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USE THIS CHECKLIST TO GET STARTED!

01 MAKE A LIST OF YOUR REASONS FOR SELLING.

02 ASK FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (OR ME!) FOR AGENT REFERRALS.

03 INTERVIEW THE AGENTS AND CHOOSE THE ONE YOU "CLICK" WITH.

04 CONSIDER HOME REPAIRS AND UPGRADES (I CAN HELP WITH THIS!)

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Reelin' in the New Year

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MATTHIEU MEIER

Nick Finnson was excited and surprised when he reeled in a 35-inch catfish on the Red River on New Year's Day. A lot of catfish anglers believe that catfish will only bite when the weather is warm. Catfish can be quite active during winter when compared to other fish species and they will bite the same baits as they did in the warmer weather.

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"Selling the Interlake, and Beyond, one Yard at a time"

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Woodlands reflects on 2021 challenges and successes

By Nicole Brownlee

After a harsh summer drought shook the resiliency of many rural communities in Manitoba, the RM of Woodlands is happy to announce several developments completed in 2021 and several to continue in 2022.

The municipality developed a tile drainage bylaw this fall with one farmer already using the agricultural drainage system. Tile drainage is considered one of the most effective ways to drain subsurface water from fields to allow air space within the soil and can help with crop yield.

"We're actually looking at maybe putting tile drainage in some of our roads that are really bad frost boils," said Lori Schellekens, reeve of the municipality.

"Adding tile drainage would alleviate those from happening because you're keeping water out of the road."

One of the municipality's biggest projects was paving roads throughout several communities.

The local fire department upgraded some equipment this year. A three-quarter-ton truck was donated to the station, and they purchased a thermal imaging camera.

The council received a grant to upgrade their wireless internet access.

The council had to move their chamber to the multi-purpose room in Warren because of public health restrictions, and they initially could not



Where We Are: A History of the Rural Municipality of Woodlands (1980-2021).

host virtual meetings for members to join.

However, there are still some gaps in their internet coverage.

"When we had to have bigger venues, we had to go to the hall but, unfortunately, the hall had no internet, so we could only do conference calling from there," said Schellekens.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also drastically impacted their local non-profit and recreational groups, said Schellekens.

"It's going to take a bit for everybody



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Woodlands history book committee, left to right, Orval Procter, Bonnie Boon, Maureen Tully, Barb Riddell, Lori Schellekens (RM of Woodlands reeve) and Bryan Myskiw. Missing from the photo is Kaeley Gould.

to get back up on their feet."

The community's pump house was replaced this year. The previous pump was 30 years old and not sufficient for the community, especially during last summer's harsh drought, which drove farmers to use open water wells as a water source.

"Hopefully, we won't have to deal with drought next year, but if it is, (the pump house) is up and running," said Schellekens.

The municipality tried to fix the pumphouse sooner, but many of the parts needed to repair the system came from China. Shipments from China were delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We were lucky enough that our community pasture, the dugouts and the wells held."

The long-awaited Woodlands history book will be released in 2022, with additional printings to come. *Where We Are: A History of the Rural Municipality of Woodlands (1980-2020)* by Bryan Myskiw details the history of the municipality with several perspectives

from families in the community.

Myskiw has been working on the book since November 2020.

"We actually had to increase the pages because we had so much come in," said Schellekens.

Another project the municipality is continuing into 2022 is an update to Warren's water main.

Before the update, there was a dead-end to the water source which made repairs difficult and would force the whole community to be without water while it was being repaired.

The community is now on a loop system with the water constantly flowing through the system. Now when the system needs to be

repaired, a section of the community will be impacted by the repair instead of the whole town.

The municipality is also updating its website to be more user-friendly. Schellekens urges all community members to sign up for Connect, a service that distributes notices about the RM of Woodlands electronically.

"IT'S GOING TO TAKE A BIT FOR EVERYBODY TO GET BACK UP ON THEIR FEET."

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Bookmobile artists

A win-win situation in Teulon



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The South Interlake Regional Library Bookmobile colouring draw was a great success with participants from the community including day-cares and schools. The winner was Brooklyn B. from 3B at Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend School. Pictured: students from Mallard School and Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend Grade 2M along with the winning entry.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The lucky winner of the second annual Teulon Rodeo Club Christmas 50/50 draw was Rose Pajack of Selkirk. Club president Dave Tarko, right, presented Pajack with a cheque for \$1,000 last month. The club will donate proceeds from this fundraiser to the local Food Bank, the Teulon and District Christmas Cheer Board and scholarships at both Teulon Collegiate and Inwood high schools. The club has 15 active members that ensure their fundraisers are sold out and assist in hosting their annual rodeo in Teulon. As per COVID restrictions, the date for the 2022 rodeo has not been confirmed; however, the club is hopeful they will be able to hold it.



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St. Laurent showcased in CBC travelling film

By Nicole Brownlee

This was a turbulent year for communities across the Interlake but was also a year where the RM of St. Laurent shined. The community not only hit a few milestones in 2021 but it was also highlighted by a national program that will premiere in 2022.

CBC travelling show *Still Standing* highlights small towns across Canada and gives viewers an intimate view of the communities. The show was filmed in St. Laurent in early December.

"St. Laurent is appreciative of the show and highlighting our community," said Cheryl Smith, reeve of the municipality.

"It can only help us to showcase what we have here in St. Laurent. It is the biggest Métis community in Canada, and people are excited to share their stories, our cultures, traditions and language."

The episode was premiered at the local community hall on Dec. 10. All community members included in the show could invite up to 20 fully vaccinated guests to watch the episode.

Around 120 people gathered to watch the episode at the hall with the crew and host of *Still Standing*, comedian Jonny Harris.

"Harris mentioned how they really loved their time in our community and learning about the Michif language and the Métis traditions," said Smith.

"Jonny said the language and the fishing reminded him a lot of Newfoundland where he's from."

The community talked about the experience for days after the premiere and said they felt good about the show, said Smith.

Their *Still Standing* episode will be broadcast between January to March 2022.

The community hired a bylaw officer in May 2021 to review all bylaws in the municipality.

"That was a very long time coming and something that was definitely a priority," said Smith.

The Twin Lakes Beach Association got the ball rolling on the process of hiring a bylaw officer a few years ago, said the reeve.

"There's been a lot of changes that have been made to existing bylaws. A lot of them have been updated, and there's still a lot to go."

One pilot project that the municipality unveiled in the summer of 2021 was charging non-residents to enter one of the beach parks.

"We've noticed, over time, and especially during COVID, we were inundated with tourists that would come and access our beaches," said Smith.

The council wanted to see how much revenue could be generated from charging a \$5 admission to Big Tree Park in the hopes of keeping taxes and the local mill rate down.

"(We) wanted to see what kind of



TRIBUNE SUBMITTED PHOTO

Host Jonny Harris joined the municipality staff, reeve and council on Dec. 10 at the St. Laurent premiere of their *Still Standing* episode.

revenue could be generated that we could then turn around and use that revenue and keep our parks going," said Smith.

The municipality wants to encourage tourism, but they also need to maintain the park and address environmental concerns.

"There was an increase in garbage. There was a large increase in sewage for the lagoon, so we had to try and balance that."

The municipality conducted a survey following the pilot project, and around 85 per cent of residents supported the project and want to see it expanded to other beach parks, said Smith.

The council will review the revenue collected from the project in early 2022.

In 2022, the Manitoba Métis Federation will continue building a clubhouse at the local golf course and 200 sites for RV rentals. Smith said they estimate the project will be completed by spring.

The council will also continue working on developing their broadband and cell service contracts in the community in the new year.

"One of the high hopes for everybody is that we can get rid of this pandemic and that our lives become more normal," said Smith.

Interlake-Eastern RHA's New Year's baby has arrived

Submitted by IERHA

Interlake-Eastern RHA's New Year's baby arrived at 9:59 a.m. on New Year's Day at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

Selah Praise weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces, and she is the third child of Iris and Titus Hofer of Interlake Colony near Teulon. She will be going home to meet her big sister Gracie Joy, 3, and big brother Blake, 1.

Dr. Margaret Speer attended the birth.

"She was so calm. The staff here are amazing, even with COVID and the protocols that need to be followed," said Titus.

It's become a tradition for the Selkirk Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, which runs the hospital's gift shop, to present a gift basket to the health centre's first born child of the year. It's a gift that the Hofers were "flabbergasted" to receive.

"It's extremely appreciated," said Ti-

tus.

According to Betty Milkowski, chair of the auxiliary, the basket is a collection of items that will be helpful to the family.

"We're always sure to include a playpen and a bunch of other goodies that a new family will need," said Milkowski.

"We want to contribute to their enjoyment of their baby and we send them our best wishes for the coming years."

The family birthing unit team at Selkirk Regional Health Centre feels honoured to play a role in welcoming babies into the world and getting families off to a good start.

The unit is composed of eight beds and all rooms are private with a comfortable space for partners or other family members to rest. This unit is filled with bright natural light and it's equipped with everything needed for low-risk deliveries.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Titus and Iris Hofer of Interlake Colony welcomed their daughter Selah Praise on New Year's Day. Selah was the first baby born in 2022 at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

Lower hospitalization risk doesn't mean no risk with omicron

By Patricia Barrett

Initial results from an English study into the severity of disease posed by the COVID-19 omicron variant shows a decreased risk of hospitalization but no substantial evidence yet the variant is less virulent than other strains.

People infected with omicron sought out hospital care, according to the findings, suggesting the variant may not be milder for some people and will still exert pressure on health-care resources.

The study titled "Report 50: hospitalization risk for Omicron cases in England" was published online Dec. 22, 2021, and has yet to be peer-reviewed.

Researchers with Imperial College London's COVID-19 response team evaluated the virulence (how severe or harmful a disease is in its effects) of omicron in England by looking at the differences in hospitalization risk over a 14-day period among those who tested positive for omicron and those who tested positive for the delta variant.

They found a reduced risk of hospitalization and hospital stay for those with omicron.

"Overall, we find evidence of a reduction in the risk of hospitalization for Omicron relative to Delta infections, averaging over all cases in the study period," wrote the researchers. "The extent of reduction is sensitive to the inclusion criteria used for cases and hospitalization, being in the range 20-25% when using any attendance at hospital as the endpoint, and 40-45% when using hospitalization lasting 1 day or longer or hospitalizations with the ECDS [emergency care documentation system] discharge field recorded as 'admitted' as the endpoint"

Last month, a Chinese study found omicron can multiply 70 times faster than delta in human bronchial tubes, allowing it to spread at lightning speed between people. In spite of its impressive ability to evade frontline antibodies and cause infection, omicron is thought to come up short against other immune defences — whether induced by vaccination or by a previous natural infection — which can provide a degree of protection from hospitalization

and death.

The study's researchers said although vaccinated people are susceptible to infection or reinfection (defined in the study as 90 or more days apart) with omicron, their estimates "suggest that individuals who have received at least 2 vaccine doses remain substantially protected against hospitalization, even if protection against infection has been largely lost against the Omicron variant."

However, they warn that their findings should be balanced against the much larger risk of infection with Omicron, due to reduction in protection acquired from both vaccination and natural infection. The findings don't show a reduction in the severity of disease.

The data (PCR test results) they analyzed from Dec. 1 to 14 show how fast omicron was able to overtake delta as the dominant strain in England and the concomitant inching up of hospitalizations for those infected with omicron.

The average age of omicron and delta cases attending a hospital were 31 and 38 years of age, respectively. Hospitalization was defined as "attendance" at hospital, including at accident and emergency departments, which occurred up to 14 days after a positive COVID PCR test and where a length of stay was at least one day.

The researchers acknowledge there are limitations to their study and they "caution about over-interpreting these trends [i.e., a reduction in hospitalization risk]."

Limitations include a restricted sample size, no data on how omicron might affect older adults or children, a short follow-up period to see whether infected subjects did, in fact, have a lower burden of disease compared to delta and a statistical assumption that omicron follows a similar disease progression as delta.

"There was limited power to examine more severe outcomes than hospital attendance," the researchers wrote, and that "this analysis will be updated to include a wider range of outcomes as data accumulate."

Last PCR test specimen date (December 2021)	All cases (pillars 1 and 2)			
	Delta cases	Omicron Cases	Delta hospitalisations	Omicron hospitalisations
1	25098	164	586	≤5
2	23212	226	493	≤5
3	21111	252	449	7
4	17235	303	372	≤5
5	16164	434	337	20
6	20745	977	397	14
7	21058	1916	395	24
8	20551	2956	353	25
9	21639	4047	316	29
10	21869	5214	255	33
11	15581	4807	177	30
12	13746	6550	123	40
13	17489	11933	109	26
14	13819	15804	52	36

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

While there were fewer hospitalizations with omicron compared to delta, people infected with omicron were still admitted to hospital. There is no substantial evidence yet that omicron is a milder or less virulent COVID strain.

The update will include an examination of ICU admissions and death to estimate immune protection against severe omicron infections.

The preliminary findings, however, are useful for estimating potential health-care demands associated with the highly transmissible variant. As more and more people are infected with it, hospitalization rates will increase.

Prevent an auto fire: Check your extension and block-heater cords

Submitted by MPI

On average, about 1,000 vehicle fire claims are opened with Manitoba Public Insurance yearly. Of that total, about 10 per cent of those fire claims are related to faulty extension or block-heater cords.

A cracked extension cord, or block heater cord with a corroded plug, can result in an electrical failure, which can quickly spark a fire. The majority

of these fires take place in winter as temperatures drop.

Safety tips for extension cords/block heater plugs:

- Don't drive over your extension cord. This can cause cracking/breaking during bitterly cold weather.
- Cover your block heater plug-in with its protective cover.
- Unplug your block heater by us-

ing the hard, rubber end. Pulling on the electrical cord can cause breakage and potential electrical issues.

Have your block heater cord inspected each fall by a qualified me-

chanic.

With personal safety in mind, people are advised not to plug in their vehicles within a garage or any other enclosed structure.

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Omicron continues to drive COVID-19 cases up

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba saw thousands of new COVID-19 cases reported over the weekend, bringing the number of active cases to 15,318 — way up from the 9,924 reported on Friday.

Public health officials were expected to release an official post-holiday report on Tuesday, but the updated online dashboard at press time showed the trend of increasing daily case counts continues, with Monday alone seeing 1,721.

A total of 228 people were hospitalized due to COVID-19 at the start of the week (up 36 from the number reported in the last news release on Friday), including 32 in intensive care (up two over the weekend).

The weekend also saw six more deaths due to the virus, bringing the total to 1,398.

Manitoba's test positivity rate has hit 37.9 per cent. With the more contagious omicron variant of the virus taking hold in Manitoba, officials took a number of steps last week to try and stem the tide and protect the health-care system.

The province's public health orders were updated Dec. 28 to further reduce gathering sizes and limit the potential for community transmission.

While the previous orders had already put capacity limits on gatherings that included unvaccinated in-

dividuals, the new updates further limit gatherings of fully immunized individuals and those under the age of 12 to 50 per cent of a space's usual capacity or 250 people, whichever is less. This also applies for outdoor gatherings in public spaces.

Restaurants, fitness centres, museums and galleries, sporting and performing arts events, movie theatres, and religious gatherings are also all limited to the 50 per cent capacity/250 person limit.

Liquor sales have also been curtailed to end at 10 p.m. daily.

The revised orders are in effect until Jan. 11.

The province last week also made some changes to the self-isolation rules for those with COVID-19.

The changes include:

- requiring all people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate, including those who completed a rapid antigen test;
- changing isolation requirements to five days from 10 days since the date of the test for fully vaccinated people who are not showing symptoms;
- changing isolation requirements to five days from 10 days since the date symptoms started appearing or the date of the test, whichever is later, for fully vaccinated people as long as their symptoms are improving and they do not have a fever;

• requiring individuals who have only isolated for five days due to the changes above to wear medical-grade mask while in a public setting for the five days immediately following their self-isolation; and

• requiring isolation for people who have tested positive who are not fully vaccinated for 10 days after the date of their test as long as their symptoms are improving and they do not have a fever.

Public health officials also advise that people leaving isolation must avoid any non-essential visits to high-risk settings or non-essential contact with individuals at high risk for severe disease for an additional five days.

Close contacts who are not exempt from self-isolation requirements still need to self-isolate for 10 days.

"We need to ensure we take steps to protect our health-care system and other critical services during this surge of COVID-19 cases, many linked to the omicron variant," said Health Minister Audrey Gordon in a statement on Friday. "These changes will help ensure everyone who should self-isolate does, regardless of how they tested, and will reduce the strain on the health-system workforce as well as other key sectors as more workers report they have contracted COVID-19."

Manitoba Public Insurance to issue third rebate in less than two years

Submitted by MPI

Manitoba Public Insurance customers can expect a rebate cheque in mid-February 2022.

This rebate of \$312 million will result in about \$328 rebated to an average private passenger policy. It's estimated about 578,000 cheques will be issued. Customers planning a change of address should notify MPI no later

than Jan. 12, 2022, to ensure they receive their rebate cheque. Rebate amounts of \$10 or less will be credited to the customer's account.

This is the third MPI COVID-19 rebate in less than two years. In total, MPI will have provided rebates of nearly \$500 million to its policy holders — \$110 million in May 2020 and \$69 million in December 2020.

This latest rebate was made possible due to a combination of fewer claims during the COVID-19 period and continued strong financial results. The rebate is calculated on the Basic Autopac premiums paid between Nov. 22, 2020, and Dec. 9, 2021, and is expected to be about 27 per cent of the customer's annual Basic Autopac premium.

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TRIBUNE SELFIE BY NADIA RITCHIE

Stonewall's Nadia Ritchie, right, and her mom Kerris were all frosted up last Saturday when they were out walking one-year-old Sven, Nadia's golden doodle. The Weather Network recorded a temperature of -31.8 degrees with a windchill of -43 degrees. Help the *Tribune* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the great outdoors. Email: weather@stonewallteulontribune.ca.

Province looking for public feedback on provincial park improvements

Public engagement to guide support from provincial parks endowment fund

Submitted by Manitoba government

As a key part of its commitment to improve the quality and sustainability of provincial parks, the Manitoba government is inviting citizens to share their opinions about needed improvements and priority areas in an online survey, Conservation and Climate Minister Sarah Guillemard announced last week.

"Earlier this year, our government announced the creation of the \$20-million Provincial Parks Endowment Fund to support projects that enhance the ecological integrity and or public experiences at Manitoba provincial parks," said Guillemard. "In support of the funds, we are seeking citizen and stakeholder input to help identify priority project areas or themes for funding through the endowment."

The minister noted the annual public survey will help identify broad pri-

ority categories under which specific projects will receive funds as part of the endowment's grant process.

These categories, formally established under an endowment fund agreement with The Winnipeg Foundation, include:

- development and maintenance of trails, boardwalks and associated infrastructure;
- public-use facilities such as amphitheaters, shelters, day-use sites, playground equipment, docks and launches;
- park road maintenance;
- habitat restoration and enhancement;
- historical assets and cultural sites; campground enhancements; and
- interpretive infrastructure to support programming.

The engagement plan seeks input from all provincial park visitors and users, including day-use visitors,

overnight campers, cottagers and commercial businesses operating within provincial parks, the minister said. The public will have the opportunity to provide suggestions on specific park projects they would like to see funded.

In addition, the province plans to host annual meetings beginning in January with park stakeholder groups to seek their input. All public engagement results will help guide park modernization and improvement activities, while user satisfaction over time will be monitored via the annual survey.

"With feedback from Manitobans, we can better identify priority areas for improvements so we can make the best use of the endowment fund and ensure our provincial parks continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come," said Guillemard.

The public engagement questionnaire on provincial park improvement priorities is available at <https://engagemb.ca/>.

worship

with us > FAITH

Healing the division...

This past week I watched a political YouTube that showed up on my recommendations. It happened to be a discussion about a commenter's rant absolutely crushing a political figure that included not only wishing the politician dead but also hoping the same fate for their family. What was perhaps the most surprising was that the commenter signed it as "concerned follower of Jesus." Obviously, the comment and signature were mutually exclusive.

As we enter a new year, I must tell you that, like many others in society, I am very concerned about how divided we have become! What is the remedy to our situation? Although you may not agree, I am going to be direct and say that I absolutely believe this to be the work of evil! Why? It is one thing to call someone out because of obvious sinful behaviour, but lately there seems to be the need to destroy others because of their beliefs on the pandemic, politics and an increasingly growing number of topics. It has become commonplace for people to think is all right to destroy others for their views or opinions. Since when has this type of behaviour become acceptable? Something has opened the door to a toxic hatred between people who disagree and it has to STOP!

Firstly, I must say to my Christian brothers and sisters that, like the example I gave above, you cannot be involved in such degrading behaviour and call yourself a Christian! Period! This type of behaviour is the very antithesis of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Secondly, it is a basic Christian truth that the Spirit brings unity and evil supports division. Like in the story of the Tower of Babel, it was the Babylonians' prideful desire to be equal with God that resulted in their inability to communicate. (I could continue on this topic but I won't.)

To take this story a bit further, we need to look at the Pentecost event and ask ourselves what brings people together, having a common language of love and peace? Was it not an outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Friends, if we are to stop the growing division that exists in our world, instead of reacting so harshly against our brothers and sisters in arguments or even discussions, we must pray for a new Pentecost that will touch the mind and hearts of all people. If every believer in this world called on the Holy Spirit when tempted to criticize or demean someone with whom you disagree, we could heal this world of its division and hatred.

I have decided not only to make this a priority in my own life but also challenge you to do the same.

Rev. Barry Schoonbaert

Pastor of Christ the King, Stonewall; St. Joseph, Stony Mountain; and St. John Vianney, Teulon

> 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.

A year of changes for the Town of Teulon

By Nicole Brownlee

Like many communities, 2021 was a busy year for the Town of Teulon. In addition to facing the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the council updated several policies, facilities and commissions in the community while preparing for projects they hope to continue in 2022.

"We've certainly learned a lot and have a lot more to learn," said Anna Pazdzierski, mayor of Teulon.

Reflecting on 2021, Pazdzierski said she missed public meetings.

Council meetings were closed to the public or could only accommodate a few visitors because of public health restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're hoping that once COVID settles down, we can get back to actually meeting with the public and making sure we know what they want," said

Pazdzierski.

In 2021, the recreation commission between Teulon and the RM of Rockwood dissolved, delegating recreation decisions to Teulon. The two communities are reviewing funding agreements for 2022.

"We're happy with the changes," said Pazdzierski, "and looking at being able to give our citizens what they feel they need and being careful that we're not raising taxes beyond anything that is absolutely necessary."

The town created and updated health and safety policies for the community and has ensured all buildings meet standards.

"We've also made sure that those policies are followed," said Pazdzierski.

On Dec. 6, the community participated in an emergency measures

planning workshop to review the emergency plan for the town. Teulon council members also participated in the Manitoba Disaster Management Conference.

The plan meets the needs of the community and provincial requirements, said Pazdzierski.

The town added a gate to the Teulon lagoon to secure the site. Members now punch in a unique code to access the lagoon. Adding a code access point helps staff members track the use of the lagoon and billing.

Looking forward to 2022, Teulon has several projects on the horizon.

Teulon partnered with Rosser, Rockwood and Stonewall to start a required asset management program. The communities will start the program in 2022 to review the facilities in each region.

"We'll know exactly what we've got, what they need. Any ongoing capital costs, etcetera will all be outlined," said Pazdzierski.

"It's a very intense examination of all the assets of the community."



Teulon Mayor Anna Pazdzierski

The town will continue repairing Main Street's sidewalks in 2022. The council is also reviewing grants to update zoning and secondary zoning plans in Teulon.

"The plan that is there presently doesn't meet the requirements and hasn't been updated for a couple of decades," said Pazdzierski.

Province changes self-isolation public health order

Submitted by Manitoba government

The Manitoba government is following the advice of public health officials and making changes to the self-isolation public health order to adapt to the prevalence of rapid antigen tests and to help address the surge in COVID-19 cases caused by the omicron variant, Health and Seniors Care Minister Audrey Gordon announced last Friday.

"We need to ensure we take steps to protect our health-care system and other critical services during this surge of COVID-19 cases, many linked to the omicron variant," said Gordon. "These changes will help ensure everyone who should self-isolate does, regardless of how they tested, and will reduce the strain on the health-system workforce as well as other key sectors as more workers report they have contracted COVID-19."

The changes include:

- requiring all people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate including those who completed a rapid antigen test;
- changing isolation requirements to five days from 10 days since the date of the test for fully vaccinated people who are not showing symptoms;
- changing isolation requirements to five days from 10 days since the date symptoms started appearing or the date of the test, whichever is later, for fully vaccinated people as long as their symptoms are improving and they do not have a fever;
- requiring individuals who have only isolated for five days due to the changes above to wear medical-grade mask while in a public setting for the five days immediately following their self-isolation; and
- requiring isolation for people who

have tested positive who are not fully vaccinated for 10 days after the date of their test as long as their symptoms are improving and they do not have a fever.

The public health orders will come into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022. Public health documents and online guidance for stakeholders and the public is being updated and will be finalized in the days ahead.

Public health officials also advise that people leaving isolation must avoid any non-essential visits to high-risk settings or non-essential contact with individuals at high risk for severe disease for an additional five days.

Consistent with previous orders, the order continues to include:

- requiring close contacts who are not exempt from self-isolation requirements to self-isolate for 10 days; and

- requiring people to provide information about locations where people have been in the previous 10 days for contact tracing purposes as required.

Public health officials also ask all household close contacts who are exempt from self-isolation to be particularly cautious while the case is isolating and avoid any non-essential visits to high-risk settings or non-essential contact with individuals at high risk for severe disease.

"We have looked at data from Manitoba and other jurisdictions, and feel these changes will balance reducing the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring critical services can continue to operate," said Dr. Brent Roussin, chief provincial public health officer.

"I ask all Manitobans to get immunized as soon as possible, including a third dose when eligible to reduce the number of close contacts they have, and to stay home as much as possible to reduce the risk of severe illness and reduce the spread of COVID-19."

Roussin also reminded Manitobans to follow the fundamentals, including wearing a well-fitting mask, washing their hands frequently and covering their cough.

For more information on COVID-19 in Manitoba, visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

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Home care expansion underway in IERHA with 49 new positions

By Patricia Barrett

The hiring of additional home care staff in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA) is already underway and is expected to help alleviate COVID-related pressures for acute care beds and may help prevent patients from being transferred to other health regions across the province.

The provincial government made patient transfers (for those who don't need acute care) mandatory last October in order to free up acute care bed space for people infected with COVID and for those needing emergency and surgical care. There is little capacity in the IERHA and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, necessitating transfers to the Southern, Northern and Prairie Mountain health regions.

The IERHA's chief executive officer Dr. David Matear made the home-care expansion announcement a few weeks ago.

"There's a significant amount of funding that has been identified to support increased in-home care services," said Matear during a virtual briefing with municipal leaders on Dec. 17. "We're putting that in place very, very quickly in order to be able to sustain seniors at home in their communities rather than having to look at alternatives."

RM of Grahamdale Reeve Craig Howse told Matear his municipality needs home care services to support seniors living in local manors [housing facilities] and at home, and to prevent people from being transferred out of the region should they require hospital care. A number of patients has been transferred to hospitals hundreds of kilometres away.

"I talked to a couple of residents and they were left with no alternative [except] to go to the [local] hospital once health-care aide hours were cut back in these manors. If we could increase those hours instead of cutting back that would bring back some seniors forced to relocate," said Howse during the briefing. "I talked to a couple of them personally and they said they could still live on their own with a health-care aide but those hours have been cut back. That's a concern. I know these people want to come home and be back in their community."

Greg Reid, the IERHA's regional lead of health services, community and continuing care, spoke with the *Express* after Christmas, saying the IERHA created 49 new home care positions.

"We did a detailed analysis of our home care resources. With some funding adjustments we received from the province and some funds already budgeted, we were able to put forward a proposal to our senior leadership team, which was approved within the region to expand our home care services pretty significantly," said Reid on Dec. 31. "Funding is coming from some vacancies that we had in home care."

The 49 positions — full-time, part-time and casual jobs — are already posted online, he said. There are a range of positions available, including nurses, social workers, health-care aides, occupational therapists, physical therapists and rehabilitation aides.

"We need everyone [but] we don't have enough funding to represent all our needs," said Reid,



PHOTO COURTESY OF IERHA

Greg Reid, the IERHA's regional lead of health services, community and continuing care, said the region can hire 49 new home care staff.

who is part of the IERHA management team and has expertise in home care, social services, mental health and crisis stabilization. "The greatest number of positions are for nurses and home care attendants [because] our needs are primarily in the area of nursing and HCAs [health-care aides]."

Because of the immense pressure on the health-care system from COVID, Reid said the IERHA has expedited the recruitment process and is in the midst of reviewing applicants and hiring.

The positions are being allocated to communities with the highest demand for home care services: Selkirk, Ashern, Eriksdale, Stonewall, Gimli, Beausejour, Oakbank and Pine Falls.

IERHA communities closest to Winnipeg — such as Selkirk and Stonewall — have higher populations than smaller centres and, therefore, the demand for home care is greater, said Reid. Other communities have a high proportion of aging seniors.

"Gimli is a community with an ageing population that is increasing. And we're seeing a trend now: folks who have a summer home in Gimli were only there during the summer but now during COVID they've decided to live there full-time and that has placed strain on the acute care facility in Gimli and on home care resources," said Reid.

In addition to pressure to free up acute care bed space, the IERHA is also trying to move transferred patients back home to their communities. To do that, it needs "robust" home care service, he said. Shoring up home care resources also falls in step with the provincial government's transformation of the health-care system and provides, according to research studies, a better quality of life to residents who, with the right supports, can live "safely" in their own communities.

"Some people think personal care homes should be a destination point for everyone. There will always be patients who need to go to a PCH, but the only people that should be going there are those who require 24-7 nursing care,"

said Reid. "And, unfortunately, because we haven't had the right mix of housing options and support options in our communities in Manitoba, sometimes people go to PCHs by default. Ideally, what we want to see in our system is more accessible housing options ... whether it's additional home care support or supportive housing where there is 24-7 supervision."

He stressed that supportive housing, assisted living and 55-plus facilities need to be accessible to low-income people. Some of the facilities out there right now are cost-prohibitive and "that's something that needs to change if we're going to maintain people in their communities."

The new home care positions will be filled as soon as they can, he said, and the staff oriented and deployed.

The IERHA actually needs more than 49 home care positions as this complement of new staff won't "get us to where we need to be," said Reid. Historically, Manitoba has had high numbers of patients (who don't need acute care) in acute care beds because there's "nowhere for them to go." When the government embarked on its health-care system transformation, home care was identified as one of the major areas in need of enhancement.

Reid said the IERHA's frontline staff are working flat out as COVID cases skyrocket and continue to exert pressure on the health-care system.

"I really feel for our frontline staff. Kudos, huge respect and thank you to those staff who are really doing the heavy lifting [in this pandemic]," he said. "We're all working long hours, but, ultimately, the folks on the frontline are feeling this more than anyone; they're seeing the tragic outcomes; they're wearing a mask for eight or 12 hours a day. Lots of them are also stepping up to take additional shifts and work overtime. If it's wearing on us, we can only imagine how it's affecting them."



Prairie Rose School Division
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

If your child was born in 2017, they are eligible to attend kindergarten beginning September, 2022.
 Parents and/or guardians are asked to contact one of the following schools:

École Carman Elementary School
 Cecile Affleck, Principal (204) 745-2623

Elm Creek School
 Leslie Howard, Interim Principal
 (204) 436-2354

Miami School
 Brandy Chevalier, Principal (204) 435-2441

Roland School
 Melissa Benner, Principal (204) 343-2023

St. François Xavier School
 Marc Tellier, Principal (204) 864-2868

École St. Eustache
 Lindsay Noël, Principal (204) 353-2869

St. Laurent School
 Crystal Millar-Courchene, Principal
 (204) 646-2209

Your child's birth certificate or Manitoba Health Card **MUST** be presented at the time of registration.
Registrations will be accepted between January 10 to 14, 2022.
Please contact the school by phone or email to make arrangements.

MP shares reflections on the new year

By Jennifer McFee

Now that 2022 has arrived, our local member of Parliament reflects on the past year while looking ahead at what's to come.

For Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan, his top priority will be to continue helping constituents and local businesses, which he considers to be his greatest role.

"COVID has continued to negatively impact our day-to-day lives, and I am proud of the hard work by my staff to ensure constituents get the assistance and answers they need," he said.

"Secondly, I am very grateful for being re-elected by the great people of Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman and returning to the House of Commons to be their voice."

Without a doubt, 2021 brought its challenges. For Bezan, one of these challenges included the recent federal election.

"It is frustrating to be stonewalled by red tape created by an unneces-

sary election when fighting for the best interests of constituents. This was clearly evident as we fought for the supports for our farmers and ranchers who were devastated by harsh drought conditions," Bezan said.

"It was difficult and heartbreaking to watch Prime Minister Trudeau have an expensive and unnecessary election while Canadians were dealing with increasing COVID-19 cases, Western Canadian farmers dealt with drought, British Columbia battled wildfires, and the world watched Afghanistan fall to the Taliban."

In these early days of 2022, the focus will remain on the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is imperative that all levels of government and individuals take the lessons learned to date and ensure that we are working together to protect the well-being of all Canadians and our health-care systems," Bezan said.

"This includes our health and men-

tal health, the opportunity for Canadian businesses to thrive and managing the overall economic recovery of the nation."

Looking ahead, Bezan shares some goals for the upcoming year.

"My goal for 2022 is to continue to provide support to constituents, especially those individuals and businesses hardest hit by pandemic lockdowns — as well as holding the Liberals to account both as your member of Parliament and in my new role on the Conservative House leadership team," he said.

"We are committed to being your voice and making sure that Justin Trudeau's inflation crisis does not continue to drive up the cost of living."

At the same time, Bezan shares words of encouragement as we start another year in the midst of the pandemic.

"I want to encourage everyone to continue to stay vigilant in our collective fight against COVID-19," he said.



MP James Bezan

"Also, a big thank you to all of our frontline health-care workers for their tenacity, perseverance and personal sacrifice to keep Manitobans as safe as possible during the pandemic."

Access Credit Union, Noventis Credit Union and Sunova Credit Union approves amalgamation agreement

Submitted

Back in September, the boards of directors for Access Credit Union, Noventis Credit Union and Sunova Credit Union announced that merger discussions were underway thanks to a shared vision and collective commitment to growth and sustainability between all three organizations.

After completion of the due diligence and a careful review of the business case for this proposed endeavour, the boards for all three organizations have signed an amalgamation agreement that formalizes the intentions to merge. Therefore, the three respective credit union memberships will have an opportunity to vote on the merger Jan. 25-27, 2022.

Leading up to the membership vote, members of all three credit unions will have the opportunity to continue asking questions, attend virtual member forums in early January and gather information.

"Throughout this process, we made a commitment to engage with our members and employees, to gather feedback and answer questions. The feedback from these groups is highly valuable and critical to this process,"

said Kevin Beresford, board chair for Sunova Credit Union.

From the beginning, the involved credit unions knew that aligning with like-minded partners was key to the potential mergers' success. With rich histories and values that are rooted in community and relationships, alongside a drive to ensure longevity, growth, and exceptional service experiences for members and communities, each of the credit unions are confident that this partnership offers tremendous benefit and opportunity for all.

Memberships of each credit union will benefit from potentially enhanced offerings, such as highly competitive rates and fees, streamlined account package options and a flexible patronage program designed to thank members with cash rewards for their loyalty. Members will also enjoy an expanded branch network within Winnipeg and rural Manitoba, an expanded virtual presence, enhanced online banking solutions, and investment in new technology.

"Our members make us who we are, and it is our goal to put their best interests at the forefront of the deci-

sions we make," shared Ingrid Loewen, board chair from Access Credit Union.

The current employees of all three credit unions are guaranteed a position within the merged credit union, will enjoy a competitive benefits package, and will have new opportunities for career development and advancement. This means that the familiar and smiling faces the members are used to seeing in their branches will still be there to continue offering exceptional service.

All three credit unions are passionate about our commitment to community, and that will continue to be prioritized by the new organization moving forward. This will include offering increased support for local businesses, strengthened community support and engagement, and broadened financial and volunteer support for local charities and organizations.

"Credit Unions are built on the foundation of community, and we are committed to continuing to build strong community in our expanded area," noted Paul Cuthbert, board chair of Noventis Credit Union.

The member vote is scheduled to

take place virtually from Jan. 25 to 27, 2022. If the members vote in favour, the newly merged credit union will begin to integrate their operations as Access Credit Union effective July 1, 2022.

Access Credit Union was incorporated in 2020 following a merger with Crosstown Civic Credit Union. The current assets exceed \$6 billion. The credit union serves 92,000 members through 26 service delivery offices spread across southern Manitoba and Winnipeg. Access is currently the second largest credit union in Manitoba.

Noventis was incorporated in 2010 following a series of mergers and currently serves 28,000 members with \$1.14 billion in assets across 12 branches through out the Interlake and west of Winnipeg. Noventis is the 10th largest credit union in Manitoba.

Sunova was incorporated in 1955 and has grown to serve 49,700 members with \$2.3 billion in assets across 14 branches located in Winnipeg, eastern Manitoba and southern Interlake region. Sunova is the fifth largest credit union in Manitoba.

Goodwin Lodge residents horsin' around with four-legged guest

Staff

There's nothing like a surprise visit from some animal friends to spark joy during the holidays.

In mid-December, Crystal Bergeron, recreation co-ordinator at Goodwin Lodge in Teulon, posted a note on a Facebook community page asking if anyone had horses they could ride to the personal care home and wave at the residents.

Veronique Vermette answered that she had a miniature horse she could bring over.

When she brought Spartan to see the residents for a visit before Christmas, they were thrilled to see the pony — and one even asked if he could stay.

The visit sparked tears of joy, cheers and many memories from days gone by.

Spartan also dropped by the 55-plus independent living building on Beach Road to spread some holiday cheer.



Spartan the pony checks out the entrance at Goodwin Lodge.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Veronique Vermette, left, Crystal Bergeron (Goodwin Lodge recreation co-ordinator) and Spartan the pony visited Goodwin Lodge residents before Christmas.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
letters@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Local Snowmobile Club receives \$62,500 grant

While I am happy for the South Interlake SnoRiders and the grant they were able to secure, I feel that it bears pointing out that South Interlake SnoRiders are not the only Snoman sanctioned club operating in the south Interlake.

Inwood Snowmobile Club grooms and maintains trails, which connect the communities of Oak Point, St. Laurent and Inwood and connects to the trails of South Interlake SnoRiders, Northern Lites Snowmobile Club and Club Snow.

Northern Lites Snowmobile club grooms and maintains the trails connecting the communities of Warren, Woodlands, Lake Francis, St. Laurent, Marquette, Headingley, St. Francois Xavier and Rosser and connecting to the trails of South Interlake SnoRiders, Cross Country Snow Drifters, Inwood Snowmobile Club and Club Snow.

While both of these clubs are

working hard to get their trails open, there are some additional considerations when crossing swamps, marshes and lakes. The safety of all snowmobilers is of utmost importance.

Also, it should be pointed out that the trails that all three of these clubs provide are SnoFund trails. That means that these trails are designed for snowmobiles and they are required to have a SnoPass or orange plate on their vehicle in order to use the trail system. This SnoPass money goes back to clubs to assist with grooming trails.

Both Northern Lites Snowmobile Club and Inwood Snowmobile Club can be found on Facebook. Please find them there for updates and opportunities to volunteer.

Sincerely

Norah Thibodeau

Northern Lites Snowmobile Club



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Birds of a feather flock together for Christmas bird count

Submitted by Jim Duncan, Balmoral

More people than ever joined forces to check up on birds in the area for the 59th annual Balmoral Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19, 2021.

Long before our bird count started, over 470 years ago, William Turner coined the phrase “Birds of a Feather Flock Together” to describe people acting in a similar way. When applied to the Christmas Bird Count, it transcends the metaphorical and applies to the actual birds themselves. So why count birds? The top reason is that people want to have fun with family and friends but also because birds need our help to survive habitat loss and climate change. Knowing how bird populations change over time provides a scientific foundation on which to conserve them. Here is one example of the data generated from the count.

The white-breasted nuthatch is a very charming small bird seen every year at feeders but in relatively small numbers compared to the ubiquitous black-capped chickadee.

The graph of its count data shows a non-significant positive trend — in other words, its population is stable over time in our area. What I find curious is the three large peaks in 1996, 2002 and 2020. I am not sure why they were doing well in those years (or why more showed up at feeders), but maybe you have an idea that can be tested. The good news is that, thanks to volunteer counters, the data is available to anyone who wants to try to answer these and other questions about birds



PHOTO BY BILL RIDEOUT
A white-breasted nuthatch.

here or elsewhere in North America.

You can learn more about the Christmas Bird Count or download the data here: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>

The 51 intrepid bird count volunteers included Charlene Berkvens; Tim Beyers; Pauline Bloom; Marty and Rachel Brown; Bev Bryce; Dave and Emmy Byle; Bob and Cindy Cameron; Susan Cosens; Lance Dejarlias; Jim and Patsy Duncan; Chris and Jen Fearn; Pat Jeffery; Anne Kroeker; Gary LaCoste; Bob and Terry Makowski; Kim and Tora Meyers; Carol and John Morgan; Alma and Ernie Neufeld;

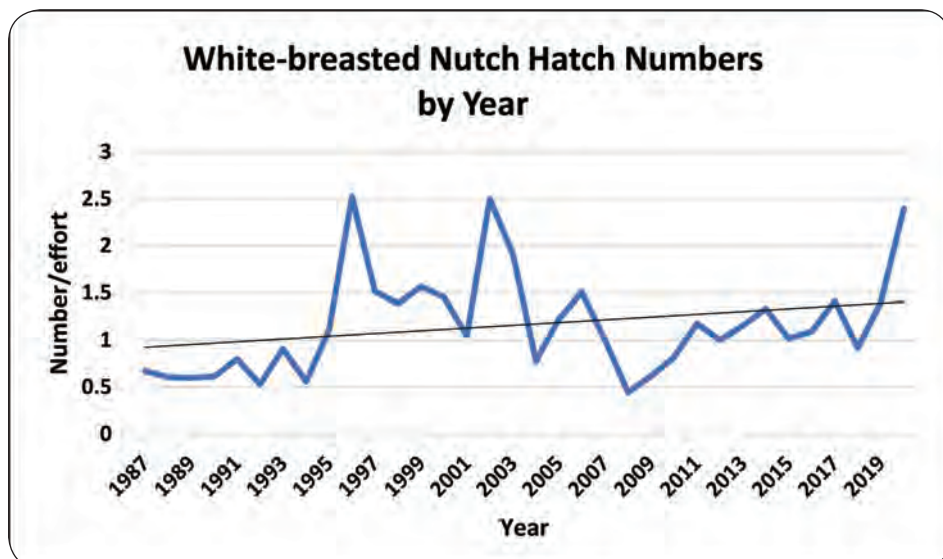


PHOTO SUBMITTED

White-breasted nutch hatch numbers have peaked in 1996, 2002 and 2020.

Doyle, Malachi, Quinn and Shawna Nugent; Gerry and Maureen Reckseidler; Andrew Robert; Gaylene Robertson; Jim and Johanna Rodger; Don Sexton; Merlin Shoesmith; Stuart Slattery; Helen Slavuta; Sharon Twilley; Ashlee and Tim Watts; Glen and Sherry Weaver; Allan Webb; Quentin and Theresa Wiebe; and Earl and Pat Winn.

A total of 2,129 birds of 27 species were counted including 675 common ravens, 431 snow buntings, 230 black-capped chickadees, 159 common redpolls, 154 house sparrows, 80 blue jays, 76 rock pigeons, 70 black-billed magpies, 49 white-breasted nuthatches, 42 pine grosbeaks, 33 sharp-tailed grouse, 26 hairy woodpeckers,

21 downy woodpeckers, 16 european starlings, 15 pine siskins, 13 gray partridge, 10 bald eagles, eight American crows, five red-breasted nuthatches, three cedar waxwings, three pileated woodpeckers, three ruffed grouse, three hoary redpolls, one dark-eyed junco, one American robin, one great horned owl and one snowy owl.

Please note that my wife Patsy and I welcome all winter sightings of great gray owls, barred owls and northern hawk owls, which we catch and band as part of our research on these owl species (<https://www.facebook.com/discoverowls.ca>). Please share your observations of these owls with us at owlfamily@mts.net or text or call 204-404-7063.

Interlake School Division shares hope for 2022

By Jennifer McFee

The past year has brought lessons in resilience and adaptability for the Interlake School Division — and hope remains high for the year ahead.

Margaret Ward, superintendent and CEO, looks back on some of the high points of the past year.

“I would say the biggest success in the 2021 calendar year was the combined, dedicated effort of our students, staff, families and communities, which allowed us to have students learn in the best place possible — in our classrooms,” she said.

“It wasn’t perfect, with a few interruptions to in-person learning and our high school students attending on alternate days. Through all of it, our staff made it the best that it could be. Our classrooms continued to be thriving spaces where our staff offered

high-quality learning experiences for students in literacy, numeracy and well-being.”

At the same time, the school community grappled with its share of challenges.

“I would say the biggest challenge in the 2021 calendar year has been the ever-changing community health landscape and our need to adjust with little notice. We saw gymnasiums and multi-purpose rooms turned into classrooms; we saw staff adjusting to accommodate classes split into two separate locations; we saw heightened cleaning measures in our schools and on our buses; we saw drive-up graduation ceremonies — and all of that took a lot of effort from our students and our staff,” Ward said.

“Through it all, the focus has been — and will continue to be — providing

opportunities for great teaching and learning in our spaces.”

This year, the local school division is coming to the end of its 2018-2022 Continuous Improvement Plan. Ward said they’re looking forward to transitioning to a new plan for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond.

“Each year we take time to reflect on our successes, acknowledge our challenges, and prepare for next steps as we strive to continually improve. We are happy to share the story of our growth and improvement on our website at www.interlakesd.ca under the Continuous Improvement Plan tab,” Ward said.

“We look forward to gathering input from our stakeholders regarding our next Continuous Improvement Plan and to sharing our plan at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.”

Ward also expressed her hopes for health in local schools and communities in the new year, as well as for the continuation of in-person learning.

“Over 3,000 students come to ISD schools every day and it is our goal to see them thrive during these very difficult times. The best place for students to learn is at school. The best place for teachers to teach is at school,” she said.

“We know that we cannot attain this goal without everyone doing their part, and we have proven to ourselves that we can make it happen with a lot of hard work made easier when we each do our small part. We are truly thankful for the team effort that is on full display in our schools and we are extremely proud of our students and staff. We look forward to continuing to learn together in 2022.”

Eichler optimistic about 2022

By Jennifer McFee

Even in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, it's been another eventful year for provincial initiatives.

Ralph Eichler, minister of agriculture and resource development, has been cultivating positive relationships through a multitude of projects in his constituency and throughout the province.

The Lakeside MLA is taking strides towards a goal of making Manitoba known as the choice supplier for both plant and animal proteins.

On the plant protein side, Roquette launched a pea processing plant in Portage la Prairie this year with its grand opening in November.

"Originally, their plan was to invest \$400 million, and then they decided to spend \$200 million more to increase capacity because their sales were better than they thought," Eichler said.

"That was really exciting news for our farmers and for people wanting to have good-paying jobs as well."

In addition, Merit Functional Foods opened up a facility in CentrePort earlier this year to produce pea and canola protein.

"They're in production," Eichler said. "They're looking at another phase in 2022 that will probably start operating by 2023."

Another plant protein company called NutriPea in Portage la Prairie is looking at ideas for future growth.

On the animal protein side, Maple Leaf Foods has geared up to produce more bacon.

"We invested with Maple Leaf in a four-package bacon wrap machine for large retailers that wanted to sell items in bulk," Eichler said.

During a tour, Eichler noticed they were trimming off bacon to ensure it was the right weight for the packages. He asked what they did with the excess and learned the company sent it to the States, where it's made into bacon bits.

Eichler suggested they use it local-

ly instead of selling it off as a waste product.

"Now they're adding a bacon-ham centre of excellence in St. Boniface and it's going to create over 100 new jobs. That is fantastic," Eichler said.

"So they're making bacon bits here and processing hams here. They're also smoking their own pre-cooked bacon. They'll be up and operating with the expansion probably by summer 2022. Things like this are important to our economy."

Switching gears, Eichler also acknowledged the impact of the summer drought on livestock producers, particularly in the Interlake. The Livestock Feed and Transportation Drought Assistance Program helps cover feed and feed transportation expenses. The Livestock Transportation program also helps producers to transport livestock to other locations to feed up to 1,000 kilometres away.

"The drought was really hard on them. We developed a program in record time in about two months," he said.

"That's really helped the farmers a lot. I'm happy we're able to do that in partnership with the Manitoba Beef Producers and Keystone Ag Producers."

In addition, the Canada-Manitoba AgriRecovery Drought Assistance framework helps livestock producers who were forced to sell breeding stock due to feed shortages in 2021. The goal is to help them rebuild their herds in 2022.

"Those producers that had to sell more than 10 head off because of the drought, we're going to help them replace those cows so they get back to where they were prior to the drought. We're offering them \$250 for a replacement cow to go back into the herd, with the same for elk and bison," Eichler said.

"Sheep and goats are \$50 for replacement breeding stock through this 13-month program, which runs

until December 2022."

At the same time, the drought increased the focus on water management, he added.

"We partnered up and put some money into a trust for conservation with Interlake Community Foundation board," Eichler said.

"We also set some up with the Winnipeg Foundation for all of Manitoba with these watershed districts and conservation districts so we can manage our water better for the province as a whole. It's not just regional; water really knows no boundaries."

There's now an increased interest in how to conserve, save and replenish our water, Eichler said.

"The best thing you can do — not only for humans but for our livestock as well — is to make sure they have good clean drinking water. This will give us an opportunity to think outside the box a bit about how we salvage some of that water. It's going to be a work in progress to make plans about long-term sustainability, and that's exactly why we set up the trust."

In 2022, Manitoba will also finalize the new federal-provincial agreements for ag stability and ag recovery, he noted.

"It come into effect in 2023. We've been meeting as ministers across the country and we'll have another meeting in Saskatoon

in July to finalize those new programs. We continue to reach out, consult and to seek advice from our ag partners to make sure we get the right products for them to be able to manage their income levels so that they're sustainable as well," Eichler said.

"We do this ev-



Lakeside MLA Ralph Eichler

ery five years so I was lucky enough to do it in 2016 when I first was the minister. Now I'm negotiating our second one in partnership with the rest of Canada and the federal government. I'm pretty excited about that as well."

Additionally, the province has made great steps forward with its mining and forestry sectors, he added.

"I'm optimistic about 2022. I'm really looking forward to getting a new crop in the ground and trying to maintain affordable food — not only for Manitobans but for the world," Eichler said.

"We are an export province and an export country, with many people relying on our abundance of agricultural products. I think that we're positioned well going forward."



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Attn: Landowners

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 East Interlake Watershed District

For more information, call or visit us online: **1.204.642.7578**
eastinterlake.ca

RCMP anticipates more scams in 2022

By Jennifer McFee

As we bid adieu to 2021, the local RCMP detachment reflects on the year gone by and looks ahead to what's to come in 2022.

Like most other professions, the RCMP have felt the impacts of the ongoing pandemic.

"We've had our challenges like every profession and every household and probably every person in the world. We're not immune to what goes on. We've had to deal with employees having to stay home because they've got a cold or flu or their kid has or it affected their daycare. It's a challenge," said Staff Sgt. Sean Grunewald of the Stonewall-Headingley detachment.

"On top of that, we have to be out there enforcing rules and trying to maintain that balance of enforcement and education as well. It's been a very challenging couple of years, that's for sure."

During 2021, property crimes and traffic incidents remained down, likely due to people being at home more often.

"This summer, we could see that numbers were rising but not really to pre-pandemic levels. That's because people were starting to be out and

about again. The more people are out and about, you're going to see a bit more crime at times," he said.

"Our numbers during the full-blown lockdown were lower, and then as people were moving about, the numbers started to go up to where they were before. It's hard to judge where things are until we get some normality again."

At the end of the year, the RCMP had another meeting about closing the Teulon office, Grunewald noted.

"It will pretty much be closed by the new year," he said, "so all those officers and support staff will be working out of the Stonewall office."

Grunewald also stresses the importance of being aware of the ever-increasing amount of scams happening.

"It is terrible. We are getting reports, especially in our elderly people who are losing money. I can't say it enough — if it's too good to be true, it's too good to be true," he said.

"The police never, ever, ever request money over the phone or money in gift cards or anything like that. If you have any doubt in who you're talking to, tell them you'll call them back and call the local RCMP detachment."

The local detachment is receiving

multiple calls each day from people who are being targeted by scammers, he said.

"Unfortunately, if you give them money, there's very little the police can do because most of these things originate off-shore and it becomes something that's almost impossible to investigate," Grunewald said.

"Everyone, please be mindful of this. If you have vulnerable family members, especially older ones, explain this to them. It's not hard to find out information, so they will know some information that will make you believe that it is legit."

Going forward, Grunewald anticipates that more scams will continue to surface.

"As the world opens up again, I think we're going to see more and more of that. It's tough because these things don't originate locally. Both offices are inundated with calls from people all day long, which is good. We want people to call us first and we'll tell them it's a scam. But there are several instances where people have lost a lot of money, which is really sad," he said.

"There have been too many incidents lately of people losing money and it's sad, especially this time of



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Sean Grunewald of the Stonewall-Headingley detachment.

year. Everyone needs to be careful, especially vulnerable people. If it seems off, it's off."

To contact the Stonewall RCMP detachment, call 204-467-5015. To report a fraud to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, call 1-888-495-8501.

Stony Mountain students celebrating the outdoors



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY BILL OLSON

Stony Mountain School held an outdoor Olympics event on Dec. 20. Students participated in ice skating, shinny hockey, cross-country skiing, ice-cream making, marshmallow roasting, orienteering and a variety of Christmas-themed arts and crafts. Pictured left to right: Michelle, Jordyn and Brooklyn, and roasting marshmallows.

IERHA hosts elected leaders briefing ahead of holidays

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Interlake Regional Health Authority held a meeting on Dec. 21 to update leaders in our communities about the strain that the COVID-19 pandemic has put on our regional health-care system, which doesn't have enough nurses to keep up.

David Matear, CEO of the IERHA, hosted the meeting and began by discussing the situation in Ontario, which at that point hadn't yet been mirrored in Manitoba.

"Research by public health Ontario, which was published last on Friday of last week, indicates the number of COVID-19 samples which were screening positive for the omicron variant increased from less than one per cent in November to 53 per cent for specimens collected on Dec. 13," he said.

He indicated that high transmissibility doesn't necessarily mean greater severity of illness. At this time, we can't state whether or not omicron makes people more or less ill, but its impact is in the number of people that will become infected.

Matear was correct about that as the number of confirmed cases on COVID-19 over the holiday season smashed through daily records multiple times.

"Because we know a percentage of those people will become ill, and a percentage of them will become seriously ill and then require medical assistance, the greater the number of infections, essentially the more people that will require hospital care," said Matear.

He said that they have seen a significant increase in the number of people seeking vaccination appointments, including booster shots, which has prompted the provincial government to increase the number of appointments available.

"Regionally, we're increasing the number of hours we are open at our supersite in Selkirk. We're also offering pop-up clinics and we have held after-hours clinics at some of the schools in order to provide vaccinations for some of the students. Across the system, resources are being shifted to support vaccination. Public health officials will no longer be notifying close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases. People who test positive are, therefore, being asked to notify their contacts. Health-care resources are limited. Throughout the pandemic, our response to COVID-19 has required us to shift resources to where they will have the greatest impact in reducing the impact of illness on the health system. Right now, that means

getting more vaccines into people's arms," said Matear.

He then turned the conversation to the nursing shortage that had already reduced the number of beds open in our region's hospitals.

Nursing shortages such as those in our region can be dealt with short-term; however, for parts of the system with shortages above the 10 per cent threshold compensated by having nurses work extra shifts isn't sustainable.

"We further suspended an additional 11 beds where vacancies currently exceed 20 per cent. Staffing shortages have seen us temporarily remove 32 beds from our base of 225 hospital beds across the region, and that's to maintain safe care, preserve staff resilience, and try to keep our emergency departments open," said Matear.

He also said that the nursing shortage is not related to the vaccine mandate for staff.

Powerview-Pine Falls vacancies, as of the meeting, were at 36 per cent and would climb to 57 per cent in January if more nurses cannot be recruited.

"In Stonewall, we have successfully recruited agency nursing to address some of the vacancies, but they're still experiencing a 17 per cent vacancy rate in nursing staff. We're electing at this point to keep the beds suspended until we can further fill those vacancies," he said.

In Ashern, due to a combination of nursing shortages and the holiday season, emergency room services were suspended from Dec. 23 to 24 and services were moved to Eriksdale for that time.

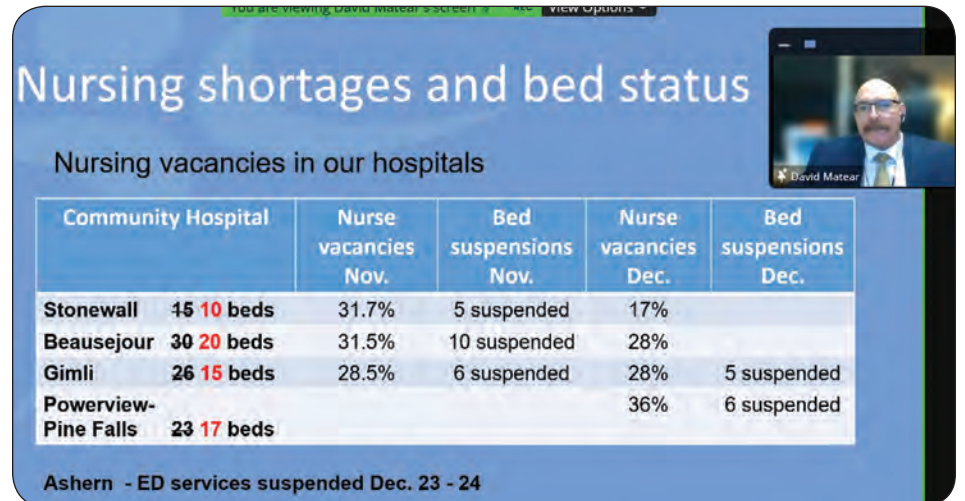
"Recognizing our bed base is reduced as a result of nursing vacancies, it's even more important to ensure that the people in our hospital beds require the level of care we deliver in a hospital. We can continue to consider all inpatients as potential candidates for transfer to sites offering more appropriately if that care does not exist within a region," said Matear.

As of Dec. 20, 29 patients were transferred to health-care teams elsewhere in the system.

He said that shouldn't stop people from seeking medical attention when needed since it's been noted by emergency physicians that as case counts rise, more people end up in the emergency room from things that could have been prevented if treated earlier.

"It's essential that people seek care from their primary care providers in a timely manner and that they don't postpone routine medical care at this time," said Matear.

He highlighted to our leaders that



TRIBUNE SCREENSHOT

Slide from IERHA CEO David Matear's Dec. 21 presentation showing the reduced number of hospital beds in the region.

they should remind their constituents to follow public health guidelines, which are designed to protect from the transmission of the illness, particularly those regarding private indoor gathering limits, which are:

- Households are limited to five additional people plus the household when any unvaccinated person (who is eligible to be vaccinated, excluding youth under 12) is present on the property (even if the unvaccinated person lives at that location).

- Households are limited to 10 additional people plus the household when all who are present are fully vaccinated (youth aged under 12 and under are exempt from needing to be fully vaccinated).

More information, including information about pop-up sites and emergency department schedules, can be found on the IERHA's website at <https://www.ierha.ca/home.aspx>.

Attn: Landowners

Who is the EIWD? In 2005, the local governments within the East Interlake partnered with the Province of Manitoba to deliver land and water conservation projects on a watershed basis.

What type of projects does EIWD do?

- Well sealing
- Wetland enhancement
- Water retention
- Buffer strips
- Exclusion fencing
- Shelterbelts
- Riparian enhancement
- Upland enhancement
- Conservation contracts
- Protection payments
- Soil enhancement
- And more!

STEPS TO COMPLETE A PROJECT

- 1 DISCUSS**
EIWD and Landowner to discuss project design and partnership.
- 2 DEVELOP**
EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to develop project design and Enhancement Protection application/bid.
- 3 APPLY**
Project design and application/bid submitted for evaluation by Watershed Sub-District/GROW committee.
- 4 APPROVAL**
Project Approved or Denied.
- 5 IMPLEMENT**
EIWD staff will work with landowner and partners to complete project as designed.
- 6 EVALUATE**
Completed/ongoing projects will be inspected and evaluated regularly by project team with reports submitted to Watershed Executive Board.
- 7 REVIEW**
Executive Directors will review project reports and may make recommendations on project design and delivery. Directors will finalize annual reports then deliver results to project partners.

Manitoba GROW Growing Outcomes in Watersheds

THE CONSERVATION & GROW TRUSTS
Manitoba Climate and Green Plan Initiatives delivered by The Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation

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Fingers crossed in Stonewall for celebrations in 2022

By Jennifer McFee

Like other Manitoban communities, Stonewall started 2021 with restrictions and ended the year the same way.

Nonetheless, the community found ways to forge forward and continue working on important projects.

Mayor Clive Hinds reflects on early 2021 when pandemic-related rules led to the closure of many town facilities, including the arena. These facilities remained closed until the beginning of spring.

"We came through the opening part of the year with closures. That continued into March," Hinds said.

"Unfortunately, for my term as a mayor, it's been one year of good development growth. Then from 2020 until now, it's been on-again-off-again and we don't know which way to start."

Throughout 2021, many major topics arose for discussion among councillors and members of the public.

One such topic was the proposed hotel and aquatic centre by Steel Creek Developers. Council presented the idea to the public in August as part of a redevelopment vision for the sports complex and requested community feedback on the potential addition of an aquatic centre over the next three years. Many community members opposed the idea of the aquatic centre, so the town moved away from that aspect. Now they're only considering the hotel going forward.

The town plans to sell the developer a piece of land behind the RCMP station. Hinds said this location wouldn't interfere with green space or the soccer fields, which was another concern of residents.

"We've done first reading on selling off the land to the hotel group. We're about to give it second and third reading, but we want to bring the residents forward to have them participate in that discussion," he said.

"The hotel is not our development. It's a development company that's coming in and building it, and all we have to do is sell them the land. We don't see that being any type of problem going forward."

At the same time, the town has purchased land in a collaborative effort to build a continuing care retirement community in Stonewall, with involvement from five other communities.

"We are making grounds on that one," Hinds said. "Hopefully, in 2022 we will also see major movements towards that. That would be a huge feather in our cap."

In addition, Stonewall and Rockwood continue to work together on the annexation process. The proposed annexation includes sections of land on the west and south boundaries of the Town of Stonewall.

"We had sent it off to the Municipal Board after an amicable set of meetings with the RM of Rockwood. They, in turn, sent it off to the minister. It is now back in the Municipal Board's hands and we have a meeting in February to have further discussion on the path of annexation," Hinds said.

"There were a little bit of concerns but nothing that we can't find solutions to."

Hinds outlined several other accomplishments that were highlights in 2021.

"We were able to acquire the dark fibre into the town, something that we

have been working on with the internet provider RF Now, supplying 300 up and 300 down of internet speed. We have had some positive reactions from the Industrial Park that are ecstatic with the service. The town is presently installing the service into all the town's facilities," he said.

"Also, through the federal infrastructure green program, we were successful in acquiring the funding towards four Level 2 electric charging stations for electric vehicles. These are operational at present."

Depending on what happens with the pandemic, and particularly with the omicron variant, Hinds looks forward to celebrating more successes in the new year.

"If all goes well and we can find a way to move the needle, then 2022 will certainly be a year for us to celebrate some of the accomplishments that we've been working so hard towards for the past three years," he said.

Coming up in February, the Stonewall-Rockwood Climate + Sport Initiative Event is scheduled to take over Kinsmen Lake for a three-on-three pond hockey tournament. The initiative, featuring Hailey Wickenheiser, aims to draw attention to the impacts of climate change.

Then the Jets Town Takeover event is scheduled for April, after being postponed due to the pandemic last year.

"All those things are back on the table and are full-board going forward."



Stonewall Mayor Clive Hinds

So if any disruption comes into play, then again we're starting off the year on a dismal note," Hinds said.

"But we're keeping that optimism going forward. We can't turn our heads down and look down in the sand. We're always looking to the future for better ways to bring the community together and bring exciting things to the community."

Now that the new year has arrived, Hinds also extends his well wishes to the community.

"On behalf of Stonewall's council, we wish our residents an exciting 2022 — one filled with possibilities, good health and happiness."

Lions support readers



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Stonewall & District Lions Club donated \$500 to the South Interlake Regional Library to assist with book processing supplies. Pictured left to right: Stonewall Lions Club president Len Kolenich, South Interlake Regional Library director Raquel Dumas and Stonewall Lions Club treasurer Mel Harrison.



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churchillscience.ca/event/winter-skies-2



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frontiersnorth.com/adventures/winter/northern-lights-and-winter-nights



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Nanuk Operations

This six-day tour includes winter activities like snowshoeing and dogsledding during the day and photographing the aurora from a modern yurt in the boreal forest at night.

nightsunderlights.com/tours-and-prices

Be safe in Churchill

To ensure the safety of visitors and residents in Churchill, please note:



- It is required that all guests and staff be fully immunized for at least two weeks prior to their scheduled departure.
- Each individual business has a complete list of their COVID-19 policies for reference.

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NOTE: While Travel Manitoba strongly recommends that all tourism businesses adhere to the operating protocols and capacity restrictions allowed by the Manitoba government, we cannot guarantee the compliance of any business featured in our content. While information is accurate at the time of writing, please contact businesses directly for operating hours and policies and availability of packages and tours. Throughout the province, please continue to practise safe physical distancing and adhere to all recommended guidelines.

Activities for Seniors in Your Area



JANUARY Calendar of Events!
Activity Centre • 374 – 1st Street West
For newsletters,
visit www.si55plus.org

We appreciate when you pre-register with the office for your programs to ensure we will have space for you! Proof of vaccination and photo ID are required for in person programming, along with proper mask use! For updated information on how and which programs are being delivered, visit our website, or contact the office.

Clip & Save

January 2022:

January 6: Ukulele Club 7:30pm (@ Something Beautiful)
 January 7: Quilter's Corner 11:00-3:00 (In Person)
 January 12: Stitch N Craft/Men's Chat 10:30am (In Person)
 January 12: Cards/Games 1:00pm (In Person)
 January 13: Virtual Chat 3:00pm (Zoom)
 January 19: Stitch N Craft/Men's Chat 10:30am (In Person)
 January 19: Cards/Games 1:00pm (In Person)
 January 20: Cabin Fever Reliever 3:00pm (Zoom)

January 20: Presentation: Digestive Issues 1:00pm
 (In Person/ Zoom)

January 20: Ukulele Club 7:30pm (@ Something Beautiful)

January 21: Quilter's Corner 11:00-3:00 (In Person)

January 26: Stitch N Craft/Men's Chat 10:30am (In Person)

January 26: Cards/Games 1:00pm (In Person)

January 27: Virtual Chat 3:00pm (Zoom)

February 2: Stitch N Craft/Men's Chat 10:30am (In Person)

February 2: Cards/Games 1:00pm (In Person)

ACTIVE WELLNESS WINTER SESSION

Winter session begins January 10th

Check out the class schedule on our website: www.si55plus.org



For more information call us at
 204-467-2582 or email
si55plus@mymts.net

VIRTUAL COFFEE AND A CHAT

Join us on Zoom to connect with members of the community as we check in on each other for an hour-long chat.

Offered every 2nd and 4th Thursday
 at 3:00 pm

Next Chats:
 January 13, 2022
 January 27, 2022



HOP, DROP AND SHOP

Operated by Stonewall and Area Mobility Service

February 7 – Manic Monday at Family Foods (Stonewall)

• Stonewall pickups from: Lions Manor, Crocus Manor and Stonewood Place. 11:00 AM

Price is \$5.00 round trip. (Interac Tap is available)
 Stops include Family Foods, Red River Coop, Center & Main (for banking) and Westside Plaza.

Call (204) 467-9446
 to reserve your seat!

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

We are excited to offer our community products like Boost 1.5, Glucerna and more by the case to fit your needs! For an updated list with price information, please visit our website, or call the office for more information.

Order deadline is January 20th, 4:00pm
 (Orders placed after deadline cannot be guaranteed to be ready for pickup day)

Pickup Date: January 28th from 2-4pm
 374 1st Street West, Stonewall



Become a Member of South Interlake 55 Plus today!
Membership is Only \$20.00 Annually!

Memberships Can Now Be Completed On-line! Check out our Website at www.si55plus.org to fill out a Membership form for a New Membership or to Renew.

• You do not have to be 55 + to become a member! Associate members enjoy all of the benefits of membership, with the exception of holding a position on the Board of Directors, and voting at the AGM.

• The South Interlake 55 Plus is now able to offer E-Transfer as an alternate payment method! Payment for memberships, programs and donations can now be cashless.

For more information, call (204)-467-2582

For more information call 204-467-2582

South Interlake Seniors Resource-Stonewall
144-622 Centre Avenue-Lions Manor, Entrance 4.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SENIORS

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- Home Hair Care Service
- Resource information/Form Assistance

Our office is located in the Stonewall Lions Manor
 at 622 Centre Avenue, Entrance 4.

204-467-2719 www.sisrc.ca

We are in search of a Volunteer Driver for the Meals on Wheels Program, in Stonewall

Meals on Wheels is a program designed primarily for the older temporarily disabled, disabled or ill persons who are able to live alone safely with the minimum of outside assistance.

The program runs five days a week, takes about 45 minutes to deliver meals between 4:15 and 5:00 pm.

Please call our office @ 204-467-2719 for more information regarding this unique volunteer opportunity.

The South Interlake Seniors Resource Council offers services for seniors and those with disabilities to help them to remain independent and safe in their homes and communities. With the help of volunteers and our fee for service workers, we provide these services to the town of Stonewall, the RM's of Rosser, Woodlands and the southern portion of Rockwood.

For more information call 204-467-2719

St. Laurent Seniors Resource Council Inc.

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51 Parish Lane, 204-646-2504 ext.4

Seniors Resource Coordinator, Darlene McKay

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 - (E.R.I.K.) Emergency Response Information Kit
 - Victoria Lifeline
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 - Resource Information • Transportation
 - Fundraising Activities Throughout the Year.
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- COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
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- MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANS

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: 8:30AM-4:30PM

Ice Time™ app keeps anglers safe from space

By Iris Dyck

Every time Trevor Kristjanson steps onto the ice, he knows it comes with a risk.

"The beginning of winter and end of winter certainly feel a little treacherous," the fifth-generation commercial fisherman said. "You always have to kind of keep your wits about you when you're on the ice."

Kristjanson's family has been fishing out of Gimli for the past 130 years. He has a good feel for the ice — he can tell when it's been cold enough for Lake Winnipeg to freeze over, and he knows what weak spots and cracks look like.

Still, it's impossible to know for sure if he's heading into danger.

"The main thing that freaks people out, and should, is going through the ice," he said.

On Nov. 1, NextGen Environmental Research Inc. (NGE) released their app Ice Time™ to help decrease that risk. The app gives up-to-date ice conditions for lakes in Manitoba, Ontario and Minnesota. Subscribers can see satellite maps marked to show ice thickness, condition and hazards on their smartphone or computer.

It's a project NGE founder and president Dr. Paul Cooley has been working on for over a decade. An avid angler with a long career in environmental research, Cooley knew it was possible to track lake ice with satellite data. He just didn't know how to efficiently get the information to people who needed it.

"The science was there, but technology and making it available to people was not," he said.

Cooley sat on his idea for years before putting in a proposal to the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) in 2017. Cooley wanted to do a study to test the accuracy of radar satellite images of lake ice.

"They came back and said, 'We really like this.' And you know what? Within five months it was

funded," he said.

Cooley and his colleagues at NGE spent two winters studying the ice in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. They flew drones to survey the ice and compared the images to radar satellite data taken at the same time. They found they could get very accurate and detailed information about the ice from the satellites.

"What this tool allows us to do is see the bird's eye view, what's going on with the ice," said Cooley.

Radar satellites circle and map the earth regularly and can take images regardless of snow or cloud cover. The satellites send out a wave, much like how a sonar system in a boat sends out a "ping," and then maps the area based on how and when the wave returns.

"These are really reliable satellites that give you all-weather data for what we're doing, day or night, rain or shine," said Cooley.

Ice Time™ uses data from Canadian and international satellites to update its maps as often as possible. Recently, Ice Time™ got data from satellite to app in just 19 hours — a new record.

"We're really proud of what we've done in a really short time," he said.

Cooley felt there was a lack of information around how to travel safely on lake ice. He hopes the Ice Time™ app fills that gap and can help people become more aware of ice safety.

"You can actually see open water in the offshore zone of the lake from the comfort of home without even having to go out and test it," he said, "and that's how I think Ice Time™ will save the most lives."

Ice Time™ hopes to expand their service to more lakes soon. The app's website has an option for users to vote on which area to serve next.

More information about Ice Time™ can be found at icetime.app.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY DR. PAUL COOLEY
NextGen Environmental Research Inc. studied lake ice on Lake Winnipeg for two years before developing the IceTime™ app.



Dr. Paul Cooley launches a drone to study the ice on Lake Winnipeg. Images from the drone were checked against satellite data to determine ice conditions.

Manitoba students shift to remote learning to begin the year

Submitted by Manitoba government

WINNIPEG — Manitoba students in K-12 will be learning at home to begin the new year as the province tries to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Students were to return to the classroom on January 10 — an already delayed start following the holiday break — but will now be learning online until at least January 17.

Effective January 10, a phased-in approach will be applied to allow students of critical service workers in kindergarten to Grade 6 and all high-risk students and students with special learning needs in kindergarten to Grade 12 to attend school if no alternate care is available.

"Today we are announcing a slight

adjustment for the return to classes to give schools additional time to implement enhanced protocols to ensure in-person learning for all students can continue under our pandemic plans and to give public health more time to learn about the omicron variant's effects in Manitoba," said Premier Heather Stefanson. "We know our children learn best in a classroom setting and it is our goal to ensure they can return to the classroom as quickly as possible."

The Manitoba Teachers' Society had been calling for a move to remote learning and for schools to be placed into "code red."

Child-care facilities that offer 12 months of service, including centres

in schools, will remain open and are strongly encouraged to prioritize children of critical service workers. School-age child-care facilities that operate based on the school calendar and do not provide service during school breaks will offer services to children of critical service workers requiring before- and after-school care.

Licensed centres and child-care homes will be able to apply for additional funding support to offset the loss of parent fees beginning January 10. Details on how to apply will be provided directly to facilities.

More rapid tests, masks for schools
The province will be distributing 500,000 rapid tests to all schools for students from kindergarten to Grade

6 and planning to expand access to rapid tests for all Manitobans as the rapid testing kit supply increases in Manitoba, particularly for schools with high case counts of COVID-19.

School staff will also be required to wear medical masks during this high transmission period and students will be allowed to wear a well-fitting mask with at least three layers. Manitoba will be distributing at least five million more child and adult medical masks over the next eight weeks to increase supply in schools and support increased demand.

Manitoba reported 1,757 new cases of the virus on Tuesday, which is an understated number due to testing backlogs.

What's *Your* story?

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

We want to hear from you.
The Stonewall Teulon Tribune connects people through stories to build stronger communities.

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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Gunnlaugson victorious at DEKALB Superspiel

By Ty Di Lello

After a two-year break due to COVID-19, the DEKALB Superspiel at the Morris Curling Club took place this past weekend. The DEKALB Superspiel is the top Manitoba event on the World Curling Tour calendar this year, with 24 men's and 16 women's teams (40 total) from all over Canada, the United States and Switzerland competing for the big cash prizes.

On Monday night, a local rink skipped by Jason Gunnlaugson of the Morris Curling Club and his team of Matt Wozniak and Connor Njegovan (third Adam Casey was absent all weekend) won the men's final by defeating Alberta's Karsten Sturmay 5-3.

Sturmay opened the game with a score of one in the first end, while Gunnlaugson would answer back with a single in the second end to tie the game. Sturmay took another single in the third end before Gunnlaugson broke through for the first deuce of the game in the fourth end to take a

3-2 lead at the halfway point.

Sturmay blanked the fifth end and narrowly missed a board weight hit for a five-spot in the sixth end to give Gunnlaugson a vital steal to lead 4-2.

In the seventh end, Sturmay battled hard for some points but was only able to muster a single. Gunnlaugson had an open hit with his final rock in the eighth end to win the game 5-3 and take home \$11,000 for winning the event. Sturmay picked up \$6,000 for losing the final.

"Thank you to my teammates. We played most of this event with three players. It's unbelievable how much work it is; they just made it easy for me," said Jason Gunnlaugson. "This is always one of our favourite events of the year to play in with all of the hard work that the organizers and volunteers do to put it on. So we're happy to add our name to the trophy!"

Colton Lott and his Winnipeg Beach rink of Tanner Lott, Kyle Doering and

Emerson Klimpke were the other Manitoba men's rink that had a strong showing on the weekend. Team Lott reached the quarterfinals after qualifying through the A-Side. However, they ultimately fell to the Tanner Horgan squad from Ontario in the quarterfinals.

"It was a great weekend for us with a new lineup," said Team Lott's second Kyle Doering. "Obviously, losing where we did in the quarterfinals was tough, but we gave ourselves lots to build on as we head to the men's provincials at the end of January."

Former Scotties Tournament of Hearts champion Amber Holland from Saskatchewan took home the women's event by defeating Kayla MacMillan from British Columbia 6-4 in the championship final.

A back-and-forth affair to start, the game was tied at three heading into the sixth end. In that end, Holland took two points with the hammer to

open up a 5-3 lead. She would extend that lead in the seventh end by stealing a point.

Coming home, MacMillan needed a score of three to tie the game and force an extra end. However, they had a shot for three, albeit a difficult one on MacMillan's last rock. The thin double-takeout failed to curl up enough, and they only mustered to score a single point to hand Holland the 6-4 win.

Holland took home the first-place cheque for \$7,800, while MacMillan earned \$4,300 for coming in second place.

Notable Manitoba rinks that competed were Beth Peterson and Darcy Robertson from Winnipeg's Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club. They both earned \$1,800 for reaching the quarterfinals. Altona's Mackenzie Zacharias also competed but had a disappointing event missing out on the playoffs with a 2-3 record.

Canada's Olympic mixed doubles curling trials cancelled

Staff

Canada's Olympic mixed doubles curling trials were cancelled late last month due to a rise in athletes testing positive for the COVID-19 virus.

The rate of positive tests — along with the risks associated with travelling caused the cancellation — Curling Canada said in a statement on Dec. 26.

The 16-rink trials to determine Canada's mixed doubles team for the Winter Olympics in Beijing were

scheduled to begin on Dec. 27.

"The increasing numbers of trials-bound athletes testing positive for COVID-19, along with the rise in cases across Canada, made it impossible to stage the event in a safe, responsible manner for athletes, staff and volunteers," Curling Canada said in a statement.

"Unlike the Calgary bubble, which had months of preparation time and allowed athletes to self-isolate at home, and get tests done prior to their

departure for the events, the dramatic rise in positive cases related to the sudden emergence of the Omicron variant across Canada in the past week made those safety precautions impossible to carry out."

The organization's high-performance staff will consult with the Canadian Olympic Committee and Own The Podium on how to nominate a mixed doubles team for China. Curling Canada had earlier said the trials would go ahead with specta-

tors capped at 50 per cent capacity in Stride Place and with athletes' movements limited to their hotel room, the arena, and transportation to the venue.

Canada is the defending Olympic champion in mixed doubles, which made its debut in 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

John Morris and Kaitlyn Lawes won the first gold medal.

Jets have a tough challenge to make the playoffs

By Brian Bowman

The Stonewall Jets don't have much time to turn their season around.

Stonewall headed into the holiday break with a 7-16-2 record and had just 16 points to sit in eighth place in the 10-team Manitoba Major Junior

Hockey League standings.

The Jets are currently on a four-game losing streak and are 2-7-1 in their last 10 games. Stonewall has to start winning hockey games or they'll disappointingly miss the playoffs.

A big problem for Stonewall this season is keeping the puck out of their own net. The Jets have allowed 113 goals which ties them with the River East Royal Knights for the second-most allowed this season. Only the Charleswood Hawks have given

up more goals (117).

Stonewall will get a crack at the Hawks this Friday (7:30 p.m.) in Winnipeg. The Jets will then play the Pembina Valley Twisters on Sunday (7 p.m.) in Morris.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Einarson to play baseball in Moose Jaw this summer

By Brian Bowman

Kalli Einarson expects to be really busy this summer.

The Interlake product recently committed to play baseball for the Moose Jaw Miller Express of the Western Canadian Baseball League this summer.

"My coach (at the University of Calgary) and myself made the decision to find a nice college team for the summer," said Einarson on Sunday evening. "I first looked at Weyburn and Edmonton and nothing really came out of that. Moose Jaw's coach reached out to my coach and he asked if we had any outfielders looking to play this summer and I was lucky enough that they liked what they saw in my video. It was a pretty easy process."

Einarson is really looking forward to playing in Moose Jaw.

"It will be nice because a lot of the other teams are playing out of cities and I like the small-town community style of things, in the summertime especially," he said. "It's a little smaller like Gimli."

The calibre of ball will be high, said Einarson, with rosters loaded with American players. It will be kind of neat playing with teammates from south of the border and it will be a step up for Einarson.

"I think it will be a cool experience to say I played with guys from California and Texas and all that kind of stuff," Einarson said. "Because (in our university league) we only really have Canadians and there are not a lot of Americans in our league. It will be a cool little dynamic to play with and against all of these different guys."

The 12-team league consists of six teams from Saskatchewan and six more from Alberta.

Einarson is currently in his fourth season as a starting outfielder for the University of Calgary Dinos. He regularly hits in the middle of the Dinos' lineup.

"It's been going good and this is probably our best year since I've been with the program," said Einarson, who is majoring in sociology and minoring in business. "We played last year's spring season this fall because of COVID and whatnot. We were above .500 in the regular season and we really thought we had a good chance at a championship but it didn't go our way. It was a little disappointing but that's why we have the spring. We have some rookies coming up that didn't play in the fall and will get to play in the spring. Our team should be a competitor."



TRIBUNE PHOTO UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Interlake's Kalli Einarson has committed to play baseball for the Moose Jaw Miller Express of the Western Canadian Baseball League next summer.

Einarson has really enjoyed his time in Calgary and has made a lot of friends and met a lot of people.

He made a great decision going to school and playing baseball out west.

Einarson is very grateful for the opportunity.

"I want to thank my coaches and family that have helped get this far," he said.

Stonewall shut out by Springfield

Staff


The Stonewall Collegiate Rams' hockey team closed out 2021 with a lopsided 6-0 loss to the Springfield Sabres on Dec. 21 in Oakbank.

Nolan Van Den Bussche and Liam Johnstone scored in the first period and then Kai Tymchuk (power play), Jeremy Kullman (shorthanded) and Kaden Bruchanski tallied in the second.

Chase Jana closed out the scoring midway in the third period.

At the holiday break, Stonewall is in second place in the Winnipeg Free Press West division standings with 33 points, five back of the West Kildonan Wolverines. The Rams have played one less game than the Wolverines.


Stonewall will resume play this Friday when it hosts College Beliveau. Game time is 3:30 p.m.




Come out and support your Warren Mercs

Thursday, January 6
Warren Mercs vs Altona Maroons
at Altona
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 8
Warren Mercs vs Carman Beavers
at Carman
7:30 pm






Stonewall Jets Player Profile

#23 *Come out to support the Jets*

Nick Prystupa
Forward, shoots right
Born 2001, 6'5, 195 lbs



UPCOMING GAMES

Friday, January 7
Stonewall Jets vs Charleswood Hawks
At 7:30 @ Eric Coy Arena

Sunday, January 9
Stonewall Jets vs Pembina Valley Twisters
At 7:00 @ Morris Multiplex

Classifieds

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Do you have a suggestion for our news team?

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

Call 204-467-5836

The clients of the Interlake Food Bank would like to thank the anonymous donators of gift cards for Christmas.

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WEEK-END COOK

Oak Park Lodge Inc is a 55+ housing unit located in Woodlands and is seeking a part time week-end Cook for the Congregate Meal Program. Duties will include meal preparation, serving meals, cleanup. Hours are Saturday to Sunday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Specific training will be provided. Criminal Record and Adult Abuse Checks are required. Please forward your resume to Oak Park Lodge Inc. Box 52 Woodlands MB R0C-3H0 Attn: General Manager or email to opl@mts.net by January 14, 2022.



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Spacious 1 bdrm. apartment for rent. Centrally located in Stonewall, 318 Second St. West. Available Feb. 1, 2022. \$639.98 per month. Call or text 204-797-6968 for application.

HEALTH

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NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? Having a winter event? 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 for more details.

NOTICES

Worried about restrictions impacting your business? Advertise in the 37 Weekly Manitoba Community Newspapers to get your messaging out. Selling something? Have an on-line store to shop at, doing curbside pickup/deliveries? Let people know in the Blanket Classifieds! Start the year off right. Don't let COVID get you down. We are now booking Classified Advertising for 2022. Call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

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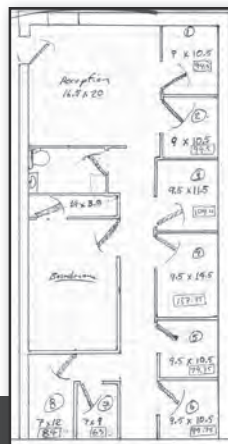


Property Features

Total square Footage 1700, includes eight offices of various sizes, a board room and a front reception area. Current tenants include Sun Life Financial, a Massage Therapist, an Esthetician, Glow Fitness for Women 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:
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204-485-0010

email bigandcolourful@mts.net



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



FULL TIME PARKS & ARENA EMPLOYEE - TWO VACANT POSITIONS

The Town of Stonewall invites qualified individuals to apply for the full time positions of Parks & Arena Employees. These positions are covered by the Collective Agreement between the Town of Stonewall and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local Union 987.

Under the supervision and direction of the Parks & Arena Supervisor, the Parks & Arena Employee will perform varied duties requiring diverse skills and abilities in the area of arena and parks maintenance and operation.

Wage will be commensurate with qualifications and experience based on IUOE Local 987. This is a unionized position that includes an employee benefits package.

The preferred applicant will have experience in the operation of equipment (mowers, ice resurfacer) and experience/background with education and certification in ice refrigeration systems and facility/grounds maintenance.

Procedure for Applying:

Qualified Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter summarizing relevant experience, a resume, plus three (3) references to:

Town of Stonewall
Attention: Wally Melnyk
Email: ashleym@stonewall.ca
293 Main Street, Box 250
Stonewall, MB R0H 0V0

Deadline for applications: 12:00 PM on January 14th, 2022

Start date: as soon as possible

The Town of Stonewall thanks all applicants, however only candidates interviewed will be contacted.

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

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Rick at Darse Ltd @ 431-338-5828 or
email resume to darseltd@mts.net

Rural Municipality of Woodlands REMINDER GRANT DEADLINE



This is a friendly reminder that the deadline for 2022 grant requests are due January 15, 2022. Grant applications are available at www.rmwoodlands.info or by calling the RM Office 204-383-5679.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

JOURNEYMAN HEATING/COOLING TECHNICIAN

The Interlake School Division invites applications for the position of: **Journeyman Heating/Cooling Technician**
Start Date: January, 2022

The Position: The Journeyman Heating/Cooling Technician services and maintains all school heating cooling systems. He/she also does general maintenance for Division buildings and grounds. Current salary is \$36.03 per hour.

The Candidate:

- Applicants must possess the following qualifications:
- Journeyman Pipefitter/Gasfitter or HVAC Mechanic ("B" gas licence required.) Preference will be given to individuals who hold a Provincial Class "A" Gas License
 - Experience with pneumatic/electric control systems
 - Able to read electrical schematics
 - Proficient with installation, repair and service of steam and hot water systems, including condensing boiler systems and forced air furnaces/ AC units
 - Ability to read and follow blueprints and technical documents
 - Ability to perform calculations to size equipment
 - Ability to track and maintain filter logs
 - Ability to service, repair and replace pumps, strainers, valves, steam traps, coils, etc.
 - Ability to repair exhaust fans, make-up air units, adjust/repair belts and pulleys
 - Working knowledge of codes and standards
 - Minimum 5-years relevant experience
 - Workplace Safety and Health training, including Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
 - Good computer skills
 - Strong verbal and written communication skills
 - Valid driver's license and the ability to respond to emergency callouts
 - Ability to work with minimum supervision
 - Ability to work flexible hours as required
 - Ability to work at heights on equipment such as ladders, scaffolds and mechanical lifts
 - Ability to work in confined spaces

Applicants should submit a resume including three references by **January 10, 2022, 3:00 pm** to:

Human Resources
Interlake School Division
192-2nd Ave. N.
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Email: hr@isd21.mb.ca
Tel: 204-467-5100

Interlake School Division welcomes applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available upon request during the assessment and selection process.

Successful applicants will be required to provide evidence of full vaccination or undertake mandatory COVID-19 Testing three times per week, in accordance with current Manitoba Public Health Orders.

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal record and child abuse registry checks.

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204-467-5836

Rural Municipality of Woodlands EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



PUBLIC WORKS HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 2 AND/OR 3

The Rural Municipality of Woodlands invites applications for the full-time position of Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator (Operator 2 and/or 3). The HE Operator's main responsibilities are the operation of a grader and/or excavator. The HE Operator reports to the Public Works Foreman.

Contact the RM of Woodlands Office for a complete job description

Salary as per the agreement between The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 987 and the Rural Municipality of Woodlands. Starting salary for the Operator 2 position (without Class 1 license) \$23.52/hr. Starting salary for the Operator 3 position (with Class 1 license) \$24.41/hr. There is a \$2.00/hr premium for all hours operating the excavator.

Upon completion of probation employees receive Health & Dental, Pension, Group Benefits, and Long-Term Disability.

Applications will start to be reviewed January 21, 2022. Additional applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.

R.M. of Woodlands
Box 10
Woodlands, MB R0C 3H0
Fax: (204) 383-5169
Phone: (204) 383-5679
Email: finance@rmwoodlands.ca

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

get inspired

> MEAL IDEA

RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

Cuban Chicken with Salsa Fresca



- Servings: 5
- 1 cup grapefruit juice
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 teaspoons garlic powder
 - 2 teaspoons cumin
 - 2 teaspoons paprika
 - 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
 - 1 1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts

- Salsa Fresca:
- 1 cup grapefruit segments
 - 1/2 jicama, cubed
 - 1/2 red onion, chopped
 - 3/4 cup grapefruit juice
 - 4 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
 - 1 jalapeno pepper, chopped
- Heat oven to 400 F.

In large bowl, mix grapefruit juice, oil, garlic powder, cumin, paprika and red pepper until combined. Add chicken to bowl and turn to coat. Refrigerate 30 minutes or longer.

To make salsa fresca: In medium bowl, mix grapefruit segments, jicama, red onion, grapefruit juice, olive oil, cilantro and jalapeno pepper until combined. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Remove chicken from marinade. Place chicken in baking dish. Bake 25-30 minutes until chicken is cooked through.

Serve chicken with salsa fresca.

Take Your Salad from Bland to Bold
Step aside, boring salads. A new year and a healthier eating plan can include better-for-you greens and dressings that hit the spot.

Veggies roasted with aromatic spices served on Fresh Express 5-Lettuce Mix are drizzled with lemon tahini dressing in this Moroccan Roasted Vegetable Salad, a delicious vegetarian way to turn a bland meal into a bona fide delight. With green leaf lettuce, red leaf lettuce, butter lettuce, romaine and radicchio, the mix of greens offers a bold combination of textures and flavors for those who love variety and color.

Find more ways to enhance your at-home salads at FreshExpress.com.



ACCESS CREDIT UNION | Noventis | sunova CREDIT UNION

It's almost time to vote!

After careful analysis and deliberation, our board of directors is confident that Access Credit Union and Noventis Credit Union are ideal and like-minded partners, and this merger will help ensure the organization is sustainable for our staff, members, and our communities in the years to come.

That means we now turn to you, our members, and ask for your participation and support during the vote between January 25-27, 2022.

MEMBER FORUM

Join us at our virtual member forum where members will hear direct from our board of directors and President + CEO, as well as have the opportunity to ask questions.

WHEN: January 18 | 7:00 pm
WHERE: Virtual via Zoom

Pre-register for the event by visiting cusuccess.ca.
We hope you'll join us!

MERGER VOTE + SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Online voting will begin at 9:00 am on January 25, 2022 and will end during the Special Meeting of the Membership on the evening of January 27. The special meeting will be held virtually by Zoom, and you can pre-register by visiting cusuccess.ca.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MEMBERS OF SUNOVA CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

TAKE NOTICE THAT a special meeting of the Members of the Credit Union will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, the 27th day of January 2022, via videoconference, for the purpose of announcing the results of the member vote on the proposed Special Resolution for the amalgamation of the Credit Union with Access Credit Union Limited and Noventis Credit Union Limited. All members wanting to participate in the Special Meeting are required to register.

The Amalgamation Agreement, proposed bylaws, and meeting attendance and voting information package will be available for pickup at any branch of the Credit Union, or online at sunovacu.ca.

Questions from members regarding the amalgamation should be submitted by email to together@sunovacu.ca.

VOTING

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT Voting on the Special Resolution prior to the Meeting will be by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically. Voting will be open from 9:00 am CST on Tuesday, the 25th day of January 2022 until a motion is resolved at the Special Meeting on the day of the Meeting. Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, computers / tablets for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours. Voting will end during the Meeting, with no further votes to be cast after a motion to cease voting is passed at the Meeting.

PROPOSED SPECIAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Credit Union has recommended that the Credit Union amalgamate with Access Credit Union Limited ("Access") and Noventis Credit Union Limited ("Noventis") in accordance with the provisions of the Amalgamation Agreement made between the Credit Union, Access, and Noventis, dated December 15, 2021 (the "Amalgamation Agreement");

AND WHEREAS it is in the Credit Union's best interests to enter into the Amalgamation Agreement and to amalgamate with Access and Noventis on the terms and conditions set out therein;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS A SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF THE CREDIT UNION THAT:

1. The execution of the Amalgamation Agreement by the Credit Union be and it is hereby ratified and confirmed;
2. The amalgamation of the Credit Union with Access and Noventis on the terms and conditions set out in the Amalgamation Agreement be and it is hereby approved.

SUMMARY OF THE AMALGAMATION AGREEMENT

An Amalgamation Agreement, dated December 15, 2021, has been approved by the Boards of Directors of the Credit Union, Access, and Noventis. The agreement provides for the amalgamation of the Credit Union, Access, and Noventis into one credit union, to be effective on July 1, 2022. The credit union resulting from the amalgamation will be called Access Credit Union Limited and will have its registered office in the Rural Municipality of Stanley, Manitoba.

Following amalgamation, all members of the Credit Union, Access, and Noventis will be members of the amalgamated credit union and all deposits and shares of or loans owing to either of the predecessor credit unions will be deposits or shares of or loans owing to the amalgamated credit union. The common shares and surplus shares of each of the Credit Union, Access, and Noventis will become the common shares and surplus shares of the amalgamated credit union on a one for one basis.

Because of the size of the amalgamated credit union, the transaction must be reported to the Competition Bureau of Canada and is subject to its approval.

RIGHT OF DISSENT

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, under the provisions of Section 127 of *The Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires Act*, members have the right to dissent to the proposed amalgamation. To dissent, a written objection to the amalgamation must be submitted to the Credit Union at or before the meeting of Members referred to in this Notice.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2022
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By Order of the Board of Directors

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IN MEMORIAM



Kevin Mandzuik
In Loving Memory
January 7, 1969 - January 7, 2020
You never said I'm leaving,
You never said goodbye;
You were gone before we knew it,
And only God knows why.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still;
In our hearts we hold a place,
That only you can fill.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you didn't go alone;
A part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.
Always in our hearts and missed every day.
-Dad, Mom, Terri and Devon

IN MEMORIAM

**In Loving Memory of
our beloved wee Abby**
The world changes
From year to year....
Our lives from day to day
...but the love and memories
Of you shall never pass away.
"Always in our hearts."
-Gramma and Poppa,
Auntie Sandy,
Uncle Derek and Auntie Jamie
cousins Kaycie and Maiti Margetts

CARD OF THANKS

Stonewall Odd Fellows Lodge # 49, 2021 Grey Cup Pool Winners: 1st Quarter - F. Wilkinson \$150, Rev. - E. Mee \$50; 2nd Quarter - R & D Mann \$150, Rev. - A Bonin \$50; 3rd Quarter - F. Branscombe \$150, Rev. - K. England \$50; Final - J. Bartram \$200, Rev. - A. Wilton \$50.
Thank you to all who support our projects through the purchase of tickets.

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IN MEMORIAM



Shannon Barnes-Figur
December 4, 1970 - December 31, 2016
Wherever a beautiful soul has been.
There is a trail of beautiful memories.
-Lovingly missed by,
Mom, Barbara Barnes;
Husband, Spencer Figur;
Brother, Sean Barnes and family;
Step-children, Matt and Melanie Figur;
Fur babies, Alex and Arthur;
Auntie Sharon and family;
Uncle Ron and Auntie Joan Geisler and family

IN MEMORIAM



Edward John Kowalchuk
August 13, 1945 - January 8, 2013
Though your smile is gone forever,
And your hand we cannot touch;
Still, we have so many memories,
Of you who we loved so much.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part;
God has you in His keeping,
And we have you in our hearts.
-With love from your whole family
that misses you every day.
Hug Dad and Tom for us

Your memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts

In Loving Memory
Abby Lee Anne Margetts
December 2, 2015 -
January 3, 2019

We love you
to the
MOON
and back.

Love Mommy, Daddy,
Andrew, and Daniel

Owlways in our hearts

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OBITUARY



Marion Shirley Strick (nee Lavender)
December 31st 1937 - December 20th 2021
Peacefully, after a courageous battle with cancer, Marion Strick passed away on December 20th 2021.
Left to mourn her passing are her sister Dianne Florence; her children Gord (Judy), Les (Barb), Howie (Rose-Ann), and Barbie (Clint) Eskilson; grandchildren Mike, Steve, Niki (Vince), Troy, Kirk, Nadine (Justin), Robert (Brittany), Brooklyn (Blake); great-grandchildren Ryan, Olivia, and Timothy, along with countless cousins, nieces, nephews, and her aunt Audrey.
Marion was predeceased by her husband Albert; parents Andrew, Evelyn, and step-father Allan; brother Jimmie; sisters-in-law Gladys Olson and Irene Zablotny; and brothers-in-law Elwood Olson and Brian Florence.
Mom was born on December 31st, 1937 in Teulon, Manitoba. She grew up and lived her entire life in Inwood. She became a teacher at age 17, after completing one year at Provincial Normal School, where she made many lifelong friends. Mom continued taking correspondence and distance-ed courses and earned a Bachelor of Education degree in 1987. We were all very proud of her accomplishment.
She married Albert Strick in 1957 and raised their four children in Inwood. In 1966 they settled into their farm on the east end of town. Mom was always active on the farm, looking after the books and milking cows with the rest of the family. The dairy cows were sold in 1997 and Mom retired, but still looked after the farm finances and accounting.
Mom loved gardening, flower beds, pickling and canning each year, and taking pictures. She spent many days preparing entries for the Teulon Agricultural Fair (usually around 100!) and Teulon Pumpkinfest. After the fair, all her entries along with the ribbons won, were on display around her house. There were always unexpected wins on a few entries that she thought were "not so great".
Her kitchen was always a welcome place for family and friends, especially on Thursday mornings for "coffee club".
In her later years she travelled to Ottawa, Florida, British Columbia, and Hawaii, but her favourite place to be was home.
The family wishes to thank the staff at Stonewall Hospital who went above and beyond caring for Mom.
Marion will be honored at a private family service, with a celebration of life to be held at a later date.
If friends so desire, donations may be made to a young local family who recently lost their father. Cheques can be sent to: Adrian Rink, Box 85, Inwood MB, R0C 1P0.

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OBITUARY

Orest Demianiw
Orest Demianiw (76) passed away peacefully in his home on December 26, 2021.
Left to grieve his loss are his sweetheart Gladys, son Dane (Mel), grandkids Berlin, Zorayan, Bradley (Danika), Breanne (Austin) plus many extended family and friends.
First to greet him at the gates were late wife, Sophie and daughter, Cindy.
Private services will be held for family.
Condolences, memories and photos for the family may be left at mackenziefh.com.

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OBITUARY



James (Jim) Stewart Harris
September 12, 1932 – December 20, 2021

We are greatly saddened by the sudden passing of our beloved Jim, in his 90th year, on the evening of December 20, 2021, in the Stonewall Hospital.

Deeply grieving are his wife of 68 years, Helen; daughters Leslie Patterson (Rick), Kathy Keon (Greg), and son Cal (MaryEllen). He was predeceased by son Gordie (Daphne) on December 19, 2011.

Jim was also predeceased by his brother Ted (Agnes), sister Wilda (Vernon) Jones, niece Darlene Jones Berubé and nephew Scottie Harris. Siblings surviving him are sister Donna Baldwin (Kev deceased), Carol Nichol (Dan) and brother George (Barb). Jim leaves nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and dozens of children throughout his life (many now grown with children of their own) who called him Grandpa Jim. He had a magical way of

connecting with every child he met.

Jim was born September 12, 1932, his birth certificate location reading NE ¼ section 36-12-1W Rosser, Manitoba. His parents, Charlie and Emma (Moore), were both descendants of early Manitoba pioneers farming families and it was through the common struggle and joys of farm life he absorbed the values of hard work, love of animals and love of the land. One of his sayings to our children as they were growing up was "Someday you're going to have to do something you don't want to do", perhaps learned so well as a youth on the farm.

Having been born into the community of Grosse Isle nine days apart, no one can be sure when he first met his wife Helen Borthistle, but it surely must have been in the early thirties at some social function in the local gathering place – the upper floor of the old Red Brick School. Attending that dear old school, mutual attraction grew, and they were married in August 1953.

After leaving school Jim took up the trade of plastering and stuccoing, later becoming the trade instructor at the then Manitoba Technical Institute. In 1956 he built the home in Grosse Isle in which he and Helen still live and which features moulded plaster ceilings and arched doorways. When plastering gave way to drywall he was hired as salesman/trouble shooter for Westroc Industries. He later worked for Provincial Drywall.

During part of this time, he partnered with his brother George in running the family farm, purchasing farmland of his own, fondly referred to as "The Ponderosa". On this land is located a large slough which has been converted to a protected wetland.

Jim was an enthusiastic competitor in any sport he played or coached. In his early twenties, with family to support, he gave up hockey for curling. The pinnacle was reached in 1985 when as a member of the Senior Men's Manitoba championship team he was able to experience the excitement and pride of playing for Manitoba in the Canadian Senior Men's Championship in Yorkton.

On a cold wet pre-dawn morning in the fall, he would leave a cozy, comfortable bed, get appropriately dressed and go out into the middle of a field somewhere and dig a muddy hold (called a hide) for a customer to whom he had promised a good goose-shoot that morning.

He never shirked hard or dirty work, one time coming home from the hall looking particularly disheveled and soiled from top to bottom. He revealed he had been in the crawl space under the hall looking for a plumbing malfunction. He was asked if he thought he would be given a medal for doing such a thing. Amazingly, Queen Elizabeth gave him a Diamond Jubilee medal for volunteerism.

Always a salesman he could even sell an idea, the greatest one being the saving of the iconic Ridgeway House and moving it to the PDC site in Grosse Isle as an attraction for the passengers disembarking from the Prairie Dog Central each summer weekend. With the overwhelming support and energetic volunteers, it was refurbished and dedicated on the site in 2011.

Jim received a lifetime membership with the Vintage Locomotive Society.

After obtaining a suitable trap and acquiring through experience the know-how, he was able to control the skunk population on our small acreage. He soon became the "who are you going to call guy" for Grosse Isle and surrounding area whenever a stinky visitor appeared at someone's front door. He had a particularly busy week last fall when it was discovered that a whole family of skunks had set up home at the Heritage site. The tally that week was 11 skunks and three cats. He marvelled at how fast and far those cats could go upon release.

The Mayor, Chief, Jim was a mischievous "provocateur extraordinaire", an agitator to get things done, and a fighter in every way. During his greatest fight with cancer, he became a source of hope and support for many others he knew with cancer.

No funeral is planned. A Celebration of Life will be held when feasible. He will be laid to rest at St. Michael's Anglican Church Cemetery which is just a few yards from where he was born.

The family is forever grateful for the kindness of the paramedics, hospital staff and Dr. Pinniger on the day of his passing.

Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the Grosse Isle Heritage Site Inc, Box 34, Grosse Isle, MB, R0C 1G0, or a charity of your choice.

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

OBITUARY



Muriel Jean Lillies (Mollard)
August 19, 1932 -
December 18, 2021

It is with sadness the family announces the sudden but peaceful passing of Muriel Lillies (Mollard) on Saturday, December 18, 2021 at the age of 89 years.

Left to cherish her memory are her children Clifford (Marilynn), Kimo (Wendy), Russell (Kimberley), and Susan (Terry). She also leaves behind seven grandchildren: Cindy (Murray), Gordon (Amy), Curtis (Kesneil), Brenlee (Fabio), Tanis (Jeff), Kyle,

and Tessa (Landon) as well as 11 great-grandchildren.

Muriel was predeceased by her husband Harvey in 2006; her parents Queenie and Happy Mollard; and six brothers: Snookie, Reggie, Mutch, Bobby, Fred, Roy, and Kenny, along with sister Allie. She is survived by sister Joan, sisters-in-law Ruth and Lillian, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Over the years Muriel was employed as a dental assistant, a receptionist at the hospital, a cashier at the Allied Hardware store, a janitor at the RCMP station, a cashier at Kern Korner gas station, and a flyer inserter at the Stonewall Argus Office. These jobs allowed Muriel to deal with the public and with people - which suited her personality. She was a people person! Muriel volunteered her time as a Girl Guide Leader, belonged to the Figure Skating Club, was a supporter of the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary, helped in the Annual Campaign Fundraiser for Cancer for over 20 years, and assisted with the local Terry Fox Run. In her spare time Muriel loved to golf, curl, and swim. When her body no longer enabled her to participate, she was an avid cheerleader! She was a faithful fan of the Stonewall Blue Jays baseball team. Through the years Muriel enjoyed travelling with family and friends. Her travels took her to familiar places and allowed her to discover new ones.

Mom was born and lived her entire life in the community of Stonewall. She was very proud of this achievement as is evident by this letter she composed at the age of 62 to be shared and passed down to her great-grandchildren:

To my great-grandchildren,

As I sit here trying to think of something to write about to the children of the future, I consider myself a real "Stonewallite". As a true "Stonewallite" I would like my great grandchildren to know what Stonewall had to offer during the years I was growing up. Stonewall was and always will be known for it's limestone quarries. Sixty percent of the people worked in the quarries from 1930 to 1940. My Dad worked in the quarries, which then was owned and operated by the Winnipeg Supply and Fuel, for forty-seven years. We lived right down in the quarries as Dad always looked after the horses. Of course as the years passed on the horses were replaced with trucks. We were fortunate to have had a wonderful childhood as every pothole produced an ice pond in winter. With seven brothers hockey was a great thing in our household. Also, in the summer time, we had enough in our family for a full baseball team - no need to look for friends we had our friends at home! Also we had nice steep hills to ski down - no money for bought skis - we made our own out of old pot bellied barrels with a piece of harness leather nailed on. We iced them every night - best skis in town and lots of fun. You children will never have to make such toys but really we had so much fun! As the years have rolled by, the town has grown. We have used all the rock that could be used so the quarries were sold and have moved out of town. Now, most of our residents work in Winnipeg and commute back and forth every day. It's no longer the small town and no longer only Stonewall people as the homeowner's come from far and wide to reside in our town.

As I write this note to you I am sixty-two years old and I have lived in Stonewall for all my years. I hope if you have a chance to write to your great-grandchildren that you can say you have spent all your years in this wonderful town. Thank you Stonewall for being such a great town and for being so kind to me.

Sincerely,
Muriel Lillies (Mollard)

The family would like to thank the home care workers and Muriel's friends who looked after Mom which allowed her to stay in her home at Lion's Manor for as long as possible. Thank you also to the staff at Rosewood Lodge and the Grace Hospital for your care and compassion.

Due to current health restrictions a service for family will be held later in the year.

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OBITUARY



James Thomas Sheldon
December 6, 1948 - December 20, 2021

After a courageous battle with cancer, James (Jimmy) Sheldon passed away December 20th at Stonewall Hospital.

Jimmy is survived by his brother Ralph and sister-in-law Sarah of Australia, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and too many friends to mention.

He was predeceased by his brother David and sister-in-law Audrey.

Jim was born in Stonewall to Thomas and Margaret Sheldon on December 6, 1948. He was educated in Stonewall and raised on the family farm west of town. Farming was in his blood, and he spent many years farming with his brothers. He was trained as a steam fitter and spent a long career in the trade working for CP Rail, where he formed many friendships. Upon retirement from the railway, he returned to farming, working for his good friend Jack Grandmont. He was the happiest working the land, and spent endless afternoons out "crop checking". Since illness slowed him in 2016, his pastime became having coffee with his many friends at Tim Hortons. One of Jim's passions was quading and snowmobiling. He spent many hours volunteering and riding with the local snowmobile club. He always had time for a ride, and recently really enjoyed riding with his nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a memorial service will be held at a later date when gathering is permitted. A private family interment will be held when Ralph and Sarah can travel.

The family would like to thank Jim's cousin Dan Croy who has driven him to all his appointments over the last five years, and has walked the road with Jim every step of the way. Also to the many doctors and nurses at CancerCare Winnipeg, Selkirk Hospital and Stonewall Hospital, whom he formed special bonds.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to CancerCare Manitoba, 1160-675 McDermot Ave, Winnipeg, Mb, R3E 0V9.

kl
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OBITUARY



Geraldine Krym (nee Roth)

Geraldine passed away peacefully at the age of 88 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on December 26, 2021 with family at her side.

Geraldine was born on October 20, 1933 in Beiseker, Alberta, daughter of Chris and Pauline Roth (nee Leiske). Geraldine had two brothers and four sisters, and was the last surviving sibling. She married Fred Krym of Rosser, Manitoba in 1959, spending her life farming and working as a health care aide.

She was a member of the Silver Heights Seventh-day Adventist church in Winnipeg, where she taught Sabbath School to generations of children and was the church organist.

Geraldine was a kind, compassionate soul with a good sense of humour. Her life touched many people who will miss her deeply.

Geraldine was predeceased by her husband Fred in 2009.

Geraldine leaves to cherish her memory her daughter Valerie (Russell MacDonald), son Lynden (Donna), grandchildren Chantelle, Justin, Ashley, Daria, and Natalia, great-grandchildren Harper and Marshall, and many nieces and nephews.

The family extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff of the Palliative Care Unit at St. Boniface Hospital for their compassionate care in her final weeks.

Services will be at Chapel Lawn Funeral Home, 4000 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg on Thursday January 6, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. A public viewing will be held 60 minutes prior to the service, with interment immediately following. Please reserve a place at the service by calling Chapel Lawn between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 204-885-9715. In keeping with current public health guidelines, proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination and government identification are required. The service will also be live-streamed at <http://www.livememorialservices.com/Home/ServiceDetail/19085>.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Canada (www.adra.ca) or the Silver Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2490 Ness Avenue, Winnipeg (204 889-5228).

OBITUARY



Annette Marie Lucie Glowachuk (née Carrière)

On Sunday, October 24, 2021, at her home at Villa Youville, Ste. Anne, Manitoba, with family by her side, Annette Glowachuk, aged 78, passed away from Parkinson's. She was born on October 7, 1943 in St. Boniface hospital.

Predeceased by her parents Irène Léonne Demers in 1981 and Jean-Yves Carrière in 1985, she leaves to survive her husband of 56 years, Robert "Bob" Glowachuk, her daughter Kim-Marie Cormier (Jim Courtney); her son Kelly and granddaughter, Sarah. She also leaves to survive her seven sisters and three brothers and their families, as well as, numerous nieces and nephews.

Annette loved being around and looking after people, especially her husband and children and her large extended family. She was an excellent cook and baker and was known for her Jellyroll! Annette kept an impeccably neat and clean house, to the point that even her "Junk" drawer was organized and labelled! Annette loved country music and sung along to the radio that was always playing in her kitchen. After the family moved to Stonewall in 1985, Annette spent a lot of her time in her large garden, and with the various animals they raised over the years.

The family would like to thank the staff and doctors of Villa Youville in Ste. Anne, Manitoba and at Chalet Malouin in St. Malo, Manitoba, for their excellent care and compassion they bestowed on Annette while she called those places her home.

Due to COVID and the current restrictions, a Celebration of Life and Interment Ceremony for Annette will be held in the spring of 2022 in Otterburne, MB. Further information can be found at mackenziefh.com

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Parkinson Canada on her behalf.

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OBITUARY



Clinton James Scott (Clint)

December 7, 1974 - December 20, 2021

With heavy hearts and profound sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved son, brother and uncle.

Clint grew up in Stony Mountain and moved to Winnipeg when he was 18. This is where he completed high school and received his diploma. After living in Winnipeg for a while, Clint thought he would try his hand at something else and moved on to Alberta and then British Columbia. Eventually, moved back home to Manitoba where he resided until his passing. Clint took so much pleasure in remodelling and building projects. He was always eager to help his dad with any project, from work on the house to yard work, etc. Clint was very much a people person. He had a great personality and sense of humour and was always good for a laugh. Clint's younger years were happier, but over the last several years he struggled with deep depression and anxiety. COVID did not help his struggles.

Clint leaves to mourn his parents Jim and Terry Scott; his daughter Summer; brother Rob (Chris); sister Tarra (Mitch) Poirier; nephews RJ Scott and Dawson Poirier; his niece Dakota Poirier; as well as his best friend Carol Stafford (Parsons) who never gave up on Clint.

Clint was predeceased by his grandparents Bob and Elsie Scott and Curt and Kathleen (Babe) Moore.

Clint will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Mental Health or the Bruce Oak Recovery Centre.

We find comfort in knowing you are no longer struggling with your demons and you are finally at peace. This is not goodbye, but we'll see you when we see you.

Rest in Peace "Nin"
We love you.

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