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Teulon residents learn more about TD Bank closure

By Jennifer McFee

Many Teulon residents feel that the pending closure of the town's TD Bank branch just doesn't add up.

They had the chance to voice their opinions and ask questions at a recent meeting at Centennial Hall about the upcoming closure of the Teulon branch. The local branch will close its doors on Friday, July 25 at 3 p.m. to merge with the Selkirk TD branch.

Michael Warren, TD's Manitoba north district vice-president, told the crowd of nearly 100 people that the decision to close the Teulon branch was not easy. He encouraged attendees to ask questions about the branch closure and the transition to offer services at the Stonewall and Selkirk branches.

Nicole Beaton, TD's vice-president and region head for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and northern Ontario, emphasized that the decision to close the Teulon branch will not change and was based on several factors.

"We're seeing a decline in traffic; we're seeing a decline in transactions — and, ultimately, we've seen this decline over the last few years. Our Selkirk branch has been identified as the preferred location as a high percentage of customers are already transacting at that branch," she said.

"With this in mind, as we have additional considerations like operating costs and the service that we have in branches nearby, we made the decision to close this full-serve location. We know this is hard to hear and we're focused on supporting you and supporting the community in serving our customers in a number of different ways."

For in-person transactions, Beaton recommended visiting the Selkirk or Stonewall branches, where many of the Teulon staff members will also be working.

"You have our branches nearby in Selkirk and in Stonewall, both of which have the same or longer hours with parking and additional services for personal and business customers. We're confident that we will be able to continue to provide a great experience in those locations," she said.

"Colleagues who are currently working in the Teulon location will be transitioning to roles in some of these locations, so they will be there to welcome you as familiar faces."

She added that TD's community involvement would also continue, so Teulon residents can still reach out to the company to request sponsorship or involvement in local events.

An attendee asked why the Teulon branch was recently upgraded if it's closing, and Beaton said that market reviews are conducted on an annual basis.

"We consistently look at the branches and when we made those decisions to keep up the branch appearance, it wasn't with the intent that we were going to close. But we would have



TD's Nicole Beaton shared info at the March 13 meeting.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE
Nicole Beaton, TD's vice-president and region head for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and northern Ontario, answered questions from the crowd.

maintained the standards of our TD brand in those locations, even with the closure that's coming," she said.

"It wasn't a decision that we made lightly to close the branch. We wanted to maintain the standards for our customers while it was there."

For TD clients who are not confident to try telephone banking or online banking, Warren suggested that they reach out for assistance.

"We're here to help you work through some of our solutions. Our No. 1 goal is to help you transition. We are working on trying to keep the ATM machine here in Teulon. We're looking at some possible solutions," he said.

"We haven't confirmed yet because we're still working on what that looks

like, but our goal is to try to have an ATM machine here. Our goal is to try to help you get more comfortable with some of the alternatives."

Based on community feedback, Beaton said TD is also looking into the possibility of donating the branch building.

"We're working with our network strategy partners on next steps," she said. "So I commit that Michael and I will get back to you in the short term as we build out a plan moving forward."

Debbie Kozyra, chair of the 55-plus establishment Gateway Manor Inc., noted that Teulon and District Seniors Resource needs a space to operate.

Continued on page 5

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Right on the honk



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBYN MACMILLAN

The *Tribune's* Jo-Anne Procter successfully guessed the closest date and time of the arrival of the first goose at Oak Hammock Marsh this year. The first Canada goose arrived at 9:40 a.m. on March 4. Procter guessed the arrival time to be 10 a.m. She collected her prize at the marsh with her grandchildren on March 19. The prize consists of a free family membership to Oak Hammock Marsh Wetland Discovery Centre as well as a little plush Canada goose. Recording the arrival of the first Canada goose spotted at Oak Hammock Marsh every spring has been an annual tradition since 1994. In 1998 the first goose contest was created as a fun way for visitors to guess when the first goose would arrive. In 1998 the first goose arrived on March 16 and in 2024 the first goose arrived Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. The contest runs from the end of January to March 1 or when the first goose arrives, whichever comes first. Only one guess per participant is allowed and the contest is open to everyone. Pictured left to right: Emily Davidson of Ducks Unlimited, Brielle Procter, Jo-Anne Procter and Paul Rieux.

Revved up and ready to snow!



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY HALEY CVAR

A group of dirt bikers rode snow-packed trails along Highway 236, just north of Stonewall, on Tuesday, March 19. Cooler temperatures, with a high of 2 C and a low of -7 C, made for ideal conditions to enjoy the outdoors. Help the *Tribune* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

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Tariffs and trade – now what?

By Cam Dahl, General Manager, Manitoba Pork Council

“This too shall pass” is a Persian proverb used to encourage hope when times are difficult. Does this saying apply to the current U.S. president’s confrontational approach to allies and friends? Does it apply to the U.S. administration’s isolationist trade policies and tariffs? It probably does apply in the long-term, but today, hope is in short supply for many Manitoba farmers.

Manitoba exports about \$9.3 billion worth of agriculture and food products every year. This represents 13 per cent of the province’s annual gross domestic product. Almost half, 46 per cent in 2024, of these exports were shipped into the U.S.

On March 4, President Trump carried through on his threats to put tariffs of 25 per cent on almost all Canadian exports (outside of oil and

gas). This means that half of our agriculture and food exports became 25 per cent more expensive with no return to farmers or processors. The negative impact of this will reverberate throughout every community in Manitoba, large and small.

Tariffs do not come as a surprise. The president talked about tariffs throughout his election campaign. The current U.S. administration views trade surpluses as a foreign subsidy provided by U.S. taxpayers. The president’s closest economic advisors are advocates for tariffs for both revenue generation as well as a tool to drive manufacturing to the U.S. Given these views, it is likely that these tariffs will be with us for some time.

Many are predicting that a recession is coming. Looking at the pork sector as an example, it is

not hard to see why these predictions are being made. The sector supports 22,000 jobs in Manitoba, in almost every part of the province. The industry contributes \$2.3 billion to the provincial GDP. Our largest export market is now significantly disrupted, putting those jobs and economic contribution at risk. Pork is not alone. A recent survey by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce found that over 60 per cent of businesses will be negatively impacted, with many seeing impacts already.

Governments need to act decisively and rapidly. We have seen positive action from the Government of Manitoba, with the premier, together with his provincial counterparts, engaging with decision makers in the U.S. Cabinet ministers, like the minister of Agriculture, Ron Kostyshyn, have been reaching out to strategic partners in state capitals. The establishment of the Premier’s U.S. Trade Council was a positive step. But more can, and must, be done.

At least in agriculture, we have common objectives with our neighbours in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The three governments should come together with a strategic outreach plan for Prairie agriculture and food trade stakeholders in the U.S. Through work done by the Keystone Agricultural Producers, agriculture and food value chains in Manitoba have identified 18 key states with whom we should be engaged. It would be difficult for Manitoba to effectively launch an advocacy campaign in all 18 states, but together with the other Prairie provinces we have the necessary resources.

The province should consider leveraging their “Buy Local” campaign to partner with the other two Prairie provinces to further boost consumer demand here at home. Longer term, both the federal and provincial governments should be looking at incentives for investments that would help support export diversification and increase trade between provinces. For example, providing incentives to both farmers and processors who, considering U.S. trade actions, might want to adjust their operations to meet European regulations.

We also need to have a strategic plan going into the renegotiation of the Canada–U.S.–Mexico Agreement. The aggressive shift in U.S. foreign and trade policies over the past two months clearly show us that the renegotiation of our most important trade agreement will be difficult. We must be more prepared than we are today.

Canada has responded to the U.S. tariffs with our own duties. We really had no option. But a protracted trade war with the U.S. will weaken our province and our country for years to come. There is hard work to be done by both exporting industries, like agriculture, and governments to prevent that from happening and to recharge that hope for the future.



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Allied health workers represented by MAHCP union ratify new collective agreements

By Patricia Barrett

Allied health workers represented by the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) ratified new four-year collective agreements with the provincial government and public health-care employers last week after going nearly a year without contracts.

Tentative agreements were reached a few weeks ago, and allied health workers voted on those agreements over the course of two days last week. In January MAHCP members had voted 96 per cent in favour of a strike mandate.

"This contract was achieved through the resolve of frontline allied health professionals and their bargaining committee, who were willing to go on strike to demand change," said MAHCP president Jason Linklater in a news release. "It is my hope that the new contract represents the first step

in finally addressing chronic shortages of specialized staff and improving health care for Manitobans."

The new agreements are with employers provincial Shared Health, the Winnipeg-Churchill health region and the Northern health region.

Workers will receive a general wage increase of 12.25 per cent over four years, retroactive to 2024 with a 2.5 per cent increase. They'll subsequently see wages rise this year by 2.75 per cent, three per cent in 2026 and three per cent in 2027, plus a one per cent market adjustment.

The wage increases are "consistent with other recent health-care agreements, along with several improvements intended to enhance work-life balance and address workload and health and safety concerns," says MACHP.

The contract also includes a \$3 per hour step adjustment for most clas-

sifications, new rural and northern wage differentials, and wage parity for MAHCP paramedics with the City of Winnipeg paramedic services.

MAHCP says retention is a top priority as there are over 1,000 vacant allied health positions, and most positions require years of training because of their high degree of specialization.

Manitoba experienced a net loss of allied health staff represented by MAHCP in both January and February 2025 in Shared Health and the Winnipeg-Churchill and the northern health regions, says the news release. And this was the first "two-month streak of net loss since August 2023, under the previous government."

Although the contract doesn't address "significant issues" affecting retention and recruitment, it nevertheless is expected to help stem the loss of allied health workers from Manitoba and provide potential recruits with information about wages and working conditions — information allied health professionals assess when looking for a job.

"The new contract is the starting point to stop the bleed and keep more allied health professionals on the job while Manitoba trains and recruits more to fill the thousand vacancies that have built up in recent years," said Linklater. "Employers must pri-

oritize implementing the contract as quickly as possible before Manitoba loses more specialized allied health staff."

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals represents over 7,000 allied health members working 45-plus disciplines. Some MAHCP members are employed by Shared Health and work in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority.

> BANK, FROM PG. 2

She suggested that TD could consider donating the branch to the Town of Teulon for the organization to use.

"I really strongly recommend you look at this proposal of donating that building and put it into the town's name. They can be responsible for it under the Seniors Resource, and maybe there will be another group that might want to join with them," she said. "It is a very nice building. It's been well maintained. It's got everything they could ask for."

Jan Lambourne of the Teulon and District Chamber of Commerce said that Teulon's TD branch is a link between the south and the north of the province.

"If we lose our ATM, you literally don't have a TD going on between

south and north. It's almost like the Interlake northern region is being eliminated. ... The fact is we're right in the middle. We're the hub. Everybody drives by going up north," she said.

"I've seen semis parked on Main Street going in TD to do their banking, a last-minute stop before going up north. So if we don't keep our ATM, you've got nothing between Stonewall/Selkirk and Thompson/The Pas — and that's a sad fact."

In response, Warren said TD remains committed to rural Manitoba.

For anyone who would like to ask more questions, learn about support or provide additional feedback, they can reach out to the Teulon branch.



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MPI and 'Professor Popsicle' talk ice road safety as spring thaw begins

By Tara Seel, MPI

Driving the ice roads in Manitoba's north, hopping in your vehicle to head out to your ice fishing shack, or driving a well-known route on a frozen lake all carry a risk of going through the ice. With warmer weather on the way, that risk only increases as ice begins to soften and melt.

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) received 22 claims in 2024 for vehicles that went through the ice, and there have been four claims reported so far in 2025. Going through the ice into cold water is potentially fatal as it can lead to hypothermia or drowning. In fact, one third of all drownings in Manitoba occur during the winter months — between October and April.

Recommended ice thickness for walking is 10 centimetres; to support one ATV or snowmobile, the ice should be 12 centimetres thick; for a car, the ice should be 20-30 centimetres thick; and for a truck, it should be 30-38 centimetres thick. However, even thick ice has the potential to be weak and crack. Temperatures can also vary widely throughout the province and while ice may be thick enough to travel on in one area, it



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured left to right: Lynne Stefanchuk, executive director of Lifesaving Society Manitoba; Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer, MPI, Winnipeg Police Service River Patrol, Manitoba RCMP Marine Unit.

could be extremely dangerous elsewhere.

"Drivers need to consider whether it is reasonable and safe to head out onto the ice," said Maria Campos, vice-president and chief customer and product officer. "Understand the rules when travelling on ice roads and be prepared in case an emergency oc-

curs. Manitobans should take special care when driving on surfaces that are slippery and can change without warning."

Preparation is the key to keeping safe on ice roads — whether those are maintained ice roads in Manitoba's north or a worn path on a local lake.

Federal carbon charge on natural gas customers ends after March

Submitted by Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro natural gas customers will soon see a significant change on their bills.

There will be no federal carbon charge on natural gas used by Manitoba Hydro customers on or after April 1.

The federal government announced the change earlier this month. The Public Utilities Board later authorized removing the charge from Man-

itoba Hydro customers' gas use.

The federal carbon charge was levied by the federal government starting in 2019 and increased in increments. The amounts were set by the federal government and collected on its behalf by Manitoba Hydro. In 2024, a typical Manitoba household paid about \$338 in federal carbon charge on natural gas for the year.

Federal carbon charges still apply to any gas customers use before April

1 and will show up during the next billing cycle.

With a paper bill, some customers may receive the Energy Matters newsletter that details the federal carbon charge increase that was scheduled for April 1. This is outdated information and should be disregarded.

Manitoba Hydro has about 298,000 natural gas customers.

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Provincial government unveils 2025 budget

By Lorne Stelmach

A financial plan for the province billed as “Trump-proofing” Manitoba was introduced by the Manitoba government last week.

Finance Minister Adrien Sala hailed the \$3.7-billion capital spending program as the largest ever to help spur economic growth and create jobs in the face of such uncertainty.

The budget includes a forecast for a baseline deficit of \$794 million, but it could increase to nearly \$1.9 billion in the event of U.S. and Chinese tariffs.

The budget includes two financial plans — one without tariffs and one if U.S. President Donald Trump imposes sweeping 25 per cent tariffs April 2.

A \$1.1-billion tariff relief plan would include up to \$200 million to help businesses, up to \$100 million for farmers and \$100 million for families. It also includes \$85 million to train workers or students, and the province had already announced payroll and retail sales tax deferrals for businesses.

“This budget is ready to take on the big challenges and build the services Manitobans depend on,” Sala said in a news conference following the release of the budget last Thursday.

“We didn’t start this fight, but we are not backing down. We are building up our province. ... We’re ‘Trump proofing’ our economy and our country with a historic \$3.7-billion investment in capital projects like schools, hospitals in every part of Manitoba,” said Sala. “This is the largest capital spend in Manitoba’s history. We’re doing it to put Manitobans to work and protect our economy.

“From the moment Trump threatened his tariff tax, our government has been responding,” he continued. “We took these threats seriously, and we delivered a response that was measured but strong. ... This budget is a clear examination of the impact Trump’s unjustified tariffs may have on our economy, our revenues and our communities.

“We’re going to keep communities thriving with our historic new funding model,” Sala continued. “Our One Manitoba Growth Fund gives municipalities four per cent of our gas tax revenue to build hockey rinks, playgrounds and community centres ... to rebuild hometown pride all across our province.”

Sala emphasized the NDP government’s commitment to grow the economy, protect jobs, rebuild health care and lower costs for Manitobans.

The \$3.7 billion in capital projects include new schools, emergency rooms and personal care homes and other critical infrastructure.

A strong economy needs a strong health-care system, stressed Sala, and he suggested the budget continues to make progress on improving access for Manitobans. It includes putting shovels in the ground this year on the new emergency room and mature women’s centre at Victoria Hospital and a new health-care centre of excellence in downtown Winnipeg as well as renovations at the Health Sciences Centre children’s hospital emergency room.

“We’re continuing to rebuild rural health care. ... Today, there are 1,255 new health-care workers on the front lines of Manitoba’s health-care system,” said Sala, citing the need to not only have more physicians and more nurses, but also boost training with more spaces for nurses and paramedics.

He went on to also cite an 11 per cent increase in spending for roads, highways, and infrastructure with a budget of more than \$800 million.

“Our budget helps rural communities be more climate resilient with funding for big flood mitigation projects,” said Sala, noting as well the \$881 million committed for Manitoba Hydro upgrades and improvements to help keep rates low across the province. “We’re making a generational change in hydro to keep rates low by eliminating the capital tax and cutting their debt guarantee fees. These are big changes that will allow Hydro to keep Manitobans’ bills affordable while building and repairing the infrastructure we need into the future.”

The budget aims to lower costs for families and businesses with an increase to the homeowners affordability tax credit, more access to free birth control, a reduction in payroll taxes, an extension of \$10-a-day child care into the summer, a new business security rebate program and making provincial park entry free for an entire year.

It also includes a contingency with hundreds of millions of dollars in

support to help businesses pivot to new markets, help workers skill up and find good jobs, and support Manitoba’s canola farmers and pork producers facing tariff threats from the U.S. and China, noted the finance minister.

“Budget 2025 includes strategic investments in the things we need to strengthen our trade corridors and protect northern sovereignty,” Sala said. “Budget 2025 delivers lower costs for working families where they need it most — permanent gas tax relief, a hydro rate freeze and more savings on child care fees.

“And as uncertainty impacts Manitoba’s farmers and producers, our budget offers direct supports with over \$140 million in business risk management programming,” he noted. “Budget 2025 helps small and medium businesses grow and compete by reducing the payroll tax.”

BUDGET REACTIONS

The Progressive Conservatives slammed the NDP for having such a tax-and-spend budget, noting Manitobans are struggling to pay their bills and worrying about job losses.

“The premier and his finance minister have had months to get this right and prepare a budget that gives Manitobans immediate and substantial relief,” said interim leader Wayne Ewasko. “Instead, they brought forward a reckless plan that raises income taxes, expands the PST and slaps double-digit increases on education property taxes.”

The Tories cited a few examples of how the budget hits Manitobans hard, including \$182 million more in education property taxes, \$82 million more in income taxes by freezing inflation indexing, and \$16 million more from a new PST on software subscriptions and cloud storage.

All told, the government will rake in over \$1 billion more in taxes and other revenues from Manitoba families and businesses in 2025, Ewasko said. This comes, he added, as budget projections show new U.S. and Chinese tariffs, along with retaliatory tariffs, will slash Manitoba’s GDP by \$3.6 billion, reduce incomes by \$1,420 per capita, and cause a recession compa-

Continued on page 12

worship
with us > FAITH

Welcome Home

I recently read the story of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15 in the Bible. It is a familiar portion of scripture for me and I am always amazed at how God’s Word



comes alive when we read it. The father’s younger son asked for his inheritance early because he was planning to leave home to experience life. A famine happened and he eventually ran out of money because of his “wild living”. After struggling to survive he came to his senses and decided to go home to his father. He decided, even if he became one of his father’s servants, at least he’d have food to eat. Luke 15:20 has always pulled at my heartstrings. It says, “While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” This wasn’t an inappropriate kiss. It was a cultural norm and a warm, welcoming expression of love from a father for his son. The Bible doesn’t tell us how many months or years the son was gone, but the father never stopped watching and waiting for him to come home. When he finally saw his son a long way off, it says he ran to him and hugged him. Notice he didn’t lecture him or ask how he spent the money or if he even had any left. He just embraced him and welcomed him home. This is a picture of our Heavenly Father who is always ready to welcome each one of us home. We are deeply and unconditionally loved by God and He always welcomes us into His loving embrace. Romans 10:9 says, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” If you haven’t already received Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour, consider surrendering your life to Him today.

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

Why Canada needs to become a manufacturing superpower

Submitted by Apoorv Sinha

For far too long, Canada has underutilized its vast natural resources in infrastructure development. We have been fine with exporting raw materials, letting other countries, mostly the United States, refine these products and then buying them back as higher value products.

In 2023, Canada exported almost \$150B in raw minerals, while we imported over \$280B manufactured goods from the U.S. alone. Canada's resource-based industry is not that different from that of Ghana or the Ivory Coast, which produce precious raw cocoa, only to have the profits absorbed by Switzerland or France branding the chocolates global customers consume.

From lumber to steel, it's time Canada moves up the value chain — or be left behind in the global economic race.

The tariffs announced by the U.S. will force Canada to confront our dependency on U.S. manufacturing with even more urgency than we reacted to the price increases and inflation caused by import dependencies during the COVID pandemic.

Canada has an existential choice. We need to decide if we want to be like Japan or Taiwan with high-end manufacturing or continue to be just a raw mineral provider for other manufacturers globally.

We constantly buy steel, cement and energy from international parties in-

stead of prioritizing Canadian interdependence, contradicting not just environmental goals, but economic prosperity and growth for other Canadians. Domestic sourcing can offer significant, tangible benefits for Canadians in every province, and for Canada as a whole.

Manufacturing supports 1.7 million direct jobs across Canada and generates CAD \$200B annually. We provide raw materials used across the world for manufacturing high-value products. By using Canadian resources, and upgrading them locally, Canada could supercharge its industrial base and economy.

Quebec produces the world's greenest aluminum (94 per cent hydro-powered), yet only 35 per cent gets value-added processing domestically before export. Canada supplies 30 per cent of global potash but manufactures just 12 per cent of advanced crop nutrition products locally. While leading in raw lumber exports (21 per cent global market share), we import 65 per cent of engineered wood products.

We need an ambitious plan to become a self-reliant manufacturing superpower. Here are some things we can do to take on the most important mission of our generation:

1. Incentivize circular innovation

Rather than just taxing imports, we can incentivize "Made in Canada" products through instruments like

the Canada Growth Fund and the Canada Infrastructure Bank. Expanding tax credits for projects using more than 75 per cent Canadian materials would entice multinational and blue-chip Canadian companies to manufacture in Canada.

We can mandate "Buy Domestic" provisions in all federally funded infrastructure projects exceeding \$10M and accelerate waste-to-resource initiatives like Alberta's Bitumen Beyond Combustion programs.

Prioritizing local sourcing of materials could have profound short- and long-term impacts for Canada.

2. Radically incentivize interprovincial collaboration

We need a focus on overcoming provincial silos. Specifically, we should fast-track the Impact Assessment Act's "One Project, One Review" system for critical mineral mines and associated manufacturing. We should prioritize pan-Canadian supply chain projects and build them as quickly as possible.

We should fast-track the \$9B Atlantic Loop connecting Quebec hydro to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and should seek to rapidly harmonize building codes through the National Research Council to enable use of advanced, domestically sourced materials like Quebec's low-carbon aluminum in BC infrastructure projects.

We should also create federal tax incentives for interprovincial clean



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Apoorv Sinha (Forbes 30 Under 30 All-Star Alumni) is the founder and CEO of Carbon Upcycling Technologies.

energy partnerships and implement "First-Canada" transmission pricing with discounts for domestic users.

3. Future-proof through R&D

We should focus our vast research and development resources on amplifying our domestic supply chains and create a critical mass of manufacturing. The U.S. has begun efforts to onshore critical mineral production and bring semiconductor manufacturing back. Canada needs to do the same.

After the Second World War, Canada demonstrated global leadership through major projects like the St. Lawrence Seaway and Trans-Canada Highway projects. We can do it again.

The U.S. tariffs aren't just a challenge; they're a wake-up call and possibly the defining opportunity for Canada to build strategic independence.

letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor:

news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Shop local – buy Canadian

Shop Local – Buy Canadian written to the left of the local *Stonewall Teulon Tribune* header. All sounds wonderful and advice that we as Canadians should follow.

Tucked inside our same local newspaper are the weekly flyers for our two local grocery stores here in Stonewall which we are all encour-

aged to shop at. After all, we should be shopping locally or Canadian now due to the obvious threats and insults coming from a certain president south of the border.

So as a proud Canadian and a promoter of local businesses, I checked both flyers for Canadian grocery items and this is what I found. One grocer had a huge red maple leaf in the header stating "Support your Local Grocer!" Yay! Upon review of the flyer, I found the following:

Sixty clearly marked Canadian gro-

cery items and 86 clearly marked foreign items.

Countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, China, Spain, Egypt, Morocco, Israel, Chile and of course the U.S.A.

Let's check our other grocery store that proudly promotes itself as "Your Local Grocer":

Fifty-one grocery items clearly marked Canadian, most items did not list where they were a product of, but the foreign items included; Argentina, South Africa and my favourite labelled items stating the

country of origin may or may not be a product of Peru or Mexico, product of Mexico or U.S.A., product of Peru or South Africa. Thus, leaving us, the shoppers, to go on a scavenger hunt to find out which country these items actually come from.

Admittedly not all produce can be grown during the winter months here locally. But I can't help but notice Canada is able to grow most (not all) of the tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce in greenhouses. Not that long ago one of our local grocers even offered Canadian greenhouse strawberries, which were quite delicious.

In closing I do want to thank our local grocers for promoting Canadian products by clearly marking items in-store with our maple leaf and Buy Canadian but challenge them to do better by sourcing and stocking more local and Canadian goods.

- Janice Chase
Stonewall



We believe in cherishing the small moments in life because they make the lasting memories

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Clubroom Events for the Week of March 24
Wednesday 4-10 Chase the Queen Draw at 8:30 Pot is over \$500
Thursday 4-10 Crib at 7pm sharp!
Friday 4-close Meat Draw at 6:30
Saturday 2-close Meat Draw at 3 Dinner at 5:30 Darts at 7
Tickets are available for the Last Saturday Dinner on March 29 -
Dinner will be Spaghetti Bake with Caesar salad and Garlic toast for \$12.50
All are welcome - Support your local legion!

Fishers concerned with province decision to not recommend CEC review of proposed wastewater lagoon

By Patricia Barrett

Lake Winnipeg commercial fishers are concerned about the provincial government's recent decision to forgo a recommendation to have the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) conduct an environmental assessment/hearing of a proposed new wastewater lagoon in the RM of Armstrong.

The Crystal Spring Hutterite Colony had applied to the province for permission to build a domestic wastewater lagoon for its new colony on land a few miles west of Highway 8. Willow Creek flows eastwards through the Crystal Spring property, under Highway 8 and into the Siglavik subdivision (in the RM of Gimli), which has significant coastal wetlands fringing the lake.

At a public hearing held by the RM of Armstrong in 2020 (see Feb. 20, 2020 online edition of the *Express*), representatives from the colony said they want to farm over 15,000 chickens, an unspecified number of cattle and sheep and set up a manufacturing operation to make hog barn parts.

Commercial fisher Bill Buckels and other fishers had written letters to the provincial minister of environment and climate change last December, outlining their concerns about the potential environmental hazards the lagoon could have on fish spawning grounds and the health of Lake Winnipeg.

The province said last week that it won't recommend that the CEC conduct an environmental assessment of the proposed lagoon. The CEC is an arm's-length provincial government agency that conducts public hearings, investigations and mediation, provides the public with an opportunity to play a role in protecting the environment and provides advice to the environment minister.

Buckels said the location of the colony's proposed lagoon is subject to overland flooding and the province should be taking a "precautionary" approach by having an environmental assessment done before it potentially grants a license to the colony for the lagoon.

"One major concern is the fact that roads get flooded at the lagoon location and there's no way to protect the wetlands in the Willow Creek area, nor the swamps nor the fish spawning grounds, which dot the creek and the little tributaries," said Buckels last week. "It's just plain bad policy to allow any kind of high-density development in that area, period. [That land] was never intended for a factory operation. It should have been stopped cold."

In their letter to the minister, the fishers insisted that the proposed lagoon be "halted" pending consultation with all stakeholders including Indigenous groups, local communities, environmental organizations and fisheries experts.

They say there are three major environmental impacts the lagoon's discharge could have on the local aquatic ecosystem and the health of Lake Winnipeg. First, pollutants can kill fish populations in the creek itself, which serves as an "essential spawning and nursery habitat for several fish species." Second, the lagoon might contribute to further nutrient (e.g., phosphate, nitrogen) loading in Lake Winnipeg, which is already under significant environmental stress from agricultural and industrial nutrients that cause algal blooms. Blooms in turn kill aquatic species. And third, the lagoon could cause cumulative effects on the environment from the pollutants it will release.

"Given the already significant stressors on Lake Winnipeg from agricultural runoff, urban development and climate change, it is crucial to take a precautionary approach in assessing any new projects that could contribute further to its ecological decline," wrote Buckels in his Dec. 19 letter to the minister. "The cumulative effects of such developments need to be carefully considered before any approvals are granted."

He urged the minister to conduct a "thorough" environmental impact assessment of the proposed lagoon, including a review of potential impacts on water quality, fish habitat and the "overall health of the Willow Creek watershed."

Buckels said he was given to understand that the RM of Gimli council was going to oppose the development of the lagoon as the municipality has a bylaw, currently, that prohibits waste from entering Gimli from other municipalities. Council noted on a February agenda that it will be reviewing that bylaw.

The *Tribune* asked Gimli council if it's concerned about the potential pollution/destruction of spawning grounds in relation to the proposed lagoon, whether it intends to repeal its bylaw and allow waste from other RMs to be spread on RM of Gimli fields and if it would take legal action should waste flow into the municipality.

"We understand that Manitoba Environment and Climate Change issued a hearing notification decision in relation to the Crystal Spring Colony New Development – Wastewater Lagoon on March 10, 2025," said the



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Winnipeg commercial fisher Bill Buckels had to work in a swirling mass of fecal matter and algae in the Hecla-Grindstone area in 2018. Environmental concerns about waste being discharged into Lake Winnipeg have been ongoing for decades. Fishers are concerned about a new wastewater treatment lagoon that a Hutterite colony wants to build in the RM of Armstrong as Willow Creek runs through the colony's property and waste could compromise fish habitat and residents who live on the lake.

RM's manager of community engagement Christine Payne in a statement on behalf of council. "The RM of Gimli is in the process of reviewing the decision and considering which steps, if any, it intends to take in relation to the decision. Given that this is an ongoing regulatory matter, the RM of Gimli is not in a position to make any further comment at this time."

The *Tribune* asked the provincial government why it's not recommend-

ing a hearing by the Clean Environment Commission regarding the colony's proposed lagoon, whether the government can require the colony to send its waste to the Gimli Wastewater Treatment Plant, what other substances besides human waste will be treated by the lagoon, whether the lagoon is in the process of being constructed, if provincial approvals have already been granted, and how the

Continued on page 10

**Building ERs.
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Manitoba

Stonewall council news in brief

By Jennifer McFee

Buddy bench placement

Stonewall council is sitting on a decision about where to place a park bench.

Several Stonewall residents shared suggestions about the placement of a bench being considered for Archie Gray Park during the March 19 council meeting.

Council has been working with Danica and Abby's Village, an organization that honours the memory of local children Danica DeLaroque and Abby Margetts who lost their lives in separate accidents.

One of the initiatives is to place buddy benches in Manitoba communities, and council is considering putting a bench in the northeast corner of Archie Gray Park. However, some nearby neighbours expressed some concerns with the proposed placement.

Alex and Andrea Martens said the proposed location is 18.5 feet from their back gate. In the past, they've experienced problems when a bench was previously located in the same area.

"The first bench had originally been put there for the seniors by the Lions Manor for them to come there and sit. During the day, we never saw anyone sitting there but at night when it got dark the trouble began. Kids would come to the bench and drink. We would find the odd can or bottle thrown in our backyard. One morning, we found a homemade bong. We also found an empty gas can," Andrea said.

"Because of the noise, the swearing, we couldn't keep our windows open. Our bedrooms are on the back of our house facing the park. I finally contacted Lockie McLean, who was a councillor at the time, and told him what was going on and what we

were finding. The next day the town removed the bench."

She said they don't have any problem with the bench itself, but they hope it could be located elsewhere in the park.

"It's a wonderful donation to the town. It's just the placement," she said. "We could use more benches in the park beside the play area, preferably on the north side under the light. There's no place to sit right there and it would be well used and much appreciated."

The purpose of a buddy bench is to combat loneliness and promote friendship. When a child sits on a buddy bench, it's a signal to others that they would like someone to play with.

Several residents noted that an isolated corner of the park is not the best location for a buddy bench because it wouldn't be easy for other kids to see a child sitting there. Instead, they suggested a better location would be near the play structure where most young kids and families gather.

Mayor Sandra Smith said council would take the comments under consideration.

"We will discuss as a council with our staff and we will let you know," she said.

She also said they would request for the RCMP to conduct occasional spot checks in the park to help mitigate any potential problems.

Before and after school recreation program

Quarry Park manager Kelly Kimball provided an update on the new before and after school recreation program that will soon be offered at Ecole RW Bobby Bend School.

A pilot project will run from May 5 to June 26, with before-school recre-

ation offered in the gym from 6:45 to 8:30 a.m. and after-school care from 3:15 to 6 p.m. No programming will be offered on in-service days or holidays. The program will resume in September on the first day of school.

The program is open to kindergarten to Grade 4 students who attend the school. Currently, there is space for up to 30 participants.

Online registration opened March 24 at <https://app.univerusrec.com/stonewallpub/index.asp>. All registrations and payments are done online, and payments will be taken off credit cards every two weeks.

The daily cost for kids to attend both morning and afternoon sessions is \$20 plus GST. For those who only attend either the morning or the afternoon, the cost will be \$15 plus GST. Half-days will only be offered if space allows. There will be no refunds for illness or last-minute vacations.

"It's looking to be a very promising program," Kimball said. "I think it's definitely something there was a need for."

Recruitment efforts are underway to fill assistant positions for fall programming, and resumes are currently being accepted. For more information or to submit an application, email Ashleym@stonewall.ca.

"There's been a lot of interest and a lot of support for this program, so hopefully this will help parents that are looking for spots," Mayor Sandra Smith said. "It's good that we could do it here."

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- Mayor Sandra Smith said that council should expect a significant school tax increase this year. "This is going to cause a significant impact for us when we are going through our budget because we will have to keep that in mind for the average property owner," she said. "There's definitely more discussion to be had on this."

- Taxervice Inc. manages property tax arrears recovery for the town. The town has appointed vice-president Donna Zinkiew and associate Tyler Burnside as tax sale managers.

- The mayor, deputy mayor and CAO are authorized to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities trade show and conference in Ottawa from May 29 to June 1.

- The town accepted a proposal to install electric vehicle charging stations in five municipal locations across the Interlake region from Bolt Electric for \$95,254.65 plus tax. The costs for this SAMS project is covered by a grant the organization received.

- The Town of Stonewall and Global Homes Ltd. are entering into a revised development agreement. Global Homes amended its subdivision application for the extension of 8th and 9th Avenue South.

- Council accepted a \$2,321 quote from ATS Traffic for fabricating custom aluminum traffic-grade signage to improve wayfinding in the community.

- The town has entered into an agreement with the Manitoba division of the Canadian Corp. of Commissioners for mobile patrol security services.

- The Terry Fox Marathon of Hope will be celebrating its 45th anniversary on April 12. At the request of the Stonewall Terry Fox Committee, council will fly the Terry Fox flag at town hall on April 12. The flag-raising will take place on Friday, April 11 at 2 p.m.

- Stonewall's Quarry Park Spring Break Camp will run from March 31 to April 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$35 per day plus tax or five days for \$150 plus tax. Online registration is available at <https://app.univerusrec.com/stonewallpub/> and more information is available by calling the Heritage Arts Centre at 204-467-7980.

> FISHERS, FROM PG. 9

colony plans to deal with its animal waste.

A provincial spokesperson said the department's director is not recommending to the minister that a public hearing be conducted because the potential environmental impacts from the lagoon are "well understood" and can be "mitigated" through clauses put into an environment licence.

The environmental assessment process had included a public review period, and public input is being considered as part of the assessment and licensing decision.

A Clean Environment Commission is typically recommended by the director of environmental approvals to the minister of environment and climate change when there's "a need

for additional technical review and/or public engagement outside of what already happens during the environmental assessment and licensing process under the *Environment Act*," he said.

The department had received the colony's application to construct and operate the lagoon in August 2023.

When asked if the government can require the colony to send its waste to the Gimli Wastewater Treatment Plant, the spokesperson said the department does not have the "regulatory authority" to compel the colony to connect with the treatment facility in Gimli.

"The domestic wastewater lagoon will treat domestic wastewater, truck wash run-off and abattoir wastewater for colony use only," said the spokes-

person when asked what substances will be treated in the lagoon. "Additional wastewater may come from backwash from the future water treatment plant and possible water collection system infiltration."

All livestock manure and mortalities will be dealt with in accordance with the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation under the *Environment Act*, added the spokesperson.

When asked if construction of the lagoon is underway, the spokesperson said the Environmental Approvals Branch has not made an *Environment Act* licensing decision.

"Construction of the lagoon cannot commence until the licencing decision is made," he said.

RM of Armstrong CAO Colleen

Mayer also confirmed that the lagoon isn't being built at the moment as the colony is awaiting provincial approval. The RM's Reeve Gary Wasylowski said he drove out to the proposed lagoon site on the weekend to confirm that no construction was underway.

Anyone concerned about the impact the colony's proposed lagoon will have on the environment can appeal the minister's decision to not recommend a CEC environmental review. Concerns must be made to the minister in writing by April 9, 2025. Email: minecc@manitoba.ca

Documents related to the lagoon are available on the provincial department of environment and climate change's public registry or by visiting: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/eal/registries/6193/index.html>

Southern Chiefs Organization responds to 2025 Manitoba budget

Submitted by SCO

On Friday, the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) responded to the latest provincial budget, tabled March 20, 2025. The "Building One Manitoba" budget includes a record \$3.7 billion in spending for capital projects, including investments in critical infrastructure that will directly impact several of our Nations and the work of SCO.

"While I understand and even empathize with the provincial government given the current economic strains the Trump administration's tariff threats are putting on their fiscal bottom line, that in no way excuses them from meeting their obligations to the first peoples of this land," stated SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels. "Together we can emerge from this existential threat to the economy of Manitoba. By engaging in respectful and productive dialogue, we can ensure that First Nations are not left behind at this critical time."

The creation of affordable housing continues to be a priority for SCO,

and we are heartened to see a budget line that will see the building of over 600 affordable housing units along with a \$7 million commitment to end chronic homelessness.

SCO also welcomes a \$4 million for the creation of the Health Care Centre of Excellence as part of the redevelopment of Portage Place in downtown Winnipeg.

"Along with our transformative Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgoohn project in the former Hudson's Bay building, this investment will further our promise to revitalize downtown Winnipeg," said Grand Chief Daniels. "First Nations are at the forefront of so many critical projects in Manitoba's capital city, and I am pleased to see our provincial partners recognizing that indisputable fact."

Finance Minister Adrien Sala also revealed that work will now commence on the Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba outlet channels. These projects are long overdue and critical to protecting our impacted Nations from repeated and devastating floods.

"I applaud the province for committing to protecting our Interlake Nations from future catastrophic flooding," added Grand Chief Daniels. "However, I cannot overstate how vital it is to include them in the final consultations and plans for these channels and to listen to them when it comes to the potential impacts these projects could have on fish habitat and water quality. To do anything less can only be seen as a betrayal of trust."

SCO is pleased to see in this budget a commitment to increasing reconciliation within the education system. We are heartened to learn of investments in land-based curriculums and Treaty education, along with bringing in language revitalization and a \$2.2-million annual investment to create an Elders and Knowledge Keepers Program for schools.

As SCO Nations continue to face ongoing safety issues, the investment of \$11.9 million for the Manitoba First Nations Police Service Program and the First Nations Safety Officer Pro-

gram is essential.

SCO also calls on the Kinew government to follow up on important areas of meaningful reconciliation, including investment in First Nation-led economic projects, along with loan guarantee programs and resource-sharing for wind power and resource development.

We will continue to ensure important issues such as Treaty entitlements, consultations on a critical mineral strategy, health, housing, and other fiduciary responsibilities are met by our provincial Treaty partner.

"We are in a unique and potentially remarkable time in our history when it comes to our relationship with the province," concluded Grand Chief Daniels. "Having an Anishinaabe premier who is also the minister responsible for Indigenous reconciliation gives us a direct voice at the table. I am confident that this will result in positive outcomes for our Nations and peoples."

Pothole problem? Nominate a road for the CAA Worst Roads campaign



PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Nominations are open for the CAA Worst Roads campaign. Have your voice heard and nominate the worst road in your community for a chance to win free gas for a year.

By E Antonio

The annual CAA Worst Roads campaign is back, and they are looking for your input in finding Manitoba's worst roads.

From now until April 11, you can nominate a road in your community that is in dire need of improvement.

"We do a lot of research here, and we have learned that 96 per cent of Manitobans are concerned or very concerned with the state of our roads," said Ewald Friesen, manager government relations at CAA Manitoba.

Now in its 14th year, CAA addresses the conditions of roads by releasing a Top 10 list of worst roads, nominated by the public.

Through the campaign, you have the ability to nominate a road in poor condition either as a driver, a cyclist or a pedestrian. If you can use the road, you have the opportunity for your voice to be heard.

Whether it is a plethora of potholes or faulty crossing signals, CAA wants to hear it all.

"We can't change our roadways without your help," said Friesen.

He particularly addressed the concern in rural communities.

"If you cannot access your road, you are going to be in a lot of trouble," he said.

In the previous two campaigns, rural roads were voted as Manitoba's worst roads — 18th Street in Brandon and Highway 74 near Morris both reached the top spot. Within months of the list being re-

leased, the government took action and made commitments to fixing both roads.

"The government is responding to our lists. Every nomination submitted drives home the message to our government leaders: safer roads, better infrastructure and attentive governance matter to us all."

You can nominate the worst road in your community once a day until April 11. Voting takes place at www.caaworstroads.com, and every nomination you cast enters you into a draw to win free gas for a year.

CAA will release the roads with the most nominations in May, where they will also share regional lists to ensure that everyone's voices are heard.



The Independent Order of Oddfellows

Stonewall Oddfellows Open House

April 12 • 374 1st St. West

10:30-12:30 Refreshments and Discussion

Oddfellows Lodge 49 promotes personal and social development, supports many charitable causes and helps those in need

Our principles are friendship, love, truth, faith, hope, charity and universal justice.

Stonewall Lodge 49 helps area organizations and individuals:

- Memorial Eye Foundation, the Afflicted Children's Fund, Food Bank and Youth Scholarships
- Benefits to Stonewall and area through golf tournaments, draws, meals and BBQs, concerts, Lodge rentals and more!

Is Oddfellows is something of interest to you?

Join us! Men and Women welcome!

RSVP to Ross by April 5th to rossthompson@mts.net; 204-467-2438

Proposed regional water project draws mixed opinions

By Jennifer McFee

Some Stonewall residents have taken to the streets to voice their opposition to a proposed regional water treatment project.

The Town of Stonewall and RM of Woodlands are working together on the proposed project, which includes a reverse osmosis water treatment plant as well as new water supply reservoirs in Stonewall and Warren, new supply wells and a water supply pipeline from Stonewall to Warren. The project aims to address aging infrastructure while also preparing for future growth in the communities.

The total estimated cost of the proj-

ect is \$33.16 million, with the majority covered by grants. The municipalities would split the remaining costs. The Town of Stonewall is considering borrowing \$3 million and contributing another \$2.3 million through reserves for a total contribution of \$5.3 million.

Some residents would like to see other options besides reverse osmosis, which is a purification process that removes impurities and hardness from raw water. Several petitions are also circulating around town.

On the flipside, other residents are in favour of the proposed water treatment project.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Residents hold signs while picketing in Stonewall on Thursday, March 21 to protest a proposed regional water treatment project. Some community members are voicing concerns about the use of reverse osmosis and the project's overall cost, while petitions continue to circulate around town.

> 2025 BUDGET, FROM PG. 7

able to 2009.

Midland MLA Lauren Stone, PC critic for finance, added that the budget contains no actions to remove inter-provincial trade barriers, no comprehensive strategy to expand trade and no meaningful relief for Manitobans during these uncertain times.

"At a time when government needs to be making life more affordable, the NDP are hiking taxes across the board, making life more expensive for everyone," Stone said. "Instead of giving back to Manitobans, the NDP are taking more, spending more and giving themselves raises. Our province is going to be poorer for it."

Other reactions to the budget offered mixed reviews.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) welcomed Manitoba's commitment to business growth but suggested more may be needed to help increase business confidence during these turbulent times.

"Small business owners in Manitoba are feeling extremely pessimistic about their future. Ongoing trade uncertainty, rising costs and lack of demand make it nearly impossible to plan for the months ahead," said Tyler Slobogian, CFIB's senior policy analyst for the prairies and the north. "No one knows when the tariff war

will end, and businesses are deeply concerned that the worst is yet to come.

"We are pleased to see the Manitoba government recognize the challenges that small businesses are facing, especially in light of ongoing trade disputes and significant economic uncertainty," Slobogian added. "But further tax cuts may be necessary to promote growth and expansion and to help small businesses remain competitive should we find ourselves in a prolonged trade war."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation criticized the government for hiking taxes by bringing back bracket creep. They pointed out that the government will stop indexing income tax brack-

ets and the basic personal amount by inflation — a sneaky way, they said, of increasing taxes. Because of bracket creep, inflation can automatically bump taxpayers into a higher tax bracket and raise their taxes even though they can't actually afford to buy more because prices have gone up.

"The government shouldn't be punishing taxpayers with a tax hike just for getting a cost-of-living pay raise," said prairie director Gage Haubrich. "Failing to adjust tax brackets to inflation is a stealth tax hike on Manitobans that will increase their tax bills every single year."

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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
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SHOP LOCAL

Alan Campbell elected president of MSBA

By Jennifer McFee

Alan Campbell has been elected as the president of the Manitoba School Boards Association — for the second time.

Campbell served his first term as president from October 2018 to March 2023. After that, he served as past-president from March 2023 to March 2025.

Now he has been elected as president once again for the 2024-2026 term, and he also continues to serve

as president of the Canadian School Boards Association since 2022 and a trustee for the Interlake School Division since 2010.

Campbell said his first term as president was largely monopolized by fighting the former provincial government's attempts to eliminate school boards through Bill 64.

"There is a sense of cautious optimism as we move forward in collaboration with the current provincial government, who has publicly stated

a strong willingness to respect the autonomy of locally elected boards in the spirit of partnership, for the good of our public schools and the communities they serve," he said.

"In a world where there is so much instability right now, school boards are focused on ensuring that local public schools remain a source of safety and stability for all students, staff and families."



Alan Campbell

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CSC goes full '80s with 'Rock of Ages'



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The cast and crew of Collège Stonewall Collegiate's "Rock of Ages" lit up the stage with high-octane energy and '80s flair during four packed performances March 19 to 21. Directed by Kendra Obach and Lindsey Weber, the production brought the Sunset Strip to life with powerful vocals, big hair and even bigger heart.

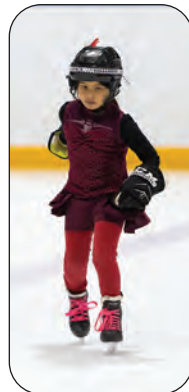
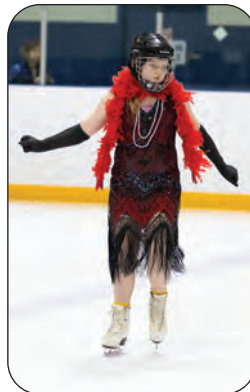


Stonewall Skating Club rolls out the Red Carpet



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Skaters from the Stonewall Skating Club performed during the club's Red Carpet Ready ice show on March 20. The show featured routines by local CanSkate, StarSkate, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Star skaters as well as guest skater Sadie Graetz from Winnipeg and Stony Mountain's Summit Synchro skaters. Presentations were made to the following: Scarlett Dingwall - CanSkater of the Year, Sarah Goodwill - Program Assistant of the Year, Gaia Turner - Senior StarSkater of the Year, Sofia Lavrova - Intermediate StarSkater of the Year and Hayden Young - Junior StarSkater of the Year.



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Five-plex townhomes proposed for Balmoral

By Jennifer McFee

New multifamily housing options could soon be coming to Balmoral.

Rockwood council is considering a rezoning request for a proposed five-unit townhome development on Road 85N at the site of the former general store.

Darren Minaker is the owner and president of Silver Bridge Land Development, which is behind the Balmoral proposal. The company has also developed single-family housing in Warren through a subdivision on Poplar Wood Drive.

The Balmoral property is located within a rural settlement centre. The development company is requesting a zoning change to “rural multi family” from its current zones of “commercial central” and “residential single family.”

The two-storey townhouses would each span 1,475 square feet, featuring three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. The main floor would be



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

A public hearing on April 9 will focus on a rezoning request for a proposed five-plex townhome development in Balmoral.

606 square feet, and the second floor would be 869 square feet. The living/dining room would offer access to a 110-square-foot rear patio. Each unit would also have its own front-facing 281-square-foot single-car garage and

separate entrance.

“Balmoral is a growing community. This would be a welcome addition by providing another housing option,” said Minaker, who is from Rosser.

“This rezoning would allow for much-needed housing in the community.”

The site currently has a garage on it, which would be demolished to make way for the proposed new de-

velopment. Nearby, there are plenty of community amenities for residents to enjoy, including the rec centre and community hall.

The letter of intent for the project states that there would be less traffic in the area with the multifamily housing compared to the previous general store. An entrance and exit off Provincial Road 236 would be created using existing approaches.

In addition, the letter indicates that police and fire protection services were provided when the general store was on the property, so it’s feasible that these services could continue to be offered without an added cost. Connection to utilities would be at the developer’s expense.

The modern five-plex would also follow an eco-friendly approach by incorporating sustainable building materials, energy-efficient systems and water-saving technologies.

“We are confident that this project will be a valuable addition to Balmoral, contributing to the local housing market while respecting the character of the community,” states the letter of intent.

“We look forward to working with the Rural Municipality of Rockwood and SIPD (South Interlake Planning District) throughout the approval and construction process and are committed to creating a high-quality, well-designed townhouse development that will benefit both the residents and the municipality as a whole.”

After the required approvals and permits are in place, construction is expected to take about eight to 10 months to complete.

A public hearing for the requested rezoning will take place on Wednesday, April 9 at 11 a.m. at the RM of Rockwood council chambers.

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Firefighters make quick work of First Street car blaze



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The Stonewall-Rockwood Fire Department responded to a vehicle fire on Thursday on First Street West. The driver started the car, noticed smoke and got out of the vehicle. Nobody was hurt and the cause of the fire is undetermined. The response time was quick since the fire department is right down the street.

Interlake School Division news in brief

By Jennifer McFee

A project at Warren Elementary School aims to ensure accessibility for every child.

The project focuses on designing and creating a nature-themed sensory path, following the completion of a movement room at the school.

The movement room features a safe space where students can meet their specific self-regulation needs and to develop self-regulation skills. As a result, they will be able to return to their classroom ready to learn alongside their peers.

IN OTHER INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION NEWS:

- Bob Boyd, a former principal of Warren Elementary School and long-time teacher in the community, recently passed away.

ly passed away.

- Indigenous education support teacher Kathy Simcoe coordinated treaty education training, helped schools build Indigenous connections and is the point person for grants and initiatives.
- An additional school social worker allows for better service coverage at schools, while also helping families make connections for support.
- Heidi Reeb will be the interim principal at Teulon Elementary School from Sept. 2,

2025, to June 30, 2026.

- Leanne Benson will be the teaching principal at Meadow Lake Colony School starting Sept. 2, 2025.
- Sylvia Evenson will be the teaching principal at Omega Colony School starting Sept. 2, 2025.
- The school board approved long-term borrowing for a promissory note dated March 15, 2025, for \$167,000 for the Collège Stonewall Collegiate boiler project.

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An intergenerational recipe for success

By Jennifer McFee

When mixing two different demographics together in the kitchen, it

seems to be a recipe for success — and the basis for further multi-generational connection.

Let the Professionals Handle Your Taxes – You’ve Got Enough on Your Plate!

It’s that time of year again! The season of tax forms, and that overwhelming feeling of “Did I do this right?” You could spend hours wrestling with complicated deductions, or you could do yourself a favour and let a tax professional handle it. After all, you’re a pro at your job, so why not let the experts be pros at tax filing?

Tax laws change constantly, and while your tax software might offer guidance, it won’t be able to explain the intricacies of your unique situation. Did you get a side gig this year? Maybe you’ve got an investment portfolio that’s grown more complicated than your love life? Whatever the case, a tax professional will find the deductions and credits that could save you money and sanity.

Let’s be real: Tax season is stressful. But you don’t have to face it alone. Hiring a local professional means you get someone who knows the ins and outs of the system and will fight for you. Plus, we all know that the last thing you want is for the CRA to come knocking on your door with questions.

So, put down the calculator and step away from the coffee-fueled tax marathon. Trust a tax expert to get the job done right. Your taxes are important, but your peace of mind is priceless. Let us handle the heavy lifting so you can focus on what really matters: getting back to your life (and maybe a little bit of Netflix)!

Call today to schedule an appointment!



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

South Interlake 55 Plus members Laurie Slater and Karen McLean teamed up with Collège Stonewall Collegiate cooking class students Elizabeth Danis and Nathaniel Christensen to prepare Oreo Sushi.



Left to right: Annika Hildebrand and Yana Biantan mix ingredients for barbecue cheese toast while South Interlake 55 Plus members Barb Symchuk and Flo Bambenek observe.

Students from the foods and nutrition class at Collège Stonewall Collegiate recently had the chance to spend time in the kitchen with volunteers from South Interlake 55 Plus.

Yet the impetus for the initiative stems back further than that. For the past couple years, students in the class have volunteered at the monthly luncheons for 55 Plus.

“The feedback from students and 55 Plus members has always been so positive. With knowing this, I wanted students to build more of a personal connection with older adults in our

community,” said Jocelyn Reimer, the foods and nutrition teacher.

“An after-school program was an idea, but many were not available. During school hours was the only option, and I introduced the idea to other teachers.”

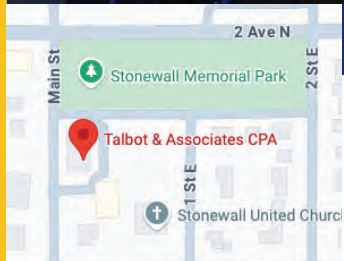
The school’s clothing and textiles teacher Holly McAuley and art teacher Julia Dennis were open to this opportunity.

“We met with 55 Plus in December and proposed possible activities from



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Men's Shed MB hopes to come to a community near you

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A program designed to give men a welcoming space to gather to share skills, learn and support one another is hoping to come to a community near you.

Men's Sheds Manitoba already has branches in Winnipeg, Beausejour, Howden, Minnedosa, Neepawa and Dauphin, and they're hoping to see even more community hubs pop up across the province.

"We are looking to grow," says Fred Bobrowski, provincial chair of the organization.

A Men's Shed is a group of men who come together on a regular basis to enjoy a range of activities.

"It's a casual place for men to connect and socialize and get together to work on projects that benefit themselves and the community," explains Bobrowski.

Some sheds revolve around wood or metalworking, others gardening, technology, card games or any other interest (or multiple interests) that resonate with the group.

Bobrowski's group in Winnipeg started out making walking sticks and canes, though the activity itself is really secondary to the camaraderie.

"Any sort of thing where guys are sitting shoulder to shoulder doing their stuff and talking," he says. "It's a bottoms-up organization. It's what-

ever the guys want with respect to the activities."

Educational workshops and presentations are a staple of many Men's Sheds, welcoming guest speakers on a host of topics, including health, finances and technology. Many also partner with local non-profits to tackle community projects.

"The aspect of giving back is key," says Bobrowski. "When we know we're helping our community. We really feel that sense of purpose that can be lost after retirement."

Bobrowski's involvement with the program began several years ago when he was a member of the Transcona Council for Seniors.

The council welcomed Doug Mackey, the man who brought Men's Sheds to Canada in the early 2000s, as a guest speaker. By that point, Men's Sheds, which began in Australia in the '90s, had spread to more than 15 countries around the world. Today there are 150 sheds in Canada alone.

"He came and talked to a few men in our community about it and it really struck a nerve with me," Bobrowski recalls. "I know that there are many men who, when they retire, don't plan for it, or it may come unexpectedly to them. So they have too much time on their hands and not enough things to do."

Men's Sheds give guys a place to get



SUPPLIED PHOTO

There are 10 Men's Shed groups across Manitoba right now, providing a welcoming space for men to come together to share skills, tackle projects and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat.

out of the house and together with other men of all ages (though seniors make up the bulk of the membership, sheds are not exclusive to that age group — any male 18+ is welcome to get involved).

"Being part of a shed provides a vital sense of belonging," says Bobrowski. "We often hear from shed members how their shed community has helped them feel valued, supported and less lonely."

Anyone can start up a Men's Shed chapter — you'll just need to recruit a few members and find an affordable space in which to meet.

Men's Sheds Manitoba and Men's Sheds Canada have support for new sheds by way of startup funds and

advice on how to get a one up and running successfully.

Bobrowski urges anyone interested in the idea to reach out to learn more.

"I think the impact you'll find of Men's Sheds to the men and to their families and by default to the community is probably quite profound," he says. "Friendships are made, skills are taught, skills are learned, and guys have a place to come that's safe, non-judgmental. Everyone's accepted."

For more information on starting a Men's Shed in your community, head to mensshedmanitoba.ca or mensshedsCanada.ca or send an email to mensshedmanitoba@gmail.com.

GROW OUR OWN SCHOLARSHIP

for all Interlake Grade 12 High School Students

At Vidir, a core value is to Raise Others Up. We are actively involved in our local communities in the Interlake and believe strongly in the talent that comes out of the area. Vidir is now offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one Interlake grade 12 student who is pursuing post secondary education. Included with the scholarship is also an offer of one summer of employment to shadow in their prospective career, with the opportunity to possibly do more summers in the future.

Application deadline is April 30th, 2025 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2025.

To apply, you must meet these criteria:

1. You are an Interlake high school student graduating grade 12 and going into a Vidir-specific post-secondary area of study (examples include welding, engineering, machining, accounting, business, marketing, HR, etc.).
2. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

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When applying:

1. Fill out the scholarship application.
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3. Submit a recommendation letter from a non family member regarding what you want to study and why you will do well in it.
4. Submit 2 essays:
 - 1st essay: 500 words on why you love the Interlake and your chosen career path and how you think you will make a difference in the Interlake in the future.
 - 2nd essay: 500 words on either an innovation, safety measure, or community service or activity that you feel would benefit the Interlake and how you would propose making that happen.

VIDIR HERO SCHOLARSHIP

for all Vidir Employees' Children in Grade 12

A core value at Vidir is that Education Elevates Excellence. We also believe in Raising Others Up, especially our employees and their families. We want to see the future generation continue to learn and elevate both the Interlake and the world. Vidir is now offering two \$1,000 scholarships to children of Vidir employees.

Application deadline is April 30th, 2025 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2025.

To apply, you must meet these criteria:

1. Your parent must have worked at Vidir for 5 years or more and must be in good standing with the company.
2. You are graduating grade 12 this year in any high school.
3. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

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 - 1st essay: 600 words on a Vidir value, why you think you exemplify it, and how you hope to use your studies and that value to make a difference in the future.
 - 2nd essay: 500 words on a time where you saw a need in your community and an innovative solution you came up with to meet that need.



Rock solid fundraiser to end global hunger March 29

By E Antonio

Mark your calendars for March 29 at 7 p.m. and come to the Ecco Choir Rock Solid Fundraiser at Stonewall's New Life Church. This event aims to address one of the most pressing issues facing our world today — global hunger.

This is an opportunity to hear inspiring stories from Dan and Hertha Penner, two Manitoban farmers who dedicated their time to teaching sustainable farming practices in Africa. Their efforts are part of the Rock Solid Growing Project, which has already contributed over \$100,000 to the Canada Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

"It is not just about giving people in Third World countries to feed themselves; it is about teaching people how to feed themselves," said Andrew Harris, one of Stonewall's three farmers who are involved in the Rock Solid Growing Project for CFGB.

Harris works alongside Nick Matheson and Nathan Tollenaar, who all volunteer their time, equipment and resources to maintain and sell a crop. Once the crop has been harvested, they donate 100 per cent of the proceeds to CGFB.

CFGB is a nationwide initiative that works with communities in third world countries to combat the food insecurity crisis. In membership with 15 different church organizations, proceeds are put towards creating, improving and maintaining sustainable farms that can assist in generating income for impoverished communities. Certain funds are also created to supply emergency food assistance and food rations.

Dale Friesen, Manitoba's spokes-

person from CFGB, explained in their last fiscal year, 123 different CFGB projects supported 35 different countries, totalling \$18.8-million worth of donations.

"Canadians are working together to end world hunger. Hunger issues are on the rise around the world, and these are real people with real needs that we are helping," said Friesen.

He advocates for community involvement, addressing the matter that we all are working towards one common goal of ending the hunger crisis.

"Through each project's support, this is a whole community saying this is unacceptable."

The Rock Solid Growing Project specifically donates to the Tearfund within the CFGB. This fund

Targets food insecurity by training farmers to offer low-cost, resilient farming practices.

The trio of farmers are looking to



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Stonewall farmers (left to right) Nathan Tollenaar, Andrew Harris and Nick Matheson are hosting a Rock Solid Project fundraiser at New Life Church on March 29 in support of Canada Foodgrains Bank.



The Ecco Singers will perform at the Rock Solid Fundraiser, creating a 20-minute musical program.

raise \$7,000 at their first fundraiser on March 29 to help cover costs for the upcoming growing season. This includes seeds, maintenance supplies and other farming equipment. At the event, the Penner's will share how they witnessed first-hand the impacts created by the CFGB. The pair visited Malawi, Africa in November 2023, and engaged in a learning tour with CFGB. They will share their experience, and the importance of CFGB's contributions to third world countries.

Locally, Harris, Matheson and Tollenaar rent 45 acres of land located a half mile south of Stonewall, where they plant, maintain and harvest a crop to sell and donate its proceeds.

Their project first began in 2019 north of Balmoral but later relocated to their current Stonewall location in 2021.

"We have the experience and expertise to make an impact, so we all figured it was a good way to give back to the community," Harris explained.

All proceeds are donated to the CFGB, and the federal government matches the donations 4:1 up to \$25 million.

Matheson noted the federal government's commitment as "remarkable" and condones their dedication.

You can kick-off the growing season

by showing your support for the Rock Solid Growing Project with their fundraiser at the New Life Church, 6106E Highway 67 on March 29. The event is free to attend, and cash and cheque donations will be accepted throughout the evening. Entertainment from the Ecco Choir and light refreshments will also be provided for all patrons.

Entertainment will be provided by the Ecco Singers, a Winnipeg-based community choir that bonds over their admiration of music. They strive to use music as a way to advocate for change and frequently are invited to perform at fundraisers.

Twelve of their singers will perform at the Rock Solid Fundraiser, creating a 20-minute musical program.

"Some pieces the audience will know and others that will be new," said Ecco Singers artistic director Roberta Velarde, who was born and raised in Stonewall and is Matheson's sister. She is looking forward to performing in Stonewall, as several members of the choir are from the area.

"It is a nice opportunity to showcase and celebrate Stonewall with our singers, and showcase the talents of the local singers at home."

For more information, or to get involved with the CGFB, you can contact Dale Friesen at DFriesen@foodgrainsbank.ca.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Wildcats reach the promised land one year after heartbreak

By Kieran Reimer

It was mission accomplished at the 2024-2025 Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial "AA" Girls Basketball Championship for the Warren Wildcats Varsity Girls who were eyeing redemption at provincials.

With six members of last year's finalist squad, the Wildcats did just that with a 52-36 championship win over the Souris Sabres at Hapnot Collegiate in Flin Flon on March 22.

After losing out in the final last year, the Wildcats set out to win the provincial championship from the start of the season.

The Wildcats started the provincial tournament with an 86-37 win over the Teulon Saints in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

They moved on to play Glenboro/Carberry/Baldur (Co-Op) Panthers who gave them their biggest challenge in the semi-finals on Friday.

After trailing 28-24 at the half, the Wildcats scored 31 points in the second half to win 55-45.

The Wildcats then clashed with the Souris Sabres in the provincial final on



Mia Cassils, left, and Lauren Voth, right, were both named MHSAA provincial all-stars while Colby Darragh was named MHSAA provincial MVP.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY MONICA BALDWIN

The Warren Wildcats are the 2024-2025 Manitoba High School Athletic Association Provincial 'AA' Girls Basketball champions. Pictured left to right, back row: Candace Procter (coach), Jady Baldwin, Leia Theroux, Thalissa Lavallee-Thang, Samie Boonstra, Mia Cassils, Colby Darragh, Lauren Voth and Jason Darragh (coach); front row: Danika Shaver, Blake Darragh, Keira Schutz and Avery Langrell.

Saturday. With the title and redemption on the line, the Wildcats claimed victory and earned a provincial banner that now hangs in the entrance at Warren Collegiate.

"They were very excited, they were very determined," head coach Jason Darragh told the *Tribune* on Monday. "The semi-final wasn't easy; we were trailing at the half by four, it was 28-24, but they never lost the belief that they could get the job done," he said. "That was kind of my message at the

half; we have lots of firepower on our team. Usually, we score lots of points, and it's not a typical half for us to score 24, so we made some adjustments at the half, and the adjustments paid off. We had a really good third

quarter where we took the lead and never looked back."

Darragh grew trust in his entire roster this season through many high-

Continued on page 22

ISD Jr. high school curling banner champions



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ecole Stonewall Centennial School students excelled at the 2024-2025 Interlake Divisional Junior High Curling Championships held at the Stonewall Curling Club on March 18. In the finals, the Junior Girls team defeated Teulon with a score of 6-4, the Mixed team won against Argyle 6-5, and the Boys team triumphed over Grosse Isle 7-2. Notably, the Junior Girls team achieved an impressive eight ender against Stony Mountain, marking a perfect score in a single end of curling. Such an accomplishment is extremely rare at any level, and the team will receive recognition from Curl Canada for their feat. Left photo, left to right: Jr. Girls team, Devynn Van Hussen, Morgan Conrad, Kalli Missiabit and Eva Learmond. Middle photo: Jr. Mixed team, Anton Sowa, Cooper Dickey, Holly Fitzpatrick and Teagan Precourt. Right photo: Jr. Boys team, Quinn Nugent (alternate), Thomas Moffat, Radek Fingas, Malachi Nugent and Lukas Goldstein.

Stonewall skaters win provincial gold, silver and bronze medals

By Annaliese Meier

The Stonewall Skating Club skaters had a very successful weekend at the Skate Manitoba Provincial Championship in Portage la Prairie from March 7 to 9. Cameron Nesbitt - Star 5 O13 Freeskate: gold; Gaia Turner - Star 5 U13 Freeskate: gold; Anna Hoff - Star 4 O13 Freeskate: bronze and Lacey Learning - Star 4 U13 Freeskate: silver.

Meet our provincial medallists:

Anna Hoff, 14, from Stonewall, has been skating for 11 years. At the recent provincial competition, the highlight for her was performing her first Star 5 Artistic solo — an original program choreographed by her coach, Leigh Nesbitt. Together, they focused on making it expressive and connected to the music, even incorporating a new element: the pike spin, which Anna landed successfully in competition.

She trains on ice two to three times a week and does off-ice workouts every few days, focusing on strength, flexibility and jumps using a spinner. Anna is especially proud of her progress on her combo-spin and double salchow.

Current goals: Pass Star 6 skills, Star 4/5 freeskate, and land her double salchow by season's end.

Outside of skating, Anna plays piano and trombone, plays club volleyball (U14 Interlake Ice), participates in school sports and enjoys reading, staying active and spending time with

friends. She's grateful for the support of her coaches, teammates, family and skating community.

Gaia Turner, almost 13, began figure skating in 2021 and quickly found her passion. She trains three to four times a week for singles and one to two times a week with her synchro team, Summit Synchro in Stony Mountain. She also practises in Stonewall, East St. Paul, and Stony Mountain. Gaia loves jump practice — especially axels and doubles — and works closely with her longtime coach, Kee-sha McCutcheon, who has guided her since day one.

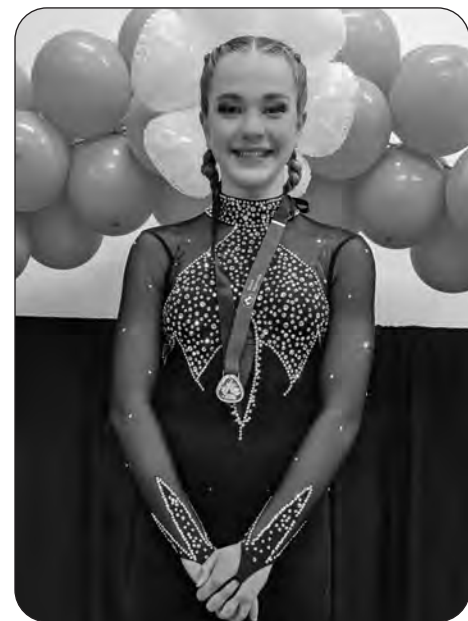
This season, Gaia competed in all the Manitoba events, moving into STAR 5 in December. Her scores steadily improved with each competition, and she proudly earned gold and the Provincial Title for STAR 5 U13 at Provincials.

Gaia is also a CanSkate program assistant and enjoys helping younger skaters. She's active in cross-country and track and field, and also crochets gifts to share or sell at craft markets. She volunteers at her local Anglican church and loves the excitement, creativity and community that skating brings — especially competition weekends!

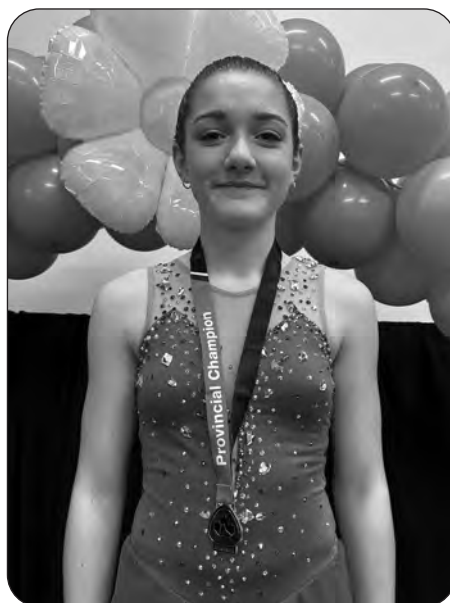
Lacey Learning, 13, first tried skating at age four with her mom but didn't start lessons until she was 10. A year later, she joined the STARSkate program and now skates four days



Cameron Nesbitt



Lacey Learning



Gaia Turner



Anna Hoff

> WILDCATS, FROM PG. 21

stakes tournament games and said they all contributed to the provincial championship victory. Each player on the team saw floor time, which can be rare for a championship game.

At provincials, grade 12 students Mia Cassils, Lauren Voth, Colby Darragh, and Avery Langrell led the way.

Colby was Warren's leading scorer at provincials, averaging 27 points per game, and was named Tournament MVP. Cassils and Voth were both named Tournament All-Stars.

Cassils was named Game Star in both the quarterfinal and final games, and Langrell was named Game Star in the semi-final game.

"They were huge," said the Wildcats' coach. "Mia's presence down low was really important for us and gave us a bit of an inside game which we needed, especially in that semi-final," he explained. "The outside shooting from Lauren (Voth) and Colby (Darragh) and Avery Langrell really helped. Our outside shooting and our combination of inside play along

with Jadyn Baldwin and Samie Boonstra underneath, like rebounding," he said. "It really came down to, in that Glenboro game, our six older girls that were in that final last year, their experience, drawing on that and the six of them really outworking Glenboro in the second half. It was really fun to watch how they were understanding the game, reading the other team's defence, breaking it down, and then attacking on offence. It really took all six of them in that game against Glenboro."

Darragh said that the five girls on the bench were so positive and cheered on their teammates. Every player on the team got into the game in the provincial final, so they all contributed to the championship win against Souris.

The Wildcats will have four players eligible to return next season, while seven players will be graduating.

Their provincial championship banner will eventually be moved to be hung in the gym at WCI.

a week, including with Summit Synchro out of the Stony Mountain Skating Club. She's also a CanSkate program assistant, helping younger skaters build confidence on the ice.

At Provincials, Lacey earned silver in STAR 4 Freeskate, silver in STAR 3 Elements and bronze with her synchro team. She also debuted her new STAR 5 Artistic program. Leading up to events, she trains with her coach Leigh, working on higher-level elements and routines. "Clear ice" sessions help her focus, and she often seeks extra practice at other rinks.

Outside of skating, Lacey enjoys swimming, track and field (especially sprints and jumps), reading, sewing and babysitting. Born in Halifax, she's lived in Ontario and moved to Stonewall in 2020. She loves the energy of competitions and the support of her teammates and coach.

Cameron Nesbitt skates year-round, training in Stonewall and East St. Paul across multiple disciplines —

skills, dance, freeskate, synchro and artistic. Her favourites are dance and artistic, and she trains hard by running each of her programs twice per session to build endurance and muscle memory. She also takes advantage of early morning ice and seminars — learning from legends like Jeffrey Buttle and Kurt Browning.

At Provincials, Cameron was at the rink from early morning to late evening. Her competition routine includes warming up, checking in with her coach and preparing mentally to perform. She competes in events like Freeskate and Artistic and loves the energy of performing in front of a crowd. She uses her "report card" to set goals and track progress.

Her club is close-knit and supportive — they even made duck-themed clothespins with positive messages to surprise other skaters. For Cameron, competitions are about more than medals — they're about pushing her own limits, connecting with others, and sharing joy through skating.

Firebirds in playoff spot with Laxdal at the helm

By Kieran Reimer

Fans of the American Hockey League's Coachella Valley Firebirds have enjoyed a remarkable start to the franchise's existence over the past two and a half seasons.

As the AHL affiliate of the Seattle Kraken, the Firebirds reached the finals in both of their first two seasons and have continued their success during the current 2024-25 season.

This season, the Firebirds are under new leadership with Stonewall's Derek Laxdal, who was appointed as the second head coach in the franchise's history last summer.

As of March 20, the team holds a record of 32-21-2-5, placing them third in the Pacific Division.

Laxdal, 59, previously coached the Oshawa Generals to an appearance in the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series and earned the OHL's Matt Leyden Trophy for Coach of the Year. He succeeded Dan Bylsma, the former head coach, who set an incredibly high standard during the team's initial two campaigns.

Despite these expectations, Laxdal has made an impressive start in continuing the Firebirds' tradition of fielding a competitive team. Notably, the Firebirds are also one of the youngest squads in the league, with an average age of 24.38.

"If you look at our team, knock on wood, we've had a really good season," said Laxdal on Thursday. "The organization is very happy where we are obviously with a group of young kids. But the area here doesn't have a great understanding of where we are, so they expect you to win every game so at the end of the day we know as a staff it's all about development. The best way for these kids to develop is to win, so there's a fine line there when we're doing this."

Laxdal has significant experience in developing young players with NHL potential, having coached at various levels across North America, including juniors, the East Coast Hockey League, and the NHL.

Before joining the Firebirds, he served as the head coach of the Texas Stars in the AHL from 2014 until midway through the 2019-20 season when he was promoted to assistant coach of the Dallas Stars in the NHL, remaining there until the end of the 2021-22 season.

"One thing I've noticed from coaching Texas in the AHL to now is the emphasis on development of what you have available at your hands with development coaches," said Laxdal.

He explained that he has adapted their practice structure: the first 15 minutes are dedicated to skill de-



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Derek Laxdal, who grew up in Stonewall, is head coach of the Coachella Valley Firebirds, AHL affiliate of the Seattle Kraken.

velopment relevant to the game for either forwards or defence. He then aims to integrate these skills into their practice to prepare for games.

"It's a little bit more of an emphasis on development, trying to get these kids ready to play for the NHL and trying to give them the best opportunity to take that step," said Laxdal.

Among the young prospects on the active roster, 14 players were born

between 2000 and 2005. Key names include forwards Eduard Sale (20th overall in 2023) and Jagger Firkus (35th overall in 2022), as well as defenceman Ty Nelson (68th overall in 2022), all of whom were playing junior hockey just last year.

Another notable player, 2022 Seattle

Continued on page 25

Stonewall Blues win Hockey Winnipeg championship

By Annaliese Meier

The Stonewall Blues hockey team has been crowned the Hockey Winnipeg 'A2' U11 Female City Champions for the 2024-25 season after defeating the Rockets in a best-of-three series.

After a challenging season, the girls persevered and earned the championship banner. The team, consisting of 18 talented young ladies, worked diligently in both practices and games.

The season started off on a rough note with a losing record at the halfway point. However, the Blues turned things around following the mid-season realignment. They finished first in the second half of the regular season and entered the playoffs as the top seed. The team won all four of their round-robin games, which granted them a bye to the finals.

Game 1 was a nail-biter against the Rockets. The Blues found themselves trailing 4-1 going into the third period but rallied to score three goals, tying the game just before the buzzer. In overtime, they played for over nine minutes until Harper Farthing scored the winning goal.

Unfortunately, the Blues fell short with a 2-1 loss in Game 2 last Thursday. However, this past Saturday, the Blues faced the Rockets for the third and final time, winning the championship game 5-3.

The atmosphere was electric, with fans waving blue and yellow posters, using noisemakers, and banging drums. The girls started strong with a goal from Johnson just two minutes into the game, giving them an early lead. Shortly after, the Rockets responded with two goals in quick succession. The Blues tied the game 2-2 when Johnson scored again during a power play.

As the third period began, the girls were reminded to continue to play with passion. They fought hard throughout the final period, with Katie Marohn taking a tripping penalty that halted a potential Rockets break-away. The Blues successfully killed off the penalty, with the "Stone Wall" Walton making crucial saves. During the penalty kill, Farthing scored a shorthanded goal, followed by another goal that brought the Blues to a



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hockey Winnipeg A2 U11 Female City Champions 2024-25, left to right, front row: Natalie Peleshaty, Lily Fung, Olivia Tucker, Peyton Marohn, Harper Farthing, Eva Coutu, Emery Johnson, Jorja Gervin, Odea Hogg, Paisley Erickson, and in front, Bay "Stone Wall" Walton; middle row: Katie Marohn, Hannah Corrigan, Danika Robinson, Emma Fingas-Green, Abigail Donovan, Scarlett Campbell; back row: coaches Jim Campbell, Lance Marohn, Scott Marohn and Nicole Hutchinson. Missing from the photo: Ava Yurick, manager Kaitlyn Yurick and assistant coach Scott Yurick.

4-2 lead. Farthing completed her hat trick with an empty-net goal with 2.5 minutes remaining. The Rockets man-

aged to score once more, but it wasn't enough, as time ran out. The Blues claimed the victory.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Father and son bowling duo team, provincial bound

By Kieran Reimer

Qualifying for the Manitoba 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Provincial Doubles was not initially on the radar for the Derkach father-son bowling duo.

Dennis, 67, and Christopher, 42, were among the last teams to register for the Winnipeg 5 Pin Bowlers Association Doubles Zone Round Tournament held on March 19 at Quarry Lanes.

After making the spontaneous decision to compete, the Derkachs finished in second place at the tournament. This top-four finish earned them a spot at the provincials in Brandon in April.

"It was actually a last minute decision," said Dennis Derkach, who also works at Quarry Lanes.

"I called my son up because I work here I came and saw what was going on and there was a couple openings that were left and I thought 'hey, maybe I could represent Quarry Lanes and Stonewall.' I called my son and said 'do you want to bowl in the league with me?' This was a doubles tournament, and we ended up placing second."

The zone tournament was also the first time they had entered a tournament together, although both have years of bowling experience.

Dennis has been bowling for the past 30 years and is a former Youth Bowl Canada coach.



Christopher Derkach, left, Dennis Derkach.

Christopher, on the other hand, grew up in Stonewall, bowled with YBC and reached finals as a teenager. He currently lives in Winnipeg, where he bowls in a league on Tuesday evenings.

Now, after finally teaming up for doubles, the duo is savoring the special experience of chasing provincial glory.

"This means the father and son team is entered and I get to spend, I guess



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Derkach father-son duo were one of the final teams to register for the Winnipeg 5 Pin Bowlers Association Doubles Zone Round Tournament on March 19 at Quarry Lanes. They went on to place second and with the top four finish earned a spot at the Manitoba 5 Pin Bowlers' Association Provincial Doubles on April 6 at T-Bird Food Fun Games in Brandon.

a moment in a father and son's life, to go to a provincials, to see if we can win," said Dennis Derkach.

Also qualifying at the zones were Travis Manek and Brittney Anderson, who finished first; Victoria Ungerer and Tiana Ungerer, who finished

third; and Shelley Hargus and Cassandra Parisia, who finished fourth.

The provincials will take place on April 6 at T-Bird Food Fun Games in Brandon.

Junior curling season wraps up in Marquette



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

This season, junior curlers sharpened their skills weekly at the Marquette Curling Club. Friday evenings, young curlers aged 5-12 took to the ice while Sundays older teens aged 13-17 worked on their techniques. Thirty-two eager junior curlers from surrounding clubs joined Marquette 5- to 12-year-old curlers for a mini bonspiel on March 22. They signed up individually, and teams were made up to play three four-end games that tested their strategies and teamwork. In the finals, Jase Campbell led his team to victory against his sister Jessa's squad. Jessa Campbell won the sharp shooter competition, proving that sibling rivalry can spark excellence on the ice.

Left photo, left to right: first place team, Arya Genovey, Jase Campbell, Jack Bennet and Addi Park; middle photo, the second place team, Emmett Walsh, Jessa Campbell, Blake Tully and Mackenzie Prevost; right photo, Jessa Campbell receives the Sharp Shooter trophy from Krysta Prevost, Youth and Junior Curling coordinator. Bottom left, Friday evening curlers (aged 5-12); right, Sunday evening curlers (aged 13-17).

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Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

> FIREBIRDS, FROM PG. 23

second-round draft pick Jani Nyman, led the Firebirds with 26 goals this season before being called up to the Kraken earlier in March. Nyman made an impressive NHL debut, scoring his first goal as Seattle defeated the Montreal Canadiens 5-4 in overtime on March 12. He has since recorded two goals in five games with the Kraken.

“If you look at the group of young kids, Eduard Sale is 19, he still could’ve went back for another year of junior,” said Laxdal. “Because he’s a European and is drafted out of the Swedish League at 17, he’s able to play down here, but you can really see this is a huge transition for him from junior hockey to the American League. All these young kids have peaks and valleys in their seasons and in their games. If you look at Jagger Firkus, here’s a scorer whose probably scored at will in the Western Hockey League but when these guys take steps to the pro game, they go through a lot of adversity.”

They need to learn to get bigger, stronger, and faster; these are crucial developmental years for them.

“Ty Nelson, who I coached against in the OHL last year, he’s probably been one of the first year prospects. I think he’s played every game and he’s taken some very good steps, but then he has moments in his game, so a lot of these prospects that we have are probably going to be two or three year AHL players before, or if they do make that step to the NHL.”

The Firebirds’ regular season will continue with less than a month remaining.

They are scheduled to conclude their 72-game season in San Diego on April 19.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Prairie Fire edges Blazing Stars in WWHL thriller



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY TIM HORTON

The Prairie Fire clinched the Winnipeg Women’s Hockey League provincial championship banner after defeating the Blazing Stars 3-2 in a close game at Dakota Arena on March 16. Pictured left to right, back row: Maggie Litchfield-Medd, Allison Sexton, Amanda Klassen, Jenelle Kohanchuk, Brenley Anderson, Olivia Cvar, Madi Cole, Nicole McGlenen; Front row: Jordy Zacharias, Emily Meronyk, Amanda Schubert, Cass and baby Lennon Taylor, Jess Horton, Kyleigh Palmer, Nicole Carswell and goaltender Rachel Dyck.

Big Stick Bonspiel in Marquette



Alvin MacMillan

TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Marquette Curling Club hosted its annual Big Stick Curling Bonspiel from March 14 to 16. A total of 44 teams participated in the weekend event, which continued into the early hours of the morning to ensure all games were completed. On Friday night, Pizza Hut in Stonewall generously provided pizza for the curlers, and on Saturday evening, volunteers prepared a delicious roast beef dinner for everyone. Before the finals, 93-year-old local stick curler Alvin MacMillan threw a ceremonial rock and happily shared many of his curling secrets with those interested in improving their game. Pictured clockwise from left to right: 1st event winners Rick Willets and Larry Weatherburn; 2nd event winners Judy and Bill Kitching; 3rd event winners Riley and Craig Nichol; Alvin MacMillan and 4th event winners Ken Clifford and Andre Allard.

Ste. Anne Aces win third SEMHL championship

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Ste. Anne Aces are the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League champions.

Ste. Anne downed the Springfield Winterhawks 6-5 in overtime Sunday afternoon to take the series four games to three.

The Aces and the Winterhawks finished the regular season at the top of the standings — Ste. Anne in first

with a 16-2 record and Springfield right on their heels in second with 14 wins, four losses to their names.

The championship series was a back and forth affair, Ste. Anne taking games one and two 5-2 and 4-3 and then Springfield clawing its way back into it with wins in games four and five 6-4 and 3-1.

Game 5 on March 19 needed overtime for a decision, tied at 4-4 after

regulation. The winning goal gave Springfield the series lead 3-2, but Ste. Anne tied it back up again with an 8-6 victory Friday night.

That set the stage for Game 7 Sunday in Ste. Anne. The score was tied 1-1 after 20 minutes. Springfield pulled ahead 4-3 after 40.

The lead was short-lived, with the Aces' Caleb Paisley scoring in the third period's second minute. The

scoreboard remained steady for several minutes after that, until Springfield's Riley Thomsen lit it up at 14:16 to retake the lead. Four minutes later, Brenden Walker scored for Ste. Anne, forcing overtime.

There, Cody Fowlie managed the game-winner for the Aces two minutes in, giving Ste. Anne their third league championship in a row.

Yes I Can program open for nominations

By Lorne Stelmach

An annual initiative of the Nellie McClung Foundation that aims to inspire confidence and empowerment among girls is again in search of candidates to support.

The Yes I Can program highlights and celebrates achievements and accomplishments in a variety of fields like science, business, politics and more. Nominations are open until April 30.

As one of the 2022 recipients, Divya Sharma is a testament to the impact it can have on a young woman like herself.

"The Nellie McClung Yes I Can video and leadership series strengthened my belief in the power of women empowering women," she shared. "It opened doors, connected me with inspiring leaders in the community and gave me the confidence to lead on a

bigger stage.

"The mentorship, support and connection I received with women from all walks of life played a major role in shaping my path to becoming the youngest and 100th president of the University of Manitoba students' union."

The Yes I Can leadership awards celebrate five outstanding young women aged 16 to 25 by showcasing their achievements in a video profile series

It provides a platform to share their unique personal and professional stories and celebrate their journey toward becoming future leaders.

Now in its fourth year, the program has featured remarkable women who have excelled in areas including sports, culture, education, arts, science, community, entrepreneurship and other professional environments.

Their compelling narratives, cap-

tured on video, have not only celebrated personal success but also inspired countless girls across Manitoba to pursue their dreams with confidence, said Myrna Driedger, founder of the Nellie McClung Foundation and Yes I Can program.

"Programs like Yes I Can are essential in helping girls confidently navigate the challenges of their teen years," said Driedger, who emphasized the transformative impact of the program. "By showcasing these stories, we empower girls and young women to embrace their potential and confidently become leaders at any age."

Ibukun Okunnu, who is a spokesperson for the program, said being part of it has given her an incredible opportunity not only to inspire young women and girls but also to be inspired by them.

"Year after year, I am in awe of the remarkable young women in Manitoba who are quietly paving the way for themselves and others," she said.

"I have grown in ways I never imagined — learning to be confident, to turn my ideas into action and to embrace the power of saying Yes I Can. This mindset has made me bolder, more daring and more confident, and I hope that through this program, even more young women and girls will feel empowered to embrace their own potential"

For more information and to submit nominations, head online to www.nelliemcclungfoundation.com/nomination-form.

> RECIPE FOR SUCCESS, FROM PG. 18

each of our classes that will have students interacting with seniors," Reimer said.

The idea was well received, so students from different classes will have the chance to meet up with members from 55 Plus for various different activities.

The first cooking session took place on March 6 when a member of 55 Plus shared a tasty recipe for oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. Five members of 55 Plus volunteered with 20 students from the Grade 9 foods and nutrition class. The recipe also stirred up a sense of nostalgia since the 55 Plus member enjoyed baking the same cookies with her own grandkids.

Then the second cooking session took place on March 13 when four

55 Plus members volunteered with 14 students from the Grade 12 foods and nutrition class. The Grade 12s opted for a "trendy" menu of Oreo sushi, couscous salad, baked feta pasta, blueberry cookies and barbecued French bread pizza.

Besides the tasty foods, the program brings with it many other benefits.

"Older adults bring such a wealth of life experiences, wisdom and skills that our younger generations can learn from. The younger generation can share their knowledge of technology, trends and new ways of thinking," Reimer said.

"It will also build more community bonds and a supportive environment. Our teens will develop more positive attitudes toward ag-

ing when they see older adults as valued members of the community. I hope this program creates lasting relationships between generations. I would like to see the intergenerational program expand and involve more classes in building connections."

Diane Kazmerowich, program coordinator at 55 Plus, said the collaboration between the students and seniors offers a unique way to share stories, participate in activities, enjoy events and build relationships.

"For two weeks, we'll go to the family studies class and we're going to be talking about ageism. We'll be interviewing each other and getting the perspective of the teenagers' fears and thoughts of seniors and vice versa," Kazmerowich said.

"Then the sewing class is going to come here next Friday and talk to

our quilting class. They'll get some tips and have a look at what they're doing. After that, we go back to the school for two weeks to their art class. We're going to be making a large Jenga game and then they're going to donate it to our centre."

The intergenerational program runs from March to June with two sessions per month, each running for an hour or two.

"We don't have a large volunteer pool so we do rely on the same five or six that are interested in doing this," Kazmerowich said.

"We're hoping to gather more volunteers."

Any 55 Plus members who would like to volunteer with this multi-generational program can contact Kazmerowich at 204-467-2582.

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Sudoku Answer

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Public notice is hereby given that the Nature Conservancy of Canada intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2025:

To control noxious weeds on a NCC property in the Rural Municipality of Rockwood. The projected dates of application will be from June 1, 2025 - October 1, 2025.

The herbicide to be used is:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

2025 Financial Plan

In accordance with Section 162(2) of the Municipal Act, the Town of Teulon shall hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** to present the 2025 Financial Plan on:

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
Teulon Civic Centre
44 Fourth Avenue S.E.
Teulon, Manitoba

The Town of Teulon 2025 Financial Plan consists of:

1. The 2025 Operating Budget
2. The 2025 Capital Budget
3. An Estimate of the Operating Revenue and Expenditures for the following fiscal year, and
4. A five (5) year Capital Expenditure Program

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to allow any interested person to make representation, ask questions or register an objection in respect to the Town of Teulon's 2025 Financial Plan.

Copies of the 2025 Financial Plan will be available for review as of April 14, 2025 on our Municipal Website at www.teulon.ca or by calling 204-886-2314, or emailing info@teulon.ca

The public is invited to interact, ask questions, and have the opportunity to speak for or against the proposed By-Law.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2025.

Chris Yuen
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Teulon

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pesticide Application Program

Bel Acres Golf and Country Club intends to conduct the following pesticide control programs from April to November 2025. All applications are part of a comprehensive IPM strategy and depending on pest threshold levels, may or may not include:

1. Weed control in turf areas within the property. Projected dates of application are from May 15 to October 15, 2025. Herbicides used may include: acetic acid, citric acid, copper sulphate, glyphosphate, dicamba, 2,4-D, mecoprop.
2. Fungus control in turf and treed areas within the property. Projected dates of application are from April 1 to November 15, 2025. Fungicides used may include: chlorothalonil, propiconazole, iprodione, azoxystrobin, trifloxystrobin, thiophanate methyl, fosetyl Al, metalazyl-M, triticonazole, metconazole, pyraclostrobin, penthiopyrad, fludioxonil, polyoxin D zinc salt, boscalid, mineral oil, fluoxastrobin, fluopyram, tebuconazole, fluazinam, thiophanate-methyl.
3. Insect control in turf and treed areas within the property. Target pests include mosquitoes, elm bark beetles, tent caterpillars, cankerworms and white grubs. Projected dates of application are from May 15 to October 15, 2025. Insecticides used may include Bacillus thuringiensis, chloranthraniliprole, chlothianidin, deltamethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, permethrin, imidacloprid, chlorpyrifos.
4. Growth regulators may include trinexapac-ethyl.

Any public concerns with the above may be addressed by sending a written submission within fifteen days of this publication to:

Pesticide Use Permit Program
Manitoba Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
Box 35, 14 Fultz Blvd., Winnipeg, MB. R3Y 0L6

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INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION GROUNDSKEEPING TENDER

The Interlake School Division invites contractors to send sealed bids to cut all the grass on properties owned by the Interlake School Division. Contractors will be expected to cut lawns, play areas, boulevards, and ditches. Also included is trimming around the buildings, trees and play structures, etc. at the following locations.

Balmoral School	Gov't Rd Allowance E SW7-15-2E
Brant Argyle School	48 E PR323
Grosse Isle School	97 E Road 72N
École R.W. Bobby Bend	377-2nd Ave N
Rosser School	PR221
École Stonewall Centennial	573 2nd Ave N
Collège Stonewall Collegiate	297 - 5th Street West
Stony Mountain School	139 School Road
Teulon Collegiate	59 - 1st Street NE
Teulon Elementary School	20 Beach Road
Warren Collegiate	119 MacDonald Ave
Warren Elementary School	300 Hanlan Street
Woodlands School	222 Good Street
ISD Office - Stonewall	192 - 2nd Ave N

- The contract is for a three-year period - 2025, 2026, and 2027.
- The annual contract will commence May 1 until October 31. Schedules of cuts will be provided.
- Grass cutting will not be permitted during regular school hours between the months of May to June and September to October of each year. During May to June and September to October, grass can be cut between 7:30 am to 9:00 am and 3:45 pm to 9:00 pm. July to August grass cutting will be permitted at any time.
- Bids submitted must indicate machinery to be used (Zero Turns / Riding Mowers, Mowers, Trimmers, Blowers, and Auxiliary equipment).
- Detailed information can be found on Interlake School Division's website - <http://www.interlakesd.ca>
- The successful bidder must provide proof of liability insurance of \$2 million with Interlake School Division listed as an additional insured, along with proof of WCB coverage in good standing.
- We thank all contractors for submitting proposals, only awarded contractors will be contacted.
- Lowest or any proposal not necessarily accepted.
- May be subject to a Criminal Record Check.

**Tenders must be submitted by
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025, at 3:00 pm**
Please send sealed Tenders marked
"GROUNDSKEEPING PROPOSAL"

Attention to:
Anthony Cornwell
192-2nd Ave. N. (PTH 67)
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0

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Stonewall Teulon
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METAL RECYCLING

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that Teulon Golf and Country Club Ltd. intends to conduct the following control program between April to December, 2025.

To control Pests such as weeds, turf diseases and damaging insects, these products will be used; Glyphosate, Pyraclostrobin, Boscalid, Trifloxystrobin, Tetraniliprole, Tebuconazol, Trifloxystrobin, 2, 4-D, Mecoprop-P and Dicamba

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

MB Enviro and Climate
Box 35
14 Fultz Blvd
Winnipeg MB, R3Y 0L6

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

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

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For sale: wrapped haylage/mixed grass dry bales. Nutrient tested. No rain. Call 204-643-5541.

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NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS ELECTRONIC VOTING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (the "AGM") MEMBERS OF ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third-party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, the 3rd day of April, 2025 until 5:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 9th of April, 2025. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at www.accessvotes.ca. Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. CDT via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2024 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Announcement of Member Rewards
5. Director Elections Voting Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at www.accesscu.ca prior to April 16, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

More information can be found at: www.accesscu.ca.

DATED this 27th day of March, 2025
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED
By Order of the Board of Directors



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Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

NOTICES

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

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Don't forget to send your special wishes to your family and friends with a message in the Tribune

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April 2nd @ 7:00PM

Estate & Moving
April 9th @ 7:00PM

Man Cave Auction
April 10th @ 7:00PM
Accepting Consignments

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
mcsherryttd@gmail.com



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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the ESTATE of **ROBERT LLOYD MILLAR**, late of the town of Oak Point, in Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at Box 278, Woodlands, Manitoba, ROC 3H0 within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.

DATED at the town of Woodlands, in Manitoba, this 21st day of March, 2025.

Timothy Millar
Executor to the Estate of Robert Lloyd Millar

Prairie Rose School Division
www.prsdmb.ca
prsd@g.prsdmb.ca

Budget 2025-2026 Presentation

Each year, Prairie Rose School Division's (PRSD) Board of Trustees presents the annual operational budget for the following school year. This year, PRSD is hosting the Budget 25-26 Public Presentation at **Roland School on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** Stakeholders have the option to attend in-person or virtually via Google Meet. The Google Meet link will be sent via e-mail to those who pre-register. To register use the link or QR code below:



https://tinyurl.com/4pch92s8

Following the meeting, we will post the recorded presentation and the budget presentation feedback form. The feedback form will accept responses until Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

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Administrative Assistant (Full Time) - CentrePort Office

The South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) is accepting resumes for the position of **Administrative Assistant (Full Time) - CentrePort Office**. This multi-faceted position is responsible for assisting the SIPD in several areas, including providing administrative support to Planning, Building and By-law Enforcement staff; managing SIPD's records, including scanning and filing permit documents and plans; and providing customer service support, including assisting with front counter inquiries, answering telephone calls, preparing email correspondence, assisting with application in-take and payments, and more.

For more information, a detailed job description for this position is available here: <http://www.sipd.ca/p/employment-opportunities>.

Minimum Qualifications:

- High School Diploma, GED, or equivalent is required.
- Minimum of five (5) years of related work experience. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.
- Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills.
- Excellent multi-tasking and organizational skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Proven ability working with computers and office related software (e.g., MS Office Suite), and other office related equipment (e.g., printer/copier, fax machine, etc.).
- Ability to work efficiently with frequent interruptions.

Ideal Candidate:

- Post-secondary education in Municipal Administration, or similar field.
- Experience working for a planning district or in a provincial or municipal government environment.
- General knowledge of development and building permit review and approval processes.
- Experience with mapping systems and software (e.g., GIS, etc.).
- Experience with general website management.

Hours of Work: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM, with one hour for lunch.

Compensation: The salary range for this position is **\$46,500 - \$59,000**, commensurate with qualifications and experience. The SIPD also offers a comprehensive benefits package.

Office Location: This position will operate primarily from the SIPD's head office located at **Unit 5, 15 Davis Way, R.M. of Rosser (CentrePort)**. Some work duties may also be conducted from the SIPD's secondary office located at **285 Main Street, Stonewall**.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please email your cover letter, resume, and three references (a minimum of two references must be work-related) to Eric Shaw, General Manager of the South Interlake Planning District, at eric.shaw@sipd.ca, by **March 31, 2025, at 12:00 PM CST**.

Please note: We thank all those for applying, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Announcements



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OBITUARY



Cheryl Jill Patricia Whittaker (McCullough)

With heavy hearts and a lot of love, we announce the passing of Cheryl Jill Patricia Whittaker (McCullough) on March 21st, 2025 at the age of 69, after a brief but fierce battle with cancer. She left us too soon but not before filling our lives with laughter, joy, and an endless amount of unforgettable antics.

Cheryl/Mudd/Aunt B/CJ/BFF/Cej/Shed/OBMBLS was the light of any room, the life of every party, and always the first to suggest or comment with something a little offbeat (often followed by a cheeky wink, though we all knew better).

Cheryl leaves behind her only daughter, Kaylin (Rob); her siblings Jeff (Shirley), Mike (Missy), and Michelle (Scott), along with her nieces and nephews – Joshua (Leanne), Jenna (Jordan), Josh, Alex, Rhea, and Kenzie, as well as her great-nieces and nephews. All of whom will miss her in their own special ways as she was so

special to each of them.

Cheryl was predeceased by her parents, Bill and Grace, and reunited with her life-partner, Jim, with whom she shared many years of love, cribbage, and motorcycle adventures. And of course, who could forget her trusty sidekick and furry companion, Finn.

Cheryl was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and later moved to Rennie, Oakbank, Teulon, and eventually Stonewall, where she spent most of her teen years building great friendships and playing ball. In her 20s, Cheryl made the bold move to pack up and head west to Alberta to start her new adventure in the big city. It was there she began her career in oil and gas and raised her daughter with laughter and baseball. Cheryl spent most of her adult life in Calgary, making countless friendships, many of which were coworkers. She created her lifelong bond with her BFF and partner in crime, Cindy, often sharing all of life's ups and downs over a tall vanilla latte.

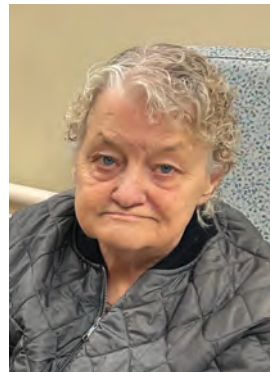
When she retired after 40 years in her career in 2018, Cheryl's only desire was to move 'home' to Manitoba to be closer to her family and reconnect with old friends. It was a decision that brought her so much joy as she rekindled cherished connections and embraced her life in a new peaceful rhythm, with Finn always by her side. Their bond was so special, and were it not for that chocolate sausage, she may never have found her new circle of great friends at the 11 o'clock Stonewall Dog Park Crew. She was the founding member of this pack, and the two-legged as well as four-legged were all so special to her. One of her biggest joys in life was her yard and flower garden, which quickly became the exclusive hot spot for most of Stonewall's squirrel and bluejay population, where they splashed in the year-round bird bath and ate like kings.

Her sense of humor, her heart of gold, and her ability to make everyone around her feel welcome are only a few of the many things we will miss about her. While her absence leaves a big hole, we find comfort in knowing she's no longer in pain and reunited with those she loved, cracking jokes, taking endless naps, and keeping everyone entertained with her signature "Cheryl" wit, all the while cheering on her Winnipeg Jets and Bombers from heaven.

A celebration of Cheryl's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the MS Society or an animal rescue foundation of your choice in honour of Cheryl's beloved Finn.

OBITUARY



Darlene Charlotte May Fehr (Ferris)

Darlene Fehr passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus at 7:55 a.m. on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at age 77, with her family by her side.

Darlene is survived by her husband of 59 years, Bernie Fehr; her children Lana (Darryl) Chartrand, Martha (Shawn) Corbin, Ben (Tanya) Fehr, Darla Davies, and stepson Kendall Hiebert (Jennifer). Darlene is also survived by 15 grandchildren Joel Fehr (Kerrie), Robyn Chartrand, Arielle Chartrand, Erin Corbin (Cory),

Stephaney (John) Goettler, Tyler Corbin, Justin Fehr, Megan Fehr, Samantha Fehr, Kyla (Dallas) Kovacs, Derek (Brooklyn) Davies, Levi Hiebert, Seth Hiebert, Kyra Hiebert (Jeff) and Caleb Hiebert, along with seven great-grandchildren Levi and Lucas Crockatt, Ellie and Jordyn Fehr, John Goettler Jr., and Luca and Sophia Mater.

Darlene was predeceased by her parents Lloyd and Betty Ferris, her sister Sharyne Newman, and infant grandchild Ashton Blair Davies.

Darlene was born on February 23, 1948 in Carman, Manitoba where she also attended school. Darlene met her husband Bernie in 1965, and they were married on November 5, 1966.

Darlene's passion and life's work was her family, taking great pride in the care and nurturing of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was also an example of a loving, faithful and supportive wife to Bernie. She passed on many skills and traditions to each of us, creating memories with time spent playing games, and sharing recipes for favourite meals and desserts. It was always so comforting to be welcomed with the smell of fresh borscht and buns and Saskatoon pies! While being so gentle and patient, Darlene was also our fiercest defender and supporter throughout our lives.

Darlene enjoyed social gatherings with friends and family and was an avid reader. She loved playing word and table games, especially a few good rounds of Skip-Bo! Darlene and Bernie also treasured their camping and fishing trips together with their family and friends.

Darlene stood faithful alongside Bernie in serving and nurturing their church families throughout their marriage, being called for the past 36 years to their church family at Woodlands Gospel Chapel. God provided them with much love, connection and encouragement from their church family.

The family would like to thank the staff at Teulon Hunter Memorial Hospital and Rosewood Lodge for the care and compassion they provided.

The funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. at New Life Church, 6106E Highway 67, Stonewall, Manitoba. Refreshments will be served following the service, and a private family interment will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Union Gospel Mission, PO Box 1073 STN Main, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2X4

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to all my family and friends for all the visits, prayers, phone calls, cards and baked goods I received during my recovery. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

-Justina Neumann

CARD OF THANKS

Losing a loved one is a very heartbreaking experience.

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, phone calls, visits, flowers, those who brought food and meals for us and just by being there for us.

We would like to thank the ambulance drivers for their kind care. Thank you to everyone who came to the hospital to help support us as we said our good-byes to a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and cousin.

Thank you to Milly Malavsky and Shirley Williams for their kind words and lovely service for Martin. Also we would like to thank Jason Dodd for sharing the family's memories.

Thank you to Andrea Barylski and staff for the very nice lunch which they put on at the Celebration of Life. Also to Ken Loehmer for your exceptional care and compassion during this difficult time.

We have been surrounded by an abundance of support, prayers and love which has comforted us during this difficult time.

-Thanking you,
Lil Dodd,

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



is in charge of arrangements

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OBITUARY



Pierrette Elen Carriere
November 30, 1950 - March 19, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Pierrette Carriere at the age of 74.

She will be missed by her sons: Darren (Crystal) and Henry Jr. (Aime); grandkids: Tara-Lee (Bejay), Katelynn (Tyler), Dana (Braden), Maculla, Rayne (Jacek), Colton, Emily, Kessler, Costas; great-grandkids: Kailey, Ethan, Aria, Malachi, Jackson, Alexander; siblings: Genevieve and Tobie (Dawn); as well as in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents Alexander and Rose; husband Henry (Humpy) Carriere; siblings: Alfred, Brian, Cyril, Leonard, Cecile, Theresa and Wanda.

Mom enjoyed long phone calls with her sister and bugging her brother about their hockey teams (when her Jets were winning!)

Watching her Jets games. Also enjoyed her gardening, canning and bingo.

We would like to thank the wonderful staff at Stonewall Hospital for all their care and support.

As per Mom's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held at a later date.

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



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

OBITUARY



Diane Petrachek

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Diane Petrachek on March 19, 2025. Diane was a beloved wife, mother, Baba, sister, aunt and friend.

Leaving to mourn her, son Anthony (Jenn), daughter Alisa (Sean), and all her amazing grandchildren; brothers Alex (Joan), Jerry (Dianne); sisters Sharon and Colleen; in-laws, David (Anne), Ray (Debbie), and Rick (Marianne).

Diane was predeceased by her loving husband Edward; parents Alex and Winnifred Fotty; in-laws Steve and Pauline Petrachek; and brothers-in-law Pierre and Ross.

Diane's door was always open to anyone who wanted to stop by the house in Stony Mountain. If Diane was not in the kitchen cooking or baking, you could find her in the yard cutting grass, trimming trees or in Ed's vegetable garden. Her caring, loving touch showed through on everything she did.

We would like to thank the palliative care team from CancerCare, Mom's special nurse, Angela and all the staff on 3E at Riverview for taking such great care of Mom.

Memorial service to be held at MacKenzie Funeral Chapel in Stonewall on Friday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. Private burial will occur in the summer.

Donations can be made to CancerCare Manitoba, The Winnipeg Humane Society or Winnipeg Harvest.

Mom, you are now free to dance the night away in heaven with Dad. The stars will shine even brighter in the sky as you and Dad are together again.

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