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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 held its annual Decoration Day service on June 7, honouring fallen comrades from the RM of Rockwood and the Town of Stonewall. Pictured: Legion member Bonnie Brennan with her granddaughters and a member of the 301 Alan McLeod, V.C. Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron following their wreath laying at the Stonewall cenotaph.

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Decoration Day service pays tribute to veterans and fallen comrades



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JENNIFER MCFEE

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 held its annual Decoration Day service on Sunday, June 7 to honour the memory of fallen comrades from the RM of Rockwood and the Town of Stonewall. The event began with a parade from the legion hall to the cenotaph, where attendees gathered for a memorial service that included hymns, prayers and a scripture reading. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths and poppies, followed by the sounding of the Last Post and a moment of silent reflection.

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In Motion at Quarry Park

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Visitors to Stonewall's Quarry Park got moving and explored one of the community's premier outdoor destinations during the Town of Stonewall's annual Stonewall in Motion event on June 6. Held in conjunction with Manitoba Trails Day and Canada Health and Fitness Day, the morning featured a variety of activities designed to promote physical activity while showcasing the park's amenities and recreational opportunities. Activity stations were set up throughout the park, encouraging participants to stay active, explore the trails and enjoy the outdoors while highlighting the many ways residents can incorporate recreation and healthy living into their daily routines. Participants were also entered into a draw for a free Kinsmen Lake family membership. The prize was awarded to JoAnne Dingwall. Pictured: children take part in the popular parachute activity station.

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TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER AND RAEANN LEARMOND

Spring in Stonewall brought residents and visitors together on May 29 for an evening of shopping, entertainment and family fun while marking the official launch of the town's new pilot project. Activities included horse rides, mini golf, a vendor market, face painting and other attractions along Main Street. Lilly Bouskill (above photo) was the lucky winner of the play structure donated by Rockwood Wrecking and Recovery during the Spring in Stonewall celebration on May 29.



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Manitobans can enjoy free park access, fishing this weekend

By Lana Meier

Manitobans will have the opportunity to enjoy provincial parks and recreational fishing free of charge during Family Fishing Weekend from June 12 to 14.

The provincial government announced that vehicle permits will not be required to enter Manitoba's provincial parks during the three-day period, while anglers will be able to fish without purchasing a provincial fishing licence.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Mike Moyes said the initiative is intended to help make outdoor recreation more affordable for families.

"Making life more affordable for families is a priority for our government, and free park entry and licence-free fishing are simple ways we can help Manitobans enjoy time together without added costs," Moyes said in a release. "We want every family to be able to experience the beauty and adventure our parks offer."

While park entry fees are being waived, regular camping fees will still apply at provincial campgrounds.

The province is also encouraging visitors to take advantage of interpretive programming offered through-

out the summer. Activities at select parks include guided hikes, historic site tours, campfire talks, living history demonstrations and kayak outings.

As part of the weekend, Manitoba Parks and Manitoba Fisheries will host free tours at the Whiteshell Fish Hatchery on June 13. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about fish stocking programs, view more than half a million trout and participate in the release of 250 trout into the Whiteshell River.

Moyes said Manitoba's provincial parks offer opportunities to connect with nature while learning more about the province's history and environment.

"Manitoba's world-class provincial parks offer unique opportunities to experience stunning nature, uncover stories of the land and deepen your understanding of our province's natural and cultural history," he said.

Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures Minister Ian Bushie encouraged residents to take advantage of the licence-free fishing opportunity.

"Recreational fishing is a wonderful way for families and friends to come together and enjoy our great outdoors," Bushie said. "I invite everyone to enjoy the many benefits that

a day of fishing in Manitoba has to offer."

The province noted that all other angling regulations, including size limits and possession limits, remain in effect. Licence-free fishing does not apply in national parks, where a federal fishing licence is still required.

Visitors are also being reminded to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by cleaning, draining and drying watercraft and related equipment. Water users leaving aquatic invasive species control zones are required to decontaminate their equipment.

With wildfire conditions continuing in many parts of the province, Manitoba Wildfire Services is also urging park users to follow fire safety practices. Campfires should only be built in approved fire pits, never left unattended and fully extinguished before leaving. Off-road vehicle users are encouraged to inspect their equipment regularly for debris and potential fire hazards.

The province advises visitors to check current park conditions, fire restrictions and advisories before travelling. Information on provincial parks, Family Fishing Weekend and inter-



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED
Paislee Westin proudly displays a fish she caught during a recent outing, one of many young anglers expected to take advantage of Manitoba's Family Fishing Weekend from June 12 to 14.

Manitoba government passes bill removing PST from groceries

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba Legislature wrapped up its spring sitting with the passage of legislation that will remove the provincial sales tax (PST) from groceries beginning July 1.

Government House Leader Nahanni Fontaine said Bill 53, the Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, is among more than 40 bills passed during the third session of the 43rd legislature.

The legislation also increases the Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit to \$1,700 and the Renters Affordability Tax Credit to \$675.

Other bills passed during the session include consumer protection measures that prohibit retailers from using personal data to adjust prices, legislation aimed at improving patient safety and health-care accountability, measures to implement nurse-to-patient ratios and reduce mandatory overtime for nurses, and amendments limiting employers from requiring sick notes for absences of up to seven days.

The government also passed legislation restricting the sale of long-bladed

Continued on page 7

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Jennifer McFee
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RM of Rockwood to host seminar for potential municipal candidates

By Jennifer McFee

Calling all potential council candidates.

The RM of Rockwood will host a pre-election information seminar, presented by Way to Go Consulting Inc., for prospective candidates.

Attendees will have chance to learn what to expect if elected, ask questions and connect with others who are interested in serving their community. The information session aims to help potential candidates to better understand the role and responsibilities of council. Refreshments and networking opportunities are also provided.

The free event will take place on July 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the RM of Rockwood office at 285 Main St. in Stonewall. Attendees can reserve their seat by emailing stacey.goodwill@rockwood.ca or calling 204-467-2272.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- The RM of Rockwood is requesting that the Public Utilities Board approve an operating deficit for the Balmoral Utility, which will be recovered through accumulated working capital surplus. The Balmoral Utility had incurred a \$97,752 operating deficit in 2024, and it also had a \$347,869 working capital surplus the same year.

Municipal utilities are required to maintain sufficient revenues to cover operating costs, debt obligations, reserve contributions and future infrastructure needs. Two financial indicators commonly reviewed during utility rate studies and annual financial reporting are operating deficit (or operating surplus) and working capital surplus (or deficiency).

“An operating deficit indicates that the utility did not generate sufficient revenue during the year to cover the costs of providing service. A working capital surplus exists when current

assets exceed current liabilities. This surplus provides the utility with cash flow flexibility to pay bills, respond to emergencies and manage timing differences between receiving revenues and paying expenses,” said utility administrator Teresa Taplin.

“The Public Utilities Board and the RM of Rockwood Utility Department continue to work together with utility rate studies, which evaluate both operating performance and working capital levels when determining whether utility rates are sufficient and sustainable.”

- For the 2026 dust control program, the cost will be \$565 per 100-metre site. Additional metres will cost \$5.65 apiece.

- The June 10 council meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, June 17 at 9 a.m. in the council chambers.

- The RM of Rockwood hosted an appreciation lunch for the operations and utilities department staff during Operations and Utilities Appreciation Week at a cost of \$600.

- Council conditionally approved two initiatives proposed by the Interlake Offroad Club. The first project involves realigning and developing the trail approach and staging area next to Provincial Road 236. The second project involves rerouting the trail and building a Waterford crossing at the Netley Creek abandoned bridge site north of Road 100N. In order to proceed, the projects need to receive all the required approvals and meet all the conditions of the provincial government.

- The operations department will replace all the existing trail barriers along the Rockwood Rail Trail in 2026. For future years, the RM will bring forward a new agreement with the Interlake Regional Snowmobile Association to outline responsibilities

ties for barrier replacement, maintenance, seasonal placement and compliance with municipal requirements. The RM will forward the costs to the snowmobile association.

- An RM of Rockwood representative will display a grader at the Stonewall Children’s Centre’s Touch-A-Truck fundraising event, which will take place at the South Interlake Rockwood Agricultural Society grounds on June 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, council supports an RCAF aircraft to land a helicopter for static display as well as to potentially do a flyby as low as 500 feet.

- The RM of Rockwood will donate \$1,000 to Madeline’s Closet’s first annual golf tournament, which will take place on Aug. 8 at the Teulon Golf and Country Club.

- Council defeated a resolution for council and the CAO to attend a council orientation bootcamp, facilitated by Ernie Epp of Way To Go Consulting Inc., on Nov. 18 to 20 at Larters Golf & Country Club at a cost of \$330 per person.

- Council authorized the participation of two teams in the 21st Annual Ralph Eichler Charity Golf Tournament, which will take place on June 12 at the Teulon Golf and Country Club.

- The RM entered into an agreement with the Town of Teulon for by-law enforcement services and duties in the Town of Teulon.

- The RM will enter into a subdivision agreement with Mountain Ridge Park Developments.

- The RM of Rockwood is applying a \$3,239.25 credit to the utility bill for the Stony Mountain Child Care Centre. The childcare centre contacted the municipality after receiving large

Continued on page 7

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Province invests \$650,000 in Wildlife Haven upgrades

By Haley Cvar

The Manitoba government is investing \$650,000 in capital improvements at the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre, a move aimed at expanding the facility's ability to care for injured, sick and orphaned wildlife.

Premier Wab Kinew announced the funding, noting the investment will help modernize Manitoba's largest wildlife rehabilitation facility while supporting long-term wildlife stewardship efforts across the province.

"Wildlife Haven rehabilitates injured, sick and orphaned wildlife so they can return to the wild, and we're supporting them in this important work," Kinew said. "These upgrades to the centre will help support long-term sustainability and our shared stewardship of Manitoba's wildlife."

Founded in 1984, Wildlife Haven has cared for more than 55,000 ani-

mals. Annual admissions have grown dramatically over the years, increasing from approximately 200 animals in the 1980s to more than 2,000 each year today.

According to the province, the funding will support a series of capital improvements, including repairs to the centre's main building and raptor enclosures, safety upgrades, modernization of its contact centre, and construction of two new outdoor enclosures for aquatic mammals and waterfowl.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to improve our services and campus thanks to this support," said Zoé Nakata, executive director of the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre. "We're excited for the first step in working with the Manitoba government to continue protecting the wild animals

of our beautiful province."

The province noted that Indigenous collaboration remains a key component of Wildlife Haven's work. The centre incorporates traditional Indigenous knowledge into wildlife rehabilitation practices, including animal care and release methods, while working with Indigenous communities across Manitoba.

The investment is part of a broader provincial commitment to animal care and rehabilitation infrastructure. The Manitoba government has also committed \$5 million toward a new animal health centre at Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Provincial officials say the investments are intended to strengthen Manitoba's capacity to care for wildlife and support conservation efforts for years to come.

> PST, FROM PG. 5

weapons and pepper spray, as well as changes requiring drivers with Class 1 to 4 licences to maintain zero blood-alcohol levels.

According to the province, invest-

ments in front-line staff have contributed to a record number of physicians practising in Manitoba and the hiring of 48 new provincially funded police officers. The government also cited statistics from the Winnipeg Police Service showing a 48 per cent de-

crease in homicides in 2025.

Fontaine said the government remains focused on lowering costs, improving health care and creating jobs while maintaining what it says is the lowest deficit-to-GDP ratio in Canada.

> SEMINAR, FROM PG. 6

utility bills for the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2025. The RM contracted a plumber who determined that a mechanical leak occurred during construction of the childcare centre in the fall of 2025. In addition, council authorized a \$115 credit to a ratepayer who had a large water bill due to an outdoor tap being turned on without their knowledge.

- Council passed third reading of a bylaw related to getting a \$7-million loan for the municipality's Community Development Corporation.

- Council passed first reading of a bylaw to establish a special service rate for curbside waste pickup in the townsites of Grosse Isle, Stony Mountain, Argyle, Balmoral, Komarno and the Stonewall trailer court. The current rate for residential dwellings for 2026 is \$230 per year. The anticipated proposed rates for 2027 and 2028 are \$211.25 and \$224.10, respectively. The current rate for commercial businesses for 2026 is \$460 per year. The anticipated proposed rates for commercial businesses for 2027 and 2028 are

\$422.50 and \$448.20, respectively.

- The RM of Rockwood awarded a total of \$36,824.64 in grants to community organizations, initiatives and events that provide benefits to residents. Through the annual grant intake process, the RM also received requests to fund two initiatives that would improve municipal infrastructure. Since these requests didn't fit within the eligibility criteria for the grant program, council decided to cover them through the recreation reserve fund. Gunton Greenwood Community Hall will receive up to \$50,000 toward asbestos removal and renovations. The Argyle Skating Club will receive up to \$30,000 toward the construction of a new warmup building for the outdoor skating rink.

- Council approved the awarding of the Propellant Plant Road (75N) reconstruction project to Maple Leaf Construction at a cost of \$3.6 million plus taxes.

- Rockwood residents have the chance to take a short survey related to strategic plan. The survey is avail-

able at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J38ZZ35> or on the RM of Rockwood's website at rockwood.ca. The survey closes on June 25.

- The RM of Rockwood is looking for volunteers to help with the Oct. 28 municipal election. Compensation is available. For more information, email roberta.vancaeyzeele@rockwood.ca or call 204-467-2272.

- The Public Utilities Board approved the amalgamation of the Balmoral and Gunton water and wastewater utilities. The current minimum quarterly charge is \$138.75 in Balmoral and \$106.45 in Gunton. The proposed minimum rates would be \$125 in Year 1, \$121.98 in Year 2 and \$122.74 in Year 3. Balmoral's rates were last approved in 2025 and effective Jan. 1, 2025, while Gunton's rates were last approved in 2024 and effective Jan. 1, 2025. Comments and questions about the RM's application for water and wastewater rates can be provided at pubmanitoba.ca by June 22.

worship

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Have We Become Too Busy for God?

"I have no time."

These words have become common in our daily lives. We find time for work, entertainment, social media, and countless responsibilities, yet many of us struggle to spend even a few quiet moments with God.

The tragedy is not that God has moved away from us. The tragedy is that we have become too distracted to notice that He is still waiting.

Jesus asks a powerful question: "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)

Many Christians are tired and burdened. We rush through our days carrying worries about our families, finances, health, and future. We search for peace in many places, but our hearts remain restless because they were created for God.

Jesus lovingly invites us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Some of us have slowly drifted away from Him. Prayer has become occasional. Scripture remains unopened. We attend Mass, yet our minds are often elsewhere. Still, God never stops calling His children home.

The parable of the Prodigal Son reminds us that God waits with mercy, not condemnation. Like the loving father watching the horizon for his son's return, God eagerly awaits our response.

Perhaps today God is not asking for something extraordinary. Perhaps He is simply asking us to return to Him.

Turn off the noise.

Open your Bible.

Spend a few minutes in prayer.

Go to Confession.

Forgive someone.

Trust Him again.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

One day our achievements, possessions, and worries will pass away. What will matter most is whether we loved God and followed Christ faithfully.

Today is another opportunity to begin again.

God is not looking for perfection. He is looking for a heart willing to return to Him.

"And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

The door of His mercy remains open.

Rev. Nepolian Suvakin

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

Teacher Bev says goodbye after decades of caring for children

By Lana Meier

For nearly a quarter-century, children arriving at Starting Blocks Daycare in Stonewall were often greeted by the same familiar smile, comforting voice and welcoming presence.

Next week on Wednesday, June 27, Bev will close a chapter that has defined much of her life as she retires after almost 23 years at Starting Blocks, ending a child-care career that has spanned more than four decades and touched the lives of thousands of children.

"It's not been an easy decision when you have so much passion for what you do," she said. "My whole life revolved around children. They have always brought me great joy, even through my hardest times."

Her journey in child care began in the early 1980s when a friend told her about an opening at a daycare centre in Winnipeg.

At 19 years old, she already knew she enjoyed working with children. Years of babysitting and helping care for her younger brother and foster sister had given her valuable experience and confidence.

"I thought, why not apply?" she recalled.

The job quickly became more than just work.

"I loved working there," she said.

After moving away, marrying and raising three children of her own, Bev operated a home daycare for six years. The arrangement allowed her to remain at home with her children following the loss of their father while continuing to earn an income.

In 1997, she remarried and moved to Stonewall.

Her connection with Starting Blocks began in January 2004 when she was hired to fill in for an employee on maternity leave.

"When she chose not to return, I stayed on," Bev said. "I never imagined I would still be there almost 23 years later."

During that time, she witnessed tremendous growth and change within the organization.

When she first arrived, Starting Blocks operated from a single location with approximately eight staff members and 60 children. The centre opened at 6 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m., offering nursery school programs during the day and before- and after-school care.

Staff would walk school-age children to school regardless of the weather.

"Rain or shine, we walked them to school," she said.

Today, Starting Blocks has expanded to four locations, employs approximately 50 staff members and serves children ranging from three months old to Grade 6. The organization also operates its own bus for transportation to schools and field trips.

One of the most challenging periods of Bev's career came during the COVID-19 pandemic. When Starting Blocks reopened on April 14, 2020, following pandemic-related closures, only 16 children attended with four staff members on site.

"It was a very different time," she said.

The centre has since experienced significant growth and now serves 224 children, a reflection of the increasing demand for child care in the community and the organization's continued evolution over the years.

Along the way,



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

After nearly 23 years with Starting Blocks Daycare and more than four decades working in child care, Bev will retire on June 17. Throughout her career, she cared for thousands of children, including several of her own grandchildren, and became a familiar and trusted presence for generations of families in the Stonewall community.

Bev estimates she has cared for thousands of children.

Among them were six of her own grandchildren.

She has also shared her workplace with three of her daughters and now works alongside former nursery school students who have grown up and entered the child-care profession themselves.

"I have second generations of children that I'm caring for now," she said.

One of the aspects she values most about the profession is the opportunity to make a lasting difference in children's lives.

"It is so rewarding," she said. "You're able to nurture children and

offer great learning experiences to them."

She encourages anyone considering a career in child care to explore the field.

"If you enjoy children, are patient and communicate well, there are so many opportunities," she said. "There are great support systems, workshops for staff and parents, and lots of avenues you can pursue."

Over the years, Bev accumulated countless memories, many of them humorous.

One favourite involved a nursery school child who bluntly informed her and a co-worker that Bev's hands and her colleague's face looked "really old."

The comment generated plenty of laughter and eventually inspired

Continued on page 9

Take care of details so they don't have to. *Just ask Ken.*

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Clubroom Events for the Week of June 8

Wednesday 4-Close 8:30 Chase the Queen Draw Pot is at \$1,584.00

Thursday 4-Close

Friday 4-Close 5:00 BBQ 6:30 Meat Draw

Saturday 2-close

Dinner for Saturday June 27th will be a Cold Plate - Tickets available at the bar for \$15

All are welcome - please support your local legion!

IT SUPPORT FOR SENIORS
5 Week Part-Time Position

The South Interlake Fifty-Five Plus, Inc., Stonewall, MB, has an opening for an

IT Support for Seniors
5 Week Part-Time Position

The IT Support for Seniors Position will provide basic, first-level technical support to older adults through multiple communication channels such as (Phone, email, in-person)

This position is open to anyone who qualifies.

Required Qualifications:

- Knowledge of Cell Phones, Laptops and Tablets
- Proficient Skills in MS Word, Excel, and online platforms
- Willingness to work with older adults

Visit: www.si55plus.org to learn about our Centre
Deadline for Applications: Friday, June 26, 2026
Applications accepted by email: si55plus@mts.net

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Correction

By Patricia Barrett

In the story "Armstrong council approves Harbour colony's 140,000 chicken operation" in the June 4, 2026, edition of the *Tribune*, we wrote that an application from Donald and Lyla Mantik for a 612-square foot dwelling was approved by Armstrong council (resolution 2026-A-10). Council, in fact, defeated the resolution. We apologize for the error.

Stonewall RCMP arrest suspect during break-in at Rockwood business

By Haley Cvar

A Rockwood man is facing multiple charges after Stonewall RCMP caught a suspect allegedly attempting to steal heavy equipment during a break and enter at a local business early June 4.

Police were called at 2:48 a.m. after receiving a report of a multiple-hit alarm at a business in the 9500 block of Highway 7 in the RM of Rockwood.

When officers arrived shortly after 3:15 a.m., they found a pickup truck idling with a trailer attached near the rear entrance of a shop. Police ob-

served that the back door had been forced open.

According to RCMP, the building was dark, but officers could hear someone moving around inside. Moments later, they heard an engine start.

Officers announced their presence and ordered the suspect to come out. A man exited the building with his hands raised and was arrested without incident.

Police said the suspect was wearing a face mask pulled up to his cheekbones, a hat equipped with a head-

lamp and dark clothing.

A subsequent search of the building determined the man was acting alone. Investigators allege he had started a front-end loader inside the shop and was preparing to load it onto the trailer.

RCMP also determined the pickup truck found outside had been stolen from a property in the RM of St. Andrews on June 1.

In addition to recovering the stolen truck and trailer, officers located several power tools belonging to the busi-

ness inside the vehicle.

Christopher Bouskill, 39, of the RM of Rockwood, has been remanded into custody and charged with break and enter, disguise with intent, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 involving a motor vehicle, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, and three counts of failing to comply with a release order.

Stonewall RCMP continue to investigate.

> RETIREMENT, FROM PG. 8

Christmas gifts of hand cream and lip balm for staff.

Another memorable prank involved convincing co-workers she had seriously injured her leg while practising a skit for the children.

After arriving at work on crutches and spinning a dramatic story about a trip to the emergency room, she eventually revealed the joke by tossing aside the crutches.

"I got them," she said with a laugh. While many memories are joyful, Bev also remembers the difficult moments.

Just months after she started, a fire swept through the daycare in October 2004, destroying its contents and forcing staff to rebuild from scratch.

She also recalls supporting families through illness, loss and tragedy,

while relying on the strength of her co-workers and the wider community.

"Our community has supported us throughout the years," she said.

That support included temporary locations following the fire, donations of toys and furniture, library programs, skating opportunities, upgraded parks, field trips to local businesses and volunteers who regularly visited the centre.

As retirement approaches, Bev hopes the children she cared for will remember how she made them feel.

"I hope they remember that I made them feel safe and seen," she said. "That I comforted them when they were hurt or sad, listened to their stories, made them laugh and that they have fond memories of me."

There are a few things she admits she will not miss.

Getting up at 4:50 a.m. every morning tops the list, along with driving through winter storms and completing incident reports.

Recently, she joked, she had written seven reports before noon.

Looking ahead, Bev plans to spend more time with family and friends, enjoy camping and reading, travel, volunteer and attend activities with her grandchildren.

Still, leaving behind a career she loved has been emotional.

When she announced her retirement, her co-workers were supportive, although not entirely surprised.

"They knew it was coming eventually," she said.

As she prepares for her final day, gratitude remains at the forefront.

She thanked the staff members she has worked alongside through the years, the parents who trusted her with their children and the generations of young people who filled her days with stories, laughter and learning.

"You all taught me to laugh more, especially at the little things in life, to be more patient and to embrace the unexpected," she said.

And for the thousands of children whose lives she touched, she leaves behind a simple farewell.

"Take care," she said. "Teacher Bev will miss you most of all."

Balmoral judoka advance



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the Balmoral Judo Club achieved new ranks during a Judo Manitoba black belt grading held at the University of Manitoba on June 7. Front row, from left, are Kaitlynn Barr, who earned her second-degree black belt (Nidan), and Nathaniel Panchuk, who earned his first-degree black belt (Shodan). Back row, are Jason Rogowsky, who advanced to fourth-degree black belt (Yondan); Trevor Panchuk, who earned his third-degree black belt (Sandán); and Chris Rootsart, who earned his first-degree black belt (Shodan). All five participants were successful in their gradings.

SOUTH INTERLAKE PLANNING

SIPD is Moving!

The South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) is moving their Stonewall office this June!

SIPD's new Stonewall office will be located at: Unit 7, 405 3rd Avenue South (Southend Mall) in Stonewall.

Due to the impending move, SIPD's operations will be temporarily closed in Stonewall between June 9 - 19, 2026. The new office is expected to be open by Monday, June 22, 2026.

If you require SIPD services during June 9 - 19, please attend SIPD's CentrePort office, located at Unit 5, 15 Davis Way in the R.M. of Rosser (CentrePort), or contact SIPD at 204-467-5587 or info@sipd.ca .

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We look forward to serving you from the new Stonewall office in the near future!



NEW LOCATION AS OF JUNE 22, 2026:
Unit 7, 405 3rd Ave. S. (Southend Mall)
Stonewall, Manitoba

Local teen drops, pops and locks to World Street Dancing Championships

By E. Antonio

A Rockwood dancer has qualified to compete at the International Dance Organization (IDO) World Street Dance Championships in Slovenia this summer with her hip hop Competitive Dance Team (CDT).

When she's not attending classes at Teulon Collegiate Institute, playing volleyball, volunteering, cooking, baking or spending time with family and friends, Ainsleigh Hutchinson, 15, is on the dance floor up to four days a week preparing for performances.

She started dancing at Green Acres Art Centre when she was three years old, but in late 2022 decided she wanted to compete and enrolled in classes at two Winnipeg-based studios — LA Dance Academy for hip hop and Shelley Shearer School of Dance for lyrical, jazz and ballet — a move she says transformed her as a dancer.

"To me, dance is an outlet," she said. "It brings lots of opportunities, it is a fun way to meet other people and it

helps release your emotions. Overall, it makes me very happy."

Her mother, Beth Hutchinson, said Ainsleigh started dancing the moment she could stand, noting that whenever an opportunity presented itself, she was never shy about jumping to her feet and putting on a show.

Today, Hutchinson focuses exclusively on hip hop with LA Dance Academy, which she describes as her favourite style because of the variety within the genre and the freedom it gives her to express herself.

This season, she competed in four routines: CDT with 36 dancers, a large group with 11 dancers, a small group with seven dancers and a solo performance. While she said it is difficult to choose a favourite, her large group routine stands out because of the energy the dancers bring to the stage.

"It makes me proud of my team knowing we can perform and entertain an audience," she said. "It proves to me that I can do it and makes me proud that I can be confident on stage

alongside my friends."

She added that her teammates help calm the nerves she feels before performances, allowing her to channel that energy into excitement once the music starts.

Among the highlights of the competition season, Hutchinson said, were making finals with her CDT group at several competitions — a distinction reserved for the highest-scoring routines — and earning multiple top-three finishes.

However, the biggest moment came when she learned her CDT group had qualified to represent Team Canada at the IDO World Street Dance Championships in Slovenia this August, a prestigious opportunity offered to only a limited number of dance schools worldwide.

"It's just crazy to be offered the chance to dance for Team Canada," she said. "When we got the email, we just couldn't believe it."

Her mother said she was also surprised by the invitation but is very proud of Ainsleigh and her team. She added that watching her daughter grow over the years has been rewarding.

"What started as a little girl twirling around the living room turned into training in Irish dance, jazz and lyrical and has grown into watching a confident young woman perform high-energy hip hop routines on stage," she said. "Seeing her commit so much time, often sacrificing time with friends and missing out on school sports, to learn and grow as a dancer and a person is truly incredible. Beyond her own dancing, we are so proud of how she gives back to her local dance community."



Ainsleigh Hutchinson performs her hip hop solo "Dynamite" at the Move Dance Competition.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Hutchinson's Competitive Dance Team (CDT) hip hop group performs "Your AI Assistant" at the Move Dance Competition. The dancers placed second overall in the intermediate division and qualified to compete at the International Dance Organization World Street Dance Championships in Slovenia this summer.

Local hardwood flooring company makes hardwood easy

By E. Antonio

Replacing your flooring doesn't have to be a stressful job — and thanks to Tom Ducharme Hardwood, you can have peace of mind when it comes to getting the job done.

Brent Ducharme is the proud owner of Tom Ducharme Hardwood. As a resident of Selkirk, it's important to him to provide local customers — and those beyond — with a next-level hardwood floor experience.

Tom Ducharme Hardwood was founded in 1953 by Brent's grandfather, Tom. His dad, Gary, later took over the business before eventually passing it down to Brent.

"It's a family business and I am proud of the work we have done and continue to do," said Brent. Now, he primarily operates the business as a

one-man show, but any helping hand he does receive is from a relative. "It will be my hope that my (future) children will take over Tom Ducharme Hardwood one day," he added.

He offers sanding, patching and refinishing for pre-existing hardwood, and provides installation services for anyone looking to make the upgrade. He sources his hardwood and engineered hardwood from Finmac Lumber in Winnipeg, with a variety of colours and wood types available for purchase.

While he doesn't offer vinyl or carpet flooring, he says hardwood is the best option of the three because it's the most sustainable.

"Hardwood will give you a lifelong warm feeling in your house. Vinyl will typically last you five to 10 years,

but with hardwood it can last 15 to 20 years. Once you re-sand it, it will last you another 15 to 20 years and you can re-sand it up to five times," he explained.

He noted there are several health benefits of hardwood flooring too, such as how it's extremely easy to keep clean and great for allergies.

"Lots of people think upgrading to hardwood flooring is super invasive or expensive, but it's not. I highly encourage people to give us a call instead of trying to install it on their own — that will likely only cause you more troubles in the future as it's pretty easy to mess up the floor if you don't know what you are doing."

He described the installation process as a learning experience. He has been honing his skills since high school, af-



Continued on page 16

Warren students stand out at provincial environmental competition

By Jennifer McFee

Warren Collegiate students continue to make a mark in the environmental realm.

Two teams of students recently earned a spot at the provincial level of the Manitoba Envirothon competition based on their high rankings at the regional level.

Envirothon is an environmental education competition that challenges Grade 9 to 12 students to test their knowledge in ecology and natural resource management. The annual competition encourages teamwork, problem solving and public speaking, while also focusing on current envi-

ronmental issues.

In total, 21 teams competed at the provincial event, which took place in Whiteshell Provincial Park from May 21 to 23.

"On the first day, students do the 3.5-hour trail test," said teacher Amanda Dion, who was one of the coaches along with Gaelen Fehr and Melissa Anderson.

"On the second day, students are given the oral question and have two hours, without any resources, to make a poster and a five-minute presentation. This year students were given a description of a parcel of land and three different land management



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Two teams from Warren Collegiate participated in the provincial level of the Manitoba Envirothon competition in Whiteshell Provincial Park last month. Pictured left to right: Sarah Goodwill, Kade Schedler, Mason Klassen, Jessica Chrusch and Sawyer Park.



Left to right: Chyler Grenkow, Austyn Scott, Katelynne Defoort, Michaella Monforton and Olivia Fontaine.

plans. They had to reconcile the three plans and justify their decisions."

Overall, the two WCI teams ranked eighth and 15th. The team consisting of Jess Chrusch, Sawyer Park, Sarah Goodwill, Kade Schedler and Mason Klassen earned recognition by winning the top mark for their oral presentation.

For Dion, the best part of the experience is seeing the students' presentations.

"It's always interesting to see what they come up with completely on their own. I am incredibly proud of these students. They have learned so much and have become experts in their own topics," she said.

"These are the students who will make a difference in the world someday. They dedicate themselves fully to every task they undertake and consistently strive to do their very best."

Water testing program offers affordable option for private well owners

By E. Antonio

Private well owners across the West Interlake region will have an opportunity to test their drinking water at a reduced cost on June 29 through the West Interlake Watershed District's annual Water Testing Days program.

The initiative is designed to make water testing more accessible for private well owners who may otherwise delay testing because of the cost.

Danya Chartrand, administrative and outreach co-ordinator with the West Interlake Watershed District, said the purpose of the program is to offer subsidized water testing for those who may be holding back due to financial constraints.

Water samples will be collected June 29 at designated drop-off locations in Moosehorn, Ashern, Lundar, St. Laurent and Woodlands. All samples must be dropped off by 10 a.m. to receive results. Application forms must be completed and submitted by June 22, one week before testing day.

The program is open to private well owners within the West Interlake Watershed District. Businesses are not eligible to participate.

Chartrand said the district has already received approximately 190 applications across its two scheduled testing days this year, with registrations continuing to arrive.

Regular testing is important because many contaminants cannot be detected without laboratory

analysis.

"Private well owners are responsible for monitoring and maintaining their own water," Chartrand said. "Contaminants like harmful bacteria, toxic trace elements and nitrates are invisible and cannot be detected by taste, smell or sight. Testing is the only reliable way to ensure your water is safe."

The district particularly recommends testing wells that may be vulnerable to contamination, including those with wellhead extensions, properties affected by overland flooding, locations where livestock are near water sources, or wells that share a water source with livestock.

Residents can access free testing for total coliform and E. coli bacteria, which serve as indicators of the sanitary quality and safety of drinking water.

Additional testing options are available for a reduced fee, including an advanced drinking water quality analysis that screens for a range of minerals, nutrients and trace elements, including arsenic, lead, uranium, nitrates, fluoride and other substances. Hardness testing, which measures the concentration of dissolved minerals, primarily calcium and magnesium, is also available.

Contaminated drinking water can pose significant health risks, Chartrand said, ranging from gastro-

WIWD Water Testing Days

Monday, June 29, 2026

Application form must be in one week prior to testing day*

<p>Drop Off Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Moosehorn - RM of Grahamdale Office 📍 Ashern - RM of West Interlake Office 📍 Lundar - WIWD Office 📍 St. Laurent - RM of St. Laurent Office 📍 Woodlands - RM of Woodlands Office 	<p>Options/Prices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📍 Total Coliform & E. coli - (Valued at \$30.00) ----- 📍 Advanced Drinking Water Quality - (Valued at \$230.00) ----- 📍 Hardness - (Valued at \$52.00)
---	--

Day of Information:

- 📍 Property owners must collect water samples the morning of.
- 📍 Please have your sample at your chosen location by 10:00AM.

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The West Interlake Watershed District is offering subsidized well-water testing for private landowners in Moosehorn, Ashern, Woodlands, St. Laurent and Lundar on June 29. Applications must be received by June 22, and water samples must be dropped off by 10 a.m. on testing day.

Argyle Rocks concert aims to boost community groups

By Haley Cvar

A summer evening of live country music will soon help support a half-dozen community organizations in the Argyle area.

The Argyle Skating Club is organizing the inaugural Argyle Rocks fundraising concert featuring Tennessee-based country artist Tennessee Jet on June 19 at Willow Grove Orchard in Argyle.

The outdoor event is designed as a community fundraiser, with proceeds supporting several volunteer-run clubs and organizations that play a key role in local recreation, heritage and community life.

Beneficiaries include the Argyle Skating Club, Argyle Curling Club, Argyle Memorial Community Centre, Settlers, Rails & Trails Museum, Brant-Argyle Legion Branch 222 and the Brant-Argyle School parent advisory council.

Argyle Skating Club president Meghan Hennig said the concert is an opportunity to bring the community together while raising funds for organizations that rely heavily on volunteers and fundraising efforts.

Doors open at 7 p.m., with local musicians performing beginning at 8 p.m. Tennessee Jet will take the stage at 9:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are available online through the Zeffy non-profit fundraising platform, which organizers selected because ticket proceeds go directly toward the fundraising effort.

The event is scheduled to proceed rain or shine, and attendees are en-



Scan this QR code to purchase advance tickets for the inaugural Argyle Rocks fundraising concert featuring Tennessee Jet on June 19 at Willow Grove Orchard in Argyle.

couraged to bring their own chairs. Bar service and food sales will also be available, with additional proceeds supporting the participating organizations.

For Tennessee Jet, performing at an event that supports local organizations and youth programs made the opportunity especially appealing.

"It's great playing a show that supports a great cause," he said. "Music should inspire people and bring them together. I grew up playing sports and I know what it means to a kid when communities support youth athletics."

The Oklahoma-born singer-songwriter has built a reputation for blending country, Southern rock and Americana influences. He describes his sound as a mix of influences rang-



ing from country and folk to grunge, incorporating instruments such as fiddle, pedal steel guitar and banjo.

"We are a trio with a lot of musical influences," he said. "We mix it up quite a bit and try to keep people guessing."

Despite touring extensively across North America, Jet said smaller community events often create a unique connection between performers and audiences.

"Smaller, more intimate events like this are often a special and more personal experience," he said. "With all that's going on in the world these days it's easy to feel disconnected and shows like this can help people block out the static and experience life together in a smaller setting."

The concert will also mark a milestone for the artist and his band.

"It'll be the first time we've ever played in Canada and we're looking forward to it," he said. "It'll be a high-energy family-friendly show."

The concert became possible through

the support of Standard Limestone Quarries, which sponsored Tennessee Jet's appearance and provided local organizers with an opportunity to host the event as a fundraiser.

Merle Balsillie, co-owner of Standard Limestone Quarries, said the company was pleased to help bring the artist to Argyle while supporting the community fundraising effort.

"It's pretty cool to be a part of Tennessee Jet's first Canadian show," said Balsillie. "It is very rewarding to see the people of Argyle work together to raise money for all their community groups."

Organizers hope the concert will not only generate financial support for local groups but also create a memorable community gathering for residents and visitors alike. The event will be held at Willow Grove Orchard in Argyle on June 19. Tickets are available online in advance for \$40, with all attendees required to be 18 years of age or older. Identification will be required at the gate.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Tennessee Jet, a platinum-certified songwriter and Americana artist known for his outlaw-country sound, will headline the Argyle Rocks fundraising concert on June 19 at Willow Grove Orchard in Argyle. Proceeds from the event will support several local volunteer organizations and community groups.

> TESTING, FROM PG. 11

intestinal illnesses such as diarrhea, nausea and vomiting to more serious concerns involving viruses, parasites and long-term exposure to heavy metals or chemical contaminants.

If testing reveals a problem, she advises residents to stop drinking the water immediately and investigate potential sources of contamination.

This may include inspecting the well cap and casing for damage, checking for surface water pooling near the wellhead, ensuring contaminants such as animal waste or fertilizer are kept away from the well, and having septic systems inspected for leaks. Wells affected by bacterial contamination may also require shock chlorination.

The watershed district offers support programs to help landowners address water quality concerns.

Through its Wellhead Protection Program, property owners may qualify for assistance through an abandoned well-sealing program that provides up to \$1,500 toward eligible costs. Funding is also available through a well chlorination program, offering up to \$250 for partial chlorination and up to \$500 for full chlorination.

Chartrand reminded residents planning to participate to submit their applications by June 22 and ensure payment is made before June 29 if they are requesting hardness or advanced drinking water quality testing.

She emphasized that appearances can be deceiving when it comes to drinking water safety.

"Harmful contaminants are invisible and cannot be detected by taste, smell or sight," she said. "Testing is the only reliable way to ensure your water is safe."

Fun raising funds



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The Stonewall Rockwood Firefighters Association raised approximately \$10,000 during its third annual Backdrafts 'N Brews fundraising evening held June 5 at the Stonewall Legion. More than 300 people attended the event, which featured samples from 18 beverage vendors offering a variety of brews and coolers. Guests also had the opportunity to test their putting skills at Prairie Putt Mobile Mini Golf, while the canteen was operated by the local Terry Fox Run committee. The evening included prize draws, with five attendees taking home prizes donated by local businesses. Organizers said the event serves as an important fundraiser for the association while bringing the community together for an evening of food, drinks and entertainment.





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RM of Armstrong honours local residents who fought in Second World War

By Patricia Barrett

The RM of Armstrong paid tribute last month to two former residents who sacrificed their lives for Canada during the Second World War.

Harry Louis Chartrand and Peter Trakalo both served in the Canadian infantry and died in action.

Over 1 million Canadians served during Second World War (1939-1945), sparked by Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. The war was one of the deadliest conflicts of the 20th century, with an estimated death toll (civilian and military) of between 50 and 75 million people. D-Day on June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of a campaign to liberate western Europe.

RM of Armstrong councillors Sonny Rohne and David Tyndale presented commemorative plaques in honour of the former Armstrong residents, with their family and friends in attendance for both events.

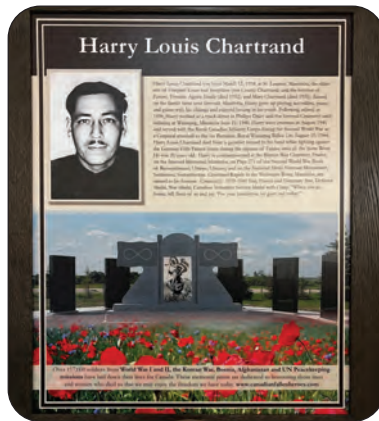
Rohne presented a plaque on May 15 to Chartrand's family members. It has as a photo of Chartrand, details about his life and his overseas service.

"It is an honour to pay tribute to Mr. Chartrand and to acknowledge the sacrifice he made for us," said Rohne in an Armstrong press release. "The opportunity to meet his family and place this plaque in the community that he grew up in allows us to pay our respects to a former local resident who is a hero to us all."

Harry Louis Chartrand was born on March 12, 1918, in St. Laurent, the eldest son of Gaspard Louis and Josephine Chartrand. He had five siblings Ernest, Yvonne, Agnes, Emile and



Peter Trakalo plaque.



Harry Louis Chartrand plaque.

Mary.

He was raised on the family farm near Inwood. He played piano, accordion and guitar and enjoyed boxing. After school he worked as a driver at Phillips Dairy and Inwood Creamery.

He enlisted in 1940 and was sent overseas in August 1941. He served with the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps as a corporal attached to the 1st Battalion, Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

He died at the age of 26 on Aug. 19, 1944, after he sustained a gunshot wound to his head. He had been fighting against the German Fifth Panzer Army in France.

Chartrand is commemorated at the Bayeux War Cemetery in France, on the Inward Memorial, in the Second World War Book of Remembrance in Ottawa (page 271), and on the National Metis Veterans Monument in Saskatoon. The Chartrand Rapids in the Wolverine

River (northern Manitoba) are named in his honour.

Chartrand's plaque was placed in the Inwood Memorial Hall.

Councillor Tyndale presented a commemorative plaque on May 30 to honour Peter Trakalo, who was born in Meleb and who served with the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps.

Before about 30 of Trakalo's relatives, including his 98-year-old sister-in-law, Jean Trakalo and his nephew Ron Trakalo, councillor Tynedale oversaw the hanging of the plaque in the Fraserwood Hall.

"Council welcomed the opportunity to honour Mr. Trakalo wholeheartedly. The Fraserwood Hall Board of Directors provided us with an excellent location for the plaque," said Tyndale. "We appreciate the support of community members in bringing this project to fruition."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RM OF ARMSTRONG
Victor, Brian and Roy Chartand.

Trakalo was born in Kreuzberg (now Fraserwood) in 1917 to John and Tillie Trakalo. He had five siblings - Paul, Joseph, Michael, May and Olga.

He served as lance corporal with the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps, after enlisting in 1942, according to his online profile with Veterans Affairs Canada. He was killed in France at the age of 26 on Aug. 16, 1944, after he was hit by a sniper while delivering rations to his platoon.

Trakalo is commemorated at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados France, in the Second World War Book of Remembrance (page 464), on the Scotland National War Memorial, on the Meleb Ukrainian Catholic Church Roll of Honour, on the Inwood Memorial and the Meleb War Memorial.

Trakalo Lake, west of North Knife Lake (in northern Manitoba), was named in his honour.



Councillor Sonny Rohne, Roy, Victor and Brian Chartrand and Inwood Hall President Bill Mott.



Peter Trakalo's family.

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

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To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

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Volunteers build 50 beds for Interlake children

By Lana Meier

Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Interlake chapter took a major step toward its goal of providing 100 beds to children in need this year after volunteers gathered for a successful build day in May.

Despite less-than-ideal weather conditions, 23 volunteers came together to build 50 beds destined for children throughout the Interlake region.

Chapter president Diane Fjeld said the day was a testament to the generosity and community spirit that continues to drive the organization's mission.

"Twenty-three people braved the weather and made 50 beds in four hours," said Fjeld. "It was like a well-oiled machine with our regular volunteers helping our new builders. Cutting, sanding, drilling, branding and staining — it takes a crew to make it happen."

The build was made possible through community support, including a \$5,500 grant from the Westshore Community Foundation and a \$2,200 donation from Interlake Co-op.

The chapter also recognized the

support of the Stony Mountain/Stonewall Masonic Lodge and Gimli Masonic Lodge, whose members participated in the build day and provided financial support.

"Stony Mountain/Stonewall Lodge and the Gimli Masonic Lodge showed us their skills," Fjeld said. "They sent 10 volunteers and Stony Mountain/Stonewall Lodge donated \$500. All donations are greatly appreciated and enable us to keep building."

Additional support came from KC Enterprises, which supplied lunch for volunteers and provides lumber for the beds. Fjeld also acknowledged Kingsdown, which manufactures the mattresses, and Smitty's Furniture in Arborg, which transports them to families in need.

"Every contribution is important to us," she said.

The build day marks significant progress toward the chapter's goal of doubling its output from last year, when volunteers built 42 beds for children across the Interlake region. The organization provides handmade wooden beds, mattresses, bedding and quilts to children between the



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Representatives of the Stony Mountain/Stonewall Masonic Lodge present a \$500 donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace Interlake president Diane Fjeld during the organization's recent bed build. Pictured are Richard Famous, Dennis Pearce, Ken Sutherland, Diane Fjeld, Tim Heisler and Conrad Reimer.



Volunteer Ken Jonasson sands bed components.



Volunteers Donna Grainger, Thor Stevens and Conrad Reimer assemble headboards.



Twenty-three volunteers braved wet weather to build 50 beds during Sleep in Heavenly Peace Interlake's first build day of 2026. The organization provides beds, mattresses and bedding to children who do not have a bed of their own.

ages of three and 17 who do not have a bed of their own.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace launched its Interlake chapter in 2025 and serves communities stretching from Stonewall and Gimli to Fisher Branch, Riverton and Fisher River Cree Nation. The organization relies entirely on volunteers, donations and community partnerships to meet the growing demand for beds.

As a standalone chapter operating under the umbrella of the national organization, which is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency, Fjeld said the local chapter does not hold fundraising events but instead relies on the goodwill of communities, foundations, businesses, organizations and individual donors.

"The volunteers are the heart of everything we do," she said.

The chapter is currently looking for additional volunteers to help deliver and set up beds throughout the Interlake region.

"Our Interlake region covers a lot of geography and bed requests can come from anywhere," said Fjeld. "If you are interested in helping in any way, contact me through the SHP Facebook page, Messenger or by text."

Families in need can apply for a bed through the organization's website at SHPbeds.ca.

"Likewise, if you know of a family that needs beds for their children, let us know," Fjeld said. "We are here to help."

People can also inquire about volunteering and making monetary or new bedding donations by calling Diane Fjeld at (204) 641-5297.

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Stonewall photographer earns silver at Skills Canada nationals

By E. Antonio

Deaghan McLeod made her Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) debut this May — and came home with an impressive result.

The Stonewall photographer travelled to Toronto and captured a silver medal in the post-secondary photography division. As a recent graduate of Red River College Polytechnic's professional photography program, she said the achievement is life-changing.

"There is little that I didn't feel like I gave it my all for. I feel the entire competition turned out the best it possibly could have," she said. "It was absolute chaos, but the most fun ever."

McLeod competed against representatives from every province and territory during a fast-paced, two-day competition that required contestants to complete and submit 14 on-the-spot photography assignments.

SCNC followed the Skills Manitoba Competition in April, where McLeod won gold in her category to qualify for nationals. Comparing the two events, she said the national competition was larger in scope and far more intense.

"It was everything you can possibly do in photography put into one competition over the course of two days," she said. "It made me a little nervous for sure, but once the clock started, I began doing the things I wanted to do and was able to break through that anxiety."

Supported by friends, family, classmates and instructor Jocelyne Hebert, McLeod said staying true to herself helped her remain calm and focused throughout the competition.

"At the end of the day, you need to go out there and do your best. Do things you are proud of and deliver the results you want to deliver," she said. "I couldn't have done this without the support I received. They kept me grounded and encouraged me to have fun, so I didn't have time to stress about the competition."

Contestants were tasked with a variety of challenges, including photographing four mystery objects, creating an HDR architectural image and pro-



ducing a three-photo series based on the theme of balance.

McLeod said the balance assignment proved to be the most difficult because she initially struggled to decide whether to approach the theme literally or metaphorically. She ultimately chose to photograph male and female competitors in the trades, creating images that highlighted balance through representation.

Those photographs became some of the work she was most proud of because of the technical skill required to create them.

Her favourite image, however, featured one of the mystery objects: tin foil. Describing the assignment as a form of redemption, McLeod said she had struggled with a similar challenge during her studies and was eager for another opportunity.

"When I got tin foil at this competition, I was ready for it," she said.

Her hard work paid off when she learned she had earned second place — a moment she recalls as emotional.

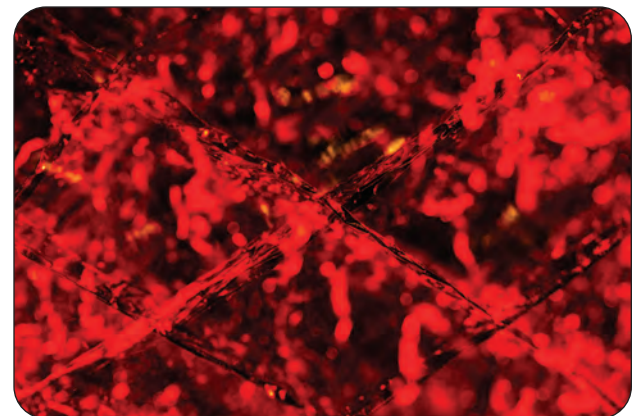
"I put so many years of hard work into building that moment," she said. "It means absolutely everything to me."

Looking ahead, McLeod plans to continue freelancing, focusing primarily on event and per-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Stonewall's Deaghan McLeod celebrates her silver-medal finish in the photography competition at the Skills Canada National Competition in Toronto.



One of McLeod's Skills Canada competition assignments featured tin foil as the subject.

forming arts photography. She hopes to apply the lessons she learned at Skills Canada to her future work.

"I need to trust myself and have faith that I know what I am doing," she said. "I am proud of the work I have done, and I will remain proud of the work I will do."

AI-Anon and AA Meetings Information

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

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

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

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

> HARDWOOD, FROM PG. 10

ter his dad taught him the basics. He said he was originally destined for a career working with concrete but quickly fell in love with hardwood floors.

"I do it because I love seeing the 'wow' on people's faces when it's re-done and they realize how nice it is. It's the customers who make this job so great."

He's always looking for new customers to add to his list and recommends anyone interested in having hardwood floors installed to give him a call or text at 204-339-9581 to discuss a quote. Based in Selkirk, he happily travels anywhere in Winnipeg or the Interlake for installation and refinishing work.

Currently, his wait-list is about two months, but once scheduled, the job normally takes one to three days de-

pending on the size of the house.

If you already have hardwood floors, he gave three tips to know when it's time to get them re-sanded or refinished: if there are any scratch-

es, if there's warping or if you see any discolouration.

"It's always a good time to care for your floors, and I am happy to be a part of that process."



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Brent Ducharme, owner of Tom Ducharme Hardwood in Selkirk, sands an original hardwood floor in preparation for refinishing, carrying on his family's three-generation legacy of skilled flooring craftsmanship in Selkirk.

Dance in the Park brings students together through music



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

More than 300 students from École R.W. Bobby Bend joined their teachers at Memorial Park on Friday for the school's third annual Dance in the Park event. Led by Mr. Powell, the flashmob-style celebration showcased a variety of dance styles, including cultural and traditional performances, each paired with music that reflected its story and origins. Students danced in groups, using movement to express their appreciation for music while celebrating creativity, culture and community. The annual event provided an opportunity for students to share their talents and learn about different forms of dance in an outdoor setting.

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Waabishki Bineshiins offers Indigenous-led support in health system

By Jennifer McFee

June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to honour the culture and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people — including those right here in the Interlake-Eastern health region.

It's also a time to reflect on the impacts of colonization while taking tangible steps toward reconciliation.

Indigenous cultural perspectives are at the forefront for Waabishki Bineshiins, IERHA's Indigenous-led health team committed to improving cultural safety, health equity and reconciliation within the health system. Waabishki Bineshiins supports patients in their health journey, helping them interpret health information and understand their options.

The team's work is guided by the teaching that spirit must always come first. To honour this teaching, the team offered tobacco to an elder from one of the communities. Through ceremony, the team asked the elder to help find a name that would guide their work in a positive way. They received the name Waabishki Bineshiins, or White Thunderbird. This name reflects not only their spiritual foundation but also accountability to their relatives and communities. Each spring, they hold a ceremony and feast to honour the name.

Robert Maytwayashing, a regional elder and knowledge keeper with Waabishki Bineshiins, outlines the importance of Indigenous representation in health care.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Robert Maytwayashing is a regional elder and knowledge keeper with Waabishki Bineshiins.



Jaycee Seenie, an Indigenous Health skaabe at Selkirk Regional Health Centre, picking medicine.

"As a people, we have been systematically marginalized in all sectors of society. It's been a long time coming to start to have Indigenous representation in the health-care system, not only for our region but for all regions across the province. It's nice to see a familiar face when you enter these facilities," he said.

"For the longest time, it was a rare occurrence to see an Indigenous person working in health care. Now there are starting to be more and more Indigenous people involved, and more so with our recent Indigenous Health team. They're there to support our relatives when they enter the health-care system in one of our facilities — to help them navigate and also to support them."

The Waabishki Bineshiins team is made up of three main roles: elders/traditional knowledge keepers, Indigenous social workers and skaabes.

Elders/traditional knowledge keep-

ers carry Indigenous teachings from their ancestors and are knowledgeable in the ways of healing, spiritual care and ceremony. They may provide guidance for staff and patients, personal consultation, cultural care, and support and mentorship to patients and their families.

Indigenous social workers also play an important role by supporting and advocating for Indigenous families who are receiving care. With their knowledge of Indigenous teachings and health care, these social workers help with navigating the system through a cultural lens and facilitate safe care plans.

Rounding out the team are the Indigenous Health skaabes — an Anishinaabemowin word that refers to a helper who walks alongside elders, knowledge keepers and community members with humility, respect and a deep commitment to service. Skaabes ensure Indigenous patients receive appropriate and safe patient-centred care during their stay in the hospital and throughout the discharge planning process. At the same time, they help build bridges between Western medicine and Indigenous ways of knowing. They listen, guide and connect so patients and families feel supported during their health-care journey.

"We need more Indigenous people

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> MEAL IDEAS



Watermelon Beet Post-Workout Smoothie

- 1 banana, peeled
 - 1/2 cup coconut water
 - 1 cup low-fat, plain kefir
 - 1/2 lime, peeled
 - 2 tablespoons honey
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 2 tablespoons vanilla protein powder
- In blender, blend beet, watermelon, banana, coconut water, kefir, lime, honey, vanilla extract and protein powder until smooth.

Recipe courtesy of the National Watermelon Promotion Board
 Servings: 2
 1/2 medium cooked and peeled beet, chopped
 1 cup chopped watermelon



Rosy Red Superfood Smoothie

- 1 cup fresh or frozen raspberries
 - 1 cup low-fat raspberry kefir
 - 2 tablespoons orange juice concentrate
 - 2 tablespoons hemp seeds
 - 2 tablespoons agave syrup
 - ice (optional)
- In blender, blend watermelon, raspberries, kefir, orange juice concentrate, hemp seeds, agave syrup and ice, if desired, until smooth.

Recipe courtesy of the National Watermelon Promotion Board
 Servings: 3
 2 cups watermelon cubes



Watermelon Protein Shake

- Recipe courtesy of Chrissy Carroll on behalf of the National Watermelon Promotion Board
 Servings: 1
- 1 cup chopped watermelon
 - 1 cup frozen mango, chopped
 - 1/4 cup tart cherry juice
 - 1/2 cup plain, nonfat Greek yogurt
 - 1/2 scoop vanilla or unflavored protein powder
 - 1 tablespoon honey or to taste (optional)
- In blender, blend watermelon, mango, cherry juice, Greek yogurt, protein powder and honey about 30 seconds until well combined.

Will or Power of Attorney? Understanding the difference

By Rosemary Hnatiuk, barrister, solicitor & notary public

What's the difference between a will and a power of attorney? Many people are confused about this. In your will you set out what will happen with your property after you pass away. An enduring power of attorney gives authority to a trusted person (a spouse, adult child, sibling or good friend) to look after your affairs while you are alive and become mentally or physically incapacitated.

Once you pass away, the power of attorney is no longer in effect, and the will determines what happens with your property.

Take note! Once you become mentally incompetent, it is too late for a power of attorney. You would have to go to court to get a committee, for someone to take care of your affairs. This costs thousands of dollars instead of a few hundred for a power of attorney. If your family or friends can't afford this then the Public Trustee would likely intervene and take control of your property to finance your care.

About the Author

I travel to people's homes with my laptop and printer to prepare documents.

Reduced rates for couples are available.

I prepare:

- wills
- powers of attorney
- committee applications



Rosemary Hnatiuk is a barrister, solicitor and notary public who provides mobile legal services, helping clients prepare wills, powers of attorney and other legal documents in the comfort of their homes.

- co-habitation agreements
- separation agreements
- documents for estates
- real estate transactions
- uncontested divorces

I am trained in collaborative family law and transformative mediation.

I can provide service in French and German. I understand Ukrainian and Spanish.

Disclaimer

These observations are not intended to be legal advice on any matter discussed. Legal problems are very specific in nature. Legal professionals should be consulted for best results.

ROSEMARY HNATIUK LLB-BCL

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Communication in English | French | German



Rams overcome past heartbreak to win provincial softball banner

By Kieran Reimer

The Stonewall Rams have reached the mountaintop of high school softball.

Stonewall defeated the St. Joachim Braves 9-2 last Saturday to capture the 2026 Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association G3 Provincial Softball Championship.

The victory came after back-to-back years of heartbreaking semifinal losses that resulted in bronze-medal finishes.

“We set our goal before the season at getting into that championship and winning it. We have four Grade 12s on our team, and some of that played a pretty big role. For them to go out as champions, it’s pretty cool,” said Rams coach Curtis Grieve.

Those Grade 12 players include Lucy Hoff, Paige Powroznik, Kassie Siwak and Sierra Slatcher, all of whom were part of the team in previous seasons.

The four led the Rams through both their play and leadership this season as Stonewall finished with a 20-1 record.

The team also went a perfect 5-0 at provincials, earning round-robin victories of 7-1 over the host Pilot Mound Pilots and 11-1 over the Hamiota Huskies. Stonewall then defeated the Prairie Mountain Predators 12-5 in the quarterfinals and the CJS Olympians 10-0 in the semifinals before topping St. Joachim for the banner.

“I would say our round-robin games on Friday, we played a little bit on the nervous side. We won our games quite handily, but I don’t know if we were quite at the top of our game on Friday,” said Grieve. “Our girls knew where they had to be. They knew what it would take to win on Saturday. We came with a lot of noise and a lot of energy, won our quarterfinal



Stonewall Rams pitcher Sierra Slatcher was named provincial MVP after recording 36 strikeouts and batting better than .600 at the MHSAA Girls Softball Provincial Championship.

against Prairie Mountain and then took on CJS. CJS was the only team to beat us this year, and we kind of won a dominant one there, 10-0 against them, which put us in a good position for the final and feeling pretty good about ourselves.”

Saturday’s playoff run was led in particular by the Rams’ Grade 11 and 12 players, who drove in a large number of runs over the three playoff games.

Slatcher, who batted over .600 during the tournament, was also a key contributor defensively, recording 36 strikeouts while issuing no walks over 17 innings.

Her performance earned her Provincial MVP honours, while fellow Rams Siwak, Riley Swanson and Abi Minnie were named tournament all-stars.

“We had all the confidence in the world with the lineup we could roll out there,” said Grieve. “We knew that we were able to limit Sierra’s pitch count the first day, and then got a good pitching performance from Peyton Rinn and Kassie in the quarterfinal, so that led us to having a nice fresh Sierra for the semifinal, and then she just



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY SANDI SWANSON

The Stonewall Rams captured the 2025-26 Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Girls Softball Provincial Championship. Pictured, back row from left: head coach Curtis Grieve, Jordyn Chetyrbok, Lily Hammond, Katie Braid, Keira Pattie, Avery Deprez, Abi Minnie, Peyton Rinn, Riley Swanson, Sara Vande, assistant coach Brenda Woods and assistant coach Dennis Woods. Front row: Sierra Slatcher, Lucy Hoff, Kassie Siwak and Paige Powroznik.



Four Stonewall Rams players earned provincial honours following the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association provincial softball championship. Pictured from left are provincial all-stars Riley Swanson, Abi Minnie and Kassie Siwak, along with provincial MVP Sierra Slatcher.

rolled through to the final as well.”

While provincials marks the end of the road at the high school level for the four Grade 12 players, Stonewall will return 10 players with championship experience who are eligible to come back next season.

With the opportunity to bring back such a large group, the prospect of repeating as champions will certainly be on the team’s mind in 2027.

“Softball in the Interlake, and softball in Stonewall, is in a good place right now,” said Grieve. “I think that as a high school team, we’re not looking at rebuilding. We’re more looking at the reload sort of thing with some kids coming up from Grade 8 and our strong base of returning players that we have already.”



The Rams celebrate after defeating the St. Joachim Braves in the finals 9-2.



Lucy Hoff, Katie Braid and Peyton Rinn celebrate a play.

New partnership brings books to Teulon hospital

By Jennifer McFee

Thanks to a novel new collaboration, patients and visitors at Teulon's hospital will have an ample supply of books to peruse.

Staff from the local library has filled a cart with books and delivered it to Hunter Memorial Hospital for all to enjoy. On a regular basis, library staff will check on the cart — which was funded by the Teulon Healthcare Foundation — to make sure it's well-stocked and that any damaged materials are removed and replaced.

Michael Hepples, executive director of South Interlake Regional Library, explained the impetus behind the initiative.

"This project came out of a brainstorming session on outreach services that we could provide as a library, and we felt there was a need we could address for those in our local hospitals that may not have the same recreational options available to them," he said.

"This was also an opportunity to reach out to local groups that we felt we could partner with to do some community good. In Teulon, that was the Teulon Healthcare Foundation, who generously supplied the funds used to purchase the cart itself."

He expects they'll be able to keep a few dozen books on the cart with a mix of materials, including books, magazines and puzzles.

"The materials on the cart are free for anyone to take advantage of, whether they are a patient, staff or a visitor to a current patient," Hepples said. "If someone grabs a book they enjoy and wish to keep it, that is wonderful. And if they happen to want to leave a book or two behind, we fully support that too."

With a focus on collaboration, hospital staff also had the chance to share their insights on the project.

"We have connected with the on-site staff at the hospital to get their input on the type of materials they feel will be most beneficial since they have first-hand knowledge of what residents and patients might enjoy," Hepples said.

"These books are from our supply

of donated materials, allowing us to give some of these items a fresh new purpose, without anyone having to worry about checking items in and out of our collection or needing a library membership. We understand that the people that will benefit most from this cart have more important things on their minds and just want to give them the comfort of a good book without adding any additional stress."

David Oakley, chair of the Teulon Healthcare Foundation, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative.

"The Teulon Healthcare Foundation is thrilled to partner with the Teulon library to help establish a process to keep books and puzzles refreshed in the hospital. Books and puzzles are wonderful tools that are conversation pieces that can help enrich patients' and residents' days, as well as family visits," he said.

"The process of targeting and refreshing the selection maintains interest as there is always something new and refreshing. Otherwise, they just become part of the room décor and provide little to no benefit to the residents, patients or family."

He expressed gratitude for all those who helped to bring the project to life.

"Thank you so much to the Teulon library branch for thinking outside the box to help improve the patient and resident experience in Teulon," said Oakley, adding that they're looking for a copy of *They Came For the Future* by the Teulon and District History Book Committee to add to the collection.

"We would also like to thank the community for supporting the foundation. Your generosity helps us look for ways to improve care and enrich patient experience in the local healthcare facilities."

For the library team, Hepples said the best part of the project is the feeling of the "warm and fuzzies" that it creates.

"We derive no direct benefit from the program, but it is a high priority for the staff to have an impact in the community and promote literacy," he said.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Library staff have delivered a fully stocked book cart to Teulon's hospital, thanks to generous contributions from the Teulon Healthcare Foundation. Left to right: Michael Hepples, executive director of South Interlake Regional Library; June Makowski, Teulon branch librarian; Crystal Bergeron, recreation coordinator at Goodwin Lodge; Valerie Coburn, recreation coordinator at Teulon hospital; and David Oakley, chair of the Teulon Healthcare Foundation.

"For patients and their families, we hope that this provides some entertainment alternatives for those staying in the hospital, a distraction for those spending time visiting a loved one, and maybe even a few memories for those who chose to share some reading material together during a visit."

With an eye on the horizon, Hepples can see opportunities to potentially expand the initiative.

"We would love to expand to other hospitals in our catchment, as well as seniors' homes and personal care homes, if we can find the willing partners to help make that vision happen," he said.

Kim Hansen, manager of health services at Teulon Hospital, said that patients are elated with the addition of the book cart.

"This has been a fantastic addition to the patients and visitors of Teulon hospital. Reading is such a therapeutic tool for the elderly and has so many benefits for those living with

dementia," she said.

"Reading assists in preserving cognitive function, can reduce stress and agitation and provides emotional comfort, as well as social connection and comradery with group readings and activities."

The constant rotation of materials brings new life to the cart and keeps the patients engaged and excited while looking for something new, she added.

"The time and effort that has been put into making this project a success is greatly appreciated — an act of kindness can transform someone's day. The hospital and community as a whole are always looking for new and innovative ways to enrich the lives of our patients, families and community," she said.

"It is my greatest honour to serve this community, and I want to give my heartfelt thank you to everyone involved."

> HEALTH SYSTEM, FROM PG. 18

involved in all sectors of the healthcare system," Elder Maytwayash-ing added. "We need more doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, support staff and senior leadership, the whole gamut."

In his view, events such as Nation-

al Indigenous People's Day on June 21 also help to dispel myths and misinformation about Indigenous people and culture.

"When we have annual event such as this, it's a friendly reminder that we're still here. We're not going

anywhere," he said.

"The sooner we learn to understand, respect and appreciate each other, the better off we're all going to be."

The Waabishki Bineshiins team continues to grow, and they're look-

ing to fill all three roles — elder/knowledge keeper, social worker and skaabe — in Ashern. To learn more, visit ierha.ca/indigenous-health or call 204-482-2144.

Stonewall students paint rocks to share with cross-Canada visitors

By Jennifer McFee

Stonewall elementary school students created lasting mementos destined to travel across the country through a rock-solid creative project.

A Grade 2 class at École R.W. Bobby Bend School recently embraced its creativity through a rock-painting initiative. Their colourful creations will serve as made-in-Manitoba gifts for delegates attending Canadian Parks and Recreation Association meetings in Manitoba from May 31 to June 2.

"We encouraged the children to paint things they love about Manitoba, but they were also welcome to use their own creativity and imagination in their artwork," said teacher Kaylee Wilson.

"The students have been very excited about the project and are really enjoying the opportunity to express themselves creatively. They especially love choosing their designs and seeing their ideas come to life on the rocks."

At the same time, the activity offered opportunities for learning and reflection.

"This activity also ties into the curriculum by encouraging creativity, self-expression, fine motor skills and discussions about community and the things that make Manitoba special to them," she said.

"One of the biggest benefits of getting involved in projects like this is giving students an opportunity to connect with their community while building confidence and pride in their work."

Laine Wilson, a Manitoba repre-



Pictured are some of the painted Manitoba-themed rocks.

sentative on the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association board and director of community relations for the RM of Rockwood, provided the rocks and painting supplies for the project. She is wrapping up her final term after a six-year commitment to the organization, making it especially meaningful to host her colleagues in her home province.

"June is Parks and Recreation Month, so it's the perfect gift for my fellow board members coming to Winnipeg for our meetings," said Wilson, adding that Rockwood council has been supportive of her work at the national table. "This way, they can take back with them a piece of Manitoba to every province and territory."

Emily George, executive director of Recreation Manitoba, said representatives from all 13 provinces and territories visited Manitoba, including a staff member and a board member



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Kaylee Wilson's Grade 2 class at Ecole RW Bobby Bend School painted colourful rocks that are destined for every province and territory in Canada. The colourful creations serve as souvenirs for Canadian Parks and Recreation Association delegates who visited Manitoba for meetings from May 31 to June 2.

from each jurisdiction.

The visit centred on board meetings, the organization's annual general meeting and awards presentations. Many visitors also took in local attractions before and after the meetings, which were held at The Forks and the Sport Manitoba Building. Other highlights included attending a Goldeyes game and visiting the Centre of Canada sign and Birds Hill Park.

"This group meets twice a year in person and virtually four times throughout the year. The spring meeting rotates between provinces on a newly established hosting schedule, while the fall meeting is always held in Ottawa to coincide with our Ad-

vocacy Day on Parliament Hill," she said.

"At these meetings, there is always a local touch to remind the group of the impact of recreation at the grass-roots level. It's a reminder of why we do what we do and why it matters."

The meetings also serve as a reminder that while each province and territory has a different approach, as well as unique strengths and challenges, they are united in their commitment to working collaboratively.

The visitors were pleased to receive the painted rocks and looked forward to bringing them home to their communities, where they can continue the painted rock tradition.

Let's Read Together event celebrates literacy in Stonewall

By Jo-Anne Procter

Families gathered at Quarry Park on June 6 for Let's Read Together, a Manitoba-wide initiative aimed at bringing communities, families and young learners together to celebrate literacy.

The event was organized by Jennifer Rukhra, equity and social justice chair for the Interlake Teachers' Association and a teacher at École R.W. Bobby Bend School, who welcomed guests and volunteer readers to the outdoor literacy celebration.

Reading stations were set up near the pond, where participants enjoyed stories shared by guest readers, including Suzi Friesen, director of educational programming with the

True North Youth Foundation; Alycia Campbell, founder of Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome, along with her daughter Maggie; Const. Sahota of the RCMP; and Lillian Klausen, president of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

In addition to story time, families participated in literacy-themed activities, enjoyed snacks and selected free books donated through United for Literacy.

The event highlighted the importance of reading and learning while providing families with an opportunity to connect and foster a love of literacy in a welcoming outdoor setting.

TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Pictured clockwise from top, families were encouraged to choose a book to take home. Lillian Klausen read in French to families. Const. Sahota read a story about inclusion and acceptance.



sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Rams' Swanson named MHSAA Athlete of the Week

By Kieran Reimer

Riley Swanson of Stonewall Collegiate has been named a Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Athlete of the Week by the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association.

Swanson, a Grade 11 student at Stonewall Collegiate, has turned heads over the past few weeks with her impressive play for the Rams varsity girls softball team.

This season, she is batting .632 with a .650 on-base percentage, recording 24 hits, 27 RBIs and three home runs through just 13 games.

In the classroom, she has also excelled, maintaining a 95 per cent average.

Last week, Swanson and the Rams competed at the provincial championships in Pilot Mound, where she starred behind the plate and at third base. In between games, she could often be found studying for final exams, which begin this week.

"Whenever we have breaks I'll quickly do some studying, or I'll do some work," said Swanson. "As soon as I get home, because I have a spare last period, I do work. I just try to get

projects done, not as quickly as I can, but when I have time. The little time periods that I have, I'll do work then just to get things done and study as much as I could for tests and exams coming up."

Swanson also balances volleyball, basketball, badminton and hockey throughout the school year. Her primary focus, however, is softball, which she also plays at the AAA level with the U17 AAA Interlake Phillies.

She said playing for the Rams under head coach Curtis Grieve has helped her round out her game for both high school competition and the summer season with the Phillies.

"He really pushes me to be my best," said Swanson. "Although he could be hard on us, I like when he does that because it really pushes us to our limits and makes us do what we usually do so we can be our best. He always believes in us and makes sure that we're always trying our hardest."

Swanson added that extra batting practice on her own time has helped translate into success on the field.

Like some of her older teammates before her, Swanson hopes to con-



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stonewall Collegiate's Riley Swanson has been named a Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Athlete of the Week by the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association. The Grade 11 catcher and third baseman is batting .632 for the Rams this season while maintaining a 95 per cent average in the classroom.

tinue her softball career at the collegiate level after graduating from high school.

"I want to go to the (United) States and play ball, hopefully pursue

somewhere out there," said Swanson. "Probably closer to home, not too far, but hopefully start with the junior college, and maybe later, if I make it there, go Division I if I really can."

Interlake players named to Baseball Manitoba provincial boys teams

By Kieran Reimer

Baseball Manitoba has announced the players who will sport the black and gold this summer as part of Team Manitoba at the boys 14U, 15U, 16U and 17U national tournaments.

All four rosters were released last week, with Interlake representation on each team.

The boys 14U development team includes Stonewall's Crew Corbett of the 15U AAA Interlake Orioles as the lone Interlake representative. He will

be part of the team training for the 2026 14U Western Selects, scheduled for Sept. 3-6 in St. Albert, Alta.

Corbett was also selected to the 15U provincial team as one of the youngest players on the roster.

He will be joined by Stonewall's Jake Fortin and Alex Walker, both of the 15U AAA Interlake Orioles, along with St. Andrews' Jensen Freiter of the 15U AAA North Winnipeg Pirates, giving the 15U provincial team four local players.

The quartet will represent Manitoba at the 2026 Ray Carter Cup, also known as the 15U Nationals, from Aug. 20-23 in Summerside, P.E.I.

The boys 16U development team has one local player in Narol's Declan Fisher, who plays summer ball for the 18U AAA Elmwood Giants.

Fisher and the 16U squad will also represent Manitoba at the 2026 16U Western Selects from Sept. 3-6 in St. Albert.

Baseball Manitoba also named

Grosse Isle's Ashton Baldwin of the 18U AAA Interlake Orioles and St. Andrews' Koen Nickel of the 18U AAA North Winnipeg Pirates to its 17U youth team.

Joining the team as an assistant coach is Stonewall's Eric Swanson, the current head coach of the 18U AAA Interlake Orioles.

The team will compete at the 2026 17U Canada Cup from Aug. 5-9 in Summerside.

Interlake locals named to Baseball Manitoba provincial women's teams

By Kieran Reimer

Baseball Manitoba have officially released their rosters for the women's teams that will represent Manitoba nationally this summer across the 14U, 16U, 19U, and Women's Provincial Team levels.

Interlake locals Olivia Hagen and Ella Holm, both of Stonewall, along with Arborg's Jamie Johnson and Clondeboye's Liberty Aime were all named to the Women's Provincial

Team roster that will have home field this summer at the 2026 Women's National Championships.

Optimist Park in Winnipeg was named the host of nationals earlier this year, and will see the four locals, along with the rest of Team Manitoba taking on provincial teams from around Canada in the four-day competition from July 9-12.

Due to their age, Aime, Hagen, and Holm were also picked for the

19U Women's Provincial Team and will represent Manitoba at 2026 19U Women's National Championships from July 30-Aug. 2 in Saskatoon, SK.

Hagen was also selected to the 16U Girls Provincial Team that is head coached by Lundar's Blaine Fortin, making it the third provincial team she will play for this summer.

The 16Us will represent Manitoba at the 2026 16U Girls National Championships from Aug. 20-23 in Moncton,

NB.

The 14U Girls Development Team also had local representation named to the team in Lundar's Halle Johnson and Charley Miller, along with Selkirk's Addison Zebinski, while Selkirk's Ty Zebinski joins the staff as an assistant coach.

The team will also have home field this summer at the 2026 14U Girls Western Championships from Aug. 14-16 in Ile des Chenes.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

United stomp Triumph for second win of season

By Kieran Reimer

Stonewall United are heating up big time after dropping their season opener three weeks ago.

After a bounce back performance that earned them their first win of the season last week, Stonewall kept things going with one of their largest margins of defeat in club history last Friday when they defeated Triumph, 9-1, at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

Adam Brown, Chris Thompson, and Chris Hunter led the way, scoring two goals apiece to provide a large lead, while Israel Ogungbemi, Tyler Kubin, and Rupert Robinson also chipped in goals as United improved their record to 2-1.

"(We) played a great team game where everyone was playing well and we were passing well as a team and we made it count when we needed to," said United defender Matt Olnick.

He added that they took advantage of a short bench on the Triumph end

which saw them open the game with only nine players, later getting up to 10.

United meanwhile fielded a full roster that provided them a large advantage being able to sub on-and-off amid the 30-degree heat.

The win earns Stonewall their first two-game wins streak of the season which they will look to keep going next week in Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 3 play.

"Everyone's clicking early on so we need to continue that and we will definitely make some noise in Division 3 this year with its new format of only playing every team once," said Olnick.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Tuesday, June 9 vs Storm City, 7:30 p.m. at Buhler Recreation Park

Sunday, June 14 vs NK Croatia, 7:30 p.m. at Buhler Recreation Park



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Stonewall United's Amar Manning steals the ball from a Triumph player and pushes the play upfield during Stonewall's 9-1 victory last Friday in Stonewall.

Jr. Jays jump a pair of spots after weekend sweep

By Kieran Reimer

It was a clean-sweep weekend for the Interlake Jr. Blue Jays.

Interlake posted three wins in as many games, extending its winning streak to five games.

On Friday, the Blue Jays came out on top in an offensive battle with the Winnipeg South Wolves (1-12), earning an 8-7 victory at Quarry Park in Stonewall.

A Sunday doubleheader against the Altona Bisons (0-12) featured another

strong offensive showing, but with much sharper defensive play from Interlake.

The Blue Jays earned 13-3 and 10-1 victories on home field to improve to 4-0 in the season series against the Bisons.

The results moved Interlake up two spots in the Manitoba Junior Baseball League standings, where it now sits third with a 7-4 record.

The strong weekend also gives the Blue Jays an opportunity to gain

ground on teams ahead of them in the standings, including the Pembina Valley Orioles (6-3) and Elmwood Giants (6-2), whom they will face during a busy four-game week.

First up is a Wednesday road matchup against the fifth-place Orioles, a team Interlake has yet to defeat in two meetings this season.

The Blue Jays will then continue their road swing Friday night with a trip to Winnipeg to face the fourth-place Giants before returning home

Sunday for a doubleheader against the league-leading St. Boniface Legionaires (9-3).

UPCOMING GAMES:

- Wednesday, June 10 at Pembina Valley Orioles, 7 p.m., Arctic Field
- Friday, June 12 at Elmwood Giants, 7 p.m., Koskie Field
- Sunday, June 14 vs. St. Boniface Legionaires (doubleheader), 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Quarry Park

Road win helps Sr. Jays climb out of WSBL basement

By Kieran Reimer

The Stonewall Sr. Blue Jays made a much-needed return to the win column in last week's Winnipeg Senior Baseball League play.

Stonewall downed the third-place Carillon Sultans 9-5 at A.D. Penner

Park in Steinbach for its second win of the season.

The Jays have continued to have Carillon's number in Steinbach this season, having won both meetings at A.D. Penner Park.

With the win, Stonewall has started

its climb out of the WSBL basement and is now tied with three other teams for sixth place with a 2-4 record.

It was a light week for the Jays, with just one game on the schedule before returning home this week for games against the Elmwood Giants (3-2) and

St. Boniface Brewers (2-4).

Due to press deadlines, the result of Monday's game against Elmwood was unavailable at press time.

Upcoming game:

Wednesday, June 10 vs. St. Boniface Brewers, 7:30 p.m. at Quarry Park

U13 Phillies lead week for Interlake softball teams

By Annaliese Meier

The Interlake Phillies U13 squad highlighted the week for the organization, battling through four games and earning a split while remaining competitive against two strong opponents.

The Phillies opened play June 6 at Quarry Park in Stonewall against Central Energy, earning a 14-6 victory in the opener before falling 5-3 in the second game to split the doubleheader.

Interlake returned to the field June 7 against the Eastman Wildcats. The Phillies dropped a narrow 13-12 decision in the opener before falling 11-4 in the second game.

The U13 squad returns to action June 20 when it hosts the Manitoba Angels at Quarry Park No. 3. The doubleheader is scheduled for 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. The following day, Interlake will travel to Friedensfeld for a pair of games against the Eastman Wildcats at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

The Interlake Phillies U17 team split its doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats on June 7 at Friedensfeld Community Centre Diamond 1.

The Phillies earned a 12-9 victory in the opener before the Wildcats responded with a 12-2 win in the second game.



Phillies pitcher Peyton Ballantyne delivers a pitch against Central Energy.

Interlake returns to action June 10 at JBSC 1 for another doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats. The games are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The Interlake Phillies U15 team did not see Manitoba Premier AAA Softball League action this past weekend and will have an extended break before returning to the field later this month.

The Phillies were last in action May



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Interlake Phillies player Tayah William slides safely across home plate during Manitoba Premier AAA Softball League action against Central Energy on June 6 at Quarry Park in Stonewall.

31 when they swept the Winnipeg Lightning during Phillies Day in Stonewall. Interlake earned an 11-6 victory in the opener before completing the sweep with a dominant 20-0 win in the second game.

The U15 squad next takes the field June 16 when it hosts the Eastman Wildcats at JBSC 1. The doubleheader is scheduled for 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. as the Phillies look to continue their strong start to the season.

Juventus move up Division 2 table with victory over winless Richmond

By Kieran Reimer

CSSE Juventus got back in the win column Friday with a much-needed home victory over the Richmond Kings.

The Stonewall-based club defeated the winless Kings 2-1 at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex thanks to timely goals and solid defensive play.

With the win, Juventus snapped a two-game slide and improved to 1-0 in June.

The victory also moved the club

into a tie for sixth place in the Manitoba Major Soccer League Division 2 standings with the Kildonan Cavaliers, who have an identical 2-3 record.

Next up is a matchup with the Hanover Strikers (3-2), which should provide a test as the 18-game season reaches the six-game mark.

The match is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Steinbach Credit Union Field in Steinbach Soccer Park.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

CSSE Juventus player Chris Wiebe forces the ball forward in his team's 2-1 victory over the Richmond Kings last Friday in Stonewall.

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Puffalt commits to Niagara

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CEDRICK PUFFALT



OCN STORM | 05 FWD

TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Warren's Cedrick Puffalt is heading to New York after committing to Niagara University's ACHA Division 1 hockey program. The 2005-born forward, who played minor hockey with the Interlake Lightning U17 and U18 teams and later suited up for the Waywayseecappo Wolverines of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, will pursue an education degree at Niagara University in Lewiston, N.Y. A Warren Collegiate graduate, Puffalt hopes to become a physical education teacher while continuing his hockey career with the Purple Eagles.

Rams provincial run comes to halt in quarterfinals

By Kieran Reimer

The Stonewall Rams' hopes of a Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association provincial baseball title came to an end last Friday in Selkirk when they ran into the eventual provincial finalists in the playoff round.

Stonewall posted a 1-1 record in round-robin play, competing in a pair of high-scoring games against its Pool 4 opponents.

The Rams opened the tournament with a 22-21 victory over the River East Kodiaks on Thursday night in what became the highest-scoring game of the tournament.

Stonewall later fell 15-12 to the Goose Lake Raiders on Friday morning to conclude its round-robin schedule.

By finishing second in Pool 4, the Rams earned a quarterfinal matchup with the Vincent Massey (Brandon) Vikings on Friday afternoon.

Massey ended Stonewall's provincial run with a 6-1 victory.

The Vikings later advanced to the championship game, where they fell 8-6 to the Northlands Parkway Nighthawks, who captured this year's provincial title.

Stonewall's Jake Fortin received provincial recognition following



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL
Stonewall's Jake Fortin was named to the Provincial All-Star Team after batting 12-for-15 at the MHSAA provincial baseball championship in Selkirk.

the tournament, earning a spot on the Provincial All-Star Team after a strong debut at the championship.

The Grade 9 Ram batted 12-for-15 during the tournament, helping lead a Stonewall offence that scored 35 runs over three games.

Interlake trio inches toward Team Manitoba selection

By Kieran Reimer

Three locals to the Interlake Region have reached the second round of Team Manitoba hockey tryouts.

Hockey Manitoba Program of Excellence camp rolled on last week with the Girls U16 Top-40 camp from June 5-7 at Hockey For All Centre.

Players from the 2011 and 2012 age groups partook in a series of practices, games, and team building events

over the three-day camp which acts as the final set of tryouts for the Girls U16 Team Manitoba POE.

In Winnipeg, Selkirk's Kennedy Simpson and Naryl's Kennedy Vokey represented Team Black in game action.

The pair spent this past season with the AAA Winnipeg Avros White, where they paced the team in points.

Simpson led the Avros with 30 goals

and 20 assists in 28 games while Vokey produced 23 goals and 18 assists in her 27 games played as one of the league's youngest players.

At camp, they faced off with West St. Paul forward Mya Rosenbaum, who made up the lone Interlake representation on Team White.

Rosenbaum is also coming off a successful campaign which she spent with Balmoral Hall U18 Prep, scoring

12 goals and 14 assists for 26 points in 30 regular season games.

Hockey Manitoba evaluators will now determine a final roster that will move on to the Girls U16 POE Competition Phase in August.

The Competition Phase is slotted for Aug. 21-23 back at Hockey For All Centre.

Interlake's Koenig, Gilbraith eye boys U15 Team Manitoba roster spot

By Kieran Reimer

Two Interlake locals have found themselves in contention for Hockey Manitoba's Boys U15 Program of Excellence Team.

Hockey Manitoba held its Boys U15 POE Top-40 camp from June 5-7 at Hockey For All Centre, which acts as the final round of tryouts before an of-

ficial roster is named.

Among the Top-40 competing in the three-day series of games, practices, and team building events were St. Andrews' Ryan Koenig on Team Black and Selkirk's Owen Gilbraith on Team White.

Koenig is coming off a strong offensive season at forward for the U15

AAA RINK Hockey Academy Winnipeg where he totalled 20 goals and 20 assists in 30 games, Gilbraith meanwhile represented the U15 AAA Winnipeg Thrashers on defence, where he posted three assists in his 30 regular season games played.

With Top-40 camp since concluding, Hockey Manitoba evaluators are now

determining their list of players that will move on to the Boys U15 POE Competition Phase in August.

The Competition Phase is slated for Aug. 21-23 back at Hockey For All Centre.

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We would like to take the time to highlight one of our outstanding employees at Paterson Grain and acknowledge her hard work and recent promotion to Facility Manager!

Corrine grew up in Arborg and finished her high school degree in the town of Teulon. After high school, and with a hockey scholarship, Corrine started her rookie year of university hockey at the University of Manitoba. She was the starting goalie for the team for the 2003-2004 year and due to an injury decided to take her skills elsewhere. Agriculture had always been apart of her life growing up as her family owned a cattle company and she would spend her days helping out at the farm.

Her first professional foray into the agricultural sector was managing the Portage Harvest at an offsite location in Carmen Manitoba with Viterra Canada. After working for 3 years cleaning beans and lentils, shipping, and managing the location, Corrine decided to come home to Teulon in 2015 to be closer to her mother, sisters, and nephews. She has been working with Paterson Grain since August of 2023, and the company hopes we can keep her around for many more years.



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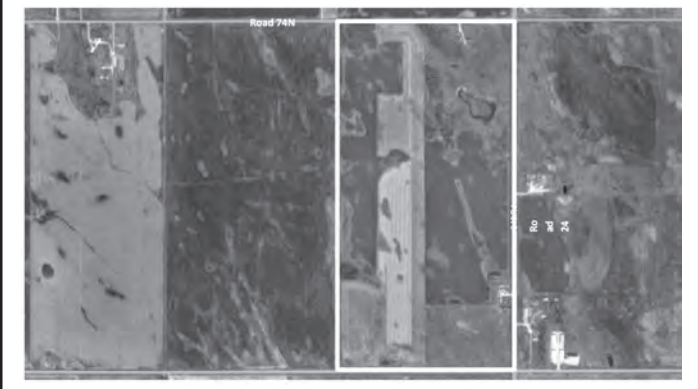
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The following will apply to be tenders:
The vendor reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the highest bid or tender may not necessarily be the successful bid.
The person making the offer relies entirely upon their personal inspection and knowledge of the said property. The property is being sold "as is" and the buyer is solely responsible to determine the value and quality of the property. To receive complete details and information on the land and buildings please contact Bonny McRae at 204-383-0059.
All offers are to be submitted in sealed envelopes accompanied by a certified cheque or bank draft payable to "Grantham Law Offices in Trust" for \$10,000.00. Cheques will be returned in respect to tenders that are not accepted.
All bidders will be advised within 31 days of July 31, 2026 if their bid was successful. Successful bidders will be required to enter into a formal purchase agreement with a possession date of November 15, 2026, or sooner if mutually agreed upon.
Tenders will be held in confidence and not be released to the public or other bidders.
If any purchaser has any questions concerning the bidding process, please contact Grantham Law Offices Attention: caytc@granthamlaw.ca
Tenders will be received up to 2:00pm on July 31, 2026 at the offices of: **Grantham Law Offices, Box 1400, 1-278 Main Street, Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0**
Attention: catyc@granthamlaw.ca



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CASUAL ANIMAL CONTROL ASSISTANT
The Town of Stonewall invites qualified individuals to apply for the position of Animal Control Assistant.
Under contract of the Town, the Animal Control Assistant will be responsible for delivering and picking up animal traps from residents and transporting unclaimed animals to the Poundkeeper or the Veterinarian.
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Compensation to be negotiated. Must have valid drivers' license and own vehicle.
Please note: the services that this position provides for the Town is on an on-call basis. The successful candidate would be required to have a flexible schedule to accommodate calls.
Procedure for Applying
Qualified Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter summarizing relevant experience, a resume, plus three (3) references to:
Town of Stonewall
Attention: Wally Melnyk
Email: ashleym@stonewall.ca
SUBJECT: ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER
293 Main Street, Box 250
Stonewall, MB R0C 2Z0
Deadline for applications: 4:00 PM on Monday, June 15, 2026
Start date: as soon as possible
The Town of Stonewall thanks all applicants, however only candidates interviewed will be contacted.

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Announcements

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OBITUARY



Ron Schenkers

Ron Schenkers passed away peacefully on April 19th, 2026, at the age of 82.

A celebration of life will be held on Monday, June 22nd, at 12:00 p.m. at the MacKenzie Funeral Chapel in Stonewall, Manitoba.



204-467-2525
mackenziefh.com

OBITUARY



Harry James Smith-O'Connor
March 18, 1986 – May 11, 2026

With great sadness we announce the passing of Harry on May 11, 2026.

He is survived by his daughter, Jaylene Smith-Keeper; mother, Wendy Smith-Peden (Wayne); family on both the McPherson and O'Connor sides as well as many friends.

Cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held.

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CARD OF THANKS

Our family thanks everyone for all the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, food and gift cards we received upon the loss of Alex Krawec. Thanks also to the Town of Stonewall Council for honouring Alex by flying the flags at half – staff. Thanks to Fr. Gerald Langevin, assisted by Fr. Nepolion for the touching service, Diane James for the music and Lavender Farms for the lunch. The donations to the various organizations are very much appreciated. This difficult time was made much easier by the help and compassion of Ken Loehmer. God Bless you all!

-Shirley,
Alan and Mary Ellen,
Allyson,
Kieran

OBITUARY



Isla Magdalene Hagborg (Dack)
June 14, 1942 – June 3, 2026

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Isla Hagborg, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, at the age of 83.

Mum was born June 14, 1942 and passed away the morning of June 3, 2026 at the Stonewall Hospital.

Left to cherish her memory are son Robert (Renée), daughter Bonnie (Wayne), her three grandchildren Alex Hagborg (Claire), Marshall Hagborg (Tia), and Jasper Bain. She will be greatly missed by them as well as sisters Lorna McDonell (Doug) and Jean Campbell, sisters-in-law Elaine Gusta (Larry) and Edie Simonson, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Mum was predeceased by Dad (Walter), parents Conrad and Betty Dack, in-laws Harry and May Hagborg, and brothers-in-law Carl Simonson and Clive Campbell.

Mum grew up on the farm in Warren, Manitoba. Mum eventually met Dad and proceeded to build our family farm (Mallard Acres Ltd.) near Meadows. Throughout her life, Mum thoroughly enjoyed playing and watching baseball (she was a Blue Jays superfan), golfing, and curling as well as picking berries. Mum liked to host family events and participating in the community. Mum's most treasured achievement was her role as President of the Manitoba Ladies Curling Association, and she co-chaired the 1991 World Curling Championship in Winnipeg. She was inducted into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame for her contributions to the sport. Mum loved gardening and always encouraged us to be all we could be growing up. Mum really loved her three grandchildren and she was so proud of them.

Mum and Dad were able to retire from farming in 1991 and eventually moved to Warren and then to Stonewall. Mum and Dad spent 25 wonderful years travelling and spending winters down south.

We are grateful that Mum is no longer in pain and was able to leave this world on her terms.

She has been cremated and her ashes will be placed by Dad so that they will be together again.

At Mum's request, there will be no service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice.



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