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THURSDAY,
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Replicating history

Vinko Saric holds one of his many handmade Red River Carts. His wife Linda St. Cyr-Saric burns the initials V + L onto every cart they produce. See story on pg. 2.

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY TYLER SEARLE

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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 dished 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 Stonewal 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.

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Elementary students engage in Earth Day efforts

By Jennifer McFee

Eco-friendly efforts of local elementary school students will soon brighten your experience of bagging groceries at Family Foods in Stonewall.

Family Foods has teamed up with students from Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend School and Rosser Elementary School to decorate paper grocery bags in honour of Earth Day on April 22.

Laine Wilson, recreation facilitator for the RM of Rockwood and Town of Stonewall, initiated the project last spring. Prior to the pandemic, Family Foods had hoped to encourage customers to use reusable grocery bags in an effort to steer away from single-use plastics, while also offering paper bags as another alternative.

Wilson approached Jennifer Rukhra, Green Team teacher co-ordinator at Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend School, to see if students could decorate paper bags with Earth Day imagery to kick off the initiative. The pandemic put those plans on hold, but they've now been revived for Earth Day 2021.

"Our plans were completely disrupted by the pandemic and school closures, but I was excited when Laine reached out again to try to get the project going for this year's Earth Day," Rukhra said.

"Family Foods has provided paper bags for all of our students to deco-

rate, so it should be exciting to see the range of pictures and messages that come out of the kindergarten to Grade 4 range."

The project also provides an opportunity to introduce Earth Day information into the classroom.

"Last year, I had purchased two books that teachers could read with their students to learn about the human impact on the environment. They are *The Mess that We Made* by Michelle Lord and *Greta and the Giants* by Zoe Tucker," Rukhra said.

"While direction hasn't been given to teachers on how to introduce the concept of Earth Day to their students, I'm sure that it will be done creatively."

The school's Green Team, along with the general student population, keenly participates in Earth-friendly initiatives, she added.

"We are avid recyclers here at the school. We've introduced the concept of composting to some of our students in the past and have prevented hundreds of pounds of dead batteries from being thrown into the landfill through our battery-sorting initiative," Rukhra said.

"The school's Hike or Bike program, which runs every year from April to June, always has enthusiastic participation and is an Earth-friendly way of



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend School Grade 4 students show off their paper grocery bags they decorated for Family Foods to celebrate Earth Day.

having students come to school every day."

At Family Foods, front-end manager Megan Ireland is looking forward to seeing the students' creative efforts.

"We are so excited to see their bags. I gave them 600 bags, and Laine shared them with Rosser School too. We are so thrilled," Ireland said.

"Some people say that paper bags are not the best alternative, but it is an alternative. We just want to get the message out there that we have these

alternatives readily available, so we are so excited to be able to do that on Earth Day."

In addition to offering paper bags, Family Foods also has boxes on hand for customers to pack up their groceries.

"We also have a selection of reusable bags, and I'm working right now to bring in a lot more because the single-use plastic is going to come to an end this year. It will be a big switch-over,"

Continued on page 4

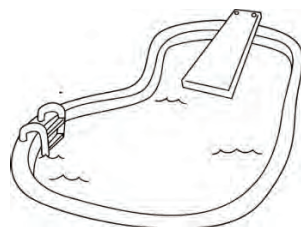


SOUTH INTERLAKE PLANNING

Make a (Safe) Splash this Summer!

The South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) would like to give a friendly reminder that **private pools (inground and above ground), hot tubs and swim spas** require a Development and Building Permit.

The *Manitoba Building Code* requires any artificially constructed basin, capable of containing a water depth of two feet or more, to conform to the *Code*. Part of conforming to the *Code* means having proper fencing installed, which helps prevent accidents.



Permits help ensure that buildings and structures meet the *Manitoba Building Code*, which in turn increases the level of safety for everyone.

If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit or not, or if you have any questions, please contact the SIPD office at 204-467-5587 and we'd be happy to assist you! More information is also available on our website: www.sipd.ca



REACT AGM and Earth Week 'Gardening 101' Event

Can't wait to get outdoors into the garden, but not sure what to do? Join REACT and the South Interlake Garden Club on **Tuesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m.** for a **FREE** virtual interactive session via Zoom on everything from starting seeds to selecting that perfect garden plant.

For further details or to register, visit us at reactinc.org

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Licensed outfitters able to stay afloat with financial assistance

By Patricia Barrett

Provincial government funding that will be awarded to licensed outfitters under a grant program will help keep them afloat while they wait for borders to re-open.

The province announced a few weeks ago that it's providing \$8 million in grant funding under a Hospitality Relief Sector Program to help hotels and full-time licensed outfitters with business expenses.

COVID-19 and public health restrictions closed borders and kept many

American tourists away from Manitoba where they can hunt animals such as deer, elk, moose and bears and partake in angling or duck shooting.

"This funding from the government definitely will be a shot in the arm for some of them," said Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Association president DJ Seales last week. "It will not do everything, but it will keep them afloat until the border opens and people can come back."

The MLOA and the Manitoba Hotel Association are administering the

government's hospitality relief program.

Seales said border closures — the U.S.-Canada border and the Manitoba-Ontario border — along with public health restrictions badly affected the revenues of outfitters. They suffered losses between 75 and 90 per cent.

Some of the outfitters were able to attract domestic tourists from Manitoba or other parts of Canada, he said. But those from the east were either subjected to inter-provincial border

closures or would have had to embark on a 14-day quarantine period before they could go on to their Manitoba outfitter destination.

"Nobody is going to book for 14 days, quarantine and then go and do what [they came here to do]," said Seales. "This has definitely hit our fly-in outfitters very hard just due to the requirements for flying such as how many people you can have in a plane and other restrictions."

If outfitters were to open, they'd lose money, he added. There just weren't

Quarry Days cancelled again due to pandemic

Staff

Friends and family hoping to take in another Quarry Days will have to wait until next year.

Stonewall Quarry Days Volunteer Committee announced this past Tuesday that the festival won't go on in 2021 due to the pandemic.

"With over 12,000 people visiting Stonewall during the Quarry Days weekend, the Committee has come to the decision that, unfortunately, due to challenges in crowd control,

we are unable to welcome everyone back safely this year," stated in their news release.

The Volunteer Committee's decision is made in the best interest of public health and safety and in adherence to Manitoba Public Health restrictions.

Organizers are planning for Aug. 19-21, 2022. The announcement came a week after Dauphin Countryfest announced they were cancelling this summer.

Fishing licences available online

Staff

Manitobans can get their 2021-22 fishing licences online ahead of the season's start next month.

Agriculture and Resource Development Minister Blaine Pedersen reminded Manitobans last week that the province's e-licensing portal launched last year is open for business.

"Our online e-licensing portal has made it easier than ever for Manitobans to purchase their angling licenses from their own homes," he said. "Our government is continuing to modernize the way we deliver services while decreasing our carbon footprint."

The recreational angling season officially opens on May 15 in Manitoba's southern region, and May 22 in the northwest and north central regions. The northeast region remains open to

angling year round.

The 2020 angling season officially closed at midnight on April 4 in the southern division. It ends on April 30 in the northwest and north central divisions.

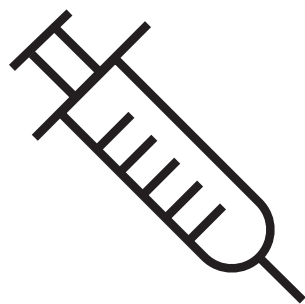
All anglers are required to obtain an angling licence to fish in Manitoba, unless exempt.

Licences are available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be immediately purchased and printed at home.

For more information and to purchase an angling licence, visit www.manitobaelicensing.ca.

Twenty fisheries, forestry, and wildlife applications have also been added to the e-licensing portal this year, ranging from competitive fishing events to taxidermy. Check out the website for details.

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Manitoba 

> EARTH DAY, FROM PG. 3

Ireland said.

"Some grocery stores have made the permanent switch already by not letting anyone use the plastic. We did have that planned for last year at this time, but with everything that was going on, we just didn't want to put that burden on our community. We had a big meeting about it and it was something that we didn't want to force on anyone."

Family Foods will start handing out the decorated paper bags on April 22 for Earth Day, and Ireland expects there will be enough to last at least a week afterwards.

"Anytime we can do something like this to spread positivity and awareness, we're thrilled to be able to do it. That is our goal," Ireland said.

"We're really hoping that we see the bags return to the store more than once. We have a lot of customers who already are faithful reusable bag users, which we're so happy about."

As for Rukhra, she also hopes com-

munity members will support the push to eliminate single-use plastic bags.

"I know communities like Leaf Rapids, where I once lived, have gone as far as to ban plastic bags community-wide," she said, "so I am hoping that other businesses in the Stonewall area will also encourage customers to bring in reusable bags when shopping."

At the same time, she hopes the environmental focus will extend beyond Earth Day to remain a priority every day.

"It's important to have youth engage in stewardship as they will ultimately inherit the Earth and will be responsible for its care. If, as adults, we can encourage and engage young children and youth in these types of activities, it raises awareness of the importance of keeping our communities clean and diverting waste from the landfills," Rukhra said.

"All our collective efforts will help to protect the spaces that we live in and maintain healthy ecosystems for all."

Stricter restrictions loom as COVID numbers rise

By Ashleigh Viveiros

More restrictions could be on the way if Manitoba's COVID-19 numbers continue to rise.

Public health officials announced 114 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday, making it the sixth straight day of triple digit increases.

"Today we're strongly advising people wear masks as much as possible, and this includes even when gathering outdoors," said Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial health officer. "Gatherings of any kind are not without risk, certainly if we're not following the fundamentals such as distancing.

"We know the variants of concern are much more transmissible and we're starting to see the B117 variant become more and more prevalent in Manitoba," he said, noting other jurisdic-

tions have reported transmission of the variants of concern even when outdoors.

Manitoba reported a total of 1,370 active cases of COVID-19 on Monday. The province only updates its variant tracking data from Tuesday to Saturday. As of Saturday, the number of variant cases was a 412.

The number of COVID-related deaths was at 949. There were 135 people with COVID-19 in hospital at press time, 33 in intensive care.

The increasing number of new cases of the virus coupled with the more infectious variants has health officials very concerned, especially since contact tracing is showing many people have been holding large private gatherings in their homes of late.

"We're seeing house parties. We're

seeing playdates. We're seeing sleepovers," Roussin said. "We're seeing cases with many more contacts than we saw in the recent past and we're seeing this contribute to the transmission of the virus.

"If we don't act now, we will be right back into stricter restrictions very soon."

That could include mandatory masks outdoors and a tightening of indoors gathering restrictions in the near future.

Roussin again urged Manitobans to stay home when ill, even mildly ill, and to get tested if showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

"We continually hear of cases that have multiple unnecessary contacts because they're out and about while symptomatic," he said. "We have peo-

ple who have delayed getting testing for quite some time because of mild symptoms.

"Even mild symptoms, even if you're not sure, get tested. Isolate pending results. This is one of the best ways that we could avert a third wave, which is pending."

By the numbers

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health at press time had 25 active cases of COVID-19 and four hospitalizations, two in the ICU. A total of 2,441 people in the region have recovered from the virus; 37 people have died.

In the Interlake-Eastern region reporting active cases on Monday included Stonewall/Teulon (four) and the Unknown district (four), with all other districts recovered.

Volunteer Income Tax Program offered by SI55Plus

Staff

The South Interlake 55 Plus will once again be providing the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CV-ITP) for income tax returns.

This program provides eligible individuals the opportunity to have their income tax returns completed free of charge by CRA screened and trained volunteers. This year the program will be offered in a drop-off format, with no in-person preparations. Appointments are necessary to access this service.

This service will be offered until April 30, Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Interlake 55 Plus Centre, located at 374-1st Street West in Stonewall (Odd Fellows Hall).

Interested participants will be screened for eligibility as well as provide information prior to their appointment to drop off their tax documents. When you arrive to your designated appointment, you will be asked the Shared Health COVID-19 screening questions prior to being admitted.

Face masks must be worn while in the building. It is recommended that you call to book an appointment only when you have all your required documents ready to file your income tax return.

To find out if you are eligible to participate in this program, you can go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program/lend-a-hand-individuals/about.html>

If you are interested in booking an

appointment, call 204-467-2582.



Community Living Interlake is now accepting expressions of interest from individuals who can help us by serving a two-year term as a member of the board of directors. Community Living Interlake offers you an opportunity to have a positive impact in your community and to make a difference in the lives of people living with intellectual disabilities. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to building full inclusion in the community. We create opportunities in housing and employment that allow people to learn, grow and live independent and meaningful lives. As a board member you will be an essential part of the team that provides oversight for this large and growing organization. If you are interested in helping us as a board member please call or email our Executive Director Jimm Simon (JimmS@aclinterlake.ca) or call 204-467-9169. All Expressions of interest must be received prior to May 14, 2021. Community Living Interlake thanks you for your support. An expression of interest is not a guarantee of board membership. Prospective board members will be contacted for an interview prior to the annual general meeting. Board membership is confirmed at the annual general meeting held in June.

Stonewall council news in brief

By Jennifer McFee

With Earth Day on the horizon, Stonewall council continues to consider adding electric vehicle charging stations in town.

At the April 7 council meeting, they discussed the options as well as the potential positive impacts for the town.

CAO Wally Melnyk recommended that council look at installing two dual charging stations rather than four individual stations, based on cost

estimates and other considerations. He suggested the two dual charging stations could be located at town hall and the Heritage Arts Centre.

"We'll save some cost and ultimately still provide the service in reasonable locations in the community," Melnyk said.

Coun. Jackie Luellman expressed support for the idea while also planning ahead for the future.

"For now, I think that's awesome. In the future, maybe after designs

are figured out for the arena, maybe that's when the next one could be discussed," she said.

"Maybe at that time, it could be put in. But I think the dual ones right now are awesome for both the town hall and the Heritage Arts Centre."

In other council news:

- The town will host its 2021 financial plan public hearing on

Continued on page 8

Saturday, April 17 Special

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Trespassing and biosecurity

By Bill Campbell, Keystone Agricultural Producers

Bill Campbell, president of Keystone Agricultural Producers, reminds Manitobans to be confident about where their food comes from. Farmers take biosecurity and food safety seriously because they know that the food they produce should meet the highest standards.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency creates and enforces stringent national biosecurity standards aimed at keeping livestock and the food supply safe. The livestock industry also creates on-farm food safety programs and develops biosecurity protocols through consultation. These standards and programs are mandatory, universal, enforceable and include third-party independent auditing and verification.

An ongoing issue in Manitoba is the growing trend of rural crime and trespassing on farmyards and livestock operations. This trend is alarming and intimidating for farmers, who work hard to develop and adhere to biosecurity protocols to protect their farms and livestock from the spread of disease. A breakdown in these protocols jeopardizes food security and often necessitates drastic action to prevent disease breakouts.

KAP has lobbied the provincial government for stronger legislation, with tougher penalties to deter rural crime and trespassing. Many farmers live and raise their families near their farming operations and are concerned that they may be threatened. Farm families should feel safe, secure and at ease living and working in rural communities.



KAP president Bill Campbell

We are pleased that the Government of Manitoba has introduced legislative amendments to protect farmyards and Canada's food system. Our industry and the farmers in this province have high standards for themselves and stringent requirements they must meet when it comes to the food on your plate."

Budget 2021 focuses on protection and advancement



Lakeside MLA Ralph Eichler

By Jennifer McFee

The provincial government released its 2021 budget last week, calling it a plan to protect Manitobans while advancing Manitoba.

According to the province, the first priority of the budget is to protect Manitobans throughout the pandemic, while the second focus is to advance jobs and economic recovery.

"Overall I'm very happy and comfortable with where our government landed on the budget," Lakeside MLA Ralph Eichler said.

"I think the education review is going to have to be done well with lots of consultation on that regard."

In addition, the provincial government plans to start phasing out edu-

cation property taxes this year. Over the next two years, education property taxes will be reduced by 50 per cent for residential and farm property owners. Property owners of other types of property can look forward to a 10 per cent rebate this year.

The change to education taxes will now be funded through general revenue and expenditures as a budget line, which brings Manitoba in line with other provinces, Eichler said.

"Education taxes are certainly going to have to be rolled out very well with a 25 per cent reduction off this year's property taxes for residential and 10 per cent with businesses," he said.

Continued on page 7

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> BUDGET 2021, FROM PG. 6

"We also rolled back some other things for businesses."

In particular, Eichler points to the province's commitment to reduce payroll tax. The plan is to raise the exemption threshold and the annual payroll below which employers pay a reduced tax, which is expected to provide \$9.7 million in savings to approximately 1,100 employers.

"We've got some good business supports laid out. At the end of the day, we want businesses to still be around," Eichler said.

"We're trying to put more money back in people's pockets rather than trying to increase taxes."

In addition to supporting businesses, the continued focus remains on vaccination efforts.

"We want to protect Manitobans by getting the vaccine into as many arms of Manitobans who want it," Eichler said. "It's not going to be mandatory, but it will certainly be there for those who want it — and we will hopefully increase those vaccines shortly."



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Last Monday afternoon Susan and Bryan Slater were out clearing the wet, heavy snow off their driveway. Most of the Interlake was under a heavy snowfall warning Monday and Tuesday this past week. A low pressure system tracking in from northwest Ontario brought upwards of 25 centimetres of snow, making highway travel difficult. Visibility was reduced while highways, roads, sidewalks and parking lots had to be cleared due to accumulating snow. Although some were sorry to see the snow, the moisture is very welcomed. Help the *Tribune* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or families enjoying the outdoors. Email: weather@stonewallteulontribune.ca.

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We want to hear from you.

Please share your story ideas at news@stonewallteulontribune.ca
Phone 204-467-5836

letters to the editor

Letters to the Editor: letters@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Minister Eichler lacks initiative to pack lunch for work

This week, the release of the budget included a 15 per cent off coupon to teachers if they show initiative and fork over \$1,000 of their already taxed dollars and spend it on supplies to do their job. A quick glance at the posted monthly expenses for MLAs revealed that MLAs in Manitoba have quite the robust expense account. Locally, Minister Eichler regularly expenses a full day of per diems, breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days per week, for full reimbursement. Beyond how offensive it is that the government cheers on teachers spending their own money on supplies to do their job, apparently Minister Eichler lacks the get-up-and-go that he's asking of teachers because he doesn't pack a lunch for work.

As galling as these expenses are,

by far the most offensive I could identify was the MLA from Selkirk having a condo in Winnipeg fully expensed to taxpayers. This includes \$254 in condo fees, \$20 condo parking fees, \$189 in City of Winnipeg taxes, \$201 for cable and WiFi and \$45 for insurance on the unit. In all, \$709 per month in a time when this same Team Manitoba shrugs with apathy and indifference towards an ever-growing homeless population. What kind of vigour would it take to dig down deep and drive the 37 kilometres one way to work instead of these unnecessary expenses? Instead of helping Manitobans that truly need help, these rural MLAs are helping themselves. This month, Team Manitoba is asking teachers, health-care and Hydro workers to remain stagnant at a zero per

cent wage increase. Presently health-care is starting four years without a contract and teachers are three years in. Meanwhile, those working on Broadway accepted their third salary raise since 2016.

Along with Pallister and Minister Eichler calling for teachers to open

their own wallets to fund the public education shortfalls they've created, they're reaching in simultaneously since, apparently, Minister Eichler, and his rural MLA counterparts lack the initiative and incentive to pack their own lunch for work.

- Michelle Mialkowski, Rockwood

Is this how the pandemic has caused us to behave?

OK.

Let's see if I am understanding this correctly:

Janet Dyrda is finishing her lunch as the official arrives ... Janet puts on her mask.

A young man with a disability enters

the shop to work there ... and tells her he needs to go home and get his mask.

A customer sitting at a table waits for his order....I presume he wore a mask

For this, Janet is fined \$1,295????

Is this how the pandemic has caused us to behave?

Are we as humans losing kindness and empathy toward each other?

I sincerely hope not.

I fail to understand the reasoning behind this so-called infraction.

- Joan L. Main, Balmoral

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

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to news@expressweeklynews.ca. Please include your name, address and phone number for confirmation purposes.

worship

with us > FAITH

The Church Without Walls

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:24 ~ NRSV)

The last year and a half has required all churches to reflect deeply on what it means to be a worshipping community of faith.

Sadly, some church communities have given the Christian church bad press by violating public health orders, claiming that they must meet in person to fulfil their duty to God. The Bible has been used to justify actions that showed a disregard for the people around them, claiming that this is what God asks of them.

For my pastoral charge, the exact opposite has been true. We couldn't begin to consider such disregard for our community, knowing that it would misrepresent our faith and the God we follow. Instead, we have embraced these months of lockdown as an opportunity to remember what it means to be a church without any walls.

This has been a time for reflecting on what we may have been missing, precisely because we love being inside our buildings so much. We've asked ourselves if being a church with walls has made us just a little too insular.

Perhaps we spent too much time inside our sanctuary, though there was always faithful work in the community and in the wider world.

COVID-19 has been a stark reminder that the work of the church, the spiritual worship we are called to, begins when we walk out the doors of our churches and homes, and into the world.

God is not confined to church buildings. In fact, most of Jesus' ministry and outreach was done outdoors. No large crowds were required to be at worship — where two or three were gathered, God was with them, in spirit.

I hope that the restrictions will inspire our churches to worship outdoors this summer. I think it would be good for us to see the church as a community without any walls for just a little bit longer.

Rev. Mona Denton
Stony Mountain &
Lilyfield United Churches
stonymountainlilyfieldpc@gmail.com
204-344-5426

 at Stony Mountain-Lilyfield
Pastoral Charge

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor: letters@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Teulon resident wanting sidewalk repaired



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Cedar Lodge resident Maria Krupnik is concerned about the damaged sidewalk in front of her building that has not been fixed in more than two years. The left photo shows the damage in 2018. Two years later, February 2021, the sidewalk is still damaged.

Cedar Lodge in Teulon is a nice place to live. I have lived here for seven years: no stairs, R.C. Church just across the road. On the west side is the hotel, bank and grocery store and just one block away, "Heaven on Earth."

We have three managers and three caretakers. In the building we have six tanks to quench the fire but no one

knows how to use it.

One day Alice burnt the rice and the alarm was singing for us loud and long. So someone called the fire station and here comes two big trucks and 10 firemen. But we were lucky everything was OK. We love you Alice. Soon we will celebrate your 100-year birthday.

But there is one thing I don't under-

stand: in front of my door of Cedar Lodge, the sidewalk has been damaged for a few years. It needs to be fixed. Why doesn't anyone fix it?

If you know someone that could fix this sidewalk, please contact the *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* at letters@stonewallteulontribune.ca

- Maria Krupnik, Teulon

Manitoba Interlake Caucus brings municipalities together

By Jennifer McFee

A new regional working group initiated by Stonewall's mayor brings together municipal governments from across the Interlake to create a stronger collective voice.

Stonewall Mayor Clive Hinds noticed that other regions around Manitoba met as a group a few times a year to discuss ideas and issues. Then they would bring those topics forward with a unified voice at the Association of Manitoba Municipalities conferences.

Although the Interlake includes 20 municipalities, it lacked a regional group for the area.

"I thought that we need something like that with Stonewall, Rockwood, Rosser, Woodlands, St. Laurent, Fisher, Teulon, Selkirk and all of Lake Manitoba," Hinds said. "All of us people are not getting represented."

So Hinds took action and sent letters to each Interlake municipality to propose that they get together a couple times of years to collaborate and elaborate on what is going on in each community. Different municipalities would take turns hosting these meet-

ings.

"It took off and I was shocked when I started getting back the replies," Hinds said. "Everybody says it's a great idea."

Before long, 12 of the 20 communities were on board so Hinds sent out a second letter to all the municipalities to thank them. After that, he started receiving letters and phone calls from the rest of the municipalities wanting to get involved with the regional group, which is now known as the Manitoba Interlake Caucus.

In total, 14 Interlake communities took part in the first meeting when they elected Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson as chair and West St. Paul Mayor Cheryl Christian as vice-chair.

At the following meeting, 18 out of 20 municipalities participated.

"It was stronger and I was pleased," Hinds said. "It's gone very well."

Hinds noted that this regional approach is also useful in efforts to build a retirement community in Stonewall.

"We're making steps to move forward with that. We just purchased all the land," he said. "Again, we're

sharing that with six municipalities — Rosser, Woodlands, St. Laurent, Teulon, Rockwood and Stonewall."

> BRIEF, FROM PG. 5

Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. A virtual meeting link, as well as a copy of the financial plan, is posted on the town's website at www.stonewall.ca. The committee of the whole meeting will begin afterwards at 7:15 p.m.

- On Wednesday, April 21, the town will consider a proposal to borrow \$3.9 million for a project to renovate town hall. The borrowing would be repaid over 20 years at a maximum interest rate of 4.5 per cent per year. The annual repayment amount of maximum \$282,750 would be levied annually as part of the general municipal levy. A copy of the proposal will be available on the town's website on April 19, as well as a virtual link to the meeting.

Pallister says budget a 'road map to a safer and healthier Manitoba'

By Lorne Stelmach

The new provincial budget may be resulting in one of Manitoba's highest ever deficits, but Premier Brian Pallister suggested it is a financial plan that strikes a balance in setting out "the road map to a safer and healthier Manitoba going forward."

Both Pallister and Finance Minister Scott Fielding trumpeted *Budget 2021: Protecting Manitobans, Advancing Manitoba* as a sound plan to protect Manitobans and their services through COVID-19 while also advancing the provincial economy past the pandemic.

And despite the deficit level, they defended the range of tax relief measures set out in the budget as necessary at this challenging time and as a means of fulfilling their promises to Manitobans.

"We have to address that [deficit] ... we have created that deficit as a consequence of the fact that we will not stop addressing the health care needs, the support programs of Manitobans who are vulnerable," said Pallister.

He said the government is "moving our provincial budget back into a situation that we had, where we've tried to get it to, where it's more sustainable and balanced over the next few years. It's going to take time to clean up this pandemic mess, and we're facing that today with this budget."

"We made a vow to Manitobans that we would focus on fixing our finances, repairing our services, rebuilding the economy. We kept our word, and now we're going to have to do it again."

Pallister maintained it was vital to deliver on tax relief for Manitobans amidst the pandemic.

"We believe now, more than ever before, that Manitobans deserve a break, quite frankly. They deserve to keep a little bit more of their hard earned money," he said. "I think this is the right time to give Manitobans a little bit of a break."

"We know Manitobans deserve a break, especially during this pandemic," said Fielding. "That's why we will take even more steps to protect your incomes by reducing the taxes you pay and helping you keep more of your hard-earned money with you, where it belongs."

Some reaction to the budget included Manitoba Liberal leader Dougald Lamont raising concern about what he suggested would be \$2 billion in new debt over the next eight years, while Green Party of Manitoba leader James Beddome said the net result will increase inequality in Manitoba.

"This government talks about returning money to the kitchen table of



Finance Minister Scott Fielding

Manitobans, but in the midst of a pandemic, whose kitchen table is seeing the returns? Tax cuts are delayed, and they are unlikely to get to those that need it most," noted Beddome.

"Now, in the midst of a global pandemic, is the perfect time to invest in poverty reduction, future generations will thank us for these smart and strategic investments," he added. "We believe implementing a basic income as the Greens have called on for decades is a logical starting point."

"We need to see more urgency from the Pallister government — public health and our economy depend on it," said Kevin Rebeck, president of the Manitoba Federation of Labour. "Government should be leading the recovery through forward looking plans to protect our economic future, with the goal of maintaining employment and getting thousands of Manitobans back to work in fairly paid, family supporting jobs."

Record investments: Fielding

"Despite the ongoing financial and economic challenges posed by the pandemic, this budget continues to make record investments in the priority public services that Manitobans rely on," Fielding maintained. "We will grow our way out of deficit and back into balance by investing in more jobs, tax relief and economic growth."

Fielding acknowledged that COVID-19 has created a significant deficit due to unanticipated health-care costs and support programs as well as unprecedented drop in revenues from the economic shutdown. The province projects a deficit of \$1.597 billion for 2021-22, which is however an improvement from the third quarter projection for 2020-21 of \$2.08 billion.

He said the first priority of the budget is to continue to protect Manitobans through the ongoing pandemic.

This includes \$1.18 billion in 2021-22 for COVID-19 costs including personal protective equipment, vaccine deployment, education supports and future needs.

Health care funding increases by \$156 million to the highest level in Manitoba history at \$6.98 billion, and Fielding said it builds a stronger health care system with better care sooner.

Commitments include \$812 million in capital for rural and northern health care, \$50 million to reduce wait times for hip, knee and cataract procedures and surgeries and services delayed by the pandemic. There is also an additional \$23 million for cancer treatments, \$2.7 million to expand dialysis and \$9.3 million to add more than 120 personal care home beds.

The budget also includes an initial \$342 million for programming and services within the new Department of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery plus an additional \$1.7 million for the mental health and addictions strategy and \$1.8 million more for housing supports for Manitobans with diagnosed mental health conditions.

A nearly \$34-million increase to the Department of Families includes money for early learning and child care, a rent control guideline frozen through 2023, an increase for Community Living and disABILITY Services, funds to address homelessness and new workforce training and support programs for Employment Income Assistance clients.

The budget makes a record investment above \$3 billion in the public school system including more than \$78 million for COVID-19 costs, \$5.5 million for special needs funding, \$5 million for the strategy to improve the education system plus a funding guarantee of at least \$1.6 billion over four years and nearly \$4 million to support online, distance and remote learning. There is also an increase of \$100 million in school capital project funding.

The budget delivers the \$2,020 tax rollback guarantee one year earlier than planned and phases out education property taxes by 50 per cent over the next two years (25 per cent per year) for residential and farm properties and 10 per cent for other types of property.

The province is removing the retail sales tax on personal services including haircuts and salon services as of December and reducing vehicle registration fees a further 10 per cent in July.

Environmental investments include

\$1.2 million to the climate and green plan implementation office, \$1 million for conservation and climate fund projects and a \$20 million endowment fund for provincial parks.

The budget includes more than \$62 million to help businesses retrain employees and develop e-commerce platforms and \$25 million for youth job programs while also providing additional tax relief for small businesses includes lowering payroll tax thresholds.

It helps advance post-secondary students with nearly \$700 million to post secondary institutions plus an additional \$4 million in bursaries and \$1.4 million in interest-free student loans.

The province also cited what it called a record \$2.1 billion investment in strategic infrastructure, including almost \$630 million for road construction and maintenance, \$415 million for kindergarten to Grade 12 and post-secondary infrastructure.

The budget as well sets aside \$100 million for potential emergencies such as floods, forest fires and drought, and there is flexible funding to municipalities with \$172.6 million in operating costs and \$137 million in capital costs with advanced operating grants again this year as well as \$5.6 million more for the Building Sustainable Communities Program to fund more than 10 larger-scale community capital projects.

Third quarter results

A day before the introduction of the budget last Wednesday, the government released its third quarter financial results for the 2020-21 fiscal year, and there is an increase in the deficit forecast for 2020-21 compared to December's mid-year financial report to \$2.08 billion from \$2.05 billion because of additional COVID-19 spending.

"The unforeseen impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our finances and economy have greatly affected the revenue and expenditure projections we made last March in Budget 2020," said Fielding. "The rising costs of our pandemic response, combined with the economic shutdown in the final months of 2020, certainly impacted our third-quarter financials and contributed to our deficit."

Pallister concluded that he sees much reason for hope on the horizon.

"Manitobans are resilient people, and we're projected to come out of this better than most, and that is a tribute to our diverse economy and the work that this government and Manitoba small businesses have done in tandem with one another to strengthen the opportunities for recovery."

Budget includes \$1.2B for COVID-19 response

By Lorne Stelmach

The provincial budget introduced last week includes nearly \$1.2 billion to continue protecting Manitobans through COVID-19 as well as to prepare for future pandemic and economic needs.

Making the announcement last Tuesday in advance of unveiling the full budget, Finance Minister Scott Fielding and Health and Seniors Care Minister Heather Stefanson noted the majority of the funding includes amounts for the health-care system and the full year cost of the vaccine program as well as support that may

be required for the K-12 education system and additional personal protective equipment and related supplies.

"Our pandemic response has required unprecedented government support," said Fielding, who noted their top financial priority over the past year has been to direct critical funding to the front lines. "Obviously, COVID-19 of course is the front and the most important aspect of our provincial budget ... our government's main priority is to protect Manitobans and to really advance Manitoba."

The COVID-19 funding includes:

- \$230 million for personal protective equipment, testing and vaccine site infrastructure, contact tracing and other preparations.

- \$350 million for additional health care systems costs in preparation for a potential third COVID-19 wave.

- \$160 million to support school and education needs.

- \$100 million for the vaccine program.

- \$40 million for Manitoba Restart Program capital initiatives at the municipal level.

The remaining \$300 million will be set aside as a contingency for current-

ly unbudgeted expenses, explained Fielding, who noted Manitoba to date has committed a total of \$3.2 billion to address COVID-19 including investments to address and mitigate the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and future-year spending to help recovery.

"Budget 2021 will support the health, education and financial needs of Manitobans and prepare for potential future waves of COVID-19 or other emergencies that arise," said Stefanson.

Province invests in wildfire prevention, mitigation and preparedness across Manitoba

By the Manitoba government

With the arrival of warmer weather, the province reminds Manitobans to be careful with any spring burning activities and to ensure they have the required burn permits from either their local municipalities or the province, Conservation and Climate Minister Sarah Guillemard announced Monday.

"We all look forward to the warm weather but we must remember that when conditions are dry, the risk of wildfire increases," said Guillemard. "The Manitoba Wildfire Service and municipalities are getting ready for another season, and we must all do our part to minimize the risks."

Southern and central Manitoba are especially dry this spring because of low moisture levels last fall before lower-than-normal winter snow accumulations. The dangers of spring wildfires have increased in the central and southern regions of the province due to the dry conditions and as a precaution, restrictions on travel and burning have been implemented in some areas. In areas affected by such conditions, provincial burn permits may be limited to essential burning operations or could be cancelled entirely. The public is reminded to contact their municipalities or their local Manitoba Conservation and Climate offices for updates. The latest information on municipal and provin-

cial burning restrictions can be found at www.manitoba.ca/wildfire. Provincial burn permits will not be issued for areas where municipalities have implemented burning restrictions.

Permit holders are reminded to check weather conditions, have adequate suppression equipment and ensure proper fuel breaks are in place before burning. They should never leave an outdoor fire unattended and always extinguish it before departing.

As Manitobans begin spring cleanups, the province urges caution in their removal of grass and leaves or crop residue from fields.

As part of the Manitoba Wildfire Service's prevention and mitigation programming efforts, an additional \$460,000 has been invested across the province this past year. Recent partnerships include involvement with Partners in Protection/FireSmart Canada in the development of wildfire prevention and mitigation materials that are relatable and relevant to Indigenous communities across Canada. This project includes support for the printing and distribution of *Blazing the Trail – Celebrating Indigenous Fire Stewardship*, a publication promoting action to ensure wildfire-resilient communities. Also included is support for an exhibit and educational outreach through the Boreal Discovery Centre at Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation's traditional territory in Thompson. Programming addresses boreal forest fire ecology, fire weather and Indigenous fire management.

The Remote Lodge and Outfitter Mitigation Program is a unique effort to make specialized fire equipment, such as sprinkler systems, available to eligible lodges and outfitters across Manitoba to promote FireSmart planning and preparation. This program will ensure that lodges in remote areas are able to protect themselves from approaching fires prior to support from the Manitoba Wildfire Service.

Other important projects include the development of a comprehensive wildfire management strategy for Whiteshell Provincial Park and upgrades to the Manitoba Wildfire Service weather monitoring stations across the province. The Whiteshell wildfire management strategy has been developed in consultation with many stakeholders, including the Whiteshell Cottagers Association, and will guide provincial efforts in future mitigation and response.

Preparedness efforts include an investment of \$774,000 for salaries and other costs to support the hiring of an additional five initial-attack fire crews, consisting of 25 members, for this wildfire season. These highly mobile crews will be assigned to existing bases around the province for deployment to wherever they are needed. As an important proactive measure, the province will implement a COVID-19 rapid testing program at Manitoba Wildfire Service bases to protect front-line staff and partners.

The province has also recently committed \$2.6 million for avionics and communications upgrades to its water bomber fleet, to allow these aircraft to be deployed to the U.S. if assistance is requested and if the aircraft are not needed in Manitoba.

To report a wildfire, call 911, the local emergency number in areas not covered by 911, or the provincial T.I.P. line toll-free at 1-800-782-0076.

INTERLAKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, May 10, 2021 6:00PM.

We will hold our meeting using Zoom. To register for the meeting, please email info@interlakefoundation.ca and we will send you a link. Everyone is welcome. www.interlakefoundation.ca



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Health Foundation donates \$17,500 to programs and services

Staff

Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) staff contributed \$17,500 to nine organizations that benefit patients and residents from across the region. The Five Dollar Club is the RHA's staff-led, corporate giving program where staff voluntarily contribute \$5 to Interlake Eastern Health Foundation through payroll deductions and then collectively decide where to donate the money. Nine programs benefitted from the generosity of staff, and below is a snapshot of each donation.

Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba receives \$4,000



Janelle Wotton, community dietitian and strategic initiatives manager

Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba is a charitable organization dedicated to helping school children learn, grow and succeed by supporting breakfast, snack and lunch programs. They're unique because they're based in Manitoba and all of the funds raised stay here, reaching children in regions across the province.

"These programs help address an immediate need for nutrition support in our schools and communities, as well as work towards a brighter future for Manitoba students by ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to learn in the classroom and at home," Wendy Bloomfield, chair of the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba.

Selkirk Regional Health Centre (family birthing unit) receives \$2,651 for a new breast pump

Currently the family birthing unit only has one breast pump. When there are multiple mothers in care, another pump would be well utilized. The family birthing unit at Selkirk Regional Health Centre is the obstetrical



Left to right: Morgan Chaye, family birthing unit assistant; Jamie Brown, FBU CRN; and Dr. Margaret Speer, obstetrical lead.

referral site for all low-risk prenatal women in the Interlake-Eastern region, averaging 350 to 400 births per year.

Jamie Brown CRN in the family birthing unit, says staff are very grateful for this donation from the club.

"This new breast pump will enable us to further promote breastfeeding initiatives and assist new moms to provide nourishment to their newborn by enhancing milk production. We are so grateful for this gift to the family birthing unit."

Selkirk Regional Health Centre palliative care program receives \$1,000 for a new sleep chair



Krug Sleep Chair

These funds will be used in conjunction with other donations to purchase a comfortable chair that converts to a bed for family or caregivers that stay overnight with an end of life patient.

Susan Gunderson is the club member recommended the sleep chair after having a friend spend time in the palliative care unit.

"In June of 2020, a friend of mine spent nights sleeping in the palliative care room with her husband. When he passed, she said it would be nice if the palliative care room had a com-

fortable bed for family members who are staying during long periods of time with their loved ones."

Susan added, "I enjoy being a member of The Five Dollar Club because the donations go towards equipment or items within the RHA or organizations that are chosen by the members."

Community Living Interlake receives \$2,000 for a new bed mat



Community Living Interlake's Sara Precourt, Tracy Fidler, Ryan Doyle and Janice Kowerko and, seated, Eden Zdebiak holding the cheque.

Community Living Interlake supports individuals who live with intellectual disabilities. They work with the community to ensure people live meaningful lives in a fully integrated community.

Jimm Simon from Community Living Interlake says the donation will be used to purchase a new bed mat for their shower.

"We have a level entry shower with a shower bed and a Hoyer lift in our facility that we use for some of our individuals and that we also make available to public health for occasional use of individuals they care for. Your donation will be a very much appreciated upgrade to the well-worn bed mat we currently use."

Nova House receives \$1,000 for programming

Nova House is an emergency and transitional shelter for women and children experiencing domestic or family violence. They offer 24-hour, seven-days-a-week accommodations to help support and empower women.

Executive director of Nova House Viktoria Westgate says they are grateful to receive another donation from the club.

"We are so grateful to The Five Dollar Club for thinking of us again this year and providing us this great do-



Nova House staff.

nation. We have been working on an amazing transformation of our backyard that will continue in the spring. This money will help us with some finishing touches including enhancing our garden area. The families staying in the shelter will be able to create some great flower and vegetable gardens that they will be able to nurture over the summer."

Selkirk Food Bank receives \$2,000



Selkirk Food Bank's Jack Bird, Rob Robinson, Darlene Zuke, Rose LaVallee and Catherine Moore.

The Selkirk Food bank supports community members by nourishing individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Food banks and other charities are being faced with unprecedented need due to the pandemic.

An anonymous Five Dollar Club member says that the club's contributions have a positive effect on our communities.

"The contributions made by members of the Five Dollar Club help support programs that benefit the health and wellness of Interlake-Eastern residents and have a positive effect on our communities."

Manitoba Possible receives \$1,500

Manitoba Possible believes an inclusive and accessible society is possible. That's why they work together to eliminate barriers to full and equal participation. Manitoba Possible provides programs and services throughout the province.

> HEALTH FOUNDATION, FROM PG. 11



Manitoba Possible's CEO Dana Erickson, left, and Lindsey Cooke, provincial services director.

Manitoba Possible co-ordinator Diana Simpson would like to sincerely thank members of The Five Dollar Club for this donation.

"Manitoba Possible wants to sincerely thank the club for their generous donation. Donations allow Manitoba Possible to continue our work towards making Interlake communities more inclusive and accessible for all."

Beausejour Community Kitchen receives \$2,500

Beausejour Community Kitchen provides meals for those experiencing food insecurity in the Beausejour/Brokenhead area.

Brenda Mousseau of the Beausejour Community Kitchen is so grateful for the donation and tells us that packaging food for the community is their

largest expense right now.

"Thank you so much for your generous donation! Your contribution has helped us purchase packaging to send out our 70-plus meals a day to people who require extra help from our program. Our numbers have grown from 13 people the first day on April 21, 2020, to between 70 and 80 per day, four days a week, and packaging is our largest expense."

Sunnywood Manor residents receive \$700 for new laptop

The facility's current laptop is 10 years old and residents have a hard time seeing and hearing their loved ones during visits.

Brenda Rose-Wiebe, RN, BN and clinical team manager at Sunnywood Manor, says the laptop will be well used and is greatly appreciated.

"Receiving a new laptop for resident use is fantastic. It enables individual and group use for all residents, allowing them to stay updated and in touch with current events, music and videos, as well as being able to provide a larger screen for virtual visits with family."

Thank you to all members of The Five Dollar Club for helping to improve care for people and communities across our region!

Pretty prairie blooms



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Last week the prairie crocuses were in full bloom just before Mother Nature blanketed them with snow Monday and Tuesday. The flowering perennial herb (*Anemone patens*), Manitoba's floral emblem can be found on sunny, wind-swept, dry, uncultivated native prairie and in open woods in well-drained sandy or gravelly soil.

The flower is open during the day and closes at night and develops an extensive and deep root system that adapts well to the drought prone prairie environment. It is unethical to dig up wild native plants. One should obtain native plants from native plant nurseries.



The West Interlake watershed District, in partnership with local stakeholders, developed the Southwest Interlake Integrated Watershed Management Plan. A Project Management Team established three watershed goals, based on review of technical information and public input received.

WATERSHED GOALS

1. **SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT** - Enhance surface water management while ensuring that practices and activities respect current land use, the environment, and potential for downstream impacts
2. **WATER QUALITY PROTECTION** - Protect and improve ground water and surface water quality
3. **FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION** - Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat

You can access full IWMP on our website.

West Interlake Watershed District

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Through the Following Programs



Well Water Protection Program: to assist landowners with the protection of ground water supply. Includes Abandoned Well Sealing, Flowing Well, and Well Head Protection up to **\$1,000.00**

Well Chlorination Program: to assist residents with disinfecting well and plumbing systems. Up to **\$250.00** (partial chlorination) and up to **\$500.00** (full chlorination)

Water Testing Days: to assist landowners in the payment and transportation of their water samples, cost and transportation of sample covered by WIWD (sample taken by owner) Days for water samples **May 10 and May 25, 2021.**

Community Tree Nursery Program: to assist residents with the purchase of seedlings. Part of the cost will be covered by the WIWD. Applications can be submitted from **September 1 to October 31.**

Fuel Storage Tank Rebate Program: to reduce the risk of soil contamination from damaged tanks. **\$500.00** rebate provided by WIWD with the purchase of a new Double Wall Stationary Fuel Tank

Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW): to encourage incorporation of beneficial management practices on private land.

Public Education: to educate youth about the environment and conservation. Schools within the WIWD can receive up to **\$500.00** per year

Composters and Rain Barrel: turntable composter and rain barrel sold at **\$50.00** and standing composter sold at **\$30.00** (no tax)

Properties must be in the WIWD boundary to be eligible

For more information on these programs please visit our website wiwd.ca or contact us

Contact: T.204.762.5850 admin.wiwcd@mts.net



The GROW program developed by the West Interlake Watershed District (WIWD) is delivered in the context of the Southwest Interlake Watershed Management Plan.

Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW)

GROW is designed to assist landowners in developing projects that maintain or improve local watershed health. GROW encourages the delivery of ecological goods & services (EG&S), promoting conservation of natural areas and changes to land uses that provide EG&S.

Eligible Project Activities

GROW Activity	Projects	Goals	Contract Length
Wetland Conservation, Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving class 1 & 2 wetlands on annual crop land (not draining or filling). • Re-establishment of perennial upland buffers (inter-pothole seeding) around wetlands to minimize mechanical disturbance. • Fencing & off-site watering systems for grazing management. 	To improve water quality and aquifers, enhance recharge and water storage areas moderating the timing and volume of runoff, reduce negative impacts down stream, and increase wild life habitat.	10 Year Contract With WIWD
Riparian Area Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of existing healthy riparian areas. • Exclusion fencing that optimizes grazing impacts. • Alternative watering system to keep cattle out of riparian area. • Establishment or improvement of stream crossing. • Constructed works to stabilize banks & prevent erosion. • Re-establishment of riparian vegetation. 	Projects to improve water quality, improve storage capacity to reduce downstream flooding during high water events, stabilize shorelines and prevent erosion and, increase wild life habitat.	5-10 Year Contract With WIWD
Buffer Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a new buffer or shelterbelt. • Expansion of existing buffer or shelterbelt (adding new rows, inter-planting differing species to add diversity). • Re-establishment of buffer vegetation. • Pruning or removal of deceased trees. 	To improve water quality and water conservation efforts, increase crop yield and carbon sequestration, add thermal protection for livestock, reduce surface runoff and soil erosion, and to improve wild life and pollinator habitats.	10 Year Contracts With WIWD
Upland Area Conservation, Restoration or Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving native prairie or highly erodible upland areas. • Enhancing natural and managed upland areas. • Re-establishment of perennial native/tame cover on sensitive lands. • Re-forestation of previous wooded areas. • Permanent or alternative fencing and watering system to improve grazing strategies that support pasture health. • Establishment of Soil Health crops (cover-crops, polycrops, green-manure). 	To improve the ecological function of natural and maintained upland areas, increase soil health and carbon sequestration, reduce soil erosion, and to promote healthy wildlife and pollinator habitat and biodiversity.	3-10 Year Contracts With WIWD

ICF provides grant to Wetland Discovery Centre

Staff

The Interlake Community Foundation recently granted nearly \$300,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada — the largest grant it has ever made.

The funds will go towards the operations of the Harry J. Enns Wetland Discovery Centre, ensuring that important climate and green education efforts continue for decades into the future.

“The Harry J. Enns Wetland Discovery Centre is an important part of our community, not only for local employment but also for the tourism that it brings,” said Bob Beck, chair of the Interlake Community Foundation. “It is a tremendous area to explore year-round.”

The grant comes from the Harry J.

Enns Oak Hammock Marsh Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Interlake Community Foundation.

Lakeside MLA Ralph Eichler attended the presentation. This annual grant, which is paid out from income generated by the fund, will provide reliable, steady funding for the outdoor education programs that Ducks Unlimited Canada delivers at the Wetland Discovery Centre.

Karla Guyn, chief executive officer of Ducks Unlimited Canada, expressed her gratitude for the grant.

“This funding is key to instilling the importance of conservation and environmental stewardship within the hearts and minds of thousands of people who visit Oak Hammock Marsh,” she said.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Left to right: Bob Beck, ICF chair; Ralph Eichler, MLA for Lakeside; Karla Guyn, CEO of Ducks Unlimited Canada; and Natalie Bays, manager of the Harry J Enns Wetland Discovery Centre.

“We’re extremely grateful for the future of our award-winning facility.” investment that’s being made in the

RCMP investigate pharmacy break-ins

By Jennifer McFee

Stonewall RCMP are seeking any information about a break-in to a local pharmacy last week.

On Friday, April 9 at about 5:50 a.m., Stonewall-Headingley RCMP responded to a call about a break-and-enter on Main Street. The suspects had forced their way into the building sometime overnight, stole a significant amount of prescription drugs and fled.

“Investigation revealed suspects entered the business and took unknown quantities of money, narcotics and other pharmaceuticals,” Const. Paul Human said.

The RCMP is warning the public that these prescription medications could be circulating. If ingested, they could cause serious harm or death.

A similar incident happened in La Salle on Sunday, April 4 at approximately 2:05 p.m. when RCMP responded to a break-and-enter at a business on Rue Principale. In this sit-

uation, suspects also forced their way into the business, stole a large amount of prescription drugs and fled.

Staff Sgt. Sean Grunewald is asking for the public’s assistance in providing information about the Stonewall theft.

“If anyone saw anything suspicious, please report it. Any tip helps. We’re trying to canvas everybody. If there’s anybody in the area who has surveillance videos, we’re asking them to please check for any suspicious vehicles or suspicious people,” Grunewald said.

“We’re really working on it. We’re very concerned about the type of narcotics that were stolen.”

Anyone with information on these incidents can call Headingley-Stonewall RCMP at 204-467-5015, call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimestoppers.com. In case of an emergency, dial 911 or 204-467-5591.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEMBERS OF SUNOVA CREDIT UNION

Please take notice that the Annual General Meeting of Sunova Credit Union Limited will be by telephone conference at 7:00 pm on April 29, 2021. Members must contact Sunova Help HQ no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, April 23 at 1.833.378.6682 to pre-register for the meeting and to receive the call-in information.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO:

1. Receive and consider the annual report;
2. Receive and consider the financial statements and report of the auditors;
3. Appoint auditors;
4. To announce election results and;
5. Transact such other business, including Special Business, as may properly come before the meeting or an adjournment thereof.



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2021 forecast for crop-feeding grasshoppers; RM Rockwood at risk

By Patricia Barrett

Manitoba Agriculture is predicting certain areas in the Interlake region could be at moderate to severe risk of grasshoppers this year.

Adult grasshopper counts were completed in August 2020 from 132 locations in Manitoba and form the basis of this year's forecast. Counts provide estimates of the egg-laying population, weather conditions — which help determine whether females are capable of laying an optimum number of eggs — and recent trends in grasshopper populations, according to the department's grasshopper forecast webpage.

The highest count showed an average of 19 grasshoppers per square metre (the severe risk category) in the Municipality of Rockwood, the department states.

Two of the severe risk areas are located in the southern Interlake and two are in the central region of Manitoba, but other than Rockwood, they aren't specifically named.

Some areas within the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton and one area in the Municipality of Fisher are shown at risk of moderate and/or severe grasshopper populations, according to the 2021 forecast map showing affected areas.

About two thirds of the 2020 counts (89 out of 132) were in the very light risk category (0 to 4 grasshoppers per square metre). Twenty-seven counts fell into the light risk category (5 to 8 grasshoppers per square metre), 12 counts were in the moderate category (9 to 12 per square metre) and four counts were in the severe risk category (13 to 24 grasshop-

pers per square metre). There were no "very severe" risk categories.

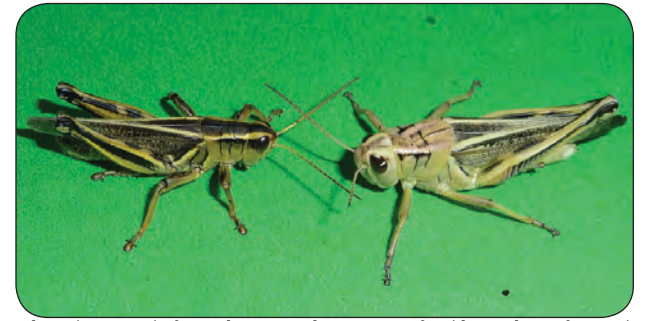
All grasshoppers are plant-eaters. Some species feed on crops while other species don't or will rarely nibble on crops. Older crop-feeding grasshoppers can do the most damage because they can travel greater distances than younger insects.

The dominant species counted in 2020 in the Interlake region were the two-striped variety, which feeds on non-crop and crop plants. Nine species are found in Manitoba, including the migratory grasshopper, which feeds on non-crop and crop plants, the clear-winged, which is primarily a grass feeder, and the Carolina, a non-pest species.

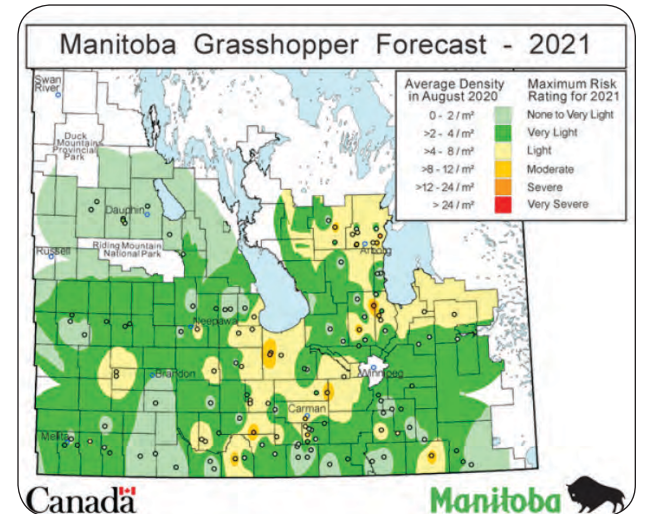
Any grasshopper that flies before June is not a crop pest, states the department. Any grasshopper with hind wings highly visible in flight (red, yellow, orange or black) is also not a crop pest. Any grasshopper that sings, clacks or clatters, likewise, is not a pest.

Factors affecting grasshopper populations include natural predators such as bee flies, field crickets and species of blister beetles, which all eat grasshopper eggs. Weather is another factor. Over the past few years, grasshopper populations have had "more successful development" during dry years and generally increase over a series of dry years, according to the department.

For more information about grasshoppers and monitoring, contact entomologist John Gavloski at 204-750-0594 at the Manitoba Agriculture office in Carman.



The two-striped grasshopper is the dominant species in the Interlake.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MANITOBA AGRICULTURE
The 2021 grasshopper forecast map shows affected areas across Manitoba.

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CAR CARE POINTERS

FOR SPRING




Spring car care checklist

Typically, your vehicle needs a bit of TLC come spring. Here are four things that should be at the top of your to-do list at the start of the season.

- 1. Schedule an oil change.** Oil collects impurities as it lubricates and cools the engine. This is a good thing, but it also means that it becomes less effective over time. This is why regular oil changes are essential to maintaining a healthy engine.
- 2. Get your battery tested.** Low temperatures during winter force your battery to work hard. Come spring, it may be on its last legs. To avoid the inconvenience of having your car fail to start, get your battery checked and, if necessary, replaced.
- 3. Check tire pressure.** Fluctuations in temperature cause changes in tire pressure, so it's important to check it as the weather starts to change. See the tire pressure recommendations in your vehicle's manual.
- 4. Wash and wax your vehicle.** Road salt used during winter corrodes your vehicle's metal components. Thoroughly wash your vehicle, paying special attention to the underside where salt, dirt and debris tend to become lodged. Spring is the perfect time for a waxing too — this not only protects the finish of your vehicle but also makes subsequent washing easier.

These are some of the essential things to attend to in spring but note that the list could be added to. Your car's fluids, windshield, belts and hoses, among other things, may require attention. Do a thorough inspection of your vehicle this spring or have your local garage perform this service.

DID YOU KNOW?

Reduce your risk of whiplash in a crash by keeping your headrest properly adjusted. Make sure it's always less than 10 centimetres away from your head and keep its centre at eye level.



DID YOU KNOW?

Abrupt accelerations, tight turns and the weight of the engine all put an extra burden on your front tires. Switch your front and back tires every 10,000 kilometres to ensure a more uniform wear and prolong their lifespan.

DID YOU KNOW?

The plastic used to manufacture headlights is vulnerable to UV rays and can become opaque with time. This doesn't necessarily mean you need to replace your lights: a thorough cleaning should do the trick.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first ever windshield wiper, invented by Mary Anderson, was a mobile arm that was manually operated by the driver from inside the car. It was also a woman, Charlotte Bridgwood, who later invented the automatic wiper.

DID YOU KNOW?

To protect your eyes while driving at night, keep your dashboard lights as dim as possible, especially if you're travelling along a poorly lit stretch of road.




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Starlink beta users bask in high internet speeds

Elon Musk's satellite internet is a welcomed upgrade for residents in rural Manitoba

By Joshua Frey-Sam

When COVID-19 forced Amy Spruyt to work from home, she had to deal with choppy video calls, slow log-ins, and frequent disconnections.

Spruyt and her husband Jeff have lived in Balmoral for 11 years, and like many Manitobans in rural communities, have never had the luxury of high internet speeds. Then in January, they received a package that changed their home and work life for the better.

The Spruyts are now among the thousands of Canadians involved in the beta test of Starlink, a broadband internet system provided by Space Exploration Technologies Corp, better known as SpaceX.

"The fact that I can now work comfortably from home has made a huge difference in my life," said Amy.

The "Better Than Nothing Beta" was launched by the aerospace manufacturer and founder Elon Musk after receiving approval by Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications to expand testing into Canada last October.

Inadequate internet speeds have become the norm in rural parts of Canada, with just 45.6 per cent of communities experiencing standard 50 mb/s download speeds — a drastic drop from the 87.4 per cent of Canadians in non-rural communities who enjoy those regular speeds.

Amy said their download speeds hovered between two and five mb/s



The satellite dish comes upright and automatically finds a signal.

before the beta and now relish in speeds upwards of 200 mb/s.

"I cancelled our old internet within three days of having it," she said. "My internet at home is better than it was at work."

Included in the high-tech package is its ability to find a satellite. The dish comes upright, and once plugged in, automatically adjusts itself until it finds a signal.

"It was plug and play. All the lines were set up, and it was extremely user-friendly," said Jeff.

Not all skies have been blue for users, as the beta does come with kinks to be ironed out.

Some users say they're experiencing upwards of 30 minutes of slower speeds at some point throughout the day, creating difficulties if it happens while they're working from home.

SpaceX also expects to continue re-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JOSHUA FREY-SAM

Amy Spruyt now works from her home in Balmoral without any worry that her internet will bog down.

leasing more satellites into space, allowing them to bring on more customers. More customers could mean slower speeds, but Amy and Jeff aren't worried about it.

Amy said they haven't experienced more than two minutes of slower speeds since starting the beta nearly three months ago. The outages also typically come at night when they aren't using the internet.

"What's nice is their app gives us updates and reports for how long the speeds were down and what time they happened," she said.

Another concern among prospective beta users has been the cost of joining the new internet service.

Amy said the equipment's initial

cost was \$799, then turned into payments of \$129 per month for the service — a big increase from the \$90 per month they used to pay.

"The cost is a bit more than what we were paying, but in the long run, it was worth it," said Amy. "The kids can watch movies without worrying it's going to stop now. That's important."

The Spruyts understand the gaudy download speeds they're currently enjoying aren't feasible forever as Starlink continues to grow, but they know adequate speeds will be the new normal in their lives going forward.

Starlink expects their beta test to end sometime in 2021.



Stonewall Chiropractic Centre is happy to announce our newest team member Arielle Chartand. Arielle is currently completing her Massage education, and will be starting with us April 7th. From April until her graduation in June, Arielle will be permitted to perform relaxation-based techniques only, for a reduced rate. She will be Registered and able to bill insurance after her graduation. If you would like to see Arielle please call the office for an appointment. She will be available evenings and weekends.

Arielle Chartand Arielle is joining the Stonewall Chiropractic team in her final year of study at Wellington College, with a focus to Relaxation Massage. After graduation in June of 2021, she plans to use her knowledge of osteopathic-based assessment and treatment to help her clients achieve their therapeutic goals. Her desire to become an RMT stems from the impact massage has had on her own daily living, from pain management to rehabilitation to stress relief, and a desire to share those same benefits with her clients. Arielle has also trained in Hot Stone and Palliative massage.

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The beat goes on in Manitoba schools

By Jennifer McFee

Indoor singing and playing of instruments is now allowed in kindergarten to Grade 12 schools, according to a Manitoba Education COVID-19 bulletin.

Bulletin No. 9, originally posted on the Manitoba government's Education website on March 12 and updated on March 25, indicates that indoor singing and instrument playing (including wind instruments) can resume in schools and as part of extra-curricular activities as long as schools meet certain conditions.

These conditions include a maximum of 25 people in a room, with a minimum of two metres of physical distancing between participants. The length of the instrument must also be considered when determining physical distancing. If distancing isn't possible, schools should consider using Plexiglas or other barriers. These barriers should be disinfected after each practice, and instruments must be cleaned regularly.

For indoor singing, mask use is required for students in grades 4 to 12 and recommended for students in kindergarten to Grade 3 during music class. For outdoor singing, masks are recommended for all kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

Concerts and public performances are not allowed at this time.

"Each school is unique and the decision to change their practice regarding singing and playing instruments is entirely dependent on the available physical space in music classes and the number of students," said Margaret Ward, superintendent of the Interlake School Division.

The provincial government also provided a list of recommended risk mitigation measures, in addition to the mandatory conditions.

The Manitoba Music Educators' Association and the Association of Music Administrators of Manitoba developed these measures in consultation with public health officials.

Provincial budget includes financial help for diabetics under 25

By Sydney Lockhart

Last week the provincial government released its budget plan, which included covering the cost of continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps for diabetics aged 25 and under.

If the budget is passed, this could save young diabetics thousands of dollars annually.

"I was actually fairly surprised. It was a little shocking but it's definitely a great step in the right direction," said Type 1 diabetic Alex Melsted.

"For me, personally, it just means that I might be able to move out," she said.

Melsted said while the change is great for those under 25 years, it doesn't help out the millions of diabetics who are older than that.

"I don't know what their thought process is, but diabetes doesn't just stop at 25," she said.

Continuous glucose monitors (CGM) help diabetics regulate their blood sugar levels, helping prevent their sugars from reaching extreme high or low levels.

Without it, diabetics have to do finger pricks on a regular basis. But if they were to not test often, their blood sugars could fluctuate too much and, if mismanaged, cause long term health issues.

CGMs eliminate finger poking and

the risk of spiking blood sugar levels, and insulin pumps eliminate the need to manually take insulin via syringe.

"If someone, let's say, is running higher with their blood glucose levels that could maybe not have as many short-term effects but definitely have more long-term effects. So, the kidneys could end up failing. They could have feet problems. They could have vision problems," said 21-year-old Melsted.

She added that she worries about the day she ages out of provincial coverage for her insulin pump and her Dexcom CGM.

"When I do turn 25, it's a little worrisome because if I do move out, there's going to be extra expenses then, so I would most likely have to hand the CGM to the government because I won't be able to afford it," she said.

Melsted said a big goal should be for the government to cover all ages and expenses for diabetics.

"There's still a lot to be done, sadly, in this province but hopefully they can realize that we don't want to be last in everything," said Melsted.

She currently uses a CGM and insulin pump while still living at home.

"It helps tremendously. I absolutely love wearing mine. It's been a lifesaver, really. Not having to worry about whether or not I'm going low because I can see that I'm going low," she said,



The supplies needed to attach a CGM will be covered for diabetics 25 years and under if the provincial budget is passed.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED Diabetic Alex Melsted's CGM helps her regulate her blood sugars.

"I don't have to worry about if I'm sleeping. My Dexcom will wake me up and alert me."

Pharmacist Bryn Lindsay of Quarry Ridge Pharmacy said the average CGM without insurance costs about \$5,000 a year on top of other supplies needed to manage diabetes.

"You have 24-hour monitors; you know what your sugars are doing all

the time so if you're going low or high, you can adjust your insulin accordingly, especially if you have a pump," he said.

The Manitoba Pharmacare Program deductible is income-based, which still leaves many diabetics with large sums they need to pay for supplies just to stay alive.

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Local man excels in martial arts and much more

By Jennifer McFee

A local Stonewall man is pulling no punches when it comes to living life to its fullest.

Lance Cartwright has worked with New Directions for the past decade to support adults living with disabilities — and he brings with him a treasure trove of other talents.

“I support them and I totally believe in it. I love going to work so much that it’s not even like going to work. It’s like going to a relative’s house. They’re like my family,” he said.

“I’m not going to be a millionaire but I just love what I’m doing. That is very fortunate.”

At the same time, Cartwright has earned recognition for his martial arts skills that landed him on the silver screen.

“I started fighting or doing martial arts later in my life, but I used to play major junior hockey and AAA hockey and AA hockey,” he said.

“I’m glad that Stonewall has a hockey program that’s pretty competitive. It’s fun to watch. I was part of that when I was in my teens.”

After that, his life took a detour down a different path — until martial arts helped to steer him in a new direction.

“I kind of fell off the grid and I got into a little bit of trouble here and there, making some pretty bad choices and living an unproductive life,” he said.

“Then I started boxing and taking judo. Martial arts brought me back. I met some strong mentors, so it gave

me a way of becoming the individual that I am today. I owe a lot to that discipline.”

Cartwright had the chance to meet athletes from all over the world at international competitions. He also jumped into professional kickboxing, amateur boxing and wrestling. In addition, he competed in the Worlds for jiu jitsu and the Pan Am Games for judo.

“It was a big part of my life. It helped me a lot. I was never the best fighter but I had short-term goals. I just believed in myself and did it, even when people were saying I was too old,” he said.

“It’s scheduled violence. It’s pretty scary. It’s not like you’re playing a baseball game. If you’re not ready, you get hurt. It’s a pretty raw sport.”

When he was nearing his 40th birthday, Cartwright was preparing for a fight at the Convention Centre. A film crew was

working on a movie nearby and they were looking for some extras.

“They needed a guy with tattoos, so they asked me to go in there. I ran a couple lines and I got auditioned for one of the main characters in this movie called *Locked Down* with Vinnie Jones. I ended up killing five people in the movie and then I got shot. It was pretty cool.”

After that, he got involved with stunt work through Rick Skene, a well-known stunt performer and co-ordinator. He was involved in TV shows such as *The Pinkertons* and *Channel Zero*. He also delved into more movie work with *Goon*, *Beethoven’s Christmas*

“WE’RE ALL ACTORS OR ACTRESSES IN SOME WAY OR OTHER. THE PROFESSIONALS JUST MAKE IT LOOK EASY.”



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lance Cartwright lives in Stonewall with his wife Cynthia and dog Max.

Adventure and Welcome to Sudden Death.

“It’s pretty cool to be part of,” Cartwright said. “I got to hang out with Samuel L. Jackson and a few other actors on set.”

Cartwright recently celebrated his 50th birthday and he plans to audition for more acting roles. He also hopes to return to acting classes as soon as pandemic precautions allow.

Further in the future, he envisions opening his own gym, where he’ll put his black belt in jiu jitsu to good use by starting up a program to teach others. Until then, Cartwright keeps busy with his work at New Directions while

also teaching a mixed martial arts program in Winnipeg. On the side, he operates a lawn care and snow removal business during the day.

He also enjoys spending time with his wife Cynthia and pitbull Max at the home they built in Stonewall three years ago.

“I love it here. I love the friendliness. There are so many personable people here,” he said.

“And as far as I’m concerned, we’re all actors or actresses in some way or other. The professionals just make it look easy.”

MMF increases financial supports for Manitoba’s only housing repair program

Submitted

Low- to middle-income Métis families are getting a bump in the amount they can receive to make needed home repairs.

David Chartrand, president of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), and Will Goodon, minister of Housing, announced that the Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP) will be increased from \$15,000 to \$18,000.

“The costs of lumber and other construction materials have risen substantially in the last while,” said Goodon. “The HELP program has received a lot of interest since we announced it almost a year ago, but we are finding that some houses need that little bit more.”

HELP is the MMF’s forgivable loan program that allows Métis families to maintain and improve their homes, which can be especially challenging in the North. To help address this challenge, the program allows for up to \$25,000 in forgivable loans for Métis families living above the 53rd parallel, which includes those living in The Pas and Thompson.

“The cost of materials and transportation leaves Métis families in the North at a disadvantage,” said Chartrand. “Citizens who live in these regions can’t get the same amount of work done for the same amount of dollars as those who live in the South. This increase for the North will allow for warmer and safer homes for many

families.”

Since the Government of Manitoba cancelled all its repair programs a couple of years ago, there has been nothing available to assist with housing repairs for Métis families. The MMF is expanding the program based on the overwhelming demand uncovered since the launch of HELP. To date, over 190 homes have been repaired or are being repaired, with forgivable loan amounts totalling over \$2.4 million.

“Housing has been one of the most important sectors of the MMF since our founding in 1967,” said Goodon. “Our president, cabinet and staff are committed to building on those lessons and successes.”

“We are very proud to expand on successful programs like HELP,” said Chartrand. “They allow us to continue improving our support and make life even better for Métis families across Manitoba.”

These increases are not retroactive to existing loans but do apply to applications still being processed in the system. Métis families interested in the program should get in touch with the housing department for more information by calling 204-586-8474 or visiting our website at www.mmf.mb.ca. The guideline booklet and the application forms will be updated shortly.

REACT plans activities for Earth Day and beyond

By Jennifer McFee

With Earth Day right around the corner, the Rockwood Environmental Action Community Taskforce (REACT) invites everyone to join in a free virtual gardening event.

On Tuesday, April 20, REACT will host a brief AGM at 7 p.m. followed by a special presentation geared towards budding garden enthusiasts.

"In addition to our AGM, where we will be reporting on the actions we took over the past year and presenting our new fiscal year budget, we will be partnering with the South Interlake Garden Club in presenting a 'Gardening 101' session with local gardening experts," said Karl Daher of REACT.

"We invite both new gardeners just starting their gardening journeys as well as those who have gardened for many years to attend."

It's free to join the session, but registration is required through REACT's website at www.reactinc.org.

REACT also encourages everyone to find a way to celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 22 — and to continue with Earth-friendly practices throughout the entire year," he said.

"Earth Day gives us all a chance to pause and think about how we are using our planet's limited resources and what actions we can take to reduce our impact. It isn't about taking a specific action on a certain day; it's about how we can make sustainable choices every day."

Daher offers a few simple — and sustainable — suggestions for how to mark the occasion.

"If you are able and the weather cooperates, get outside. Go for a walk or hike —and pick up some litter and recyclables along the way. If you're unable to get out, check out some inspiring videos online of what people

are doing to help the environment," he said.

"It is too easy to get caught up in the gloom and doom and say that environmental problems are too big for us to fix. We need to focus on what we can fix, and that starts with each of us and the small decisions we make each day. Thousands of small decisions can make a big change."

Over the years, REACT has been putting this concept into action by getting involved in countless environmental efforts, including projects to provide cloth lunch bags to school children, provide cloth grocery bags to local residents and provide composters to schools.

The organization has also established the Ruby Roe Tall Grass Prairie beside the Stonewall hospital, provided environmental information through the South Interlake Regional Library, and contributed articles to local newspapers.

In addition, REACT has hosted eco-friendly events including information sessions for schools and the community, several household waste collection days, Habitat for Humanity ReStore collection days, e-waste collection days and town-wide litter cleanup days.

"REACT's main goals are to promote education and awareness of environmental concerns leading to positive actions; to co-ordinate, promote and participate in recycling activities within the community; and to co-operate with other agencies and organizations within the community and province that have environmental concerns," Daher explained.

"And, yes, we are always looking for new members who have a passion for the environment."

Looking ahead, REACT has planned



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

REACT encourages everyone to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

a full calendar of events, although they are dependant on pandemic restrictions.

Starting May 2, for the 8th International Compost Awareness Week, REACT will set up a display at the South Interlake Regional Library in Teulon to provide information about how to compost in your household.

On Saturday, May 29 at 10 a.m., REACT will celebrate Arbour Day by helping to make Stonewall green. Everyone is invited to bring their gloves and spade to help plant trees at Stonewall's Memorial Park. The rain date will be Sunday, May 30 at 2 p.m.

In June, they hope to team up with GLAD to make the South Interlake litter-free with events in Stonewall and Teulon.

Tentatively on July 1, REACT will hand out free ice water for Canada Day celebrations at Teulon's Green Acres Park. They'll also have environmental information available.

Another tentative event is set for Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. for a computer and laptop recycling depot in Stonewall. Community members will have a chance to drop off their old

computers, which the Electronics Recycling Association will either refurbish for reuse or recycle it for free. The tentative rain date is Sunday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m.

The last tentative event on the calendar is set for Sunday, Nov. 7 for Pumpkins in the Park. Community members can bring their used jack-o-lanterns to Quarry Park, where they'll be lit and placed around the pond between dusk and 8 p.m. After that, all the retired pumpkins will be composted.

"We've been encouraged by the number of people who have been interested in getting outside over the past year and taking advantage of what nature has provided us with," Daher added.

"We encourage residents to get involved in helping protect what we have by joining as a member of REACT. Membership is free, and you will feel great helping your local community, whether it is Rockwood, Stony Mountain, Stonewall or Teulon."

For more information about REACT, visit www.reactinc.org, email info@reactinc.org or call 204-467-2334.

Crown land changes have farmers feeling the heat

By Becca Myskiw

Changes to Manitoba's Crown land leasing program have left some farmers feeling betrayed.

Since MLA for Midland Blaine Pedersen became the minister of Agriculture and Resource Development, he's been part of the Crown land changes MLA Ralph Eichler started.

According to the Government of Manitoba, "provincial Crown lands are lands that are vested with the provincial government of Manitoba." That means it's agricultural land that belongs to the government and farmers can rent it.

Farmers used to be able to rent a

quarter (160 acres) of land for upwards of 60 years, and for that they paid around \$5,000 a year. In 2018, the government brought in legislation to modernize the Crown Lands Act, which raised the prices and changed that 60 years to 15 years — something Pedersen said was overdue.

"We needed to bring [the cost of Crown land] in line with what Saskatchewan and Alberta and private land rents for," he said.

Leo Morrisseau has rented Crown land for years. His ranch in Crane River was started by his grandparents, then his dad took it over, and now him. Just three years ago, Mor-

risseau had 16 quarters of leased land that he was paying \$5,000 each for. The next year it went up to \$8,600 a piece, and it's now \$12,500.

Today, the 73-year-old has six quarters of land.

"People in this area are not going to make it," he said. "It's just too expensive."

Morrisseau uses his Crown land to graze his beef cattle. Since giving up over half of the land, he's also sold off half his cows and he worries within 10 years, he'll have none. Most of the Crown land in the area is of poor quality anyways, he said, so the more you have, the more feed you have for

your cattle.

Shelly Dyck came to the area a few years ago from Alberta. She said the Crown land changes have made it nearly impossible for locals to continue farming simply because they can't afford it.

Pedersen said the purpose of the changes is to give everyone, farmers young and old, a fair chance at leased land. He said the problem with someone being able to rent a piece of land for 60 years is that they may not be using it and they may not be taking care of it.

Presentations empower students to stay safe from human trafficking

By Jennifer McFee

Local parents, teachers and youth are now armed with more tools to help identify and prevent human trafficking.

The Joy Smith Foundation has been providing virtual presentations to schools throughout the Interlake about human trafficking and gender equality. There is no charge to the school division for these presentations, thanks to the Equity Fund provided by the Interlake Community Foundation in partnership with the Community Foundation of Canada.

Last week, Joy Smith, a former MLA and MP, presented to Stony Mountain School and Warren Collegiate. More presentations are scheduled throughout the Interlake this month.

These presentations, geared for students in grades 5 to 12, are particularly timely since human trafficking has surged during the pandemic due to increased internet use.

According to the Joy Smith Foundation, human trafficking victims are primarily girls (97 per cent) and close to three-quarters (74 per cent) of victims are under the age of 18. The goal of the program is to empower all youth, particularly girls, to prevent their own victimization through education.

Smith has been working hard to fight human trafficking, not only in Manitoba but also across Canada, for the past two decades. She launched her foundation in 2011 with a mission to ensure that every Canadian man, woman and child is safe from manipulation, force or abuse of power designed to lure and exploit them into the sex trade or forced labour.

"Parents and teachers should know the signs. They should be aware if there's a sudden interest in a boy or man who's several years older or if there's new clothing, jewelry or gifts without having money to purchase these items," said Smith in a phone interview.

"Sometimes in a school setting, the trafficker will lure several girls from the same place. So if there are fre-

quent sleepovers, always see if it really is a sleepover. Sometimes the traffickers use that idea and it's not a sleepover at all."

Other warning signs could be a sudden change in style of dress or make-up.

"If there's a new group of friends in isolation from their old group of friends, that's a real red flag. If there's a change in attitude towards school, regular activities, friends and family, if their grades are dropping or there's unexplained cuts or bruises on them, those are also red flags," said Smith, who was a teacher for 23 years.

"And the real red flag is using two cell phones. They might all of a sudden show up with a second cell phone because the perpetrator always wants power and control over their victim."

For parents, Smith suggests keeping a recent photo of their child, as well as their fingerprints, in an accessible location.

"Never leave your child alone in a vehicle or sitting alone at a public place such as a mall or public wash-room. And always take note of anyone who's giving undue attention or noticing your child," she said.

"Children need to be valued in order for fear and manipulation tactics used by traffickers to be effective, so parents should always tell their child they are valued and loved. Talking to your child in a loving way often equips them with a very strong connection to the parents and it empowers them to be safe."

For kids, she advises them to always tell someone they trust — such as a parent, teacher, coach or friend — where they're going. A common trafficking ploy is to invite kids to a party or another location away from where they're supposed to be.

"Sometimes it's a setup. So if they do leave where they were originally going, they need to tell someone they trust so everyone knows," she said.

"I've had many cases when a kid has disappeared and there's no way that you could find them. You didn't know where they went. So kids should al-

ways tell someone where you're going."

Smith also tells kids to say no immediately to any inappropriate touching or interaction that makes them feel uncomfortable.

"Kids have an intrinsic sense of what should be done," she said. "If there's something that makes them uncomfortable, just say no immediately. It doesn't matter if they know the person or not."

Another safety tool is for parents or teachers to create a three-digit secret code with the youth.

"Often traffickers will take their own phone away from them before too long. So if you're in trouble, you text that secret code to a person you trust and they know you're in trouble. I also tell them don't go with a uniformed person unless they know your secret code. Sometimes we've had cases where people have dressed up as police officers in unmarked cars," Smith explained.

"They say, 'Something is happening at your home and your parents want you home right away. I told them I'd pick you up and take you.' Kids should ask that uniformed person for their secret code. If it's a real police officer and they don't know the secret code, they'll phone the parents and ask what it is so the kid will know it's safe to go with them."

If an unknown adult asks for directions or help, kids should say no and leave immediately, Smith added.

"If you're in a mall or community centre or park, they shouldn't be asking young people for directions. Often this is a ploy that traffickers use to get their victims out of public view. Don't approach people in cars who are asking for directions. Walk away. Don't get near their car," she said.

"I also tell my students don't ever take dares and get into a stranger's car, even if you're with your peers. There could be someone planted who's a peer that's actually affiliated with a gang member."

For older youth, Smith advises them to avoid accepting online job offers



Joy Smith

that seem too good to be true.

"Don't let strangers or even acquaintances take your photograph and offer you a job if they're promising to make you rich and famous," she said. "That's a line traffickers always use."

In addition, she warns youth not to run away from home.

"If there are some problems at home, share it with someone you trust and problem-solve it. Sometimes kids are placed in foster homes, but if they know all these tips, they'll be safe in those homes if anybody approaches them inappropriately," Smith said.

"If you're in danger or anyone touches you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, you have to know it's not your fault. Often they feel guilt and don't want to tell anybody, especially if traffickers tell them it's their fault. That's not right. The blame is solely on the shoulders of the perpetrator — not the child or parents or teachers."

If an inappropriate or dangerous situation takes place, Smith says to report it right away to the police.

"Often traffickers tell them they can't report to the police or they'll be put in jail. That's not true," she said.

"With these presentations, it's going to save a life. It's all about keeping them safe." For more information about the Joy Smith Foundation, visit www.joysmithfoundation.com or call 204-691-2455.

> CROWN LAND, FROM PG. 19

Dyck disagrees. She said if someone has the land for a long period of time, they'll treat it like their own. But 15 years is short in the cattle business and she doesn't think people are going to tend to land that doesn't even feel like theirs.

As for bringing land back into production, Pedersen said there's proof in the numbers. Of the 178 pieces of property auctioned off in February,

124 of them were leased.

"These were all pieces available to be leased that hadn't been and now they're in production," said Pedersen. "Many who were on the younger side were actively bidding."

Among the changes to the Crown land program is the removal of the unit transfers. Three years ago, if a rancher sold their farm, they could sell it with all of their leased land, ul-

timately raising its value.

"If you sell your ranch, you shouldn't be able to add worth from leased land," said Pedersen.

Daly Myhre from the Dauphin area said that ruined retirement for farmers who depended on that. Even though the removal of unit transfers is supposed to open land for younger farmers, Myhre doesn't think they'll be able to afford it.

Dyck said unit transfers made the area a desirable place to settle down

and farm. Now, she expects the area to be deserted soon.

The changes haven't only been hitting farmers in the wallet, either. When Dyck came to the province, she paid for a leased 27 quarters and a ranch of 10, worth \$1.2 million. All they received were the 10 quarters to feed all of their cattle on.

Myhre had a heart attack the day he gave a speech to the Liberal party about future policies. Morrisseau fears he'll lose his generational ranch.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine shows up to six-month immunity

By Patricia Barrett

Research carried out by Pfizer-BioNTech shows their COVID-19 vaccine to be 91.3 per cent effective for up to six months.

The findings were announced this month after the two companies updated their initial analysis of the vaccine in a Phase 3 study. The results are based on two doses of the vaccine administered three weeks apart.

An analysis of 927 symptomatic people with COVID-19 demonstrated that BNT162b2 [the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine] is 91.3 per cent effective against COVID-19, measured seven days and up to six months after the second dose, states an April 1 news release on Pfizer's website.

The vaccine also showed high efficacy against the South Africa variant (B1351) of COVID after researchers enrolled 800 participants in a study. Nine cases of COVID, including the South Africa variant, were detected in the placebo group and none in the group inoculated with BNT162b2.

"It is an important step to further confirm the strong efficacy and good safety data we have seen so far, especially in a longer-term follow-up," said BioNTech's CEO and co-founder Ugur Sahin in the release. "These data also provide the first clinical results that a vaccine can effectively protect against currently circulating variants, a critical factor to reach herd immu-

nity and end this pandemic for the global population."

The efficacy was generally consistent across different age, gender and ethnic groups as well as among participants with underlying conditions.

It's unclear whether or how fast immunity wanes after six months; further research is needed. Health experts have postulated that COVID vaccinations may be necessary every year.

Safety data from Pfizer-BioNTech's Phase 3 study was also collected from over 12,000 vaccinated participants at least six months after their second dose, and demonstrated a "favourable safety and tolerability profile."

The safety of the vaccine has now been evaluated in over 44,000 participants aged 16 and older.

The vaccine is based on BioNTech proprietary mRNA technology and was developed by both BioNTech and Pfizer. It is authorized for emergency use in the United States. In Canada, the federal government authorized its use under an interim order, taking into consideration "urgent public health needs."

Pfizer-BioNTech plans to submit their latest findings for peer-review by other researchers and for potential publication, according to the release. The results will also be submitted to regulatory health agencies around the world.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA, D. LITTLE
Manitoban shown getting a COVID-19 vaccine shot at one of the province's supersites.

As of April 10, 949 Manitobans have died from COVID, and 135 new cases were identified that day, according to provincial data. The provincial test positivity rate has risen to 5.7 per cent. Health experts say Manitoba is on its way to a third wave of infections after public health restrictions were loosened and families gathered for Easter.

More contagious variants — the South Africa and the British — are spreading rapidly in the province, notably among younger people. The

variants are also causing more severe illness. As of April 10, 376 variant cases have been identified.

Worldwide, almost 135 million people have been infected with COVID and over 2.9 million have died (data: Johns Hopkins University, April 10).

Public health experts and governments are urging people to continue practising physical distancing, wearing masks and avoiding gatherings, indoor and outdoor.

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Baseball Canada cancels 2021 National Championships

From Baseball Canada

Due to the ongoing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and taking into consideration the realities of hosting national level competitions for communities, Baseball Canada's board of directors have made the difficult decision to cancel all 2021 Baseball Canada National Championships scheduled for August and September.

"The health and safety of all of our members is our first priority and with that said we felt that there was no other choice but to cancel all of our national tournaments for 2021," said Baseball Canada president Jason Dickson. "When you consider all of the elements that go into a national

championship including provincial qualification events, inter-provincial travel, shared accommodations and the strain that running championships in a safe manner would entail for host committees, this was the best decision for all parties involved."

Although Baseball Canada has made the decision to cancel national championships for a second consecutive year, the federation would like to clearly state that baseball is not cancelled by any means across the country.

"Our provincial members and local associations proved in 2020 that by working with their local health officials in providing a safe environment that a baseball experience can be en-

joyed for participants," added Dickson. "We are confident that our membership can enjoy our sport again in 2021."

The excitement for baseball across the country has not waned over the past year and it has been encouraging to see the teamwork and creativity that people have displayed in order for the game to be enjoyed.

The Major League Baseball season is now underway and our partners, the Toronto Blue Jays through the Blue Jays Baseball Academy, have provided some excellent resources for families including a "League Finder" interactive map to make it easier to find where baseball is played in Canada.

Baseball Canada will now focus its

national championship efforts on the year 2022 where we anticipate the return of our full slate of championships that will be highlighted by the Canada Games baseball competition in the Niagara region.

"We realize that the decision to cancel our championships for a second time in as many years is not ideal for the athletes and teams that have been working hard with the goal of playing in them," said Dickson. "We encourage you all to stay focused on the things that you can control and create an environment that will still allow you to achieve your individual and team goals."

"We look forward to the day that our championships can resume."

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Humeniuk hammering the ball in Louisiana

By Brian Bowman

Ryan Humeniuk is in his final season with the University of Louisiana Monroe Warhawks' Division I baseball team.

And the star outfielder is certainly making the most of his opportunity as he leads the Warhawks in hits (32) and batting average (.344) heading into last weekend's three-game road series with Georgia Southern.

"It's a credit to the coaches and the guys hitting around me to give me protection," said Humeniuk last Friday afternoon. "I had to make a lot of adjustments from my junior year to my senior year and then this year. The coaching staff has done such a good job helping me develop and to understand what kind of player I am. I've been fortunate to get some pitches to hit at the plate."

Humeniuk has been hitting in the middle of the lineup (3,4,5) most of the season. He has started in every game for Louisiana Monroe this season, which makes it easier going to the ballpark.

"That helps, for sure," he said. "There's just some regularity and you can develop a routine as far as what you're going to do every day and how you're going to prepare your body for the weekend."

Team-wise, Louisiana Monroe was 11-14 before the Georgia Southern series.

"It's been up and down," Humeniuk said. "We started off really well and then we kind of hit a little bit of a rough patch there where we lost a couple of games in a row. We've been having conversations as a team as to what we need to focus on. What is it going to take for us to come together



Ryan Humeniuk

as one cohesive unit? Not just hitting, not just pitching and defence, but everything at the same time. Ultimately, our goal is to win a championship."

The Warhawks have an extremely tough schedule this season, playing the likes of No. 4 Ole Miss, No. 14 Oklahoma State, and No. 23 Louisiana Tech. Those are some big names in college baseball.

"We're playing a tough schedule," Humeniuk agreed. "(Our) coach put us in a position where if we would win enough games in the preseason and stuff like that we would have a chance at an at-large bid."

The Warhawks are not too far off some of the elite schools in college baseball. In fact, Louisiana Monroe knocked off Ole Miss 8-3 back on March 14 and Oklahoma State 13-5 just two days later.

"We feel like we can play with anyone," Humeniuk said. "That's what coach talks about all of the time. 'I know you can play with them, that's



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ryan Humeniuk (7) is having another great season with the University of Louisiana-Munroe Warhawks, leading the team in hits (32) and average (.344) heading into last weekend's action.

why you're here and that's why you get recruited here. But I want you to prove to me that you can beat these teams and prove to everyone else that you're good enough to beat these teams." "That's our goal every time we face another opponent that we're not favoured to beat, is to prove to everyone that we belong and can play with anyone and can beat just about anyone."

For Humeniuk, it's going to be a big change after he leaves college baseball this summer. He has loved play-

ing at the many different Division I ballparks and would like to experience some new fields at the professional level.

"Right now, I'm holding on to that dream of playing professionally still. But really it's out of my hands. At this point, all I can do is have a great year and help our team win. Going forward (if turning pro) becomes an opportunity, that's something that I would really like to pursue.

"If not, I'll have to join the real world, I guess," he chuckled.

Stonewall Minor Ball registration numbers 'way up' this year

By Brian Bowman

Stonewall Minor Ball registration numbers are up significantly this year.

"It's to the point where diamond usage is going to be sparse," said Stonewall Minor Ball vice president Shaun Dalgliesh. "I'm not 100 per cent certain (on the numbers) because we might still have a couple of towns transferring in but we're going to be greater than 200, for sure. That's definitely up from years past and trending towards

a really good season."

Players are as young as four years old and old enough to play at the U18 level. As of last weekend, though, fielding a U18 team was still up in the air due to a lack of numbers.

Dalgliesh said they expect the season to begin in early May. He noted that Stonewall was still looking for someone to coach the U15 team at the "A" level.

He also mentioned that Stonewall is

hosting the U11 provincials.

As for softball, Stonewall has an "A" program and some teams play out of Winnipeg while others get their competition solely from the Interlake. That normally depends on the age group.

This year, Stonewall has two softball teams in U10, U12 and U14 and another in U16.

With the early spring, ballparks are in great shape, especially in Stonewall.

"From everything that I've seen from the ball diamonds, I've been down there a couple of times getting equipment and things together, that type of thing, and the ball diamonds look to be in fantastic shape," Dalgliesh noted. "I'm sure the town will continue to doctor them up and make sure that they're to our satisfaction. We're looking forward to the season."

Disc golf flying into Stony Mountain Quarry

Staff

Mark your calendars for an exciting outing — a rarity in the past year.

On Saturday, April 24, spectators are welcome to watch disc golfers of all skills and ages compete at the Stony Mountain Spring Pop-Up Tournament at the Stony Mountain Quarry.

Disc Golf Manitoba is setting up a temporary course for the one-day event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for disc golfers to try to conquer the quarry's hills, cliffs, buttes and ridges.

"Disc golf follows the basic premise of traditional golf, but rather than hitting a ball towards a hole, disc golfers throw discs (sleek Frisbees) towards a raised basket 200 to 600 feet away. Along the way, disc golfers must navigate the trees, cliffs, rocks and water

that act as hazards," said tournament director Kelly Chabbert.

"Disc golf is an exciting sport to play and watch. It is played by all ages and is extremely economical to play."

Disc Golf Manitoba is in discussions with the Stony Mountain Community Association and the RM of Rockwood about introducing disc golf to Stony Mountain on a permanent basis, Chabbert added.

"On April 24, stop by the quarry and watch the fierce yet friendly competition and ask questions as our disc golfers act as ambassadors of the sport," he said.

"Disc Golf Manitoba thanks the Stony Mountain Community Association and the RM of Rockwood for their co-operation in permitting this tournament."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Spectators are invited to watch a disc golf tournament on April 24.

South Interlake Phillies ready to start league play

By Brian Bowman

The South Interlake Phillies are ready to hit the diamond for game action in 2021.

The teams had their tryouts back in September and have been practicing for the start of a new season.

"We had a good turnout this year in all age categories," said Phillies' president Blaine Shewchuk. "We're looking to field teams in all age brackets."

Age brackets include U12, U14, U16 and U19. South Interlake has not had a U19 team for a "few years now."

"It's nice to see (the U19) get off the ground," Shewchuk said. "We've had a lot of good programs over the years in high school and Interlake minor ball and then with the Phillies, so the girls

have had a lot of opportunity to play a lot of ball."

Playing a lot of games over the years has been beneficial to the players' development, said Shewchuk. Many of those U19 girls, in years' past, have gone on to be very successful at the college level.

"When the girls go down to college and play, it's a great representation for both the Interlake and the province," Shewchuk noted. "All of a sudden, the coaches start saying, 'Wow, I didn't know this level of ball existed' and it creates a great opportunity for the younger girls coming up."

Many of those players come back to assist with the Phillies.

"A lot of the older girls are giving

back now," Shewchuk said. "The U19 team is coached by three former Phillies and U16, U14 and U12 all have former players that are helping with the program. It's great to see where these girls have travelled but they're also giving back to the organization, which is really nice to see."

Last year, fastball leagues played a very condensed schedule due to Manitoba restrictions involving COVID. If all goes well this year, leagues are slated to begin play in early May.

"We were grateful for the season that we had because most provinces didn't have an opportunity to play last year," Shewchuk noted. "We were able to run a provincial in Manitoba ... and the westerns and nationals were can-



celled (which is unfortunate) because that's such a great experience for the girls and the exposure that they get from university coaches."

Baseball Canada strikes out Women's Invitational in Stonewall

By Brian Bowman

For the second consecutive year, Baseball Canada has cancelled the Women's Invitational baseball tournament in Stonewall due to the COVID pandemic.

The announcement was made April 6.

"I wouldn't say that I was surprised given the increase in variants and what's been happening with increasing numbers across the country," said Gail Langlais, the chair of the tournament's host committee, last Friday afternoon. "Our priority is to always keep the athletes safe and we did look

at the potential of a bubble scenario."

The bubble concept was deemed too expensive, said Langlais, especially for a tournament run by volunteers.

"To cover the cost of COVID testing and things like that, it just became another reason why we couldn't move forward," she said.

The news of a national championship being cancelled in our community is a disappointing one for the players, coaches, and fans. It would have been a great opportunity to showcase the sport of women's baseball here in Manitoba.

"It's huge. We were going to be pair-

ing this tournament with westerns so the young players could play during the day, and then on their breaks, they could watch the senior women's team to see what's out there for them with respect to baseball," Langlais said. "We're disappointed that we can't move forward but it's something we can't change, of course."

There is a possibility that Stonewall will try to host the Women's Invitational in 2022. But Baseball Canada has the final say as to which community will get the opportunity to host the elite tournament.

Langlais, meanwhile, is hopeful that

the women will have an opportunity to play some baseball this summer.

"Hopefully, the young adults will still get to play in their province and still see the field this year," she said.

"They won't be able to come together but I know many of them stay connected virtually throughout the year so they will keep their connections that way. But to say they aren't disappointed wouldn't be true. I'm sure that they are very, very disappointed that they can't come together and play."

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Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.

Rural Municipality of Woodlands EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Youth Employment (3 Positions)

Qualifications:

- Valid Class 5 Manitoba Drivers' license
- Knowledge in the operation and maintenance of riding mower, weed eater
- Knowledge of safety procedures and of the use of safety equipment
- Ability to do physical labour
- Available from July to August
- Must be 16 to 29 years old

Salary as per the agreement between The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 987 and the Rural Municipality of Woodlands.

All applications must be in writing and may be sent to the attention of the Finance Manager, Rural Municipality of Woodlands, Box 10, Woodlands, MB. R0C 3H0, emailed to finance@rmwoodlands.ca or delivered to 57 Railway Avenue, Woodlands, MB. Applications will be accepted until **12:00 noon May 14, 2021.**

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSSER PUBLIC HEARING 2021 FINANCIAL PLAN

In accordance with Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act the Council of the Rural Municipality of Rosser will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to present the 2021 Financial Plan for the Municipality at:

7:30 P.M.
Tuesday, APRIL 27, 2021
ROSSER MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Important Note: This Hearing will be conducted both in-person and virtually

For anyone who wishes to attend the Public Hearing by in-person and virtual means, you are required to Pre-register by emailing the RM of Rosser at clerk@rmofrosser.com.

The Rural Municipality of Rosser 2021 Financial Plan consists of:

- 1) the 2021 Operating Budget,
- 2) the 2021 Capital Budget,
- 3) an estimate of the operating revenue and expenditure for the 2021 fiscal year, and
- 4) a five year Capital Expenditure Program (2022-2026).

At this time the Council will present the proposed 2021 financial plan for the Municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed financial plan are available upon request at the Municipal Office, 77 E PR 221 in Rosser, Manitoba during regular office hours Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Larry Wandowich
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Rosser

METAL RECYCLING

Autos, farm scrap, brass, copper & batteries wanted. 47 Patterson Dr. Stonewall Industrial Park. Interlake Salvage & Recycling Inc. 204-467-9344.

SCRAP METAL

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

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

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HELP WANTED

Evening chore help wanted. Duties include milking cows, cleaning barn & feeding calves. Teulon area. Call 204-886-2408 or email kenson@explornet.com

Rockwood Pork Inc. is looking for one fulltime Hog Farm Supervisor/ Worker. Job duties include daily chores, facility maintenance, minor record keeping, etc. Teulon, MB (NE 30-16-3E) area. Weekend work required. Experience an asset but not required. Starting wage \$14 - \$20 per hour, plus benefits. Please forward all resumes to stanem@mymts.net or mail to Box 1181, Arborg, MB. R0C 0A0.

HELP WANTED

Farm help wanted for upcoming spring, summer & fall seasons. Must have working knowledge of farm equipment & valid driver's license. Class 1 license is an asset. Ph 204-781-8664.

Driver needed - Stonewall, MB. Rockwood Victoria Co-op Ltd. is hiring a part time driver to haul bulk milk in Stonewall/Marquette area. Must have Class 1 license and driver's abstract. Call Ted at 204-461-2038.

Rexall in Stonewall is accepting resumes for a part time Pharmacy Assistant. 9-5 weekdays (3 days per week). Drop off resume to 1-330 3rd Ave. South, Stonewall.

MISCELLANEOUS

Spring Sale? Re-opening for the season? Want people to know? Advertise it in the 37 MB weekly newspapers and get noticed! Each week our blanket classifieds could be helping your organization get noticed in over 340,000 homes! It's a great way to connect with our 37 weekly member newspapers and their readers! For as little as \$189 + GST, get your important messaging out! Call us at 204-467-5836 to book or email classified@mcna.com for details. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association 204-947-1691. www.mcna.com

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THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD 2021 FINANCIAL PLAN - PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Rural Municipality of Rockwood shall hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to present the 2021 Financial Plan for the Municipality at:

6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Heritage Arts Centre
Stonewall Quarry Park - 166 Main Street
Stonewall, Manitoba

The Rural Municipality of Rockwood 2021 Financial Plan consists of:

1. The 2021 Operating Budget;
2. The 2021 Capital Budget;
3. An Estimate of the Operating Revenue and Expenditures for the following fiscal year, and
4. A five (5) year Capital Expenditure Program.

The purpose of the **PUBLIC HEARING** is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions, or register an objection in respect of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood 2021 Financial Plan.

Any person who wishes to make a Presentation, Ask a Question, or Send a Letter to Council must provide a copy of the presentation and/or documentation no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 23, 2021.

Copies of the 2021 Financial Plan are available for review at the Municipal Office, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Chris Luellman, CMAA
Chief Administrative Officer
The Rural Municipality of Rockwood

2021 Financial Plan & COVID-19

We hope that all residents of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood are staying indoors and following proper protocols as set out by the Province of Manitoba.

We understand that during these trying times it is difficult to be present at the meeting, however we will be proceeding with the hearing while practicing social and physical distancing as we feel there is adequate space at the Heritage Arts Centre. Public Hearings must, of course, be open to the public and residents are allowed to interact, ask questions and have the opportunity to speak for or against the proposed By-Law.

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NOTICES

Urgent Press Releases - Have a newsworthy item to announce? A cancellation? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab or Email classified@mcna.com for more details.

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Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail stonewoodelkranch@mymts.net

FARM PRODUCE

Local unpasteurized honey for sale. Sold in various sizes, 1 kg & up. Ph 204-461-1267.

LIVESTOCK

Black Angus bulls, 2 year olds, registered, not overfed, semen tested, reasonably priced. Phone Ross Jerney 1-204-768-3900, Ashern.

Purebred Charolais yearling bulls & purebred black Angus yearling bulls. Ph 1-204-280-0122.

FARMLAND WANTED

Young farmer looking for farmland to rent in the RM's of Rosser, Rockwood or Woodlands area. Call or text Nolan at 204-461-1784.

SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

PERMANENT FULL-TIME POSITION

The South Interlake Fifty-Five Plus, Inc., Stonewall, MB, has an opening for an **Executive Director**.

The Executive Director position is a full time position responsible for the overall management of the Centre including program planning and administrative duties. Schedule of work may be variable.

Required Qualifications:

- Proficient skills in Computer Technology and online platforms; willingness to learn new skills
- Proven skills in administrative and staff management
- Ability to work in a fast paced environment and effectively work under pressure to meet challenges; ability to multi-task & prioritize
- Excellent verbal and written skills and solid mathematical skills
- Demonstrated problem solving skills and ability to work with limited supervision
- Job duties include physical movement of equipment & supplies
- Certification in First Aid & CPR an asset
- Salary dependent upon qualifications
- Anticipated start date: May 25, 2021

For a Full Position Description, Visit:

http://www.si55plus.org/employment_opportunities.html

Deadline for Applications: Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Applications accepted by email only: si55plus@mts.net

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted within 5 days of deadline.



MAGELLAN

AEROSPACE CORPORATION

MAGELLAN AEROSPACE has an opportunity at our ROCKWOOD PROPELLANT PLANT near Stony Mountain, MB for a PHYSICAL PLANT OPERATOR

Full-time/permanent & part-time/fixed-term positions available

Responsibilities:

- Fulfill responsibilities of plant operator under Power Eng'g Act for a Class 5 plant
- Monitor production operations & facilities, making adjustments & calling on qualified assistance
- Maintain plant security by site patrol & monitoring from centralized console
- Control visitor access in plant
- Act as contact for internal radio communication & emergency response situations
- Maintain key & radio control
- Maintain various records incl. gas usage, visitor & employee location within plant, overtime authorization, equipment loan, environmental & facility conditions, & timekeeping
- Act as relief switchboard operator during regular hours & answer calls during off hours

Qualifications:

- Class 5 Province of MB Power Engineering Certificate is a very strong asset
- Basic training in security through the Protective Officers Association Program or equivalent
- Extensive knowledge of plant facilities, equipment & production activities. Fair understanding of plant maintenance is an asset
- Knowledge of policy & work instructions related to plant operations/security, & judgment in exercising granted discretions
- Strong interpersonal skills allowing to effectively work with plant staff & general public
- Capacity to quickly address & resolve unexpected developments/disruptions
- Computer literate, incl. operating video surveillance cameras, basic internet browsing, Microsoft windows, excel, word & outlook
- Shift work is mandatory

Please submit your resume at <http://www.magellan.aero/careers>

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Our mission is to "Make the world's products safely accessible". We continue to innovate, implement best practices and adopt new technologies in all areas.

The Opportunity:

For our ARBORG FACILITY, we are seeking a Senior Accountant (Term Position)

This is a term position. The Senior Accountant plays a lead role in the accounting function at Vidir. This position supports the CFO with the execution of Vidir's financial reports and records, including month-end, year-end and budget, ensuring that all financial data is accurate and complete. The Senior Accountant is responsible for developing efficient, effective and secure internal controls and processes through collaboration with the accounting team and other department managers.

Key Responsibilities: Reporting to CFO

- Ensures the timely delivery of accurate financial statements to support Executive decision-making as well as banking reporting requirements
- Prepares monthly balance sheet and income statement, analyzing reports to ensure accuracy
- Supports the CFO in preparing year-end journal entries, supporting documentation and financial reports
- Works closely with the CFO in the annual budget process
- Prepares and reconciles monthly budget variance reports and distributes to department managers
- Provides support to department managers, responding to inquiries and requests, and identifying issues that need to be brought to the CFO's attention
- Examines budget line items to ensure accurate coding
- Improves the budget process by seeking opportunities for coding or reporting changes that would help identify and understand key cost drivers better
- Monitors and controls the general ledger to enable accurate reporting on operational objectives, projects and other initiatives
- Conducts monthly account reconciliations to ensure accurate reporting and ledger maintenance
- Regularly reviews general ledger transactions ensuring that data entry processes are leading to accurate account balances and information.
- Utilizes a strong knowledge of transactional processes to provide training and assistance to the Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk as well as employees in other departments as needed
- Handles income tax and sales tax requirements
- Prepares monthly tax filings and ensures taxes are paid on time
- Leads the external tax audit process, serving as the primary contact for auditors. Compiles and organizes required information, delegating as necessary
- Develops and implements internal controls and processes to safeguard Vidir's assets, and to help create accurate and efficient workflow

Qualifications:

The successful candidate must have a minimum of 3 years of experience in a financial accounting role. The successful candidate will also have advanced proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Outlook, Word, and Accounting Software. A diploma or certificate in business administration or accounting is preferred.

Working at Vidir:

Vidir offers a competitive salary and benefits package; as well as incentives and promotes a culture of recognition. We support professional growth, development and success!

Explore our company and products at www.storevertical.com

Apply at carissa.rempel@vidir.com

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Applications will be received until Friday, April 30th, 2021

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Teulon Rockwood Rec Commission is requesting proposals for servicing four portable toilets and two holding tanks for the Park's season from May 15, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Each proposal should include "per call" and a "flat rate" pricing. Please send information to teulonrockwoodrec@gmail.com

Deadline for proposals is April 30, 2021.

Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication. Call 204-467-5836



**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. LAURENT
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the council of the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent shall hold a PUBLIC HEARING to present its 2021 Financial Plan on:

**Thursday, April 29, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

St. Laurent Recreation Centre or RM Council Chambers inside the Recreation Centre

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED – Please call 204-646-2259 or email rmstlaur@mymts.net to register your intent to attend so we know what space to book, to adhere to public health order.

At this time Council will present the proposed 2021 Financial Plan for the municipality. The presentation will provide an overview of the proposed financial plan followed by a forum for questions and comments from the public. The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a presentation, ask questions or register an objection.

A draft copy of the 2021 Financial Plan is now available.

Dated this 15th day of March, 2021

HILDA ZOTTER

Chief Administrative Officer

Rural Municipality of St. Laurent

16 St. Laurent Veterans' Memorial Road

St. Laurent, Manitoba ROC 2S0

Email: rmstlaur@mymts.net

Phone: 204-646-2259

Website: rmstlaurent.com

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3 bedrooms, ensuite, huge kitchen, quartz countertops, walk-in pantry, island. James Hardie Siding Huron Tripane Windows.

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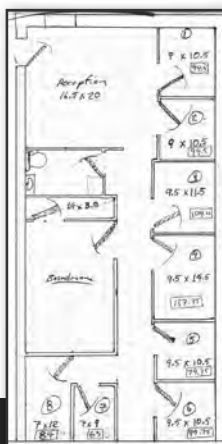
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Property Features

Total square Footage 1700, includes eight offices of various sizes, a board room and a front reception area. Current tenants include The Lord Selkirk Teachers Association, Sun Life Financial, two Massage Therapists, an Esthetician and the Selkirk Record. The building was upgraded in 2012. Both the reception and board room are shared, there are currently two offices available for lease.



For information please contact:

BIG Real Estate
204-485-0010

email bigandcolourful@mts.net



THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. LAURENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (Finance & Administrative)

The Rural Municipality of St. Laurent is inviting applications for the full-time position of Assistant Chief Administrative Officer (CAAO).

The CAAO will assist in the management and implementation of all aspects of daily municipal finance and administration. We are seeking an individual that has *advanced skills in accounting*, and has the ability to lead, oversee and implement organizational administration, assisting, reporting to and taking direction from the CAO. A high level of ability to communicate and assist staff, council, and the public will also be expected from the successful candidate and excellent human resource skills will be required.

The CAAO will be expected to assume the authority and duties of the CAO in an acting capacity when appointed to the role in the CAO's absence. Assuming the roles and responsibilities of other staff in extended absence may also be required from time to time.

Assets considered: CMAA course certification or extensive experience in local government/public sector environment; high-level accounting and managerial skills/background; knowledge of federal, provincial and municipal legislation; extensive computer and software (accounting and Microsoft) experience; political and financial acumen; and an individual who has excellent French language communication skills as well would be ideal.

The successful candidate can expect a salary and benefit package reflective of their experience and qualifications, starting at no less than \$21.00 per hour. Interested individuals may submit a cover letter* and resume with three references to:

Hilda Zotter
Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
The Rural Municipality of St. Laurent
16 St. Laurent Veterans' Memorial Road (Inside St. Laurent Recreation Centre)
P.O. Box 220, St. Laurent, Manitoba ROC 2S0
E-mail: cao.rmstlaur@mymts.net
Fax: 204-646-2705

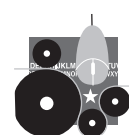
*IMPORTANT: In your cover letter, please briefly describe each of your assets that would make you the ideal candidate for this position. Also, all prior work experience should be listed including name of employer.

If you have any questions, please call the CAO at 204-646-2259. A complete job description is available upon request.

The deadline for submitting your Resume is Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. however this posting will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. The position is to commence June 1, 2021. We thank all that apply, however only those selected for interview will be contacted.

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remembrance for loved
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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

204-467-5836
igraphic@mts.net

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

IN MEMORIAM



Marvin Prystupa
March 7, 1949 – April 18, 2020
In Loving Memory of

my husband, our father and Grandpa
Our lives go on without you,
But nothing is the same;
We have to hide our heartaches,
When someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that love you,
Silent the tears that fall;
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us,
Your heart was kind and true;
And when we needed someone,
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return,
When we were all together
But with the love within our hearts,
You will walk with us forever.

-Joanne, Ryan and Laura,
Michael and Caitlyn,
Kaleb, Maxwell and Hailey

OBITUARY

William Nightingale

March 28, 1934 - March 31, 2021

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we announce the passing away of William Nightingale.

William is lovingly remembered by Dorothy (nee Yanke), his wife of 60 years; his sons Brian and Warren (Rebecca) and his sisters Helen Meisner (Harry) and Florence Brown (Colin).

William was predeceased by his parents Herman and Ada; daughter Arlene and siblings Ethel, Doreen, Emma and Darlene.

Growing up in rural Manitoba near New Home, instilled in William the love of the outdoors, sports, animals and a strong work ethic. In 1959, he moved to Balmertown, Ontario where he worked for over 30 years as a hoistman for Campbell Mine. During this time, he was highly active in the Red Lake Lutheran Church, serving as their accountant. William particularly enjoyed the lake life, spending time boating, fishing and camping. He also had a great aptitude for engineering, spending time in his workshop designing and creating devices for the home.

Upon retiring, William and Dorothy returned to Manitoba to enjoy life in Grosse Isle for the following 30 years. He was a proud Canadian, and loved his sports, in particular he was an avid fan of the Toronto Blue Jays, Winnipeg Jets and Blue Bombers. William enjoyed documentary movies, as well as gospel and country music. He was forever a family man, who loved his family dearly and had a funny pun for anyone who would visit.

Cremation has taken place, and interment will be at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

MACKENZIE FUNERAL HOME STONEWALL
(204) 467-2525 • info@mackenziefh.com



There is a link death
cannot sever,
Love and remembrance
last forever.



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317 First Avenue,
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Automotive Mechanic (prefer Journeyman, but not required)

\$25-\$34/hr depending on experience plus bonus
Hrs Mon-Fri, 8-5

Benefits (Health, Dental, Life) Available

Qualifications:

- Min of 5 years' auto repairing experience pref.
- Comfortable with completing all types of repairs and maintenance
- Must have own tools
- Familiar with Scanning, alignment & A/C Equipment beneficial
- Valid Driver's License • Punctual, reliable, energetic



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