# Stonewall Teulon Tribune

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**LOCALLY OWNED HISTORY BOOK FOR THE COMMUNITY**




## Sláinte & cheers

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MATTHIEU MEIER

Good friends, good cheer and a little Irish luck — Colby and Driano Silvari toast St. Patrick's Day as The 19th Hole Virtual Golf and Lounge celebrates all week with festive drinks and good company.

# CSC to present their version of heartfelt Alice by Heart production

By Jo-Anne Procter

Grade 12 students Kristen Greigson and Connor Phillips are stepping into the spotlight for their final high school performance as the leads in Collège Stonewall Collegiate's upcoming production of *Alice by Heart.*

After four years of participating in theatre, both Greigson and Phillips say taking on the starring roles in their graduating year feels especially meaningful.

"For it being my final year and having been involved in theatre since Grade 9, it's really special," Greigson said.

Phillips agreed, noting the role is something he had long hoped for.

"It feels good to be able to play a high-level character after years of practice, just watching and wishing to be that person," he said.

Directed by teachers Kendra Obach and Lindsey Weber, the production has required weeks of rehearsals as the cast learned their lines, songs and choreography.

Grade 12 leads Connor Phillips, left, and Kristen Greigson, right, rehearse their favourite scene in Alice par le cœur, Collège Stonewall Collegiate's production, on March 5.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The court scene in the musical *Alice by Heart* is a pivotal, chaotic moment where fantasy merges with the harsh realities of the characters' lives.

*Alice by Heart* is a heartfelt re-imagining of *Alice in Wonderland*, bringing familiar characters to life in a new setting.

Greigson plays Alice Spencer, a 15-year-old girl living during the London Blitz who escapes into the world of *Alice in Wonderland.*

"She's been obsessed with *Alice in Wonderland* since she was very little," Greigson explained. "The story is that she takes her best friend Alfred into the world of *Alice in Wonderland,* and all of the people in the underground bunker transform into those charac-

Continued on page 8

# Stonewall educator launches personalized learning hub for Interlake families

**By E. Antonio**

After more than a decade in Manitoba classrooms, Stonewall educator Nicole Griffiths is building something more personal.

Operating out of 310 Wellness on Main, Griffiths has launched Allways Learning MB, a tutoring and educational support service designed to meet young learners exactly where they are.

Known to her students as Ms. G, Griffiths offers tutoring, homeschooling support and school readiness assessments for children from kindergarten through Grade 8. With about 30 students currently on her roster, she works one-on-one or in small groups, developing individualized lesson plans and providing families with ongoing updates and next steps for growth.

Her approach is rooted in years of classroom experience.

"I had been teaching in the classroom for over 10 years, often taking opportunities to switch and move grades so I could gain more experience with different curriculum," she said. "I never wanted to teach just one grade and often partnered with other classrooms and grade levels because I always felt learning was fostered more naturally through collaboration between students and educators."

Teaching kindergarten, she said, shaped her philosophy in particular.

"I would follow their lead through play and conversation and use the materials and opportunity of interest to teach some foundations like letters or numbers," she said. "Teaching kindergarten really gave me an understanding of the importance of developing strong foundations in those early years but also how to catch and keep a five-year-old's attention — never mind 26 of them."

She understands how large class sizes, diverse student needs and post-pandemic learning gaps can affect early educational progress. Her tutoring model focuses on bridging both academic gaps and emotional barriers.

"I meet them where they are and help them grow from there."

Griffiths stepped away from the public classroom in 2024 after the COVID-19 pandemic, after witnessing the strain placed on students, families and educators alike.

"I watched public services cry for help and be told there is nothing to give. I saw students and their families struggle to manage the day-to-day and even lose loved ones. I saw staff putting their own well-being on hold to care for others — I knew too many people wrapped up in a public system that couldn't support them," she said.

"I chose to take a pause from teaching and find my own balance again first before seeing what I wanted to do and, as I found my balance, the community found me."

Through conversations in the community, she began hearing from families looking for additional educational support — and Allways Learning MB grew from there.

Each program begins with a free 30-minute in-person meeting to discuss goals and areas of focus. From there, Griffiths works with each family to design a learning plan tailored to the child's needs and learning style.

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TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Nicole Griffiths, owner and founder of Allways Learning MB — known to students as Ms. G — offers private and semi-private tutoring, homeschooling support and school readiness assessments for kindergarten to Grade 8 students from her office at 310 Wellness on Main in Stonewall.

# Napier Emergency Consulting providing expertise and boots on the ground

**By Patricia Barrett**

As part of 115th annual International Women's Day on March 8, the *Tribune* is celebrating women whose work helps people in the Interlake and who've made a significant impact in their industry.

Shelley Napier is the managing director of Napier Emergency Consulting, teaching people how to prepare for and survive an emergency.

Prior to setting up her consultancy, Napier worked with the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization before retiring in 2017.

Napier identifies risks, creates emergency plans and provides training for specific emergency situations that can range from floods, severe winter storms, tornadoes, wildfires, community evacuations and shootings.

Napier has overcome a number of challenges working in a male-dominated industry and has made a name for herself. She is a much sought after expert in her field.

"As a woman in this business, I've learned that you're going to have your challenges. You have to be willing to be strong and have your voice heard, and find a way to make that happen by being respectful, by building a good team and by working together," said Napier, who has decades of emergency management experience and is a founding member of the annual Manitoba Disaster Management Conference.

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLEY NAPIER**
**Shelley Napier has earned several awards for her emergency management work, including a King Charles III Coronation medal. She works with communities, businesses, organizations, academic institutions and First Nations across Manitoba, Canada, as well as overseas.**


**Napier found herself in lockdown in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, last month when cartel members with guns staged violent demonstrations in the streets of the popular tourist destination and set fire to Pemex stations.**

"You've got to deal with people where they are. It's not my job to change anyone's mind. It's my job to try to educate people and allow them to see how much stronger their community or organization can be if they implement the emergency plans and processes we teach them."

Napier delivers training to emergency managers across Canada, Indigenous communities, municipalities and other organizations. She works on getting people to the stage at which they can take charge of whatever emergency they happen to find themselves in and execute a carefully considered plan tailored to their unique physical location.

Those plans are very detailed and can include knowing exactly how many cars can fit on a ferry at one time when an island community has to be evacuated, how many boats a lakeside community has that can be used for escape, identifying how

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# Young Métis trailblazer named Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child

**By Annaliese Meier**

Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba has announced eight-year-old Ireland Gault as Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child — a role that will see the young Métis ambassador represent the more than 140,000 children who rely on HSC Children's Hospital each year.

The moment was especially meaningful for Ireland's family and friends, who gathered to cheer her on — a celebration made possible by a life-changing surgery she received as an infant.

Born in March 2017 to Courtney and Will Gault, Ireland appeared to be a healthy baby. But as part of Manitoba's universal newborn hearing screening program, she did not pass her initial hearing test. Further assessments revealed she had profound hearing loss in both ears.

"There were so many unknowns, and we were very scared for Ireland's future," said her mother, Courtney.

At just 10 months old, Ireland became the youngest person in Manitoba to undergo bilateral cochlear implant surgery. The procedure, performed at HSC Children's Hospital, allowed her access to sound during a critical stage of brain development.

"You're letting go of your baby and trusting the process," said her father, Will. "We're grateful that she was able to receive this miraculous surgery in such a warm and welcoming environment."

After a month of healing, Ireland's implants — which she proudly calls her "ears" — were activated. For the first time, she heard her parents' voices.

Ireland Gault as a baby after becoming the first infant in Manitoba to receive bilateral cochlear implants.

"The Children's Hospital gave our daughter life-changing surgery and the ultimate gift of hearing," Courtney said. "We went around the house turning on the water so she could hear it. We went outside to listen to the birds."

Today, Ireland is an energetic Grade 3 student who loves gymnastics, singing and cheerleading. She is also a devoted big sister to Taylor. While she sometimes faces challenges hearing in busy environments, her implants have enabled her to devel-

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TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ireland Gault, now eight, has been named Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child and will help raise awareness and support for the children who rely on HSC Children's Hospital each year.

## > LEARNING HUB, FROM PG. 3

She also provides school readiness assessments to help children prepare for transitions — whether starting school for the first time, moving to a new grade or adjusting to a new environment. These assessments focus on both academic and developmental skills, including fine and gross motor abilities, communication and social-emotional readiness.

Central to her philosophy is what she calls "the learning space" — the space between what you know and don't know.

"It's a space where you can attempt to gain knowledge and understanding, ask questions and maybe even learn something," she said. "It's a very cool place where amazing things happen but, unfortunately, it's not comfortable there. It comes with big feelings and doubts and stress and failure and is often where kids get lost."

Part of her work, she says, is helping children feel safe in that space. Sessions often include mindfulness practices, celebrating small successes or calming activities such as yoga or time outdoors — fitting for a space located within 310 Wellness on Main.

"These positive experiences build up in the memory and I see the difference it makes in a student's confidence and ability to communicate."

Looking ahead, Griffiths hopes to expand through mentorship opportunities and workshops for students, parents and educational professionals.

For more information about Allways Learning MB, including booking details, visit www.allwayslearningmb.ca or email allwayslearningMB@outlook.com.

Stonewall Teulon Tribune



# getheard > Got news?

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Jennifer McFee
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# Overnight spike hits Manitoba gas pumps



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Gas prices jumped sharply overnight at Stonewall's Esso service station, rising from 141.9 cents per litre on March 5 to 149.9 cents per litre in less than 24 hours. The increase reflects a broader spike seen across the province and Canada in recent days, largely driven by rising global oil prices amid escalating conflict in the Middle East and concerns about potential disruptions to international oil supply.

# Public hearing to consider Twin Beach cottage lot proposal April 1

**By E. Antonio**

Residents of the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent will have an opportunity to weigh in on a proposed zoning change affecting property at Twin Beach on Wednesday, April 1 at 10:15 a.m. in council chambers at the Recreation Centre, 16 Veterans Memorial Rd. in St. Laurent.

Under the authority of The Planning Act, the Western Interlake Planning District has scheduled a public hearing to consider RM of St. Laurent Bylaw No. 1-2026. The bylaw proposes to rezone a portion of land from "Agricultural Restricted" to "Seasonal Recreation."

According to information provided by the planning district, the landowners are seeking to rezone a portion of their property at Twin Beach in order to subdivide it into approximately four cottage lots. The section proposed for rezoning measures about 300 feet by 600 feet. The land is currently not in use.

If approved, the application would allow the owners to proceed with subdivision plans consistent with seasonal recreational development.

As part of the review process, the proposal will be circulated to various government agencies for comment. Should environmental or other regulatory concerns arise, those departments would provide feedback during the review.

Members of the public may attend the hearing in person to make representations. Submissions may also be made in writing by email or by mail prior to the hearing.

Copies of the proposal and supporting materials are available for inspection during regular office hours, Monday to Friday, at the Western Interlake Planning District office in St. Laurent.

For more information, residents can contact Cherie Millar, office administrator, at 204-646-2615 or by email at westerninterlakeplanning@gmail.com.

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# getinformed

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## Resources available for help with filing income taxes

By Jennifer McFee

Tax season is upon us, and local supports are in place to help individuals complete the annual task of filing.

Taxes are due to be filed and paid on or before April 30. However, you can actually file your taxes at any time.

In Stonewall, South Interlake 55 Plus is hosting its annual complimentary community volunteer income tax program from March 4 to April 30 for individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for the program. The service is by appointment only.

Deborah Hildebrandt, executive director of South Interlake 55 Plus, expressed the importance of filing income taxes each year.

"It is important for everyone to file their personal income taxes — and especially older adults because there is a multitude of benefits which they may not be aware of, such as disability tax credit and various other supplemental income opportunities," she said.

"We offer this service to our community members to enhance their quality of life by providing this service resulting in financial benefit to them."

The program's volunteers receive virtual training each year through Canada Revenue Agency. They're bound by privacy and confidentially requirements as well as criminal record checks to protect clients' information.

"Every year we are looking for fulfilling our volunteer compliment; therefore, if someone would like to volunteer with this program, they are welcome to connect with us directly at the centre," Hildebrandt said.

Since the eligibility criteria is complex, Hildebrandt said it's best to call the South Interlake 55 Plus directly to confirm.

Call South Interlake 55 Plus at 204-467-2582 for more information on eligibility criteria and to make an appointment.

The Teulon and District Seniors Resource Council also offers the volunteer income tax program and assists with form completion. In addition, they help clients with government phone calls since many seniors find it difficult to navigate these calls, which often have very long wait times.

For income tax completion through Teulon and District Seniors Resource Council, no appointment is required. They're located at 54 Main St., and the organization is open year-round for income tax completion. For more information, call 204-886-2570.

It's important to file an income tax return each year, even you have no income, low income or if you're on social assistance. Tackling this annual task can help you access benefits and credits that could enhance your financial situation. In contrast, if you don't file your taxes, you might miss out on tax breaks, income supplements or government subsidies.

# letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:
news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

## Supporting local as Stonewall expands

Stonewall has had a successful locally owned fast-food business for a number of years that continues to employ local students during the summer months. The Kiln is owned by people who live right here in our community and who have invested in Stonewall in many ways.

It now appears they will be competing with a corporate chain, Dairy Queen, which has chosen to locate directly across the road. I have heard considerable support expressed for The Kiln in recent weeks, along with conversations about the importance of "buying local." I hope that also means "supporting local" when residents are deciding where to spend their dollars. Stonewall is home to many locally owned businesses that contribute to the character and vitality of our town.

I also believe it is reasonable to discuss the decisions made by council in approving new developments and how those decisions may affect existing local businesses. While growth can bring opportunity, it is important that council carefully consider how expansion aligns with the long-term vision residents have for Stonewall.

There has also been discussion about new homes and retail spaces planned for the east side of town. As our community grows, I hope there will be transparency about the costs associated with infrastructure such as water, waste and other public services, and how those costs will be managed.

Stonewall's small-town feel is one of the reasons I chose to move here. Growth is not necessarily a bad thing, but I hope we continue to value and support the local businesses and community spirit that make this town what it is.

- Brian Short
Stonewall resident





# worship with us > FAITH

## Worry

For many of us worry can quietly hover in the wings for any number of reasons. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." When worry threatens to move in and take over our day, the Lord invites us to pray. He is a safe place and always welcomes us to come to Him, just like a loving parent welcomes their children. Whatever is going on, whatever is weighing us down, whatever is stressing us out He is there and we can go to Him with what's really going on in our hearts and He will meet us in the midst of our circumstances. We are deeply and unconditionally loved by Him. So much so that God sent His beloved Son, Jesus, to earth to take our sins upon Himself so we could be in right relationship with Holy God and have eternal life with Him. If you haven't already, consider Jesus. The bible tells us there is no other way to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). When we repent of our sins, ask Him to forgive us, and receive Him as our personal Lord and Saviour, then our journey with Jesus begins. While not everything will necessarily be perfect nor will life's challenges and concerns automatically go away, we are reassured Jesus will be with us every moment of every day. And God's peace which surpasses our finite understanding will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Let's not worry, let's go to Him in prayer, and thank Him for all He has done for us. If anyone needs an extra dose of peace today turn to Jesus, He will meet you right where you are.

Pastor Jo-Ann Porterfield
Alive Family Church
Stonewall, MB
alivefamilychurch.ca

# Upcoming public hearings focus on quarrying operations

By Jennifer McFee

A trio of public hearings is coming up related to quarrying operations in the RM of Rockwood.

On Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m. at Stony Mountain Community Centre (117 School Rd.), a public hearing will focus on a request to rezone an industrial extractive holding area to an industrial extractive zone, which would allow the existing Heidelberg Materials quarrying operation to expand.

On the same evening and at the same location, a public hearing is slated to start at 8 p.m. regarding a conditional use application from Heidelberg Materials, which is looking to expand its existing aggregate extraction.

Heidelberg Materials has been operating in the RM of Rockwood since the 1970s, and its current operations are at the Glacier Quarry with active extraction taking place at the Oughton Quarry.

The land in the proposed development area is currently agricultural. Farming would continue in the parts of the land that aren't being used for extraction. Per provincial regulations, the proposed Oughton expansion site would include a buffer of 400 metres from residential landowners. The company also intends to build berms to separate the quarry from neighbouring properties.

The proposed rock truck route would continue on the existing route, which goes from the extraction area to the crusher and plant site across Road 7E and Road 78N.

The expanded area would continue with quarry operation hours from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Then on Thursday, March 19 at 6 p.m. at Stony Mountain Community Centre, a public hearing will take place regarding a conditional use request by Amrize Canada Inc. to allow for an aggregate extraction operation.

Amrize Canada is seeking approval to start a new quarry operation between Road 78N and Road 79N. The current plan anticipates there would be about 25 round-trip truck trips per day using an RM-designated haul route. This would include travelling north on Road 4E, then east on Highway 323, south on Highway 236 and then east at Road 79.

A nearby landowner has formally objected to the proposed Amrize Canada quarry operation. Jeff Meier, whose family operates a four-generation farm located about three quarters of a mile from the proposed site along Road 4E, will be objecting the conditional use citing concerns about traffic, dust, groundwater and the long-term industrialization of agricultural land. In his letter, Meier said heavy truck traffic on Provincial Road 323 and 236 — which already experiences seasonal weight restrictions — could accelerate road deterioration and create safety risks. He also raised concerns about potential impacts from dust, blasting vibrations, groundwater changes and drainage near the Grassmere Drain and his geothermal heating system.

Meier noted that multiple farm residences, including the Black Bear Rescue Manitoba, are located within a quarter- to half-mile of the proposed extraction area and said the introduction of blasting, crushing and commercial hauling would be incompatible with the established agricultural and residential character of the area.

The RM of Rockwood's zoning bylaw allows hauling from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. However, Amrize Canada expects that its hauling activities would typically take place between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. No hauling is permitted on Sundays or statutory holidays.

Rockwood resident Larry Neufeld plans to attend all three public hearings. He's concerned that the rezoning and conditional use proposals are rushing forward, and he also worries about the potential impacts on nearby properties, including his own.

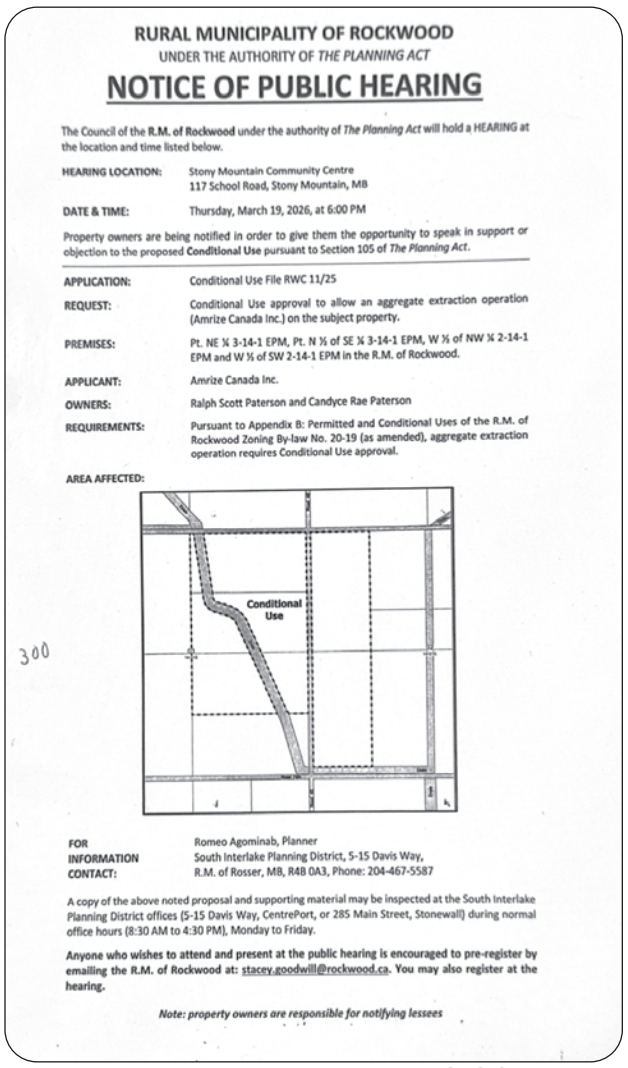
"When we moved in, they were already there," he said. "We didn't have a lot of recourse, but now we do. I think they're going to get some serious pushback."

He doesn't want to see the quarry operations expand any closer toward residential properties, and he's concerned about the potential impact on property values.

"We've been here for many years and I can tell you that the damage to the windows from blasts has been significant over the years, but it's difficult to prove," he said.

He encourages other property owners to attend the public hearings and get informed.

"Everybody should understand what the consequences are if they move forward with this. If you look at the investments that we've put in here and what's happening, it devalues the property," he said.



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF *THE PLANNING ACT*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Council of the **R.M. of Rockwood** under the authority of *The Planning Act* will hold a HEARING at the location and time listed below.

**HEARING LOCATION:** Stony Mountain Community Centre, 117 School Road, Stony Mountain, MB

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Property owners are being notified in order to give them the opportunity to speak in support or objection to the proposed **Conditional Use** pursuant to Section 105 of *The Planning Act*.

**APPLICATION:** Conditional Use File RWC 11/25

**REQUEST:** Conditional Use approval to allow an aggregate extraction operation (Amrize Canada Inc.) on the subject property.

**PREMISES:** Pt. NE ¼ 3-14-1 EPM, Pt. N ½ of SE ¼ 3-14-1 EPM, W ½ of NW ¼ 2-14-1 EPM and W ½ of SW 2-14-1 EPM in the R.M. of Rockwood.

**APPLICANT:** Amrize Canada Inc.

**OWNERS:** Ralph Scott Paterson and Candyce Rae Paterson

**REQUIREMENTS:** Pursuant to Appendix B: Permitted and Conditional Uses of the R.M. of Rockwood Zoning By-law No. 20-19 (as amended), aggregate extraction operation requires Conditional Use approval.

**AREA AFFECTED:**



**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Romeo Agominab, Planner, South Interlake Planning District, 5-15 Davis Way, R.M. of Rosser, MB, R4B 0A3, Phone: 204-467-5587

A copy of the above noted proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the South Interlake Planning District offices (5-15 Davis Way, CentrePort, or 285 Main Street, Stonewall) during normal office hours (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday to Friday.

**Anyone who wishes to attend and present at the public hearing is encouraged to pre-register by emailing the R.M. of Rockwood at: stacey.goodwill@rockwood.ca. You may also register at the hearing.**

***Note: property owners are responsible for notifying lessees***

**PHOTO SUBMITTED**

**A map from the South Interlake Planning District shows the proposed location of a new aggregate extraction operation sought by Amrize Canada Inc. between Road 78N and Road 79N in the RM of Rockwood.**

"It is impacting people and they are going to get resistance. It's really important that everybody gets to know what's happening. It's going to be awfully hard to change it after the fact."

More information about the upcoming public hearings is posted on the South Interlake Planning District's website at sipd.ca.

> ALICE, FROM PG. 2

ters."

Phillips plays Alfred Hallam, as well as the White Rabbit and March Hare. His character, he explained, is battling tuberculosis and longs to return to the world he once shared with Alice.

"He wants to relive the world they had as children and maybe escape the sickness while he's running through Wonderland," Phillips said.

Greigson said one of the biggest challenges of the role is that she remains on stage for nearly the entire production.

"A lot of my lines start the scenes, so I have to know which scene and song is coming next and where I'm supposed to be during the blackouts," she said. "The story is written with a lot of rhymes, so remembering which line goes where can be challenging."

Despite the challenge, both students say performing alongside their classmates is the most rewarding part.

"This is my people, my group," Phillips said. "We get to hang out, have fun and put on a show for everyone to see. Being the main male role makes it exciting to play a character you never thought you'd get to play."

The production also carries deeper emotional themes than previous school shows.

Greigson hopes audiences will experience and enjoy the magic of live theatre.

"There's something so different about seeing a live show and sharing that experience with other people," she said. "This show is very heartfelt and nostalgic with all of the *Alice in Wonderland* moments. People will recognize those characters and remember them."

Phillips hopes the performance leaves audiences amazed.

"This is a big performance. It takes so much time to build," he said. "You just lay it all on the line, and I hope the audience jaw drops and is blown away."

Before each performance, the cast gathers backstage for a ritual to calm their nerves and build energy.

"We all get together backstage for a big energy boost," Greigson said. "We let out a big yell to get the nerves out, and after that we're all just really connected."

Four performances of *Alice by Heart*, written by Steven Sater and Jessie Nelson, with music by Duncan Sheik and lyrics by Steven Sater, will be staged at the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre from March 18 to 20.

The opening performance will be a matinee on March 18 at 12:30 p.m., with tickets priced at $10. Evening performances will take place at 7 p.m. on March 18, 19 and 20, with tickets available for $15.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/alice-by-heart.

Please note the production includes references and imagery related to war and drugs, as well as themes of grief and mild language.

> NAPIER, FROM PG. 4

much gasoline a community has at one time, identifying muster points or staging areas for evacuation where a head count can be done, identifying escape routes for several thousand people attending festivals such as the Icelandic Festival in Gimli or the Corn and Apple Festival in Morden.

Napier's consultancy team is made up of professionals with specialized areas of expertise. They're academics who bring emergency management research and best practices to the table, and practitioners who've had their boots on the ground during emergencies — a team Napier calls "pracademics." The team includes "really strong women."

"We do phenomenal work. When I look at what we do and what we produce, everything is individually tailored and everything meets the clients' needs," said Napier. "We work on emergency topics that no one has really has looked at; there's not been a lot of work done on those with physical disabilities. And we work with numerous Indigenous communities across Canada, helping them build emergency programs. They're on the front line, and oftentimes they're unable to get help quickly if they're located in remote areas."

Climate change can be a challenging topic for emergency managers; the trend towards more severe weather events and disasters may not necessarily be viewed by some in the context of global warming.

"We can call it weather that is very different from what it used to be, or we can call it climate change — it doesn't matter. But I think we have to acknowledge that there are more frequent weather emergencies happening," said Napier. "We're having earlier and earlier fires burning. Last year [one of Manitoba's worst wildfire seasons] was not a one-off. I think we're going to see that again and again."

Emergencies in Manitoba may, in the public's mind, be primarily associated with weather. But Napier said it's not beyond the realm of possibility to imagine mass shootings here along the lines of that in Tumbler Ridge, B.C., or in Nova Scotia where a gunman disguised himself as an RCMP officer and killed multiple victims.

"I think a lot of the events happening around our country are a wake-up call," she said.

Ironically, Napier found herself in lockdown last month when she was in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, at the time members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel staged violent demonstrations in the wake of the government's capture of their leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes (El Mencho). Mayhem ensued in the streets of the popular tourist destination, with cars and buses commandeered and set on fire, as well as trucks carrying petrol. Oxxo convenience stores and Pemex gas stations were destroyed.

Looking at the riot and its aftermath from the perspective of an emergency manager, Napier said communication from the top could have been much better. She struggled to understand instructions in Spanish to not leave her unit and had to use Google Translate.

"I think a proactive approach would have had [emergency alerts in] multiple languages so visitors could understand what was going on. That can reduce fear and start to calm people," said Napier. "This was new for Puerto Vallarta. And there was a lot of AI-generated information that was not accurate."

Europe is a good example where public messages are relayed in multiple languages, she said.

She has worked with the Canadian International Development Agency overseas managing emergencies, with NATO, and in countries such as the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and in Asia.

"One of the things I recognized early on in my international work was how grateful I am to be Canadian because we do emergency management really well at home," she said. "We don't have a top-down system in Canada: we have a bottom-up system that's driven from a municipal level where a timely awareness of what's happening can help avoid damages."

In addition to training municipal and community leaders how to handle various events, Napier said it's important to also "build public education" whereby people become more aware of how they can prepare and help themselves should an emergency arise. That messaging should be delivered frequently to the point where it really sinks in.

"What can you do to prepare yourself? You can prepare a go bag of essential items. You can identify neighbours who might need help. You can implement a buddy system in your neighbourhood. You can't expect a council in a small municipality with few resources and staff to be able to do everything," said Napier. "We need to start implementing better public education. That could be handouts reminding people when we're in fire season. People should know access and exit points. Make this so common that it starts to sink in."


Napier said 69 Oxxo convenience stores were destroyed in last month's cartel attack on Puerto Vallarta. From an emergency management standpoint, Napier said alerts in multiple languages should have been issued so that visitors could understand what was happening.

She heard stories from last year's wildfires that people didn't know they had to evacuate because they were in an area with no cell towers, she said. But they should have been given enough public messaging beforehand to make them aware of risks during fire season and to know how to get out.

"Maybe you want to have a satellite phone. You want to have your ID, medication, important documents and change of clothing in a go bag," she said. "If this message is delivered every fire season, it becomes muscle memory."

Part of emergency planning in communities can include identifying volunteers to be part of a response team, holding town halls where emergency planning is publicly discussed or arranging presentations from emergency management experts.

Napier said she tries to make emergency preparedness training fun for communities, and some of the tools she uses are games such as "Hazard Bingo" with emergency supplies as prizes.

"We try to make it so that the public is excited to try to build a safe community," she said. "That happens through knowledge-sharing and from backing from a municipal council."

Napier said the training uptake from councils has been "amazing." She cited The RM of Grahamdale and Victoria Beach — which is a peninsula surrounded by boreal forest — as being "so tuned in" to emergency planning and what sorts of programs they can implement to reduce the risk of fire damage.

And she has emergency exercises planned this month with the RM of Armstrong.

In addition to in-person emergency management training, Napier offers monthly online workshops through her website. Called LearnEM Academy, the workshops are hosted by emergency management practitioners from across Canada.

Napier said she absolutely loves her job and the rewards it brings.

"This has never been work for me. I love what I do. I love the people I work with. I learn something new from each client. And I've made so many friends across the country," said Napier. "I feel very honoured to be given a chance to help somebody build an emergency management program for themselves. It's never been monetary for me; we do some pro bono work in certain situations. If it's going to save a life, I will help. I will help as long as I possibly can."

# Activities for Seniors in Your Area

## South Interlake 55 Plus

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

**2026 MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW! $25.00 FOR A CALENDAR YEAR**
To renew or become a new member, check out our website at www.si55plus.org to fill out a Membership form or come see us at the Centre (374 1st Street West, Stonewall).
▪ *You do not have to be 55 + to become a member!*
▪ *Payments can be made by cash, cheque or E-transfer to si55inflo@gmail.com*

**Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**
**By Appointment Only March 4 - April 30, 2026**
Volunteers are authorized by Canada Revenue Agency to provide this complimentary tax service.
Call for more information on eligibility criteria and to make an appointment.

**March Luncheon**
**Wednesday, March 18 ▪ 12:00 pm**
Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Garlic Toast with dessert and coffee/tea. Tickets $18.00, Advance Tickets Only
Tickets Available at South Interlake 55 Plus
Deadline to purchase tickets: March 13.
Ask about our subsidized transportation

**Hard of Hearing Presentation**
**Tuesday, March 24, 1:30 pm**
Communication tips for the hearing impaired and their friends, family and coworkers with Jo-Anne of the Manitoba Chapter for the Hard of Hearing. Please call to register for this complimentary presentation

**McPhillips Station Casino**
Tuesday, April 7
Leave Lions Manor, 9:15 am and South Interlake 55 Plus at 9:30 am.
Cost: Members $20 / Non-members $25
Call to register by Thursday, April 2

**The Fab Four**
at Club Regent Event Centre
**Sunday, April 19**
Leave Lions Manor and South Interlake 55 Plus, Entrance 1 at 4:00 pm
**Deadline to register and pay: Tuesday, March 31**
Members $90, Non-members $95

**Teacup Flower Workshop**
**Tuesday, March 17, 1:30 pm**
Price of workshop: $5.00
Sponsored by Stonewall Florist
Space is limited.
Register by Tuesday, March 10

**Garden City Shopping Centre Trip**
**Thursday, March 19**
Leave Lions Manor, Entrance 1 at 9:15 am and South Interlake 55 Plus at 9:30 am
Registration Deadline: March 17
Members $20 / Non-members $25

**Accumulative Cribbage Tournament**
Partner Play. Tuesday Evenings
**April 7, 14, 28 and May 5 ▪ 7:00 pm**
Entry fee: $20.00 per person
Call to register by Wednesday, April 1

**Volunteer Appreciation Day**
**Calling All Volunteers of South Interlake 55 Plus**
Please let us treat you to a complimentary Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party
**Wednesday, April 8 ▪ 11:30-12:30**
Please RSVP by April 1st

**"Sole"ful Foot Care**
By Allyson (RN, BN, FCN)
Filing heels and dry skin, toenail trimming/filing, reducing thickened toenails,
corn removal (as able), callus reduction.
These services will take place at South Interlake 55 Plus, 374 1st Street West, Stonewall
**Call Allyson directly to book your appointment**
**431-277-5734**

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cards | Quilting | Ukulele Club |
| Line Dancing | Craft n' Coffee | Virtual Chat |
| Pickleball | Men's Chat | Exercise Programs |

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

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

### SOUTH INTERLAKE SENIORS RESOURCE

**Support Services for Seniors** • Driver/Escort Program
• Mobility Rental Service • Meals on Wheels • Lifeline
• ERIK and ICE Programs • Handy Helper/Housekeeping Program
• Friendly Visiting and Telecheck (phone buddy)
• Home Hair Care Service • Resource information/Form Assistance
Our office is located in the Stonewall Lions Manor at 622 Centre Avenue, Entrance 4.
**204-467-2719 www.sisrc.ca**

### Supports to Seniors in Group Living (SSGL)

SSGL provides a range of free enhanced support services in group living/ elderly persons housing buildings. residents in accomplishing their Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's) and provide them with the support to remain in their community and "age in place"
If wanting any support services in group living/elderly persons housing building, please contact Kelley Rutkair @ 431 381 4002 or email @ ssglstonewall@shaw.ca


## Teulon & District Seniors Resource Council Inc.

*Providing a Helping Hand*

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

**PROVIDING FREE SERVICES TO SENIORS:**
• PHONE BUDDY • DRIVER ESCORT
• INFORMATION/FORM ASSISTANCE
• COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM
• MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOANS
**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS: 8:30AM-4:30PM**

## St. Laurent Seniors Resource Council Inc.

**"SENIORS IN ACTION"**
*55+ and people living with disabilities*
*Support Services in the RM of St. Laurent and Oak Point*
**Office: St. Laurent Community Health Centre**
**51 Parish Lane, Please call: 204-646-2504 ext. 3**
Free E.R.I.K. Emergency Response Information Kit,
Free on loan mobility aids, Resource information, Monthly Birthday Club,
Fundraising activities throughout the year. Fee for Service such as,
Foot Care Clinic, Victoria Lifeline, housecleaning and more.
Free use of Exercise Equipment, Free Adult Bikes on loan,
Free Community Volunteer Income Tax Program
Annual Seniors Summer Feast in August -Entertainment-Supper-Resources
**Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday: 10:00AM-4:00PM stlsrc@mymts.net**

# Persistence pays off – just ask Reese Moore

***Editor's note:*** The following speech was delivered by Reese Moore at the Balmoral 4-H Club communications event.

Winners in each category will advance to the Area Communications event on March 22 at Balmoral School. The public is encouraged to attend and hear presentations from members representing the Balmoral, East Selkirk, Selkirk Silver Spurs, Teulon, Minerva and Argyle 4-H clubs.

When Reese Moore set out to get a dog, she didn't just ask her parents — she developed what she calls a "guaranteed eight-step process." The Balmoral 4-H member delivered her humorous and heartfelt speech at the club's recent communications event, where she captured the audience with a story that blended persistence, family dynamics and a very determined love of dogs.

Below is Reese Moore's speech, as presented:

**How to Get a Dog — An Easy Step-by-Step Guide**

You might think getting a dog is simple. You go to the shelter and take home the first puppy that looks at you with big, sad eyes. But my process is… a tad more dramatic.

Chairperson, honourable judges, fellow 4-Hers, friends, dog lovers, and people who are just here for the snacks…

Today I am going to share with you my guaranteed eight-step process on how to get a dog.

**Step 1: Be Born with a Passion for Dogs**

It's very important you don't skip this step.

When I was little, we had two dogs: Charlie and Maggie. They were my furry best friends.

But then, when I was two, my little brother was born. Apparently, the house could not handle two dogs, a baby and my powerful toddler energy. So the dogs had to go.

That day I realized something important:

My brother cost me my two best friends.

I have forgiven him.

Mostly.

I spent my childhood pointing at every dog I saw and saying, "That one. I want that one."

And each time my parents would say, "We'll see," which every child knows is code for "Nope. Never. Not in a million years."

**Step 2: Break Your Leg**

Literally.

Now, I am not recommending this, per se — it just worked out for me.

When I was three, I fell down the stairs and broke my leg. Fast forward to when I was 10. That same leg was giving me trouble, so my parents took me to a physiotherapist.

While she was examining me, she noticed something.

She said, "Hmm… her back looks a little crooked."

Which was a fairly unexpected outcome of my leg inspection.

She told my parents, "You should probably book an appointment with a doctor."

Now you'll just need to bear with me — this seemingly unrelated and random leg-back inspection story would eventually get me… a dog.

**Step 3: Get a Scoliosis Diagnosis**

This sounds scary and a bit extreme, but in my very complicated "Get a Dog" plan, it's a critical step.

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Reese Moore shares her humorous eight-step guide to getting a dog during the Balmoral 4-H Club communications event. Her speech mixed persistence, family humour and heart, ending with the arrival of her Morkie, Sprocket. The photo was taken shortly after her back surgery.

We went to the doctor. They took X-rays and MRIs and CT scans. They stared at the screen and went, "Yep. That spine is definitely crooked."

Congenital scoliosis — which means my body had been working on my get-a-dog plan my whole life and I didn't even know it.

**Step 4: Write a Speech About Wanting a Dog**

So naturally, I thought: "I know how to handle this medical crisis… I'll write a persuasive speech about why I deserve a dog."

I joined 4-H and wrote a whole speech about wanting a dog.

I poured my heart out:

- I talked about responsibility.
- I talked about companionship.
- I offered to trade in my brother for the dog.

Then I performed that speech and actually won first place at club and area communications.

If public speaking can't get you a dog, what's the point?

**Step 5: Start a Petition**

After my 4-H speech, I thought: "Well, if my parents won't listen to one person… maybe they'll listen to fifty."

So I started a petition.

I walked around asking people:

"Do you think I deserve a dog?"

Most people said, "Of course!" Because they are kind, reasonable human beings… and also they probably didn't want to be part of a child's villain origin story.

I collected 50 signatures.

Fifty people publicly agreed that I should have a dog.

This still wasn't enough to convince my parents.

**Step 6: Have a Doctor Tell You That You Need Life-Altering Surgery**

This is where the plan gets a little intense.

My scoliosis got worse, and my doctor said I would need major surgery to fix my spine.

We're talking bolts, rods and recovery.

Now again, I am not recommending this. But in my story, this was a turning point.

**Step 7: Strategically Use Human Emotions**

Also known as: Make Your Dad Feel Really, Really Bad for You.

The surgery was tough. But I'm pretty brave.

My dad had to watch his kid go through something hard. Somewhere along the way, his defences collapsed.

One day in the hospital he finally decided:

"Okay. You know what? She deserves a dog."

Ten years of wearing down his spirit…

Ten years of relentless begging…

Ten years of emotional speeches, physical trauma and public support…

Success.

**Step 8: Pick Your Dog and Go Get Him**

Last, but definitely not least: choose the dog.

At this point, I had been preparing for this moment my whole life.

I had watched every dog video on the internet.

I had mentally named at least 47 imaginary dogs.

I was ready.

We picked the dog we wanted. The next day, my dad went to pick him up.

My dad walked in, and there he was.

Voilà!

I now had a dog. He is a cute little Morkie named Sprocket.

Now, do you need to follow every single step exactly like I did to get a dog?

Probably not.

In fact, I strongly suggest skipping the broken leg and the surgery part.

But there are two things you definitely should take from my process:

- Persistence works.
- And… dogs are absolutely worth it.

## Al-Anon and AA Meetings Information

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

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

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

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

# Manitoba youth highlight global partnerships at IDW

**By E. Antonio**

Manitoba students, international development leaders, and provincial and federal officials gathered at the Manitoba Legislature Monday to mark the launch of the 36th annual International Development Week (IDW), highlighting youth voices and global partnerships focused on building a more just and sustainable world.

Hosted by Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Tracy Schmidt, the event brought together youth advocates, global changemakers, elected officials and community leaders for the opening of the weeklong initiative organized by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC).

Federal Secretary of State for International Development Randeep Sarai addressed attendees, speaking to this year's theme, Prosperity Through Partnership, and emphasizing the importance of collaboration across borders to address global challenges.

A central feature of the launch was the debut performance of What We're Meant to Be, a spoken-word poem created and performed by three Manitoba high school students — Tobilola (Tobi) Olorunsola of Brandon, and Fawwaz (Ali) Al Hassan and Sami Suliman of Winnipeg.

The students, all recent newcomers to Canada, explored themes of genocide, oppression and displacement, reflecting on injustice and resilience through personal and global perspectives.

"Stay home. Stay quiet. Stay invisible," Al Hassan recited in the piece, reflecting on the experiences of girls denied access to education. Olorunsola evoked loss and longing, saying "Dust falls from them like small ghosts," while Suliman delivered a message of hope, reminding audiences that "Even in broken places, love refuses to die."

The performance was developed through MCIC's annual Voices for Change program under the mentorship of Manitoba spoken-word artist Steve Locke and was released as a YouTube video to coincide with International Development Week.

While reciting at the Manitoba legislature, the students received a standing ovation and "moved guests to tears," said MCIC public engagement specialist Grace Van Mil.

"Youth bring this new energy and passion into the work we do," she said. "It's an opportunity to help them understand their actions and advocacy matter while striving to make the world a better place."

Van Mil — who currently lives near Gimli and formerly resided in Rosser and Selkirk — said it is MCIC's and IDW's mission to help Manitobans understand what it means to be a global citizen and recognize that local actions can have a global impact.

"Our main vision is a just world," she said. "We work to create change locally by engaging Manitobans and encouraging the sustainable world we are striving for."

"International Development Week reminds us that true prosperity is built through partnership, by working together across borders to create opportunity, resilience and a just world," said MCIC executive director Janice Hamilton.

MCIC is a coalition of more than 40 Manitoba-based organizations that supports hundreds of international projects worldwide. Last year alone, through the Manitoba government matching grant program, the organization distributed $1.25 million to 57 projects focused on social justice, the environment, education and other global priorities. MCIC also offers learning opportunities, workshops and conferences throughout the year, including during IDW, which is celebrated annually during the first full week of February.

Since 1991, Global Affairs Canada has led International Development Week alongside provincial councils and organizations, recognizing contributions to international development and cooperation.

"It's clear to Canadians that we are all in this together," Van Mil added. "We are all part of a global community helping each other learn, grow, innovate and solve problems, giving us all a better chance to thrive."

She noted that especially in small towns, residents understand the power of collective action, saying time and again, unity leads to progress.

MCIC also presented its 2026 Development Impact Award to World Vision Canada, in partnership with World Vision Sri Lanka, recognizing their Gender-Transformative Approach for Health, Food Security and Climate Resilience project in Sri Lanka. The initiative combined fuel-efficient cookstoves with women-led home and community gardens, while engaging men and boys as partners in advancing gender equality.

"This is just one example of the incredible work Manitobans have supported," Van Mil said. "It truly shows we have the chance to make meaningful impacts."

The project reached 274 participants, reduced household firewood use by 56 per cent, increased women's participation in community leadership from zero to 69 per cent, and significantly improved food security through expanded local gardening.

"Now it's different. It only takes a little wood to light the stove," said Malani, a tea estate worker whose household became a model for community change. "I could even say it's better than a gas stove. Now I get to spend more time with my family."

Van Mil said the project addressed both immediate and long-term needs by combining practical solutions, such as fuel-efficient stoves, with lasting social transformation, including increased leadership opportunities for women.

"Once you improve life for your daughters — such as more time in school because less wood needs to be collected for stoves — they will be able to improve life for their future families and the community as a whole."

To learn more about MCIC or get involved, visit www.mcic.ca.

"We are all global citizens. Our actions matter, and Manitobans can make a difference when we come together," Van Mil added.


PHOTO SUBMITTED

World Vision Canada representatives accept the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation's 2026 Development Impact Award at the launch of International Development Week at the Manitoba Legislature. From left: Abdal Qeshta (MCIC), Crystal Penner, Secretary of State for International Development Randeep Sarai, Chris Schroeder and Divya Sharma.

Fawwaz (Ali) Al Hassan, Sami Suliman and Tobilola (Tobi) Olorunsola perform a spoken-word piece during the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation's launch of International Development Week at the Manitoba legislature.

# Town of Stonewall provides four-year recap

**By Jennifer McFee**

With the next municipal election coming up this fall, Stonewall council took the time to reflect on their four-year term.

Road and street improvements include upgrades on 4th Avenue North and paving on Limestone Bay to support business expansion in the industrial park.

In parks and recreation, the past four years have brought a new small dog park, solar crosswalks, solar park lighting, glamping bunkies and upgrades to the splash pad entrance.

The daycare, built through John Q, created 74 additional daycare spaces in the community.

With economic development in mind, council hired a new economic and tourism development officer, while also expanding the town's social media presence and tourism marketing. Families enjoyed community events such as an Easter egg hunt, Pages & Pumpkins and a movie in the park.

The town offers programs to promote multi-unit construction and revitalization, as well as incentives to support businesses and entrepreneurs. Private investments are further bolstering the local economy.

Multiple master plans will guide long-term investment and future planning, including plans that focus on the cemetery, Quarry Park and the Memory and Healing Garden.

Annexation efforts wrapped up in January 2024 to bolster the town's growth potential. In addition, the old post office served as a training centre for post-secondary education opportunities. For youngsters, the new before- and after-school recreation program supports families. As well, the new Voyent Alert emergency notification system improves safety in the community, as does the implementation of snow zones.

Beyond these successes, the municipality also faced its share of challenges over the past four years. Several initiatives are dependent on external entities, including the personal care home project, the regional water project, the town's future in the Winnipeg Metro Region and the intersection project for highways 67 and 236.

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Residents had the chance to join Stonewall council for a presentation and Q&A session on Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre.

The Save the Kilns project faced budgetary constraints so it had to reduce its original scope. The zoning bylaw updates and secondary plan creation are delayed while the South Interlake Planning District reviews the impact of quarry operations, which has paused the review of SIPD's regional development plan.

Looking ahead, the town plans to modernize its public spaces.

"The Main Street redevelopment pilot project will enhance public spaces for community use and enjoyment," said Mayor Sandra Smith. "Using paint, movable furnishings and planters to create a fun, festive atmosphere that will draw people to Main Street provides economic support for the business community while fostering interest in long-term investment into the town's core."

Development of the age-in-place campus continues with plans to include independent living and assisted living along with services, amenities and memory care in one location.

As well, new commercial development is expected along 2nd Avenue North.

The town received two GRO grants from the provincial government, which will be used toward improvements at Kinsmen Lake, Quarry Park and active transportation networks.

Work is also underway for the integration of regional active transportation.

"We believe that extending and integrating our active transportation system is important," Smith said. "We have taken steps to ensure that this is included in our planning for the age-in-place and with the Whiteland team."

The provincial government recently confirmed the town's application and awarded $2 million to extend the path along 4th Street and Highway 67. The first phase of construction will align with work on the age-in-place campus and the Quarry District development, which is a project by Whiteland Real Estate to transform about 50 acres of land along Highway 67 on the east side of town with commercial and residential space.

About 15 acres will be dedicated to the Quarry District's commercial core.

"A key feature of this is making the connection to the broader regional trail system in Rockwood," Smith said. "This has been a priority we have heard very strongly from many of our residents."

# Raising funds in style

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Guests dressed in their derby best gathered at the Woodlands Legion on March 7 for the Woodlands Museum's Virtual Kentucky Derby fundraiser. Participants sponsored races, horses and jockeys in advance, while friendly wagers and 50/50-style draws added to the excitement, with ties decided by a roll of the dice. The event raised $3,800 toward painting three buildings at the museum site. Peggy Jackson won the prize for best fascinator and Karen Walsh was named best dressed. Pictured left to right during a tie-breaker are Peggy Jackson, Karen Walsh and Brenda Balan.

# Stonewall Jets celebrate 25 years with annual fundraising gala

**By Lana Meier**

The Stonewall Jets marked a milestone season Saturday evening as players, alumni and supporters gathered for the team's annual fundraising gala and awards banquet at the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre.

The event served as one of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League team's primary fundraisers while also celebrating milestones for the organization, including 25 years in the MMJHL and the 10th anniversary of the Jets' Jack McKenzie League championship.

Members of the Jets executive welcomed guests and thanked the community for its continued support of the organization, noting the gala plays a key role in sustaining the program.

"This is a major fundraiser for our organization and plays a big part in our operation and initiatives," said Jets president and treasurer Shaun Dalgliesh in remarks to the crowd.

"The only way we can continue into the future is with the support we have here tonight."

Executive members Shaun Dalgliesh, Andrew Kirk, Jeff McCallum, Mike Meier, Shawn Slatcher, Randy Tesluck and Trevor Warburton were recognized for their work behind the scenes organizing the event and supporting the club throughout the season.

Organizers also paid tribute to past executives, volunteers and community supporters who helped build the Jets organization over the years.

"If it wasn't for the past executives and people in this room, we wouldn't be celebrating 25 years tonight," said Dalgliesh.

A highlight of the evening was the unveiling of a commemorative jersey marking the team's quarter-century in the MMJHL. The new design features a "25" incorporated into the collar to represent the anniversary, along with sleeve bands symbolizing the decades of the team's history in the league.

The jersey presentation also included a look back at several past team uniforms worn throughout the Jets' history.

During the program, organizers also recognized longtime team trainer Denis "Doc" Moreau, who is marking more than three decades with the club and is retiring following the season.

The evening also included the introduction of the Jets' 2025–26 roster and coaching staff.

Head coach Pat Power leads the team alongside assistant coaches Brent Murray and Brayden Kohlman, with Liam Wheddon serving as general manager and Kris Menard as assistant general manager. Equipment manager Eric Mattson and timekeeper Greg Phelan were also recognized for their ongoing efforts.

Players introduced during the event included Peyton Bateman, Jake Brown, Ron Cailo, Cohen Cheung, Kale Chipman, Seth Clements, KC Couckuyt, Josh DeGagne, Evan Deprez, Wylie Garchinski, Talon Hogg, Gavin Holod, Spencer Hunnam, Alex Kaczorowski, Karson King, Austin Lourenco, Evan McMurtry, Aiden Miller, Adam Newcombe, Dean Saunders, Rylan Slatcher, Noah Slobozian, Kai Smith, Brody Stovin and Dylan Vitelli.

Several awards were presented during the evening recognizing player achievements both on and off the ice.

The rookie of the year award was shared by Evan McMurtry and Evan Deprez.

Rylan Slatcher was named the team's most sportsmanlike player.

The hardest-working player award went to Wylie Garchinski.

Brody Stovin received the top defenceman award, while Peyton Bateman was recognized as the team's most valuable player.

Karson King received the Ed Barnes Memorial Scholarship, a $500 award presented to a Jets player who demonstrates strong work ethic, community involvement and ties to local minor hockey.

TRBIUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Graduating Stonewall Jets players, left to right, Karson King, Cohen Cheung, Austin Lorenco, Brody Stovin, Peyton Bateman and Alex Kaczorowski model several jerseys worn throughout the team's history while unveiling the club's new commemorative jersey celebrating 25 years in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League during the Jets' annual gala Saturday evening at the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre.

Alex Kaczorowski received the newest Jets award presented during the evening in memory of former Jets supporter Ryan Grandmont.

The gala concluded with fundraising activities including progressive and live auctions, raffle draws and entertainment from comedians Brady Holm and Sunee Dhaliwal, who had the crowd laughing throughout the evening.

Live auction items included agricultural services, Winnipeg Jets tickets, travel packages, tools and sports memorabilia, including an autographed Winnipeg Jets jersey from Mark Scheifele. Eryn Stewart was also the lucky winner of the popular wheelbarrow of booze draw.

The Jets also recognized graduating 20-year-old players Austin Lourenco, Alex Kaczorowski, Brody Stovin, Cohen Cheung, Peyton Bateman and captain Karson King for their contributions to the organization.

Comedians Brady Holm and Sunee Dhaliwal keep the crowd laughing.

Coaches praised the graduating players for helping build the team's culture and serving as role models for younger teammates.

"We couldn't be more proud of these guys," said Menard. "They've helped build our organization and set the example for the next group of Jets players coming up."

As the evening concluded, organizers thanked the community once again for its support and looked ahead to the team's upcoming playoff run.

Members of the Stonewall Jets gather for a team photo during the club's annual fundraising gala and awards banquet.

Continued on page 15

> JETS GALA, FROM PG. 14

Players, alumni and community supporters fill the Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre during the Stonewall Jets' annual fundraising gala and awards banquet Saturday evening.

Stonewall Jets general manager Liam Wheddon calls for bids during the live auction portion of the team's annual fundraising gala

# Just Hang Up campaign aims to protect older adults from scammers

By Jennifer McFee

When in doubt, just hang up.

This simple yet succinct message aims to protect older adults from phone scams. It's part of an anti-fraud campaign through the provincial government and Winnipeg Police Service.

Grandparent scams and emergency scams involve fraudsters calling an older adult and impersonating a grandchild or family member in distress, sometimes using artificial intelligence, based on information obtained from social media, public information or data breaches. According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Manitobans aged 60 and up reported losing almost $350,000 to these types of scams in 2024.

The Just Hang Up campaign aims to stop scams the moment they begin, by encouraging people to just hang up when in doubt about a phone call. The campaign uses a multi-channel approach to reach older adults and their families, in an effort to strengthen fraud literacy through clear community messaging that builds confidence to pause, hang up, verify information with family and report incidents.

Deborah Hildebrandt, executive director of South Interlake 55 Plus, said this campaign is a great concept to promote while protecting older adults from these crimes.

"As an organization who serves older adults, we are always looking at various ways to educate community around frauds and scams from these heinous crimes," she said.

"In September, we hosted a Frauds and Scams presentation with the RCMP, which was extremely informative and included sharing ideas on how to protect themselves from fraudsters."

South Interlake 55 Plus, together with CIBC, will host another Frauds and Scams education session on May 14 at 7 p.m. All community members are welcome, and Hildebrandt hopes family members of older adults can also learn about these scams.

"Public awareness is critical to informing older adults about scams; therefore, we utilize social media platforms such as Facebook to share tips around protection from scammers," she said.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Learn more about how to protect yourself from scams at justhangup.ca.

"Now the Just Hang Up campaign solidifies another method older adults can use if they are in caught in the midst of being scammed."

Even right here in the Interlake, fraudsters are targeting older adults.

"I have heard of folks in our area being scammed and it has been alarming to hear. The scammers are taking advantage of those in vulnerable individuals while in an emotional state," Hildebrandt said.

"Therefore, education is key to eliminating this from occurring, and we will continue with providing education sessions in the future. If anyone in community would like to know more about frauds and scams, they can connect with us directly and we can provide them with the resources needed to protect themselves."

Joie Van Dongen, chair of Age Friendly Stonewall/Rockwood, said she has also heard of older adults being targeted by scammers in local communities.

"It has been a cautionary tale for others," she said.

The new campaign's name "Just Hang Up" is very clear, she added.

"Seniors need to understand that it may seem rude and upsetting, but whomever is calling will call back if the call is important. This gives one time to calm down and phone family or a friend for advice," Van Dongen said.

"At times one may be expecting a phone call from an unrecognized number and you must answer the call. It is a good idea to keep your contacts up to date so you can see the name of who is calling. Also, having a code name with family is an excellent plan."

A recent TV ad about a grandchild-in-trouble scam is well done, she added.

"It is very easy to panic when confronted by someone pretending to be a grandchild, that your computer has been hacked or you owe money," she said.

"Always ask for a phone number to call back and then hang up."

Provincial funding will support online resources, promotional materials and advertising to educate older adults, while also empowering victims by challenging the stigma of being scammed. The campaign also encourages reporting to prevent further victimization, and it will include an online resource hub at justhangup.ca/.

The funding has also enabled the Winnipeg Police Service to develop a presentation that will continue reaching older adults well beyond the campaign's completion. The WPS Community Relations Division, in partnership with A & O: Support Services for Older Adults, will deliver in-person presentations to provide older adults with practical tools and awareness to help prevent victimization. Over the next six months, the campaign aims to engage with more than 700 people during these sessions. Information on how to book WPS and A & O group presentations can be found at justhangup.ca/.

Amanda Macrae, CEO of A & O Support Services for Older Adults, said the organization is proud to partner with Winnipeg Police Service to deliver the Just Hang Up campaign.

"The agency remains committed to empowering older people with the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe and age well in their communities. As increasingly complex frauds and scams continue to target older adults, the need for greater public awareness, education and prevention initiatives has never been more critical," she said.

"The Just Hang Up campaign serves as an important tool in helping prevent older individuals from becoming victims of crime."

The Manitoba government provided $134,000 in funding for the campaign from the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund (CPF). In 2025-26, the province has allocated more than $643,000 in CPF funding to the Winnipeg Police Service for several projects, including the Just Hang Up campaign. CPF redirects proceeds from the sale of seized criminal property toward law enforcement and community safety initiatives.

March is Fraud Prevention Month in Canada. More tips on how to prevent fraud are available at antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

# Balanced Motion brings equine massage to Interlake communities

**By E. Antonio**

Balanced Motion is a new equine massage business dedicated to supporting the health and well-being of horses across the Interlake.

Owner and founder Amanda Mantik aims to become a trusted partner in equine wellness, offering tension-releasing massage services that benefit both horse and rider.

"A happy horse means a happy human," said Mantik, who is based in Ashern and recently completed an Equine Massage Mentorship Course. "From showing and training to mentoring and coaching young riders, my experience runs deep, and my passion for all things equine is unmistakable."

Equine massage helps release muscle tension, reduce soreness, improve flexibility and range of motion, enhance performance, improve circulation, promote relaxation and support long-term recovery and success.

"Whether your horse struggles with tight muscles, stiffness or general soreness, my hands-on approach supports both immediate relief and long-term improvement," Mantik added.

Mantik was inspired to pursue equine massage after witnessing the results firsthand when her own horse received treatment from Steinbach-based equine masseuse Karen Saindon. After seeing a noticeable improvement — and recognizing that Interlake communities lacked access to the service — she decided to offer equine massage locally.

She works with horses of any breed, age or size, including those that may be shy or anxious.

"I have a natural ability to understand horses," Mantik said. "I bring a calm presence that earns their trust, along with the determination to solve problems as they arise."

Each horse receives a personalized maintenance plan, with treatment frequency adapted to individual needs. Mantik recommends massage every five days for horses prone to tightness, though schedules ultimately depend on activity level and how much riding is taking place.

Sessions last approximately one hour, during which Mantik builds trust with the horse, identifies areas of tension and uses soft, light massage techniques until release occurs.

"A subtle, quiet demeanour is one of the most important steps in healing," she said. "You need to let them know it's okay to be comfortable and okay to release tension. It's about building a bond with the horse and treating them as if they were your own."

While working, Mantik carefully reads the horse for signs of release, which often include yawning or a noticeably calmer demeanour.

"Horses can be impatient at first, but once they release the tension, they quiet down and allow you to do your job," she explained. "They begin to understand that you're there to help, not hurt."

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Balanced Motion is a new equine massage service operating in the Interlake. Pictured is owner and founder Amanda Mantik performing gentle tension-releasing techniques with her own horse, Charlie.

Mantik learned her techniques through her Equine Massage Mentorship Course with Saindon, which included virtual lessons, meetings and hands-on training in Steinbach. She said it is rewarding to help both horses and their owners by relieving physical tension and discomfort.

She hopes to work with many horses throughout the Interlake and is available to travel to provide care. Appointments can be arranged by calling or texting 204-768-0088.

"Equine massage will help your horse perform better," Mantik said. "You only need to try it once to see how much it can help."

## > 2025 CHAMPION CHILD, FROM PG. 5

op speech and language skills alongside her peers.

Her early surgery has also helped change the standard of care in Manitoba. Since Ireland's procedure in 2018, doctors at HSC Children's Hospital have performed cochlear implant surgery on more than 80 children, with 12 of those procedures completed before the child's first birthday. Previously, children typically received implants around 18 months of age.

"Our current treatment timeline for children identified with deafness at birth is to have them all implanted well before their first birthday," said Dr. Darren Leitao, a pediatric otolaryngologist. "Starting with Ireland, we give children almost double the head start of listening and language at very critical times in brain development."

As Manitoba's Champion Child, Ireland will serve as an ambassador through the Champion program affiliated with Canada's Children's Hospital Foundations and Children's Miracle Network. She and her family will attend events throughout the year to raise funds and awareness for Manitoba's only children's hospital and child health research initiatives.

"We are so excited to welcome Ireland to represent the 140,000 kids who need HSC Children's Hospital each year," said Stefano Grande, president and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. "Ireland and her family are already making an impact, sharing their story to raise funds and awareness."

Ireland's family has marked her annual "hearing anniversary" by hosting fundraisers through Will's business, Willy Dogs, in support of the foundation.

For Ireland, the message she hopes to share is simple: "Please help kids like me."

# Local gymnasts shine at St. Andrews gymnastics competition

**By E. Antonio**

It was a day full of tumbling, laughter and cheers for three Teulon Gymnastics Club athletes at the St. Andrews Gymnastics Club competition on Feb. 28.

Emersyn Feenstra, Lexi Hall and Hannah Dola joined athletes from St. Andrews, Moosehorn, Grande Pointe and Grandview in the St. Andrews School gymnasium for their first competition.

Dayna Toth, a coach with Teulon Gymnastics Club, said the athletes were filled with a mixture of nerves and excitement but ultimately had a fun and rewarding day.

The gymnasts returned home with multiple medals.

"For their first competition, this was a great accomplishment," Toth said.

Hannah Dola competes on the balance beam.

This is the club's first year offering a competitive program since the pandemic forced the club to close for three years. Now the program is growing as participation returns to pre-COVID levels.

"We are a place where gymnasts can come together in a safe and positive environment and have fun while making friends and learning core values," Toth said. "Our club has fantastic coaches who are outgoing and great with children. They all grew up in the gym and know what it means to be positive role models."

Toth said the goal is to continue developing the program while maintaining a fun and safe environment for all athletes, whether during training or on the competition floor.

For more information about Teulon Gymnastics Club, visit the club's Facebook page or email teulongymnastics@gmail.com.


Lexi and Hannah celebrate their second and third place finishes on bars.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Canadian Competitive Program (CCP) Level 2 gymnasts Hannah Dola (left) and Lexi Hall (right) pose with Teulon Gymnastics Club coaches Sarah Mack and Alayna Toth following their competition at the St. Andrews Gymnastics Club meet on Feb. 28.

# Interlake Challenge

**TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER**

The Interlake Challenge brought a strong show of community spirit as fans packed the stands at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex on March 6 to watch the Manitoba Junior A Hockey League matchup between the Winnipeg Blues and the Selkirk Steelers. Prior to puck drop, former Blues coach Doug Stokes was honoured as a special guest and read the starting lineup in the Blues dressing room. Stokes holds one of the most accomplished coaching resumes in Canadian junior hockey history. He is one of only five Canadian coaches to record more than 600 career wins. During his 22 seasons coaching in the MJHL, Stokes' achievements include reaching the Royal Bank Cup semifinals, winning the Anavet Cup and the Abbott Cup, appearing in nine MJHL finals and capturing three MJHL championships. He has also been named MJHL all-star coach seven times and coach of the year four times, and served twice as head coach at the Viking Cup. Other special guests included former Blues coach Dennis Cann and Blues alumni Brett Brooks and Liam Bilton. Billet families were also recognized during the evening and were welcomed onto the ice for Billet Appreciation Night in recognition of their support of the teams and athletes throughout the season. Stokes participated in the ceremonial puck drop before the game, while the national anthem was performed by Shalene Varnes. Intermission activities added to the evening's entertainment. During the first intermission, Complete Physiotherapy sponsored a foot race on the ice featuring two Blues fans and one Steelers fan, Luke Knowles of St. Andrews who was the winner. Between the second and third periods, Selkirk's Steeltown Ford hosted a chuck-a-puck contest for $170, won by Emma Hennessey. The Stonewall Blues U9 girls team helped with the chuck-a-puck clean-up.. Fans also enjoyed face painting, a 50/50 draw and a chance to win Winnipeg Jets tickets, helping make the event a fun-filled night for hockey supporters of all ages. The Blues defeated the Steelers 4-3 and will be back in Stonewall on March 15 when they host the Virden Oil Capitals at 7 p.m.

# Stony Mountain students celebrate reading and community during I Love to Read Month

**By Haley Cvar**

Reading took centre stage at the school throughout February as students and staff celebrated I Love to Read Month with a series of activities designed to inspire a lifelong love of books.

The month-long celebration brought excitement to the halls as students took part in a school-wide bingo challenge, dressed up for themed spirit days and gathered for a special pancake breakfast in honour of National Pancake Day.

A highlight of the celebration was a lineup of guest readers from across the community who visited the school to share stories and speak with students about the role reading has played in their lives and careers.

Each guest read a book to two separate groups of students — kindergarten to Grade 4 and grades 5 to 8 — and spent time answering questions afterward. The visits gave students the chance to learn more about a variety of careers while hearing firsthand about the importance of reading.

Students were especially curious about what their guests do in their daily work, asking thoughtful questions and making connections between reading and the many different paths people take in their professions.

Rockwood's Deputy Fire Chief Cam Stewart and senior firefighter Doug Rogowski


Chris Greaves, former CFL player (Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Edmonton)

**TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED**
Stonewall RCMP Jeff Sonnenberg

Among those who volunteered their time were Kathy Simcoe from Interlake School Division, Jeff Sonnenburg of the Stonewall RCMP, Rockwood Fire Department Deputy Chief Cam Stewart and senior fire fighter Doug Rogowski, Pam Palcat from the Stonewall Library, local paramedic Misty Lundgren, former CFL player Chris Greaves, Interlake School Division representative Tyler Moran, RM of Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin and Manitoba Conservation officer Cole Guilbert.

Paramedic Misty Lundgren

South Interlake Regional Library Bookmobile's Pam Palcat


RM of Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin

Organizers said the enthusiasm from students was evident throughout the month as classrooms buzzed with excitement and curiosity.

The celebration not only highlighted the joy of reading but also strengthened the connection between the school and the wider community, with students gaining inspiration from the many guests who shared both their stories and their passion for books.

By the end of the month, one thing was clear — I Love to Read Month had once again brought students, staff and community members together in a shared appreciation for reading and learning.

# Teulon Skating Club levels up with video game-themed ice show

**By Lana Meier**

Players, one and all, reached the final level Sunday as the Teulon Skating Club transformed the arena into a pixelated world of adventure for its annual ice show.

The 2026 production, themed around video games, welcomed families into a high-energy journey "from retro arcades to virtual worlds," complete with nods to Pac-Man, Pokémon, Super Mario and The Legend of Zelda.

"Today, the ice becomes our game board," emcees told the crowd as skaters prepared to "press start" on an afternoon of spins, jumps and storytelling.

The show opened with Gaia Turner performing to music from Romeo and Juliet, followed by group numbers that brought familiar gaming worlds to life. Young skaters darted across the ice as Pac-Man and ghosts, while others showcased choreography inspired by Pokémon battles and Mario's race toward victory.

Lacey Learning delivered two strong solo performances — first to "Bloody Mary" and later to "Black Lace" — while Emma Flanagan captivated the audience with a dramatic routine to music from Arcane. Addy brought the spirit of adventure to the ice with a program inspired by The Legend of Zelda, and advanced CanSkaters powered through a Super Mario-themed performance.

Throughout the evening, skaters of all levels demonstrated the skills they have built over the season — from first-time performers gaining confidence on the ice to advanced athletes executing complex elements with poise.

The ice show concluded with a celebratory finale reminding the audience that while every game reaches its credits, "the spirit of adventure never stays frozen."

Following the performance, the club presented its annual awards recognizing dedication, improvement and leadership within the program.

The Program Assistant Award was presented to Chloe Emms. Coaches described the decision as difficult, noting the strong commitment of all program assistants. Emms was recognized for her patience, enthusiasm and willingness to help wherever needed, often being one of the first on the ice and assisting skaters across all levels.

The CanSkate Athlete Award went to Rylee Green, who was praised for her positive attitude and noticeable improvement throughout the season. Coaches highlighted her consistent effort and excitement to be at each session, as well as her recent completion of Stage 3.

The CanSkate Advanced Award was awarded to Ruby Olson. New to the program this season, Olson was commended for stepping outside her comfort zone, embracing new skills and showing strong focus and determination.

The club's STAR Athlete Award was presented to Emma Flanagan. Coaches said Flanagan exemplifies positivity and initiative, consistently pushing herself toward higher goals while contributing as a program assistant and representing the club in multiple areas.

Canskate coach Leigh Nesbitt also extended thanks to the club's program assistants — Emma, Addy, Cobie, Sam, Katie, Ruby, Chloe and Macie — along with the Teulon Skating Club executive and volunteers who support the program behind the scenes.

As the final applause echoed through the arena, the message was clear: while the season may be complete, the journey continues.

"Game over," the announcers said with a smile. "And good day."

**TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER**

**Teulon Skating Club members bring video game characters to life during the club's 2026 ice show at the Teulon arena on Sunday. The annual production featured a variety of routines inspired by popular games, showcasing skaters of all levels.**



# Wes Killbery's legacy lives on in local arena

By Jo-Anne Procter

A new space dedicated to skill development and to the memory of a valued member of the local hockey community was officially unveiled during the Teulon Minor Hockey Association's U9 tournament on March 7.

The Teulon Minor Hockey Club introduced "Killerbee Korner," a new shooting area located in the southeast end of the Teulon Rockwood Arena. The space has been created in loving memory of the late Wes Killbery and is designed to give young players a dedicated place to practise shooting and develop their skills.

Members of Teulon Minor Hockey (TMH), the Killbery family and numerous community supporters gathered for the ceremony to honour Wes's legacy and the positive influence he had on the association.

The sign for Killbery Korner was designed by Wes's sister, Jill Demainiw, and his son, Easton Killbery.

Wes's father, Tom Killbery, reflected on his son's long connection to the program.

"Wes wore a Tiger jersey for many years, and even without that jersey on he was still a Tiger," he said.

The new training corner reflects the spirit of encouragement and community support that Wes brought to the organization throughout his years of involvement and will serve as a lasting tribute while providing young athletes with a place to improve their skills for years to come.

TMH extended its thanks to Tom and Carrol Killbery and Jill Demaniw for their continued support and contributions, as well as a special thank you to Matt Brady and the Town of Teulon for helping make this project possible.


Killerbee Korner, a shooting corner dedicated to the memory of Wes Killbery at the Teulon Rockwood Arena, was officially opened on March 7.

Several individuals and organizations played key roles in the project, including Tom Killbery, Matt Brady, Drew McGill, John Tronrud, Dan Sim, Cam Charison and Keystone Source for Sports.

Teulon Minor Hockey will continue accepting donations to further develop the space and support future player development initiatives. Donations can be made by e-transfer to tmhcfundraising@gmail.com or by cheque payable to Teulon Minor Hockey Club, Box 1103, Teulon, MB R0C 3B0.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Wes Killbery's parents Carrol and Tom Killbery, sister Jill Demaniw and niece Whitney Demaniw attended the unveiling of the new shooting corner in memory of Wes at the Teulon Rockwood Arena on March 7.

Family of Wes Killbery and Teulon Minor Hockey representatives took part in the grand opening of the new shooting corner at the arena in memory of Wes on March 7.

U9 hockey players that competed at the Teulon Minor Hockey tournament on March 7 were able to test out the new shooting corner that is dedicated to the memory of Wes Killbery at the Teulon Rockwood Arena.

# Argyle farmer's bull sells for nearly $7,700

**By E. Antonio**

Argyle farmer Ian Smith saw a record payday when one of his Shorthorn bulls sold for nearly $7,700 at the Winnipeg Livestock Yards on Feb. 27.

Smith, who has been involved in the cattle industry for more than three decades, said it is the highest price he has ever received for one of his animals. He operates Armac Shorthorns, a farm he purchased from his parents in 1993.

The bull, officially registered as Muridale Gallagher, weighed in at 2,965 pounds the morning of the sale and sold for $2.59 per pound — setting a personal record for Smith and marking one of the highest prices for a culled bull at the Winnipeg Livestock Yards.

Smith said he wasn't present when the bull sold, something he now says may have been for the best.

"I think I would have shed a tear or two," he said with a laugh.

He originally purchased the bull seven years ago as a yearling for $4,000 from a breeder in Swift Current, Sask. Since then, the animal has been an important part of Smith's herd, with semen collected for artificial insemination (AI) to improve genetics across his cattle.

While Smith expected a strong return due to the current cattle market, he said he was still surprised when he saw the final cheque.

"The prices are extreme right now with there being a beef shortage all over the world," he said. "Cattle is a commodity and the prices are reflective of that."

Smith doesn't plan to hold onto his earnings for long, already having his eyes set on upgrading his equipment.

"Like most farmers, I spend the money as quickly as I make it," he said. "A farmer never keeps his pockets full of money because we're always investing it to make our lives easier."

Smith plans to maintain a closed herd by relying on artificial insemination rather than purchasing new cattle, a practice he says helps limit the spread of disease.

However, he still has three bulls lined up for upcoming sales. Two will be sold at the Douglas Bull and Female Sale on March 28, with another heading to the Lundar Bull Sale on April 4. He hopes the current market conditions will bring strong prices there as well.

While Smith believes the market could remain strong for the next couple of years, he knows the industry can change quickly.

"All it takes is some major disease or disaster and everything could plummet," he said.

Despite the uncertainty, Smith said he wouldn't trade the farming lifestyle for anything.

"I can say I've never worked a day in my life because I enjoy what I do," he said. "I love how I feel about farming and I'm proud of this lifestyle I've taken on — it's in my blood."

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ian Smith, owner of Armac Shorthorns in Argyle, saw his Shorthorn bull sell for a record-setting price of $2.59 per pound at the Winnipeg Livestock Yards sale on Feb. 27. Weighing 2,965 pounds, the bull brought in nearly $7,700.

# Town of Stonewall welcomes climate intern

**By Jennifer McFee**

Environmental issues are top of mind in the Town of Stonewall where a new climate intern is working towards green goals and initiatives.

Michaela McKennitt is completing a six-month work placement with the town as part of Environmental Leadership Canada's Municipal Climate Internship (MCI) program. Her first day at town hall was Monday, Jan. 26 and she'll wrap up her placement in July.

"The MCI program is a six-month work placement that provides youth with the opportunity to work on climate issues at the municipal level while providing municipalities with capacity to advance their climate work," she said.

"Municipalities like Stonewall apply to the program to get an intern to work in their offices, and interested individuals like me apply to be an intern with a local host municipality."

A climate intern helps municipalities advance their local climate initiatives, she added.

"Given the plethora of tasks municipal staff have on their hands and their limited time, it can be hard to incorporate climate into municipal operations. Climate interns help alleviate some of that pressure by providing support," she said.

"I'm here to learn and provide support, whether that's working to incorporate climate adaptation into existing plans, add sustainability and resilience attributes to the town's asset management databases or help with other projects. My goal is to help advance the projects and initiatives that are most important to the town."

Her placement marks a first for the Town of Stonewall — and for Manitoba.

"This is the first year that the MCI program is being offered outside of Ontario," she said. "There are only two other municipalities in Manitoba — in Winnipeg and Selkirk — that have a climate intern through this program."

One of her tasks will focus on the Climate Adaption Plan, which will help the town prepare for the future.

"We know the climate is changing and that means new or different hazards and risks. By looking at local climate hazards, associated risks, potential costs and what steps we can take to prepare for or minimize the effects, we can be more resilient in the face of climate change," McKennitt said.

"This plan can help the town secure funding for different projects by opening new funding channels. I'll be helping with the various workshops and engagement activities associated with plan development, trying to ensure that the final plan reflects the goals and concerns of the town and that it fits with the pre-existing plans."

McKennitt has a bachelor of environmental science with honours from the University of Manitoba and a master of science in environmental sustainability from the University of Ottawa.

She's excited to tackle the climate intern role and looks forward to helping the best she can.

"In order to be successful, municipal work needs support from the com-

Continued on page 24

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Michaela McKennitt will be completing a six-month work placement with the Town of Stonewall.

# Local hunters and anglers recognized at annual banquet

**By Jo-Anne Procter**

The Woodlands & District Wildlife Association celebrated the 2025 hunting season during its annual awards banquet at the Woodlands Community Hall on Feb. 28.

Hunters, nature enthusiasts and community members gathered for the evening, which featured a dinner catered by Burnside BBQ, homemade desserts prepared by club members and late-night meat supplied by The Meat Station Butcher Shop in Eriksdale.

Following dinner, hunters were recognized for their harvests in several categories.

Robin Green and Hailey Hueging shared top honours for the largest adult typical elk in the rifle category with scores of 198 1/8 inches. Hueging also captured the women's rifle award for the largest typical whitetail with a score of 132 7/8 inches.

In the adult typical whitetail rifle category, Isak Norberg placed first with a score of 154 6/8 inches, followed by Colton King at 140 6/8 inches. Kyle Buors took top spot in the adult non-typical whitetail rifle category with a score of 128 6/8 inches.

Scott Fisher won the typical whitetail rifle category for the 100–115 7/8 inch class with a score of 115 5/8 inches, while Braden Fisher topped the 116–130 7/8 inch class with 119 6/8 inches.

Kaden Stewart received the award for most symmetrical whitetail over 100 inches, measuring 161 1/8 inches with a difference of 3 3/8 inches. Stewart also harvested the largest typical whitetail in the muzzleloader category with the same score.

Armond Buors was recognized in the youth typical rifle category with a score of 121 3/8 inches, while five-year-old Lovella Bolun was named Angler of the Year for the perch she submitted.

The hall featured an impressive display of head and antler mounts, while the evening also included a variety auction, 50/50 draw, gun draw and a draw for the club's representative to attend the 2026 Becoming an Outdoors Woman program hosted by the Manitoba Wildlife Association.

Entertainment was provided by the local band Lost in a Small Town.

The association also supports local students through a $500 bursary available to Warren Collegiate graduates pursuing post-secondary education.

Memberships are $50 for families, $40 for individuals and $15 for youth. Members receive a subscription to Outdoor Canada West magazine, discounts at Mark's Work Warehouse and insurance coverage for outdoor activities.

The club is also encouraging anglers to track the combined inches of their best perch, pike and walleye caught in Manitoba between April 1, 2026 and Feb. 15, 2027. Fish must be measured using a tape measure or bump board and submitted with a photo to qualify.

The fishing challenge begins at the annual Ernie Welburn Memorial Family Fishing Day at Shoal Lake on March 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first 20 youth who register will receive a prize, and hot dogs and drinks will be provided.

For more information, contact the Woodlands & District Wildlife Association by email at woodlandswildlifeassociation@hotmail.com or follow the club on social media.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Winners from the Woodlands Wildlife Association 2025 awards banquet. Pictured left to right; Dylan Hildebrandt, Armand Buors, Kyle Buors, Isak Norberg, Hailey Hueging, Lovella Boulin, Kaden Stewart, Braden Fisher, Scott Fisher and Darrell Hueging.

Five-year-old Lovella Bolun received the Woodlands & District Wildlife Association Angler Award on the night of her birthday. Pictured left to right with Lovella, associate members Dylan Hildebrandt, Meagan Fisher and Darrell Hueging.

## > CLIMATE INTERN, FROM PG. 23

munity, so I don't want to come in and tell people what to do or what to focus on," she said.

"I want to know what the community's priorities, issues and concerns are so I can work to support or address them. My goal is to support the town so we can achieve its goals."

For McKennitt, climate has been an important topic for her throughout her life.

"It's how I grew up. I spent a lot of time outdoors, especially as a child. I loved exploring outdoors catching minnows, frogs and grasshoppers to examine them more closely, imitating bird calls, canoeing or kayaking, skiing or skating, even just walking through the woods somewhere. I didn't know it at the time, but not all children — or adults — get to experience that," she said.

"It's worth putting in the work today if it means that I will be able to continue experiencing those things and that future generations will be able to experience similar things. Climate is important because it touches everyone and everything, though not always to the same degree. Some areas are vulnerable to flood, others to drought, some get both depending on the season. It's the best parts of life, for me, that are intrinsically tied to the environment."

# sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

# Bateman caps Jets career with record-breaking season

**By Lana Meier**

As Peyton Bateman moves through the final stretch of his junior hockey career, his name is already firmly etched into the Stonewall Jets record book — while finishing among the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League's top scorers this season.

Bateman finished the 2025-26 regular season second in MMJHL scoring with 73 points on 31 goals and 42 assists in 37 games, tying teammate Gavin Holod for the Jets' team lead and placing just behind St. James Jr. Canucks forward Jayden Ward, who led the league with 80 points.

Bateman's season-long consistency mirrors the career numbers he continues to build in Stonewall. He now stands as the Jets' all-time leader in points, goals and assists, posting 252 points in 142 regular-season games, including a franchise-record 105 goals and 147 assists — totals accumulated steadily over four seasons rather than through any single breakout year.

Bateman said the significance of those milestones took time to fully register.

"I'd say it really didn't sink in until a couple games into the season," he said. "We were talking about all-time records and noticed I was close to some at the start of the year. I kind of compartmentalized it, but when it was within reach — a point or two away — it really sunk in."

Among the records, Bateman said one holds particular meaning.

"The one that means the most to me is probably the assist record," he said. "I've always deemed myself as a pass-first type player, so it was pretty rewarding. It also means a lot to help see my teammates succeed and share that success with them."

Despite being one of the league leading scorers, Bateman said individual recognition has never been the primary focus, particularly on a roster built around balance and depth.

"Pretty much all of the success goes to my teammates over time," he said. "To score a goal you always need someone passing you the puck, and to get an assist someone else has to put it in the net."

A product of years of development within the Jets organization, Bateman credited the culture built over his tenure — particularly the influence of veteran leaders he learned from early in his career — for creating an environment where players can thrive both on and off the ice.

He pointed to former Jets veterans Rhett Woods, Cole Emberly and Matty Meier as players who helped establish expectations around preparation, accountability and team-first habits when he was still finding his footing at the junior level.


TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Stonewall Jets forward Peyton Bateman (middle) accepts the team's Most Valuable Player award after a record-setting 2025-26 season that saw him finish second in Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League scoring and become the Jets' all-time leader in goals, assists and points.

"We've always had such a close-knit group," he said. "Even in the dog days of winter in mid-January when it's -40, having such a good group of guys makes going to the rink special and easy to play your game."

That continuity has translated into strong on-ice chemistry, particularly with longtime linemate Karson King, while also allowing Bateman to adapt seamlessly alongside different combinations as the season has progressed.

"We've played together for the majority of the last three seasons and developed a lot of chemistry," Bateman said. "I certainly wouldn't have as many assists or points without him. But there are a lot of guys — Alex Kaz., Brody Stovin, Austin Lourenco, Cole Emberly, Rylan Slatcher and

Continued on page 22

# Jets open playoffs against River East after strong regular season

**By Lana Meier**

The Stonewall Jets will begin their Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League playoff run on home ice Friday night when they host the River East Royal Knights at the Stonewall Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

Puck drop for Game 1 of the opening-round series is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Stonewall enters the postseason as the league's third-place team after finishing the regular season with a 27-16-2 record and 56 points. River East placed sixth with a 25-19-1 mark and 51 points, setting up what is expected to be a competitive first-round matchup.

The Jets showed their offensive depth in their final home game of the regular season on March 5, defeating the Royal Knights 8-4 in Stonewall. Wylie Garchinski scored twice while Adam Newcombe, Seth Clements, Peyton Bateman, Karson King, Alex Kaczorowski and Gavin Holod also found the back of the net.

River East struck early in that contest, scoring twice in the opening four minutes on goals by Nick Giasson and Kaeden Woloshen. Stonewall responded before the end of the first period, with Newcombe, Clements and Bateman scoring to give the Jets a 3-3 tie heading into the intermission.

The Jets took control in the second period as King scored just 49 seconds into the frame and Kaczorowski added a power-play goal later in the period. Holod and Garchinski also scored in the middle frame to extend the lead.

Garchinski added his second goal of the night late in the third period to complete the scoring.

Spencer Hunnam stopped 35 shots in the victory for Stonewall while River East used two goaltenders, with Keaton Woloshen and Kyle Beilman combining for 30 saves.

The Jets closed out the regular season the following night with a 5-2 loss on the road to the Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins. Ryder Kirk scored both goals for Stonewall in that game, including his first two goals of the season.

Ron Cailo made 24 saves for the Jets in the loss while Alex Pauls turned aside 14 shots for the Twins.

Despite the setback, Stonewall heads into the playoffs with several players among the league's top scorers. Peyton Bateman finished the regular season with 73 points, tied for second overall in the MMJHL, while Gavin Holod also reached the 70-point mark with 73 points.

With home-ice advantage in the opening round, the Jets will look to carry their offensive firepower into the postseason as they aim to make a deep playoff run.

The Stonewall Jets will open their playoff series against the River East Royal Knights on March 13 at 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex in Stonewall. Game 2 is set for March 15 at 3:30 p.m. in River East, before the series returns to Stonewall for Game 3 on March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Game 4 will be played March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in River East. If necessary, the teams will play Game 5 on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Stonewall, Game 6 on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in River East and Game 7 on March 27 at 8 p.m. back in Stonewall.

# Local players earn MJHL all-star honours

**By Annaliese Meier**

Two Interlake players were among those recognized when the Manitoba Junior Hockey League announced its first and second all-star teams and major award winners for the 2025-26 season.

Stonewall's Hayden Wheddon of the Niverville Nighthawks was named to the MJHL First All-Star Team, joining forwards Bryce Bryant of the Virden Oil Capitals and Niklas Gudmundson of the Winkler Flyers. Defencemen Owen Witt of the Portage Terriers and Nathan Schaffer of the Virden Oil Capitals were also selected, along with Niverville goaltender Austin Dubinsky.

Gimli's Adam Vigfusson of the Niverville Nighthawks earned Second All-Star Team honours alongside forwards Sebastian Hicks of the Waywayseecappo Wolverines and Trevor Hill of the Portage Terriers. Defencemen Liam Doyle of the Steinbach Pistons and Owen Wallace of the Winkler Flyers were also selected, with Chris Quizi of the Steinbach Pistons named the second team goaltender.

Gudmundson was also named the recipient of the Steve "Boomer" Hawrysh Most Valuable Player award.

Additional league honours included the Brian Kozak Top Defenceman award to Owen Witt of the Portage Terriers and the Ed Belfour Top Goaltender award to Austin Dubinsky of the Niverville Nighthawks.



Trevor Hill of the Portage Terriers was named the Kim Davis Rookie of the Year, while Merik Boles of the Niverville Nighthawks received the Frank McKinnon Memorial Award for hockey ability and sportsmanship. Niverville head coach Dwight Hirst was named the Muzz MacPherson Coach of the Year.

## > BATEMAN, FROM PG. 21

now Gavin Holod — who deserve a lot of credit too."

Away from the rink, Bateman has balanced the demands of junior hockey with a full academic workload, currently finishing his Finance and Accounting degree at the Asper School of Business. He said managing both commitments has required structure, discipline and flexibility.

"There are times it can be difficult, especially during midterms or finals," he said. "It can force you to miss some games, but it's just how it is. Your time management away from the rink has to be good to balance it out."

Bateman said several skills required in the classroom translate naturally to hockey, particularly communication and teamwork, while his academic path has also allowed him to connect with players across the league.

As one of the Jets' graduating players, Bateman has taken on an increased leadership role, striving to provide younger teammates with the same support he once received.

"I try to treat them with the same respect the older vets treated me," he said. "Our leadership group does a good job of letting younger guys know everyone is valued and has a role to play."

With the regular season entering its final stretch, Bateman said the focus remains firmly on team success as the Jets push toward the playoffs.

"It's really hit me the last few games that it's my last year," he said. "Right now it's about having fun, enjoying playing hockey and trying to win with our group."

Regardless of how the final weeks unfold, Bateman has already secured his place as the most productive player in Jets history — while continuing to chase a strong finish alongside a core he's grown up with during his graduating season.

### STONEWALL JETS ENTER PLAYOFFS BACKED BY RECORD-SETTING CORE

The Stonewall Jets will enter the 2025-26 Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League playoffs with several veteran players coming off milestone seasons.

Leading the way offensively were Peyton Bateman and Gavin Holod, who finished tied for the team lead in points with 73 each. Bateman recorded 31 goals and 42 assists in 37 games to pace the club in goal scoring, while Holod produced 20 goals and a team-best 53 assists in 44 games. Holod's assist total ranks second in franchise history for a single season, trailing only Adam Kirk's 57 in 2004-05.

Karson King finished third in team scoring with 20 goals and 25 assists for 45 points in 32 games. Rylan Slatcher added 35 points in 35 games, while Alexander Kaczorowski recorded 33 points in 44 games. Kai Smith contributed 31 points and Wylie Garchinski added 29 to round out the Jets' top offensive contributors.

Bateman's 73-point season also adds to his remarkable Jets career. The forward sits first all-time in franchise scoring with 252 points in 142 regular-season games, including a record 105 goals and 147 assists.

Kaczorowski and defenceman Brody Stovin have also cemented their place in the Jets record book. Both players share the franchise record for most games played at 178, with Kaczorowski also ranking among the club's all-time leaders in penalty minutes while contributing 61 career goals and 74 assists. Stovin has added 76 career points from the blue line while providing steady leadership on defence.

With several players reaching franchise milestones, the Jets head into the playoffs with an experienced core. Stonewall will open its postseason run Friday night at home when they host River East in Game 1 of their opening-round series.

# sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

# Wildcats push Lorette to the limit in Price Division semifinal series

**By Annaliese Meier**

The Warren Wildcats pushed the Lorette Scorpions to the brink in a tightly contested Winnipeg High School Hockey League Price Division semifinal series before bowing out in three hard-fought games last week.

Warren opened the best-of-three series with a dramatic 5-4 overtime victory on March 2 at the Lorette Community Complex.

Layne Noren scored the game-winning goal 8:49 into overtime, finishing a play set up by Jonathan Gilmore to give the Wildcats the early series lead.

The teams traded momentum throughout regulation. Ty Olson opened the Warren scoring late in the first period with help from Liam Boonstra to answer Lorette's early goal by Owen Laing.

The Wildcats built a lead in the second period as Lexon Hogg scored on the power play from Benett Bergthorson and Noren before Braeden Ivany added another from Boonstra and Landon Tully.

Lorette clawed back in the third period behind a hat trick performance from Gavin Waddell, who tied the game with two goals midway through the frame. Warren responded late in regulation when Noren scored with just 49 seconds remaining to force overtime.

In goal, Mason Klassen turned aside 40 shots to backstop the Wildcats to the Game 1 victory.

Head coach Lachlan McLean said the dramatic win highlighted the character his team showed throughout the season.

Wildcats forward Benett Bergthorson fires the puck past Lorette goaltender Cole Elands for a second-period goal during Game 2.

"Honestly, it was a real team effort," McLean said. "Our whole group elevated their game, and on different nights we had different guys step up in big moments."

He pointed to Noren's late heroics as one of the defining moments of the playoff run.

"Layne Noren scoring the late tying goal and then the overtime winner against Lorette in Game 1 of the semifinals really stands out," he said.

Lorette evened the series the following day with a 3-2 win at Access Credit Union Arena in Warren.

The Scorpions opened the scoring shorthanded in the first period when Waddell struck on a pass from Gavin Denny. Rylan Brownrigg extended the lead in the second before Warren responded with two quick goals.

Warren forward Lexon Hogg battles for position in front of Lorette goaltender Cole Elands during Price Division semifinal playoff action.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Warren Wildcats forward Ashton Baldwin celebrates with his linemates after scoring during Game 2 of the Winnipeg High School Hockey League Price Division semifinal series against Lorette at Access Credit Union Arena on March 3. Braeden Ivany and Ty Olson picked up the assists on the goal.

Benett Bergthorson got the Wildcats on the board from Sawyer Park and Gilmore, and Ashton Baldwin followed less than five minutes later, converting a setup from Braeden Ivany and Olson to tie the game.

However, Lorette regained the lead late in the third period when Fionn Hyndman scored the eventual winner.

The decisive Game 3 returned to Lorette on March 5, where the Scorpions secured a 4-2 victory to advance to the Price Division final.

Warren struck first when Baldwin opened the scoring early in the first period with Ivany drawing the assist.

Lorette responded with three goals in the second period, including a pair from Allan St. Godard and a power-play tally from Grayson Carriere to take control of the game.

Kaelen Ivany pulled Warren within one early in the third period on a feed from Park, but a late goal by Denny restored the two-goal cushion and sealed the series.

Klassen finished with 32 saves in the Game 3 loss.

Despite the semifinal exit, McLean said he was proud of the way the Wildcats represented their community and competed against larger programs throughout the season.

"I'm really proud of how much pride our guys took in representing their community," he said. "They carried themselves the right way all season and showed what Warren hockey is about."

The coach added the playoff run should help fuel the program moving forward.

"This playoff run should give our returning players a lot of confidence," McLean said. "It shows them that they're not just capable of competing during the regular season — they can rise to the challenge when the games matter most in the playoffs."

After deep playoff pushes in back-to-back seasons, McLean believes the experience will leave the Wildcats motivated heading into next year.

"Coming as far as we have the past two seasons and getting as close as we did leaves a bit of unfinished business," he said. "I think that experience will make the boys especially motivated and hungry to push even further next year."

# Interlake athletes compete at Colorado Tune-Up Tournament

**By Lana Meier**

Seven Interlake softball players travelled to Brighton, Colo., Feb. 28–March 1 to compete in the Tune-Up Tournament in Denver with teams from the Manitoba Softball Academy.

Katie Braid and Jersey MacMillan suited up with the Manitoba Softball Academy U16 squad, which posted a 4–2 record and finished second overall in the tournament. Both players are expected to suit up for the Interlake Phillies U17 team this summer.

Lucy Hoff, Kassie Siwak, Peyton Rinn, Kiera Pattie and Kiera Schutz competed with the Manitoba Softball Academy U18 team. The squad recorded one win and three losses during the event.

Hoff, Schutz and Siwak will play with the Smitty's Terminators U19 team this summer, while Pattie and Rinn are set to join Braid and MacMillan with the Interlake Phillies U17 team.

Katie Braid (left) and Jersey MacMillan competed with the Manitoba Softball Academy U16 team at the Tune-Up Tournament, helping the squad finish second with a 4–2 record.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY NANCY HOFF

From left: Lucy Hoff, Kassie Siwak, Peyton Rinn, Kiera Pattie and Kiera Schutz represented the Manitoba Softball Academy U18 team at the Tune-Up Tournament in Brighton, Colo., Feb. 28–March 1.

The players enjoyed the opportunity to compete outdoors in unseasonably warm Colorado weather, though the experience of playing on turf fields proved different from the dirt diamonds they are accustomed to in Manitoba.

# Dominant East boys hockey team captures Manitoba Winter Games silver

**By Kieran Reimer**

Team East Region finished with 39 total medals at the 2026 Manitoba Winter Games last week in Thompson.

One of them came on the ice courtesy of the U13 boys hockey team, whose thrilling three days of games resulted in a silver medal.

After going undefeated through the round robin, quarterfinals and semifinals, Team East took on Team West #1 on Wednesday for the gold medal.

Team West went on to take it 2-1 at C.A. Nesbitt Arena thanks to a game-winning goal at 8:55 of the third period, handing Team East its only loss of the tournament.

"Winning a silver medal is a significant achievement that often comes with mixed emotions," said East boys head coach Jason Woznesensky. "Typically it follows a loss in the final game, so kids can be pretty hard on themselves, but us coaches were trying to relay to them how they left their hearts out there, they left it all on the ice, and couldn't have been more proud of them."

Team East succeeded particularly in the defensive zone, allowing just six goals over five tournament games.

In Monday's round robin, they allowed zero goals in a pair of 3-0 wins over Team North and Team South #2 before beating the same two clubs with 5-2 and 6-2 performances in Tuesday's quarterfinals and semifinals.

By Wednesday's gold-medal game, Team East had completed the gruelling task of playing five times in three days. They finished with 18 goals for and six against through the tournament.

"The biggest thing with our team and even from what we heard from other coaches and teams was they played as a team," said Woznesensky. "The whole team effort was there from off the ice and the way the boys gelled definitely translated onto the ice. It was pretty clear they were playing for one another, and that constant support, staying positive, and encouraging one another was pretty awesome to see from a coaching perspective."

Woznesensky, Russ Reich and Lee Rivard made up the trio of Interlake-based Team East staff members. They picked the team back in December, which ended up having 16 players — three from the U13AA Interlake Lightning and the rest from U13AA Winnipeg Thrashers clubs.

For the players, it was their first and only Manitoba Winter Games experience due to the event being held only once every four years.

"The laughs, the fun times, the new friendships that they made with one another, just again how close they were off the ice and on the ice — definitely something as coaches we couldn't have asked for in a better group of kids and hockey players," said Woznesensky. "I'm pretty sure this will help create a fun, memorable environment that they'll remember and cherish forever."

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Team East Region's U13 boys hockey team won a silver medal at the 2026 Manitoba Winter Games held March 1–7 in Thompson. The team went 4-1 through five games, losing only the gold medal game last Wednesday, 2-1, to Team West #1 at C.A. Nesbitt Arena. Pictured left to right: Lee Rivard (manager), Owen Mathison, Maksym Chernecki, Oliver Sokolowski, Luka Paulic, Lincoln Rivard, Wyatt Woznesensky, Ryden Mykichuk, Max Boonstra, Xavier Daneault, Locklean Harvey, Rory Ray, Adrian Sinclair, Hudson Reich, Jordan Hallock, Easton Kormylo, Russ Reich (assistant coach) and Jason Woznesensky (head coach).

Team East's U14 girls hockey team had a similar experience, with their tournament running the following three days at Thompson's Gordon Beard Arena and ending in a fourth-place finish.

Like the boys, the girls dominated round-robin play with 8-0 and 4-1 wins over Team North and Team South #2 on Thursday to finish first in Pool B.

Their tournament continued with a 4-2 win over Team West #1 in Friday's quarterfinals before falling 11-3 to Winnipeg Gold that evening in the semifinals.

They then got a rematch with Team South #2 for the bronze medal the next morning, starting with a 1-0 Team East lead heading into the third period.

Team South, however, flipped the game in the third with three unanswered goals to defeat Team East 3-1 and claim bronze.

Later that morning, Team Winnipeg Gold defeated Team Winnipeg Blue 5-1 to win the U14 girls gold medal.

# sports&recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Desperation mode: Rams survive scare to earn provincial berth

**By Kieran Reimer**

The Stonewall Rams varsity boys basketball team is living proof that nothing comes easy in March.

After finishing February as the top team in Winnipeg Tier 2, Stonewall's season took a shocking turn during six games last week.

The first three were Winnipeg Tier 2 playoff games. Stonewall won the first two with ease over the St. John's Tigers and Portage Collegiate Trojans.

Then came the league championship against the Elmwood Giants, where Stonewall was looking to repeat as champion against a Giants squad it had already beaten earlier in the year.

Elmwood, however, flipped the script and handed Stonewall an 87-80 loss on Wednesday in Stonewall, surprisingly ending the Rams' repeat bid.

Stonewall then shifted its focus to the AAA Urban Provincial Round 1 — provincial qualifiers — where it entered ranked No. 1 due to its regular-season success.

Once again, though, Stonewall was forced to face the reality that winning in the playoffs was going to be a lot harder than winning in the regular season.

The Rams were denied their first attempt at qualifying for provincials when they fell 86-58 to the eighth-ranked MBCI Hawks on Friday at Springs Christian Academy.

The loss brought Stonewall down to its last life, needing to win two straight B-side games to earn the final available provincial berth.

They won the first of those games on Saturday, 73-57, over the St. Boniface Diocesan Centurions to advance to that afternoon's B-side final.

There they collided with none other than the Elmwood Giants again, with Stonewall winning 72-69 this time to punch its ticket to provincials and end Elmwood's season.

Rams coach Tyler Ammeter called it a roller-coaster week.

"That league championship loss, that really sucked. The guys really took that hard," said Ammeter. "They're a physically strong team, but they're mentally very strong, too, and I think that's a big part of what got us past this past weekend. The guys played a strong mental game, a strong physical game, and when you play those two together really well, they're unstoppable."

Some of last week's games were played with a shortened lineup, including the win over Elmwood, when the Rams had only seven players available.

Ammeter said the team will look to rest early in the week before returning to practice Wednesday. They will have about a week and a half off from games before the AAA Provincial Basketball Championship from March 19-21 at Sanford Collegiate.

Eight teams will compete for the title, with the champion needing to go a perfect 3-0.

"There's definitely some stuff we've got to work on, but I'm confident that they can go the distance," said Ammeter. "We're hoping for a provincial championship, but no matter what, these guys play a strong game and I'll be proud of them no matter what happens."

The full field of teams and game times for provincials have yet to be determined.

The Rams, MBCI Hawks, Nelson McIntyre Torchbearers, Linden Christian Wings and Garden Valley Zodiacs are among the five teams that earned berths at last week's qualifier.


TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Stonewall's Wyatt Mitchell protecting the rim against the Portage Collegiate offence in last Tuesday's Winnipeg Tier 2 semifinal game against the Portage Collegiate Trojans.


The Stonewall Rams Varsity Boys Basketball Team played six games in six days last week. They qualified for the Provincial AAA Basketball Championship with a 72-69 win over the Elmwood Giants on Saturday at Springs Christian Academy.

## Hofer stops 22 for fifth shutout of season against Pacific-leading Ducks

**By E. Antonio**

Despite his team's struggles, 25-year-old St. Louis Blues netminder Joel Hofer is turning the 2025-26 season into his best yet in the National Hockey League.

Last Sunday, the keeper with ties to New Haven Colony and Keystone Colony in the Interlake recorded his fifth shutout of the season against the Anaheim Ducks, moving him into second among all goalies in 2025-26.

The Pacific Division leaders took 22 shots on Hofer that were all turned aside in a 4-0 Blues victory at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif.

St. Louis goals were scored by forwards Jimmy Snuggerud, Jonathan Drouin, Jordan Kyrou and Pius Suter, as they captured their 25th win of the season.

The club currently sit outside the playoff line with a 25-29-9 record for seventh in the NHL's Central Division.

Hofer has been a bright spot in the club's disappointing year after reaching the Stanley Cup Playoffs just a season ago.

With 19 games still remaining, Hofer has already set a career high of games played (34) and shutouts (five), while matching his career high in wins (16).

His 2025-26 numbers also include a 16-11-3 record, a .903 save percentage, and a 2.69 goals against average, each stat besting his fellow Blues netminder, Jordan Binnington.

And only just 103 games into his NHL career, Hofer is quickly emerging as the Blues' potential starter for seasons to come.

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- **Seasonal Recreation or Pubic Works Summer Students (3 positions)**

Interested applicants may view details online at www.teulon.ca

**Government -> Career Opportunities**

Deadline for Applications: These positions will remain open until filled.

Applications may be submitted to info@teulon.ca
to the attention of Chris Yuen, CAO.

These positions are to commence in late June.

*We thank all who apply, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

**STARTING A NEW BUSINESS?**

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**Call 204-467-5836**

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

## NOW HIRING!

Teulon Golf & Country Club

Teulon Golf & Country Club is looking for responsible, highly motivated, team oriented individuals for the upcoming golf season. We are now accepting resumes for all positions.

**Proshop**
**Driving Range**
**Cooks**
**Clubhouse Restaurant**
**Beverage Cart**
**Snack Shack**
**Grounds/Maintenance**
**Gardener**

**Please email your resume:**
**Janis Dola**
**General Manager**
**GM.Teulongc@gmail.com**

## BUDGET 2026-2027 PRESENTATION

Prairie Rose School Division

PRSD is hosting its public Budget 2026-2027 Presentation at the Prairie Rose School Division Office, *45 Main Street South, Carman, MB*, on **Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM.** The presentation will be recorded and posted on our website (g.prsdmb.ca/board/financebudget) following the live event, and a feedback form will be available until Friday, April 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Constituents may attend in person or online. To register, please complete the Budget 2026-2027 Presentation Registration form using the QR code above or the link here (tinyurl.com/26-27prsdbdgt). Registration is required for the live event. If you need support registering or have questions, call the office at 204-745-2003 or send emails to prsd@g.prsdmb.ca.

**Grow Your Business by placing a HELP WANTED ad in the Tribune**

Let your family and loved ones know that you are thinking of them at their time of celebration with a message in the Tribune

## HELP WANTED – SUMMER STUDENT

Employment Opportunity: Stonewall law firm requires a university student, commencing May 1 to August 31, 2026. The applicant must be comfortable dealing with the public. Typing and computer knowledge of "Word" is required. Kindly forward resume in confidence to: Grantham Law Offices, Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0, Attention: Doug Grantham/Dwayne Grantham or email to: lynnet@granthamlaw.ca

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ARMSTRONG UNDER THE PLANNING ACT

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the **R.M. of Armstrong** under the authority of the Planning Act will hold a PUBLIC HEARING at the date, time and location listed below:

**Tuesday March 24, 2026**
**1:00pm.**
**Armstrong Municipal Office**
**Civic # 1094 Lot 55 PTH 17, Inwood MB R0C 1P0**

Property owners are being notified in order to give them the opportunity to speak in support of or objection to the proposed conditional use and/or variation order.

| | |
|---|---|
| **CONDITIONAL USE:** | # 2026-A-03 |
| **ROLL NO:** | 0237300.000 |
| **OWNER:** | Wayne & Michelle Hazelton |
| **APPLICANT:** | CKT Contracting – Tyson Hazelton |
| **AREA AFFECTED:** | Legal Description: SE5-19-1W<br>Civic Address: 108032 Road 4W<br>INWOOD, MANITOBA |
| **ZONE:** | Agriculture Intensive Zoning District |
| **SUBJECT:** | R.M. of Armstrong Zoning By-Law No. 6/04<br>Part 13.3 11 General Industrial – Vehicle Repair |

**AUTOMOTIVE AND RECREATIONAL VEHILCE REPAIRS**: Retail repairs and maintenance services of new or used automobiles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, tent trailers, utility trailers, boats, travel trailers or similar light recreational vehicles or crafts.

**CONDITIONAL USE REQUESTED:** To allow for the existing shop to conduct public vehicle repairs & Government Safeties.

**WE REQUIRE ANYONE ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING TO PRE-REGISTER BY NO LATER THAN 4:30 pm MONDAY MARCH 16, 2026, by calling or emailing the below email and/or number.**

For further information, please contact:
Cori Audet – Permit & Planning Services
Phone: 1 (204) 278-3377
Rural Municipality of Armstrong
Fax: 1 (204) 278-3437
Box 69, Inwood, Mb R0C 1P0
e-mail: planning@rmofarmstrong.com

Documents related to the matter to be considered at the hearing may be inspected or copied at the RM of Armstrong Office during normal office hours, Monday to Friday.

**The Tribune Classified and Announcement booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication Please Call 204-467-5836**

## HELP WANTED – LEGAL SECRETARY

Grantham Law Offices requires a legal secretary for a full-time position, due to expansion. Duties will include preparing legal documents and dealing with clients. Specific training will be provided. Salary will commensurate with experience. Please forward your resume to: Grantham Law Offices, Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0, Attention: Doug Grantham/Dwayne Grantham or email to: lynnet@granthamlaw.ca

## FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER
## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOODLANDS

Completed tenders and a $10,000.00 deposit per parcel are invited to be received up to 2PM on the 24th day of March 2026, for the land described below, at:

**PKF Lawyers - 71 Main St. S, Box 1240, Carman, MB R0G 0J0**
**Attn: Mona Brown/Meghan Bennet Ph: 204-745-2028**
mbrown@pkflawyers.com mbennet@pkflawyers.com

**LAND FOR SALE:**

Either or all of the following:

**OPTION NO. 1: TO BE** 160 ACRES
**Title No. 3384859/1**
THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 22-13-3 WPM EXC HIGHWAY PLAN 620 WLTO

**OPTION NO. 2:** 160 ACRES
**Title No. 3384860/1**
THE SE 1/4 OF SECTION 8-13-3 WPM

**OPTION NO. 3:** 144.59 ACRES
**Title No. 3384861/1**
THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 8-13-3 WPM EXC FIRSTLY: THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PLAN 373 WLTO SECONDLY: ALL THAT PORTION DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT IN THE EASTERN LIMIT OF SAID NE 1/4, DISTANT NLY THEREON 625 FEET FROM THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF SAID RLY, THENCE WLY, AT RIGHT ANGLES TO SAID EASTERN LIMIT, 650 FEET THENCE SLY, AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, TO SAID NORTHERN LIMIT, THENCE ELY, ALONG SAID NORTHERN LIMIT, TO SAID EASTERN LIMIT, THENCE NLY, ALONG SAID EASTERN LIMIT TO THE POINT OF COMMENCEMENT; AND THIRDLY: ALL MINES AND MINERALS SET FORTH IN TRANSFER 922195 WLTO

**OPTION NO. 4:**

ALL 464.59 ACRES

**Conditions of Tender:**

1. Financing must be pre-approved.

2. Tender to be submitted on the form prepared by PKF Lawyers. **To obtain tender form or more information, contact Meghan Bennet at 204-745-2028.**

3. Tender must be accompanied by a cheque, payable to PKF Lawyers (in trust), in the amount of $10,000.00 per parcel. Deposit, of tenders not accepted, will be returned to the Tenderers.

4. Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

5. Vacant possession shall be the 10 day of April, 2026. Tax adjustment shall be the 1st day of January, 2026.

6. The maker of any tender relies entirely upon their personal inspection and knowledge of the land, independent of the representations made by the Vendor or the Solicitor and Agent of the Vendor. The land will be sold "as is" and the Tenderer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the land.

# Classifieds

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of *The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act* (MCSBEA), the R.M. of Rosser Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the R.M. of Rosser can have his or her name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail.

Rural Municipality of Rosser
77 E PR 221
Rosser, MB R4B 0C6
Telephone number: (204) 467-5711
Fax number: (204) 467-5958
Email: info@rmofrosser.com

The next General Election takes place on October 28, 2026.

Ernie Epp
Senior Election Official

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of Woodlands inclusive of the L.U.D. of Warren intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026:

1. To control noxious weeds and brush on public rights-of-way and on publicly owned property within the Municipality. 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 600 - 2,4-D Choline - Dicamba
   - Glyphosate – Picloram -Triclopyr
   - Aminopyralid - Aminocyclopyrachlor
   - Metsulfuron Methyl -Chlorsulfuron
   - Mecoprop P - Acetic Acid - Diflufenzopyr
   - Iron HEDTA (FeHEDTA) - non-ionic surfactant
   -Methyl and ethyl ester – Mineral Oil
   – Flumioxazin – -Saflufenacil-Florpyrauxifen
2. To control rodents at the waste disposal grounds, waste water lagoons and any municipal owned property at various times during the year using the rodenticide:
   -Bromadiolone
   -Difethialone
   -Diphacinone
3. To control the following insect pests including grasshoppers and mosquitoes, if and when necessary. The proposed dates of application will be from May 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The insecticides to be used include:
   -Bacillus thuringiensis israelenis
   -Carbaryl

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below. Persons who have objections to the issuance of this permit must register their objections annually.

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

## THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROCKWOOD
## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

### Tender 2026-02
### Roof Replacement / SPF Repair/Restoration For Municipal Buildings

**The R.M. of Rockwood invites qualified contractors to submit a proposal for the Roof Replacement / SPF Repair for two municipal buildings.**

**Specifications for the Request for Proposal may be obtained on the RM of Rockwood website at www.rockwood.ca.**

**The closing date for accepting proposals is April 16, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. Central Standard Time.**

**Proposals may be mailed or dropped off in person in an envelope labelled "Tender No. 2026-02 – Roof Replacement or SPF Repair/Restoration" to:**

**Attention: Ian Tesarski, Director of Operations**

Rural Municipality of Rockwood
Box 902
285 Main Street
Stonewall Manitoba R0C 2Z0

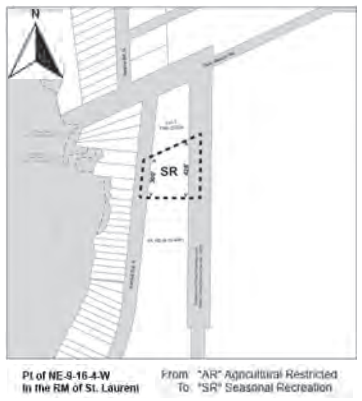
**WESTERN INTERLAKE PLANNING DISTRICT**
**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PLANNING ACT**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the date and at the time and location shown below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any person(s) who wish to make them in respect to the following matter:

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. LAURENT BY-LAW NO. 1-2026**
Being An amendment to the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent Zoning By-Law no. 5/05, as amended.

| | |
|---|---|
| HEARING | RM of St. Laurent Council |
| LOCATION: | Chambers, #16 Veterans Memorial Rd, Recreation Centre, St. Laurent, MB |
| DATE & TIME: | April 1st, 2026 @ 10:15 am |
| GENERAL INTENT: | To re-zone land within the RM of St. Laurent from "Agricultural Restricted" Zone to "Seasonal Recreation" Zone |
| AREA AFFECTED: | Part of NE ¼ 9-16-4W (outlined in a heavy dashed line) St. Laurent, MB in the RM of St. Laurent. |
| FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: | Cherie Millar, Office Administrator Western Interlake Planning District Box 269, St. Laurent, MB R0C 2S0 (204) 646-2615 Fax: (204) 646-4150 Email: wipd@mts.net |




A copy of the proposal and supporting material may be inspected at the location noted above during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. Copies may be made and extracts taken there from upon request.

**Note: Property owners are responsible for notifying lessee.**

# Announcements

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Pete Skihar**
**March 14, 2003**

If you had not a-fallen, then I would not have found you
Angel flying too close to the ground
And I patched up your broken wing
And hung around a while
Trying to keep your spirits up
And your fever down

I knew someday that you would fly away
For love's the greatest healer to be found
So leave me if you need to, I will still remember
Angel flying too close to the ground

Fly on, fly on past the speed of sound
I'd rather see you up than see you down
So leave me if you need to, I will still remember
Angel flying too close to the ground
-By Willie Nelson

You would never had seen yourself as an angel or hero, horse whisperer, great cowboy, talented fiddle player, perfect dad. Ever humble, you would have been uncomfortable by such praise, but you were all these things and much more – a good man, a kind and giving person, and to me that perfect dad, always loving, supportive, and present. You are missed and loved beyond words. The memories so cherished. Ever grateful that you were my dad.

-Arlene

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

## BIRTHDAY

**March 16th**
**Wishing you every happiness on your 85th Birthday Dave**



## OBITUARY

**Don Nesbitt**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Don Nesbitt of Stonewall (formerly of Treherne, Manitoba) on March 1, 2026 at the age of 75.

Dad was predeceased by his parents, Clarence Ivan and Nina Beatrice Nesbitt of Treherne. Don was husband to Lynda Nesbitt for 53 years; father to Leslie (Dustan) and Chad (Leigh). He was grandfather to four grandchildren: Carter, Cameron, Grayson and Kennedy, brother-in-law to Wendy (Bert) and a cousin, Smitty Smith, held a special place in his heart.

In 1989, our family moved into our newly built dream home where we lived for 35 years, and in March 2024, our parents moved into Lions Manor. We are so grateful for the friendships they've rekindled there. Don would definitely want us to mention his pool hall buddies, who truly made the past two years a highlight.

In September of 2025, Mom and Dad celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Dad met Mom in Treherne in grade school, they became high school sweethearts and married on September 2, 1972.

Dad's career with MTS brought them to Fisher Branch, and eventually a transfer planted them in Stonewall. Dad worked diligently for MTS for 37 years where he met many outstanding people that became lifelong friends.

Dad had a passion for hockey and baseball, and passed that down to his children and grandchildren. He was a talented coach and his love for the game was contagious. He spent countless hours at the rink and on the baseball diamond instilling valuable skills for the games he loved.

Dad was a great man. He will always be remembered for his sharp, witty, and delightfully sarcastic humour, his playful personality, and the way he could brighten a room with a perfectly timed comment. Above all else, he loved his family and was incredibly proud of his children and grandchildren.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by his family, his many friends and the community that meant so much to him. We know we will always feel Dad's presence at the corner of the rink.

A celebration of life will be planned for late spring/early summer at the Treherne Golf and Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to donate generously to Diabetes Canada, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Kidsport or any charity that you feel passionately for.

# Announcements

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

## OBITUARY

**Ryan Oscar Hicks**
**February 23, 1989 – February 5, 2026**

Ryan Oscar Hicks, age 36, of Sicamous, BC, passed away on February 5th, 2026 in a tragic snowmobile accident in Revelstoke, BC.

Ryan is lovingly survived by his devoted wife of six years, the love of his life and best friend, Angela Hicks, and their precious daughter, Verra, who was his whole world.

Ryan also leaves behind his parents, George and Wanda Hicks of Stony Mountain, MB; his brother Wayne Hicks and sister-in-law Darla, along with their children Atlas and Scarlett; his mother-in-law Charlene Zimmerman of Brooks, AB; his sister-in-law Cindy Hegland (Mike) along with their children Mitchell and Myles; his brother-in-law Jeremy Zimmerman and his children Nate and Trae and his sister-in-law Christina Fry (Leon) along with their children Caitrin, Gracie, and Jax.

Ryan was predeceased by his grandparents David and Margaret (John) McTaggart, Charlie and Lily Hicks, father-in-law Paul Zimmerman, and nephew Mackenzie Hegland.

Ryan was born in Winnipeg and grew up near Stony Mountain, MB. As a boy he spent summers camping with his family at Rushing River and on the road with his dad. He went to school in Stonewall and he was naturally social and loved being around people. He played hockey and spent many evenings snowboarding on the local ski hill.

Ryan's passions continued throughout his life, and he enjoyed many activities and sports such as golf, surfing, boating, and snowmobiling. Ryan was very charismatic; he had tons of friends and was always the life of the party.

Ryan and Angela shared 16 beautiful years together. They met when they bumped shoulders in passing and it instantly became a soulmate connection, filled with love, adventure, and life's most meaningful chapters. Six years ago, they were married in Sicamous, BC, where they created their dream home and started crafting their dream lives together.

Ryan began his career in oil and gas when he and Angela fell in love, he continued to grow into an incredible professional, eventually becoming a Completion's Consultant contracted through Decca, reaching the top of his career – something we are all so incredibly proud of.

Entrepreneurial at heart Ryan owned and operated three businesses, BC Unlimited, Sic Riderz Rentals, and In The Nature Adventures. Building each business with his passion and vision. He achieved so much in such a short time at a young age. He has left a legacy of hard work, adventure, and inspiration. Angela always told Ryan and everyone throughout the years that Ryan and her Dad, Paul, are the smartest men that she ever knew.

Ryan was a loving husband and father. His greatest accomplishment and joy in life was being Verra's Daddy.

Ryan's Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. To leave an online message of condolence, please visit www.bowersfuneralservice.com.

Bowers
Funeral Service & Crematorium

## OBITUARY

**Fleurette Bruce**
**1947 - 2026**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of our beloved mother, Fleurette Bruce, on February 26, 2026, at the age of 78.

A woman of boundless love, she cherished nothing more than bringing her family together for lively gatherings filled with delicious food, laughter, music and dancing. Though she is no longer with us, her love and the memories of her will continue to dance in our hearts.

She leaves behind her children, Monica (Brent) Middleton and Stephen Bruce (Michelle Janzic), and her beloved grandchildren, Vanessa (Tanner) Faulkner and Jenna (Edward) Boonstra, as well as the brightest light of her life, her great-grandson, Theo Boonstra. He brought her an unmatched joy, and her love for him was immeasurable. Theo loved to dance with Mem. Every time she tried to sit down, he would go to her and say "UP" "UP". Mom was eagerly awaiting the arrival of her second great-grandchild due soon. She also leaves behind five awesome siblings, and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was predeceased by her loving husband James Bruce; her parents, Yves and Edmee Lambert; and six siblings who were all a special part of her life.

A private family service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your favourite charity in her honour.

MacKenzie Funeral Home
204-467-2525
mackenziefh.com

## OBITUARY

**Cheryl Corinne Deprez**
**November 21, 1959 - March 5, 2026**

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Cheryl Corinne Deprez, a devoted mother, proud Grandma, loyal friend, and a steady presence to so many.

Cheryl's life was not defined by titles or accolades, but by something far greater: her constant and unwavering love for her family. When asked what she wanted from life, she answered, "I've never thought about it. I'm a mom." She lived those words every day. It was her calling, her identity, and her joy.

She poured herself into raising her boys, Curtis, Darrin, Blair, and Gerald (Megan), with strength, resilience, and quiet determination. Megan was the daughter Cheryl always hoped to have.

Cheryl showed up to practices and games, travelled across Manitoba and beyond for hockey and baseball, coached baseball teams, and cheered proudly from the sidelines. Her pride in her children and family never wavered.

Becoming a Grandma only expanded her heart. To Logan, Lynley, and Dan, she was warmth and comfort, a steady presence who listened carefully, laughed easily, and always had something cooking. Lovingly referred to as "Grandma" by Mahlani, her heart always had room.

Food was Cheryl's love language. Feeding others was not just something she did. It was how she showed love. Holiday dinners were never complete without her meatballs, and somehow she could turn a simple Kraft pizza kit into the best pizza anyone ever had, a true family favourite.

Cheryl endured the heartbreak of losing her husband, Mark, 14 years ago, and the loss of her son, Blair, in 2023. Through it all, she carried her family forward with quiet strength and unwavering love.

She did not seek attention, but she carried more than most people ever knew. Her legacy lives on in the meals we will continue to cook, the stories we will keep telling, the way we show up for one another, and the steady strength she lived every day.

Cheryl is now reunited with her husband, Mark, her son, Blair, and her parents, Joan and Fred.

In keeping with Cheryl's wishes, a small private goodbye will be held. She also asked for a BBQ this summer, where family and friends will gather for a celebration of her. filled with food. laughter, and stories, exactly the kind of party she would have loved.

The family would like to thank Cheryl's care team at Stonewall Hospital, who helped keep her final days calm, peaceful, and full of compassionate care.

In honour of Cheryl, have a gathering full of food and think of her.

KEN LOEHMER
FUNERAL SERVICES
204-886-0404