families of MMIWG2S and the police. Many

families feel that their concerns are not being taken seriously, they're not being listened to and there isn't enough being done to find out what happened.

"With the families, I've worked with all across Canada, there have been identical stories repeated in respect of loved ones going to policing institutions to file a missing report or trying to get information," said Fontaine.

"Police across the board have been dismissive and under mining the whole investigation process, because they didn't believe families initially. So if you were to ask families about when they reported their loved one missing, the police would respond with comments about them 'just being on a drunk and she will be

back' or 'she doesn't want to be found'. Despite families knowing their loved one would never do that or up and leave their kids. There's always a repetitive excuse given by policing agencies as to why it's not a pressing and urgent matter.

"Overall families of MMIWG2S have been met with disbelief and disregard because it's just another Indigenous woman or person who has gone missing. Many times over the years I have said if it were a young Caucasian female who went missing, the response would always be much different and it has been."

One of the most prominent cases of MMIWG2S is the Tina Fontaine file. Just last month earmarked three years since the case was acquitted, leaving no justice for Tina Fontaine and no answers for her family that she left behind.

"It's really important to understand why Indigenous women and girls leave their communities or the reserve," noted Fontaine. "Our people are encouraged to leave our reserves due to the lack of jobs, education and opportunities; followed by lack of infrastructure, running water and poor road conditions. There is a big push to leave the reserve to access better health care, schools, employment and on a variety of other levels because the notion is that urban cen-

tres have everything one needs and reserves don't.

"So imagine being a young Indigenous person coming to the city, not knowing the dangers and culture of urban life. Winnipeg has already been deemed as ground zero for MMIWG2S cases, so if one comes to a city where there are predators everywhere waiting to prey on vulnerable targets, it's going to happen."

"One story that comes to my mind that clearly explains this, is one about a young girl who was just 10 years old," added Fontaine. "She would go to the 7/11 on Kilbuck and Sargeants to get a Slurpee."

She met a man named Richard, who was in his car just waiting. He struck up a conversation with her that then formed into a relationship where he began to rape and sexually exploit her at 10 years old. This young girl was innocently going to the store, just like any young person has the right to do, and ends up in the clutches of this predator, who I ultimately believe contributed to her murder. There's no shortage of predators who are looking to prey upon Indigenous girls and women in Winnipeg. I've heard and seen absolutely horrendous and unimaginable things when it comes to the violations of young Indigenous girls and women."

BONE: SEE PAGE B3

Best First Nations Coverage Story – 2nd
Swan Valley Star and Times - Jennifer Laviolette

So many missing and murdered women

REDress Project honours victims and their spirits through the colour red

BY KIM LANGEN

It may have been the most beautiful location in the province for the gently waving red dresses, and the spirits that accompanied them.

For just five hours on Saturday, October 2, the slowly shifting garments, many of them embroidered with the names of missing or murdered Indigenous women in Manitoba, were hung on display within the oak forest park beside the bay on Park Street.

And then they were gone – like the women they represented.

Winnipeg artist Jaimie Black, creator of the REDress Project, was told by an Indigenous friend years ago that red is the only colour that the spirits can see.

“Red is really a calling back of the spirits of these women, and allowing them to be among us, and have their voices heard through their family members and community,” she was told.

“It is a visual reminder of the staggering number of women who are no longer with us,” said Black, a multidisciplinary artist of mixed Anishinaabe and Finnish descent. “Through the installation I hope to draw attention to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes against Aboriginal women, and to evoke a presence through the marking of absence.”

Members of the Pembina Valley REDress Project put together this particular exhibition, and the Killarney stop was the last one in their summer tour in the area, said member Denise Thiessen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



KIM LANGEN/KILLARNEY GUIDE

LUMINOUS REMINDER OF SO MANY LOST WOMEN – A stunning display of red dresses waved gently amongst the oak trees across from Royal Manor on Saturday, part of the REDress movement to honour the shocking loss of some 1,100 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada. This moving art installation, created originally by Winnipeg artist Jaimie Black, was on exhibition here for just five hours, thanks to the Pembina Valley REDress Project. It was their last show in the southwest tour, and reactions to the poignant and vivid display of garments and tributes were both deeply visceral and emotional.

Best First Nations Coverage Story - 1st
Killarney Guide - Kim Langen

Best Habitat Conservation Story – 3rd Gimli Express Weekly News Patricia Barrett

2 The Express Weekly News Thursday, January 28, 2021

Farming and water retention go hand in hand in Poplarfield

Creation of wetlands will have environmental benefits

By Patricia Barrett

Two Poplarfield farmers recently completed a progressive water retention project on their land that will result in considerable positive outcomes for the environment and ensure a farming future.

Tom and Rozanne Nevakshonoff own a quarter section of land on which they currently grow hay. They decided to turn three natural marshy areas on their land into wetlands in partnership with the East Interlake Watershed District (EIWD).

The marshy areas would typically get a little water in the spring but "quickly run dry," said Tom Nevakshonoff by phone last week. Although he and his wife were able to harvest hay from the areas, they decided to take them out of production.

They used the EIWD's wetland creation know-how and a landowner payout program for wetland development that the watershed district administers on behalf of the province.

"Agriculture, drainage and water retention and storage can work together in a symbiotic relationship," said Nevakshonoff. "You can still farm, still

have drainage and also retain and stage the release of water. Our wetland project is a classic example of that."

The reconstruction of the marshy areas, which entailed excavating the soil and the erection of dykes, started last October and took about three weeks to complete.

Not only are the Nevakshonoffs showing how water retention and farming can go hand in hand, but they're also increasing the local area's biodiversity and helping mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

Nevakshonoff, who served as NDP Interlake MLA for 17 years (1999-2016) and as minister of the department of Conservation and Water Stewardship (2015-2016) said he started thinking about creating wetlands on his own property after he left office.

"Why not practise what you preach," said Nevakshonoff, who helped expand the number of watershed districts in the province (including the EIWD and the West Interlake Watershed District) LiDAR surveying (a remote sensing method using light waves to determine land elevation)



EXPRESS PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM NEVAKSHONOFF AND ARMAND BELANGER
An EIWD map of the property shows the location and water retention capabilities of the three wetlands.



Tom Nevakshonoff surveys one of wetlands being created.

that encompassed the Fisher and Icelandic rivers, and integrated watershed management plans while in provincial office.

The shortage of water is a major issue around the world, including in the Interlake where recent years of drought have resulted in wildfires and a shortage of feed for cattle producers. A dearth of wetlands only exacerbates the problem.

Wetland loss is "significantly deteriorating" the province's environment, according to Ducks Unlimited. Greenhouse gases are released when wetlands are drained. Wetlands also capture nutrients such as phosphorus, which contribute to frequent algal blooms on Lake Winnipeg and other lakes and waterways.

In a mere nine years from now, the United Nations estimates that 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity.

In that respect, wetlands are "incredibly valuable" for replenishing aquifers which supply drinking water, including his own, said Nevakshonoff. The aquifers in the Interlake are among the best in the country. Wet-

lands absorb surface water, funneling it underground where it is stored.

His newly created wetlands will also provide a home for waterfowl, wildlife, insects and plants, all of which are threatened by serious habitat loss.

Other benefits they'll confer include the slow, or staged, release of water after spring runoff and heavy rainfall. That will mitigate the risk of inundations in flood-prone areas to the east of Poplarfield, including Arborg and Riverton, which are part of the Icelandic River watershed. Those communities have experienced major floods in the past.

"I can still farm as I want and create benefits for downstream landowners and communities because their flood risk is lessened," said Nevakshonoff, who currently serves as councillor for the RM of Fisher and also sits on sub-district boards of the EIWD and the West Interlake Watershed District. "When you're storing water anywhere in the watershed and slowly releasing it once initial runoff has occurred, that's good for flood protection."

Continued on page 4

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Best Habitat Conservation Story – 2nd

Shoal Lake Crossroads This Week

Racheal Flintoft



Complete with local milkweed plants, we've seeded our first pollinator habitat on our acreage. After an up-close and personal experience raising and releasing 11 monarch butterflies over the last five weeks, it was an eye-opening experience about the importance of a butterfly and their risk of extinction.

With a newly found respect and better understanding for pollinators – more specifically the monarch butterfly – we set our efforts high to create a butterfly-friendly environment. Lots of learning and self-education brought one fact into the forefront... they need our help to survive.

There are over 1,000 pollinator species in Canada, and according to AgPollinator, the top two in an agricultural setting are bees, and of course, butterflies. Pollinators are needed for plants to reproduce – a whopping 90% of flowering plants need pollinators to allocate pollen for sexual reproduction. Moving the plant's pollen from the flower's male reproductive system to a flower's female stigma – thus moving pollen from plant to plant – fertilizes the flower and produces yields in various forms.

These critical insects labour to pollinate approximately 40% of the world's food supply, which is clearly vital to farming. AgPollinator best described the magnitude of their impact... a little over one third of the food we eat, and drink, is made possible because of a pollinator.

Like bees, the monarch butterfly population is rapidly declining – more than 80% over the past 30 years. As a key pollinator, a popu-

lation decline spells many problems...

What is the answer to the monarch's decline? When I brought these 11 little caterpillars' home, I was so excited to be actively taking a role in the monarch's fight for survival. These 11 little mauling insects seemed to grow almost overnight, each needing a milkweed per day. Eventually I doubled the amount to two, demonstrating that a monarch caterpillar's larvae stage was laser focused solely on milkweed. One thing I learned quickly was their unusual pickiness when it came to the requirements needed for their survival...

Monarch butterflies need milkweed plants like we need air – as milkweeds are the only host monarch butterfly plant. They will only lay their eggs on a milkweed plant and once becoming a monarch caterpillar, the larvae will only eat milkweed leaves. Bottom line, the milkweed is darn important.

A few years ago, scientists attached the monarch's decline to mortality rates during fall migration, however research now points to the loss of the milkweed as the number one cause.

The solution? To start – plant, protect, or relocate milkweeds.

MONARCH FARM

"Since the removal of milkweed started 30 years ago after it was included in the noxious weeds list, the monarch population has noticeably dropped," stated Daniel Forster, co-owner of Monarch Homestead in Melita. "Monarch butterflies are a pollinator nonetheless but

in order to raise and sustain monarchs we need milkweed habitats to support their population."

This year alone, Monarch Homestead, a one-of-a-kind monarch farm, have re-homed over 1,000 monarch caterpillars to be raised into adult butterflies.

According to Forster, the idea behind their business model is to help the monarch butterfly population survive, create a needed awareness regarding a monarch's importance, and to help the area, specifically farmyards, in relocating and rehoming milkweed plants before destruction.

He explained that by encouraging people to raise monarchs, they understand and care more for the unique balance of our local habitats and pollinators. In turn, that creates more environments for native pollinators which will in turn create more pollinators for crops.

I couldn't agree with him more. In a short five weeks, I adopted 11 monarch larvae babies of my own and had the unique experience of learning their entire life cycle. As a result, I have become their biggest advocate.

"I am a sixth-year monarch enthusiast and have raised over 500 Monarchs in my time being interested in them," he exclaimed. "It started out as an interest in milkweed for economical ventures but when I found out about the relationship with the monarch butterfly, I was more than hooked!"

I was quickly enamoured too. I watched them eat and grow, shed their skin over and over, and wait until they were ready to make the trek to hang upside down and

eventually change into a chrysalis. To give an idea, this part of the transformation looks almost like getting into a sleeping bag with no

hands – wiggle, wiggle! The chrysalis becomes a beautiful jade, with gold trim, which often is what a monarch's transformation is

known for. Never have I seen anything so magical, it is truly a work of art.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 78

Best Habitat Conservation Story – 1st Steinbach – The Carillon Jordon Ross



Zoo program breeds hope for endangered butterfly

by JACQUES GILLES

A recent date page opens and a blue butterfly flutters across the page. It is a small, delicate creature, its wings a vibrant blue with white spots. The butterfly is the focus of a conservation program at the Carillon Biosphere Reserve, a large area of natural beauty in the heart of the province.

The program, which opened in 2017, is the first of its kind in the province. It is a joint effort between the Carillon Biosphere Reserve and the Carillon Zoo. The program aims to protect and restore the population of the blue butterfly, which is considered one of the most endangered species in the province.

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Carillon Biosphere Reserve staff and volunteers are working to protect and restore the population of the blue butterfly.

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"People need to know we have limited capacity"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic had hit the Boundary Trails Health Centre hard, and health care workers are calling on the community to step up and do their part to help them battle the virus.

BTHC had set aside 15 of its 94 beds for COVID patients, but in recent weeks have seen as many as 20 people of all ages require hospitalization for the virus.

Many of the hospital's four special care units are also routinely filled with COVID patients who require intubation to survive. (Special care units are similar to intensive care units, though patients who progress to the point of requiring long-term ventilation are sent to ICUs in Winnipeg or Brandon.)

"We had planned to set aside 15 beds. We've surpassed that," Dr. Denis Fortier, regional medical lead and chief medical officer for Southern Health-Santé Sud, said last week. "As far as we're concerned, we're going to be seeing the effects of this surge for weeks to come."

"Having all these patients come in



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Boundary Trails Health Centre has seen an increase in COVID-19 patients in recent weeks. Staff are pulling double shifts and oxygen reserves are being severely taxed. Health care workers are pleading with the community to step up and do their part: follow public health orders and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

who are sicker and require more complex care, that is taking up a great deal of resources."

The rate of COVID infections in the Morden-Winkler area have soared in recent weeks. On Monday, Winkler had 79 cases, making it one of the worst infected communities outside

of Winnipeg, beating even larger urban centres like Brandon. There are also many area residents refusing to be tested for the virus despite showing symptoms, so it's likely the actual case number are many times higher.

Meanwhile, the city's vaccination rates are among the worst in the prov-

ince, with just 24.9 per cent of Winklerites having received their vaccination as of Monday. The only region with fewer vaccinated residents is the RM of Stanley, in last place at 13 per cent.

Continued on page 3

Best Health Story – 3rd
Winkler Morden Voice - Ashleigh Vivieros

Interlake paramedics put in 'dangerous and dire' situation

By Patricia Barrett

The union representing rural paramedics says the provincial government is endangering residents and paramedics in the Interlake through paramedic vacancy mismanagement, and could make the situation worse by co-opting Interlake paramedics and their ambulances to provide service to Winnipeg.

The Interlake region, part of the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA), is suffering from a critical paramedic staffing shortage and a province unwilling to fill vacant positions in order to save money, said Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) president Bob Moroz.

"Our members are being asked to work crazy and dangerous amounts of overtime, and we're not able to cover the province like we should, so our response times go up," said Moroz last Friday. "The sooner you can get to someone in an emergency, the better off that person will be, generally. It's a really dangerous and dire situation right now."

Every day sees a shortage of ambulances because paramedics aren't filled. The IERHA has 50-60 paramedic positions available and Shared Health, the provincial organization responsible for delivering health services, needs to take a step forward and start hiring, he said, because they're "desperate" just to get back to base staffing levels in order to avoid the "enormous shift shortages."

Last Thursday (Oct. 21), for instance, the IERHA had 16 open paramedic shifts in the Interlake area that weren't filled, said Moroz. That's a significant shortfall for such an expansive geographic area, where paramedics can be on the road for hours and which sees regular emergency room closures because there aren't enough physicians to staff them.

"We're not seeing paramedic hires happening. There's no urgency from Shared Health or the government to start filling positions so that we don't have 16 empty shifts on one day in the Interlake," said Moroz. "This is unacceptable. It's unconscionable they're allowing this to continue without an urgent plan to address the issue we've talked about for so long. This is where the danger comes in."

The paramedic staffing crisis didn't arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, said Moroz. It has been building for a decade or more. All the pandemic did was shine a spotlight on it.

"The pandemic is not responsible for where we are today; this is the result of years of inaction by government," he said.

Excessive overtime, lower pay than city counterparts and an unresponsive government are taking a toll on rural paramedics' mental health, said Moroz. As professionals, they want to provide the best and most timely care they can.

"The situation they're finding themselves in is weighing on them psychologically. They know the impact of taking longer to respond even though they know it's not their fault," said Moroz. "The government refuses to deal with recruitment and retention and scope of practice issues — and it's so mentally draining. The morale of our paramedic group is so low that I'm actually worried for a lot of them."

What could exacerbate the crisis is Shared Health's plan to use rural paramedics to provide interfacility patient transfers within the city of Winnipeg, said Moroz. When an Interlake ambulance delivers a rural patient to a Winnipeg hospital for tests or treatment, it could be seconded to fill a city service gap.

"[Shared Health] will be, where necessary, moving our rural crews around in Winnipeg," said Moroz. "And some of the team I've heard from our paramedics is that [EMS] close to Winnipeg, like in Stonewall and West St. Paul, could be summoned to Winnipeg for direct calls. We're seeing that in Brandon where some of our rural paramedics are being called to primary calls. And every time that happens, it takes that service away from the region where those paramedics and their ambulances are supposed to be."

Winnipeg has its own ambulance fleet and paramedic service, he said, and often a higher pay scale than rural health regions. Winnipeg paramedics earn "at least 25 per cent more" in base wages in a lot of cases. They don't have to determine what hospital emergency room is open or closed the way Interlake paramedics do on a daily basis, and they also don't have to care for patients over long distances.

Because of pay differences, new graduates will be drawn to higher paying paramedic positions in the city with the "same [job] requirements," said Moroz. That, along with a lack of availability in rural regions to move up a job classification ladder and "openness to a higher scope," is a significant recruitment and retention issue — and it's not being addressed by government.

Moroz said the union has regularly reached out to the government to discuss the "very dire situation" they're facing. He did have a brief meeting with the health minister recently but has yet to hear back from her regard-



EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

The province's shared health organization, which oversees ambulance services, will be putting rural paramedics to work in Winnipeg.

ing possible solutions MAHCP put forward.

The government's health-care system overhaul may provide better ways to do things, but it will still require enough paramedic staff to do the work and have them where they need to be so that they can respond in Manitoba within a "reasonable" timeframe, Moroz added.

The Express asked Shared Health why it isn't responding to the paramedic crisis in the Interlake and why it's considering using Interlake paramedics for Winnipeg service while staffing levels in the Interlake continue to suffer.

A spokesperson for the organization said "rural paramedics" could be asked to complete interfacility transfers when in Winnipeg in order to make the best use of resources.

"Earlier this year, protocols were put in place that allow ambulances from rural communities to complete transfers within the city of Winnipeg," said the spokesperson. "In order to make efficient use of ambulance resources, paramedics waiting to return a patient home for prolonged periods of time may be asked to complete interfacility transfers within Winnipeg."

As of last Friday, no IERHA ambulances had "completed a trip within the city of Winnipeg," said the spokesperson.

Staffing of "emergency response services" in rural regions has historically been challenging, the spokesperson said, with long-standing vacancies "exacerbated by the health system's ongoing response in the COVID-19 pandemic."

"Significant efforts to ensure appropriate staffing levels across emergency response services are ongoing and include recruitment initiatives, engage-

ment of relief staff and contracted service partners, and the development of long-term human resource workforce strategies," said the spokesperson. And the government's ongoing transformation of the health-care system aims to "enhance ambulance service in communities by having less urgent interfacility transfers utilize different transportation methods."

Those different transportation methods weren't stipulated.

In addition to ground ambulance care, Interlake relies on STARS air ambulance for critical and timely care.

STARS, which is funded by a number of sources including government, donations and lottery earnings, completed 627 missions across Manitoba in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, according to its website.

The helicopter transports critically ill or injured patients and undertakes interfacility transfers. Over the past few weeks in the Interlake, STARS responded to some call emergencies and interfacility transfer requests in communities such as Selkirk, Stonewall, Russell and Hilda, according to its Twitter site.

When requested, STARS provided total mission data for only the Interlake region over the past few years.

STARS' Manitoba communications officer Blake Robert said they isolated data for Interlake communities — the western half of the IERHA — and determined the number of missions (interfacility transfers and scene calls) that occurred across two fairly similar date ranges.

"Between March 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020, STARS carried out 253 missions in the Interlake region," said Robert.

"Between Jan. 1, 2021 and Oct. 21, 2021, STARS carried out 160 missions in the Interlake region."

Best Health Story — 2nd

Gimli Express Weekly News

Patricia Barrett

Stonewall woman, 100, forced to give up hospital bed

By Patricia Barrett

Age doesn't matter when it comes to mandatory transfers of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority patients from their hometown hospitals to facilities in other health regions as the provincial government tries to create acute care bed space.

Ruth Sampson, who is 100 and a half years old, was in the Stonewall hospital recovering from a serious fall she had at Thanksgiving, but became a transfer victim last week when the Stonewall & District Health Centre sent her to Crystal City.

Crystal City is in the Southern health region, near the Manitoba-North Dakota border. It's about 214 kilometres southwest of Stonewall.

The IERHA was following the provincial government's mandatory patient transfer protocol, which came into effect in October, to free up hospital bed space for COVID patients and other acute care patients.

Sampson's niece, Linda Tyerman, and her husband David said they were given fewer than five hours' notice on Nov. 23 that their aunt was being transferred to the Rock Lake Hospital in Crystal City. When they protested — saying family members, including great-nieces and nephews, would have no opportunity to say goodbye — they were given a reprieve until the following morning.

"We had absolutely no say in this

decision. It was all up to the IERHA," said Linda last Friday. "Some people were transferred to Roblin and Russell, we heard. I heard that one person was going to be transferred to Flin Flon but that got stopped because they probably took their family member home. This is just ignorant on the IERHA's part."

Linda, who is her aunt's primary caregiver, said they drove to Crystal City on Nov. 24, about an hour after the ambulance left with their aunt, to ensure she didn't feel abandoned and had family with her to help her settle in.

"There was no way in hell I was letting my Auntie Ruth be taken halfway across the province to an unknown hospital all alone," said Linda. "There were many, many tears and that was very hard to see. Very hard."

David Tyerman said the forced transfer of a 100-year-old senior far from her family and her friends, and from the only home she has ever known, showed a complete lack of compassion.

"She's 100 frickin' years old and she's lived in this community for 100 years. On top of that, some of our relatives who work in health-care are saying, 'Why are we working so hard, putting in all these hours to support this system when we can't even keep our centenarian aunt in our own community?'" he said. "What's it all for when some-



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

One-hundred-year-old Ruth Sampson was transferred from the Stonewall & District Health Centre to free up bed space for COVID patients and others requiring acute care. Pictured with Ruth is her niece Linda Tyerman and nephew David Tyerman.

body turns you around when you're 100 years old and gives you a good swift kick and says, 'We're done with you. Bye-bye.'"

The forced transfer is having a ripple effect through their family, said David. And Ruth's friends, who are in their 80s and 90s, can't make the 200-plus-kilometre drive down to Crystal City to visit her.

"There's not a hope they can make that journey. Before this, Ruth was a block and a half away. And she has lots of friends. She has been in the Lions [club] for 15 years," he said.

Linda said it didn't make any sense sending her aunt from one hospital to another hospital. And taxpayers are the ones picking up the tab for the ambulance ride out of the region. They'll also be paying for the ride back should capacity in the IERHA improve and patients are allowed to return.

"People are going to hear about this [transfer protocol] and might be scared to go into the Stonewall hospi-

tal because they could get shipped off to Timbuktu," she said.

The Tyermans received a letter from the IERHA dated Nov. 24 — the same day their aunt was bundled into an ambulance and taken away — stating the health region, in accordance with "provincial patient transfer protocols," is relocating low acuity patients outside the region because of COVID-19 pressures and to "accommodate ongoing non-COVID related acute care needs."

It goes on to say that Sampson's repatriation to a personal care home in the region is a priority.

"Transfer will be arranged at the first opportunity that a personal care home bed becomes available in the region," states the letter.

The problem is PCH beds in the IERHA are at a premium. Linda said her aunt has already been "panelled" (had a request for placement in a personal care home approved), but she

Continued on page 5

Best Health
Story — 1st

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

Patricia Barrett

SMALL CAR
12 DOOR TRUCK
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SUV (2 rows and trunk)
12 DOOR TRUCK
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Best Historical Story – 3rd Steinbach The Carillon Jordon Ross

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STEINBACH, MAN. | THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021 THE GARELLO - 11.9

Restored museum commemorates ‘The Old Church’

By JORDAN ROSS

A lovingly restored wing of the St Pierre Museum is home to a new permanent exhibit that celebrates the construction, heyday, and demolition of the village's town-oldest, nine-of-the-century Roman Catholic parish.

Those who attended the museum's annual Springtime Festival last weekend were afforded a front-row seat to the exhibit, entitled *The Old Church*, which will open to the public.

St Pierre resident Sol Deschamps spent months curating the exhibit and restoring the floor, ceiling, and walls of museum's vestibule and hallway. Architectural items were propped off to reveal a hardwood ceiling. Underfoot, 120-year-old fir floorboards were uncovered and refinished.

A local artisan called him and cadgers to match the original floor in the museum building, built in 1900 to house a teaching convent called by the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary, who operated schools in the building for decades.

The project was a deeply personal one for Deschamps, who was 14 elementary school when the old church was demolished in January 1981. He can still recall the energy that coursed through the church when it was full of people.

"It was tangible. You could feel it," he said. While working on the museum restoration, Deschamps turned his mind to capturing "that old church spirit." It brought to mind more childhood memories of the building that was the social and religious heart of St Pierre for 80 years.

Completed in 1984, after five years of construction, the church, standing 125 feet, was one of the tallest wooden structures in Manitoba.

"It was the pride of the community," Deschamps said. An eight-foot cross atop its steeple it was illuminated at night.

"It was kind of like a beacon," Deschamps said.

During construction, mass was held under a large tent erected on a platform near Robert Creek.

Building the church was a massive community undertaking. Fifty-five thousand board-feet of timber was cut and transported during the winter of 1895 alone. A local sawmill near Quebec, David C&M, set up a sawmill in the town. More timber arrived by rail to the Deschamps train station. Later, 120,000 bricks were used to complete the church's exterior.

Archbishop Louis-Philippe Adélard Laporte blessed the church on Jan. 20, 1901. Dozens of Sunday services, weddings, and social gatherings followed, but by the 1950s, structural problems had led to a long list of repairs.

"The church was in desperate need of some attention," Deschamps said.

In 1978, the province deemed the building dangerous and ordered it to close, setting off a bitter two-year dispute over whether to repair the building or demolish it and start over.

The parish priest, Rev. Lloyd Boulter, and the Archdiocese favoured demolition, as did some parishioners. Others wanted to repair the building—a more expensive plan but one that supporters argued would preserve the loss of parishioners' heritage.

As the dispute wore on, some who favoured repair withheld their tithes, argued silence at the Archdiocese offices, and presented a list of demands that included Boulter's departure, a restoration study, and a village referendum on the building's fate.

"It really divided the community," said Deschamps, whose own family was among those who began attending another parish.

He recalled something typical in the schoolyard as even the youngest generations chose sides.

In the end, heavy equipment rolled in and a three-day demolition began.

"All that was left was an empty space," Deschamps said. "It was very painful for many people."

For Deschamps, finding a way to commemorate the old church was a matter of personal conviction. But he wondered if the legacy of the building's final chapter was still too rare. Was too long, however, and the stories and memories added to make the exhibit come alive would be lost forever.

Early in the exhibit planning process, he resolved to keep division and division from getting the final word. An historian helped him sift through historical documents that respected both sides.

The St Pierre Museum had accumulated artifacts from the old church over the years, but hadn't curated them. Deschamps also asked the community to donate items. Additional research took them to archive rooms in St Boniface.

The exhibit features original artifacts and furnishings from the old church alongside reproductions, some of which were fabricated from materials salvaged during demolition.

There are scale replicas of the steel cross and the wooden steeple tower. The original cornerstone is also on display, along with bricks and a plaster cornice. A portion of the church's columnar, a pair of round stained-glass windows, and a candlestick used until electricity was installed in 1911.

The church organ, purchased in 1936, was dismantled prior to demolition and stored, never to be seen again. Deschamps contacted the Quebec manufacturer, which sent two pipes from the same organ model.

Interpretive panels tell the story of the church's central figures, including its architect and first parish priest.

Last Thursday as he swept up snow and prepared to welcome the tide of visitors, Deschamps said he'd pleased with how the exhibit turned out.

"I think it's a very nice portrait of what the old church was."

For some, viewing the exhibit may dredge up painful memories. But Deschamps said it's intended to be "a sacred space where people can do their own healing."

Raised in St Pierre, Deschamps lived in



Sol Deschamps displays a section of church pews from the old church, and a candlestick used until electricity was installed in 1911.

France for 12 years before returning to his hometown a decade ago. He now lives a block from the museum his grandfather helped establish.

Working close to home all winter was a pandemic "lull job," Deschamps said. A temporary artist and designer by trade—his last birthday was and wine fest, charred under the name St. Pierre, vintage material and recycled materials, and are sold in boutique

across Canada—he also works as a set designer in the film industry.

He inherited the skilled hands of his father, René Deschamps, a talented carpenter who worked alongside him on the restoration, and who passed away last month.

Deschamps said he pictures his father and grandfather looking down with pride on the exhibit, and the work they accomplished at the museum over three generations.



A message of gratitude from the Netherlands

WWII vet Laverne Tufts, 99, receives a precious letter – and flower seeds – from Holland

BY KIM LANGEN

A retired mechanic and WWII veteran recently received a flowery surprise, along with a message from Holland, which just happened to coincide with a special birthday.

Laverne Tufts, who turned 99 on April 14, said it was wonderful to open an envelope sent to him from the Netherlands, to find both a letter, and flower seeds.

"It's a letter, from a school girl in Holland, Floor, thanking us for helping to liberate the Netherlands," said Tufts. "And there is a

card, with flower seeds pressed into it. I am going to plant the card in a flowerpot on my balcony. I don't know what the flowers are yet."

Tufts was born in 1922, and his mother wrote on his birth certificate that 'it was Good Friday,' he said. He grew up on a farm in the Fairfax District, and in 1942 he signed up to serve.

"I was a trooper, in the armoured corps," said Tufts. "I was 20 years old when I joined, and I trained as a tank gunner. I was with the Lord Strathcona Horse Armoured Regiment, and my division was mostly prairie people. After basic training in Canada I went to England in 1943, for more training, including map reading in Brighton. And then

to Africa, to the port of Algiers, and then across the Mediterranean to Naples, in Italy, and to the Adriatic coast. But I didn't fight: I became a scout car driver."

Normally a two-man team, of driver and radio operator, Tufts soon found himself alone at the wheel.

"We were so short of men they took the radio operators out, and we worked alone, driving and operating the radio," he said. "Our job was to check for broken bridges – that was the main one. We would accompany tanks in a squadron, that's 20 tanks, and sometimes escort prisoners of war. They had to walk ahead of us, sometimes the young ones were pretty difficult, and pretty mad."

Tufts drove a British-made Daimler, he said, a specially armoured car



KIM LANGEN/KILLARNEY GUIDE

A LOVELY LETTER FROM FLOOR – Laverne Tufts, 99, holds up a personal letter of gratitude sent from high school student 'Floor' – Dutch for 'flower' – in the Netherlands. Tufts was one of hundreds of WWII vets worldwide who received a letter like this, in recognition of their role in liberating Holland from Nazi occupation. The enclosed card is embedded with flower seeds, and Laverne will be growing them on his balcony.

that could withstand any rifle shells.

"You got in through a hatch on the top. We had to climb up over the hood to the top to get in," he said. "During moonlight

nights we could check on things like bridges, sometimes with an officer in the scout car."

Then the call came in for support in Holland, which was occupied by

Nazi forces.

"After Italy we took all our equipment, from Pisa, onto barges," said Tufts. "We went to Marseilles, France.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SCOUT CARS – A photo of the armoured Daimler scout cars used by Tufts and his troop during WWII. Tufts had the same scout car for the entire war.

Best Historical Story – 2nd Killarney Guide – Kim Langen

Best Historical Story – 1st

Virden Empire – Advance

Anne Davison

March 05, 2021

Virden Empire-Advance

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Bernice Still, a pioneer in spirit

Preserving the Past for the Future

By Anne Davison

If Isabella had a mayor, or a queen, doubtless Bernice Still would be that person. But in reality, she's a woman with a broad vision, a Prairie historian. The hamlet of Isabella is the canvas for some 40 years of work that has preserved homesteader roots.

The fruit of her labour has now been captured in a documentary of the Isabella Museum entitled Preserving the Past for the Future.

Bernice is also promoting a set of historical novels written by Robert Bell, a native of the Blaris district, just a few miles south of Isabella.

Reflecting upon what motivates her tireless work as a history keeper she talks about the pioneers' struggles, creativity and triumphs.

"I think it's how the people adapted, to live their lives. They invented so many things that helped them out.... improvising.

"What some of them put up with when they first came out here, getting lost in storms. Not seeing anyone for stretches of time.

"My grandmother, when she came up here first in 1908, she didn't see anybody

for a whole summer; of course, she had her family (children)," she said, likening it to the isolating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was do or die in those days and Bernice's grandfather was working hard, transitioning from the farm where they lived while working the place they would move to. His wife was raising their three children in a small house, with no running water or electricity.

Bernice Still's love of history surfaced as she amassed a collection of commemorative plates in the farm home where she and husband Ray lived.

By 1983, the couple had three grown boys and Ray's health was giving out, so Bernice and Ray made the move to a mobile home in Isabella and that's when her plate collection spurred change and seeded what would become one of Isabella's five museum buildings.

"When we moved into town, I had been collecting plates, out at the farm. We had enough to go around the kitchen on a plate rail.

"Leaving three boys on the farm, I didn't think the plates would last very long. When

we moved here in '83, well, I owned that house anyway," she says of the museum house about a block away called the MWDS house. "We fixed up a plate room, and [the collection] grew, and it grew.

"Most of the stuff has been donated. And it's still happening!"

HER OWN HISTORY

Bernice was born to the Dorn family in the Isabella area where they rode out the dirty 30s. She marvels how a move to an acreage in the Okanagan Valley near Kelowna could have changed the course of her own story. But family ties beckoned them back.

"And then, Grandpa and Grandma decided they wanted Dad to take over the home farm." He was the eldest son, married with a family. It made sense and when she was 10, after just three years in B.C., they returned.

That farm five miles from Isabella, stayed in the Dorn family, now farmed by her nephew.

Right out of Gr. 11, Still became a teacher at a one-room school between Austin and Gladstone. "I taught school for a year, on permit. They were short of teachers."

The next year she took a four-month agriculture and homesteading course, held in what had been Brandon Normal School, before moving to Hamiota. There she worked as a telephone operator for several years before marrying the Isabella farmer, Raymond Still.



Bernice Still holding the Isabella Museum DVD. On the table beside her, Ron Bell's first two historical novels.

After a short stay with Ray's parents the couple bought a house in Isabella. They were caretakers of the Isabella rink, but were seeking a farm of their own. Within a few years Ray and Bernice purchased property a few miles from Isabella, where one of their sons still farms today.

While farming, Bernice became Isabella Post Master in 1970. In 1981, Stills took over Isabella's store, which Bernice operated for 13 years. The store was to become a comprehensive museum display, holding everything from the smallest of store items, to a huge printing press for history buffs to enjoy.

Upstairs is a fascinating miniature town of Isabella, meticulously constructed by Bernice. During those busy family years, raising four boys, Bernice drove a five-mile school bus feeder route. With her

station wagon (known as a school van), she picked up nine kids, to meet the big school bus.

Their lives were kept busy, "running with boys with hockey." They had their four boys in five years, which meant that some years two boys played on the same hockey team.

Bernice loves sports. "I played ball all my life and coached. We had the Isabella Rockets and the Isabella Blues. It was just a league between Virden, here, Minto and Foxwarren. Scarth sometimes, Blrle, Shad Lake and Isabella also had teams. "Every year we played," she laughs, "but it was the same people."

Bernice Still is pleased to continue her work promoting Isabella Museum, which now belongs to an organization, a board that includes family, friends and neighbours. They

have helped with everything from spring cleaning to guided tours on the first Sunday of July – Isabella Museum Day – and in 2020 the creation of the DVD documentary.

"Preserving the Past for the Future", produced by Ron and Brenda Samchul of Blrle, is a professional production that Bernice is very pleased with. She sells the DVD as museum fun fundraisers and hopes to attract future visitors to Isabella Museum.

She has accumulated a library of 400 books, remarkable because it's a library of almost every history book in Manitoba.

Although she's moved a few times in her life, she's right at home, in the middle of Isabella, with sons nearby who come for dinners and help with things like snow ploughing.



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"It can feel a little bit like a slap in the face"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Continued low vaccine uptake and large turnouts for multiple "freedom" protests in the Winkler-Stanley area in recent weeks have left many local medical professionals feeling pretty demoralized.

"I think frustration is a good word to use," observes Dr. Aly Dhala, a family physician in Winkler and chief of staff at Boundary Trails Health Centre.

He points out that the Morden-Winkler team of physicians includes doctors who have cared for the community for years, decades even, and yet the bulk of the community seems intent on ignoring their advice now.

"The Winkler and Morden community has trusted us with their care and their health. That can mean delivering their children, caring for adults, looking after the elderly—all spectrums of care. I think we find it frustrating that our medical advice and opinion is valued and regarded in all of these areas, except when it comes to this one issue."

That issue, of course, is COVID-19, including the public health measures in place to limit its spread and the push to get as many people vaccinated against it as possible in order to prevent the health-care system from

collapsing under the weight of critically ill patients.

BTHC respiratory therapist Craig Doell has certainly seen more than his fair share of those over the past 18 months, especially when the third wave hit this spring.

"At one point, STARS was coming out one to two times every day for over a week," he says of the air ambulance, which transports local COVID patients to ICUs in larger hospitals when they can no longer be cared for here.

"I can't even remember how many intubations that we did," Doell continues. "I think one of my paycheques I had 244 hours worked in two weeks."

"As soon as someone would get shipped out it would be another person coming in. It was constant."

Despite he and other hospital staff working around the clock to keep up, Doell started to hear rumours in the community that it was all a ruse.

"They'd say the parking lot is empty and ... there weren't people sitting in the [ER] waiting room. But it's not the waiting room where things are happening—it's in every [other] room ... filled with very, very ill people."

Conspiracy theories like this prompted Doell to begin sharing his

Boundary Trails Health Centre respiratory therapist Craig Doell keeps a positive frame of mind during a shift tending to local COVID-19 patients. Doell has been speaking candidly on social media about the long hours he and other health care workers have put in through the pandemic, and the impact this area's low vaccine uptake and resistance to public health orders has on morale.

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Continued on page 4

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Winkler Morden Voice – Ashleigh Viveiros

Best News Story – 2nd

Steinbach
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STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021



La Broquerie reeve Lewis Weiss, pictured speaking at the Nov. 14, 2020 Hugs Over Masks rally in Steinbach, said he plans to appeal his 45-day suspension.

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

La Broquerie reeve to appeal 45-day suspension

by JORDAN ROSS

The reeve of La Broquerie has been suspended from council without pay for 45 days for violating the municipality's code of conduct bylaw by flouting public health orders and encouraging others to do the same.

But Lewis Weiss says he won't apologize and will appeal council's decision to sanction him for speaking at the Hugs Over Masks rally in Steinbach on Nov. 14 of last year.

While the province doesn't require municipalities to report sanctions, it's believed Weiss is the first municipal official in Manitoba penalized under strengthened code of conduct legislation that took effect just two weeks before he spoke at the rally.

Weiss's suspension began immediately following a 5-0 vote at last Wednesday's council meeting.

"Thank you guys, it's been a tough night," Deputy

Reeve Ivan Normandeau remarked as he adjourned the virtual meeting.

Prior to the vote, council spent 70 minutes privately discussing the findings of a report, prepared by a provincially-appointed investigator, that substantiated a code of conduct complaint coauthored by five councillors.

Municipal council members in Manitoba can be fined up to \$1,000 and suspended for up to 90 days, with or without pay, for a code of conduct breach.

Weiss stands to lose about \$2,600 in pay during his 45-day suspension, according to figures contained in the municipality's indemnity bylaw.

Normandeau, who will lead council in Weiss's absence, said council found a 90-day suspension "too severe," but noted the lost pay exceeds the maximum fine.

"The sanction is to show ratepayers that we are taking this pandemic seriously," he said.

See 'Reeve has no plans to apologize' on 2A

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

By Patricia Barrett

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

cattle."

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

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

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

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

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

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

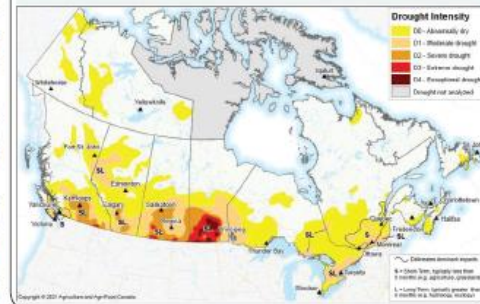
"We've gone to feeding our bison full feed just like we would be in the wintertime," said Doerksen last week. "Our pastures are done and we won't be harvesting any hay. We hope to get a bit of our corn, but it's starting to tassel [early tasseling indicates stress]. Unless we get a good amount of rain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

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



Canadian Drought Monitor

Conditions as of June 30, 2021



CANADIAN DROUGHT MONITOR

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



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

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

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

Doerksen said his best guess is

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

Continued on page 8

Best News Story – 1st
Gimli Express Weekly News - Patricia Barrett

Symbols of Remembrance share the story of war



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER
Above: Ecole Centennial School Grade 6 students visited the Stonewall Cemetery for a short Remembrance Day service on Nov. 10 and to place votives at soldiers' graves. The votives were part of their Stonewall Remembers project.
Below: Carolina Nagy visited the Stonewall Children's Centre last Wednesday to share a musical Remembrance Day service.
Right photos: Rev. James Bardsley led this year's Remembrance Day service at the Royal Canadian Legion. Over 3,000 crocheted and knitted poppies were displayed on both the interior and exterior walls of Stonewall's Royal Canadian Legion honouring the 100th anniversary of the poppy as the country's symbol of Remembrance. Bardsley paid tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and to those who continue today to serve our country.



Best Photo Essay – 3rd

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Lana Meier

Best Photo Essay – 2nd

Steinbach
The Carillon

Nicole Buffie,
Jordon Ross and
Greg Vandermeulen



Best Photo Essay – 1st

Beausejour –
The Clipper Weekly

Mark T. Buss and
Darryl Gershman

CLIPPER SPORTS

Gunnar Sterne wins fourth CPTC title

By Mark T. Buss

Gunnar Sterne claimed his fourth Canadian Power Technique Championship (CPTC) Pro Champ 400 title Sunday, as he held off five other racers to win the 39th running of the Beausejour event.

The West Chicago, IL, racer defeated defending champion Kieran Stephenson of Hutchinson, MN, Gower's Travis Macdonald, Matt Stule of Gower, Beausejour's Quinn Weigelt and Colton Cook of Dayton, ME at the CPTC Beausejour.

Using his hole shot to take the early lead, Sterne was passed by Stephenson in turns three and four. Sterne regained the lead later in the 10-lap final and successfully took the checkered flag and a victory lap to celebrate.

In one of the more popular competitions, Stule and his 1978 Honda-500 won the IPS 400X Jerry Steele Cup, defeating Joe Poma of Beausejour, Norm Clark of Acadia and Beausejour's Tyler Chis.

Other local races also did very well on their home track Sunday. Beausejour's DJ Stule defeated Will Macdonald to win the title of St. Male to claim the Sportsman 400 final.

Beausejour's Jordan Yelovitch won the Pro Formula 300 final, defeating fellow Beausejour's Kyle Gaudinich and Whittemore's native Dan Gower and Bruce Bonhomme of Acadia and Weigelt.

Gower won the longest race of the 39th CPTC event, Beausejour from a horrific crash in 2019 when he shattered his leg and required extensive surgery and recuperation, he returned to win the Pro Lite final over local favorites of Acadia and Weigelt.

Ryan Adams of Lac du Bonnet was the reserve winner in the ATV Open, defeating Tyler Fishburne of Beausejour and Cory Johnson of Oakville.

In the Ice Bike Open, Beausejour's Colton Kaurinich was second with Ami Houde third.

Champion home the checkered flag in the Super Mid 400 with Acadia's Dylan Buss third.

The 60th annual CPTC races will take place March 3-5, 2022.



Photo by Darryl Gershman and Mark T. Buss

Placed sleds from top:

1) DJ Stule and Will Macdonald to

win the Pro Formula 300 final

competition Sunday.

2) Jordan Yelovitch moved to glory in

the Pro Formula 300 final Sunday.

3) Colton Kaurinich led

to the home final after leading to cross

the finish line after leading a bit

on his 1978 300 final.

4) Ami Houde finished third in the

Ice Bike Open final.



Best Special
Section – 3rd

Neepawa Banner and Press

Friday, November 5, 2021 • Neepawa, Manitoba

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Make a difference with a legacy gift

By Janine LeGal

Special to Canstar

D'Arcy's Animal Rescue Centre is a Winnipeg shelter dedicated to rescuing cats and dogs from situations of abandonment, homelessness, neglect and abuse. At any given time there are over 150 animals awaiting adoption at D'Arcy's ARC's main location in St. James, its thrift store in the North End, at satellite locations and in many dedicated foster homes.

Founded by D'Arcy Johnston, the ARC opened its doors in 2001, following several years of operation as a cat rescue in Johnston's Winnipeg home, and for a short time at Garden City Mall in 2000. In 2004 the ARC received its official charitable status. The ARC provides shelter, veterinary care, and adoption services for stray and abandoned cats and dogs in Winnipeg and the surrounding areas.

"Legacy gifts to the ARC make a lasting impression on the lives of homeless animals that end up at the Rescue Centre. The gift helps pay for interim expenses to house and feed the animals. Most of the animals that enter the shelter do require some form of medical treatment and with your help we can continue to

ensure all animals receive the medical care they deserve," Johnston said.

Shelter animals are provided with comfortable and safe temporary living quarters, opportunities for socialization, exercise, high quality food, fresh water, soft beds, and appropriate, permanent homes where they will be treated well and treasured for life. To do this, the ARC relies on charitable donations, their retail and thrift stores, and boarding services to generate the required funds.

It doesn't take long for gifts to the ARC to make a difference in the life of a cherished animal companion.

"I remember when D'Arnold (age six) came to the ARC, his leg was broken and infected and we were not able to save the leg. We were lucky to receive a legacy gift to completely pay for his surgery and ongoing medical care while he recovered. He has gone on to live a normal three-legged dog life to the fullest. A legacy gift helps the ARC plan for its future and we are grateful and touched when people remember the ARC in their wills."

For more information, call 204-888-2266 or email info@darcysarc.ca



Photo: D'Arcy's Arc

Wojcik's

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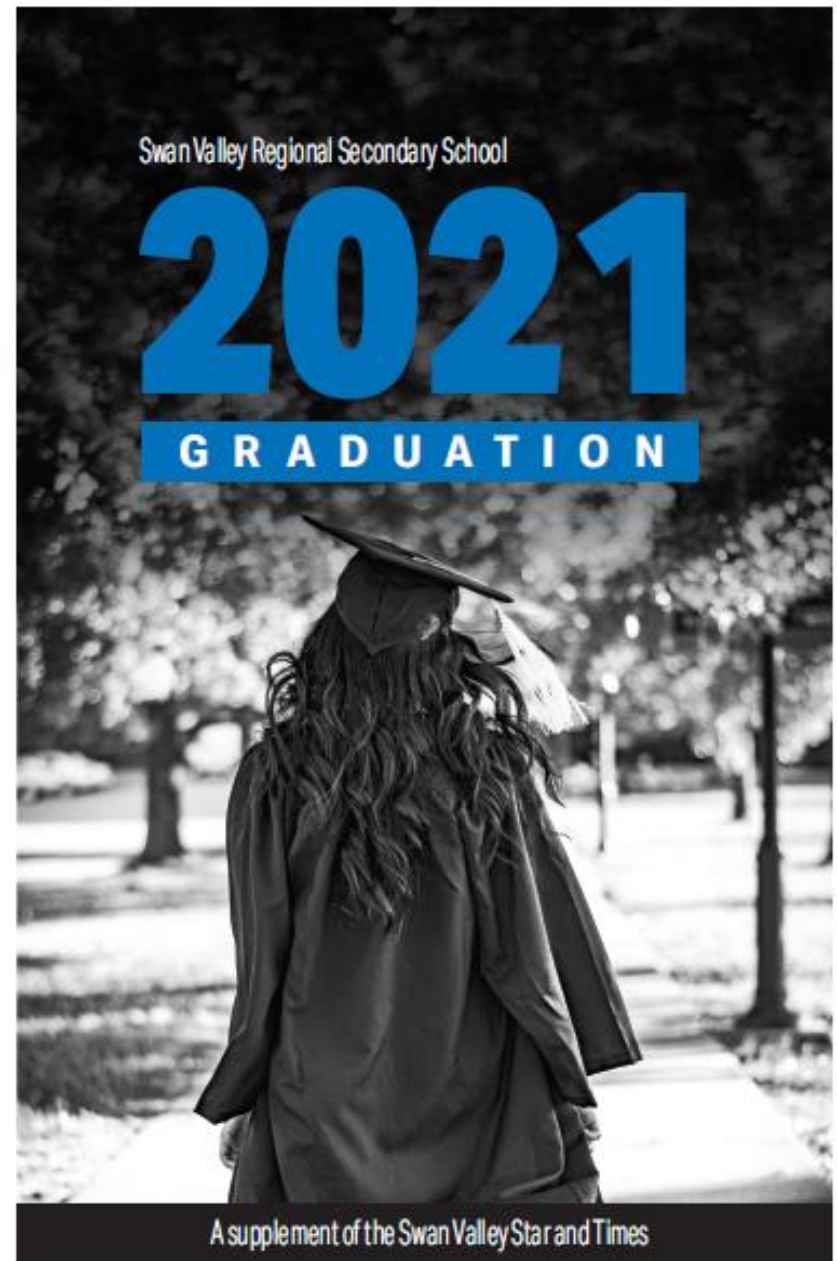
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Louisa Perry, daughter Rachel Wojcik and son Ryan Wojcik

Best Special
Section – 1st

Swan Valley
Star and Times



The Selkirk Record VOLUME 12 EDITION 38
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

ANDREWS, ST. CLE... AUL, CLANDEBOYE, PETERSFIELD, LIBAU, GARSON, DUNNOTTAR & TYNDALL

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PROTECT THEM FROM
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RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

After 18 months hockey returns to the House of Steel. During Friday's Steeler season home opener forward number 13 Tyson Smith flies in on Steinbach Pistons' goalie number 35 Simon Harkness. See inside for more local sports coverage.

Best Sports Photo – 3rd
Selkirk Record - Brett Mitchell

Best Sports
Photo – 2nd

Dauphin Herald

Doug Zywina



Sandy Kurceba entertained the crowd at the Canadian Friends of Hockey in Ukraine fund-raising celebrity golf tournament with some trick shots, Friday at the Gilbert Plains Country Club. For more on the event, see page A11.

- Doug Zywina/Herald



SRSS running back Austin Neufeld rumbled for two touchdowns, including the winning score in the final seconds of the game as the Sabres beat Portage 26-20 last week to qualify for Saturday's Westman Bowl in Winnipeg.

Best Sports Photo – 1st
Steinbach – The Carillon – Terry Frey

Best Sports Story – 3rd

Virden Empire – Advance

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Kalynuk's NHL debut for Blackhawks

By Robin Wark

Last Sunday Virden prodigal Wyatt Kalynuk achieved the childhood dream of many Canadians to play in the National Hockey League.

The son of Leanne and Randy Kalynuk suited up for the Chicago Blackhawks as they faced the defending Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning. The former Virden Oil Capitals defenceman's parents watched the Sunday matinee at home with Wyatt's grandmother, Betty McSorley, his sister and brother-in-law Quinn and Donovan McLean, and his niece Aida McLean. Unfortunately, his twin sister, Lexie, was unable to make the family gathering and watched in Winnipeg.

"There was a bit of confusion on social media just prior to the game, some outlets were saying we were now a scratch so that caused some anxious moments," wrote Randy and Leanne in an email interview, where they also noted that in a normal year they would have been there for the moment but due to COVID-19 they could not be. "We were



Wyatt Kalynuk

thrilled to see him step on the ice for his solo lap (a tradition for a player's first NHL game). There may have even been a few tears shed: "We were happy for him that he reached his lifelong dream and experienced a moment that he has waited a long time for."

The Blackhawks fell 6-3 to the Lightning. Wyatt's parents touched base with him later in the evening and reported their son said, "The whole day was pretty surreal but was a little disappointed that the Hawks lost."

Troy Leslie, the Southwest Cougars U18 AAA bench boss who coached Wyatt on the Oil Capitals, was impressed with how comfortable his former charge looked on the ice. He said that "how calm and collected he is out there and how he gets around the rink" could help Wyatt stay in the NHL.

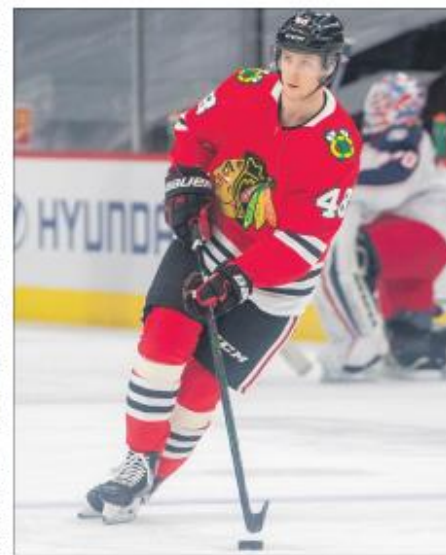
The 6-foot-1, 180-pound smooth-skating,

offensive-minded blue liner recorded 10:33 of ice time in his NHL debut. Wyatt has spent the early parts of this season with the Blackhawks' taxi squad and with Chicago's top affiliate - the American Hockey League's Rockford (Ill.) IceHogs. As of Monday, Wyatt had a goal and six points in four games with Rockford this season.

Kalynuk family and friends tuned in to see Wyatt take the ice Sunday. Kyle Braybrook, who grew up playing hockey with the now NHLer, watched the game "while FaceTiming all of our friends as we aren't able to get together. It was pretty exciting getting to watch him and I can't wait to continue to watch him going forward."

The game was certainly a thrill for local long-time Blackhawk backers such as Murray Hartsel, a former colleague of Randy's at the Virden Junior High, and Dylan Clarke, a local businessman and former student of Wyatt's dad.

"Wyatt played with my nephew in minor hockey and also has instructed my son the last few years at Randy's annual hockey camp," Clarke said. "Wyatt is a super kid and just fantastic with the kids. My boy was so excited to see someone from Virden who he knows and has skated with play in the NHL, the fact that it



PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

was Chicago just made it so much cooler!"

Randy and Leanne said that Wyatt and the entire family has been overwhelmed by the support and well-wishes they have received from all over.

Wyatt's ascension to the game's highest level was never a foregone conclusion. A passion for the game and plenty

of hard work, practice and playing - often at the outdoor Chevron Community Rink, that Randy helps run, at the Virden Junior High - certainly have factored into his success.

"Randy was a big influence on Wyatt's early development, but Wyatt took those skills Randy taught him to the outdoor

rink where he would spend hours almost every day. I have never seen anybody that could, as the ice like Wyatt and is always able to make it pass up ice and on 1 stick of his teammates. He also was able to catch the puck out of our net which made him hard to play against. He always

SPORTS

#WePlayForCaleb - how Creighton football rallied around a teammate in need

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

The Creighton Kodiaks have succeeded this season on the field, thanks in part to Caleb Janzen, one of the team's most important members.

Janzen hasn't played a down of football this season - his impact goes deeper than that.

This year, the Kodiaks have dedicated their season to Janzen, a member of the team whose battle with cancer has forced him off the playing field but whose presence on the sideline has been a rallying point for the club.

As a Grade 9 student, Janzen played with the Kodiaks and was part of the team's 2019 championship squad. He had hoped to be back on the field this season.

Earlier this year, Janzen was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Finding out Caleb had cancer was the start of a long process of medical appointments and worry - part of which was discovering that he wouldn't be able to join his friends on the field.

Janzen and his family, including his mom Jean Johngard, took the news hard, but Janzen found support from his teammates.

"When somebody goes through a tragedy, nobody knows what to say right off the bat, but once they know, they go 'Oh, this is still Caleb. He might be a little different, but he's still the same kid,'" said Johngard.

"They accepted him right away. It didn't matter what he has - they're his friends, they're his team, they're going to be with him. That's the attitude I get from them."

The love from his fellow Kodiaks drew Janzen back to the team. Starting at first with watching practices, first from the car and then from the stands, then watching games to rejoin his buddies on the sidelines,

Janzen is back to being fully integrated with the group, with his teammates behind him every step of the way.

"He just enjoys being out there. The football team creates this amazing culture of togetherness and of team bonding - like 'all for one, one for all,' like the Three Musketeers. They'll stick up for each other and they'll be there for each other no matter what," said Johngard.

The team has made Janzen their rallying cry this season, literally and figuratively, yelling his name out as the team cheer before games and after practices. The team holds up signs with "#WePlayForCaleb" on them during games and team photos. Each player's helmet has a sticker on the back reading "#WePlayForCaleb" - several players wear "CJ" - Janzen's initials - written on their gear.

"This whole '#WePlayForCaleb' thing, their hearts are in it, their hearts are in the game and in the team, everybody on that team. I think this experience has taught them things - that they're a team and they're going to stick together, no matter what happens," Johngard said. "These kids have such big hearts. Sometimes you don't see that."

The team's commitment to Janzen doesn't only come on the field. When Janzen was in Saskatoon for medical treatments earlier this year, the team sent him a care package including a jersey with his name on the back and a ball with every player's signature on it. Players help him with his homework if he needs it - they walk with him home and from class to class. They've held fundraisers for him and his family.

"They have been so incredibly supportive. They take him under their wing. He was friends with most of them before football, but in my opinion, they've really come together and gelled around him," said

Johngard.

"This is, 'We're playing for him.' This whole season is for Caleb."

That sense of purpose has continued on the field. Since having to forfeit their first game last month, the team has gone undefeated.

Janzen has been right there for the whole run. Come game time, Janzen watches the games with the team on the sideline, seated in a lawn chair, often with a blanket to keep warm during cold October games. There are few moments during the game where there aren't teammates around him, watching the game with him. He takes part in the team's pre-game rituals and the halftime huddle. The players make every effort possible to ensure that Janzen is included, emphasizing that even though Janzen can't go out on the field with them, he's still part of the team.

"I think it's been pretty good. It's been really fun. It's nice that I'm sitting there right beside them, watching them, trying to keep warm when it's cold out there," said Janzen.

His coach, Ryan Karakochuk, said having Janzen with the team has allowed the players a chance to learn and grow in unexpected ways.

"When you throw all those things together, the guys are now able to see Caleb and they give their own lives a bit of a reality check. They become better kids, better people. That's helped all of us," he said.

That was clear Oct. 23, when the Kodiaks hosted their league championship game. Instead of playing the game in Prince Albert - as is tradition - the game was played in Creighton, giving the Kodiaks, as top team in their league, a chance to win a title on their home field - and perhaps more importantly, giving Janzen a chance to see his team win the big prize at home.

That is exactly what the team did, beating



Creighton Kodiaks vice-captain Brenden Haley and Caleb Janzen hold the northern Saskatchewan football league trophy following the Kodiaks' title win Oct. 23. Janzen has been unable to play this season after being diagnosed with a brain tumour, but remains a member of the team. PHOTOS BY ERIC WESTHAVER

Cumberland House to claim the Ralph Pitt Trophy as northern champions. Janzen was part of the post-game celebrations, with his teammates hugging and sharing the moment.

"It felt amazing," Janzen said.

Not only did the Kodiaks play for Caleb, they won for him.

"At the end, we were taking pictures of Brenden [Haley] and Caleb... Brenden turned to him and said, 'This is for you,' Johngard said.

"I think they had five or five of us in tears. That's just the attitude of these kids and it's just so cool."

Including Janzen, with the rest of the team has raised the spirits of both him and the team in general.

"It's been really important to me. Everyone has been so kind and they've been there to support me and all that," he said.

"Whenever I need them, they get there in a second." The guys have seen



The team has worn "#WePlayForCaleb" stickers on their helmets all season and often holds up signs with the message of support on the sideline.

- they've played with Caleb and they've grown up with them. They know he'd do anything to be able to play football and that he can't," said Karakochuk.

"They've truly rallied around Caleb. All of them truly love the kid and would do anything for him and they've embraced it."

Creighton's season isn't over yet - the team will play again in a provincial conference game Oct. 30, playing

for a spot in the provincial semi-finals. The Kodiaks will play once again on their home field - and once again, Janzen will be on the sideline.

No northern team has ever made the semi-final stage before, but the team's talisman thinks this is the year.

"I think we're gonna win," Janzen said. "The team has been amazing."

Best Sports
Story – 2nd
Flin Flon
The Reminder
Eric Westhaver

Best Sports Story – 1st Beausejour The Clipper Weekly Tony Zerucha

CLIPPER SPORTS Tyndall hockey star had the right stuff

NHLer Jimmy Johnson remembered for positive attitude on and off the ice

By Tony Zerucha

Family members, friends and teammates all remember local hockey legend Jimmy Johnson for his smile and warmth, with one after another saying he was a pleasure to be around. Johnson, who grew up in Tyndall, died suddenly on May 4 from a heart attack. He was 78.

Johnson played 459 games in the NHL and WHA with the New York Rangers, Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Minnesota Fighting Saints and Indianapolis Racers. He scored 107 goals and clipped in 182 assists for 291 career points.

Johnson was born in Winnipeg but moved with his mother Thelma and three younger sisters to Tyndall as a youth. Thelma worked three jobs to support her family, yet still found time to support community causes. She would pass the importance of community service on to her son, neighbour Rick Stefansson said.

Stefansson recalls young Jimmy stopping by the family dairy farm for visits, a tradition he continued for most of his life.

"He was smiling all the time, very jovial," Stefansson said. "He had a great sense of humour. He'd come down there and we'd give him one of those golden time from Rogers syrup full of milk."

Johnson discovered hockey and became rather good at it early on. According to local lore, Beausejour was badly beating Johnson's Whitesmith squad in a high school hockey game one time until the Whitesmith coach turned Johnson loose in the third period. Depending on who you talk to, he scored as many as eight goals to tie the game.

"He was always wanting to play hockey," Stefansson said. "It was in his blood."

With no rink in Tyndall, Johnson had to travel to play hockey. Stories of him hitchhiking to games in Winnipeg were numerous with friends picking him up on the highway to take him right to the rink.

As his career progressed and his potential became obvious, he moved to the city and stayed with his grandmother so he could face better competition. But before he left one time, he needed a favour from Stefansson.

"His hair grew long, and either his uncle or grandfather said if you're going to play on that team you have to get a haircut," Stefansson recalled. "I was clipping crows in the barn with these big electric clippers, and he insisted that I cut his hair so he could get on that hockey team. So I did."

Johnson started for the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Winnipeg Rangers in 1960-61 before moving to the Sudbury Wolves, where he scored 16 goals and 36 assists in the 1962-63 season. He then entered the New York Rangers system, playing most of the next three seasons in St. Paul, Minn., and netting 187 points in 192 games for the St. Paul Rangers of the CPHL.

He was a key to that team's success, future teammate Joe Watson told the Philadelphia Inquirer's Sam Carchidi.

"We had quite a rivalry going between the two towns, and boy oh boy, he was a key guy to their success there," Watson said.

Johnson appeared in eight NHL games for the Rangers and scored his first NHL goal. His career took off when the Philadelphia Flyers selected him with the 75th pick in the 1967-68 NHL expansion draft. Who scored the first-ever goal in Flyers history? It was Johnson, in an exhibition game.

While Johnson began the 1967-68 season with the Quebec Aces (the Flyers' top farm team), he wouldn't last long as he scored 27 goals and 72 points in 59 American Hockey League games to earn a 13-game call-up to the big club. He would spend the next three and a half seasons with the Flyers, putting up seasons of 44, 48 and 45 points. On Nov. 13, 1968, Johnson scored two goals and added an assist in a 4-3 loss to Minnesota and almost two years later to the day (Nov. 19, 1970) he scored a hat trick and added an assist in a 6-2 win over the California Golden Seals.

Johnson's Flyers career ended on Jan. 28, 1972 when he was part of an eight-player trade with the Los Angeles Kings. Johnson finished that season in California before joining the Minnesota Fighting Saints of the World Hockey Association for the 1972-73 season. Trivia buffs will remember he scored the first goal in team history once

again. He played three and a half seasons in Minnesota, highlighted by a career-high 54 points in 1973-74. Johnson split the 1974-75 season between Minnesota and Indianapolis before retiring.

It was in Minnesota where Johnson's youngest sister Kathy Smolinski has one of her earliest memories of her brother's career. As a child Smolinski went to visit Johnson, who was 26 years her senior.

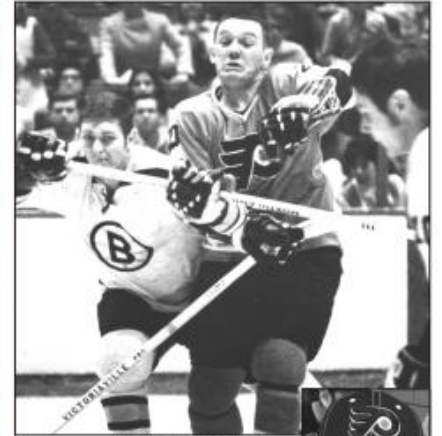
"It was a big thing to have a brother who played in the NHL," said Smolinski. Johnson was inducted into the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in 1993.

While Johnson's professional career was over, he stayed involved in the game, Smolinski said. He played on touring old timers teams with the likes of the Richard brothers and Eddie Shuck. There were also plenty of Sunday morning games in Stony Mountain, which were often followed by a family lunch. Smolinski said she has fond memories of cheering from the stands.

Johnson also coached minor hockey for many years, winning the Nick Hill Trophy as coach of the year with the Transcona Railers in 1983-84. He was also happy to give advice any time he was at the rink watching the grandchildren play.

"When he moved back to Winnipeg and coached the Saints and the Railers they would come out to play the Beausejour Comets. I'd be in the old arena cheering for the Railers and that would cause a little bit of tension with some of our friends," Smolinski said with a smile.

The most common words that came up when describing Johnson were associated with happiness – funny, joyful, encouraging – and came up over and over again.



Inset: Jimmy Johnson used to hitchhike from Tyndall to Winnipeg to play hockey.
Above: Johnson scored the first ever Philadelphia Flyers goal in an exhibition game in 1967.

Everyone interviewed spoke of how much joy Johnson brought to their lives, including to mother Thelma. That led to some good natured family fun. "We always teased Mom that Jim was her favourite," Smolinski said. "She was making mustard pickles for Jimmy, blueberry muffins for Jimmy and fudge cake for Jimmy. He'd smile and say 'that's because I'm her favorite.'"

"He had such a smiling face all the time," Stefansson said. "For the hardships he was enduring it was really something to see the smile of his face. He was such a jolly person."

"He didn't have a bitter word in his mouth. He had a terrific attitude on life."



Inset: Jimmy Johnson used to hitchhike from Tyndall to Winnipeg to play hockey.

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Best Spot News Photo – 3rd
Flin Flon – The Reminder – Eric Westhaver



Best Spot News Photo – 2nd
Swan Valley Star and Times – Jeremy Bergen



Steinbach RCMP officers place a man under arrest on Barkman Avenue near Main Street last Thursday. Tyler Wiebe, 36, of Winnipeg, faces numerous weapons charges.

Man carrying knives arrested downtown

by JORDAN ROSS

A Winnipeg man faces a slew of weapons charges after being caught carrying knives in downtown Steinbach last week.

A spokesperson for Manitoba RCMP said officers from the Steinbach detachment were called at 9:25 a.m. last Thursday, Aug. 19 to Barkman Av-

enue at Main Street, following a report that a man in the vicinity may have threatened people with a knife.

After speaking with witnesses, the officers determined no threats were made.

A 36-year-old man was arrested at the scene. A search of his person produced three knives. Back at the detachment, a search of his belongings

yielded more knives, several BB guns resembling real firearms, and a lock pick set.

Tyler Wiebe was remanded into custody and charged with four counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and one count each of carrying a concealed weapon, possessing break-in instruments, and failing to comply with probation.

Best Spot News Photo – 1st
Steinbach - The Carillon - Jordan Ross

Maker's Market brings artisans to Neepawa

Tourism led event at Riverbend Park exceeds expectations



PHOTO BY KIRA FETERSON
Painter Robert Duterte Garcia (centre) poses for a picture with two of his buyers at the Riverbend Market on Friday, July 23.

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Some glorious weather over the weekend surely helped to bring in the crowds to the Riverbend

Maker's Market in Neepawa on July 23 and 24. Of course, the fact that it was also the first large scale event of any kind that's been permitted in the region for nearly eight months, also likely

contributed to its success.

In total, 38 vendors sold their unique creations to a combination of local residents and tourists, who flocked to Neepawa from across the province last

weekend. The current unofficial attendance count indicates that there were 1,031 patrons that walked through the doors, with 407 admissions on Friday night and 624 throughout Saturday.

The final numbers for attendance could be more, once the final gate receipts are tallied.

*More Maker's Market
on Page A11*

Best Tourism Story - 3rd
Neepawa Banner & Press - Eoin Devereux

Best Tourism Story – 2nd

Steinbach – The Carillon

Jordan Ross



Red Tails and Megan from the and the village of Whitewater Riverfront resort.

Riverfront resort opens near Whitmouth

by JORDAN ROSS

A beautiful area is now being developed in the heart of the Carillon resort, near the town of Whitmouth. The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do.

The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do. The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do.

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the resort is a beautiful area

In the heart of the Carillon resort, near the town of Whitmouth, a beautiful area is now being developed. The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do.

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The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do. The resort is a beautiful area with a lot of natural beauty and a lot of things to see and do.

Using the resort, they have plans to further develop the area and add more commercial space, including a day spa and a hotel.

They said they want to give guests the opportunity to enjoy the resort in a new way.



Resort building from the resort's new expansion.

A feast of fishing, curling, and camaraderie out on the frozen lake

BY KIM LANGEN

A world of pleasure and activity has unfolded upon the frozen surface of Killarney Lake.

Fishing shacks peppered the surface, laughter rolled across the ice, and the sun shone beautifully on Monday afternoon.

The wind was light, and the temperature above freezing, and fisherman Gordon McTaggart was busy draining his minnows.

"Why do I come here to fish?" he said. "The fresh air, and to get off the couch. There's only so much time a guy can spend with his wife."

McTaggart and his chums had already augured a few holes through the lake ice in readiness for the day's fishing, and moving the live silvery minnows - slated for bait - into a new container was next on his fishing prep list.

Nearer to the shore, a pickup with a trailer was manoeuvring into position on the lightly snow-covered ice.

Glenn Veysey of Brandon had driven down to Killarney to pick up his new fishing shack, and was looking forward to spending time in it on his home turf as soon as possible.

"I'm taking the shack out to Rivers," he said. "Everybody and their dog is out fishing. There



GLORIOUS DAYS ON THE ICE - Gordon McTaggart was ready to roll with his minnows and his freshly drilled fishing hole at Killarney Lake on Tuesday, on a gorgeous warm and sunny day. There are twice as many fishing shacks on the lake this year, as people happily head outside during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Visit killarneyguide.ca to share this story.

are probably five times as many shacks at Rivers this year."

Veysey said he had bought his new shack from Curtis Dickson and Brett Warbeck, and the three guys worked together to winch the small silver fishing shack up into Veysey's trailer.

It took a bit of muscle and adjustment, and even a little chainsawing finesse, and then Veysey was ready to roll his way back to Brandon, towing his shack home.

"We sold this shack, and bought another one," said Curtis. "It all happened within days.

Brett and I wanted to upgrade to a bigger one, and we found this one south of Holland," said Dickson, pointing to a striking red fishing shack set up around 80 metres away.

Dickson said there were definitely more people fishing on the Killarney Lake ice this year, and at Christmas and New Year's the location also became a spacious gathering place to celebrate the events out in the fresh air.

"There are double the shacks here this winter," he said. "And there is a big demand for shacks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



HAPPY HOUSEWARMING AT FISHING SHACK - Brett Warbeck (left) and Curtis Dickson spliced on a 'new' fishing shack this year, and caught five fish the first night. The market for fishing shacks is hot, and within days they also sold their smaller one, and the fishermen friends are now living the high life (with more amenities inside) on Killarney Lake.

Best Tourism Story – 1st
Killarney Guide - Kim Langen

Neepawa area seniors receive 'Hugs for the Holidays'



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left: Amanda Naughton-Gale, Joy and Violily Jeffery and Dennie Phillips helped pack and distribute holiday gift bags to seniors in the area. Clinton Jeffery and Genie Barnaby also helped (not pictured).

By Kira Paterson

NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Some seniors in the Neepawa area received a pleasant surprise this holiday season. Home Assistance Neepawa and District (HAND) and the Neepawa Kin Club joined forces this winter to create their Hugs for the Holidays project to help combat loneliness and isolation in the local senior population.

In November, the two organizations put out a call for nominations of

seniors people think could use some Christmas cheer. Once nominations came in, they put out mittens with gift suggestions and some basic information on the anonymous seniors at businesses within the community and people could pick up a mitten, purchase a suggested gift and drop it off with HAND or the Kin Club to be delivered closer to Christmas.

"The number of gifts donated was amazing!" expressed Genie Barnaby, HAND coordinator. "Over

140 seniors received bags." Not only did members of the community purchase gifts for the project, but the Tangled Threads Quilt Guild also pitched in, sewing nearly 100 bags to be used to pack the gifts into.

Amanda Naughton-Gale, of the Neepawa Kin Club, noted that 54 mittens were picked up by community members to purchase gifts, with the remaining 86 gift bags being filled thanks to a grant from the Emergency Community Support Fund through the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation. The gift packages were

put together by volunteers on Dec. 21 and delivered to the 140 recipients between then and Christmas eve.

"The calls I had at work [from recipients] were so heartwarming," shared Barnaby. "One lady told me, it was such a surprise to get the gifts, one of the loveliest things that she ever received in her life, and how helpful all the gifts would be. Another lady said the gift bag 'seemed bottomless' and through all the events that went on in her life this last year, it was so kind to be remembered and such a surprise."



A variety of items were in the gift bags- many included plush blankets like these.



Many of the bags used to pack the gifts were made by the Tangled Threads Quilt Guild, such as the two pictured on the right.

Better Communities Award– 3rd

Neepawa Banner & Press – Kira Paterson

Nancy Holman

Growing up on a farm between Snowflake and La Riviere, Jo-Anne Weeks was nurtured in her life by volunteers: Sunday School teachers, 4-H leaders, baseball coaches and others. She saw examples of her parents volunteering in the community on Boards and at church. "I didn't know any different," she says, "volunteering is just what you did."

Jo-Anne retired from MTS - Manitoba Telephone System in 2010. [Now it is called BellMTS and even earlier it was known as Telephone Pioneers of America.] She joined the volunteer group of former MTS workers who meet weekly to sew. A major project was started that year when the Red Heart Pillow Project was initiated with the WRHA Cardiac Sciences Program and the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation. The MTS Volunteers sewed heart-shaped pillows that are given to heart surgery patients. This is not just a pretty symbol of their surgery. The pillow is a valuable healing tool used by the patient to hold against their chest when they cough or sneeze as their ribs and body are mending. Coughing and deep breathing are vital to keep their lungs clear and ensure the best possible recovery.

The group makes about 900 pillows per year. Jo-Anne laughed that their "weekly meetings to make the heart pillows was like working

in Santa's workshop but we weren't making toys but something so much more important".

Part of Jo-Anne's role as a leader with the volunteer group is to dialogue with donors and potential benefactors about the projects work. Right now Joanne (Pöter) Douglas, originally

of Crystal City, is funding the Red Heart Pillow Project through her donation to the St. Boniface Foundation. It was a pleasure for Jo-Anne to work with a patron like Joanne from 'back home' - another person who grew up knowing the value of volunteering.

If you are curious to see Jo-Anne in action, she is on YouTube showing how to make the red heart pillows.

The BellMTS Volunteers also make kidney shaped pillows for kidney transplant patients - both the donor and recipient - to aid in their healing process. About 100 pillows per year are made for use at the Health Sciences Centre.

When Covid-19 hit, the BellMTS Volunteers no longer met as a group but continued to sew from their homes. They ramped up their efforts and sewed thousands of colorful surgical hats (with buttons on them for the mask straps so the wearers' ears wouldn't

get so sore - this was a request from Winnipeg hospitals to make a more comfortable, non-irritating-around-the-ears cap). Jo-Anne was quoted in the BellMTS newsletter of summer 2020: "Our team already had a great relationship with St. Boniface Hospital and it was nice to be able to provide some comfort to the front line health care workers who are so vital to our community," Jo-Anne explained. "I contacted our members and we had 64 caps ready within a week. In 10 weeks, 10 of us have delivered 2,015 caps to the hospital - that's more than 500 metres of fabric, 4,000 buttons and at least

Cushions and Buttons of comfort

PROPENSITY FOR VOLUNTEERING LEADS TO MASSIVE HEALTH CARE DONATIONS



Jo-Anne Weeks Pelzer is the volunteer standing on the far right. She and her friends, who are retired from Bell Manitoba Telephone System, make up a handsewing group of Bell MTS Volunteers who sew items to make patients' and health care workers' lives a little better. Their 2020 ongoing projects include:

- 780 red heart pillows to St. Boniface Hospital,
- 90 kidney pillows to Transplant Manitoba,
- 432 pieces of headwear and 35 stoma covers to Cancer Care Co-ordinator Angel Room,
- 19 touch quilts to Holy Family Nursing Home,
- 85 touch quilts to Seven Oaks Hospital,
- 65 touch quilts to St. Joseph's PCH,
- 10 touch quilts to Golden Dove,
- 72 pieces knitted winter wear donated to Koots for Kids and
- \$10,600 in Bell Giving grants and individual rewards to at least 7 Manitoba charities.

- When Covid-19 hit, the volunteers went into overdrive, sewing:
- 3500 surgical hats for frontline workers at St. Boniface Hospital,
- 699 scrub hats to frontline workers and are still sewing more for the Grace Hospital,
- 435 non-medical face masks to St. Boniface NICU,
- 432 clothing protectors Golden Dove PCH,
- 40 surgical hats to St. Joseph's PCH,
- 20 non-medical face masks to HSC Crisis Centre,
- 281 non-medical face masks to Daifernin School,
- 95 non-medical face masks to Willow Place Women's Shelter,
- 62 non-medical face masks to Frontenac School,
- 492 surgical gowns for St. Amant,
- 918 non-medical face masks to St. Amant and the sewing machines are still whirring along!



Jo-Anne Weeks Pelzer is a leader of the BellMTS Volunteers. She is the daughter of Vivian (Dixie) and the late Hugh Weeks.



Front-line workers requested surgical hats that wouldn't hurt their ears. The BellMTS Volunteers manufactured over 5500 of these hats with buttons to hold the mask straps - no more sore ears!

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

2,000 volunteer hours." In the last year more than 5500 surgical hats were made. They also made hundreds of cloth face masks and even whole gowns for visitors to suit up in at St. Amant Centre. The public donates fabric and buttons and the volunteers spend hours and hours at their sewing machines.

Jo-Anne Weeks Pelzer finds it very satisfying to follow in the volunteering footsteps of her parents. It was back in Snowflake that Judy Bookar was Jo-Anne's 4-H sewing leader who volunteered to teach a bunch of young girls to sew. Sewing and volunteering has become a way of life for Jo-Anne and her fellow BellMTS Volunteers.

Better Communities Award – 2nd

Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier

Nancy Holman

Better Communities Award – 1st

Steinbach
The Carillon

Greg Vandermeulen



Honour 150 award winner has a passion for giving back

by GREG VANDERMEULEN

Tammy Bekkering has one clear message when it comes to the homeless population she volunteers her time to help in Steinbach as part of Steinbach Community Outreach.

"You haven't walked in their footsteps, and you haven't lived the life they lived and you haven't had the childhood they've had, and you haven't had the emotional trauma they've had," she said. "Be sympathetic and be compassionate towards them because you don't know their story. It could have been you."

More at ease talking about her volunteer work than herself, Bekkering was one of 150 Manitobans honoured with the Honour 150 award. Presented by Canada Life, the award recognizes outstanding people who make a difference in their communities.

Bekkering has done that, with her work at Steinbach Community Outreach.

And while she's given countless hours to help homeless people have long-term, safe and stable living conditions, she noted she's only one of a team of people who do the same thing.

For Bekkering the true award is knowing she's making a difference in someone's life. She said she was not expecting to be nominated and receive the award. "I was totally surprised," she said. "I'm not used to the attention."

Getting involved in volunteering was an intentional act for both Tammy and her husband when they moved to Steinbach from Winnipeg 10 years ago.

"We decided we had to get involved in the community to know the community and feel a part of it," she said.

Answering a call for house parents for the local homeless shelter, Today House, proved to be the beginning of what has turned into a labour of love.

After Today House changed the volunteer to a permanent position, Bekkering said she approached SCD Executive Director Irene Knecher to see if she could help in other areas. That led to the work she does now, something that still surprises her as she thinks about how her life has changed. "I never would have seen myself doing this years before," she said.

As she navigates the work that must be done with each new client, Bekkering said one thing became obvious. "They could be us," she said. "If my story was any different growing up, it could be me out there."

Bekkering is more than just a resource for people in need. She becomes a very willing part of many of her clients' lives.

She recalls a man she met who was homeless and struggling, living in his truck. She worked with him, got him in a stable environment, urged him to ask for his job back at a local company (something he did), and then took an unusual step.

Within a year of their meeting, she and her husband decided to buy a house, asking him if he'd like to rent. But this was much more than a typical landlord/tenant relationship.

"We took him with us to look at all the houses and then together we picked one and we bought it. He's still renting from us now," she said.

The man is a family friend, comes over for barbecues, and hosts them at his place as well. Since his life has stabilized, Bekkering said he has been giving back at SCD, helping with tasks that need doing.

"He's so willing and anxious to give back to outreach because it's changed his life, he says."

Other relationships have been formed as well. Tammy and her husband are godparents to a child born by a single mother who also received help through outreach.

Bekkering said she helps with basic human needs that go beyond the physical realm.

"Most of them are just looking for love and acceptance and friendship and just want to feel like they're loved by somebody and so that's what I feel like I can do," she said. "I feel like I can make them a friend, and make them feel like they're important and that they matter."

"It kind of feels like they all turn into my kids," she added.

Bekkering has been told in the past she does a little too much sometimes, and people have asked her if she's afraid she's being taken advantage of. And while not all clients

end up remaining stable and wouldn't be considered "success stories", she said that doesn't dissuade her from continuing to help. In fact she added, even if she only has a lasting impact on one out of 10 people she helped, it's worth every minute.

Bekkering said her volunteer work is as credibly rewarding, and urged others to find their passion.

"Find something that you're passionate about and look into how you can help," she said. "It can be the smallest thing."



Photographer of the Year – 3rd
Swan Valley Star and Times – Jeremy Bergen



Photographer of the Year – 2nd
Selkirk Record – Brett Mitchell



MR. LONELY

PHOTO BY DEB MALUK/FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN PRESS



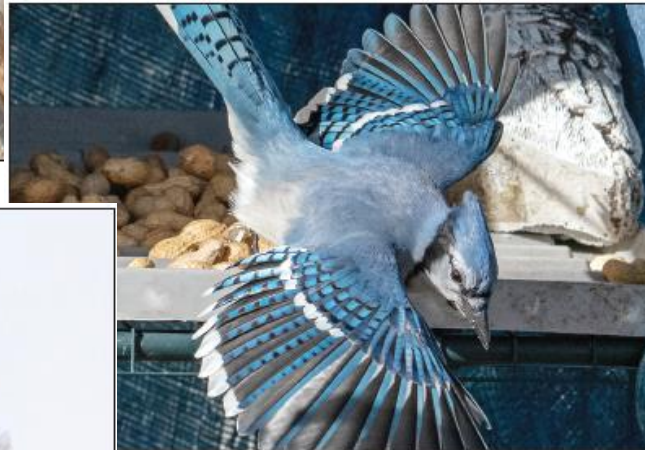
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SNACK BREAK

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'S AND CRACKERJACKS

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A NICE CATCH!

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Photographer of the Year – 1st
Erickson - South Mountain Press – Deb Maluk

Reporter of
the Year – 3rd

Steinbach – The
Carillon

Jordan Ross

STEINBACH, ONT. | THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 THE CARILLON — 1A8



Rare butterfly studied in Sandilands

The white-throated butterfly has a much longer life span than the common monarch.

BY JORDAN ROSS

A butterfly is a tiny insect, but it's a creature that has captured the imagination of many people. In the case of the white-throated butterfly, it's a creature that has captured the imagination of a scientist.

Dr. Jordan Ross, a professor at the University of Waterloo, is studying the white-throated butterfly, a rare species that is found in the Sandilands of Ontario. The butterfly is a member of the Pieris family, and it is known for its long life span. Ross says that the butterfly can live for up to two years, which is much longer than the common monarch butterfly, which typically lives for only a few weeks.

Ross is studying the butterfly because it is a keystone species. This means that the butterfly plays a crucial role in its ecosystem. The butterfly is a pollinator, and it helps to spread the seeds of many plants. Without the butterfly, these plants would not be able to reproduce, and the ecosystem would collapse.

Ross is also studying the butterfly because it is a threatened species. The butterfly is found in very small numbers, and its population is declining. Ross wants to understand why the butterfly is declining, and he wants to develop strategies to protect it.

Ross is using a variety of methods to study the butterfly. He is using field observations, laboratory experiments, and genetic analysis. He is also using citizen science, which means that he is asking the public to help him study the butterfly. Ross has created a website where people can report sightings of the butterfly, and he has created a database where he can store the data.

Ross is also using the data to develop conservation strategies. He is working with the government and other organizations to protect the Sandilands, and he is working to raise public awareness of the butterfly. Ross says that he hopes that his research will help to protect the butterfly and its habitat.

The white-throated butterfly is a beautiful creature, and it is a member of a species that is in danger of extinction. By studying the butterfly, Ross is helping to protect it, and he is helping to protect the ecosystem that it belongs to.



Dr. Jordan Ross, a professor at the University of Waterloo, is studying the white-throated butterfly, a rare species that is found in the Sandilands of Ontario.

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Reporter of the
Year – 2nd

Erickson South
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Candy Irwin

Mission to Mars

>> Local company's technology
plays a key role in NASA's recent
Rover expedition to red planet

CANDY IRWIN
for South Mountain Press

Unless you've been snoring through the news of late, you will know that on Feb. 18, after a nearly seven-month journey, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) fifth Mars Rover achieved a safe descent to the surface of Earth's smaller, colder neighbour.

Entitled 'Perseverance,' and described by NASA as their "most sophisticated" rover ever, this latest mission involved a team of hundreds of people "made up of scientists and engineers from multiple disciplines, with international participation from countries and organizations around the world."

One of those team members was Manitoba's own Mark Wahoski, who splits his time between Minnedosa, where his business, Canadian Photonics Labs Inc. (CPL), is based, and his family's second home in Sandy Lake.

Specifically, CPL designs and produces Mega Speed Cameras (MSC) and control software. The cameras, that measure 4.5" x 4.5" x 6" are capable of capturing images from 1 frame per second (fps) to 250,000 fps and 'burst rates' of an astounding 400,000 fps.

To fully understand MSC's involvement, we need to understand a little of how Perseverance works. As the lander makes entry into the Martian atmosphere and approaches the dusty, rust-coloured surface of the "Red Planet," it is travelling an amazing 20,000 kilometres per hour.

In a mere seven minutes (let me repeat that – in a mere seven minutes) the hurtling space vehicle has to decelerate from that intense speed down to zero, to safely touch down in Mars' Jezero Crater, where it can begin to do its work.

An integral part of this process is deploying the enormous, supersonic parachute that must open at the exact time to enable Perseverance to hit its mark – without flying to pieces.

It is this process that was fine-tuned with the help of CPL's Mega Speed high speed cameras at the Supersonic Naval Ordnance Research Track (SNORT) in China Lake, CA.

SEE HIGH-SPEED, PAGE 2

Testing, which began 10 years ago, in 2011, involved mounting more than 20 of Wahoski's company's high-speed cameras to a 135,000 lb. rocket sled, and also at side-track, capturing images during propulsion that are too fast for the human eye to see.

Local CPL staff travelled down to the high security SNORT location to provide technical support for the MSC cameras that are used on the test track.

"A high-speed camera turns the invisible into the visible by slowing the time scale of the event down, slow enough for the human eye to see," Wahoski explained. The cameras also needed to withstand vibration forces exceeding 100G. (G stands for gravitational force).

Data is collected by the accompanying software which generates reports that are crucial to the on-going planning and design. In a recent CTV News interview Wahoski is quoted as saying, "we played a small part, but it was an important part, because you have to get (that) data."

Only about the size of a car, Perseverance's mission is to seek signs of ancient microbial life, "which will advance NASA's quest to explore the past habitability of Mars," explained their website. To do that, the rover is equipped with a drill to collect core samples of Martian

from page 1

soil and rock. What is collected will be stored in sealed tubes for pick-up by a future mission that will deliver them to us here on Earth, where scientists will make many detailed analyses.

The Perseverance, "so named as a testament to the spirit that got the mission off the ground and on its way to Mars," said NASA, will also test various technologies, like producing oxygen from the Martian atmosphere, for example, so that future astronauts might live and work there.

Wahoski tends to be modest about his company's and his team's involvement but conceded that he was "super stoked" to watch camera footage of Perseverance landing, all in one piece, exactly where it was supposed to, on Mars.

CPL and MSC have already begun working with NASA again. Wahoski said the company is providing equipment for a project that involves a large vacuum chamber, which will be used to test another space prototype.

To see some fascinating videos and to follow the links to several more, check out www.megaspeedusa.com/mars-prototype-parachute.



KEMP REBUILDS HIS GARAGE
AFTER DEVASTATING FIRE... 7

The Guide

LOCALLY OWNED AND SERVING KILLARNEY AND AREA SINCE 1894



BUSHEL OF MALT BARLEY
SPILL OUT ON HIGHWAY 9... 12

Volume 126 - Number 16 • Friday, January 15, 2021 • \$1.40 Per Copy (G.S.T. incl.)

A feast of fishing, curling, and camaraderie out on the frozen lake

BY KIM LANGEN

A world of pleasure and activity has unfolded upon the frozen surface of Killarney Lake.

Fishing shacks peppered the surface, laughter rolled across the ice, and the sun shone beautifully on Monday afternoon.

The wind was light, and the temperature above freezing, and fisherman Gordon McTaggart was busy draining his minnows.

"Why do I come here to fish?" he said. "The fresh air, and to get off the couch. There's only so much time a guy can spend with his wife."

McTaggart and his chum had already augured a few holes through the lake ice in readiness for the day's fishing, and moving the live silvery minnows - slated for bait - into a new container was next on his fishing prep list.

Nearer to the shore, a pickup with a trailer was manoeuvring into position on the lightly snow-covered ice. Glenn Veysey of Brandon had driven down to Killarney to pick up his new fishing shack, and was looking forward to spending time in it on his home turf as soon as possible.

"I'm taking the shack out to Rivers," he said. "Everybody and their dog is out fishing. There



GLORIOUS DAYS ON THE ICE - Gordon McTaggart was ready to roll with his minnows and his freshly drilled fishing hole at Killarney Lake on Tuesday, on a gorgeous warm and sunny day. There are twice as many fishing shacks on the lake this year, as people happily head outside during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Visit killarneyguide.ca to share this story.

are probably five times as many shacks at Rivers this year."

Veysey said he had bought his new shack from Curtis Dickson and Brett Warbeck, and the three guys worked together to winch the small silver fishing shack up into Veysey's trailer.

It took a bit of muscle and adjustment, and even a little chain sawing fiasco, and then Veysey was ready to roll his way back to Brandon, towing his shack home.

"We sold this shack, and bought another one," said Curtis. "It all happened within days."

Brett and I wanted to upgrade to a bigger one, and we found this one south of Holland," said Dickson, pointing to a striking red fishing shack set up around 80 metres away.

Dickson said there were definitely more people fishing on the Killarney Lake ice this year, and at Christmas and New Year's the location also became a spacious gathering place to celebrate the events out in the fresh air.

"There are double the shacks here this winter," he said. "And there is a big demand for shacks."



HAPPY HOUSEWARMING AT FISHING SHACK - Brett Warbeck (left) and Curtis Dickson splurged on a 'new' fishing shack this year, and caught five fish the first night. The market for fishing shacks is hot, and within days they also sold their smaller one, and the fishermen friends are now living the high life (with some minor adjustments).

Fishing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

They are harder to find, and the prices have gone up too."

Dickson is pretty new to the sport, so he was still learning from the pros, he said.

"This is my second year of ice fishing, but now I'm hooked," he said. "From 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. - that's when the fish are biting. They seem to migrate around under the lake at different times. There are a lot of people fishing, but there is also a lot of fish in the lake. Mostly pickerel, walleye, and jack and pike. We get some perch. I would consider the walleye to be the best."

Inside the cozy shack are five places to drill holes in the ice, and there is also a wood stove for heat and to cook things up - like a walleye.

Saturday was Dickson and Warbeck's first day to enjoy the new shack, and their inaugural fishing

foray that evening proved top notch.

"We caught five fish on our first night," said Dickson. "They were delicious."

Dickson and his family live right on the lake at Oak Point, and family life extends each winter down onto the ice, he said.

This year they worked together to create their own rink, for both curling and skating. There's even a propane heater and chairs out on the lake edge now to enjoy the show.

"We have had such great weather," said Dickson. "Just being outside with the family is wonderful. During COVID-19 there can't be anything better than being outside, enjoying the weather, and the kids."

It was about a month ago that Dickson got busy with his curling plans, he said.

"I used a 10-foot hydro pole that I got from the dump for free to make



ROCKIN' IN THE FREE WORLD - Curtis Dickson also set up a curling rink next to his home on the lake, flooding the ice some 20 times to get the level just right. And he made 17 'rocks' by chainsawing up an old hydro pole into 12 inch sections, and using closet 'dummy' handles for throwing them. Killarney Lake is pretty much a party place for everyone this winter, thanks to mild temperatures and the need to get outside.

the curling 'rocks,' he said. "I cut them up with a chainsaw, to about 12 inches, and I routed the outside edge to get rid of the splinters, and

they can glide better on the ice." Creating a good ice surface took some time, he added. "There was a six-inch variation in the ice when I started," he said. "I flooded it and flooded it, maybe 20 times, to get it

right." Dickson even created his own 'Manboni,' he said, for ice maintenance. "I hook it up to a line to the hot water at the house, and drag it around with a towel on the end," he said. "It works really well."



THE OLD SWITCHEROO - Curtis Dickson and Brett Warbeck helped purchaser Glenn Veysey of Brandon winch up their old fishing shack onto his trailer on Tuesday afternoon. Once that job was done, Dickson headed straight out onto the lake ice to the pair's new 'upgraded' red shack to get fishing. It's only his second year ice fishing, but Dickson says he's 'hooked.'

Reporter of the Year – 1st Killarney Guide – Kim Langen

Intermission
15 Minutes



Kidz Korner gets funds for before, after school programs. PAGE 10

TODAY
Mazda charge in infant death . . . 1
Winter storm impact . . . 2
SjLHL cancels season . . . 1

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Community Calendar . . . 1
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SOURCE: BIRMINGHAM OBSERVATORY OF MARCH 2012

New clinics coming, booking issues reported

confirmed in northern
Manitoba by recording of

in The Sea at the Ray M. Johnston Assoc. These two clinics were announced in The Sea at the Ray M. Johnston Assoc. These two clinics will take place April 7 and 14, both from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Other clinics will be announced in the near future, according to

The following the March 21 release:

"Additional pop-up sites and appointments will also be opening up, beginning the week of April 21 and more will be announced in the coming weeks," reads the release.

Meanwhile, doses of the Moderna vaccine are expected to be available throughout this week for Saskatchewan residents only at the Caspation Frontiers Building. Saskatchewan has been receiving more

As of press time, all northern Saskatchewan residents age 60 and over can register for their first dose.

Difficulties

While further clinics have been announced in Film Flan and eligibility criteria expanded, some Film Flaners have been left in the dark or unable to register for their clubs.

Accounts from people attempting to register have reported long delays or a lack of spots available for discussion in the Plan Room. Some Plan Fluoride have scheduled appointments in the Plan Room, due to a lack of open spots at the Plan Room.

Randy Whitbread, a Fla. Florist eligible to receive his vaccine, said he had called

FIRST SHOT Suzanna Medhraj gets her first dose of AstraZeneca-COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine March 22. The AstraZeneca vaccine, currently approved for certain age groups, is available in Film-Flon only by appointment through the Film-Flon Pharmacies. Appointments can be made online on the Pharmacies' MedMe page. <https://www.filmflon.com/medme>

"I finally got someone that said, 'Yeah, there's a lot of people out there who are interested in this.'"

She said she had got quite a few people saying that they had called a dozen times and couldn't say why other senators were saying nothing was available," he said.

The Reviewer has received several other reports from Film Flow residents who experienced difficulties with backing their shots.

"Nearly 300 appointments were filled within hours," said the spokeswoman March 24, hours after the third pop-up clinic was publicly announced.

success with the only franchise being around registering and getting a confirmed appointment. As more of the vaccine become available, you will see more and more pop-ups happening local (London only).

Smaller northern communities that have shared taken part in the Thompson-based "Viggo" program - involving flying or otherwise transporting people to Thompson to receive the drug, will have a chance

People eligible for vaccine in Macedonia currently include, as of March 2, people ages 64 or older as well as those with chronic diseases. The new vaccine was

or older, along with priority groups including health and frontline workers who don't meet the age limit. Down of the AstraZeneca COVIDSHIELD vaccine is also available for Manchester ages 55-64 after a March 29 check.

Est. 1946

0 - 1,399
Best Front Page – 2nd



Russell Banner

Volume No. 124, Issue No. 13 PM40007662 \$1.25 Taxes Included TUESDAY, March 30th, 2021

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THE RUSSELL BANNER


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Minister Rochelle Squires and MLA Rick Wowchuk stopped in Russell on Friday, Mar. 26 to tour the new daycare building. More information can be found on page 3.

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what's inside | Town Council update P2 | MBI students create mental health kits P11 | subscribe online today opasquatimes.com

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Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Volume 45
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Valleyview Fire



Photo: MBI student/Opasquia Times

THE PAS Fire Department work to extinguish a trailer fire in the early hours of Sunday morning

COVID-19

Vaccination Clinics
New pop-up clinic dates
announced for April by
Northern Health Region
P6

Donations galore

Local groups continue to
donate to local
organisations P9

Running fundrasier

Oscar Lathlin
Collegiate students
run to raise money
P10



1,400 – 3,599
Best Front Page – 3rd
Minnedosa Tribune



Morris Takeover Completed



By KAREN MOTTINELL

With a status change, comes a better day for Morris Industries Ltd. As of Thursday, March 18th the production and take over by Rite Way Manufacturing was officially completed. It has been a very long and hard year for Morris Industries after initially filing for creditor protection in January 2020.

According to Rite Way Manufacturing Chairman, Cameron Johnson, "finishing this transaction completed a great step forward." The overall plan is to run Morris as an independent company from Rite Way and obtaining the name Morris Industries Ltd. Rite Way President and Chief Executive Officer, Heather Tucker, who is currently based out of Regina, will be in charge of running operations.

Currently, the big picture is to have a streamlined work load, and right now that is being discussed in the local manufacturing plant. "Minnedosa will end up running on a lighter footprint before," explained Johnson. "We want Minnedosa to be the core hub for all production, which would be a nice win situation for everyone involved. As we are entering the height of the spring season, we are seeing our production ramp back up and still in starting to be increased. It will definitely take time to work out all of the details, however over the next 12 months we expect things to be back in normal, if not bigger and better than ever."

Rite Way's initial hope was to have closed the take over at the start of this year, allowing them time to catch up on orders, getting their feedback on things and then proceed to taking on more orders for the year. "We want to do things on our own, take our time and make sure we are taking in what needs to be talked to," explained Johnson. "The move on Morris in the last year, through creditor protection, has been hard but we are everything coming out okay."

Continued on Page 2

Upgrades Underway at Pavilion



Photo by Karen Mottinell

The crumbling concrete decks of the pavilion have been replaced with sturdy wooden ones.

By KAREN MOTTINELL

A new from Blisk Construction have officially started the necessary repair work to the Pavilion which is located at the Minnedosa Beach. Blisk Construction was awarded the tender last fall, from the town of Minnedosa, in the amount of \$18,206.13 plus GST.

Work completed to date includes the removal of existing concrete decks, the removal and salvaging of existing steel decking and the installation of new wooden decks and the upper level, installation of a six inch concrete deck around the perimeter of the walls, modifying the exterior wall structures to fit the new opening and re-insulation, repainting existing beams, painting the walls and repainting vinyl exterior accents.

According to Mark Blisk, owner of Blisk Construction, the goal is to have the pavilion project completed before May

Long Weekend so that the tent structure is ready for the tourist season.

The pavilion was constructed in 1987 as a local Canadian Centennial project. Designed by Architect Ian Brown of Brandon, the Centennial Pavilion was built at a cost of \$20,000 and opened in July 1987.

The much needed upgrade to the structure was chosen as Minnedosa's Main take 100 project.

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STAMPS ALUMNI: Catching up on those playing overseas and in the USA, B2

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MORE ON PAGE A2

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Three separate parcels of vacant farmland for sale by Tender located approximately three and one-half miles southeast of the Town of La Broquière alongside Provincial Highway 210 in the Rural Municipality of La Broquière.

Completed Tenders must be delivered to the Law Office of Smith Newkild Jordan in the City of Stentach, Manitoba before 5:00pm on the 9th day of April, 2021.

For more information or to obtain a form of Tender in order to submit your bid on one or more parcels of land, contact **Gerrard Sinclair** at 1-204-346-5120

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Gifts from Grizzly



Top picture: Brian Hedley, general manager of Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op; Donna Ierbrun, Minnesota Lion's Club; Mark Salar; Grizzly; Lorne Zacharias, general manager of Heritage Co-op. Right picture: Grizzly sits next to a pile of his stuffed Bionessies.

Submitted
Co-op Meets Bioness

Heritage Co-op, Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op and the Minnesota Lion's Club have partnered with Grizzly and Mark Salar to donate 200 stuffed St. Bernard puppies to children at local hospitals in Minnesota, Neepawa and Brandon.

Grizzly is a 150 pound licensed St. Bernard therapy dog who visits local

hospitals, bringing smiles to the faces of those he meets. Over the past few years, Grizzly and Mark have volunteered their time each week, but since the COVID-19 pandemic, they have temporarily had to stop their visits. Mark was determined to find a way to continue to support the mission that he and Grizzly work with, so these stuffed animals will be given to children in hospital to help remind them that someone is thinking about them.



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EXPRESS PHOTO BY CURLING CANADA/MICHAEL BURNS
From left to right, Kadriana Sadalhak, Kerri Einarson, Brad Gushue, and Colton Lott show off their medals from the mixed curling nationals. Gimli's Einarson and Gushue defeated Winnipeg Beach's Sadalhak and Lott 9-6 in the gold-medal game.

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Spring CLEANUP with Milwaukee

Image showing various power tools including a chainsaw, a blower, and a trimmer.

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Best Front
Page – 3rd

Winnipeg
The Lance



DIABETICS CALLING FOR LIFESAVING COVERAGE

PAGE 3



FEELING THE BURN

Cross-country ski clubs noted marked uptick in activity this winter

PAGE 3

YOUTH HUB COMING TO SOUTHEAST

Youville to provide programming for youth from St. Boniface and St. Vital

PAGE 5

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 31 | 2021

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River trail a revelation



Photo by Adrienne Magulac

Norwood residents living along the bank on Lyndale Drive added to the Red River Trail with skating rinks and trails, a curling sheet, firepit areas, and a gateway-style artsy "Norwood" sign created with what looked like eclectic garage junk.

PAGE 6



Paul & Lise Rodrigue

Why we moved to 50 Alpine...

"We have been living at Southgate Plaza for 2 1/2 years. The location is what attracted us and the size of our two bedroom is what sealed the deal. We love the well-lit and clean underground parking. The outdoor pool is a plus and the spacious community lounge is another huge bonus. The administration and maintenance staff are friendly and easy to talk to and the rent is very comfortable."

— Paul & Lise Rodrigue March, 2020

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From left to right, Kadriana Sadalhak, Kerri Einarson, Brad Gushue, and Colton Lott show off their medals from the mixed curling nationals. Gimli's Einarson and Gushue defeated Winnipeg Beach's Sahaidak and Lott 9-6 in the gold-medal game.

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Vol. 30 No. 13

Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whitemouth, Reynolds and area

April 1, 2021

Oakbank waste cart distribution starts this month

By Tony Zarscha

Residents of Oakbank will soon become very familiar with Eastern work crews, as they will be spending first days a week in Springfield's largest town.

Manager of water and waste services Phillip Pawluk said he expects the carts to arrive in Oakbank the week of April 11 with distribution commencing the week of April 18. Implementation will start April 25 with full service beginning May 2.

Each customer will receive two 240-litre bins, with grey dedicated to waste and blue to mixed recyclables. Each bin comes with a unique identifier and barcode which links it to

the property.

The crews begin their week with visiting the rural collection route before hitting Oakbank for the remaining four days. On Tuesday they will work in the northwest (orange) corner of town, picking up from all homes west of Main Street, up to and including Willow Avenue and Crystal Drive. Wednesday crews will complete pickup at all homes west of Main Street and south to the end of town (green). On Thursday homes in the northeast section (red) will see the trucks, who will pick up garbage and recycling east of Main Street and south up to and including Willow Avenue and Elm Drive. On Friday they will finish up in Aspen Lakes (purple).



Implementation will start April 25 with full service the following week.

Economic development officer hired for BBDC

By Mel Stuchman

An economic development officer has been hired to guide the Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation (BBDC).

Chantelle Parrott will promote economic growth and sustainability in the region and help market it to potential residents, investors and businesses.

The BBDC is a nonprofit local organization formed in 1986 through a regional partnership between the Town of Beausejour and RM of Brokenhead to grow the shared commercial prospects of the area.

Parrott received a bachelor's degree in recreation management and community development from the University of Manitoba with a supporting minor in business administration. She returned to her hometown Minnedosa in 2017 where she worked as an economic development officer for the Minnedosa Area Community Development Corporation.

"Growing up in Minnedosa, I saw things that could be done to improve it so I thought it would be a great place to start," Parrott said.

While working in Minnedosa, Parrott planned and hosted an annual regional entrepreneurship competition called "What's The Big Idea?" which encouraged residents to de-

velop and pitch their personal business ideas. It was nominated for Economic Development Project of the Year from the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba.

She also secured Minnedosa's first inflatable water park for Minnedosa which drew thousands of visitors.

With similarities in population size and resources to Minnedosa, Parrott said that working in Beausejour and the surrounding area was a familiar continuation of the work she has been doing and loving.

It's still early but Parrott hopes to develop a marketing strategy which documents where the region is at now economically and where it could be in the future. She will be in contact with local businesses and industries through the year to ensure everyone is receiving any needed support through the pandemic.

Beausejour Mayor Ray Schirle is excited about Parrott joining the BBDC team and said it was her enthusiasm and experience which made her stand out.

"Chantelle has a great track record and we're excited to see what she'll do for our community," Schirle said.

The position became available following the resignation of Anna Mosher in February 2020. Mosher, who was BBDC's market-



Chantelle Parrott will continue to promote Beausejour and Brokenhead to potential residents, investors and businesses.

ing director, left after eight years with the locally-based economic development and promotional organization for other business opportunities.

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Killarney Guide



POP-UP COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC – It was a busy day at the Shamrock Centre on Wednesday morning, as people began arriving around 10:30 a.m. in increments for their pre-scheduled appointments for the vaccine. A provincial health person on the door checked their documents and appointment times, and kept a steady flow going into the facility. A second pop-up vaccine clinic has now been scheduled in Killarney for April 14, 2021, at the Shamrock Centre, and eligible individuals can call 1-844-828-2222 to make an appointment for this clinic. Vaccine consent forms are available in the main lobby of the Municipal Office. For more information visit: www.manitoba.ca/COVID19.

Spring storm whips through southwest

BY KIM LAMKEN

Extrême winds pounded the Killarney area earlier this week, as a spring storm from down a blizzard path across the Prairies.

The storm made its way out from Alberta, with 70 vehicles piled up on the TransCanada Highway, and left more damage across Saskatchewan before entering Manitoba. And while many areas

were drenched with heavy snow, southwest Manitoba mostly suffered from the continuous roaring winds, which ranged all the way up to 100 kilometres per hour in Killarney and area. Visibility was impacted, and a number of highways in the province were closed during the inclement weather event.

Power was lost in a number of areas, with some homes near Holmfeld reporting

that they were disconnected from their hydro from 9 a.m. until noon on Tuesday.

By Wednesday the wind had mostly died down, but temperatures were still just scraping above the minus -12 C mark as the sun crisscrossed the sky.

The good news is that great weather is currently forecast for this Easter weekend, and the temperatures are set to rise. Happy Easter!



TRAMPOLINE HOPS UP – High winds earlier this week, ranging from 80 to 100 km per hour, managed to give lift-off to this family trampoline in the 100-block of Mountain Avenue. On Tuesday morning it was discovered wedged onto the roof of a shed.

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Best Editorial Page – 2nd

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— Popcorn, no movie – kick-off to spring break —

By Anna Devison

Even though the traditional showing of the spring break movie can't take place, Laurel Lamb, director of Prairie West Recreation (PWR), teamed up with Rick Slater, owner of the Derrick Theatre in Virden to provide a fun treat to kick start the break.

Asked if she is a kid at heart, Lamb admits, "Maybe. I just think of things I'm missing and I'm usually not the only one."

With a sudden closure, movie theatres had to stop building movies a year ago, due to COVID-19 and have not been able to open ever since. No movies, no popcorn!

But, the Derrick Theatre produced 100 big cups of popcorn to give out free at the start of spring break and there was no shortage of takers. Kids and teens lined up on Friday after school outside the theatre for freshly popped corn.

Lamb said the 100 kids got their popcorn within 45 minutes. There were "lots of smiles, thank you's and even a God bless."



His number 100 – he got the last cup of free popcorn at the Derrick Theatre on Friday, March 19.

PHOTO BY ANNA DEVISON

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MAKING EASTER HAPPIER

A crew from the North West Regional Mills Council Office in Dauphin were in town Wednesday to distribute Easter baskets filled with goodies to the community's Mills elders to help make this holiday a little brighter this year. The crew gave out a total of 43 baskets in town and almost 400 baskets were given out throughout the north west region. Holy Week celebrations began March 28 with Palm Sunday and culminate on Easter Sunday, April 4. Just to let you know, the Review office will be closed Good Friday, April 2 so please get your news and ads in to the office by 10 a.m. Thursday, April 1. And that's no April Fool's joke, as the Review is on its way to...

INSIDE MOR ready to commit



HEALTH MATTERS
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HEALTH MATTERS

BY ED DOERING

The council of the Municipality of Roblin is ready to commit to helping the community recruit and retain doctors.

At a meeting at the Community Centre Thursday evening, head of council Robert Misko made the municipality's plan of action quite clear although some details still need to be worked out.

Misko told the gathering and those taking part on Zoom that as well as making an offer to purchase a house - in the hopes

of attracting what council hopes will become an "anchor doctor" - council wants to put \$100,000 to \$150,000 this year, about half a mill, into a special fund.

"We called this meeting because we kind of wanted to have some discussion prior to our budget (meeting on the eighth of April) to sort of discuss what some of the proposals are for doctor recruitment, and courses, and medical staff and what we're thinking of doing as a council," Misko said in his opening remarks.

The meeting heard updates

from the three committees that are hard at work trying to address local health concerns and issues.

Clinic board chair Sean Kuster said he had nothing to report while Whitney Mordahl, chair of the Doctor Recruitment Group, provided an overview of the group's goals and progress.

She encouraged community members to contact any board member with ideas, contacts, donations and offers to help.

Next up was Leslee McDermott, chair of the Roblin Health Care Support Committee.

McDermott noted the commit-

tee, which was formed in the aftermath of the closure of Roblin's diagnostic and emergency room services in 2020, has been busy looking at neighbouring communities who have had some success in recruiting and retaining physicians.

"Why does Goodview have three and four doctors, and we have one and a half? They, that are here for a while, then they're gone," he noted. "And what's happening in Fossil, what's happening in Swan River?"

continued
SEE OTHER P.3

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Emerson Southeast Journal

Southeast Journal

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 40

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On Friday March 26 the Emerson Elks Lodge recognized essential workers in Emerson. The

Elks delivered coffee and donuts to workers in Emerson. The Elks recognize that they could

not include all essential workers in this endeavor but those some businesses and services that serve

the public and have been open during the Pandemic. The services chosen were the Emerson Elementary

School, the Emerson Kinder College, the Emerson Personal Care Home, and the Emerson

Franklin Satellite Office. The businesses chosen were the Scotiabank, The

Continued on Page 7

1,400 – 3,599
Best Editorial Page – 2nd

Steinbach
The Carillon

INDEX

B6 Classified
B11 Divisions
B9 Faith
A10 Obituaries
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The Carillon

News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

40-0000 14 1000000 14



Police tape surrounds the real property on Tache Road in the FBI of Tache as the investigation continues.

Steinbach man facing murder charges in Tache double homicide

BY STEPHEN UNDERHILL

A 27-year-old Steinbach man has been charged with two counts of second degree murder in relation to a double homicide in the city of Tache.

RCMP said Karlene Olson Brown was scheduled to make a court appearance Monday and has been recommended to custody.

Brown is accused of killing a 77-year-old male and a 72-year-old female within the residence on River Road in the early hours of Thursday. They have been identified as Dennis and Rosalinda Gajdos.

RCMP responded to a 911 call from within the house at about 1:15 a.m., asserting that the two victims died on the residence.

Golf course housing coming to La Broquerie

BY JENNIFER POIR

A Steepside council agreed last week to allow the construction of 20 plus housing units on the community's golf course.

Following a public hearing that drew no objection, council approved the new residential zoning, which is intended for the land from Commercial Street to Glen Avenue and Brookside Road.

Council also passed a resolution to allow the development to proceed.

Ken Schmitt, a local developer and businessman who bought the new owner of La Broquerie Golf in Dec. 1, is behind the proposal.

Last week, Schmitt told council that the units will be built on a lot that is 1.5 acres in size. The units will be built on a lot that is 1.5 acres in size.



Firefighters extinguish grass fire near Abe's Hill.

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Three separate parcels of vacant farmland for sale by Tender located approximately three and one-half miles southwest of the Town of La Broquerie along Provincial Highway 210 in the Rural Municipality of La Broquerie.

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Parcel 2	T2C 15 9-4-4 S2M	180
Parcel 3	Part of T2C 15 9-4-4 S2M	188.25

For more information or to obtain a form of Tender in order to submit your bid on one or more parcels of land, contact Gerard Simard at 1-204-346-5120

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Swan Valley Star
and Times

READY TO VOTE: Two band members vie for position of Chief in SCN, A3
STAMPS ALUMNI: Catching up on those playing overseas and in the USA, B2

THE SWAN VALLEY
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FOR THE LOVE OF NEWSPAPER:
A long-time reader's appreciation, A12

WAITING IN LINE
Queuing for the COVID-19 vaccination

MORE ON PAGE A2

A pop-up clinic for the COVID-19 vaccine was held at the Western Community Hall (VCH) on Wednesday and Thursday last week (March 23 and 25). Two more pop-up vaccine clinics have been announced. To take place in the coming weeks on April 7 and April 12, available to all eligible by appointment only. Here, a group of neighborhood residents gather in front of the VCH for the long-awaited shot.

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The Headliner



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Cartier and St. Francois Xavier
fill leadership positions

PAGE 5

ELIE'S FIRST EASTER EGG HUNT

Elie Community Club to host a
paper egg scavenger hunt
around town

PAGE 5



HOLY PLACE SECURES PERMANENT HOME

Oak Bluff Bible Church
unveils new building

PAGES 6, 7

ATHLETE ADJUSTS TO PANDEMIC

Grade 12 golfer and hockey
player hopes for normal
return to sports post-
pandemic

SPORTS PAGE 15

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Green light to open greens



Photo by Gabrielle Piche

Many Manitoban golf courses plan on opening earlier this year due to unseasonably warm temperatures. Cory Johnson, the general manager of Breezy Bend Country Club, said the golf course should be ready for members in the first or second week of April. Pictured, Johnson stands near the greens on March 22.

BY GABRIELLE PICHE
STAFF REPORTER

HEADINGLEY PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE STARBUCK

Golf courses are vying for earlier opening dates this spring due to unseasonably warm temperatures.

Breezy Bend Country Club in Headingley opened its driving range and patio on March 19, its earliest ever. The golf course should be ready for members in the first or second week of April, according to general manager Cory Johnson.

"It's been a long winter, and I know the members want to get out and hit the ball around, and get back to some physical activity,"

Johnson said.

The site is for members and their guests only; even so, it boomed last summer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The club tracked over 42,000 rounds of golf played, which is a new record high, Johnson said.

Breezy Bend has reached capacity for all of its membership types, and it's estimated new kids and adults will be on the waiting list for

a year before getting in.

"There's never been more interest in the club," Johnson said, adding the club sets registration limits to ensure there's tee time availability for current members.

Continued on page 2

Thompson Citizen

ness," he said. "There are needs for drugs and there goes are needs for other people, etc. People do realize on handgums or on in possession of handgums for their participation in this trade."

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Gifts from Grizzly



Top picture: Brian Hedley, general manager of Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op; Donna Ierbrun, Minnesota Lion's Club; Mark Salar, Grizzly; Lorne Zacharias, general manager of Heritage Co-op. Right picture: Grizzly sits next to a pile of his stuffed Bismarcks.

Submitted Co-op Media Release

Heritage Co-op, Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op and the Minnesota Lion's Club have partnered with Grizzly and Mark Salar to donate 200 stuffed St. Bernard puppies to children at local hospitals in Manitoba, Neepawa and Brandon.

Grizzly is a 150 pound licensed St. Bernard therapy dog who visits local

hospitals, bringing smiles to the faces of those he meets. Over the past few years, Grizzly and Mark have volunteered their time each week, but since the COVID-19 pandemic, they have temporarily had to stop their visits. Mark was determined to find a way to continue to support the patients that he and Grizzly work with, so these stuffed animals will be given to children in hospital to help remind them that someone is thinking about them.



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RECORD PHOTO BY CURLING CANADA/MICHAEL BURNS
From left to right, Kadriana Sadalhak, Kerri Einarson, Brad Gushue, and Colton Lott show off their medals from the mixed curling nationals. Gimil's Einarson and Gushue defeated Winnipeg Beach's Sahaidak and Lott 9-6 in the gold-medal game.

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THE CLIPPER WEEKLY

Vol. 30 No. 13

Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whitemouth, Reynolds and area

April 1, 2021

Oakbank waste cart distribution starts this month

By Tony Zurecho

Residents of Oakbank will soon become very familiar with Eastern work crews, as they will be spending first days a week in Springfield's largest town.

Manager of water and waste services Phillip Pawluk said he expects the carts to arrive in Oakbank the week of April 11 with distribution commencing the week of April 18. Implementation will start April 25 with full service beginning May 2.

Each customer will receive two 240-litre bins, with grey dedicated to waste and blue to mixed recyclables. Each bin comes with a unique identifier and barcode which links it to

the property.

The crews begin their week with visiting the rural collection route before hitting Oakbank for the remaining four days. On Tuesday they will work in the northwest (orange) corner of town, picking up from all homes west of Main Street, up to and including Willow Avenue and Crystal Drive. Wednesday crews will complete pickup at all homes west of Main Street and south to the end of town (green). On Thursday homes in the northeast section (red) will see the trucks, who will pick up garbage and recycling east of Main Street and south up to and including Willow Avenue and Elm Drive. On Friday they will finish up in Aspen Lakes (purple).



Implementation will start April 25 with full service the following week.

Economic development officer hired for BBDC

By Mel Stefaniuk

An economic development officer has been hired to guide the Beausejour Brokenhead Development Corporation (BBDC).

Chantelle Parrott will promote economic growth and sustainability in the region and help market it to potential residents, investors and businesses. The BBDC is a nonprofit local organization formed in 1986 through a regional partnership between the Town of Beausejour and RM of Brokenhead to grow the shared commercial prospects of the area.

Parrott received a bachelor's degree in recreation management and community development from the University of Manitoba with a supporting minor in business administration. She returned to her hometown Minnedosa in 2017 where she worked as an economic development officer for the Minnedosa Area Community Development Corporation.

"Growing up in Minnedosa, I saw things that could be done to improve it so I thought it would be a great place to start," Parrott said.

While working in Minnedosa, Parrott planned and hosted an annual regional entrepreneurship competition called "What's The Big Idea?" which encouraged residents to de-

velop and pitch their personal business ideas. It was nominated for Economic Development Project of the Year from the Economic Developers Association of Manitoba.

She also secured Manitoba's first inflatable water park for Minnedosa which drew thousands of visitors. With similarities in population size and resources to Minnedosa, Parrott said that working in Beausejour and the surrounding area was a familiar continuation of the work she has been doing and loving.

It's still early but Parrott hopes to develop a marketing strategy which documents where the region is at now economically and where it could be in the future. She will be in contact with local businesses and industries through the year to ensure everyone is receiving any needed support through the pandemic.

Beausejour Mayor Ray Schirle is excited about Parrott joining the BBDC team and said it was her enthusiasm and experience which made her stand out.

"Chantelle has a great track record and we're excited to see what she'll do for our community," Schirle said.

The position became available following the resignation of Anna Mosier in February 2020. Mosier, who was BBDC's market-

Photo submitted
Chantelle Parrott will continue to promote Beausejour and Brokenhead to potential residents, investors and businesses.

ing director, left after eight years with the locally-based economic development and promotional organization for other business opportunities.

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UNITED WAY PHOTO

From left: United Way Pembina Valley board members Chris Willsey, Kim Nelson, and Alex Fedorchuk with a cheque for \$135,800—the proceeds from the agency's 2020 fundraising campaign, which they are distributing to 23 local non-profits in Morden-Winkler this spring. For the full story, see Pg. 10.

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— Popcorn, no movie – kick-off to spring break —

By Anna Davison

Even though the traditional showing of the spring break movie can't take place, Laurel Lamb, director of Prairie West Recreation (PWR), teamed up with Rick Slater, owner of the Derrick Theatre in Virden to provide a fun treat to kick start the break.

Asked if she is a kid at heart, Lamb admits, "Maybe. I just think of things I'm missing and I'm usually not the only one."

With a sudden closure, movie theatres had to stop building movies a year ago, due to COVID-19 and have not been able to open ever since. No movies, no popcorn!

But, the Derrick Theatre produced 100 big cups of popcorn to give out free at the start of spring break and there was no shortage of takers. Kids and teens lined up on Friday after school outside the theatre for freshly popped corn.

Lamb said the 100 kids got their popcorn within 45 minutes. There were "lots of smiles, thank yous and even a God bless."

He's number 100 – he got the last cup of free popcorn at the Derrick Theatre on Friday, March 19.

PHOTO BY AMY TOLSON

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THE PAS Fire Department work to extinguish a trailer fire in the early hours of Sunday morning

COVID-19

Vaccination Clinics
New pop-up clinic dates
announced for April by
Northern Health Region
P6

Donations galore

Local groups continue to
donate to local
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TODAY

Winter charge in utility bills... 2

Winter storm impact... 3

SHL cruise season... 13

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Community Calendar... 13

Charities... 14

Crossword... 15



WACCHES

New clinics coming, booking issues reported

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

More pop-up vaccination clinics have been announced throughout Manitoba - including more clinics in Flin Flon - but Flin Flonians booking appointments at the sites have experienced delays and confusion with the vaccination.

The next set of Manitoba clinics was announced by provincial public health officials March 26, the date of the second pop-up clinic to be held in Flin Flon. Included in the list was one other date for a pop-up clinic in Flin Flon, the third of its kind, which will take place April 6 at the Flin Flon Community Hall from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pop-up clinics provide doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in smaller communities away from the provincial main vaccine "super-sites" in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, Selkirk and Morden.

Following the province's March 26 announcement, news broke of other pop-up clinics scheduled in Flin Flon that were not included in the province's initial announcement. Instead of only having one day of pop-up clinics in the town, a different schedule posted on the provincial government's website showed two more clinics would soon be held.

According to the provincial website, another clinic, the fourth to be held in Flin Flon, would take place April 15, along with a fifth running for three consecutive days from April 24-26. Both additional clinics would take place at the Flin Flon Community Hall from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., the same location and hours as previous clinics at the site.

Immunization clinics were announced in several Manitoba communities March 26, but only three clinics were initially confirmed in northern Manitoba by provincial officials. In addition to the clinic in Flin Flon, two further clinics were announced in The Pas at the Ray St. Johnston Arena. Those two clinics will take place April 7 and 14, both from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Other clinics will be announced in the near future, according to a provincial government news release.

No further clinics were announced in The Pas following the March 26 release.

"Additional pop-up sites and appointments will also be opening up, beginning the week of April 21 and more will be announced in the coming weeks," reads the release.

Meanwhile, doses of the Moderna vaccine are expected to be available throughout this week for Saskatchewan residents only at the Craigholm Provincial Building.

Saskatchewan began vaccinating people living in communities in Saskatchewan weeks before the first doses ever were made available in Flin Flon. At one time, all northern Saskatchewan residents ages 16 and over can register for their first dose.

Confusion

While further clinics have been announced in Flin Flon and eligibility criteria expanded across Flin Flonians have been left in the dark or unable to register for their shots.

According to people attempting to register have reported long delays or a lack of spots available for clinics in Flin Flon. Some Flin Flonians have scheduled appointments in The Pas instead of in Flin Flon, due to a lack of open spots at the Flin Flon site.

Randy Whitbread, a Flin Flonian eligible to receive the vaccine, said he had called



FIRST SHOT Suzanne Westhaver gets her first dose of AstraZeneca-COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine March 28. The AstraZeneca vaccine, currently approved for certain age groups, is available in Flin Flon only by appointments through the Flin Flon Pharmacies. Appointments can be made online at the Pharmacies' MyLife page.

the provincial vaccination hotline (1-866-960-0824) but was unable to book an appointment April 16. Whitbread had already booked three cancellations and was looking for a last-minute appointment.

"It's a total disaster," said Whitbread. "He [the hotline operator] said that none of the fourth and fifth clinics appeared to have been scheduled. 'First, they told me there were no clinics in Flin Flon scheduled at all. I told the operator he better look again, because even the phone message you get when you call mentions [a clinic] in Flin Flon. Then they said, 'Oh yeah there is, but they are all booked.' I asked, 'All five days? The web site lists five days.' Again, saying that I was wrong, refused to book. When I told them I live with someone

immunosuppressed because of chronic, they offered me a spot in the hospital.'"

Whitbread finally was able to book a local appointment. "I finally got someone that said, 'Look, there's quite a few appointments available for April 16 in Flin Flon.' She said she had got quite a few people saying that they had called a dozen times and couldn't say why other appointments were saying nothing was available," he said.

The Reminder has received several other reports from Flin Flon residents who reported difficulties with booking their shots.

The Reminder reached out to a spokesperson for the provincial government's vaccination effort, who said responses from Flin Flon had been "overwhelmingly."

"Nearly 300 appointments were filled, within hours," said the spokesperson March 26, hours after the third pop-up clinic was publicly announced.

The spokesperson also confirmed the province plans to continue hosting pop-up clinics in Flin Flon. "These appointments in Flin Flon [and elsewhere] will be made in coming weeks," they said.

"We continually expand our pop-up site locations within rural Manitoba," Olson and difficulties in booking appointments were widespread, that Flin Flon Mayor Ed Hanley released a statement on the matter late on March 26, adding clarification - that more pop-up clinics would be held, that appointments could only be made through the provincial hotline and all current rules will still apply. Hanley, who also serves as the board chair of the Northern Health Region (NHR), said he had received positive feedback about the vaccination effort, aside from the news of delays.

"The message is that so far the temporary vaccination sites have been a great success with the only frustration being second nighting and getting a confirmed appointment. As soon as the vaccine becomes available, you will see more and more pop-ups happening locally," Hanley said.

Similar northern communities that have already taken part in the "Support" program - involving flying or otherwise transporting people to Thompson to receive their shots - will have a chance for residents to receive a second dose by mid-April, according to government officials.

People eligible for vaccines in Manitoba currently include, as of March 26, people ages 64 or older and First Nations people ages 44 or older, along with priority groups including health and essential workers who don't meet the age limit. Doses of the AstraZeneca-COVISHIELD vaccine are also available for all Manitobans ages 55-64 after a March 29 change.

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Education framework raising concerns

>> PWSB Board Chair says
Bill 64 may not be the best
strategy for local students

RACHEAL FLINTOFF
Crossroads This Week

Letting the dust settle after learning of the historical Better Education Starts Today (BEST) strategy announced by the provincial government on March 15, Park West School Division (PWSB) Board Chair Sandy Swadlow says she believes a standardized blueprint isn't the answer.

"Our health care system and municipalities were forced to amalgamate, and it isn't clear if those actions were beneficial," Swadlow stated. "In reflecting the pandemic, the province stated that if affected student engagement and learning differently, and a one-size-fits-all approach will not work now or for the future... yet the new education plan seems to be exactly that, a one size fits all approach."

Following the anticipated Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education report, direction was aimed at rethinking Manitoba's education system. With this merger, the new Provincial Education Authority will combine the current 17 elected regional school boards into one entity and sub-divided further into 15 regions. This large systematic change leaves ongoing questions regarding the overall outcome for students, schools, and staff across the province.

"I feel that the amalgamation could potentially lead to some schools or communities being overlooked," Swadlow stated.

SEE TIME NEEDED PAGE 3

*The new
education plan
seems to be
exactly that,
a one size fits
all approach*

Sandy Swadlow



LOTS OF LAUGHTER

DARRELL NESBITT/CROSSROADS THIS WEEK

School friends and families have been coming together as of late, pedaling bicycles of all shapes and colours and breaking the silence of the spring air with laughter - one of the best tools we have for dealing with stress. Knowing that the paved streets often include dangerous vehicular traffic, these two youngsters opted to get a little mud on their tires and take to the back lane behind their Shoal Lake home for their adventures. Cycling is a form of exercise but it can also cost a fun essence, with both children and adults sharing in the activity, as it's more fun than walking or running.

Hamiota readies for an egg-cellent Easter

RACHEAL FLINTOFF
Crossroads This Week

The heat is on! After enjoying a week of Spring Break, area kids are getting ready to say hello to the Easter Bunny himself this year welcoming an array of old and new Easter traditions. Across the region, fun activities are taking place, including two separate Easter Egg Hunts over the holiday weekend.

"My hope is that the Easter egg hunts will give the citizens in our community an opportunity to get out, enjoy the weekend and see some friends while maintaining a safe social distance," exclaimed Stephanie Colli, recreation and GIS director with Recreation Hamiota. "We've decided to still move ahead with some Easter Egg Hunt... this is the first 'socially distanced' Easter egg hunt for the community!"

Hamiota's Town Wide Easter Egg Hunt will take place today, April 2, and includes 200 colourful eggs hidden around downtown Hamiota... find an Easter egg and enjoy the treat inside!

Hamiota's second Easter egg hunt will be hosted exclusively for children in the community and will take place at the campground on April 4 at 9 a.m. Registration is required. Colli explained that during the anticipated Kids Easter Egg Hunt, each child will get an Easter basket and a huge card of fun Easter treats to find and enjoy! Each child will also receive a little goody bag to have as well. In the spirit, many of the Hamiota businesses have jumped on board with this fun activity, donating to support the

weekend of fun recreation. "Both activities are free and meant to bring our community members a little bit of Easter joy," said Colli. "With COVID, let's do our community activities over the winter have been cancelled; this will hopefully be the first of many recreational and community focused events that we can have this year while following the Provincial Guidelines."

Whatever you choose to do this holiday weekend, be sure to have an egg-cellent Easter!

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FOR THE LOVE OF NEWSPAPER:
A long-time reader's appreciation, A12

WAITING IN LINE
Queuing for the COVID-19 vaccination

MORE ON PAGE A2

A pop-up clinic for the COVID-19 vaccine was held at the Wapiti Community Hall (WCH) on Wednesday and Thursday last week (March 24 and 25). Two more pop-up vaccine clinics have been announced to take place in the coming weeks on April 7 and April 12, available to all eligible by appointment only. Here, a group of eligible residents gather in front of the WCH for the long-awaited shot.

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INDEX

- B4 Classified
- B11 Divisions
- B9 Faith
- A10 Obituaries
- B1 Sports

The Carillon

News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

Volume 100 Number 14



Wishing you a wonderful Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

Mayor Earl and Lori Fankle



Steinbach man facing murder charges in Tache double homicide

Golf course housing coming to La Broquerie

Firefighters extinguish grass fire near Abe's Hill

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Gifts from Grizzly



Top picture: Brian Hedley, general manager of Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op; Donna Ierbrun, Minnesota Lion's Club; Mark Salar, Grizzly; Lorne Zacharias, general manager of Heritage Co-op. Right picture: Grizzly sits next to a pile of his stuffed Bionessies.

Submitted Co-op Media Release

Heritage Co-op, Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op and the Minnesota Lion's Club have partnered with Grizzly and Mark Salar to donate 200 stuffed St. Bernard puppies to children at local hospitals in Manitoba, Neepawa and Brandon.

Grizzly is a 150 pound licensed St. Bernard therapy dog who visits local

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THE CLIPPER WEEKLY

Vol. 30 No. 13

Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whitemouth, Reynolds and area

April 1, 2021

Oakbank waste cart distribution starts this month

By Tony Zurecho

Residents of Oakbank will soon become very familiar with Eastern work crews, as they will be spending first days a week in Springfield's largest town.

Manager of water and waste services Phillip Pawluk said he expects the carts to arrive in Oakbank the week of April 11 with distribution commencing the week of April 18. Implementation will start April 25 with full service beginning May 2.

Each customer will receive two 240-litre bins, with grey dedicated to waste and blue to mixed recyclables. Each bin comes with a unique identifier and barcode which links it to

the property.

The crews begin their week with visiting the rural collection route before hitting Oakbank for the remaining four days. On Tuesday they will work in the northwest (orange) corner of town, picking up from all homes west of Main Street, up to and including Willow Avenue and Crystal Drive. Wednesday crews will complete pickup at all homes west of Main Street and south to the end of town (green). On Thursday homes in the northeast section (red) will see the trucks, who will pick up garbage and recycling east of Main Street and south up to and including Willow Avenue and Elm Drive. On Friday they will finish up in Aspen Lakes (purple).



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Economic development officer hired for BBDC

By Mel Stefaniuk

An economic development officer has been hired to guide the Beausejour Brookhead Development Corporation (BBDC).

Chantelle Parrott will promote economic growth and sustainability in the region and help market it to potential residents, investors and businesses.

The BBDC is a nonprofit local organization formed in 1986 through a regional partnership between the Town of Beausejour and RM of Brokenhead to grow the shared commercial prospects of the area.

Parrott received a bachelor's degree in recreation management and community development from the University of Manitoba with a supporting minor in business administration. She returned to her hometown Minnedosa in 2017 where she worked as an economic development officer for the Minnedosa Area Community Development Corporation.

"Growing up in Minnedosa, I saw things that could be done to improve it so I thought it would be a great place to start," Parrott said.

While working in Minnedosa, Parrott planned and hosted an annual regional entrepreneurship competition called "What's The Big Idea?" which encouraged residents to de-

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She also secured Manitoba's first inflatable water park for Minnedosa which drew thousands of visitors.

With similarities in population size and resources to Minnedosa, Parrott said that working in Beausejour and the surrounding area was a familiar continuation of the work she has been doing and loving.

It's still early but Parrott hopes to develop a marketing strategy which documents where the region is at now economically and where it could be in the future. She will be in contact with local businesses and industries through the year to ensure everyone is receiving any needed support through the pandemic.

Beausejour Mayor Ray Schirle is excited about Parrott joining the BBDC team and said it was her enthusiasm and experience which made her stand out.

"Chantelle has a great track record and we're excited to see what she'll do for our community," Schirle said.

The position became available following the resignation of Anna Mosher in February 2020. Mosher, who was BBDC's market-



Chantelle Parrott will continue to promote Beausejour and Brokenhead to potential residents, investors and businesses.

ing director, left after eight years with the locally-based economic development and promotional organization for other business opportunities.

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INSIDE

YOUR COMMUNITY ... PAGE 5

REAL ESTATE ... PAGE 7

MEET OUR BOYS ... PAGE 8

ALL ABOUT ... PAGE 10

ON CAMP ... PAGE 12

Popcorn, no movie – kick-off to spring break

By Anna Davidson

Even though the traditional showing of the spring break movie can't take place, Laurel Lamb, director of Prairie West Recreation (PWR) paired up with Rick Slater, owner of the Derrick Theatre in Virden to provide a fun treat to kick start the break.

Asked if she is a kid at heart, Lamb admits, "Maybe. I just think of things I'm missing and I'm usually not the only one."

With a sudden closure, movie theatres had to stop holding movies a year ago, due to COVID-19 and have not been able to open ever since. No movies, no popcorn!

But, the Derrick Theatre produced 100 big cups of popcorn to give out free at the start of spring break and there was no shortage of takers. Kids and teens lined up on Friday after school outside the theatre for freshly popped corn.

Lamb said the 100 kids got their popcorn within 45 minutes. There were "lots of smiles, thank you's and even a God bless."

He's number 100 – he got the last cup of this popcorn at the Derrick Theatre on Friday, March 19.

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OPASQUIA TIMES

Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Volume 45
Issue 3
\$1.25
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P66020749



THE PAS Fire Department work to extinguish a trailer fire in the early hours of Sunday morning. Photo by Glenn Thompson/Times

COVID-19

Vaccination Clinics
New pop-up clinic dates
announced for April by
Northern Health Region
P6

Donations galore

Local groups continue to
donate to local
organisations P9

Running fundrasier

Oscar Lathlin
Collegiate students
run to raise money
P10



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Flin Flon
The Reminder

the Reminder

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

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Kid's Korner gets funds for before, after school program

TODAY

Winter charge in infra dark... 2

Winter storm impact... 3

\$/L, crude rises... 13

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Community Calendar... 13

Charities... 14

Crossword... 15



3 DAY FORECAST

DAY 1: Partly cloudy, 1°C to 5°C

DAY 2: Partly cloudy, 1°C to 5°C

DAY 3: Partly cloudy, 1°C to 5°C

VACCINES

New clinics coming, booking issues reported

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

More pop-up vaccination clinics have been announced throughout Manitoba - including more clinics in Flin Flon - but Flin Flonians booking appointments at the sites have experienced delays and confusion with the vaccination.

The next set of Manitoba clinics was announced by provincial public health officials March 26, the date of the second pop-up clinic to be held in Flin Flon. Included in the list was one other date for a pop-up clinic in Flin Flon, the third of its kind, which will take place April 6 at the Flin Flon Community Hall from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Pop-up clinics provide doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to smaller communities away from the provincial main vaccine "super-sites" in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, Selkirk and Morden.

Following the province's March 26 announcement, news broke of other pop-up clinics scheduled in Flin Flon that were not included in the province's initial announcement. Instead of only having one day of pop-up clinics in the town, a different schedule posted on the provincial government's website showed two more clinics would soon be held.

According to the provincial website, another clinic, the fourth to be held in Flin Flon, would take place April 15, along with a fifth clinic for those community days from April 14-16. Both additional clinics would take place at the Flin Flon Community Hall from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., the same location and hours as previous clinics at the site.

Immunization clinics were announced in several Manitoba communities March 26, but only three clinics were initially confirmed in northern Manitoba by provincial officials. In addition to the clinic in Flin Flon, two further clinics were announced in The Pas at the Ray St. Johnston Arena. Those two clinics will take place April 7 and 14, both from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Other clinics will be announced in the near future, according to a provincial government news release.

No further clinics were announced in The Pas following the March 26 release.

"Additional pop-up sites and appointments will also be opening up, beginning the week of April 21 and more will be announced in the coming weeks," reads the release.

Meanwhile, doses of the Moderna vaccine are expected to be available throughout this week for Saskatchewan residents only at the Creighton Provincial Building.

Saskatchewan began vaccinating people living in communities in Saskatchewan weeks before the first doses ever were made available in Flin Flon. As of press time, all northern Saskatchewan residents ages 16 and over can register for their first dose.

Confusion

While further clinics have been announced in Flin Flon and eligibility criteria expanded across Flin Flonians have been left in the dark or unable to register for their shots.

According to people attempting to register have reported long delays or a lack of spots available for clinics in Flin Flon. Some Flin Flonians have scheduled appointments in The Pas instead of in Flin Flon, due to a lack of open spots at the Flin Flon site.

Randy Whitbread, a Flin Flonian eligible to receive the vaccine, said he had called



FIRST SHOT Suzanne Westhaver gets her first dose of AstraZeneca-COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine March 28. The AstraZeneca vaccine, currently approved for certain age groups, is available in Flin Flon only by appointments through the Flin Flon Pharmacies. Appointments can be made online on the Pharmacies' MyVax page.

the provincial vaccination hotline (1-866-960-0824) before being able to book an appointment. April 16, Whitbread had already booked three cancellations and was unable to book a local appointment.

"I finally got someone that said, 'Look, there's quite a few appointments available for April 16 in Flin Flon.' She said she had got quite a few people saying that they had called a dozen times and couldn't say why other appointments were saying nothing was available," he said.

The Reminder has received several other reports from Flin Flon residents who reported difficulties with booking their shots.

The Reminder reached out to a spokesperson for the provincial government's vaccination effort, who said responses from Flin Flon had been "overwhelmingly" "slower" 300 appointments were filled, within hours," said the spokesperson March 26, hours after the third pop-up clinic was publicly announced.

The spokesperson also confirmed the province plans to continue hosting pop-up clinics in Flin Flon. "These appointments in Flin Flon, (and) announcements will be made in coming weeks," they said.

"We continually expand our pop-up site locations within rural Manitoba," Olson and difficulties in booking appointments were widespread, that Flin Flon Mayor Ed Hanley released a statement on the matter late on March 26, adding clarification - that more pop-up clinics would be held, that appointments could only be made through the provincial hotline and all current rules will still apply. Hanley, who also serves as the board chair of the Northern Health Region (NHR), said he had received positive feedback about the vaccination effort, aside from the news of delays.

"The plan is to say that so far, the temporary vaccination sites have been a great success with the only frustration being around registering and getting a confirmed appointment. As soon as the vaccine becomes available, you will see more and more pop-ups happening locally," Hanley said.

Similar northern communities that have already taken part in the "support" program involving flying or otherwise transporting people to Thompson to receive their doses, will have a chance for residents to receive a second dose by mid-April, according to government officials.

People eligible for vaccines in Manitoba currently include, as of March 26, people ages 64 or older and First Nations people ages 44 or older, along with priority groups including health and essential workers who don't meet the age limit. Doses of the AstraZeneca-COVISHIELD vaccine are also available for all Manitobans ages 55-64 after a March 29 change.

the Recorder

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COVID strikes Boissevain School, remote learning returns after spring break

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

What has happened in other areas of the province is now a reality at Boissevain School.

Just as spring break began, it was discovered the coronavirus has struck the school, creating an outbreak. As of Wednesday, March 30, there were four members of the Boissevain School community, two teachers and two students, who have tested positive for COVID-19. According to Turtle Mountain School Division Superintendent Tim De Ruyck, they have been working diligently to get important information where it needs to go.

"Throughout yesterday (March 29), and continuing today, communication has occurred with the school community as well as those who may be deemed close contacts," De Ruyck explained. "We are continuing to monitor and

communicate accordingly as per Public Health and Manitoba Education requirements."

De Ruyck added they were prepared for this possibility as protocols have been in place for months. However, there were many changes to the situation over a few days. In fact, on Wednesday, their plans shifted twice. There are originally a few classrooms who had to shut down and isolated after spring break - 4/2/9 class and Grade 10 and 12. As well, several teachers had to do the same. Later in the day, they were informed by Manitoba Education that Boissevain School in its entirety, K-12, would be moved to remote learning for the week following spring break, which begins April 5. De Ruyck added they were at that point hoping to resume in class learning on April 12.

"This situation remains fluid and changes may occur. If so, all worthwhile parties will be notified."



Pysanky, the tradition of Ukrainian Easter Eggs

Dawn Wnne enjoys the beautiful art of Easter egg decorating, a traditional craft of her Ukrainian heritage. The beautiful art of which they are justly proud, has quite a process, which is fascinating. See full story inside.

PHOTO BY MARY DOMOSKO

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Boissevain Recorder

\$400,000 grant help Two Borders expand water line

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

A recent grant announcement will help the Municipality of Two Borders with some of its water concerns.

Turtle Mountain M.L.A. David Piroch announced on March 26 the Manitoba government was committing \$50 million for water and wastewater projects in the province. This includes a project in his constituency.

"Our PC government continues to make significant

investments in crucial water and wastewater infrastructure projects," Piroch explained.

"These capital projects will create good local jobs while improving services for residents to ensure our communities remain strong and healthy for future generations to come."

This grant includes \$400,000 to the Municipality of Two Borders to expand a water line from Colesburg to Lyndon. The municipality, with the Town of Melita, runs a water line from the town to

sewerage treatment, both in Two Borders and neighbouring Round Lake. Communities like Neepawa, Winkler, Morden and Colesburg, as well as rural residences along the way benefit from having water from the Melita treatment plant. The plan is to build about eight kilometres of pipe from Colesburg to add Lyndon and residences along the line, to the pipeline.

Lyndon landfilling from high altitude in their water.

"Now the grant is secured, Two Borders can apply to

the Municipal Board to do a local improvement. Two thirds of the project should be paid by the provincial grant, which comes from the \$500 million Manitoba Restart Program. The other third, about \$200,000 will come from the taxpayers in the Lyndon area who benefit from the pipeline.

As well, Two Borders has another community with a water quality issue. Piroch has higher than recommended levels of arsenic. The municipality has applied for a federal grant to try to extend

the Melita line from five to Pioness. This grant would be 40% federal, 35% provincial and 25% municipal. If successful, the municipal portion would not come from those who get the water. No

announcement on this grant has been received by the municipality as of yet.

As for the Colesburg to Lyndon line, it is scheduled for the 2021 construction season.

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READY TO VOTE: Two band members vie for position of Chief in SCN, **A3**
STAMPS ALUMNI: Catching up on those playing overseas and in the USA, **B2**

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FOR THE LOVE OF NEWSPAPER:
A long-time reader's appreciation, **A12**

WAITING IN LINE
Queuing for the COVID-19 vaccination

MORE ON PAGE A2

A pop-up clinic for the COVID-19 vaccine was held at the Western Community Hall (VCH) on Wednesday and Thursday last week (March 23 and 25). Two more pop-up vaccine clinics have been announced to take place in the coming weeks on April 7 and April 12, available to all eligible by appointment only. Here, a group of neighborhood residents gather in front of the VCH for the long-awaited shot.

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INDEX

B4 Classified
B11 Divisions
B9 Faith
A10 Obituaries
B1 Sports

The Carillon

News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

Wishing you a wonderful Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

Mayer Earl and Lori Fankle

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021

Police have cordoned off the road property on River Road in the P&G at Tache as the investigation continues.

Steinbach man facing murder charges in Tache double homicide

STEINBACH, MANITOBA (The Carillon) — A Steinbach man is facing murder charges in connection with the deaths of a woman and a young man in Tache, Manitoba, on Tuesday.

The Steinbach man, 37-year-old, was charged with the murders of a woman and a young man in Tache, Manitoba, on Tuesday.

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Golf course housing coming to La Broquerie

LA BROQUERIE, MANITOBA (The Carillon) — A new housing development is planned for the La Broquerie Golf Course.

The development, which is planned for the La Broquerie Golf Course, will consist of 20 single-family homes.

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Firefighters extinguish grass fire near Abe's Hill

Steinbach, Man. — Firefighters from the Steinbach Fire Department extinguished a grass fire near Abe's Hill on Tuesday.

The fire, which started in a field, was quickly brought under control by the firefighters.

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

Three separate parcels of vacant farmland for sale by Tender located approximately three and one-half miles southeast of the Town of La Broquerie alongside Provincial Highway 210 in the Rural Municipality of La Broquerie.

Completed Tenders must be delivered to the Law Office of Smith Neukirch Jodan in the City of Steinbach, Manitoba before 5:00pm on the 9th day of April, 2021.

For more information on to obtain a form of Tender in order to submit your bid on one or more parcels of land, contact Gerard Simard at 1-204-546-5120

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Gifts from Grizzly



Top picture: Brian Hedley, general manager of Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op; Donna Ierbrun, Minnesota Lion's Club; Mark Salar, Grizzly; Lorne Zacharias, general manager of Heritage Co-op. Right picture: Grizzly sits next to a pile of his stuffed Skeneases.

Submitted Co-op Maria Ruzars

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Teulon Tribune

Two-year-old Avonlee Redpath, left, and her four-year-old sister Alice were among the first shoppers on opening day of the Hwy Market 6 in Warren last Friday. See more on page 2.

[illegible]

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THE CLIPPER WEEKLY

Vol. 30 No. 13 Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whitemouth, Reynolds and area April 1, 2021

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By Tony Zurecho

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With similarities in population size and resources to Minnedosa, Parrott said that working in Beausejour and the surrounding area was a familiar continuation of the work she has been doing and loving.

It's still early but Parrott hopes to develop a marketing strategy which documents where the region is at now economically and where it could be in the future. She will be in contact with local businesses and industries through the year to ensure everyone is receiving any needed support through the pandemic.

Beausejour Mayor Ray Schirle is excited about Parrott joining the BBDC team and said it was her enthusiasm and experience which made her stand out.

"Chantelle has a great track record and we're excited to see what she'll do for our community," Schirle said.

The position became available following the resignation of Anna Mosher in February 2020. Mosher, who was BBDC's market-



Chantelle Parrott will continue to promote Beausejour and Brokenhead to potential residents, investors and businesses.

ing director, left after eight years with the locally-based economic development and promotional organization for other business opportunities.

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RECORD PHOTO BY CURLING CANADA/MICHAEL BURNS
From left to right, Kadriana Sadalhak, Kerri Einarson, Brad Gushue, and Colton Lott show off their medals from the mixed curling nationals. Gushue's Einarson and Gushue defeated Winnipeg Beach's Sahaidak and Lott 9-6 in the gold-medal game.

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UNITED WAY PHOTO

From left: United Way Pembina Valley board members Chris Willsey, Kim Nelson, and Alex Fedorchuk with a cheque for \$135,800—the proceeds from the agency's 2020 fundraising campaign, which they are distributing to 23 local non-profits in Morden-Winkler this spring. For the full story, see Pg. 10.

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