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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Local minor hockey players bring energy to the Stonewall Outdoor rink (ODR) during an evening shinny game on Jan. 6, taking advantage of ideal winter conditions at -9 C. Pictured left to right are U11 Stonewall Blues player Hayden Schilke and U13AA Lightning players Tom Frost, Braun Thompson, Aiden Murdock, John Frost, Levi Murphy and Nixon Schilke.

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Tim Hortons now open in Stony Mountain

By Jennifer McFee

Stony Mountain residents can now order a double-double and a pack of Timbits right in their own community.

A brand new Tim Hortons business officially opened up on Dec. 31 at 9 a.m. as the first business to launch in the five-unit Quarry View Plaza, located at Quarry Road and Old Highway 7.

Owner Jamie Pope is a familiar face since she has also owned and operated the Stonewall Tim Hortons since 2011. She also owns a location in Elie as well as two locations in Winnipeg at 1795 Brookside Blvd. and 11 Davis Way.

For this new opportunity in Stony Mountain, she credits Brody Leathwood and Richard Maxwell, co-owners of U-Build group of companies that is behind Quarry View Plaza. The business partners grew up in Stony Mountain and recognized the opportunity to develop a new five-unit business centre in the heart of the community.

"They brought the idea to Tim's development team, and then the idea was brought to me. It was an easy 'yes' — it's clearly a strong fit," Pope said.

"At this location, you can look forward to a really comfortable dining room with a stunning view of the sunrises, and a bit of a throwback treat — the chocolate coconut doughnut and Timbit, my personal fave."

In addition to bringing mouthwatering treats to Stony Mountain, the new Tim Hortons also bolsters local employment opportunities.

"Running a Tim's does require quite a few team members. We ran some open interview days prior to the store opening and had a tremendous influx of young folks looking for a part-time job, many looking for their first job," Pope said.

"We hired over 20 local folks — about half being part time — and look forward to being able to add more people to our team as the business grows."

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TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The smiling team at the new Tim Hortons in Stony Mountain is ready to serve customers.

Since the business opened, Pope has been impressed with the community's response.

"The community has been so friendly, welcoming and shown such gratitude. We feel the love and send every bit of it — plus more — back," she said.

"I am really looking forward to becoming part of the town, part of routines, to be able to partner with local charities for our Smile Cookie campaigns and to be part of growth for the community."

As for U-Build business partners Leathwood and Maxwell, they're equally excited about the new addition to Stony Mountain.

"Richard and I are very proud to see this project come to life. We built and own the five-door commercial retail unit building, and we also completed the Tim Hortons fit up, so being involved from start to finish makes it

especially meaningful for us," Leathwood said.

"We believe Tim Hortons is a great addition to Stony Mountain as it creates a welcoming place for residents to gather, adds local jobs and supports the continued growth of the community. Seeing a national brand invest here is a strong signal of confidence in the area's future, and we're glad to play a role in that progress."

The partnership with Pope has been a key part of the project's success, he added.

"Jamie is an outstanding operator and a tremendous leader who brings an incredible level of professionalism, energy and heart to everything she does," Leathwood said.

"She understands both the Tim Hortons brand and the importance of community, and Stony Mountain is

Continued on page 5

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STONEWALL

Balmoral bird count celebrates 63 years

By Lana Meier

The Balmoral Christmas Bird Count marked its 63rd year on Dec. 20, continuing a long-running local tradition that contributes to one of North America's oldest citizen-science programs.

Despite colder, snowier conditions and blowing winds, 38 volunteers participated in this year's count, slightly fewer than the 42 who took part in 2024. Organizer Jim Duncan said weather and seasonal illness likely played a role in the reduced turnout.

"There were slightly fewer participants than last year, in part due to the blowing snow and higher flu infections," Duncan said.

Even so, the number of birds recorded increased significantly. Volunteers counted 1,679 individual birds across 27 species, up from 1,347 birds recorded during the 2024 count.

"Despite that and the colder, snowier weather, more birds were counted than last year," Duncan said.

He noted that winter conditions can influence which species are detected. Birds such as Snow Buntings and Common Ravens are well adapted to open, blustery habitats, while forest-dwelling species are more likely to seek shelter and go unnoticed.

"Some bird species are able to carry on their business in open blustery habitats, while others seek shelter and are less likely to be counted, such as forest-dwelling owls, grouse and magpies," he said.

This year's highlights included 500 Snow Buntings, 281 Common Ravens, 179 Black-capped Chickadees, 144



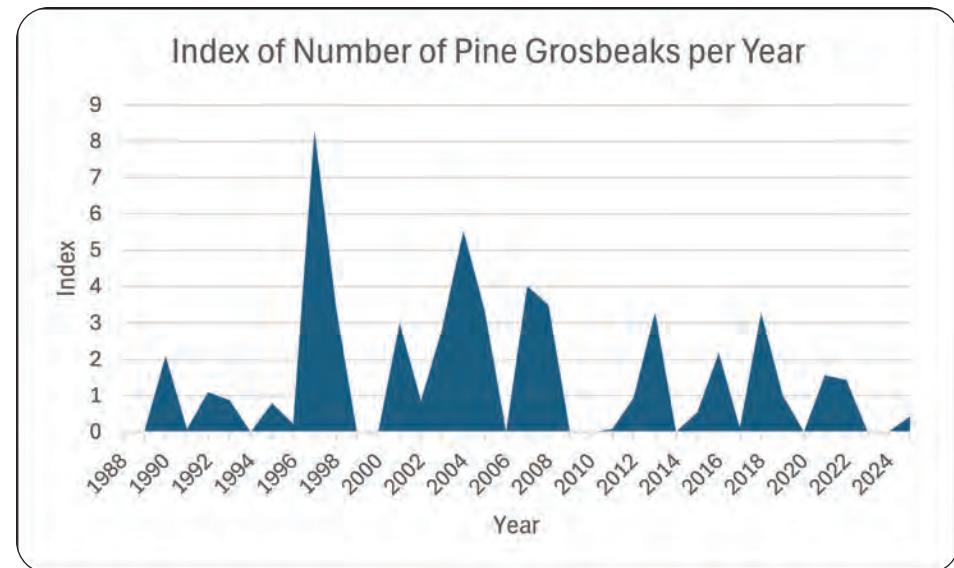
Male (left) and female (right) Pine Grosbeaks visit a feeder during the 63rd annual Balmoral Christmas Bird Count.

House Sparrows, 117 Redpolls and 106 Blue Jays. Other species recorded included Pine Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Bald Eagles and Pileated Woodpeckers. During the count week, observers also reported a Northern Shrike and an immature Red-tailed Hawk.

The Balmoral count is part of the continent-wide Christmas Bird Count network, which began in 1900 and is coordinated nationally by Birds Canada. The program relies on long-term data collected by volunteers to track population changes and environmental impacts.

According to Duncan, long-term monitoring is essential to understanding how birds are affected by a wide range of pressures.

"Long-term monitoring is important to understand the impact of the emergence of new diseases such as West Nile Virus and avian influenza, climate change including forest fires



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY PATSY DUNCAN

A graph shows Pine Grosbeak population index changes over time for the Balmoral Christmas Bird Count, based on long-term volunteer monitoring data.

and drought, and long-term habitat changes like the conversion of grasslands and forests for agriculture and resource extraction," he said.

He added that irregular or irruptive species, such as the Pine Grosbeak, require especially large and long-running datasets to draw meaningful

conclusions.

"For birds that are irruptive or not seen every year, we need longer-term and widespread data sets to obtain statistically valid population trend data needed to assess their conserva-

Continued on page 4

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RM of St. Laurent marks 2025 as a year of growth and collaboration

By E. Antonio

As 2025 came to a close, the RM of St. Laurent is reflecting on a year marked by significant accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and clear goals for the year ahead.

Chief administrative officer Billie Jean Oliver said the municipality has much to be proud of in 2025, including updated policies and internal procedures designed to better serve residents, as well as continued progress on the lagoon expansion project.

"One of our biggest accomplishments this year was joining the South Interlake Regional Library," Oliver said. "We have a heritage building that we are working to transform into a fully functioning library, and in the meantime, the bookmobile has been visiting our community, stopping at locations such as the schools, the Neil Gaudry Health Centre and the RM office for story time."

The RM recently received confirmation that it was successful in obtaining a grant to install an accessibility ramp and exterior door for the future library. Once complete, the library will offer trilingual services in English,

French, and Michif. The library will have a small impact on the budget in addition to the annual levy. Oliver added, however, that it will be offset with the service that will be provided as well as create 1.5 staffing positions, with a goal of hiring local facilitators.

Another major decision made this year — one that Oliver says will have a lasting impact on the community — was the transition of the St. Laurent and District Recreation Commission to an advisory board.

"Through this change, the recreation director will become an official employee of the RM, and a parks and recreation department will be created under the municipal umbrella," she explained. "This will allow for more direct working relationships between the school division and the RM."

She added there will be little change to current programs, and the goal is to run programming at a minimal cost with plans to apply for grants to offset prices.

While several goals were met in 2025, Oliver noted the Metis Heritage Centre museum renovation project is still ongoing. The project has taken longer than anticipated, and the municipality plans to apply for additional funding to move it forward. Currently, only Phase 1 is complete with the post office and storage room. Phase 2 will include museum exhibits, washrooms, meeting room, multi-purpose room and a gift shop.

This year also saw the RM join neighbouring municipalities — Coldwell, West Interlake and Grahamdale — in forming a health advisory committee. The committee meets bi-monthly to support local health initiatives and elevate discussions around improving medical services in rural communities. At this time, there are no shared service agreements but they are open to potential collaborations.

Community partnerships, Oliver emphasized, continue to be vital to the RM's operations.

"These organizations have been instrumental in helping move our projects ahead," she said.

Partnerships she highlighted include the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (AMBm), the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), and the Manitoba Métis Federation. The RM also renewed its memorandums

of understanding (MOUs).

From a financial perspective, Oliver said the municipality is ending the year on a positive note.

"We are always conscientious of our financial position and make adjustments to ensure we remain on track," she explained.

On the public works side, the RM took advantage of dry conditions this year to clean out drainage systems and reduce the impacts of spring flooding. Oliver added the municipality has received positive feedback regarding road conditions throughout the RM, and several upgrades were made to public works equipment over the course of the year.

Emergency services also saw improvements. The fire department received equipment upgrades in 2025, and it was announced that a new fire truck will be delivered near the end of 2026. The truck will be partially funded through the Manitoba Growth, Renewal and Opportunities (GRO) grant and will further enhance fire department operations. Without funding, purchasing the new firetruck wouldn't have been possible. Marsh fires also impacted the municipality — both financially and physically — this year and firefighters worked with the RM of Woodlands to ensure that flames didn't reach housing. An advanced paramedic position this year was also added, providing better response times. Oliver explained advanced paramedics travel in a vehicle equipped like an ambulance and

Continued on page 7

> BIRDS, FROM PG. 3

tion status," Duncan said.

The appearance of Pine Grosbeaks this winter was a particular highlight for volunteers. Known for the vivid red colouring of adult males, the species does not appear in the Balmoral area every year.

"Volunteers certainly get an additional immediate satisfaction at seeing a beautifully coloured bird like the Pine Grosbeak show up at their feeders and in their fruit trees," Duncan said.

Their unpredictable presence also sparks curiosity among participants.

"Their irregular appearance raises questions about why some birds are seen every winter, like chickadees and blue jays, while others like the Pine Grosbeak are not," he said. "The long-term data collected by thousands of Christmas Bird Count volunteers over decades across North America can help provide answers to those questions."

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Snowmobilers encouraged to ride responsibly on Manitoba trails

By Lana Meier

Snowmobilers across Manitoba are being welcomed back onto the trails this winter, with a strong reminder from safety partners to ride responsibly and take precautions to ensure everyone gets home safely.

The Manitoba RCMP, Manitoba Public Insurance and Snowmobilers of Manitoba are issuing the reminder ahead of International Snowmobile Safety Week, which begins Saturday.

"Winter is a wonderful time of year for snowmobilers to hit the trails and enjoy the season, but we strongly urge everyone to ride safely," said RCMP Staff Sgt. Matt Lavallee, who teaches snowmobile safety courses to RCMP members. "Snowmobilers need to ride in a responsible manner so that everyone returns home at the end of the ride."

Lavallee said Manitoba law requires all riders to wear an approved snowmobile helmet while operating a machine, and riders under the age of 14 must be under adult supervision. RCMP officers patrol trails throughout the province and will enforce snowmobile laws as needed.

Over the past six years, 28 snowmobile-related deaths have occurred in Manitoba, including four in 2025. Speed was a contributing factor in many of those fatalities, along with alcohol impairment, improper or no

helmet use, driver inexperience and careless driving.

"January and February have the highest fatality rates among snowmobilers in Manitoba, so it is very important to continue to have conversations to educate riders about snowmobile safety," said Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer for MPI. "Snowmobiling is a fantastic way to enjoy Manitoban winters, and by slowing down, wearing a helmet and riding sober, we can keep it fun and safe."

Officials say safety starts before riders even leave home. Snowmobilers are encouraged to check their machines for mechanical issues, including brakes, lights, fuel levels and engine performance. Carrying a fully charged cellphone, first-aid kit and basic repair tools — such as a spare belt, pull cord and spark plugs — is also recommended. Riders should plan routes in advance, share travel details with someone at home and dress appropriately in warm, layered clothing with a properly fitted helmet.

Once on the trail, riders are reminded to maintain safe speeds, stay alert and courteous, watch for hidden hazards beneath the snow, cross roads and highways only where permitted, and never operate a snowmobile while impaired.

"The safety of riders is of utmost



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

A South Interlake Snoriders trail groomer prepares snowmobile trails for the winter season, helping ensure smoother, safer riding conditions for snowmobilers across the region as riders are reminded to follow posted signage and ride responsibly.

importance to our organization," said Joe Thievin, a vice-president with Snoman. "Riders need to drive to their level of ability, avoid alcohol or drugs, and take all necessary precautions so they can ride again."

MPI collects a \$25 non-refundable annual fee on all off-road vehicle registrations to support trail maintenance and development, safety

education and training programs, and rehabilitation of public lands affected by off-road vehicle use. Riders are also encouraged to purchase a Snopass, which provides access to approximately 13,000 kilometres of designated provincial trails and helps fund trail grooming and maintenance that contribute to safer riding conditions.

> NOW OPEN, FROM PG. 2

lucky to have her as the owner of this Tim Hortons."

At the same time, Maxwell gives a shout out to everyone who helped make the progress possible.

"All of these achievements could not have been made without our hard-working, talented office and site staff. Our management team exhausted all efforts to ensure the faculty was operational for the holidays of 2025," he said.

"Esso is scheduled to open March 2026 on this site. Along with many new businesses inquiring to take over the three available storefronts in the multiplex, we are quite excited to see what the future holds for this new development in the community."

Quarry View Plaza is located at 9158 East Quarry Rd., and the new Tim Hortons is open seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. A grand opening event is slated for Saturday, Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We will have some exciting giveaways on a first-come-first-served limited basis, and all purchases gain an entry into a draw for free coffee for a year," Pope said.

"Smaller communities are special because people really know each other, and we are excited to be a place where neighbours can connect — whether it's over a morning coffee or a quick stop on the way to work. We will be a familiar welcoming space to call home."

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New traffic safety rules take effect for Manitoba drivers

By Lana Meier

Manitoba drivers are facing new legal requirements on the road as changes to the Highway Traffic Act came into force Jan. 1, introducing stricter rules around snowplows, cyclists and roadside workers.

The amendments, passed under the Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Traffic Safety Measures), are aimed at improving safety for highway workers and vulnerable road users, according to Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Lisa Naylor.

Under the new rules, motorists approaching or following winter maintenance vehicles with blue warning lights activated must maintain a minimum distance of 30 metres on roads with speed limits of 80 km/h or less. On roads with speed limits above 80 km/h, drivers must stay back at least 100 metres.

Drivers are also prohibited from passing snowplows if visibility ahead is obstructed or if passing could interfere with the vehicle or its work.

Police will enforce the new traffic safety measures on both urban and

rural roadways, a provincial spokesperson said. Drivers who fail to comply may face fines of \$298 and will have two demerit points assessed on their licence.

The required distances are intended to be measured from the rear of a snowplow or other winter maintenance vehicle. The spokesperson said the inclusion of specific distances in the legislation is meant to provide clear, objective guidance for both drivers and enforcement officers.

The legislation also establishes a mandatory minimum passing distance for cyclists. Drivers must now leave at least one metre of space when overtaking a cyclist, aligning Manitoba with similar rules already in place in provinces such as British Columbia and Ontario.

Additional changes affect tow truck and roadside assistance operators, who are now permitted to place cones and signage to create a safety zone while working in traffic. The measures are intended to alert drivers and help divert traffic away from

active roadside work areas.

"When winter storms hit, we know how dangerous Manitoba's highways can be," said Kyle Ross, president of the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union, in a statement. He said the changes recognize the risks faced by highway workers and provide added protection while they carry out their duties.

The province said the amendments were developed following consultations with industry representatives, law enforcement, municipalities and advocacy groups. No new speed limits were introduced as part of the changes.

Tow truck and roadside assistance operators are encouraged to review the province's Work Zone Traffic Manual for guidance on placing signs and cones on roadways.

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure said it will review the effectiveness of the changes through ticketing data and ongoing consultation with key groups, including law enforcement agencies.

Manitoba lowers breast cancer screening age to 45

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government is lowering the self-referral age for Breast-Check screening to 45, expanding access to early breast cancer detection, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara announced.

Manitobans aged 45 and older are able to begin booking screening appointments starting Jan. 2, 2026.

The change follows targeted investments in staff and equipment to expand screening capacity and support increased demand while maintaining quality of care, the province said. The

move also responds to recommendations from advocacy groups, including Dense Breasts Canada, which earlier this year praised Manitoba for expanding access for people in their 40s.

"Earlier screening saves lives, and lowering the age to 45 will help thousands more Manitobans get care when it makes the biggest difference," said Asagwara. "We're investing in more staff and stronger outreach to ensure every community — rural, northern, newcomer and underserved — benefits from this change."

To support the expansion, CancerCare Manitoba has recruited seven new mammography technologists, with further recruitment underway. Screening sites across the province are being upgraded with new mammography equipment, with completion targeted by the end of 2026. The agency is also on track to complete about 47,000 breast screens in 2025.

CancerCare Manitoba has added a dedicated outreach position focused on increasing access to screening, including engagement with more than

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Manitoba government launches new digital health card

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government has launched a digital health card, allowing residents to apply for and access their health card directly on their mobile devices.

Premier Wab Kinew, Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care Minister Uzoma Asagwara, and Innovation and New Technology Minister Mike Moroz made the announcement Monday.

"Digital health cards put Manitobans in control of their own information, make it easier to access care, and support a safer, more responsive health system," Kinew said in a statement. "Over the past year, we've moved from paper health cards to plastic and now to a digital option. It is a practical step that reflects our focus on patient safety, accessibility and putting people first as we make health care better for families."

The digital health card allows Man-

itobans to securely store their health card information on a smartphone and present it when receiving medical care, reducing the need to carry a physical card. Residents can choose to have a plastic card, a digital card, or both. Those with existing paper or plastic cards can request a digital version at any time.

According to the province, Manitobans who are already registered for a health card can access the digital version immediately.

"We eliminated the backlog of health card wait times and now we're making the process even faster," Asagwara said. "For Manitobans who are already registered, the digital health card will be available right away. No waiting, no delays."

The digital card is accessed through the MB Wallet, which is available free of charge through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Once down-

loaded, the app allows users to store their digital health card and access it offline. The province said users remain in control of when their credentials are shared and what information is displayed.

Alongside the digital health card, Manitobans can also use MediNav, the online appointment-booking system launched in 2025, to find and book appointments at participating clinics across the province. The government said the two tools together are intended to simplify access to care by allowing residents to carry their health card and book appointments from a single mobile device.

Manitobans can apply for a digital health card or learn more about eligibility and setup through Manitoba Health's website at gov.mb.ca/health/mhsip/digitalhealthcard.html.

> GROWTH, FROM PG. 4

respond to emergencies when ambulances are not available.

Although not always present at St. Laurent's emergency medical services station, "the advance paramedics are better trained and have additional equipment when they respond," said Richard Chartrand, St. Laurent's reeve. He added St. Laurent currently shares the advanced paramedic with Ashern.

"The RM of St. Laurent believes this is an added and needed emergency service for the Interlake," he said. "The AMBM met with Minister Asagwara [Dec. 11] and I recommended that our local ambulance station be expanded with an additional bay for this response vehicle. The health minister took this information into consideration."

On a personal level, Oliver said she was most surprised by the number of grants the municipality received this year, as well as the positive feedback from residents.

"We always work hard to provide a high level of service without having a huge impact on our overall budget, but it's rewarding when ratepayers reach out with positive words about the work being done," she said. "When you have several wins throughout the year, it's always a reminder of why we serve our communities."

She also acknowledged the efforts of RM staff, noting they worked tirelessly to enhance services by implementing the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP), applying for grants, re-establishing community partnerships and fostering a strong team environment.

Despite the successes, challenges remained. Oliver identified the lack of bylaw enforcement and animal control services as the municipality's biggest hurdle this year. After exploring several options, the RM hired a local individual to handle animal control concerns and contracted Prairie Bylaw Enforcement for bylaw services.

Looking ahead to the new year, Oliver shared her excitement about the installation of a new cell tower, with construction expected to begin in the spring. Funded by Bell Communications, their tower will service the Twin Lakes Beach area and significantly improve connectivity and communications. Oliver explained the location was decided before she began working for the RM but said requests were made by customers complaining about current coverage, letters sent by the RM and lobbying efforts made by Member of Parliament James Bezan.

Oliver outlined the municipality's top priorities for the coming year:

- Continuing positive budgeting practices and building reserve accounts
- Further developing a succession plan for the organization

- Advancing the lagoon expansion project
- Completing necessary renovations to the library and museum
- Creating an updated, community-driven strategic plan

"We will continue working on projects that are already underway," she added. "Any additional initiatives will depend on what the community would like to see."

She noted major projects are largely dependent on grants and funding, and the RM will continue pursuing opportunities that align with municipal priorities. In 2025, St. Laurent secured \$472,500 from the Manitoba GRO program and \$10,000 from Age-Friendly Community Collaboration.

Oliver mentioned residents and community partners can best support the municipality by attending meetings, staying informed through the monthly newsletter and website, and maintaining open communication with the RM.

"On a personal note, I'd like to share that communities grow and thrive when we work together," she closed off. "Although there were issues and concerns raised throughout the year, 2025 was a year of success. It's my hope that in 2026 we continue in this positive direction and keep working together to develop and grow our community."

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with us > FAITH

A Message of Hope, Love, and Renewal for 2026

As we step into 2026 as believers in Jesus Christ, baptized in His name, let us pause and reflect on our lives. Are we truly living meaningfully and joyfully? Are we satisfied, or do we sometimes feel lost, ashamed, or empty?

Many ask: if I have believed in Jesus, why do I still feel guilty, abandoned, or confused? Why does stress or sadness overshadow my faith? Often, we seek meaning outside ourselves, forgetting that God dwells within us. We fear judgment and live for appearances, rather than God's truth.

Take heart, dear brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid. "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). We are called to grow spiritually, pursue holiness, and purify our hearts through forgiveness. Whatever hurt or betrayal you have suffered, let it go. "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37). Life is fleeting; what profit is there in gaining the world but losing your soul? (Mark 8:36).

Many of us labor for our families, making sacrifices often unnoticed. Continue loving and respecting one another. Children, honor your parents; parents, support and encourage your children. Extend love beyond family—help neighbors, guide others toward God's light, and rescue loved ones from harm by showing Christ's love. "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father" (Matthew 5:16).

It is never too late to change, embrace God's love, and lead your family in faith. Surrender fully to Jesus, and He will forgive and renew you. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Let 2026 be a year of spiritual growth, love, forgiveness, and hope—living fully for God, in peace and service to others.

Rev. Nepolian Suvakin
Parochial Administrator of Christ the King, Stonewall; St. Joseph's, Stony Mountain; and St. John Vianney, Teulon

PUB approves interim 4% Hydro rate increase amid drought pressures

By Lana Meier

Manitoba households and businesses will see higher electricity bills in the new year after the province's utility regulator approved an interim rate increase for Manitoba Hydro.

The Public Utilities Board has authorized a four per cent general rate increase for Manitoba Hydro, effective Jan. 1, 2026. The increase applies to all customer classes except those in Manitoba Hydro's Diesel Zone.

The approved increase is higher than the 3.5 per cent increase sought by Manitoba Hydro in its general rate application and reflects the financial impact of a severe drought affecting the utility's hydroelectric system.

According to the board, water flows into Manitoba Hydro's watershed are currently at the second-lowest level in 112 years. As a result, the utility's financial metrics have deteriorated by more than \$625 million.

In its decision, the board said an increase at the maximum legislated rate cap of four per cent is necessary to protect the long-term financial health of the Crown utility.

While the increase adds pressure for customers, some local business owners say they understand the circumstances behind the decision.

Trevor Buchanan, a farmer from Argyll and owner of Meridian Acres, said the increase represents another cost his operation will need to absorb.

"For our business, it's another cost that we will need to incur," Buchanan said. "I do see Hydro's point of view, though. I've personally seen how low the water levels actually are in our province after a recent trip to Gillam, where most of our hydro is produced."

Buchanan said multi-year lows in snowfall and rainfall have limited water replenishment across Manitoba's watersheds.

"With the multi-year low snowfall and rains, our watersheds are not being replenished to normal levels," he said.

He said his operation has already experienced power reliability issues related to supply constraints.

"We've seen first-hand what they call brownouts, where not enough

voltage is supplied," Buchanan said. "That's when electronic burnout happens — motors burn out and computer-controlled devices are fried."

To reduce risk, Buchanan said Meridian Acres has invested in alternative systems.

"We've implemented geothermal heating and installed generators in areas that require higher power requirements because Manitoba Hydro cannot provide enough electricity to maintain their function," he said.

Buchanan said solar power has been considered but was not financially feasible at the time.

"We looked at solar as a source, but the costs were too astronomical for the return," he said. "In the future, that may come in line with the investment return to make the move toward it."

Despite acknowledging Hydro's challenges, Buchanan said higher utility costs further strain household affordability.

"With expensive housing costs, rising grocery bills and other pressures, our younger generation and people

on fixed incomes take another blow to their ability to sustain themselves and raise a family in this province," he said.

The Public Utilities Board is an independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal with oversight and supervisory authority over public utilities and designated monopolies in Manitoba. In approving rates, the board said it must balance the financial requirements of the utility with the impact on customers.

The interim increase will remain in place until the board issues a final order on Manitoba Hydro's 2026-28 general rate application, expected later in 2026. That final decision will set a final rate for the 2025-26 fiscal year and determine rates for the remaining two years of the application period, while also addressing other issues raised during the review.

Additional details on the decision are contained in Board Order 161/25, which is available through the Public Utilities Board.

MPI flags five major fraud cases in 2025

By Lana Meier

Manitoba Public Insurance uncovered nearly \$2 million in attempted fraud through five major cases this year, part of almost \$17 million in total savings generated by the Crown insurer's Special Investigation Unit in 2025.

Manitoba Public Insurance says it

investigated more than 2,600 physical damage and bodily injury claims suspected of fraud this year, highlighting the most significant cases to demonstrate the impact insurance fraud has on ratepayers.

"Insurance fraud has a cost, and that cost is borne by all of us in Manitoba," said John Bowering, MPI's vice-president and chief claims officer. He said the SIU's work protects the integrity of the public insurance system while keeping rates affordable.

Among the cases was a claimant who reported severe injuries after a minor collision and received income replacement and personal care benefits but was later observed lifting heavy weights at a gym. Benefits were terminated, saving more than \$300,000.

In another case, a claimant injured in a truck fire claimed to have been hurt while trying to extinguish the flames. Video evidence later showed the fire had been deliberately set, with the explosion causing unplanned injuries. The claim was denied, saving about \$1 million.

MPI also cited a staged vehicle theft in which a vehicle was reported stolen only after it had already been shipped to Ontario and loaded into a container bound for Dubai.

MPI is seeking to recover more than \$51,000 paid on the claim.

One of the more complex cases involved a collision with a Porsche, where investigators found the incident was intentional. MPI said the driver of another vehicle passed the Porsche owner's residence, then returned and accelerated toward the Porsche as it was backing out of the driveway, despite the Porsche attempting to take evasive action. Conflicting accounts were provided by both drivers, and evidence from the scene did not match their statements.

Following the collision, MPI said the Porsche driver ran into the residence and returned with additional people, later reporting that the fully licensed registered owner had been driving with passengers. Investigators determined the registered owner was not in the vehicle and that a lone driver with a learner's licence was operating the Porsche illegally. It was also discovered the parties involved knew one another. The claim was denied, saving ratepayers approximately \$154,000.

Another claimant who reported being unable to work due to pain was later observed lifting and transporting large quantities of beer and equipment without assistance. Benefits were terminated, saving more than \$480,000, with MPI attempting to recover additional funds already paid.

MPI is encouraging the public to report suspected insurance fraud through its TIPS line or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

Al-Anon and AA Meetings Information

Balmoral Al-Anon Family Group
Balmoral Community Hall basement
6003 E MB-236, Balmoral, MB
Contact: (204) 470-8972
Meets every Wednesday 7-8 PM
Everyone welcome

Selkirk Red River Al-Anon Family Group
Christ Church Anglican
227 McLean St., Selkirk, MB
Contact: (204) 482-6287
Meets every Monday 7-8 PM

Teulon AA
Christian Education Building
3rd Ave. SE, Teulon, MB
Contact: (204) 461-0155
Meets every Tuesday 8-9 PM

Stonewall AA
Parochial Hall
291 1st St. W., Stonewall, MB
Contact Denis: (204) 981-7747
Donna (204) 461-0892
Meets every Sunday 7:30-8:30 PM

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Clubroom Events for the Week of January 12

Wednesday 4-Close 8:30 Chase the Queen
Draw Pot is at \$2,580.00
Thursday 4-Close 7:00 Crib
Friday 4-Close 6:30 Meat Draw and 50-50
Saturday 2-Close 7pm Darts

All are welcome - please support your local legion!

Avian influenza circulating in Manitoba, but human risk remains low, experts say

By E. Antonio

Avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, continues to circulate among wild birds in Canada, but experts say the overall risk to human health remains low and caution against misguided efforts to control the virus that could harm wildlife and habitats.

Avian influenza is caused by Type A influenza viruses that occur naturally in waterfowl such as ducks and geese. While some species can carry the virus without showing symptoms, others — including raptors — experience higher rates of illness and death.

The viruses are classified as either low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) or high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), based on how severe the disease is in domestic poultry. Most avian influenza subtypes are low pathogenic and cause little to no illness in wild or domestic birds, posing no threat to people.

More concerning are highly pathogenic strains such as H5N1, which are extremely infectious and often fatal to domestic poultry. Newer HPAI strains have also been detected in Canada in recent years, including H5N2 in British Columbia and H5N5 in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Waterfowl are considered natural reservoirs for avian influenza and can spread the virus locally or over long distances during migration, primarily through contact with the droppings of infected birds. Other bird species — and some mammals — are believed to become infected mainly through consuming infected animals.

Despite widespread circulation, experts say avian influenza has had limited population-level impacts on waterfowl so far. Human infections remain rare, and public health officials maintain that the risk to people is low, with most cases occurring among workers in poultry operations.

"There have been cases in domestic poultry operations across Canada, and those farms have suffered significant losses due to mandatory depopulation measures," officials note. In the United States, outbreaks have also been reported in dairy cattle, though those cases have so far been limited south of the border and are believed to be linked to contact with infected livestock such as poultry.

Matt Dyson, a research scientist with the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research, says local cases make global wildlife health issues real for rural communities, showing the challenges happening close to home.

In December, avian influenza was confirmed as the cause of death for a flock of geese in Niverville. In Lock-



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FRASER/CBC

A group of geese was found dead near Lockport in recent weeks, with avian influenza suspected as the cause while test results are pending.

port, another group of geese was also found dead. While test results from the Lockport birds are still pending — a process that can take several weeks — their deaths are suspected to be linked to avian influenza.

"The impacts of avian flu are not always surprising, but they are unfortunate," Dyson said. "It especially hits close to home when it's happening in your community."

Dyson explained avian influenza has not caused major declines in waterfowl populations, but scientists are actively monitoring the situation by collecting samples and running tests — work that remains in its early stages for the H5N1 strain.

"We are effectively starting from ground zero when this virus first began circulating in late 2021 and scientists are still learning from the samples they've been collecting," he said.

While researchers are still working to understand what factors contribute to avian flu outbreaks, Dyson said cases can spike during colder months, when food, water and habitat availability are reduced and birds congregate in smaller areas.

"We don't know all of this information for sure," he added. "But general wildlife ecology tells us that colder conditions can create those conditions where mortality events are more probable. When we observe really cold weather, we do see some correlation with sick birds and reduced habitat availability caused by greater ice cover."

As long as open water remains available, he added, birds are likely to stay in the area.

Autumn migration patterns may also contribute to seasonal increases in cases. Dyson said younger birds, which are "immunologically naïve," appear more likely to contract the virus and die due to their underde-

veloped immune systems, though he noted that limited studies exist to fully support that theory.

Researching avian influenza presents challenges, Dyson said, explaining that scientists cannot simply bring wildlife in for examination.

"You just can't put a call out to birds and ask them to come to the vet if they aren't feeling well," he said.

Still, advancements are being made, including work at Winnipeg's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease and the National Microbiology Laboratory.

"It's cool to have local folks leading the charge on this research," Dyson added.

Scientists continue to band, swab, and test birds as they work to better understand avian influenza and the H5N1 strain in particular. Dyson said

Continued on page 10

Residents of the Rural Municipality (RM) of Armstrong:

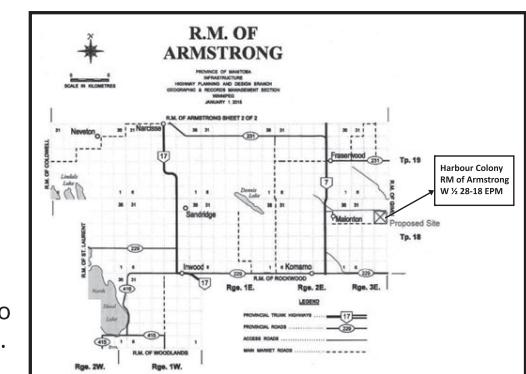
Share Your Views

concerning the proposed development of a poultry operation — Harbour Colony (TRC 12-120)

The RM of Armstrong has received a conditional use application from Harbour Colony to establish a poultry operation at W 1/2 28-18-3 EPM with 60,000 broilers, 40,000 layers and 40,000 pullets (764 animal units). This application has been sent to the minister of Municipal and Northern Relations for review, pursuant to Section 112 of The Planning Act.

For more information:

Please visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/livestock/public_registries.html or contact the RM of Armstrong office at Box 69, Inwood, MB, R0C 1P0.



Share your views

If you would like to share your views concerning this proposal, you are invited to contact the Manitoba government no later than **Feb. 9, 2026**. The Livestock Technical Review Committee will review submissions as it completes its assessment of the application.

You can send your submission:

- by email: TRC@gov.mb.ca
- by letter: Technical Review Co-ordination Unit
Municipal and Northern Relations
604-800 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4
Fax: 204-948-4042

Your submission must include your name and reference TRC 12-120.

All submissions are considered public information. They will be made available to the proponent and placed on the public registry (with identifying details removed).



Hwy. 227 closure raises concerns over timeline, winter detours

By Lana Meier

Residents travelling Provincial Road 227 between Highway 6 and Highway 248 are seeking clarity on when the route will reopen as bridge replacement work continues along the corridor.

The stretch of highway has been closed since last fall, forcing motorists onto a detour that adds roughly 32 kilometres to their commute. While many residents acknowledge the need for infrastructure upgrades, questions have remained about the duration of the closure and winter maintenance on the alternate route.

According to a Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure provincial spokesperson, the department is currently undertaking two structure replacement projects on PR 227 over Sturgeon Creek. One structure is located 5.4 kilometres west of Provincial Trunk Highway 6, while a second is located 1.3 kilometres west of PTH 6.

Construction on both projects began last fall and is expected to be completed by this summer, the spokesperson said.

Residents have raised concerns about driving conditions on the detour during winter weather, particularly during snowfall events.

The spokesperson said the department engaged with the Rural Municipality of Woodlands during the design of the new structures and while reviewing detour options. The detour selected follows the provincial highway network east on PR 227, north on PTH 6 and south on PR 248.

That route was identified as the most suitable option while construction is underway, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure is continuing to maintain the detour at the same winter level of service as PR 227 for the duration of the project.

The closure affects daily commuters,



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ALLANA SAWATZKY

A detour sign directs traffic away from Provincial Road 227 between Hwy. 6 and Hwy. 248 as bridge replacement work continues over Sturgeon Creek. The closure has added approximately 32 kilometres to the commute for local motorists.

service vehicles and agricultural traffic in the area, with limited alternative routes available until the bridge work is complete.

> AVIAN INFLUENZA, FROM PG. 9

public reporting plays an important role in that effort.

Anyone who encounters a sick or dead bird is advised not to touch it and to report it to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative or a provincial authority. The more reports received, he said, the more data researchers can collect to track the virus.

Dyson also emphasized that while birds may die while

infected with avian influenza, the virus is not always the sole cause.

"There are often multiple stressors, like malnutrition, parasites or environmental stress that, along with avian influenza, increase the risk of death in birds," he said.

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative tracks confirmed cases of avian influenza on its website.

Wildlife and conservation groups warn that fear and misinformation surrounding HPAI can lead to ineffective and harmful responses. Measures such as culling wild birds, draining wetlands or opposing habitat conservation projects do not stop the spread of the virus and can have unintended ecological consequences.

Hunters are encouraged to avoid harvesting birds that appear sick and to use gloves and wash hands thoroughly if handling birds is unavoidable. Poultry producers are advised to follow strict biosecurity measures, as domestic poultry have little natural immunity to HPAI and can experience near-total mortality if infected.

While landowners with wetlands may have concerns about waterfowl, current evidence

suggests waterfowl are unlikely to be a significant source of direct transmission to poultry or cattle and wetlands themselves are not thought to pose a risk.

Members of the public are advised to limit direct contact with wild birds and their droppings, keep pets away from live or dead birds, and avoid feeding waterfowl and gulls. Properly cooked poultry products and pasteurized dairy products remain safe to consume.

Experts say continued monitoring, good hygiene and evidence-based decision-making remain the most effective ways to manage avian influenza — without harming wildlife or wetlands.

"Overall, avian flu is not something someone needs to worry about on a daily basis," Dyson shared. "So, get outside and enjoy nature."

To report sick or dead birds in Manitoba, residents can contact the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-800-567-2033 or Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development at 1-800-782-0076. More information is also available through Ducks Unlimited Canada website at, www.ducks.ca/our-work/waterfowl/avian-flu-in-canada/.

> BREAST CANCER SCREENING, FROM PG. 6

30 First Nations communities and partnerships with newcomer, Indigenous and racialized community organizations to reduce travel and access barriers.

"We are very encouraged by the Manitoba government's support for CancerCare Manitoba's commitment to cancer screening," said Dr. Donna Turner, vice-president and chief of population oncology. "By investing in people and infrastructure, we can reach more individuals where they live and reduce barriers to screening, especially in rural, remote, northern and equity-deserving communities."

The minister said lowering the screening age to 45 is a milestone in a multi-year plan, with work underway to further expand eligibility to age 40 by the end of 2026.

"Breast Screening Advocates Manitoba welcomes the government's decision to lower the breast cancer screening age to 45," said Jennifer Borgfjord. "Expanding access to screening in the 40s will help detect cancers earlier and save lives."

Information on screening locations is available at cancercare.mb.ca/screening. Appointments can be booked by calling 1-855-952-4325.

- Movies at 7:30 pm Daily
- 1:00 pm Saturday Matinees
- Concession sales Saturday 12:30 pm - 9:00 pm

SONG SUNG BLUE
Jan 16th - Jan 22nd
7:30PM Each Night
Matinee: Jan 17th 1:00PM (PG)



THE HOUSEMAID
Jan 23rd - Jan 29th
7:30PM Each Night
No Matinee (14A)



SPECIAL 2 DAYS ONLY MATINEE
CHARLIE THE WONDERDOG
Matinee ONLY:
Jan 24th 12:30PM and 3:30PM
Jan 25th 1:00PM (G)



MARTY SUPREME
Feb 6th - 12th
7:30PM Each Night
Matinee: Feb 7th 1:00PM (14A)



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Visit our Facebook page The Flicks Cinema

THE FLICKS CINEMA - 319 1 St E, Stonewall

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4

1 can (15 ounces) Green Giant 100% Pure Pumpkin
1/2 cup coconut cream
1 cup vegetable stock
1 tablespoon garlic paste or 1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon ginger paste or 1 teaspoon ground ginger
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
coconut rice, for serving (optional)

FamilyFoods

Phone 467-5553

Pumpkin Soup

bread, for serving (optional)

In saucepan over medium heat, combine pumpkin, coconut cream, vegetable stock, garlic, ginger and salt and pepper, to taste. Stir until well incorporated, cook 10 minutes.

Serve over coconut rice or with bread, if desired.

Notes: For an elegant garnish, top with toasted pepitas, pumpkin seeds or swirl of coconut milk.

Leftovers can be refrigerated up to 3 days or frozen up to 3 months. Thaw frozen coconut ginger pumpkin soup in fridge then reheat in microwave or saucepan on stovetop.



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

Servings: 4-6

1 pound spaghetti noodles
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup avocado oil
1 package (12 ounces) raw shrimp
2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon onion powder

Shrimp Spaghetti

1 cup frozen or fresh spinach
bread, for serving

Cook spaghetti noodles according to package instructions.

In skillet over medium heat, add butter, avocado oil and shrimp. Mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder and paprika. Remove shrimp after they begin to turn pink; set aside.

Add chicken broth, Parmesan, heavy cream, remaining garlic powder, onion powder and spinach to skillet; mix well. Add shrimp back to skillet to finish cooking. Mix in noodles and serve with bread.



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

1 stick butter, melted
1 box lemon cake mix
2 eggs
1/3 cup fresh blueberries
2/3 cup white chocolate chips, divided
1/3 cup chopped pecans

Easy Lemon Blueberry Bars

Heat oven to 350 F.

In bowl, combine butter, cake mix, eggs, blueberries, 1/3 cup white chocolate chips and pecans.

Butter 7-by-11-inch pan and spread mixture evenly into pan. Bake 30-35 minutes.

Let cool then melt remaining white chocolate chips and drizzle over bars.

Tip: If melted white chocolate chips are too thick, add a little oil before drizzling.

The Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Thursday, January 15, 2026 11

Ask the Money Lady

Dear Money Lady Readers: Today my husband read me my horoscope for 2026, and he says it sounds like me. Have you read yours too? Most of us want to make changes in a New Year to ditch the old habits, stop smoking, lose weight, find a new job, the list could be endless. So, is this the year you change the narrative of your life?

Often times the new story to a new life is right in front of you, but for whatever reason we can't see it, can't feel it, and certainly can't imagine making the necessary changes. However, we all know that having the courage to change the course of your future, will always bring you new opportunities. A healthier life, less pain, a new career, more money, more love; it's all out there for those who want a different story. Of course, this all sounds great, but making a change and keeping up the fight is always easier said than done. Sure, we all plan to make changes every January, with 58% of us starting a "New Year's Resolution" every year. But of those that plan for change, 87% will give up and settle back into their old ways by the end of February.

Here's a quote I want to share with you from an Italian poet Dante Alighieri, (1265-1321): "The path to paradise begins in hell." Isn't that the truth. If things were easy, we would all be thin, fit, wealthy and always happy. The fact is, only 1% of Canadians will make their resolution last more than 10 months. Change is tough. Too often we tend to revel in our sad and pitiful life stories, getting an emotional charge out of how unfair life is to us, and how great we are for keeping up the struggle – against all odds. We whine and complain to people about being a survivor and love it when we get comforted: "You poor thing, how do you ever manage?" We have to manage, because we don't make any changes to improve things.

Now I am not saying we shouldn't have our pity-parties once in a while.

Often times this is exactly what we



need – I just don't want you to keep the party going forever, especially into another year of unhappiness. Remember, the greatest gift we have is the one we often forget: we have a choice. You can always choose a different direction in life. If you believe in the theory of cause and effect, then everything in your past has brought you to this very moment so you can choose another direction. Stop listening to the naysayers and get on with it. Stop wanting sympathy for your sad situation and move past it. And for all you helicopter parents out there, stop smothering your adult children, and let them go. We all need to discover our true self, our destiny and our calling.

Decide on a new story this year. What choices will you make that will change your experiences and bring you closer to the life you want to live. Remember, if you do what you always did, you will get what you always got. Negative feelings create negative attitudes and attract negative people. But, when you decide to make a change, being positive creates feelings of happiness, attracting other happy people with opportunities and connections, to help you advance your new story.

Good Luck and Best Wishes,
Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer and Syndicated Money Coach on BNN Bloomberg. Christine is also part of the everyday lineup on CTV Your Morning in every province. No AI. Follow Christine on Instagram @askthemoneylady, or on Facebook (Christine Ibbotson).

Apple Spice Cake

1 cup chopped pecans
Heat oven to 350 F.

Peel, core and chop apples into bite-sized pieces. In bowl, mix apples with brown sugar, cinnamon and flour, if desired, which helps keep apples from sinking to bottom. Set aside.

In large mixing bowl, mix spice cake mix, butter, eggs and milk. Mix in apples and pour into 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake 30-35 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Let cool.

To make glaze: Mix powdered sugar and milk; pour over cooled cake. Top with pecans.



Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"

2 apples

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1 tablespoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon flour (optional)

1 box spice cake mix

1 stick butter, melted

4 eggs

1 cup milk

Glaze:

1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

2-3 tablespoons milk

Teulon celebrates a year of growth, improvements and community spirit

By Jennifer McFee

Now that the calendar has rolled over to the new year, the Town of Teulon has plenty of successes to celebrate from 2025 and lots to look forward to in 2026.

Mayor Todd Campbell said 2025 was all about enhancing experiences for citizens and visitors, improving everyday life for residents, strengthening local partnerships and keeping community spaces welcoming and affordable.

"From recreation upgrades to meaningful programs for youth, Teulon has shown that small towns can achieve big things," he said.

"In planning for 2025, the town focused on what matters most to people who live and visit here — safety, friendships, quiet living, natural landscapes and affordability. By listening closely to residents and working with community partners, Teulon built on these priorities in real and visible ways."

Teamwork was one of the town's main strengths in 2025, evident through collaborative work with community groups, volunteers and local organizations. Campbell points to collaboration through several proj-

ects that benefit the entire community.

"The Safer School Pathway Project helped students travel to and from school more safely. Thank you for the contributions of councillors Kirt Ansell and Glenn Kletke," he said.

"The Green Acres Trails expansion grew the park pathways, thanks to the support of an anonymous donor."

Children, youth and adults kept active through support for local sports and recreation, including Teulon Minor Hockey and the Curling Club. In addition, food bank sponsorship helped ensure support for families in need, and elementary school skating days encouraged healthy fun.

"These partnerships show how Teulon continues to build a caring, connected community," Campbell said.

Teulon also celebrates its success in keeping recreation affordable for families. The town offered \$2 public skating, stick-and-puck and community skate sessions, with season passes priced at only \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families. Families also enjoyed a summer drop-in arena program, as well as sponsorship for five elementary school skating days.

"These choices helped ensure everyone from young families to seniors

could stay active without high costs," Campbell said.

Community input continues to help shape the future of Teulon.

"The town invited residents to share ideas for parks, green spaces and other public areas. Beginning in summer 2024 and continuing into 2025, this input will help guide the future of outdoor spaces," he said.

"A public open house is scheduled for Jan. 27, 2026, where residents will help shape priorities for beautification, recreation and gathering spaces. This open-door approach ensures local voices influence local decisions."

Last year also brought upgrades across town.

"Behind the scenes, important improvements kept facilities running safely and looking great," Campbell said. "Some of the completed upgrades this year include painting of the arena's north and east exterior walls, as well as new audio-visual improvements at the Teulon Rockwood Centennial Centre, including a 100-inch television."

Other upgrades included new automatic shut-off taps at the campground and canteen washrooms; replacement of aging equipment, such as a front deck mower, a half-ton truck and the purchase of a flail mower; and a man-hole inspection initiative to support infrastructure planning.

"These investments may not always make headlines," Campbell said, "but they play an important role in keeping Teulon running smoothly."

Following a year of progress in 2025, more excitement is on the horizon in 2026.

"From safe pathways to renewed community spaces, 2025 proved to be a year of growth and connection for Teulon. The town strengthened relationships with local groups, invested in recreational opportunities, improved infrastructure and invited residents to participate in planning the future," Campbell said.

"As we move toward 2026, Teulon's successes show what can be accomplished when a community shares common goals, chooses affordability and keeps citizens at the heart of every decision. And based on everything achieved this year, Teulon's story of progress is only beginning."

At the same time, Campbell said funding challenges related to infrastructure renewals continue to hamper the town's ability to access provincial grants that might be insufficient or unpredictable.

"Additionally, competition for funding from regional and national sources can be intense, making it difficult



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Town of Teulon Mayor Todd Campbell

for small towns to secure necessary financial support," Campbell said. "Costs continue to rise across all aspects of our business, from building material to rubber on the wheels of our equipment. Global uncertainty is certainly hitting close to home."

In 2026, one big project will involve the purchase of a new fire pumper truck. Council will also be looking at paving another street this year.

"We have finalized the drawing and design for the new accessible washrooms at our community centre and will go out for tender in the new year," Campbell added. "We will continue to enhance our facilities with some upgrades to improve customer experiences."

Looking ahead, Campbell focuses on the community goal of continuing to work together and building on momentum created in 2025. He'd also like to keep focusing on the theme "Small town living isn't about having less; it's about experiencing more."

"Our community-based organizations are critical to the well-being of our community," he said. "If there was one resolution I would suggest: Join a club or organization — your knowledge and your time as a volunteer provides successful continuation of our local groups in our community."

Campbell also shared a few messages with residents for the new year.

"Go out and enjoy the new trails. Experience everything that makes Teulon special. Let's continue to work together to make this town a great place to work and play in 2026," he said.

"Lastly, 2026 is an election year. Please remember to vote. Your vote is important."

SIRL Festival of Wreaths



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The RM of Rosser placed first in the 16th annual Festival of Wreaths celebration held at the South Interlake Regional Library's Stonewall branch. Judging ran from Dec. 1 to 19, 2025. The RM of Rosser entry, created by Susan Manchulenko, earned 681 votes — translating into a \$681 donation to the Stonewall and District Cheer Board.

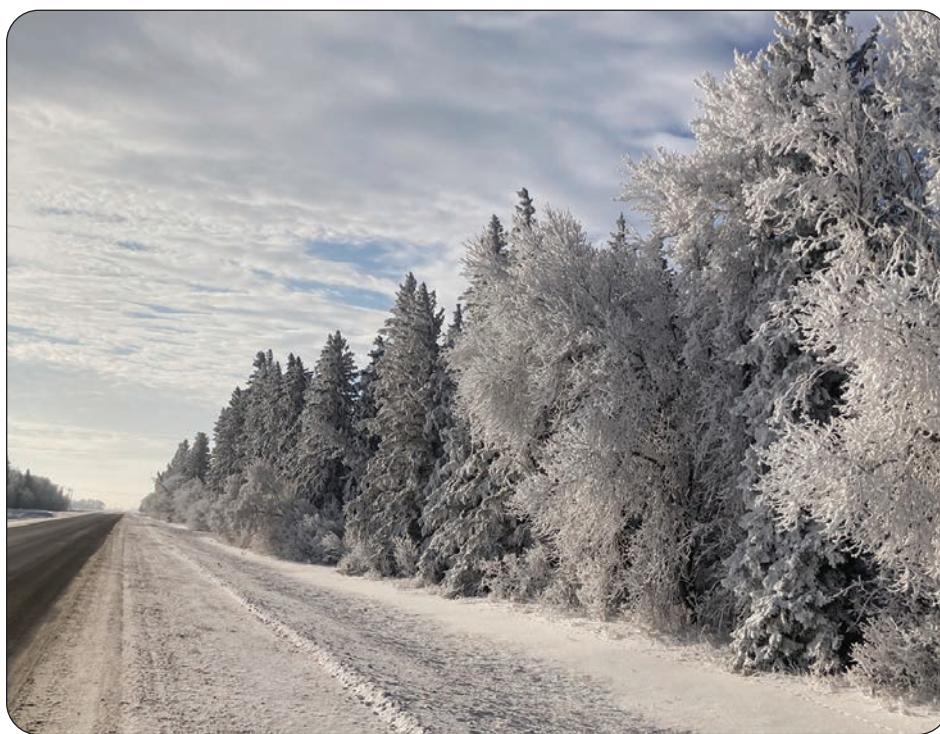
Horse rescue delivers happiness and joy to local PCH



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Two horses from Blackbird Ranch Equine Rescue and Rehab made their annual holiday visit to Rosewood Lodge Personal Care Home on Dec. 30, bringing smiles and moments of joy to residents. Directors Corinne Nykorak and Kim Lyons led the visit, continuing the rescue's tradition of spreading happiness through the calming presence of horses. This year's visit featured Smokey, a gentle 20-year-old quarter horse surrendered in Saskatchewan last summer, and Iris, a 15-year-old paint horse who joined the rescue about a year and a half ago and has grown noticeably more confident since her arrival. The annual visits have become a cherished holiday tradition, creating memories that last well beyond the season. Left photo, left to right: Smokey, Kim Lyons, Iris and Corinne Nykorak. Middle photo: Rosewood Lodge resident Jarvis Baryliuk waves to Iris through the window. Right photo: resident Joan Cameron speaks with Nykorak about Iris.

Winter's quiet beauty



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ERIC MALOFSKY

Hoar frost clings to trees and fields along Highway 236 south of Stonewall in this photo taken Friday, Jan. 9. The temperature at the time was -15 C, warming through the day to around -9 C. Conditions were about six degrees above the seasonal average, with even milder weather expected next week, when daytime highs could reach zero. Readers are invited to help record the week's weather by submitting photos to news@stonewallteulontribune.ca.

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Spreading holiday cheer throughout December



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Rockwood Wrecking representatives Dawn, Steve, Lillian and Easton Green delivered a Christmas ball filled with donations to the Cheer Board, while Stonewall Jets players Evan Deprez, Brody Stovin, Spencer Hunnam and Rylan Slatcher volunteered their time to help hand out hampers on a freezing cold morning on Dec. 20.

MP James Bezan reflects on 2025, looks ahead to 2026

By Jennifer McFee

As a long-standing member of Parliament, James Bezan continues to be grateful for the opportunity to serve

the community.

In 2025, Bezan was sworn in for the eighth time as the member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman.

"This is a role I never take for granted, and I am proud to have the continued trust of our constituents to serve them in Ottawa," he said.

"Additionally, I was asked by Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre to continue to serve as our shadow minister for National Defence. More recently, in September, I tabled my new Private Member's Bill C-219, The Sergei Magnitsky International Anti-Corruption and Human Rights Act."

Looking back at 2025, Bezan said American and Chinese tariffs have hit hard locally for the steel mill, manufacturing industry and farmers.

"Conservatives stand ready to work with the government to remove these tariffs and restore markets for our farmers and businesses," he said.

Looking ahead in 2026, Bezan is focused on ensuring that rural communities and constituents aren't forgotten at the federal level.

"I will always fight for Manitobans and do everything possible to ensure we can continue to afford our rural way of life," he said.

"Additionally, in Ottawa, I will continue to work with other members of the National Defence committee on Bill C-11, Military Justice System Modernization Act. And, finally, my private member's bill is expected to be back up for debate in March and voted on at second reading."

In the early days of the new year, he also shared some goals for the local area.

"I will continue my support of our



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan attended Sgt. Tommy Prince Day in Petersfield.

local communities here in Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, especially those seeking federal funding for infrastructure projects. We must ensure the federal government is investing across Canada and especially into rural communities," he said.

"As well, my team is always here to help the good people of Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman in dealing with the federal government."

After a short break for the holidays, Bezan's office in Selkirk reopened on Jan. 5 to serve the local community five days a week, all year long.

"I wish peace, prosperity and good health to all as we head into 2026," he said. "All the best in the new year."

Super Bowl Raffle Clarification

The **Stonewall Jr. Jets U13A1** and **Interlake Lightning U13AA Female Hockey** would like to clarify scoring listed on Super Bowl raffle tickets sold in support of the teams.

Raffle tickets were printed with **East** and **West** scores.

- The **East score** corresponds to the **AFC score**.
- The **West score** corresponds to the **NFC score**.



We appreciate everyone's support and wish all ticket holders the best of luck. Thank you for supporting local minor hockey.

Woodlands looks forward to continued momentum in 2026

By Jennifer McFee

Now that 2026 has begun, Woodlands' reeve offers a few reflections on the year that just wrapped up.

"As we close out 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made together as a municipality," said Reeve Doug Oliver.

"This year has been marked by significant investments in infrastructure, community amenities and long-term planning to ensure the RM of Woodlands continues to thrive."

In 2025, engineering and preparatory work began for major projects, including Hanlan Street paving, transfer station improvements and the regional water project. Another ongoing initiative is the Good/Broadfoot reconstruction project, which involves reconstructing the portions of Good Street and Broadfoot Avenue that border Woodlands School. These streets, which are currently gravel, will be rebuilt with a proper base, asphalt and a sidewalk.

"We gravelled 172 miles of roads, ensuring safer and more reliable travel throughout the RM. Drainage improvements included cleaning 7.5 kilometres of Colony Creek drain and completing the Road 76.5 drainage project," Oliver added.

"The Erinview Hall reconstruction was completed following the structure fire in 2023. We invested in equipment to support municipal operations, purchasing a grader, Schulte mower, zero-turn mower and wheeled excavator."

Community enhancements included installing the Meadow Lea columbarium, constructing a new parking lot for the Woodlands Clinic, widening Road 82N from Provincial Trunk Highway 6 to Provincial Road 248 and reconstructing the Hanlan

Street sidewalk in Warren.

"The LUD committee added solar lighting to the Kotelko Walkway and improved pathways and features in Lions Park, and the municipality upgraded recycling infrastructure at the transfer station while introducing community recycling bins in Woodlands," Oliver said.

"For public safety, we purchased a drone and radios for the fire department and commenced preliminary work on a high-volume well for Warren. We also approved a significant investment in cybersecurity following a breach this past summer."

In addition, the RM modernized municipal services by implementing paperless billing and receipts for taxes and utilities and will be accepting debit payments in 2026.

"These accomplishments reflect our commitment to improving quality of life, enhancing safety and planning for future growth," Oliver said.

"While 2025 was a year of progress, 2026 promises continued momentum. We have completed preliminary work on several projects that we intend to complete this year. We are also excited to have some interest in housing development in the LUD of Warren and hope to see some more new homes in the new year."

Key projects for 2026 budget consideration include advancing the Good/Broadfoot reconstruction project and Hanlan Street paving, both with sidewalks. Council will also consider ongoing transfer station improvements, road widening and frost boil repair programs, as well as the reconstruction of Lisgar Street in Marquette and Solvason Avenue in Woodlands.

Work will also continue on the regional water



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Happy 2026 from Woodlands council. Left to right: Coun. Bryan Myskiw, Deputy Reeve Lorna Broadfoot, Reeve Douglas Oliver, Coun. Carl Fleury, Coun. Val Stelck, Coun. Darrell Sinclair and Coun. Darryl Langrell.

project, pending Municipal Board borrowing approval, and developing a high-volume well in Warren. As well, the town will prepare for the general municipal election later in the year.

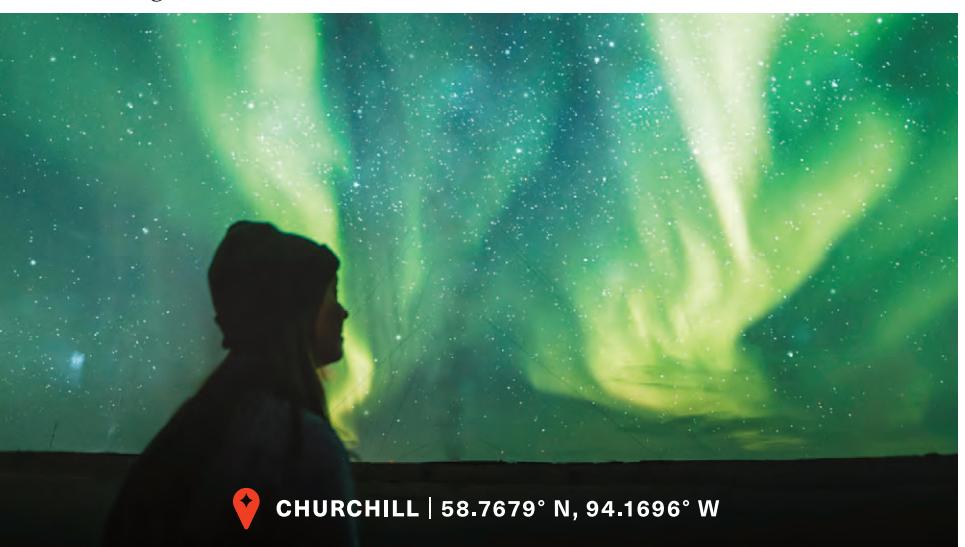
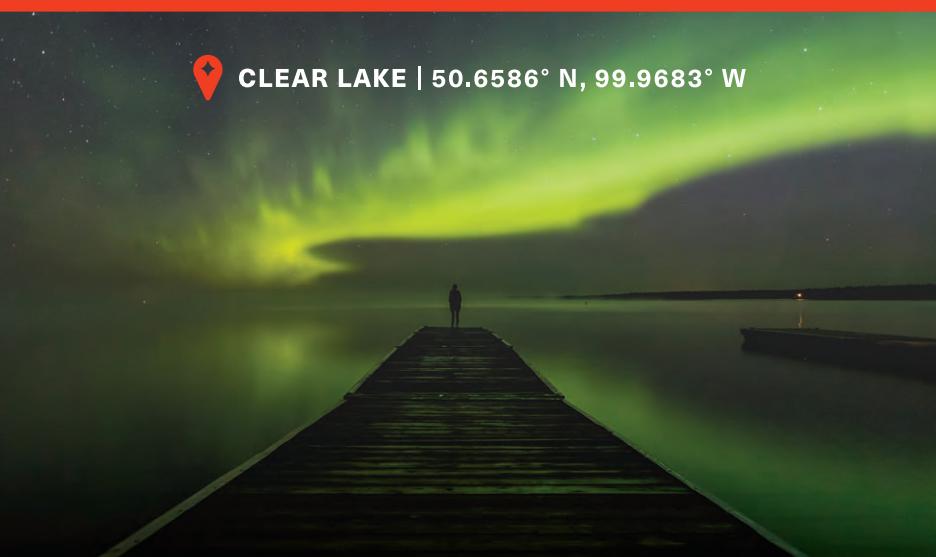
"On behalf of council and staff, I thank our residents for their support and engagement throughout 2025," Oliver said.

"Together, we've built a strong foundation for the future, and I look forward to working with you as we take the next steps in 2026."

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A lifetime on the road

Warren/Stonewall
Freight owner
reflects on decades
of service, industry
change

By Jo-Anne Procter

After decades of hauling freight between Winnipeg and Interlake communities, George Williams is easing off the road — closing the chapter on a career that began long before he was old enough to drive.

Williams, 78, retired in December 2025 from Warren/Stonewall Freight, a family operation he quite literally grew up in. His father, Lloyd George Williams, purchased Stonewall Trucking around 1952, and by the time George was five years old, he was already helping out.

"My early days on the job were carrying empty cases of beer bottles," Williams said. "In those days, it was all by hand."

By Grade 12, Williams was already running freight routes. He would attend school in the morning, walk home, then climb into a truck and head to Winnipeg — a routine he continued after graduating in 1966.

"I was only 17 or 18, and the legal drinking age was 21," he recalled. "The only reason the liquor commission warehouse would give me the booze to bring to Stonewall was because my dad owned the business."

Williams officially took over the company in the late 1970s and never seriously considered another career.

"Life throws lots of curves at you," he said. "But I never really deviated from my path."

Over the years, Williams witnessed major changes in the trucking industry, none more significant than the shift from a regulated to a deregulated system.

"When the industry was regulated, you were called a public service vehicle," he said. "If you said you were going to provide daily service, you had to provide it."

Under regulation, rates were controlled by the province, and any increase required formal approval.

"If you wanted to raise your rates,



you had to apply to Manitoba," Williams said. "And anyone who disagreed could come forward and voice their opinion."

Deregulation changed that landscape, allowing carriers to set their own prices and decide how — or whether — to serve certain routes. But Williams said his approach never changed.

"I never changed my mindset," he said. "Being reliable was part and parcel of the regulated era, and I carried that forward."

As the years passed, Williams said the industry gradually moved back toward tighter oversight — particularly around safety.

"They deregulated it, then re-regulated it," he said. "Now it's all on a safety basis."

Drivers must complete multiple courses and certifications, including compliance training, safety supervision, dangerous goods handling and Manitoba Safety Certification for operating vehicles over 4,500 kilograms. Even mechanical work such

as brake adjustments now requires specific licensing.

"You couldn't adjust the brakes on your own truck unless you had an S endorsement," Williams said. "Anybody coming into the industry now has a long list of courses before they can even say they're in business."

Customer expectations also evolved. In the early days, freight often arrived late in the afternoon — sometimes after stores had closed. Williams' father carried keys to every business they served.

**"BEING RELIABLE
WAS PART AND
PARCEL OF THE
REGULATED ERA,
AND I CARRIED
THAT FORWARD."**



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

George Williams has retired after more than 40 years delivering freight throughout the Interlake and surrounding communities with Warren/Stonewall Freight.

"We'd put the freight in the store and lock it back up again," he said. "Nowadays, if you don't show up by noon or two o'clock, you're not giving good enough service."

Williams said trust unexpectedly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, as contactless deliveries became the norm.

"People got more trustworthy," he said. "Instead of signatures, I'd write their name down and ask if they were good with that."

Despite faster traffic and higher speed limits, Williams said winter driving has become more challenging.

"Back in the '50s and '60s, trucks were limited to about 45 miles an hour," he said. "Now you're doing 100 kilometres an hour and getting passed all the time. Time is more important to people now."

Still, he said the relationships built over decades of deliveries were the most meaningful part of the job.

"Meeting people, understanding their businesses, getting to know their families — that was the best part," he said. "That happened all throughout the Interlake."

Some moments still stand out, including helping transport aerospace equipment during the Gulf War era.

"That gave me a little bit of pride," Williams said. "I felt like I was doing my part."

Motivation, he said, came down to determination and family.

"You were determined to provide for yourself and your family," he said.

Williams has often said that when you truly enjoy your work, it never

feels like work at all — a philosophy that defined his decades behind the wheel and in business.

In 2006, Williams' long-standing commitment to the trucking industry was formally recognized when he received the Manitoba Service to Industry Award from the Manitoba Trucking Association. The honour, presented by Trailmobile, is awarded to individuals nominated by their peers and acknowledges those who have earned widespread respect while making lasting contributions to the industry. At the time, Williams said the recognition was both unexpected and deeply meaningful, noting that acknowledgment from fellow truckers carried special significance.

After turning 78 and reflecting on a serious incident decades earlier, Williams decided it was time to retire.

"There's only so many miles you can put under your wheels," he said. "You follow your gut."

Retirement plans include tackling long-delayed projects at home and clearing out old freight trailers as he prepares for what he calls the next phase of life.

Looking back, Williams hopes he'll be remembered for his work ethic — something he credits to his father and generations before him.

"Our history is very important," he said. "Maybe someday people will think about me the same way I think about my great-grandfather."

If he had to sum up his years on the road in one sentence?

"Time has flown by."

Stonewall skaters shine at Virden Fun Skate, eye provincials on home ice



Coach Danika McCausland



Coach Cameron Nesbitt



Sofia Lavrova



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Gaia Turner and Lacey Learning, coached by SSC's Keesha McCutcheon.

By Lana Meier

The Stonewall Skating Club enjoyed a strong showing at the Virden Fun Skate held Jan. 2-3, with club athletes collecting multiple podium finishes and strong results across several STAR categories.

Sofia Lavrova led the way with a silver ribbon in STAR 2 Freeskate and another silver in Creative Improv 1. Lacey Learning captured gold in STAR 5 Artistic and added a third-place finish in STAR 5 Freeskate, while Gaia Turner posted a trio of solid results, placing third in the STAR 7 Short Pro-

gram, fourth in STAR 6 Freeskate and second in STAR 5 Artistic.

The weekend also highlighted success for Stonewall's coaching staff. Coaches Cameron Nesbitt and Danika McCausland competed in Adult 1 Synchro with the U of M Ice Intrepid Team, earning a second-place finish.

Attention now turns to the championship portion of the season. Stonewall will host the Manitoba Figure Skating Provincials from March 20 to 22, bringing top skaters from across the province to home ice.

Several Stonewall skaters will also compete on the provincial stage earlier in March after qualifying for the Manitoba Winter Games in Thompson, running March 4-7. Turner and Anna Hoff will represent Team East

in STAR 6/7, while Learning will skate for Team East in STAR 5.

With recent podium finishes and major events ahead, the club is looking to carry its momentum into a busy and exciting stretch of the season.

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Billet family brings MJHL hockey home to Stonewall on Jan. 15

By Lana Meier

After an ice scheduling conflict opened up availability, Stonewall will host a Manitoba Junior Hockey League game on Thursday, Jan. 15.

The Winnipeg Blues will face the Portage Terriers at the Stonewall Veterans Memorial Sports Complex, with puck drop set for 12 p.m. The game gives local fans a rare opportunity to see MJHL action in Stonewall, with the Blues promoting the matchup as a community-focused event encouraging minor hockey players and families to attend. The meeting also carries playoff implications, with the two teams battling for position in the league standings.

For local billet parent Amanda Clarke, the game carries added meaning.

Clarke is hosting three Winnipeg Blues players this season — Kyson Lindsay, Brennan Green and Brennan's brother, Brady Green — and says what began with a simple email through Stonewall Minor Hockey has grown into a life-changing experience for her family.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring a young adult into our home who was dedicated, disciplined and passionate about hockey — someone my son Wyatt could look up to," Clarke said.

Lindsay, who arrived from Calgary in late August, said the transition to Stonewall was made easy by both his billet family and the community.

"Being billeted in Stonewall has been a really positive experience," he said. "From the moment I arrived, the community and my billet family made me feel welcome and comfortable. It truly feels like a home away

from home."

After Lindsay quickly settled into family life, Clarke agreed to billet additional players as needs arose. Brennan Green joined soon after, followed by his brother Brady in early October after a trade to Winnipeg.

"Before we knew it, our family of five had grown to include three billet brothers," Clarke said. "It's been an experience filled with learning, growth and connection."

Brady Green said the household dynamic has been a highlight of the season.

"Billeting in Stonewall has been a great experience, and I'm thankful for the support the Stonewall youth teams have shown toward us and the Winnipeg Blues," he said. "Having four little billet siblings is also pretty cool, and we all enjoy spending time with them. Our billet mom has made us feel at home since Day 1."

The players have become part of the household's daily rhythm, balancing demanding junior hockey schedules with family meals, chores and time with Clarke's four children.

"They've blended seamlessly into our home," Clarke said. "It's not just about hockey — it's about kindness, respect, hard work and being part of a family."

Brennan Green said that support is critical for players competing away from home.

"The support from our billet family has been huge," he said. "After coming home from practice every day, they give you a place that feels like home and are super supportive, which makes it easier to stay focused on hockey."

The influence has been especially strong for Wyatt, who plays minor hockey in Stonewall and now has three junior players as everyday role models.

"Having MJHL players in our home has inspired him in a way I couldn't have imagined," Clarke said. "He dreams of one day playing in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League himself."

Wyatt said having the players live with his family has been the highlight of his season.

"I've always wanted a brother, and I feel like I really lucked out and got the three



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall resident Amanda Clarke with her son Wyatt and daughters Emersyn, Haleigh and Quinn are pictured with Winnipeg Blues billet players Kyson Lindsay, Brennan Green and Brady Green, who are living with the Clarke family this season as part of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League billet program. The Blues will face the Portage Terriers in a special MJHL game in Stonewall on Thursday, Jan. 15 at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

best ones I could have ever asked for," he said. "When they come to watch me play, it makes me really excited and I work harder to impress them."

The billet players have also embraced the Stonewall community, volunteering during Smile Cookie Week, helping on the ice at minor hockey practices and regularly attending local games.

"They always wait for Wyatt to get off the ice to give him a fist bump and congratulations, win or lose," Clarke said.

Brennan Green said supporting young players is something he takes seriously.

"It's important for me to support local minor hockey teams and players like the Stonewall Blues and Wyatt," he said. "I know how much support and encouragement means at that age, and they look up to us as role models."

One standout moment came during a parents-versus-kids skate, when Wyatt lined up for a faceoff against Brady Green and scored moments later.

"That's a moment he'll never forget," Clarke said.

The connection has extended back to the junior club as well. Local teams, including the Stonewall Blues U11 and U18 girls squads, recently attended a Winnipeg Blues game, where the billet players invited the kids into the

dressing room for photos and autographs.

With the Blues now set to play an MJHL game in Stonewall, Clarke said the experience has come full circle.

"For Wyatt especially, it's a huge deal," she said. "He keeps saying they'll be playing on his turf."

Brady Green said playing a league game in Stonewall adds another layer of meaning.

"You're representing not just your team, but the community and billet family that's supported you throughout the season," he said. "It makes the game feel more meaningful."

As a billet parent, Clarke said hosting the game locally is deeply meaningful.

"These boys are truly amazing young men," she said. "Being able to watch them play in our hometown, surrounded by people who have gotten to know and support them, is incredibly special."

Families attending the game are welcome to bring outside food and drink into the facility, and the arena canteen will be open throughout the afternoon. General admission will be \$15 per person, with tickets sold at the front door, while minor hockey players aged 18 and under wearing their team jersey will receive free admission, adding to the community-focused atmosphere of the event.



Wyatt Clarke and Quinn Cameron, another billet family, give high fives to Winnipeg Blues players as they take the ice ahead of MJHL action.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Warren Wildcats host annual Alumni hockey evening

By Jo-Anne Procter

Alumni pride and school spirit were on full display as past and present WCI players returned to the ice for the annual WCI High School Hockey Alumni Game Evening at Access Credit Union Arena.

The girls' alumni team set the tone early, skating to a 6-4 win over the current WCI squad. Bre Lucier Windross led the alumni attack with a hat trick, while Stephanie Martens, Jodie Beauchamp and Abbi Dorsch added singles. WCI countered with goals from Nicole Hutchinson, Blake Darragh and Brook Waldbauer, who scored twice.

The boys' game was a tight, physical contest that saw the alumni edge WCI 3-2. Jayden Allary and Brett Goertzen, who scored twice, provided the offence for the 2014-16 alumni team. Braeden Ivany and Kael Ivany replied for WCI in a game that remained close until the final whistle.

Off the ice, the evening was equally successful, raising nearly \$2,000 through gate admissions, a 50/50 draw and the chuck-a-puck contest. Proceeds will go toward new jerseys and help offset team operating costs for the Wildcats hockey program.

The boys' Wildcats have carried that momentum into league play and currently sit atop the Price Division of the Winnipeg High School Hockey League.

WCI returns to home-ice action Monday, Jan. 19 against Pinawa at 3:15 p.m., followed by games against John Taylor on Thursday, Jan. 22 and Beausejour on Monday, Feb. 9. Both games are scheduled for 3:15 p.m.

On the girls' side, WCI sits mid-pack in the standings but continues to show steady improvement. The Wildcats will host Shaftesbury on Tuesday, Feb. 3 before welcoming Garden City on Tuesday, Feb. 10, with both games set for 3:15 p.m.



Former WCI student Shalene Varnes sang O'Canada. Referees left to right: Ethan Corbett, Leland Chartrand, Crew Corbett and Geoff Corbett.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER
Lakeside MLA Trevor King drops the puck between his sons Trey King (left), an alumni player, and Rhet King (right) of the Wildcats during the annual alumni hockey evening.



Blake Darragh (left) of the Wildcats lines up for the ceremonial puck drop with alumni player Stephanie Martens as Martens' daughter, Emery — a U7 Teulon Tigers player — drops the puck.



The Warren Wildcats girls and the alumni team.



The Warren Wildcats boys team and coaching staff and the WCI 2014-2016 alumni team and coach Sean Martin.

Stonewall pitcher Sierra Slatcher commits to Iowa Western

By Lana Meier

A dominant summer on the national stage has helped open the door to the collegiate ranks for Stonewall softball standout Sierra Slatcher.

The 17-year-old has committed to continue her softball career with Iowa Western Community College, following a highly successful U17 season with the AAA Winnipeg Lightning.

Slatcher split duties in the circle and at first base this summer, playing a key role in the Lightning's run to a provincial silver medal and a berth at the 2025 Canadian Championships in Warman, Sask. Competing against the top U17 clubs in the country, Slatcher delivered one of the strongest all-around performances of the tournament.

Over the national championship weekend, she threw 366 pitches, recording 32 strikeouts while allowing just one earned run. Offensively, she posted a .500 batting average, a .550 on-base percentage and added an over-the-fence home run. Her combined impact on offence and defence earned her Top Infielder honours at the tournament.

The Lightning finished 10th out of 24 teams at nationals, capping off a season that also included multiple travel tournaments across Western Cana-

da and British Columbia, along with a 14-8-1 regular-season record in the Manitoba Premier Softball League.

Slatcher's parents said the commitment reflects years of dedication behind the scenes.

"The hours of practice, training and working out have paid off," they said in a statement. "Your love and dedication to the game is outstanding. You deserve big things."

Slatcher has continued to build her game through high-level competition, combining pitching consistency with strong defensive play at first base. Her ability to contribute in multiple roles helped elevate the Lightning throughout the season and positioned her as a collegiate prospect.

Slatcher will move up to the U19 division next season after aging out of U17 following the Canadian Championships. The U19 level includes both Western Canadian and national championship opportunities, providing another step in preparation for college softball.

She is set to join Iowa Western for the 2026 season, where she will continue her development in one of the top junior college softball programs in the United States.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall softball player Sierra Slatcher has committed to Iowa Western Community College.

Strong field, record Calcutta highlight Argyle men's bonspiel



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY CHAD THORESBY

Pictured left to right: first event winners Devon Smith, Riley Nichol, Ryan Smith and Craig Nichol; second event winners Laurie Hogg, David Green, Bob Harris and Allan Sanche; and third event winners Geoff Snell, Blake Mauthe and Jason Waite. Not pictured from the third event are Marc Van Hussen and Chase Faulkner. The teams competed at the Argyle Curling Club men's bonspiel held Jan. 1-4.

By Lana Meier

A full slate of teams and four days of competitive play marked a successful start to the new year for the Argyle Curling Club, which hosted its annual men's bonspiel from Jan. 1 to 4.

The event drew a strong 24-team field, with close games and consistent competition throughout the weekend. Organizers said the quality of curling remained high from opening draw through to the final stones on Sunday, creating an entertaining atmosphere for players and spectators alike.

Top honours in the first event went to the Craig Nichol rink, with Nichol skipping alongside third Ryan Smith, second Riley Nichol and lead Devon

Smith.

The second event title was claimed by the Laurie Hogg team, featuring Hogg at skip, David Green at third, Bob Harris at second and Allan Sanche at lead.

In the third event, the Geoff Snell rink captured the win. Snell was joined by third Jason Waite, second Blake Mauthe and leads Marc Van Hussen and Chase Faulkner.

Beyond the on-ice action, the weekend also saw exceptional community support during the Calcutta, which raised a record \$8,600 — surpassing the bonspiel's previous high. A special acknowledgement was extended to Prairie Roots Co-op for gen-

erously donating its Calcutta winnings back to the curling rink.

Organizers also thanked prize sponsors Slatcher Electric, Terraco, Big Block and Enns Brothers for their contributions, as well as the many volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly. Special recognition was given to Pam Crockatt, Chrissy Buchanan and Jacqui Holod for their dedication and hard work throughout Saturday and Sunday.

With strong participation, spirited competition and record-setting fundraising, the Argyle men's bonspiel once again proved to be a highlight on the local curling calendar.

Wildcats roll on, remain atop WSHL Price division

By Annaliese Meier

The Warren Wildcats continue to set the pace in the WSHL Price Division, sitting atop the standings with a 14-1 record after another dominant home win.

Warren was in action Thursday, Jan. 8, rolling to an 8-1 victory over Lundar on home ice. The hosts struck twice in the opening period, with Ty Olson opening the scoring at 12:37 before Lexon Hogg added another less than two minutes later. Warren pulled away in the second period on goals from Hogg and Kaelen Ivany, then piled on four more in the third.

Braeden Ivany, Sawyer Park, Hogg and Jonathan Gilmore all found the back of the net in the final frame as Warren closed out the lopsided win. Hogg led the offence with four goals, while Olson, Kaelen Ivany, Braeden Ivany, Park and Gilmore rounded out the scoring in a balanced team effort.

Warren returns to action Monday, Jan. 12, hosting West Kildonan for a 3:15 p.m. puck drop, before hitting the road Wednesday, Jan. 14 to face Murdoch MacKay at 4:30 p.m.

WILDCATS DROP CLOSE HOME DECISION

The Warren Wildcats dropped a narrow home decision last week and sit ninth in the MWHSHL Division West standings.

Warren was in action Tuesday, Jan.

6, falling 3-2 at home to the John Taylor Pipers. The Wildcats jumped out to an early lead with first-period goals from Everly Sherry at 12:21 and Nicole Hutchinson at 9:52, both assisted by Katie Atchison. John Taylor responded with a powerplay goal late in the second period and added two third-period markers to complete the comeback.

Through 14 games, Warren holds a 5-9 record, placing the Wildcats ninth in Division West.

The Wildcats return to action on the road this week, travelling to Sanford on Tuesday, Jan. 13 for a 3:30 p.m. puck drop, before facing Vincent Massey Collegiate on Friday, Jan. 16 at 4:15 p.m.

RAMS SLIDE AFTER PAIR OF ROAD LOSSES

The Stonewall Rams dropped a pair of road games last week and sit 10th in the WSHL Winnipeg Free Press Division standings.

Stonewall opened the stretch Wednesday, Jan. 7, falling 6-4 on the road to Dakota. The Rams erased a deficit with a strong second-period push that included goals from Alec Harrisko at 4:12, Liam Cox at 3:11, and a powerplay marker from Brody Slatcher at 1:59. Stonewall added another powerplay goal late in the third from Matthew Hawryluk, assisted by Banx Chartrand, but Dakota



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Warren Wildcats' Lexon Hogg picked up five points in his team's 8-1 victory over the Lundar Kodiaks in Warren on Jan. 8. Hogg scored a hat trick and added two assists in Winnipeg High School Hockey League action. The Wildcats currently sit in first place in the Price Division.

answered with timely goals to secure the win.

The Rams were back in action Friday, Jan. 9, dropping a 6-1 decision on the road to Gabrielle-Roy. Stonewall was limited offensively in a physical contest that featured penalties on both sides throughout the game.

Through 14 games, Stonewall sits 10th in the division with a 4-10 record.

The Rams return to action Monday, Jan. 12, travelling to CPET for a 4 p.m. puck drop, before returning home Wednesday, Jan. 14 to host Churchill at 4 p.m.

Rams varsity girls complete season at home tourney



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER AND DAN GREGOVSKI

The Stonewall Rams varsity girls' basketball team hosted its final game of the season during its home tournament on Jan. 10, marking the end of the program after the team was unable to secure enough player commitment to continue. With just six athletes available, the Rams took the floor with determination and heart throughout the tournament. Stonewall opened the day with a convincing 55-12 victory over the Westgate Wings before falling 56-35 to the Westwood Warriors and 54-34 to the Mennonite Brethren Hawks. Pictured left to right: Summer Chartrand drives to the basket in the Rams' loss to the Westwood Warriors, while Pen Cacao advances the ball along the sideline. Team members shown include Pen Cacao, Reese Fidler, Summer Chartrand, Ava Favreau, Arianna Mannes and Riley Swanson. Not pictured are head coach Christy Steeves and assistant coaches Keauna Oliver-Hanna, Jessica Holod and Hayden Turner.

Gavin Holod honoured as MMJHL Player of Month

By Lana Meier, with files from Kieran Reimer

Stonewall Jets forward Gavin Holod has earned early-season league recognition while establishing himself as one of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's most dangerous offensive threats.

Holod was named the MMJHL's Player of the Month for November 2025, recognition that reflected his consistent production and nightly impact during the opening stretch of the season.

"He's been consistent every night," said Stonewall Jets head coach Pat Power. "He brings that effort and compete on a nightly basis, and that's allowed him to be successful."

Holod has since taken sole possession of the league's scoring lead. Through 28 games, the Stonewall forward has amassed 45 points, recording 10 goals and 35 assists. He leads Jets teammate Peyton Bateman, who sits second overall with 42 points in 23 games, while Jayden Ward of the St. James Jr. Canucks and St. Boniface Riels forward Cole Davis are tied for third with 40 points apiece. Nathan Burzynski of St. Boniface rounds out the top five at 38 points, underscoring the tightly packed nature of the league's scoring race.

Holod's 35 assists place him among the league's elite playmakers, a skill set Power said separates him from most players in the league.

"Gavin's ability to see the ice is definitely tops in the league," Power said. "He finds guys open and sees plays a lot of players don't see. To have a player with that vision on our team is huge for our success in scoring goals."

Holod has driven offence consistently while Stonewall remains firmly in the playoff picture. The Jets sit fourth in the MMJHL with 33 points through 28 games, behind Transcona, St. Boniface and Charleswood, while holding a four-point edge on River East in the race for playoff positioning.

"I came off to a little bit of a slow



Stonewall Jets general manager Liam Wheddon (left) presents Gavin Holod with the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League Player of the Month plaque for November 2025.

start, but everything's picking up and it shows with our team as well," said Holod. "You've got good coaches, a good goaltender and good players, so that makes it a lot easier."

Before making his mark at the junior level, Holod was a familiar name to local hockey fans through his minor hockey career with Interlake-based programs. He posted strong offensive numbers with the AAA Interlake Lightning and later with the Stonewall Rams, developing into a reliable scorer well before reaching junior hockey.

That experience translated quickly. Holod entered the junior ranks during the 2023-24 season while still playing high school hockey, splitting time between the Jets and the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Niverville Nighthawks. Last season, he made the full-time jump to junior, spending time with both the MJHL's Steinbach Pistons and the Jets.

Now 18 and one of the younger players among the league's scoring leaders, Holod carries a level of junior experience uncommon for his age group.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Gavin Holod (right) of the Stonewall Jets battles for the puck along the boards against a Fort Garry/Fort Rouge Twins defender during MMJHL action. Holod was named second star after recording one goal and two assists.

"It gets you experience and maybe gets rid of the nerves early," Holod said. "It helps with the mental toughness of junior hockey."

Through 24 games, Holod owns a plus-14 rating while averaging just under 1.55 points per game, placing him among the league's most efficient scorers.

Stonewall is one of only two teams with multiple players ranked inside the league's top four scorers, with Bateman close behind among the elite. Power said that depth has allowed the Jets to better manage workloads compared to last season.

"Having multiple lines that can score has made it easier to manage guys' minutes," Power said. "We're not overplaying guys like maybe we did last season, and that's because of our depth and guys stepping up."

Holod echoed that sentiment, pointing to confidence throughout the lineup.

"Our coaches believe in us, and every guy in the room believes too," he said. "From line one to line four, everyone can find ways to put pucks in

the net. Our defence has been good, and having a solid goaltender back there brings confidence."

Power said the Jets' biggest step forward this season has been consistency in their compete level.

"Bringing constant effort and taking no nights off. Our guys have bought into that, and it's helped us a lot," said Power.

As the second half of the schedule approaches, Power said there is still room for growth.

"We need to be better on the road," he said. "The good teams in this league win at home and on the road, and we need to win on the road more."

Across the MMJHL, the scoring race remains tight, with the league's top 10 separated by just 11 points as the season continues.

The Stonewall Jets return home on Thursday, Jan. 15 to host the St. Boniface Riels at Stonewall Veterans Memorial. Puck drop is set for 8 p.m.

Stonewall then hits the road Sunday, Jan. 18 for a 2:45 p.m. matchup against the St. James Jr. Canucks.

Jets roll to three wins in four games, outscore opponents 20-6

By Lana Meier

The Stonewall Jets closed out a strong early-January stretch with a decisive 9-1 road victory over the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Friday, Jan. 9, winning three of four games over seven days in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League action.

Stonewall erupted for three first-period goals and never looked back at Seven Oaks SportsPlex, building leads of 3-0 and 5-0 before pouring in four goals in the third period. Peyton Bateman led the offence with two

goals and two assists, while eight different Jets scored. Rylan Slatcher, Carson King, Kai Smith, Seth Clements, Gavin Holod, Alex Kaczorowski and Dean Saunders also found the back of the net.

Ron Cailo earned the win in goal, stopping 20 of 21 shots, as the Jets outshot the Raiders 34-21. Holod added a short-handed goal, while Stonewall limited the Raiders to one goal on four power-play chances.

The win followed a narrow 5-3 home loss to the league-leading Transcona

Railier Express on Thursday, Jan. 8. Wylie Garchinski, Bateman and King scored for the Jets, who were tied 2-2 early in the second period before Transcona pulled away with a pair of power-play goals.

Earlier in the week, Stonewall posted back-to-back shutouts behind goaltender Spencer Hunnam. On Friday, Jan. 2, Hunnam stopped all 40 shots he faced in a 4-0 home win over the Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins. Gavin Holod and Rylan Slatcher each recorded a goal and an assist, while

Cohen Cheung and Kaczorowski also scored.

Hunnam followed that performance with another shutout on Sunday, Jan. 4, turning aside 42 shots in a 4-0 road win over the River East Royal Knights. Kai Smith scored twice, while Holod and Seth Clements added the other goals as the Jets were outshot 42-37 but remained composed defensively.

Following the four-game stretch, the Jets sit fourth in the MMJHL standings at 16-11-1, firmly in the playoff mix as the regular season continues.

Mercs rebound at home, edge Portage shootout

By Lana Meier

The Warren Mercs weathered a demanding early-January stretch in the SEMHL, shaking off a rough road loss before defending home ice with authority and grinding out a shootout win to stay in the thick of the playoff chase.

Warren ran into a buzzsaw in Winkler on Saturday, Jan. 3, as the Winkler Royals struck early and often in a 9-1 decision. The Mercs briefly answered when rookie Mason Waite buried a feed from Matt Cameron late in the first, but Winkler answered almost immediately and poured it on from there. Goaltender Evan Baty was under siege all night, turning aside 39 shots as the Royals rolled four lines and kept the pressure on shift after shift.

The Mercs responded the next afternoon with a statement performance on home ice. Warren jumped all over the Carman Beavers on Sunday, Jan. 4, cashing in six first-period goals to seize full control in a 7-3 win. Jesse Korytko opened the scoring, sparking a quick strike barrage that also saw Braydon MacDonald, Brenden Luschinski, Kaden Stewart and Matt Cameron light the lamp. Drake Lindsay added a power-play marker in the second, while Travis Bosch slammed

the door, stopping 42 shots. The third period turned chippy, with multiple scrums and misconducts as emotions boiled over.

Warren capped the stretch with a barn-burner on Saturday, Jan. 10, outlasting the Portage Islanders 9-8 in a shootout. The Mercs caught fire late in the opening frame, ripping off five goals in under 10 minutes to swing momentum. Gianluca Esteves led the charge with a pair, while Brett Brooks converted a penalty shot in the third to keep Warren in front. Portage pushed back hard, forcing overtime in a back-and-forth third, but after a scoreless extra frame, Drake Lindsay snapped home the lone shootout goal to seal the win. Bosch was sharp when it mattered, closing the door in the skills competition.

With the split, Warren sits fourth in the SEMHL standings at 7-5 for 14 points, firmly in the playoff mix behind Winkler, Springfield and Red River. The Mercs continue to be tough to handle at home, combining a balanced scoring attack with timely goaltending.

Warren is back in action Friday, Jan. 16 when it hosts Springfield, before heading to Portage on Sunday, Jan. 18 for a quick turnaround rematch.



Tribune photo by Lana Meier

Warren Mercs goaltender Travis Bosch turned aside 42 of 45 shots to backstop Warren to a 6-3 win over the Carman Beavers on Jan. 4, 2026, in SEMHL action at Warren.



Mercs forward Jesse Korytko opened the scoring and added an assist against the Carman Beavers.

67's fall on road, remain near bottom of HTJHL

By Annaliese Meier

The Warren 67's dropped a tight road contest last weekend and remain near the bottom of the HTJHL standings.

Warren travelled to Niverville on Saturday, Jan. 10, falling 3-1 despite opening the scoring. Owen Shymko gave the 67's an early lead midway through the first period, finishing a play set up by captain Evan Roy and Shepard Trosky. Niverville responded with a powerplay goal

late in the second period before taking the lead early in the third, adding an empty-net marker in the final seconds to seal the result.

Through 22 games, Warren sits 11th in the HTJHL standings with a 2-18-0-2 record and six points.

The 67's return to action Friday, Jan. 16, when they host Steinbach at 8 p.m., before heading back on the road to face Mitchell on Saturday, Jan. 17.

WARREN MERCS HOCKEY — SEMHL ACTION



Fri, Jan. 16 • 8:00 p.m.

Springfield (Home game)

Sun, Jan. 18 • 7:45 p.m.

Portage (Away game)

Come cheer on your hometown Mercs!



STONEWALL JETS HOCKEY — MMJHL ACTION



Come cheer on your hometown Jets!

Thursday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m.

St. Boniface Riels at Stonewall Jets

Stonewall VMSC

Sunday, Jan. 18 2:45 p.m.

Stonewall Jets at St. James Jr. Canucks

AB McDonald Arena

Fast-paced junior hockey • Family fun for all ages

Stonewall's Wheddon leading the charge for MJHL-leading Nighthawks

By Kieran Reimer

Hayden Wheddon is putting together a season to remember in his final year of junior hockey.

The Stonewall product leads the Manitoba Junior Hockey League in scoring at the Christmas break, pacing the first-place Niverville Nighthawks with 15 goals and 31 assists in 30 games.

Wheddon is one of several Nighthawks enjoying breakout campaigns this season. Much of the roster is trending toward career highs in production as Niverville continues to sit atop the MJHL standings with a 27-2-1 record.

At the Christmas break, the Nighthawks were ranked first in the MJHL and second overall in the Canadian Junior Hockey League. They also held two of the league's top three scorers, including Wheddon, who leads the MJHL in points.

The 20-year-old winger is in his second stint with the Nighthawks after departing the club during the 2023-24 season to play for the Western Hockey League's Brandon Wheat Kings.

After returning to Niverville last season and recording 29 points, Wheddon has taken his game to another level this year, emerging as a dominant offensive force in his final season of eligibility.

"Last season was a great stepping stone for me," said Wheddon. "There were some ups and downs, but I think we came into this season with a winning mindset — and everyone on the team has. We have a tight group that's really bought in this year."

Now serving as an alternate captain, Wheddon has embraced a leadership role on a veteran-laden Nighthawks roster, passing along experience and guidance to younger teammates.

Those leadership qualities trace back to his minor

hockey days with the Interlake Lightning.

"We just try to make everyone comfortable, whether it's a newly traded player or a first-year guy in the league," said Wheddon. "Bonding off the ice really helps, and we just try to make it easy for everyone to enjoy their year."

Wheddon isn't the only Lightning alumnus making an impact in Niverville — or even on the Nighthawks' top line.

Skating alongside him is Gimli's Adam Vigfusson, who sits third in MJHL scoring. The two have known each other since they were five years old.

"Coming from a place where sometimes people don't get those opportunities, playing together — especially on the same team and the same line — it's pretty cool," said Wheddon. "Adam and I have known each other for a long time, and we're pretty close off the ice too, so it's great to do this with him."

Together, Wheddon and Vigfusson will look to help lead Niverville to its first MJHL championship this spring.

The Nighthawks have 28 regular-season games remaining before the start of the Turnbull Cup playoffs. A championship would earn Niverville its first-ever berth at the Centennial Cup, scheduled for May 7-17 in Summerside, P.E.I.

"Everyone — including myself — is really looking forward to how the rest of the season plays out," said Wheddon. "We all want to win so bad. It's been so much fun this year, and I'm really excited for what's ahead."

Following his junior career, Wheddon hopes to continue playing at the university level.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall's Hayden Wheddon leads the MJHL in points with 15 goals and 31 assists in 30 games played at the Christmas Break. He's found chemistry on the Nighthawks top-line alongside Gimli's Adam Vigfusson and Lorette's Merik Boles.

Wildcats win gold in Gimli



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Warren Wildcats junior varsity girls' basketball team captured the Gimli High School JV Girls Basketball Tournament title on Jan. 10, defeating the Teulon Saints 40-26 in the championship game. The Wildcats advanced to the final with wins over the Arborg Athletics (70-8) and Immanuel Christian Falcons (45-21), while the Saints reached the final after defeating the King's Knights (67-11) and Gimli Lakers (42-30). Pictured, back row (left to right): Everly Sherry, Mackenzie Boonstra, Madison Corbett, Emma Cassils, Addalyn Grandmont, Ashlyn Hoas and Arianna Thomas. Front row: coach Fallon Campbell, Nicole Hutchison, Katie Atchison, Ella Riddell, Jessy MacMillan and coach Michelle Riddell.

Lightning teams battle on



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Interlake Lightning U13 AA defenceman Lilyanna Kotelko rushes the puck out of her end in her team's loss to Eastman Selects in Stonewall on Jan. 6.

Interlake Lightning U18 AAA pick up five points in three games

By Lana Meier

The Interlake Lightning put together an impressive three-game winning streak in early January, defeating the Norman Northstars twice in tightly contested games before finishing the stretch with a high-scoring win over the Kenora Thistles.

Interlake opened the stretch with a 3-2 overtime victory over Norman on Friday, Jan. 2 at Teulon-Rockwood Arena. The Northstars struck first midway through the opening period, but the Lightning gradually gained momentum, outshooting Norman 15-10 in the second frame.

Damon Marquart tied the game on the power play at 4:42 of the second period, converting a setup from Logan Jacobson and Ryder Kirk. Interlake continued to press and took its first lead late in the third when Kirk scored on another man-advantage at 11:38, finishing a passing play from Reid Toporoski and Marquart.

Norman answered back with a power-play goal of its own at 16:06 to force overtime, but the extra session was short-lived. Kirk struck again just 2:12 into overtime, finishing a rush to give the Lightning the win. Seth Schaeffer stopped 34 of 36 shots in goal as Interlake held a narrow 39-36 edge in shots.

The teams met again on Sunday, Jan. 4 in Arborg, where Interlake earned a 4-3 shootout win after another dramatic finish. The Lightning controlled much of the game early, outshooting Norman 31-20 through regulation and overtime.

Lucas Miller opened the scoring late in the first period before Kirk doubled the lead midway through the second on a setup from Damon Marquart and Mathias Sibleau. Norman mounted a comeback in the third, scoring three unanswered goals — including two on the power play — to take a 3-2 lead with just over two minutes remaining.

Interlake refused to go quietly. Brody Huver tied the game at 19:37 of the third with a power-play goal off passes from Kirk and Branden Mickall, forcing overtime. After a scoreless extra frame, Reid Toporoski scored the lone goal of the shootout to seal the win, while goaltender Grayson McDonald stopped all three Norman shooters after making 18 saves through regulation and overtime.

The Lightning wrapped up the three-game stretch with a 6-4 win over Kenora on Saturday, Jan. 10 at Teulon-Rockwood Arena, pulling away with a dominant third period. The teams traded chances early, with Interlake holding a slim 13-16 shot deficit after one despite the game being tied 2-2.

Thoren Corbett opened the scoring with a shorthanded goal just 1:50 into the game, and Corwyn Bear added another late in the first, but Kenora responded with a pair of goals, including a power-play marker in the final minute of the period. Mathias Sibleau tied the game midway through the second before Kenora regained the lead on another power-play goal.

Interlake took over in the third, erupting for four goals while outshooting Kenora 17-14 in the final frame. Sibleau scored his second of the night early in the period to even the game, followed by goals from Elijah Rempel and Brody Huver to swing momentum firmly in the Lightning's favour. Kenora added a late goal, but Interlake closed out the win with strong defensive play down the stretch.

Seth Schaeffer made 34 saves in the victory as Interlake finished the night with a 46-38 edge in shots. Sibleau led the Lightning with two goals, while Ryder Kirk and Branden Mickall each recorded two assists.

The three wins marked a strong start to January for the Lightning, who



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Lightning forward Thoren Corbett celebrates his goal as teammates line the bench with high-fives during U18 AAA action at Teulon-Rockwood Arena.

showed resilience in close games and depth scoring as they continue league play against Manitoba and northwestern Ontario opponents. Interlake remains 11th in the U18 AAA standings with an 8-21-1 record and 17 points, ahead of Norman and Kenora.

The Lightning return to action Wednesday, Jan. 14 on the road against the Winnipeg Thrashers, followed by road games in Dauphin against Parkland on Jan. 16 and a weekend back-to-back against Southwest in Souris on Jan. 17 and 18.



Interlake Lightning goaltender Seth Schaeffer makes a save during U18 AAA action at Teulon-Rockwood Arena, helping his team secure a 6-4 win over the Kenora Thistles.

Lightning earn rare win in challenging U18 AAA stretch

By Annaliese Meier

The Interlake Lightning picked up a much-needed victory during a demanding three-game stretch in Manitoba Female Hockey League U18 AAA action last weekend, snapping a long skid against tough competition.

Interlake opened the weekend Friday, Jan. 9, with a strong effort against league-leading Winnipeg Ice at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex, building a 2-0 lead through two periods. Goals from Rielle Forfar and Lily MacGregor gave the Lightning early

momentum, but Winnipeg Ice scored four unanswered goals in the third period to secure a 4-2 win. Joslyn Tetlock made 37 saves in the loss as Interlake was outshot 41-20.

The Lightning rebounded Saturday night with a 3-1 home victory over the Central Plains Capitals, earning just their second win of the season. Teagan Bragg opened the scoring on the power play late in the first period before Neve Halpenny netted the game-winner late in the third. Manon

Trenholm added an insurance marker, while Tetlock stopped 30 shots to secure the win.

Interlake closed the weekend Sunday against the Westman Wildcats, falling 5-1 despite a competitive shot total. Westman scored three times in the opening period to take control. Ella Riddell scored the Lightning's lone goal midway through the second, with Joslyn Tetlock coming on in relief and finishing the game in goal.

Through 21 games, Interlake sits

eighth in league standings with a 2-18-0 record. Despite the results, the Lightning continue to face some of the strongest teams in the province on a regular basis as they develop and gain experience at the U18 AAA level.

Interlake is back in action Wednesday, Jan. 14, when it visits the Pembina Valley Hawks at the Access Event Centre in Morden, before travelling to Winnipeg on Sunday, Jan. 18 to face the Winnipeg Avros at Seven Oaks Arena.

Activities for Seniors in Your Area



Activity Centre
374 1st Street West, Stonewall
204-467-2582 si55plus@mymts.net
Tuesday-Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

2026 MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW! \$25.00 FOR A CALENDAR YEAR

To renew or become a new member, check out our website at www.si55plus.org to fill out a Membership form or come see us at the Centre (374 1st Street West, Stonewall).

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Seniors Cafe

Tuesday, January 20 1:00 - 1:45 pm
374 1st Street West, Stonewall

Come and enjoy fun and refreshments with the Stonewall Collegiate Foods Class
Please call to register for this complimentary event
Ask about our free transportation for this event

Lunch at Bull & Filly in Winnipeg

Friday, January 23

Leave Lions Manor at 10:30 am and South Interlake 55 Plus at 10:45 am
Members \$20, Non-members \$25 plus the cost of lunch
Deadline to register is Thursday, January 15

Kildonan Place Shopping Trip

Thursday, February 19

Leave Lions Manor, Entrance 1 at 9:15 am and South Interlake 55 Plus at 9:30 am
Registration Deadline: February 17
Members \$20 / Non-members \$25

Straight From Me to You

George Strait Tribute

Thursday, February 26

Leave Lions Manor and South Interlake 55 Plus at 4:00 pm
Deadline to register and pay: Thursday, February 12
Members \$85, Non-members \$90

Charlie Major

Friday, March 6

Leave Lions Manor and South Interlake 55 Plus at 4:00 pm
Deadline to register and pay: Thursday, February 19
Members \$85, Non-members \$90

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Cards
Line Dancing
Pickleball

Quilting
Craft n' Coffee
Men's Chat

Ukulele Club
Virtual Chat
Exercise Programs

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are a volunteer-based organization and we are always looking for volunteers whether it is to facilitate a program, serve at our luncheons, provide dainties or volunteer at a fundraiser. We are always looking for new volunteers. Feel free to contact the office!

Teulon & District Seniors Resource Council Inc.

Providing a Helping Hand

Find us at 54 Main St, Teulon 204-886-2570

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

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Support Services for Seniors • Driver/Escort Program

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- ERIK and ICE Programs • Handy Helper/Housekeeping Program
- Friendly Visiting and Telecheck (phone buddy)
- 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

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.

Supports to Seniors in Group Living (SSGL)

SSGL provides a range of free enhanced support services in group living/elderly persons housing buildings. These services will assist the residents in accomplishing their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) and provide them with the support to remain in their community and "age in place"

If wanting any support services in group living/elderly persons housing building, please contact Kelley Rutkair @ 431 381 4002 or email ssglstonewall@shaw.ca

Healthy Eating & Cooking for 1-2 & Actively Aging Movement Presentation

Stuck on ideas for meals or snacks for 1 or 2 people? Reaching for unhealthy snacks, but looking for quick and healthy snacks? Caroline Le Clair (she/her), BA, BSc. Registered Dietitian and Certified Chef with the IERHA, will be providing some quick & awesome healthy food ideas for both meals and snacks for 1 or 2 people.

Following her presentation we will have Linda Brown from AAIM, (Actively Aging In Manitoba) to provide us with some fun and easy movements to keep us actively motivated, throughout the day.

Thursday, February 12th, 2026 @ 2PM- 3:30PM

Lions Manor (Door #4) Multipurpose Room, Stonewall, MB

Please RSVP to the Seniors Resource at 204-467-2719

Bone Health 101

What you need to know about your Bone Health
Did you know at least 1 in 3 Women and 1 in 5 Men will suffer from an Osteoporotic fracture in their life.

Learn how to reduce your risk of fracture.

Presentation includes: What Osteoporosis is/The risk of fracturing a bone/Maintaining healthy bones/Impact of nutrition & physical activity/Fall prevention

Thursday, February 26th, 2026 @ 2PM- 3:00PM

Lions Manor (Door #4) Multipurpose Room, Stonewall, MB

Please RSVP to the Seniors Resource at 204-467-2719

St. Laurent Seniors Resource Council Inc.

"SENIORS IN ACTION"

55+ and people living with disabilities

Support Services in the RM of St. Laurent and Oak Point

Office: St. Laurent Community Health Centre

51 Parish Lane, Please call: 204-646-2504 ext. 3

Free E.R.I.K. Emergency Response Information Kit,

Free on loan mobility aids, Resource information, Monthly Birthday Club,

Fundraising activities throughout the year. Fee for Service such as,

Foot Care Clinic, Victoria Lifeline, housecleaning and more.

Free use of Exercise Equipment, Free Adult Bikes on loan,

Free Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Annual Seniors Summer Feast in August -Entertainment-Supper-Resources

Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 10:00AM-4:00PM stlsrsrc@mymts.net

Classifieds

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or Email ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

METAL RECYCLING

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

SCRAP METAL

Buyer for all farm-yard scrap, machinery and autos. No item too large! Best prices paid. Phone Alf a 204-461-1649.

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FARMLAND FOR SALE

FARMLAND FOR SALE BY TENDER IN THE RM OF ROCKWOOD - Approx. 650 acres of productive Farmland for Sale in the RM of Rockwood, Section 31-15-3 EPM, Deadline for Submission of Tenders is February 6, 2026. For further Information and a Tender Package contact Dillon Acheson at 204 925-5360, dache@darctydeacon.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT

55+ apartment for rent in Teulon, Manitoba. Bachelor Suite, newly renovated, suitable for single senior or fixed income. \$675 per month includes heat and Hydro. Call or text Kirt 204-886-7717.

News Tips?
Story Ideas?
call the Tribune
204-467-5836

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bdrm. apartment for rent, approximately 1,000 square feet. 278 Main Street, Stonewall, Manitoba above Grantham Law Offices. Available December 1, 2025. Rent is \$1,600 per month, hydro, water, internet and cable are extra. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, washer, dryer and security system in a secured building are included. No Smoking. No pets. Minimum 1 year lease. For more information please call Lynne at 204-467-5527 or email lynnet@granthamlaw.ca

HELP WANTED

Are you the Team Lead we are looking for? If you're adventurous, creative, and a growth based support worker in the Teulon area please send your resume to dbstaffdabbling@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please support our advertisers

HELP WANTED

Prairie Flora Greenhouse in Teulon is looking for a new greenhouse assistant! Grow plants and help customers. Part-time, term, Feb-Aug. Visit www.prairiefloora.com for details.

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HEALTH

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

ADVERTISE IN THE TRIBUNE

MORTGAGE SALE

The building and land known as 8 Willow Lane, Stonewall, MB, as described in Certificate of Title No.2889087/1 will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on February 4, 2026 at 9:30 A.M. The auction sale will be held by video or teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction, in order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Katharina Kirienko at either 204-957-4810 or kkirienko@mltaikins.com.

The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a 1950 sq ft, split -4 level single family detached dwelling built in 1982, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, with partial basement, attached double garage located on a lot with 75' frontage. Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2023. The property is sold subject to taxes and penalties accruing after that date. Prior charges: Caveat No. 249846/1

TERMS OF SALE

Deposit of \$46,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to MLT Aikins LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not exceed \$7,500.00) and the balance according to conditions to be announced at the sale.

The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of \$261,000.00 plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 8th day of January, 2026 to the date of the auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.

Further information may be obtained from:
MLT AIKINS LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
30th Floor, 360 Main Street,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4G1
Attn: Jo-Anne Degagne (204) 957-4810
kkirienko@mltaikins.com

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TOWN OF STONEWALL REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

QUOTATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF 2026 FLOWERS

Email submissions marked "Quotation for the 2026 Supply of Flowers" shall be received by the Town of Stonewall Parks & Arena Supervisor, Brett Chatfield at parks-arena@stonewall.ca

The Town of Stonewall is requesting submission of quotations from qualified proponents, with proven experience designing, supplying, and planting flowers throughout the Town in 2026.

A copy of the Request for Quotation and specifications may be obtained electronically from the Town of Stonewall website at www.stonewall.ca

DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF QUOTATIONS IS 12:00 PM, JANUARY 28, 2026.

Brett Chatfield
Parks & Arena Supervisor
Town of Stonewall
Email: parks-arena@stonewall.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Gordon Howard Centre

The Place For Active Living
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(Selkirk Manitoba)

Welcome to a life full of energy, connection, and possibility! The Gordon Howard Active Living Centre is a vibrant non-profit community hub in downtown Selkirk, Manitoba serving adults in Selkirk, St. Andrews, and St. Clements. We're dedicated to supporting lifelong wellness—physically, mentally, and socially—and we're looking for an inspiring Executive Director to lead our team into exciting future.

About the Role

Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director provides strategic and operational leadership across five key areas:

- Board relations and governance
- Financial management and budgeting
- Staff and volunteer leadership
- Community and stakeholder relations
- Program and facility operations

Qualifications

- Post-secondary education in business, public administration, social science, recreation management, aging adults.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel including data entry, formula usage and analysis.
- Experience with the broader Microsoft 365 Environment, including Word, PowerPoint, OneDrive and SharePoint.
- Knowledge of issues affecting aging adults.
- Fundraising, marketing and public relations experience.
- Self-motivated and able to work independently.

Preferred

- 3+ years in the non-profit sector

Conditions of Employment

A Satisfactory Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Search as well as a Satisfactory Adult Abuse Registry Check must be provided.

Apply by January 30, 2026

A full job description is available at www.gordonhoward.ca
Email your résumé or inquiries to: director@gordonhoward.ca

Gordon Howard thanks all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

TOWN OF STONEWALL FOR SALE

The Town of Stonewall is offering for sale the following:

KOHLER STATIONARY GENERATOR	
Model #: 30	
Serial #: 231537	
4-cylinder cummins engine	
1305 hours	
Age: approximately 35 years old	
Was running when removed from service	
The following is NOT included:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel tank • Battery • Muffler 	
Generator must be removed from present location	
by purchaser on or before February 13, 2026.	

Sold on an "as is, where is" basis

Sealed Bids must be submitted to the Town by no later than 12:00 PM Friday, January 29, 2026.

Sealed Bids can be provided as follows:

- **DROP BOX:** Town of Stonewall Office
293 Main Street, Stonewall
- **EMAIL:** info@stonewall.ca with "GENERATOR BID" in the subject line

To schedule a viewing of the generator please email wosuper@stonewall.ca or call 204-513-5525

HIGHEST OR ANY BID NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED
Accepted forms of payment: Cash or Certified Cheque Only

For pictures please visit the Town of Stonewall website at www.stonewall.ca

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 467-5836 or
Email ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GENERAL LABOURER

*Charissons Turkey Hatchery
is currently hiring for general
labourer type positions.*

- Full time and part-time positions available with competitive compensation and benefits package which includes health and dental coverage.
- Training will be provided for the ideal candidate.

Please submit resume to shaunne@charissons.ca or call 204-886-2922 for further information.

MORTGAGE SALE

The land and building known as 97099 Road 11E, R. M. of Rockwood, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 2628296/1 will be sold by public auction by a Licensed Auctioneer on February 4th, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

The auction sale will be held by way of video or teleconference.

There will be no in-person attendees at the auction.

In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Matthew Underwood at either (204) 954-6429 or auctions@fillmoreriley.com.

The Vendor is informed that the property consists of a one storey dwelling approximately 1,285 square feet with living room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, full finished basement on a lot of approximately 80 acres. The well is serviced by a well and septic system, particulars unknown. The property is located approximately 10km north of Teulon. Take Highway 7 North from Teulon for approximately 5 km, then turn right onto Road 97N for approximately 3.3 km. Turn left onto Road 11E for approximately 1 km. The property entrance is located on the right.

Realty taxes (excluding any accruing water charges) are paid to December 31, 2023.

Prior Charges: Caveat No. 2468694/1.

TERMS OF SALE

A deposit of \$35,000.00 by way of certified cheque or bank draft payable to Fillmore Riley LLP, or cash (the cash component of the deposit not to exceed \$7,500.00), and the balance according to conditions which will be available electronically by contacting the individual below prior to the auction. The property will be sold subject to a Reserve Bid of **\$347,000.00** plus such other additional and incidental costs which may be incurred by the Vendor from the 6th day of January, 2026 to the date of auction and which costs will be announced prior to the commencement of the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relationship to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: www.teranetmanitoba.ca

Should the successful bidder have attended by teleconference and/or video conference, the bidder will have 24 hours to execute the Auction Sale Conditions and to provide them together with the deposit to our office as set out below.

GST will be payable on amount equal to 45% of the purchase price at the time of closing unless the purchaser is a registrant under the Excise Tax Act for GST and, on or before the closing date, provides a Declaration and Indemnity to that effect, satisfactory to the vendor's solicitor. No GST will be payable on 55% of the purchase price.

Further information may be obtained from:

FILLMORE RILEY LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1700 - 360 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3
File No. 405876-131/MTU/bb (fac)
Attention: Matthew Underwood
Phone: 204-954-6429
auctions@fillmoreriley.com

Classifieds

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

WANTED

WANTED/BUYING
1950's-80's Scandinavian, Danish, Canadian Mid-Century Modern Furniture (Teak, Walnut, Rosewood), lighting, ceramics, textiles, stereo or design. Contact Daniel at TEXT/PHONE: 204-918-1607

NOTICES

PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESS IN 2026! Let us help you book your blanket classified ads across Manitoba. NOW BOOKING for 2026! Advertise! You will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

NOTICES

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? 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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF:
The Estate of Patricia Lynn Zubriski, Stony Mountain, Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, P.O. Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0 on or before the 4th day of February, 2026.

DATED at Stonewall, Manitoba this 31st day of December, 2025.

GRANTHAM LAW OFFICES
Solicitor for the Administratrix

The Tribune Classified booking deadline is
Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication

Please Call 204-467-5836

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THE TOWN OF STONEWALL GRANT APPLICATION PROGRAM

Notice to Town of Stonewall Community Groups and Organizations

The Town of Stonewall has opened up their annual grant application program.
Please see our website at www.stonewall.ca for more information.

Completed applications must be submitted to the Town Office at P.O. Box 250, 293 Main Street, Stonewall, R0C 2Z0 or by email to info@stonewall.ca.

The deadline for submission is March 1, 2026.



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

PARKS CANADA AGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Parks Canada is looking to enter into a Licence of Occupation with an operator to offer food service in the restaurant space at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site.

Please email manitoba@pc.gc.ca with the subject line "Lower Fort Garry Restaurant RFP package" to express your interest in receiving the Request for Proposals package by Sunday, January 25 at 11:59 pm CST. There will be a Mandatory Site Visit on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, beginning at 10 am CST. Submissions must be received by **Monday, February 16, 2026, 2:00 pm CST**. Two (2) signed copies of the proposal must be submitted as specified below to the following address in a sealed envelope:

Restaurant RFP
ATTN: Evan Reeve, A/Asset Manager
Parks Canada Agency
5925 Highway 9
St. Andrews, Manitoba R1A 4A8
Telephone: 204-904-9617
Email: manitoba@pc.gc.ca

Visit parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/mb/fortgarry/info/demande-request for complete RFP instructions.

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Announcements

IN MEMORIAM



Lindal (Lindi) Reagan Kjeli Erickson
August 11, 1985 - January 9, 2024

In loving memory of
our father, son, brother, and uncle,
who left us all far too soon.
Though your time on earth was brief,
Your love, laughter, and spirit lives on forever
in our hearts.
In your memory, we find comfort, and through
your love, we find peace.

-Always loved and remembered
by your family
'Let Your Light Shine Down'

IN MEMORIAM



Leslie Nicole Goresky (Mann)
July 25, 1960 - January 10, 2024

In Our Hearts
We thought of you today,
But that is nothing new;
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name;
Now all we have are memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part;
God has you in His keeping,
We have you in our hearts.

-Gord, Pamela, Nicholas
and family

IN MEMORIAM

Brenda

The bond we shared is stitched with love,
Sealed with time,
And wrapped in memories no one else could
ever understand.
I miss you so much.

-Sister Val

IN MEMORIAM



Kevin Mandzuik

January 7, 1969 - January 7, 2020

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you never went alone;
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.
We miss you.

-With all our love,
Dad, Mom, Terri and Devon

IN MEMORIAM



Brenda Hamaberg

September 5, 1951 - January 6, 2025
Devoted wife, mother and grandmother

Treasured Memories
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed, so very dear.
Remembering you with love always.
-Wayne, Wanda, Dwayne and Cody

OBITUARY

Cecile Olson (Mayhew)

1937 - 2025



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our mother, Cecile Olson, at the age of 88 of Winnipeg Beach, MB, after a courageous and feisty fight against Lymphoma Cancer. She passed peacefully with her daughter by her side at the Gimli Johnson Memorial Hospital in the early morning hours of Monday, December 29, 2025.

She is survived by her two children, son John Mayhew and daughter Maureen Mayhew (Jayson) and grand dog "Stella", her step-mother Jeanne Jean-Louis of Calgary, her brother Amos Jean-Louis (Mireille) of Georgia, her sisters Marie Orelion (Joseph) of Inwood, Mesida Dolcin of Haiti, Elvina Dorcelus of Haiti, step-sister Guirlene Joseph (Clay) of Calgary and sister-in-law Nancy Chura Louis of Teulon. She is survived and will be missed by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many long-time friends near and far as well as her honorary sons Dean and Lindsay.

She is predeceased by her husband Lorentz Olson, her father Jean Jean-Louis, mother Miza Jean, brother Lumenes Jean-Louis, and youngest brother Peter Louis.

Cecile was the oldest of her siblings. She had the opportunity to leave Haiti and while working for the Holiday Inn in the Bahamas she met her first husband Douglas Mayhew. They moved to Toronto, Ontario where he grew up and his family resided. She had her children in Toronto and later resided in a few different cities of Ontario. She worked for a few companies which included the Holiday Inn Toronto (she made sure she told everyone that this is where she met and looked after Pierre and Margaret Trudeau and their children whenever they were in Toronto on business trips), Tonka Toys and Crown Cork and Seal.

In 1976, she moved with her children from Ontario to Manitoba and purchased a farm in Inwood where she resided for several years. In the same year, Cecile was one of the first employees to be hired by Donald Salkeld, owner of Northern Goose in Teulon. She worked there off and on for a number of years and made many lasting friendships.

Cecile also worked for cleaning companies in Winnipeg and then decided to open her own cleaning company (M.P. Cleaning), all while building and operating a dairy farm in Inwood. Farming life she never feared and loved the bush. Grampa and Grandma also lived with us until they purchased their own home in the town of Inwood.

Cecile met and married her husband Lorentz Olson in 1984 and moved to his farm not far away where they would continue farm life of beef cattle until she unfortunately became a widow in 1989. She continued on with the farm life before she moved to her final retirement spot nine years ago in Winnipeg Beach, which she loved thoroughly and made so many new friendships. For several winters, she would escape the cold here and make the trek back to Haiti to visit her sisters and families. She was lucky enough to be able to travel right up until 2024.

Mom lived a full life filled with no fear and always said "hard work will never kill you", and that she held true even up until and during her illness in 2025. You could pop into her place and either find her on the lawnmower making sure her yard looked pristine, weeding her flowers, or driving around the yard on her quad to make sure the spruce trees she dug up from the side of the back roads were doing well or needed some fertilizer to keep them healthy. In the winter, if there was a hint of snow on her sidewalk, it had to be swept or shovelled off as her place always had to be looking perfect. She loved people and treated everyone the same.

Cremation has taken place and a private celebration of life will be held at a later date with family and close friends.

Special thanks to Dr. Adeniyi Adegbesan of Gimli Express Care Clinic for providing the outmost care for Mom over the years. He treated her with such respect at all her appointments, as if she were his own mother. We cannot say enough about the nurses and staff at Gimli hospital that provided the most amazing care to our mother, and the true compassion they showed us to help us through this difficult time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Huge thanks to the Palliative and Homecare staff that checked in on Mom at home. Thank you so much to Gimli CancerCare and to St. Boniface CancerCare units.

Heaven has gained a feisty one - You lived life your way!
Rest in Peace Mom!


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Announcements

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OBITUARY



Frank Philip Grzenda

September 2, 1933 - December 28, 2025

It is with saddened hearts that we announce the passing of Frank, after leaving his special imprint for 92 years here on earth. Surrounded by loved ones, he peacefully passed from this world to the next up in heaven.

Left to cherish his memory are his caring wife, of 46 years, Elaine; sons, Gerald, Lawrence (Ashley) and Frankie, daughters, Brenda (Dan) and Natalka; grandchildren, Natasha, Kara, Maksim and Amelia, as well as many relatives and friends.

Frank was raised in Glenavon, Saskatchewan. He worked for TD bank for 45 years in various Saskatchewan and Manitoba locations before retiring to Stonewall, Manitoba.

The family wishes to thank Dr. J Mayba and the Interlake Homecare team for their compassionate care.

Prayers were held Friday January 9, 2026 and funeral service was on Saturday January 10, 2026. Both were held at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 737 Bannerman Ave, Winnipeg, MB and was livestreamed which is available at www.korbanchapel.com for 30 days after the service. Interment to follow at Holy Family Cemetery, 4355 Main St. Winnipeg, MB.

Donations can be made in Frank's memory to Canadian Red Cross - Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal (indicate for UKRAINE on cheque), PO Box 39 St. John NB E2L 3X3 <https://give.redcross.ca/page/UHCA>

Vichnaya Pamyat!

KORBAN FUNERAL CHAPEL
(204) 956 - 2193

Tribute links; www.korbanchapel.com

OBITUARY



David John Small

November 21, 1952 - December 12, 2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Dave Small at his home near Teulon, Manitoba.

He is survived by his beloved partner of 36 years, Cheryl; children: John (Evelyn), Terry, Sarah (Corey), Byron (Sandi), Matthew, and Christopher. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Ennessa, Juliette, Jason, Summer, Sidney, Serena, Kaylee, Maezlyn, Marissa, Victor, and Elizabeth, and his great-grandchildren, Scarlett and Sierra as well as all of his brothers and sisters.

David was predeceased by his parents, Douglas and Florence Small.

Dave was the oldest of seven siblings. He was born in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay), Ontario. The family moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1971, and then to Richer, Manitoba in 1975. Dave worked at a variety of jobs before he began employment with Manitoba Hydro in 1982. He started as a utility worker and retired as a heavy duty equipment mechanic in 2017. Dave spent most of his career with Hydro in northern Manitoba, living for a number of years in Grand Rapids and Gillam.

Dave was a life-long learner. He had numerous interests and tackled every one of his many projects with intensity, whether it was gardening, building, mechanical endeavors, and so much more. He was an avid reader and was always interested in electronics, even writing codes to make games for his children on his first computer back in the 80's, a Texas Instrument model. Anyone who knew Dave knew he was a collector. He would find or gladly accept items to add to his collection of things that could be repaired or repurposed some day. Often, he would fix items to give away or pass things on to others who needed them. He was generous with his time and expertise. Dave enjoyed a challenge. He was steadfast in his beliefs and was a strong advocate for others, backing down to no one. He loved a good political discussion, whether you shared his views or not. Dave was a force to be reckoned with and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held in the summer, 2026.

We would like to thank all the emergency personnel who gave their best efforts and support.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Manitoba Lung Association or the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"The cosmos is within us. We are made of star stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself." - Carl Sagan

kl
KEN LOEHMER
FUNERAL SERVICES

204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Marlaine Cecelia McDonald (Oehlerking)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Wife, Mother and Granny at the age of 73 on Monday, December 29th, 2025.

Marlaine Cecelia McDonald (Oehlerking), born on February 2, 1952 passed unexpectedly on Monday, December 29, 2025. She has gone to join her mom Cecelia and dad William (Lawrence) Oehlerking. Marlaine spent her early years in Libau, MB, then moved to Selkirk, MB where she raised her own family. Years later made the courageous move to Teulon, MB to care for her father and start a new chapter of life.

Marlaine will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by her children and grandchildren, Shannon Chanas, Bryce and Shailee; Lloydiene (Michael) Smith, Hayden and Mindy; Curt Chanas (Lindsey), Leighton and Norah; her sisters Doreen Hunnie and

Gloria Pizzi and many nieces and nephews. She will also be sadly missed by her surviving husband, Bob McDonald and children, Robin Drophomereski (Kurt), Hayley (Kurtis), Alivia, Ryatt; Robert McDonald, Hayden and Nixyn; Derek McDonald, Mallory; as well as many extended family and precious friends.

Mom will be forever remembered as a hard worker, baker, and for her pleasing personality. She often gifted her baked goods, homemade pickles and whatever else she stirred up in her loving kitchen. She had a heart of gold, positive personality and a laugh that lit up a room. She enjoyed anything outdoors, fishing, camping, cutting grass and digging in the mud of her precious gardens. Her retired life was spent playing NCI bingo every Saturday, watching for hummingbirds on her deck with a LABATT'S LIGHT in her hand, country music, bonfires, visiting her special Teulon friends, feeding wild animals and enjoying the scenery while traveling her known dirt roads.

We would also like to send a special thanks to Bev, Grant and Steph for your support on December 29th, Marlaine valued your friendship over the years.

As per Marlaine's wishes, a private service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the charity of one's choice.

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OBITUARY

Martin Carl Meyers

October 19, 1958 - December 25, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marty Meyers, at the age of 67, a devoted husband, the world's best dad, and the most amazing grandpa.

Marty fought hard to stay with us, but he received his wings on Christmas morning. He leaves behind his loving wife, Kim; his sons Brent (Ashley), Dale (Kim), and Thomas (Dana); and his cherished grandchildren Tora, Jace, Kinley, Kali, Charlotte, Cooper, and Brooks.

He is also survived by his siblings Doug, Marg (Rick), Ken (Laura), Dave (Shari), Vic (Crystal), and Tracey (Lionel); his in-laws Judy, Debbie, Tim (Corrie), Miles, and Chad; along with many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly.

Marty was predeceased by his parents, Florence and Ole Meyers; his sister, Kathy; his father-in-law, Ed Rothwell; and his sister-in-law, Tracey Sigurdson.

Raised in Balmoral, Manitoba, Marty was truly a lover of life and was always known for his big smile and unforgettable laugh. He was a very proud truck driver who hauled many different loads over the years, including gravel, heavy equipment, peat moss, produce, steel, rafters, and hay. He travelled coast to coast, including trips to Texas and California. His favourite part of the job was stopping at truck stops for a meal and calling home. Marty was also a winter road truck driver, and every year he said he wasn't going to do it again - until the next year, when he did. He was often found in the backyard polishing the chrome on his truck or washing it off, taking great pride in his rig.

He was an avid sports lover who played and coached hockey and baseball, loved NFL football, and never missed Formula 1 racing. Marty also enjoyed water skiing, fishing, hunting, muscle cars, trucks, quadding, and snowmobiling.

Above all else, Marty absolutely loved his grandchildren, and they all adored him. He was a fun, hands-on grandpa who would run through sprinklers, slide downhill, or jump into any activity just to make them laugh and have fun. Family bonfires were one of Marty's favourite traditions - sitting around the fire laughing, talking, and watching the stars and satellites go by. His family was the most important thing in his life.

Marty will be deeply missed, but he leaves behind countless wonderful memories that will be shared and cherished forever.

A private gathering for immediate family will be held at a later date.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the nurses at HSC for their compassionate care and support.

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of
Martin Clifford Olson (Marty)
May 9, 1961 – December 12, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Martin Clifford Olson, who left us after a long and difficult battle with COPD. He passed away peacefully at home on the evening of December 12, 2025, with his loving wife Wendy, by his side.

Marty will be dearly missed by his wife Wendy, their sons Kris (Jennifer) and Brad (Kiersten), and his five grandchildren who were his pride and joy, Jessie, Hailey, Colt, Madelyn, and Remington. He is also mourned by his in-laws, Brent and Peggy Armstrong, brother "in-law" Ron (Heather) Armstrong, sisters Marilyn Newton-Rourke (Jim), and Shelley Steinbeisser (Kevin), as well as his close friends Kerry and Lori Baldock. Marty is also survived by his nephews Kyle, Scott, and Brayden, and his nieces Courtlaind,

Payton, Trista, and Taryn, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was predeceased by his father Allan Olson and partner Donna Jones, mother Elaine Lamirande, and brother-in-law Phillip Newton.

Marty graduated in 1979 and soon after met Wendy at a Catholic Church dance. Their love story began in 1980 and they were married in 1983, starting their family just two years later. Throughout his life, Marty held several jobs, beginning his career as a licensed butcher, then as an electrician, and later as a production planner.

In his free time, Marty found great joy in the outdoors, particularly during hunting season. Whether he was in the bush with his sons, his father, or his friends, he was happiest pushing through thick brush or sitting quietly on cut lines. Marty was also deeply committed to his sons' sports. He coached both Kris and Brad in hockey and baseball, attaining accreditation to coach up to the AA level in hockey. He also served as President of the Balmoral Minor Hockey Association for several years. During this time, Marty became an amateur journalist, regularly writing about his sons' hockey team, Balmoral Bullets, for the local paper.

Marty also had a passionate love for Winnipeg's sports teams and rarely missed a game, whether it was the Bombers or the Jets. A talented cook, he would often chase people out of his kitchen as he was "creating". Above all, Marty's greatest passion was his family. His love for them, combined with his strength and will to live despite his illness, is a testament to the kind of man he was. Marty's memory will forever live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Our heartfelt thanks go to his doctors, Dr. Graham and Dr. Dymystryzn, and to Bryn, Kyla and the staff at Quarry Ridge Pharmacy for their exceptional care. We cannot thank you enough.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Marty's name to the Manitoba Lung Association.

Love you more than you know.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY

Robert John Peden
May 8, 1963 – December 16, 2025

With heavy hearts our dear brother Robert (Bobby) passed away at the age of 62.

Robert will be forever missed and always remembered by his sisters Bonnie (Terry), Sharon, Debbie (Brian), his brothers Neil (Cathy), Wayne (Wendy) and his 10 nieces and nephews.

Robert is predeceased by his mom Betty (1984) and dad Neil (1999), and his nephews Brent (2006) and Ryan (2020).

Robert grew up in Stony Mountain, MB where many friends and neighbours would remember Robert riding his bike around town, looking to see who had the best cookies, and who would happily recite his phone number. Robert attended school in Stonewall at Edward E. Best & Centennial School. Robert then moved to Selkirk in 1984. Robert worked at ARC Industries delivering store flyers and playing on the computer and he enjoyed his fellow co-workers and for him best of all was the van rides to and from work. This all came to an end during COVID.

Our family wants to thank all the caregivers that took care of our brother in the many group homes in Selkirk for 41 years.

Our brother's love lives on in our memories that tug at our hearts. He had a bright smile and belly laugh that will be missed by all that got to know him.

A celebration of life was held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Stonewall, MB. on Friday January 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Inclusion Selkirk, 30 Jemima St. Selkirk, MB R1A 1X1.



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The Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Announcements

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

OBITUARY

Doreen Bodnarchuk

April 12, 1944 – November 29, 2025

Doreen Bodnarchuk, beloved mother, grandmother and friend, passed away on November 29, 2025, after a valiantly short tussle with cancer.

Born and raised in the lively streets of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Doreen embarked on a new adventure when she made her way to Canada in 1969. It was here that she met the love of her life, Ray Bodnarchuk, whom she tied the knot with in 1973. Together they raised two strapping lads, Derek and Colin. Doreen's heart was as big as her smile, always open to welcoming the boys' friends into her home and taking them under her wing.

Doreen leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, survived by her sons Derek (Brandy) and Colin, along with her cherished grandkids Dylan and Cheyanne. She is also survived by countless friends whose lives she touched with her warmth and infectious spirit.

The service will be held January 17th at 1 p.m. at the Red Barn, Stonewall.

Full obituary can be viewed at alterna.ca



OBITUARY

Myron Kotelko

With heavy hearts the family announces the passing of Myron Kotelko, on Sunday, December 28, 2025. Loving husband of Alice; proud father of Christine (Brian), Mark (Teri), Brent (Roxanne), and Jordon (Renee); devoted grandfather of Braden, Lilyanna, Chase, Isabella, Kylie, Brinley, Theodore, Benjamin, Olivia, Annalise, and Maverick; brother to Steph Berty (Milton) and Lorraine Minaker; uncle to many nieces and nephews, and true friend to all. Myron was also loved dearly by Alice's sister Maureen Razzaghi (Ali), brothers Edward (June) and Roy (Rosebelle), and sister-in-law Alexandra (Tim).

Myron was predeceased by parents, Fred and Anna, mother-in-law Florence, infant brother Terry, twin sister Myra, brother Bud, brothers-in-law Gordon Langrell and Dave Minaker, sister-in-law Janna McMullen, numerous aunts and uncles, and nephew Wayne

Minaker.

Myron was born on March 21, 1951 to Fred and Anna Kotelko. He grew up on the farm in Warren, where he eventually built his family home and raised his children. As a young man, Myron's natural athleticism shone on the hockey rink, the baseball diamond, and later the golf course, where he not only honed his skills but developed his character and forged friendships that lasted a lifetime. Those friendships, built on shared passions and laughter, continue to live on through the connections and values he instilled in his family.

Myron was a hard-working master of many skills. His life's work began at the age of 17, quickly achieving his Interior Systems Mechanic journeyman, he built a business at the leading edge of its craft that took him across Canada from BC to Ontario and through most of the eastern US seaboard states. In the next 25 years of a loyal general contracting career, he continued to mentor his children and their friends, many family members, and all those fortunate to cross his path, touching countless lives with his generosity and quiet wisdom. Myron's work-day rarely ended when he punched the clock, he found great joy in building and working for his family and friends.

Though Myron loved his work, his real purpose, and greatest joy, was the legacy and lessons he shared with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He passed on the things he loved most – the rhythm of working the land, the thrill of every game, the joy of dancing, and the peace of the outdoors; whether he was driving the lawnmower, hunting, fishing, or cheering on his favorite teams. He was a steadfast man of unconditional love and unwavering support. Myron shared a peaceful, loving relationship with God and faced life, and death, with courage. He was a great source of comfort to his family and friends. To have known Myron was a privilege; to have been loved by him was a gift.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at the Royal Canadian Legion Stonewall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Interlake Rec Centre – Box 468, Warren, MB. R0C 3E0.



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