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## Olympic dreams

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MATTHIEU MEIER

Manitoba hockey fans travelled to Milan, Italy, for the Olympic Winter Games to cheer on Team Canada. From left: Kobe Davies, Matthieu Meier, Emma Gisti, Morgan Langrell, Cole Emberly and Jordan Van Niekerk.

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# Town of Stonewall receives grant to expand healing garden and memorial garden

By Jennifer McFee

Days are getting longer and temperatures are starting to warm up, which makes it a great time to start planning for garden season.

The Town of Stonewall received a \$10,000 Age Friendly Community Collaboration grant from the Manitoba Association of Senior Communities. The funds will go towards an expansion of the healing garden and memorial garden, which will include a wildflower arrival meadow and a garden sanctuary.

The initiative is a collaborative effort of Stonewall and Rockwood's Age Friendly Committee, the Communities in Bloom committee, Circles of Reconciliation, the Manitoba Métis Federation and the South Interlake Garden Club.

"The success in receiving the grant is a testament to what is possible when organizations come together in a meaningful way for the betterment of our community," said Mayor Sandra Smith.

The project will feature trees, shrubs and grass plantings to create an accessible place for reflection. Benches will provide areas for rest and contemplation.

Joie Van Dongen, chair of Stonewall and Rockwood's Age Friendly Committee, expressed enthusiasm for the collaborative project.

"This committee is enthusiastic in expanding the existing memorial garden, which was developed in 2003 by a group of passionate gardeners, with 80 per cent of members being seniors," she said.

"Over the years, this small garden has been well tended, and six-inch square personalized memory stones

can be purchased from the town. These memory stones and the quiet garden with benches are a place for reflection for seniors and family members, as well as a place to rest while walking in town or on the nearby trail."

The healing garden's Indigenous plants are well tended by seniors, who make up 20 per cent of the population, she added.

"These two gardens celebrate diversity and promote inclusion," Van Dongen said. "Anyone of any age is welcome to enjoy the serenity and contemplation inspired by these gardens."

## IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- The Town of Stonewall will participate in the 2026 edition of Communities in Bloom in the new national category called "Healthier Livable Cities" in the 5,001 to 15,000 population category. The town received a \$1,000 grant to help cover the \$1,530 registration fee.

The 2026 Communities in Bloom theme focuses on therapeutic gardening.

"Gardening has the power to support mental, physical and emotional well-being while strengthening our connection to nature and to one another," states Communities in Bloom e-newsletter. "This year, we'll focus on creating inclusive, healing green spaces that promote calm, resilience and community care. Together, let's grow environments that nurture people as much as they do the land."

- Council accepted a bid from Rakowski Cartage and Wreckage Ltd. for the demolition of the north kiln. Over the last several years, the Save



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Louise Hutton, Age Friendly Manitoba consultant, presented a \$10,000 cheque to Stonewall Mayor Sandra Smith alongside Joie Van Dongen, chair of the Age Friendly Stonewall / RM of Rockwood Committee. This grant, from the Manitoba Association of Senior Communities, will go towards expanding the healing garden and memorial garden.

the Kilns committee raised funds to cover the costs of disassembling and reconstructing the southern kiln. However, due to the rising costs of reconstruction, the town has decided to demolish the two northern kilns. The project will also create public space and develop an amphitheatre.

- The Manitoba Water Services Board put out a call to municipalities to identify new water and sewer projects that are coming up in the next two to four years. The Town of Stonewall will submit a request for \$5.3 million for the sewer and water infrastructure project for the personal care home and age-in-place campus site, as well as the surrounding lands.

- WSP Engineers has proposed a due diligence review and gap analysis for a property on 4th St. East. The current property owners are completing some environmental remediation since it was previously a bulk fuel

plant and fertilizer facility. This property was also identified as a potential site for a new fire hall if it needs to be expanded in the future. As a result, the engineering company considers it prudent to conduct a due diligence review and data gap analysis of environmental management documents to evaluate whether the environmental conditions and human health risks have been adequately addressed.

- The Town of Stonewall will participate in the AlertMB, which is Manitoba's public alerting program that is designed to deliver life-saving information during emergencies. This program allows authorized officials the ability to issue alerts through the national public alerting system, thereby alerting Manitoba through TV, radio and compatible wireless devices without the need for a subscription in the affected areas.

Continued on page 5

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# Children's book finds wonder along Grosse Isle trail

By Annaliese Meier

A familiar forest trail near Grosse Isle has become the unlikely inspiration behind a new children's book that encourages families to slow down, embrace imagination and re-discover wonder.

Local author Corey King recently released *Something Must Be Done*, a children's book inspired by walks through a wooded trail near his home — and by a realization that adult seriousness can sometimes crowd out childhood whimsy.

"There's a small forest trail near our home in Grosse Isle that I love walking through," King said. "In the summer, the trees are thick enough that you can't see any houses. It felt like a tiny escape into nature."

That feeling shifted when someone in the community began decorating trees along the trail with faces — something King initially resisted.

"I wanted that space to stay untouched," he said. "But seeing how my rigid thinking was changing my kids' perspective, I realized we were losing an opportunity for whimsy and imagination."

Those same decorated trees have since become "family friends," he said, eagerly visited each time they walk the trail. That shift — from adult frustration to childlike wonder — sits at the heart of *Something Must Be Done*.

The title itself is meant to gently poke fun at grown-up urgency.

"The title satirically frames adult frustration," King explained. "Parents carry a lot of responsibilities and stress, and that often clashes with the slower, more playful pace of children."



Decorated trees along a Grosse Isle trail — the inspiration for Corey King's *Something Must Be Done* — have become familiar "friends" for local families.

In the story, that frustration becomes exaggerated and absurd, inspired in part by the style of Robert Munsch. The repeated phrase "something must be done" becomes a mantra for the adults, while children lean further into imagination and rebellious play.

"Without spoiling the ending, the real 'something' that gets done isn't what the adults expect," King said. "It ends up being an internal shift that changes how they see their children and themselves."

Recommended for readers aged five to nine, the book is written to engage both children and adults. Younger readers are drawn in by humour and

Continued on page 5



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Local author Corey King holds a copy of his new children's book *Something Must Be Done*, inspired by family walks along a forest trail near his home in Grosse Isle. The story encourages imagination, play and a slower pace for both children and adults.

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Funding for this project [in part] has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions - On-Farm Climate Action Fund



# Phase 2 of The Renaissance under construction

By Jennifer McFee

The Renaissance is ushering in a new era of housing options in the heart of Stonewall.

Stephen Breton, a realtor with Re/Max One Group, highlights some of the features of this Ventura community.

"The Renaissance is a brand new age-focused community in Stonewall offering a level of amenities not found anywhere else in the South Interlake," he said.

"Ideally located in the southwest corner of Stonewall, next to the Quarry Ridge Park development and bordering a beautiful oak forest with walking trails, the community also sits directly across from the Stonewall and District Health Centre — providing unmatched convenience and peace of mind."

Phase 1 of the development is now complete, with a limited number of suites available for quick possession.

"Phase 1 features 33 thoughtfully designed suites in a variety of floor plans ranging from approximately 800 to nearly 1,200 square feet," Breton said. "Each suite offers nine-foot ceilings and open-concept layouts,

granite countertops, private balconies and modern low-maintenance finishes."

Adding to the appeal, residents can also take advantage of ample amenities right on site.

"Residents enjoy indoor heated parking, dual elevators and an expansive common room complete with a big-screen TV, fireplace, full-service kitchen and washrooms — perfect for gatherings and year-round activities," Breton said.

"Just off the common room is a large outdoor patio featuring ample seating, fire-top tables, barbecues and community garden beds."

Currently under construction, Phase 2 is expected to be move-in ready by late 2026 — and its suites are leasing quickly.

"Phase 2 will introduce 26 additional suites plus a guest suite for visiting family and friends," he said. "New amenities will include a fitness centre, games room, expanded patio and lounge areas, bike storage and more lifestyle-focused features."

Residents can also look forward to independent living with comfort and security, Breton added.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Construction continues on Phase 2 of The Renaissance in Stonewall, where an additional 26 suites and expanded amenities are planned for completion in late 2026.

"The Renaissance provides a much-needed housing option in Stonewall for those looking to maintain an independent lifestyle while enjoying premium amenities and proximity to essential services," he said.

"Residents can lock up and travel

with confidence — no worries about maintenance, snow removal or yard care — while still enjoying a vibrant, connected community at home."

For more information about The Renaissance, contact Stephen Breton at [steve@stevebreton.ca](mailto:steve@stevebreton.ca) or 204-999-2460.

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# Drone drug drop thwarted near Stony Mountain Institution



**TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
Stonewall RCMP seized a drone and balloons containing methamphetamine, cocaine, tobacco and cannabis concentrate — valued at about \$600,000 inside the institution — after an alleged delivery attempt to Stony Mountain Institution on Feb. 8.

By Lana Meier

Stonewall RCMP say they intercepted a significant quantity of drugs early Sunday morning before they could be delivered to inmates at Stony Mountain Institution using a drone.

Officers were notified by the institution at approximately 1:05 a.m. on Feb. 8 that a drone had just dropped off a package suspected to contain drugs.

Police, who were already in the area, observed a vehicle turning west onto Road 72N from Highway 7 in the RM of Rockwood. The vehicle was immediately stopped.

Upon approaching the vehicle, officers saw a black hard case labelled with the name of a drone manufacturer. The two occupants were arrested. Police located a drone at the feet of the male passenger. The drone had a large package attached that could be released when triggered.

The package contained balloons filled with drugs with an estimated institutional value of \$600,000.

RCMP say they seized approximately 355 grams of methamphetamine, 63 grams of cocaine, 60 grams of tobacco and 59 grams of cannabis concentrate, commonly known as shatter.

The driver, a 34-year-old woman from Winnipeg, was released without

charges.

The passenger, David Mymin, 28, of Calgary, has been remanded in custody and charged with two counts of

possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Stonewall RCMP continue to investigate.

## > BOOK RELEASE, FROM PG. 3

silliness, while older children — and parents — may notice deeper emotional layers.

“My goal was to have it resonate with the whole family,” King said. “The whole idea is to have a really accessible layer of the story that reveals new layers as children age.”

The book is set in the fictional town of Big Island and follows siblings Harriet and Henry Hartley as they discover a mysterious forest song that sparks a joyful, kid-led movement to protect imagination and wild spaces. It blends playful wordplay with heartfelt themes and is illustrated by Winnipeg artist Christian Amiel Miranda.

For King, the most rewarding part of the process has been sharing the story with children close to home.

“The most rewarding part has been reading it to kids and hearing feedback from neighbours and families in

the community,” he said. “That creates a sense of connection I’ve missed with many of my other creative projects.”

Living in Grosse Isle continues to influence his work, he added.

“Towns this size feel human-scaled,” King said. “You’re surrounded by nature, you recognize faces, and people look out for each other. That mix of past, present and future is incredibly inspiring — even magical.”

While the full public launch is planned for later this spring, King has opened a limited early release. Copies of *Something Must Be Done* are available online, with signed copies available by request. Visit: <https://zenfri.ca/publishing/>

King has also donated copies to both branches of the South Interlake Regional Library and will be reading at Teulon and Stonewall in the next couple of weeks.

## > HEALING GARDEN, FROM PG. 2

- Council accepted a \$17,840 quote from Jasperson’s Greenhouse for supplying flowers to the town in 2026.

- The Commissionaires are designated as officers to provide bylaw enforcement for the Town of Stonewall.

- Council accepted a proposal from Primary Engineering for engineering advisory and coordination services to facilitate the age-in-place campus project. This project aims to provide various housing, including independent, assisted living and supportive housing. The town needs utility

servicing to be done for this project.

- The town accepted a \$2,250 bid for a surplus generator. The Kohler stationary generator, which is about 35 years old, was deemed to be a surplus capital asset.

- The Town of Stonewall is hiring enumerators for the 2026 municipal election. The temporary part-time term would run from May to July. The deadline to apply is Feb. 27. More information is posted on the town’s website at [stonewall.ca](http://stonewall.ca).

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NEWS > VIEWS > STONEWALL > TEULON > WARREN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Teulon focuses on parks and public spaces

By Jennifer McFee

Teulon residents had the chance to voice their opinions about the future of parks and public spaces in the community.

The town undertook a community engagement process to gather feedback from user groups. From this input, the town identified a list of 11 emerging priorities: accessible/permanent washrooms, new canteen/concession, community spaces at Green Acres, active transportation paths, Centennial Hall improvements, recreation upgrades for sports infrastructure, arena maintenance and upgrades, town beautification, community collaboration, museum support/agreements and pool/splash pad.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the town hosted an open house event at the Teulon Rockwood Centennial to present these priorities. Attendees had the chance to learn about current parks and project ideas. They also had the opportunity to share their ideas and to talk directly with council and town representatives.

A total of 52 residents attended the session, along with four council members. Mayor Todd Campbell launched the event by explaining the process to date as well as the projects that are already underway based on immediate need.

"Participants were invited to comment on each of the priorities and to identify any additional items they felt were missing," said CAO Chris Yuen.

"Each participant received four dots to vote on the priorities they believed were most important for the community."

They had about an hour to vote and make comments on the 11 priorities. At a 12th station, they had the chance to provide feedback on anything they

felt might be missing from the process.

The priority that received the most support with 45 votes was the need for a new canteen or concession, followed by accessible/permanent washrooms (24 votes), pool/splash pad (24 votes) and active transportation paths (22 votes).

Twenty people voted for enhancements to community spaces at Green Acres, which could include improved picnic and camping amenities, campground Wi-Fi and better stage use and maintenance.

Other priorities that received support are community collaboration (15 votes), town beautification (12 votes), recreation upgrades for sports infrastructure (11 votes), arena maintenance and upgrades (8 votes), Centennial Hall upgrades (6 votes) and museum support/agreements (4 votes).

"The Town of Teulon will review the report and will use it to establish a master list of approved projects for future implementation around town, with supporting research, cost estimates and other information required for grant opportunities, future capital project support and community group interest," Yuen said. "The report will be shared with all residents."

### IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- New amenities are on their way to Green Acres Park for all to enjoy. Council authorized the CAO to sign an agreement with Teulon Community Development Initiative that outlines the responsibilities of each party in the development of a modern four-season facility with a commercial kitchen, dining area, washroom facility and social venue in Green Acres Park.

- Council appointed Roger Bouvier as senior election official. He will be responsible for managing and conducting all aspects of municipal elections. Bouvier will receive a \$10,000 flat rate plus 60 cents per kilometre while performing his duties. If the election is not held due to all candidates being elected by acclamation, Bouvier will receive a \$3,000 flat rate plus mileage.

- Council supports a petition called "Develop Hospice Care for Terminally Ill People in the Interlake & Eastman Regions." The petition indicates that residents of the Interlake and Eastman Regions currently lack access to dedicated hospice facilities, and individuals are often placed in long-term care homes that are not designed or resourced to provide specialized end-of-life hospice care. It also notes that access to appropriate hospice care is essential for supporting terminally ill residents and their families with dignity, compassion and safety during end-of-life care.

- The operations supervisor will install a three-way stop sign on Main Street South at the entry of Crescent Creek Estates.

- The town is hiring Taxservice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery for a three-year term.

- Council approved an emergency plan prepared by Shelley Napier.

- The town spent \$600 on employee Christmas gifts.

- Council accepted Fire Chief Scott Skinner's recommendation to appoint Sean McGill and Danny Hutchinson as deputy chiefs. In addition, Tyler Wilton and Curtis Good will be captains, and Brad Dawson and John Richter are lieutenants.

Continued on page 7

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# get informed

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## Stonewall-Teulon music and arts festival set for April

By Lana Meier

Preparations are underway for the 2026 Rockwood Festival of the Arts, set to run April 11–16, with organizers reminding participants that the entry deadline is Feb. 20.

The non-profit, volunteer-run festival gives students and adults of all experience levels the opportunity to perform and grow in the creative arts. Participants compete or perform in a wide range of disciplines, including piano, vocal, choral, dance, speech arts, school band and instrumental, as well as rock band, pop vocal and pop instrumental categories.

Along with performing, entrants receive feedback from professional adjudicators — experienced musicians and educators holding education or graduate-level credentials — who aim to encourage positive participation and personal development.

Each year, thanks to donations and public support, participants can apply for festival awards and scholarships to support further artistic training and development. Some competitive classes also offer the chance for young performers to advance to provincial-level competitions.

The festival rotates annually between Stonewall and Teulon, taking place in Stonewall in even-numbered years and Teulon in odd-numbered years, with registration opening each February. A small entry fee helps cover operating costs and adjudicator expenses.

In addition to competitive categories,



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Rockwood Festival of the Arts returns April 11–16, 2026, in Stonewall, with organizers reminding performers the entry deadline is Feb. 20.

ries, the festival also offers non-competitive, non-judgmental classes designed to showcase performers with varying abilities, ensuring inclusive participation across the community.

Organizers say volunteers play a vital role, assisting with setup, door duties, collections and supporting adjudicators throughout the week.

Piano classes will take place April 13 and 14 at New Life Church in Stonewall. Choral, vocal and speech categories are scheduled for April 15 at Centennial School, dance competitions will run April 11 and 12 at Teulon Collegiate, and band and in-

strumental performances will wrap up the festival April 16 at Stonewall Collegiate Institute.

Programs will be available for purchase at festival venues throughout the week. Participants can register and find additional information online at rfota.ca, while those interested in volunteering can contact info@rfota.ca.

Organizers say the festival continues to provide an important creative outlet for the region, offering young people — particularly those not involved in athletics — a chance to share their talents and celebrate the arts.

## > TEULON COUNCIL, FROM PG. 13

- The town entered into a contract with Candace Inglis for bartending services at the Teulon Rockwood Centennial Centre for a one-year period, which started on Jan. 1.
- The town will pay a monthly fee of \$4,309.50 plus tax to 4570732

Manitoba Ltd. for garbage collection services.

- Council approved a \$4,800 quote for three granite benches for placement on the trail.
- The Town of Teulon entered into a mutual aid agreement with the

RM of Armstrong, Woodlands and St. Andrews.

- Council agreed to sponsor the \$900 rental fee at Teulon Rockwood Centennial Centre for a trivia night on March 7 to raise money for the 2026 Teulon Collegiate Institute grads.

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## Hearing God's Voice

Some years ago, our daughter in law, Zoe, along with our 13 month old grandson, Asher, flew in from Vancouver for a week's visit. Our son Curtis was going to school at the time and couldn't join them.

One evening, while visiting together with Asher and Zoe, the phone rang. It was Curtis, calling to see how everybody was. Zoe spoke with Curtis for a while and then she put the speaker phone on. She placed it near Asher and Curtis began talking to him.

I watched as Asher's eyes lit up when he recognized his dad's voice. He immediately grabbed the phone and held it to his face. It seemed he wanted to get into the phone and touch his father. But then, when finally Zoe took away the phone, I saw the most distressed look come over Asher's face. He began to sob, a most heartbroken cry I had ever heard.

It dawned on me that he had recognized his father's voice and now was desperately missing his dad. My heart broke as I watched Asher's grief stricken face.

I said to the others, "I think I'm gonna cry!" My heart went out to him as I saw the pain on my grandson's face.

My wife came to the rescue. She swooped Asher up, carried him off and distracted him by pointing out the overhead fan in our entry way. Quickly the sobbing subsided.

Then the thought crossed my mind: "Is this the way I feel like when I speak to my Heavenly Father in prayer? Do I get as excited? And would I feel as distressed if I couldn't talk to Him or be with Him?"

May that same kind of passion and desire characterize you and me in our relationship with God.

Psalms 63:1,6,8 "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You, my body longs for You... On my bed I remember You; I think of You through the watches of the night... My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me."

Henry Ozirney



# Conservation projects protect nearly 1,000 hectares in Interlake

By Lana Meier

Nearly 1,000 hectares of ecologically significant land in Manitoba's Interlake region are now permanently protected, demonstrating how conservation and working landscapes can coexist to benefit both nature and local communities.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) announced the conservation of more than 935 hectares through two projects — the Highland Meadows property and an expansion of the Swan Lake Wetland-Parkland Complex near Lundar. Together, the projects safeguard prairie grasslands, wetlands and forested areas northwest of Winnipeg while continuing to support traditional land uses such as cattle grazing, haying and hunting.

NCC says the projects highlight the growing recognition that working landscapes — often associated with agriculture and ranching — play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems.

"Working landscapes are sometimes viewed as separate from conservation," said Kevin Teneycke, regional vice-president for NCC's Manitoba Region. "But these lands are essential habitat for wildlife and plants, and they also support the people who live and work on them."

The Swan Lake Wetland-Parkland Complex lands were managed as a livestock operation by the Cruise family for nearly 30 years, maintain-

ing ecological integrity while supporting local livelihoods. The Highland Meadows property, formerly stewarded by the Laubstedt family, also supported seasonal cattle grazing and forage production.

Former landowner Jack Cruise said preserving the land for future generations was a driving factor in the decision to conserve the property.

"As I get older, I realize more and more how important it is to preserve

some land so future generations can see it in its natural state," Cruise said. "This land should never be bulldozed or disced, but rotational livestock grazing should allow for preservation and wildlife habitat."

Both properties contain tall grass prairie — one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. NCC estimates that up to 90 per cent of Manitoba's original prairie grasslands have already

been lost to land conversion.

Prairie grasslands play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and absorbing carbon, helping landscapes remain resilient in the face of climate change. Wetlands on the conserved lands further enhance resilience by recharging and purifying groundwater, slowing runoff and holding water longer, reducing the impacts of flooding and drought.

Forested areas within the projects provide nesting, feeding and breed-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

A red-headed woodpecker and an eastern whip-poor-will, both species at risk in Manitoba, are among the birds that depend on prairie, wetland and forested habitats protected through recent land conservation projects in the Interlake region.

ing habitat for numerous species of birds, amphibians and mammals. The properties are home to several waterfowl species and species at risk, including eastern whip-poor-will, least bittern and red-headed woodpecker.

The conservation work was made possible through support from the Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program, part of Canada's Nature Fund, along with contributions from Jim and Leney Richardson, the Richardson Foundation, and the estates of Debbie Zibresky, A. Richard Omatsu and Joy E. Goodwin.

Federal Environment, Climate Change and Nature Minister Julie Dabrusin said the projects reflect Canada's broader commitment to protecting nature while recognizing the importance of working lands.

"This announcement in Manitoba's Interlake region highlights Canada's commitment to protecting nature and mitigating climate change while

recognizing the value of working landscapes," Dabrusin said in a statement.

Secretary of State (Nature) Nathalie Provost added that protecting prairie grasslands, wetlands and forests is essential to sustaining wildlife and maintaining the long-term health of the land.

According to NCC, the conserved lands lie at the transition between prairie and boreal ecozones, supporting a mix of deciduous and mixed-wood forests. Canada's boreal forest covers roughly 60 per cent of the country's land mass and holds the largest portion of the world's land-based carbon.

Since 1962, NCC has worked with communities, Indigenous Nations, governments and businesses to protect lands and waters across the country. The organization says projects like those in the Interlake demonstrate how conservation can strengthen local economies, protect biodiversity and build more resilient communities for generations to come.

"AS I GET OLDER,  
I REALIZE MORE  
AND MORE HOW  
IMPORTANT IT  
IS TO PRESERVE  
SOME LAND  
SO FUTURE  
GENERATIONS."

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Donna (204) 461-0892  
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**Sat., May 2 & Sat. May 9**

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# Strummers donate to Community Living Interlake



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Music and smiles filled the room on Feb. 9 when the Stonewall Strummers paid a special visit to Community Living Interlake (CLI). The local group of musicians arrived with heartfelt gifts. Using money raised through busking at performances and generous donations, the Strummers purchased a variety of percussion and rainfall instruments to share with CLI clients. The new instruments were met with excitement as clients eagerly joined in, shaking, tapping and keeping time while singing along with the Strummers. The morning quickly turned into a lively jam session celebrating the joy of making music together. The Strummers hope the rhythm continues. Anyone with percussion instruments they would like to donate to CLI is encouraged to contact a member of the Stonewall Strummers and help keep the music playing. Pictured clockwise, from left: the Stonewall Strummers — Annette Brown, Richard Rodd, Marilyn Campbell, Janice Chase, Kari Kinley, Merrdith Krzysztofik and Royden Walsh — joined by CLI clients Angela Hueging, David Kapchinsky and Darrell Dempster; Jamie Yeo gives a thumbs-up with her instrument; David Kapchinsky thanks Kari Kinley.

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# Registration now open for high school ice fishing championship on March 10

By E. Antonio

The Manitoba High School Ice Fishing Championship continues to grow, returning to Balsam Bay for its third year on March 10. Balsam Bay is located on the southwest shore of Lake Winnipeg, just south of Gimli and north of Winnipeg Beach. Tournament organizer Dustin Bruce expects approximately 1,500 students from

more than 70 schools to attend, with space still available for high schools looking to participate.

Bruce and co-convenor J.J. Ross first began hosting ice fishing derbies more than five years ago for St. James-Assiniboine School Division high schools. After receiving repeated requests from schools outside the

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## Manitoba Hydro Integrated Resource Plan & Major New Facility Public Review

On February 2, 2026, the Manitoba Government referred Manitoba Hydro's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") to the Public Utilities Board ("PUB") for its review and recommendations.

The IRP examines how best to meet Manitoba Hydro's expected short-term (2030) and long-term (2035) growth in electricity consumption with different options to increase electricity supply. The primary objective of the IRP is to plan for safe and reliable energy that meets the evolving needs of Manitobans. The IRP includes both Manitoba Hydro's electrical system and the natural gas system operated by Manitoba Hydro's subsidiary Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.

Manitoba Hydro's IRP includes its recommended future development plan, which incorporates a major new generating facility consisting of three new simple cycle combustion turbines at the Brandon Generating Station that will provide approximately 750 MW of capacity. In addition to the IRP, the needs for and alternatives to Manitoba Hydro's proposed new natural gas generating facility will be referred to the PUB for its review and recommendations.

The PUB will be conducting a public regulatory review over the coming months into both the IRP and the proposed major new natural gas generating facility. While these reviews by the PUB will not immediately result in a change to the rates charged by Manitoba Hydro, the costs of the new generating facility and other aspects of the development plan are expected to have an impact on future electricity rates.

Further details related to the upcoming review are available at: [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca).

You can share your views on the filing with the Public Utilities Board in three ways:

- **As a Presenter** – If you want to make a virtual or in-person formal presentation to the Public Utilities Board on this matter and are willing to respond to questions about your presentation, please submit an application to become an approved Presenter using the application form linked on the PUB website ([www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca)) by June 18, 2026. Presentations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes and presenters will be scheduled to appear during the hearing in August.
- **Written comment** – If you would like to comment in writing on this review, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and provide your written comment.
- **As an approved intervener** – If you want to actively participate in the public hearing as an Intervener, please go to [www.pubmanitoba.ca](http://www.pubmanitoba.ca) and apply for Intervener status on or before February 24, 2026. Interveners are required to represent the interests of a significant group of customers and may be required to combine their intervention with others representing similar interests.

A Pre-Hearing Conference with prospective Interveners will be held in the Board's hearing room, at the address below, commencing at 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 2, 2026.

Manitoba Public Utilities Board  
400-330 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4  
Phone: 204 945 2638 • Email: [publicutilities@gov.mb.ca](mailto:publicutilities@gov.mb.ca)

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**Manitoba**

Registration is now open for the Manitoba High School Ice Fishing Championship, set for March 10 on Balsam Bay.

division, the pair coordinated the inaugural provincial championship in 2024.

Since its inception, the event has expanded rapidly, and registration numbers for this year already point to a record-breaking turnout. For Bruce, the championship is about far more than competition — it's a hands-on way to teach fishing skills, responsibility and conservation.

"It's opened up a lot of different ways to teach about fishing and fisheries," Bruce said. "It teaches students how to prepare, and for us, it wraps up our fishing unit in a fun way. It also enables us to have important conversations about conservation. It's rewarding knowing we're leaving our resources in capable hands. That's the legacy behind it — teach them young and teach them the right way."

In the classroom, Bruce prepares his students by teaching them how to tie knots, prepare tackle, review the angling guide, identify fish and understand the full fishing process.

"I want to make myself as useless as possible come championship day," he said. "I love seeing students able to do everything on their own."

The championship is a full-day event that blends education, community and friendly competition. Students have opportunities to engage with fishing and conservation professionals while competing for hundreds of prizes. Awards include trophies, banners and bragging rights for schools that reel in the biggest catches.

Schools from across Manitoba — including several from the north — have attended in past years. Bruce credits the strength of the fishing community for the championship's continued success.

"What's cool is that all the organizations involved share similar goals of protecting our resources so we can all enjoy them," he said.

While teaching conservation to such a large number of students presents challenges, Bruce called the record-setting attendance an "awesome problem to have."

There is no cap on registration numbers, but teachers or group leaders must register their teams by 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 27. Individual students without adult supervision and teams without wristbands received through pre-registration will not be permitted

to participate.

New for 2026, the championship will introduce three divisions based on school size:

- A: fewer than 14 anglers;
- AA: 14-29 anglers;
- AAA / AAAA: more than 30 anglers.

Continued on page 14

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# Local communities grieve alongside Tumbler Ridge

By Jennifer McFee

While a small B.C. town grapples with the aftermath of a mass shooting, local Interlake communities express empathy from half a country away.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, six children and two adults were killed in a mass shooting in a high school and a home in Tumbler Ridge, B.C. The 2,400-person community is grieving for students, a teacher and family members of the shooter, who also died of a self-inflicted shot. Many others were injured in the incident.

Communities across Manitoba have lowered their flags to half-mast, including the Town of Stonewall, which will keep its flags lowered until Feb. 17 as a symbol of respect, reflection and solidarity with the sorrow-stricken B.C. town.

"In moments like this, distance does not divide us. Communities may be miles apart, but sorrow travels swiftly and compassion even faster. We pause together to honour lives impacted and to hold space for healing," states a social media post by the Town of Stonewall.

"Our thoughts are with the families, friends, first responders and the entire Tumbler Ridge community during this incredibly difficult time."

Stonewall council shared condolences with the District of Tumbler Ridge after the tragic mass shooting shook the B.C. community.

"We are profoundly saddened by the tragic loss and the many lives impacted. Our thoughts are with the families who are grieving, the friends and classmates facing unimaginable sorrow and the entire community working to support one another in the days ahead," states a post on the Town of Stonewall Facebook page.

"We also want to recognize and thank the first responders, emergency personnel and all those providing care and support in the midst of this tragedy. Your courage, compassion and dedication do not go unnoticed. From Stonewall to the District of Tumbler Ridge, please know we stand with you. Sending strength, comfort and unwavering support."

Similarly, Rockwood council acknowledged the tragic event and expressed condolences to the Tumbler Ridge community.

"Council members feel a strong connection to the values of community support, resilience and the creation of compassionate, connected communities nationwide," states a social media post by the RM of Rockwood. "We see you, Tumbler Ridge."

In a letter to Tumbler Ridge Mayor Darryl Krawkowka, Rockwood council extended their deepest condolences to the community in the wake of the tragedy.

"Though we are far away, our thoughts are with students, staff, families and all members of your community during this profoundly difficult time. We recognize the challenges your council and community face in supporting those affected, and we hope that knowing people beyond your province are thinking of you brings some measure of comfort," states the letter.

"Please accept this letter as a gesture of our solidarity, sympathy and respect. Our thoughts are with your community, and we send our heartfelt support and best wishes for healing and peace."

Across the Interlake School Division, flags are also flying at half-mast.

"I know I speak for our board of trustees and the entire ISD community when I extend my condolences to everyone who has been impacted by this terrible event," said school board chair Alan Campbell.

"We know the vital role that public schools play in communities, especially small rural communities, as sources of safety and inclusion for all students, and we're mindful of the extremely difficult path ahead for families in Tumbler Ridge."

The safety of Interlake School Division students and staff are the first priority for the board of trustees and senior admin team, he added.

"This is reflected in current divisional and provincial regulations, policies and procedures currently in place and kept up to date. Families are encouraged to engage with their school or divisional leadership teams with any concerns or questions they may have," said Campbell, who also serves as the president of the Manitoba School Boards Association and the Canadian School Boards Association.

"Supports remain in place in all schools to support students and staff who may require support in the aftermath of this terrible event."



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Flags fly at half-mast across Interlake communities — including Stonewall and the RM of Rockwood — in solidarity with the residents of Tumbler Ridge, B.C., following the Feb. 10 mass shooting that claimed the lives of six children and two adults

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# Your FARM



## Local agronomist blends research, farming and family to support Manitoba growers

By E. Antonio

Kristen MacMillan wears many hats — researcher, farmer, teacher and mother — and brings all of them together in her work to help Manitoba farmers grow healthier, more productive crops.

She is a research agronomist with the University of Manitoba, studying best management practices and cropping systems for soybeans, dry beans and peas to help farmers improve profitability and sustainability.

She also applies her research at home on her family's crop and livestock farm near Marquette, where she enjoys crop scouting and caring for cattle with her husband Bryce MacMillan, while watching their young children grow into — and develop a love for — the agriculture industry, just as she and her husband did.

"In my research, I develop and extend knowledge to farmers and agronomists for crop management," MacMillan said. "I want them to continuously improve their practices — that is my goal."

MacMillan recently presented her research findings at Ag Days in Brandon from Jan. 19 to 21, where she spoke about improving agronomic decision-making and building resilient cropping systems.

She began her research career in 2013 after completing undergraduate

and graduate degrees in agriculture and cropping systems. Raised on a farm, she developed a strong interest in crop management, particularly the science behind soil properties and plant yields. Today, her focus is on developing region-specific soybean research to support farmers in the Interlake and beyond. In fact, she began working in soybeans at the same time they started growing them on her family's farm.

"We were asking production questions on the farm, which shaped my research mission to help answer those questions for soybean farmers in Manitoba and western Canada," she added.

"I'm in a unique position where I can take practical knowledge from the farm and expand it through research, developing knowledge specific to Manitoba's growing conditions."

Researchers know there is a strong interaction between the environment and how crops grow, and that interaction drives MacMillan's agronomy research.

"Research sometimes finds its way to the farm too," she said. "This past year, a research team installed flux towers on our fields to monitor carbon and water exchange. Many students are collecting data on how cropping practices interact with our ecosystem."

MacMillan said her work examines the many decisions farmers must make when growing soybeans and pulse crops, including when and how deep to seed, what rate and which varieties to plant, how to manage pests, and strategies to diversify crop management and rotations.

"All of these management decisions influence the yield potential of the crop, and that's what I study and develop," she said. "We are looking for the best practices and highest yield potential of each factor. Being aware of ongoing research — and even being part of it through on-farm research — is something I encourage all farms to apply."

Through her research, MacMillan has learned that soybean yields in Manitoba are highly dependent on seasonal moisture.

"Generally, the more rainfall, the higher the crop yield," she said, noting farmers must manage many risks, from markets and pricing to climate.

"Precipitation and temperature patterns between seasons are becoming more extreme. Whether it's a moisture deficit or excess, or heat stress, seasonal weather conditions are becoming unpredictable, and as a research community we are exploring how to respond through crop development and management practices for continued yield improvements."



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kristen MacMillan is a research agronomist with the University of Manitoba, studying best management practices and cropping systems for soybeans, dry beans and peas. She also farms with her family near Marquette.

Her research is also examining ways to improve nitrogen fixation in dry beans. Legumes — protein-rich seeds — have the unique ability to produce their own nitrogen, but dry beans have relatively low nitrogen fixation, meaning farmers rely on fertilizer. MacMillan is now asking whether dry beans can fix more nitrogen, and early research suggests they can.

She expects this work will help make cropping systems more sustainable by reducing fertilizer use and improving long-term soil health.

Balancing life as a researcher, farmer and mother can be challenging, MacMillan said, but it is made easier by her passion for all three roles and shared priorities with her husband.

"As farmers, we approach it as a lifestyle," she said. "I am passionate about all aspects, and I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to blend them together. Seasonally, I need to realign priorities to support farming and family life, but that also adds value to my other roles."

Fuelling her passion are the people

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Continued on page 13



# EIWD co-hosting free 101 sessions on regenerative agriculture and funding opportunities

By Patricia Barrett

With rising interest among farmers and landowners in regenerative agricultural (regen ag) practices, the East Interlake Watershed District (EIWD) is co-hosting upcoming sessions on funding programs that are available to help people transition to improved land-management practices.

In conjunction with the West Interlake Watershed District and the Redboine Watershed District, the EIWD is offering “101 sessions” on regen ag in Arbog, Stonewall and Warren.

Farmers and landowners can learn more about regen ag practices that include rotational grazing, cover cropping, nitrogen management, water management, erosion control, tree planting, shelter belts and water retention, as well as about available funding of up to 85 per cent to establish a project.

Kathleen Melnychuk, the EIWD’s

regenerative agriculture coordinator, is helping organize the sessions and is a practitioner of regen ag.

Regen ag can “mean something different” on each farm and that’s why it’s so important and impactful for Interlake farmers to consider adopting some or all of its guiding principles.

“There are five main principles to regen ag: minimizing disturbance, maintaining a living root, keeping the soil covered, increasing diversity and integrating livestock,” said Melnychuk. “Using one or more of these practices on the farm can help with numerous benefits including increases to crop yield, water infiltration and biodiversity, improvements to soil structure and hydric properties, and reductions to water pollution, erosion, parasite pressure, weed growth, leaching and greenhouse gas emis-

Continued on page 15



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY CARL DURAND

Futura Farms owner Carl Durand planted thousands of prairie-hardy trees on his St. Andrews property with grant funding from the East Interlake Watershed District.

## > AGRONOMIST, FROM PG. 12 research matters.

she works with and teaches. In addition to research, MacMillan educates the next generation of farmers and agronomists — a role she takes great pride in.

“I enjoy engaging with future farmers, sharing my stories and knowledge, and hearing their backgrounds and paths into agriculture,” she said. “It’s a chance for me to help advance their knowledge, giving them confidence as they take those practices back to their farms.”

She values feedback from former students and farmers she has worked with, describing it as a “full-circle moment” when their paths cross again.

Remaining active on the farm is a priority for MacMillan, allowing her to work hands-on with crops, develop new research ideas and test theories.

She describes that connection as “bridging the gap between farmers and researchers,” forming practical and meaningful links between science and real-world farming.

For her, bridging that gap includes sharing research at events like Ag Days, publishing articles in agricultural magazines and showing students why continued investment in

research matters. “The sooner we can get information to farmers, the sooner we can improve our farming practices,” she said.

She added that recent federal government announcements about closures to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada facilities — including the research farm in Portage la Prairie, where she conducts studies — will create new challenges for research capacity. Even the closure of Stonewall’s agriculture office more than 10 years ago has shaped the extension system in rural communities.

“Our rural economy relies heavily on agriculture, and it is a public investment,” she said.

Looking ahead, MacMillan expects major technological and ecological advancements in agriculture. One study of particular interest to local farmers focuses on iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) in soybeans and how crops respond in calcareous soils.

Farmers can now map soil properties and crop potential within individual fields, allowing for more precise management decisions, and part of her work aims to explore how that technology can be used.

“Are soybean varieties best suited

for IDC areas also maximizing yield in other parts of the field?” she said. “If we need to plant more than one variety, farmers now have the technology to map and plan for the best yield potential.”

She hopes future cropping systems will be resilient to climate change and

that farmers will remain flexible in adopting new practices.

Overall, MacMillan said she expects Manitoba’s agriculture community to remain strong and looks forward to continuing her research in support of farmers.

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# Warren Elementary students embrace Wellbeing Week activities



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

As a follow-up to Bell Let's Talk Day, Warren Elementary students and staff came together to celebrate Wellbeing Week, a school-wide focus on nurturing both body and mind. Each day highlighted a different aspect of wellness and offered meaningful and fun ways to connect. From pausing together during a school assembly to reflect on mental well-being to sharing a delicious whole-school pancake breakfast, sparking some friendly rivalry during House Team games and bouncing out extra energy with Mega Bounce, there was something for everyone to enjoy. One of the most important pieces of well-being is connection, and that was the focus on Feb. 4. Kindergarten to Grade 4 students experienced the joy of a wagon ride through town, horse-powered by Kyle and Chex from KB Clydesdales and driven by the "wagon crew" of Keith, Janice, Jordan and Brad. Meanwhile, students in grades 5 to 8 spent the afternoon connecting with neighbouring Stonewall, enjoying sledding adventures at Jimms Hill in Quarry Park. The staff and students at Warren Elementary are incredibly grateful for their strong school community, as well as the supportive neighbouring communities that make experiences like this possible.



## > FISHING, FROM PG. 10

Registration closes two weeks before the event to allow organizers and volunteers time to prepare prizes and pre-drill holes — an intensive, full-day task.

"It takes a lot of volunteers and manpower," Bruce said. "We drill 25 per cent more holes than kids. We head out Monday, camp on the ice and drill more holes at 4 a.m. It's exhausting, but another awesome problem to have."

Registration costs \$20 per student and includes a fishing licence for the duration of the derby, a pre-drilled hole, and coverage for supplies and services. All remaining funds go toward prizes, as the event is non-profit. Each registered school also receives

a welcome package designed to help build or sustain a fishing program.

"Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to just show up and start fishing," Bruce said.

Students are only required to bring a rod, bait, a chair and warm clothing. Food vendors will be on site, with lunch available for purchase.

Bruce emphasized the event is designed to be enjoyable regardless of fishing success. Based on feedback from previous years, schools understand the experience goes beyond catching fish.

"Just being in the atmosphere with so many schools together makes it a once-in-a-kind event," he said. "Just being here is a reward in itself."

In addition to prizes for the longest and smallest fish, teams can win

awards for catching no fish, as well as individual student prizes. Other activities include a fan-favourite push-up contest, ice plank challenge, casting contest, trivia and more.

"There are lots of ways to have fun," Bruce said. "We're more than just about fishing."

New this year is a photo contest encouraging schools to go ice fishing before the championship. Bruce said it promotes practice, helps students prepare and increases the likelihood of catching fish in a quieter environment.

Bruce's favourite moment of the day comes at the very beginning.

"Seeing all the students dash for a hole when the starting horn goes off — it's just the coolest thing," he said. "I still get goosebumps every year."

He extended thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers who make the event possible, with a special shout-out to the Fishin' Hole in Winnipeg for donating prizes and offering school-wide discounts to educators.

"I encourage any teacher looking to buy supplies to go through the Fishin' Hole," Bruce said.

A full list of sponsors will be displayed at the championship. Anyone interested in volunteering — either by pre-drilling holes or helping measure and identify fish — is asked to email Bruce at [dustin.bruce@sjasd.ca](mailto:dustin.bruce@sjasd.ca) or scan the QR code on the event poster. Registration for the derby is also completed online through the QR code.



# Winnipeg Blues players promote reading at Woodlands School



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JOEL MCDONALD

A number of players from the Winnipeg Blues visited Woodlands School during I Love to Read Month, taking time out of their MJHL season to read with local students.

## > EIWD, FROM PG. 13

sions.”

Watershed districts are grassroots organizations composed of municipalities that preserve and enhance the environment and which partner with higher levels of government. The EIWD, which was formed in 2005, is composed of Armstrong, Bifrost-Riverton, Fisher, Gimli, Grahamdale, Lockwood, Rosser, St. Andrews, West St. Paul, Woodlands, Arborg, Stonewall, Teulon, Winnipeg Beach, Dunnottar and Selkirk.

The reward of adopting regen ag practices, whether in varying degrees or in combination, is improvement to land and more money in a farmers’ coffers.

Melnychuk and her husband, Mike, own and operate Stoney Acre Farms in Fraserwood where they’ve put regen ag to the test. They produce strawberries, pumpkins and other squash, as well as sweet and ornamental corn. They sell their produce directly to consumers.

“We strongly believe in ‘from field to fork’ and supporting our local producers. We have been slowly implementing various practices of regen ag onto our operation. We have been dabbling in some cover crop mixes, moved away from broadcasting fertilizer and upgraded our seeder to allow for in-row banding of fertilizer (when needed). We have changed our fertilizers to use manure. Based on our soil tests, we have been able to reduce our synthetic fertilizer inputs,” said Melnychuk.

“One of our largest projects has been our water-retention project as we are trying to keep as much water on our property as possible to help with drought assistance on the farm as we do need to irrigate some of our crops. We also installed a 6,000-tree shelterbelt in our field and further increased the buffer area and other areas throughout the

farm by seeding native tall grasses and flowering species to increase pollinator species, reduce pest pressure, reduce weed growth and so much more.”

Trying out some regen ag practices on a few acres rather than an entire farm is a good way for farmers to experiment. And Melnychuk said the producer is ultimately the one to decide what principles to implement and to what extent — which is the sixth principle of regen ag. There are some upfront costs to taking on a regen ag project, but a farmer should recoup those costs in the long run.

“Trying something new on a few acres is a lot less scary than trying something new across the whole farm. While there are upfront costs to any of these practices, ultimately, the producer will see their money back in the long-run,” said Melnychuk. “Funding through the Prairie Watershed Climate Program for regen ag is a gateway to help farmers in a try-before-you-buy system that will encourage them to take on more regenerative practices in the future. While talking with producers across the Interlake about regen ag programs, we have also been able to include producers into other funding that the EIWD can provide to producers and landowners.”

Interest in the Prairie Watershed Climate Program among Interlake farmers has been well received, with over \$3 million delivered to producers in the EIWD since the start of the program in 2022, she said.

“We are already planning and have projects lined up for the 2026 season. If there are producers that are interested in cover crop, nitrogen management or rotational grazing funding, I would suggest getting an application in as soon as possible,” she said. “We do have other funding options that producers can also take part in, when we receive your application, we will make sure that we get you fitted into the right program for your

project. Applications are accepted throughout the year.”

The free regen ag 101 sessions will take place in Arborg on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Arborg-Bifrost Community Hall, in Stonewall on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Big Red Barn, and in Warren on Feb. 27 at 1 p.m. in the Warren Multipurpose Building.

To register for the sessions, contact Kathleen Melnychuk by email at [k.melnychuk@eastinterlake.ca](mailto:k.melnychuk@eastinterlake.ca) or phone 204-642-7578, or contact Jennifer Hunnie by email at [Jennifer@redboine.com](mailto:Jennifer@redboine.com) or phone 204-526-4223.

For more information about funding and programs, email the EIWD at [info@eastinterlake.ca](mailto:info@eastinterlake.ca) or call 204-642-7578.

## Will you be my valentine?



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Six-year-old Lochlan McKillop made a heartfelt delivery to his big sister Amaya Dawson, a Grade 8 student at École Stonewall Centennial School, last Friday. Each Valentine’s Day he stops by with a surprise for his sister and her classmates. This year, he brought her a rose spray-painted blue — Amaya’s favourite colour. The thoughtful gesture brought smiles and a sweet sibling moment just in time for Valentine’s Day.



# Teulon Ladies Bonspiel splashes through winter chill



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JUNE MCMAHON

Frigid temperatures and blustery winds did little to cool the energy inside the Teulon Curling Rink as the annual Teulon Ladies Bonspiel took over the ice Jan. 16–17. Despite the deep freeze outside, the rink was transformed into a lively “Pool Party” theme, with teams diving into the fun and competition throughout the weekend. Costumes, camaraderie and spirited curling kept the atmosphere warm as curlers from across the region battled through their respective draws. When the final stones were thrown, three teams emerged victorious, each claiming top honours in their event and proving that even mid-January cold couldn’t dampen the fun in Teulon. Pictured left to right: The Teresa Moore rink captured the A Event title at the Teulon Ladies Bonspiel Jan. 16–17. Pictured are Kathy Stott, Teresa Moore, Valerie Swanson and Michelle Mott; The Stacey Olsen rink, also known as the “Bearded Ladies,” claimed the B Event championship at the Teulon Ladies Bonspiel. Team members include Stacey Olsen, Christine Schmidt, Kristine Sim and Jodi Grimes; The Amber Blue rink, competing as the “Pool Sharks,” took top spot in the C Event at the Teulon Ladies Bonspiel. Pictured are Carrie Lafournaise, Amber Blue, Danna Shannon and Emily Nguyen.

# Zone 5 junior girls champs      Silent winter sentinel



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Warren Wildcats junior varsity girls are Zone 5 champions. Backed by a strong home-court effort, the Wildcats defeated the Teulon Saints 57-47 in Warren on Feb. 11 to capture the Zone 5 banner. Warren advanced to the final after a dominant 61-6 win over the Arborg Athletics, while Teulon earned its spot with a 50-26 victory over the Gimli Lakers. On the boys’ side, the Wildcats battled hard but fell 63-50 to the Arborg Athletics in the Zone 5 final. Both Warren teams now turn their attention to Regionals, which the Wildcats will host on Feb. 21, with the top two teams advancing to AA provincials. Pictured, left to right, back row: Madison Corbett, Arianna Thomas, Mackenzie Boonstra, Katie Atchison, Addalyn Grandmont, Ashlyn Hoas and Emma Cassils; front row: Fallon Campbell (coach), Nicole Hutchison, Everly Sherry, Jersey MacMillan, Ella Riddell and Michelle Riddell (coach).



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBERT ZARETZKY

A great grey owl surveys its surroundings while perched on a weathered fence, its mottled feathers blending into the late-winter landscape. The sighting comes during a mild mid-February stretch in Stonewall, where sunny days, foggy nights and delicate hoar frost have transformed the prairie into a winter postcard.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Wildcats head to playoffs after perfect final week

By Lana Meier

The Warren Wildcats are entering the postseason with momentum after closing out the Price Division regular season with three straight wins, outscoring opponents 21-2 along the way.

Warren finished the 24-game schedule with a 20-3-1 record, good for third place behind Niverville and Lorette. The playoff schedule had not been released as of press time.

The week began Feb. 9 at Access Credit Union Arena with a 7-1 win over Edward Schreyer. The Wildcats struck early when Ty Olson scored on the power play from Ashton Baldwin and Rhet King. Baldwin added another later in the period from Braeden Ivany and Liam Boonstra to give Warren a two-goal lead after one.

Warren extended the advantage in the second period as Sawyer Park scored from Landon Tully and Kaelen Ivany added a shorthanded marker from Layne Noren. Edward Schreyer broke the shutout late in the third, but Baldwin took over down the stretch, scoring twice more — including another shorthanded goal — to finish with four goals and five points. King and Braeden Ivany each added two assists, while goaltender Mason Klassen made 21 saves for the win.

The Wildcats carried that momentum into Seven Oaks SportsPlex on Feb. 10, defeating West Kildonan 4-1. Park opened the scoring in the first period and Bennett Berghthorson doubled the lead in the second from Braeden Ivany and Baldwin. After West Kildonan cut the lead to one, Warren pulled away in the third as Baldwin scored from Ivany and Park before Lexon Hogg added a power-play goal set up by King and Baldwin. Baldwin recorded three points and Park added a goal and an assist, while Klassen

stopped 23 of 24 shots.

Warren wrapped up the regular season Feb. 12 with a 10-0 rout of Lunder on home ice. Kaelen Ivany led the offence with a hat trick and three assists, while Braeden Ivany and Baldwin scored twice each. Rhet King, Layne Noren and Hogg also found the net as the Wildcats scored four goals in both the first and second periods to put the game away early, including two shorthanded goals in the middle frame. Josh Tristram turned aside all 23 shots he faced for the shutout.

Across the three games, Warren received contributions throughout the lineup along with strong goaltending from Klassen and Tristram. Riding a three-game winning streak and allowing just two goals all week, the Wildcats now await their first-round playoff matchup.

### WILDCATS EDGED IN WOMEN'S SHOOTOUT BY GOPHERS

The Warren Wildcats picked up a point in Winnipeg High School Hockey League Division 1/2 West action Tuesday afternoon, falling 5-4 in a shootout to the GCC Gophers at Access Credit Union Arena.

Warren carried the play early, taking a 2-1 lead after the first period and building a 4-2 advantage through two periods behind a standout performance from Ella Riddell. The forward scored a hat trick and added an assist, including a power-play goal set up by Blake Darragh and Ashlyn Hoas.

The Gophers rallied in the third, scoring twice — including a power-play marker — to tie the game 4-4 and force overtime.

After a scoreless extra frame, the contest went to a shootout where Camryn Hrankowski scored the lone



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Warren Wildcats honoured their graduating players before their final WSHL home game Feb. 12. From left: coach Lachlan McLean, Ty Olson, Kaelen Ivany, Conaly Chrusch, Landon Tully, Liam Boonstra and assistant coach Colton Bruce.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Warren forward Kaelen Ivany (12) filled the scoresheet with a hat trick and three helpers in the Wildcats' season-ending blowout over Lunder.

goal to give GCC the win.

Katie Atchison recorded two assists for Warren, while Darragh added a goal and an assist. Everly Sherry, Maria Riddell and Ashlyn Hoas also contributed helpers.

Joslyn Tetlock turned aside 20 of 24 shots in goal as Warren outshot the

Gophers 33-24 and went 1-for-5 on the power play.

In the Winnipeg High School Hockey League Division 1/2 West standings, the Wildcats sit 10th with a 6-13-1-4 record (22 points). No playoff schedule had been posted as of press time.

## 67's season ends after second loss to Aces

By Annaliese Meier

The Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League season has come to a close for the Warren 67's after dropping their play-in series in straight games to the Ste. Anne Aces.

Warren entered the best-of-three Play-In A series as the 11th-place club after posting a 2-25-3 record in the regular season, drawing sixth-place Ste. Anne (15-12-3-1).

In Game 1 on Feb. 12 at the Access

Credit Union Arena, the Aces skated away with a 3-1 victory. Ste. Anne struck three times in the opening period before Justin Braid answered early in the second on a play from captain Evan Roy. Despite sustained pressure and six power-play chances, the 67's could not solve goaltender Benoit Grondin the rest of the way.

Warren's season came to an end Feb. 14 in Ste. Anne, where the Aces se-

cured the series with a 5-0 win.

Jace Gratton opened the scoring at 4:50 of the first period and it stood as the game-winner in a tightly contested opening half. The Aces pulled away late in the third period with four goals in just over five minutes from Joshua Borgfjord, Tristin Thomas (shorthanded empty net), Keagan Lanouette and Jaxon Beauchemin.

Goaltender Scott Mailloux was busy in the Warren net, turning aside 50 shots in the loss, while Grondin recorded the shutout with 17 saves.

Neither team capitalized on the power play, with Warren finishing 0-for-8 and Ste. Anne 0-for-6.

The series loss officially closes the 2025-26 campaign for the 67's, who iced a young lineup and battled through a difficult season but gained valuable experience heading into next year.

With the playoffs continuing for the remaining clubs, Warren will now shift its focus to development and preparing for the 2026-27 season.



# Stonewall Rams ready as playoffs begin Tuesday

By Annaliese Meier

The Stonewall Rams head into the Winnipeg High School Hockey League playoffs after splitting their final two regular-season games, highlighted by a shutout victory and a competitive battle against Sanford.

Stonewall closed out its home schedule Feb. 11 at the Stonewall Veterans Memorial Sports Complex with one of its strongest performances of the season, blanking CSLR 4-0. The Rams opened the scoring late in the first period when Nate McIvor finished a play set up by Cole Lamy and Aaron

Orsulak. They doubled the lead in the second as Matthew Hawryluk scored shorthanded from Mason Bernier and Lamy, swinging momentum firmly in Stonewall's favour.

Hawryluk struck again in the third period, converting another chance created by Bernier, before Liam Cox capped the scoring on the power play from Chase Corbett and Alec Harris-ko. Hawryluk finished with two goals while Lamy and Bernier each collected two assists and Cox added a goal and a helper.

In goal, Tyler Loehmer was perfect,

stopping all 43 shots he faced for the shutout as the Rams controlled play defensively and weathered several penalty-kill situations.

Stonewall wrapped up the regular season Feb. 13 on the road against Sanford, falling 6-3 in a fast-paced matchup. The Rams answered early when McIvor tied the game in the first period off passes from Daniel Halleux and Aiden Jonasson. After Sanford regained the lead, Mason Bernier brought Stonewall back with in one in the second period, assisted by Jonasson and McIvor.

Cole Lamy later scored on the power play in the third period from Brody Slatcher, but Sanford pulled away with late goals. McIvor and Jonasson each recorded two points in the contest, while Loehmer made 22 saves.

Stonewall finished ninth in the Winnipeg Free Press Division with 22 points and now turns its attention to the post-season, opening a home-and-home total-goal series against J.H. Bruns on Feb. 17 at Southdale Community Club before hosting the return game Feb. 18 at the Stony Mountain Recreation Centre.

## Mercs outscore Northstars in wild playoff opener

By Annaliese Meier

The Warren Mercs struck first in the SEMHL playoffs — and did it in dramatic fashion.

Warren defeated the Ile des Chenes Northstars 8-6 in Game 1 of their best-of-five quarterfinal series Feb. 14 in Ile des Chenes, grabbing an early series lead in a wide-open, back-and-forth contest.

The Northstars jumped out quickly, scoring twice in the opening five minutes on goals by Ty Naakens and Ty-

ler Swerdyliak. The Mercs responded almost immediately. Stephen Kleysen put Warren on the board with a power-play marker before Eric Swanson tied the game just 31 seconds later.

Ile des Chenes restored the lead early in the second, but the middle frame belonged to Warren. Drake Lindsay evened the game, Johnny Lazo gave the visitors their first lead and Josh Roche extended it, sending the Mercs to the third period ahead 5-3.

The third period turned into a track

meet.

The Northstars twice pulled within a goal, but Warren answered every time. Jesse Korytko restored a two-goal cushion, Gianluca Esteves netted the eventual winner midway through the period and Lazo added his second of the night for insurance.

Evan Baty made 34 saves to earn the victory in goal, while Matthew Radomsky took the loss after allowing eight goals on 36 shots. Warren finished 1-for-5 on the power play and

held Ile des Chenes scoreless on two opportunities.

The Mercs now carry a 1-0 series lead.

Game 2 was scheduled for Feb. 16 in Warren after press time. The series continues Feb. 18 in Ile des Chenes before returning to Warren on Feb. 21 if necessary, with a deciding Game 5 set for Feb. 22 in Ile des Chenes if required.

The winner advances to the SEMHL semifinal round later this month.

## Balmoral Open Bonspiel delivers full weekend action



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY CINDY SHIPLEY

The Balmoral Curling Club welcomed 16 teams for its Open Bonspiel, held Feb. 6 and 7, featuring two days of competitive curling and strong local participation. Pictured left to right: A-Side winners were the rink of Kevin Hawryluk, Leah Hawryluk, Nicole Galbraith and Brian Galbraith, who topped the field during the two-day event. B-Side honours went to Scott Holod, Bren Murray, Wally Melynk and Quinn Melynk, who finished strong in the consolation draw. C-Side winners were David Green, Raya Chetyrbok, Bob Harris and Lawrie Hogg, rounding out the weekend's results.

### WARREN MERCS HOCKEY — SERIES C (BEST OF 5)



Ile des Chenes Northstars vs Warren Mercs  
Monday, Feb 16, 2026 • 8:00 PM

Ile des Chenes at Warren  
Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026 • 8:00 PM

Warren at Ile des Chenes

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## Grape and Chicken Salad with Lemon-Balsamic Vinaigrette

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1 large avocado, peeled, pitted and diced  
freshly ground pepper, to taste  
6 slices whole-grain artisan bread

In large bowl, whisk olive oil, lemon juice, vinegar, garlic, salt and basil. Add cooked chicken, grapes, onion and bacon.

When ready to serve, mix well then lightly stir in avocado and season with pepper, to taste. Serve with bread slices.

Tip: Salad may be prepared 1 day in advance and refrigerated in covered container.

Servings: 6  
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar  
1/2 teaspoon fresh minced garlic  
1 pinch salt  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil  
1 pound grilled or broiled boneless, skinless chicken breasts, chopped into small pieces  
2 cups halved or quartered red Grapes from California  
1/3 cup chopped red onion  
3 tablespoons cooked, crumbled ba-



## Tuna Noodle Casserole

Preheat oven to 350 F and cook egg noodles according to package instructions.

In large bowl, mix egg noodles, peas, tuna, soup, milk, 1 1/4 cups cheddar cheese, celery salt, pepper and 2 tablespoons parsley.

Spray 9-by-13-inch casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray and add tuna mixture. Cover with aluminum foil and bake 20 minutes until hot and bubbly.

While casserole is baking, mix breadcrumb crumbs and melted butter. Remove casserole from oven and top with breadcrumb mixture and remaining cheddar cheese.

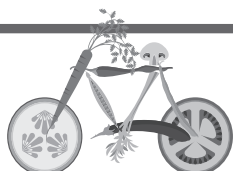
Bake, uncovered, 5-10 minutes, until breadcrumbs are golden brown and cheese on top is melted. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and additional parsley, if desired, before serving.

Recipe adapted from "Spaceships and Laser Beams"

6 ounces egg noodles  
1 cup peas (canned or frozen)  
2 cans (5 ounces each) light chunk tuna in water, drained  
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) cream of celery soup  
1/2 cup milk  
1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided  
1/2 teaspoon celery salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped, plus additional for garnish (optional)  
nonstick cooking spray  
1/4 cup dry breadcrumbs  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
Parmesan cheese

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## Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

So, we're well into a new year. (Ten months 'til Christmas! Sorry. Too soon?) Did you make any New Year's resolutions? If so, I hope they're going well. If not, don't sweat it! Any moment can be a new beginning. You don't need Jan. 1 to start again!

If you didn't resolve to improve your life, I'm here to encourage you to do so—starting now. But probably not in the way you think. I don't buy into societal pressures to do more, eat differently, get a gym membership, blah, blah, blah. (Those aren't bad things, but you won't be successful just by setting a goal because everyone else is. And remember... there's nothing magical about Jan. 1. You have to really want it.)

Okay, so what am I proposing?

Do more of what you love.

On the Harvard Health Publishing website, it says: "A study published online Sept. 11, 2023, by Nature Medicine suggests that having a hobby is good for your health, mood, and more."

Lately, when I'm feeling stressed, anxious, or even bored, I turn to painting. With jazz or acoustic pop covers playing in the background, getting my hands (and arms, and face!) dirty, and creating something from nothing—even if it's not beautiful or technically good—calms me. (Thank goodness I use acrylic paint! Once I bought a tube of oil paint by accident, and it was a permanent disaster. I had to wait for my skin to shed to get it all off!) This activity can only help my hypersensitive nervous system, which causes me all sorts of physical pain.

Yes, I believe that a passion or hobby can improve not only our mental well-being, but our physical well-being as well.

Do you love to read? Get any new books for Christmas? (Okay, if Aunt Sally gave you yet another Danielle Steel novel, you have my permission to buy whatever new book you fancy.) Take whatever time you can to tuck into that book. Did someone give you a Christmas card with flower seeds attached? (They do that over here in England, at least.) Try gardening—you might just love getting dirt under your fingernails. Did you get a puppy? (Oh, I hope so!) Take an online dog-training course focused on games and tricks. You'll probably both love it.

So, do more of what you love. Your body and mind will thank you.

Less health stress, yes?

A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the UK. Find her on Instagram @authorsusieschwartz and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com). (Email: [info@lesshealthstress.com](mailto:info@lesshealthstress.com).) She is the author of *Help the Doctor Help You: 41 Secrets and Tips for Self-Advocacy to Get the Best from Your Appointments*.



## Coconut Cream Pie Milkshake

1 whole graham cracker  
whipped cream, for garnish  
graham cracker crumbs, for garnish

In blender mix ice cream, cream of coconut, flaked coconut and graham cracker on high until smooth. Pour into glass. Top with whipped cream and graham cracker crumbs.

3 scoops vanilla ice cream  
1/2 cup milk  
1/3 cup cream of coconut  
2 tablespoons sweetened flaked coconut

Recipe adapted from MilkMeans-More.org.



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that Rockwood-Rosser Weed District intends to conduct the following pesticide control program during the 2026 season within the Rural Municipalities of Rockwood, Rosser, and the Towns of Stonewall and Teulon.

- To control noxious weeds and brush on public right-of-ways and public property within the above noted towns and municipalities. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The herbicides to be used include:
  - 2,4-D Amine-----2,4-D Choline-----Dicamba
  - Picloram-----Triclopyr-----Glyphosate
  - Aminopyralid-----Metsulfuron methyl
  - Mecoprop-p---Aminocyclopyrachlor
  - Chlorsulfuron-----Diflufenzopyr-----Acetic Acid
  - Iron HEDTA (FeHEDTA)-----Flumioxazin
  - Mineral Oil----- non-ionic surfactant
  - Methyl and ethyl ester
  - Indaziflam-----Saflufenacil----Florpyrauxifen
  - lmazapyr
- To control the following insect pests including grasshoppers, emerald ash borer, forest-tent caterpillars and cankerworms if necessary. To control mosquitoes if necessary. The proposed dates of application if and when needed will be from May 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The insecticides to be used include:
  - Carbaryl
  - Deltamethrin
  - Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis
  - Bacillus thuringiensis var.kurstaki
- To control rodents at designated landfills other municipal properties when necessary, using the following rodenticides:
  - Brodifacoum
  - Bromadiolone
  - Difethialone
- Any resident of the Rural Municipalities of Rockwood, Rosser, or the Towns of Stonewall, Teulon likely to be affected by these programs and opposed to the issuance of a Provincial Use Permit, must submit annually their written comments within 15 days of this publication to:

Manitoba Environment and Climate  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd  
Winnipeg MB  
R3Y 0L6

WANTED

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ROYAL LEPAGE

FARM DIVISION

## SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

Rockwood-Rosser Weed District is accepting applications for seasonal work May-September.

The applicant must have a valid class 5 drivers license and be physically fit. Knowledge of agriculture would be an asset. Must have or be willing to obtain a Manitoba Pesticide applicators license.

Send questions or resumes to [rrstwd@gmail.com](mailto:rrstwd@gmail.com) (204)467-4704

# take a break

> GAMES

## SUDOKU

5	7			3	2			8
1		9			6			
	4	2						
		8						7
	9		5					
2			6		9			
4			1				8	3
					3	4		
			2	5			7	

Level: Intermediate

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6	7	9	4	5	2	1	8	3
5	1	7	3	9	8	7	2	6
3	8	2	7	6	1	9	9	4
4	5	8	6	7	9	3	1	2
1	9	3	8	2	5	4	6	7
7	2	6	1	4	3	8	5	9
9	3	7	5	1	6	2	4	8
2	4	5	9	8	7	6	3	1
8	6	1	2	3	4	6	7	5

Sudoku Answer

# INTERLAKE

SCHOOL DIVISION

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## VIRTUAL PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Interlake School Division invites members of the ISD community to join a Virtual Public Budget Meeting to review the PROPOSED 2026-2027 budget.

Stakeholder input will be gathered during and after the presentation.

We hope you can join us on  
**Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.**  
Please visit the ISD website at [www.interlakesd.ca](http://www.interlakesd.ca) for the zoom link for the meeting.

If you are unable to join us, please watch the website for a recording of the meeting.

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### Estate and Moving

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## 2026 FLOWER TENDER

The Town of Teulon invites quotes for the supply of flowers. Detailed requirements may be viewed on our website [www.teulon.ca](http://www.teulon.ca) or by contacting our office during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 9:00 – 4:30 p.m.)

The quotation is for supply and install.

Quotes will be received  
**on or before 12 noon on Friday, March 6, 2026**  
via email [info@teulon.ca](mailto:info@teulon.ca)

or by mail to

PO Box 69, Teulon, Manitoba, R0C 3B0 or via fax (204-886-3918)

For Further Information please contact the office at 204-886-2314

## 2026 PESTICIDE CONTROL PROGRAM

Is hereby given that The Players Course intends to conduct the following pesticide control program in 2026. This will include The Players Course property (P.T.S.W. ¼ 27-11-2E) The projected dates of the following pesticides are from May 15 2026 – Nov. 15 2026

To control weeds, turf diseases, insects, rodents, localized dry spots in turf, goose repellent, and plant growth regulator.

Weed Control	2,4-D Amine 600, Mecoprop-P, Dicamba, Glyphosate, Surtactant Blend, Iron, acetic acid, bispyribac sodium, carfentrazone-ethyl, ammonium soap of fatty acids, Dithiopyr, dimethylamine salt
Insect Control	Propoxur, Chloranthraniliprole, Chlothianidin, Deltamethrin, Lambda-cyhalothrin, Malathion, vectobac 200G, Deltamethrin, Tetraniliprole, Bacillus thuringiensis var.israelensis, cyantraniliprole,
Disease Control	Trifloxystrobin, Boscalid, Chlorothalonil, Myclobutanil, Azoxystrobin, Propiconazole, Etridiazole, Fludioxonil, Triticonazole, Pyraclostrobin, Civitas, Metalaxyl-M, Propamocarb hydrochloride, Fluopyram, Penthiopyrad, mono-and di potassium salts of phosphoric acid, mineral oil, hydrogen peroxide, Benzovindiflupyr / difenoconazole, Pydiflumetofen, polyoxin D zinc salt, fluoxastrobin, isofetamid, thiophanate-methyl, Bacillus subtilis, fluazinam, cyazofamid, fosetyl AL, metconazole, mandestrobin, Revysol Mefentrifluconazole, Iprodione, Fluxapyroxad, Isofetamid, Metalaxyl-M and s-isomer, Hydrogen peroxide, Mono-and dibasic sodium,potassium,and ammonium phosphites
Rodent Control	Diphacinone
Soil Surfactant	Primer 604, Revolution, Dispatch,
Miscellaneous	Methyl anthranilate, Trinexapac-ethyl methylacetic acid, octyl phenoxypoly polyethoxy ethanol,

All pesticides will be applied according to the product label instructions and the conditions of the pesticide use permit. Any resident having a concern should direct within (15) days of this publication to:

Manitoba Environment and Climate  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd.  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6

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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](http://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](mailto:info@stonewall.ca).

The deadline for submission is March 1, 2026.

**Town of Stonewall Council Presents**

**PROGRESS UNPACKED - THE FOUR-YEAR RECAP**

Join Council and Senior Administration for a State-of-the-Town presentation followed by a Q&A session.

Thursday February 26, 2026 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm 166 Main St., Stonewall Access Auditorium, Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre

SEE YOU THERE! [www.stonewall.ca](http://www.stonewall.ca) 204-467-7979 [info@stonewall.ca](mailto:info@stonewall.ca)



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## OBITUARY



**Robert (Bob) J. Buck**  
February 27, 1939 –  
February 6, 2026

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved Dad, Bob Buck, on February 6, 2026, just 21 days short of what would have been his 87th birthday.

He is survived by our Mom, Rose, his wife and partner of 55 years; his sons, Rob, Ron and Rick (David) and his twin brother Tim.

He is predeceased by his parents John and Emily; sister Joan; parents-in-law Mike and Anne; brothers-in-

law Doug, Will, Bill, Harry, John and Roy and sisters-in-law Helen, Joyce and Lila.

Dad was born February 27, 1939 in Stonewall, Manitoba. He spent his early years living on Stonewall's Main Street in the apartment located above his parent's Flour and Feed Store with his older sister and twin brother. When Dad turned 18, he left home and started to work in a variety of fields that included banking and insurance which took him from Winnipeg, Regina, Thunder Bay and Fisher Branch. However, in 1966, he saw an ad in the newspaper where the Manitoba Government was recruiting Conservation Officers. As he tells the story, "I applied on a Wednesday, interviewed on Thursday and was told on Friday to be in The Pas on Monday morning for training." He spent the next few years working throughout northern Manitoba and it was in 1969, he met a young lady at a curling bonspiel in Cranberry Portage, who he would eventually marry in 1970 and have three sons. Dad and Mom would spend the next few years transferring from town to town, first Thompson, then Pine Falls and Lac du Bonnet. In 1976, they eventually moved to Stonewall so that Dad could take a position with the Fire Management Branch as a Training Officer. He held numerous roles and responsibilities while with the Fire Management Branch and concluded with him overseeing the Forest Protection Program until his retirement in 2003. While in these roles, he had the opportunity to travel across Canada, the United States, Mexico, southeast Asia and Belarus to share in his expertise in wildfire suppression. He was also involved in several emergencies that included the 1979 and 1997 Red River Floods, and the 1989 Manitoba Wildfires, that saw the evacuation of several thousand people in Manitoba. Always calm under pressure, he always made sure that people came first when dealing with these emergencies. Another accomplishment of his was that he was one of four wildfire experts from across Canada that help establish the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) which is headquartered in Winnipeg.

The house in Stonewall was always busy, with many of the local kids saying that it was the place to hang out. Once the boys moved away, it became a place to garden and having BBQs in the summer with extended family. Dad was always very proud of his annual Christmas decoration display.

Dad loved doing outdoor activities with his family and his sons. Whether it was hunting, fishing or an impromptu camping trip to Cranberry Portage, he always liked packing up the trailer with the kids and fishing rods and head off for a few weeks. He was active with the Beavers, Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts in the Stonewall area. Many kids learnt bushcraft from Dad along with initial steps in being an independent and good person.

Dad was an avid curler. With his brother Tim and friends, he was known for doing the bonspiel circuit in Stonewall and area. He was also a lover of music. He spoke often of the once in a lifetime opportunity to see Pavarotti in Edmonton while travelling for work. He was much involved with the Stonewall United Church choir and cantatas.

During retirement, Dad and Mom travelled as much as they could, with at least twice-yearly visits to Alberta to see their boys, as well as Tofino, Quebec City and a trip through the Great Lakes area. Mom and Dad were thrilled that they were able to travel with family to Hawaii nine times! The sunsets on Maui, the amazing meals, the coastal drives, and the opportunity to golf in the middle of winter was a highlight for our Dad.

In accordance with our Dad's wishes, cremation has taken place with no funeral. A celebration of life will be held later this summer where his ashes will be scattered in northern Manitoba.

We would like to thank the medical staff at the St. Boniface, Stonewall and Selkirk Hospitals for the care and support that they gave our Dad over the last several months.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that a donation be made to one of the many organizations that our Dad supported throughout the years namely the CNIB -Guide Dog Program, the Canadian Red Cross, Siloam Mission, or the United Church of Canada - Mission and Service or a charity or organization of your choice.



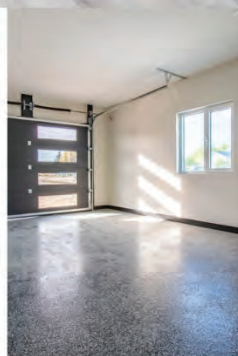
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### HEADING



Martin Dodd

May 1, 1948 – February 24, 2025

One year ago God called your name  
And it was your time to fly;  
It broke our hearts to watch you go  
And left us wondering why?  
As months passed we felt you close  
Like you never really left;  
We feel your laughter in times of joy  
And your hugs when we're distressed.  
See, you never really left us  
In our hearts you'll always be,  
We can't look back with sadness now  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
This year was just the first of many  
That you'll be missed each passing day;  
But we know we'll reunite in heaven  
And then forever we shall stay.

-With lots of love  
and missing you,  
Lil,

Cheryl, Mel and family,  
Debbie, Paul and family,  
Michelle, Jim and family

*Your memory will live forever  
Engraved within our hearts.*

### IN MEMORIAM



Ray Sherrin

August 21, 1943 – February 20, 2025

In life it isn't where you go,  
It's who you travel with.  
It was a wonderful 41 years.

-Love you always,  
Dianne

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

### IN MEMORIAM



Ray Sherrin

August 21, 1943 – February 20, 2025

Even though Dad isn't here anymore his  
legacy lives on in the values he instilled in  
us. We strive to honor his memory by living a  
life of integrity, showing love and kindness to  
others and finding joy in the simple things.  
We are forever grateful for the time we shared.

-Forever remembered by  
your children Rick, Russell and Wendy

### OBITUARY

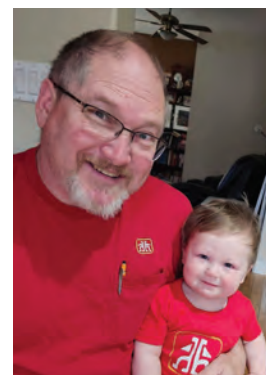
Kevin McLelland

On February 11, 2026, after a brief illness, Kevin McLelland passed away at the Stonewall Hospital, at the age of 61 years, with his wife by his side.

Kevin was a long time resident of Stonewall and your friendly Home Hardware Man.

Beloved husband of Heather; father of David (Ashlee), Amanda, Tabitha (Douglas), Mackenzie (Andrea), and Amy; Papa of Emily, Ethan, Odin, Logan, Austin and Davey.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held in the summer.



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