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## Berry testers

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROXANNE KOTELKO  
 Cousins Kylie (5), Brinley (4) and Theodore (1) Kotelko were the taste testers while their moms Renee and Roxanne hit the berry patch at Boonstra Farms east of Stonewall last week. Boonstra Farms has U-pick and pre-picked strawberry and raspberry patches, as well as a petting zoo and playground and chip truck.

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# Annual Dragonfly festival returning to Oak Hammock Marsh

By Sydney Lockhart

The Dragonfly Festival is taking place July 17 and 18 at Oak Hammock Marsh allowing visitors to catch and identify different species of dragonflies.

"We are going to be hosting some dragonfly safaris. What that is a public walk that you would sign up for. You would get a net and you would go with an expert. You would look and identify some dragonflies that are found around Oak Hammock Marsh," said Teresa Visser, events and fundraising specialist at Oak Hammock Marsh.

The all-ages event is held annually and has been running for over a decade.

"They (dragonflies) emerge and we see bigger numbers at this time, so that's why we kind of co-ordinate that with the timing in July," said Visser.

There are three safari walks on Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Before and after the walks themselves, more activities are set up, including critter catching in the marsh, finding nymphs and other water creatures.

"Weather is a huge factor. So, if we have a really nice hot weekend, the dragonflies will be in greater numbers and we will see them more because they are very solar-powered," said Visser, "They use the sun to kind of get their energy so they can fly

around and hunt for food."

There are over 100 different species of dragonflies in Manitoba alone. Visser said she hopes families and individuals come out to spend some time exploring the marsh and learning something new.

"Part of the challenge is to catch the dragonflies; they're not that easy to catch. And so it's great when we've got some families with kids, and then they can do the hard work because they're running after them with their nets and catching them for us and then we can help to identify them," she said.

For non-members of Oak Hammock Marsh, the cost is \$10. For members, it is \$5. Registration can be done on their website at [www.oakhammock-marsh.ca](http://www.oakhammock-marsh.ca).

Oak Hammock Marsh is also preparing to have the public in their newly redone rooftop garden for the first time since completion but they are having to wait for public health restrictions to allow the centre to re-open. As of now, the only access to the roof is from the inside.

"Over time, it just became more weeds than plants, more so invasive like wild plants that was harder to kind of maintain so we asked for some funding," said Visser.

Oak Hammock Marsh applied for grants and was provided money to help with the project from Red River



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY SYDNEY LOCKHART

Oak Hammock Marsh visitors will catch and identify dragonflies at the festival that aims to provide a fun and educational weekend.



The Oak Hammock Marsh centre is ready to open their newly redone rooftop garden as soon as provincial restrictions allow visitors in the building to access it.

Co-op and Friends of the Environment. They also had a local wildflower company Prairie Originals donate prairie plants for the garden, which were just recently planted on the roof.

"We removed the existing part of the garden, just right where people walk, and we put these lovely cedar wooden

boxes, and then also some new pavers and stuff," she said.

Visser added that as soon as they are given the green light to open their doors again, guests will be able to access the new area, which has 360-degree views of the wetlands and surrounding marsh areas.

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# A tough year for strawberry farms

By Tyler Searle

A spring frost and sweltering summer heat has left Boonstra Farms with more pickers than berries, said co-owner Murray Boonstra.

In past seasons, pickers could harvest 15 full baskets from every row of strawberries. This year, a row yields roughly two baskets, Boonstra said.

The crop looked promising in the spring, but a killing frost late in May decimated the plants, stunting their growth and causing them to produce smaller berries.

Then came the heat.

June saw temperatures reach upwards of 30°C for days at a time across much of the western hemisphere.

Strawberry plants flourish between 16 and 27°C, and excessive heat causes berries to overripen and limits their growth.

The farm combatted the high temperatures with its trickle irrigation system, but it can be hard on plants and pickers to be caught in the heat, Boonstra said.

"It's unbelievable the amount of people coming to pick," Boonstra said.

On July 6, the farm opened for its third U-pick of the season and pickers happily patronized the berry fields.

Armando and Kristin Versace drove out from Winnipeg with their children Mason and Layla to collect berries.

After roughly 45 minutes, the Versace family collected two full baskets. The plants and fruit were smaller than they'd seen at Boonstras in the past, but they were happy to make a day of picking berries at the farm, Kristin Versace said.

Patty DaSilva came with her son Eston, daughters Ava and Alia, and their friend Scotty. The children scampered between rows, collecting some berries and eating others.



Erratic weather has resulted in smaller strawberries on the Boonstra farm.



Scotty biting into a Boonstra strawberry.

The smaller fruit did not bother the troupe who enjoyed picking in the mild 17°C heat, DaSilva said.

When the children had picked and eaten their fill, DaSilva planned to take them to see the animals at the Boonstra petting zoo.

This week will likely mark the end of strawberry season on the farm, but the raspberry crops are nearly ready for harvest, Boonstra said.

For another two weeks, patrons will be welcome to visit the farm on U-pick days and collect baskets of raspberries.

"Picking season generally ends at the end of July, but this year I'm pretty



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY TYLER SEARLE

Scotty picked berries with her friends Ava, Eston, Alia and their mom Patty DaSilva on the Boonstra Farm last Tuesday.

sure were not going to make it."

Even with less berries, there is still plenty to do on the farm.

The petting zoo, playground, zip and slack lines, wagon rides and Boony's Chip truck are all up and operational.

As fall approaches, the Boonstras will prepare their annual Halloween corn mazes.

Boonstra hopes for a better season next year, but he is counting his blessings.

"It's all over Manitoba. Everybody got hit with that frost it sounds like, and lots of farms aren't opening at all," he said.

The Olde Cramb Farm is one farm that will not open its fields for pickers this year.

Instead, the Cramb is filling requests of pre-picked berry baskets for \$25 apiece.

"We are overwhelmed by the support we have received! Although we likely won't be able to fill all the orders we have received, we want to thank you for sticking by us in these hard times!" reads a message on the farm's website.

The Olde Cramb Farm is also offering subscription-based community-supported agriculture (CSA) boxes.

Customers who subscribe for CSA can collect boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables from June until mid-September. Subscriptions vary in price based on frequency (weekly or bi-weekly) and contents.

Last week, boxes contained saskatoons, eggs, green onions, radishes and lettuce.

More information for Boonstra Farm and Olde Cramb is available online.

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# St. Laurent municipality declares a state of agricultural disaster

By Sydney Lockhart

With no rain and an increase in grasshoppers, many farmers struggle to have their land and animals survive this year.

"I've farmed the land all my life. My son is actually taking over wanting to be a farmer today," said 63-year-old Tom Johnson, a beef producer in the RM of St. Laurent. "He will be the fourth generation, so it's not like we just started no. We've been doing this for quite a while and the drought has kind of been putting a hamper to all of our efforts."

Johnson said he has never seen his land so dry in his life, and that for the first time ever, his dugouts are bone dry, leaving his cattle with nothing to drink, and little grass to feed on.

"Never. I have never seen it this dry in my life and everybody out here is saying the same thing," he said.

With next to no grass left for animals to graze, the next option would usually be hay, but even that is in short supply, and what little is available costs much more than usual because of the shortage.

"What little bit there is to eat, grasshoppers have eaten before we can get to it. We need rain real, real bad real fast, and a lot, not just a little bit," he said.

Johnson said even inches of rain would disappear so fast in the area that it wouldn't help at all.

The consequences of this could



Tom Johnson dug and built two wells in his pasture to provide water to his cattle.

mean many producers going out of business, having to sell off their cattle and supplies to get food on the table.

"It's not just a little local thing it's a big widespread area that's affecting a lot of us," he said.

The declaration of a state of agricultural disaster is a call for help to the provincial and federal government for financial help to keep the farms running.

"It would mean a difference of having to sell the cows off and get a little bit of financial help to buy all that stuff and keep going, whereas without it, everybody goes out," he said.

Johnson received some grant money



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Johnson may have to sell his cattle off if rain does not come, as his fields are not growing enough vegetation for them to graze on and hay is too expensive.

from his local conservation district to help dig two solar powered wells that will provide water for his cows, but even with a bit of drinking water, he is still struggling to be able to feed his cattle.

"That's how we make our living, but it also affects the consumers if anybody that wants to have hamburgers on the barbecue, steak for their barbecue might end up paying more. If we all go out and they've got to start importing all this stuff, meat doesn't come from the store, it's got to come from somewhere else to get to the store," he said.

Johnson said he feels disheartened

by the situation as he has dedicated his life to his land and doesn't see relief from the drought in sight unless they get some extreme rainfall.

"Farmers are the biggest gamblers, and we always say, 'Well, next year it'll be better. You know we'll struggle through and try to get through, but this year is just ridiculous,' he said, 'we're just praying for rain right now. Everybody's in the same boat.'"

The RM of Coldwell and Armstrong also declared State of Agricultural Disasters last week.

West Interlake and Woodlands municipalities both have it on their agendas this week.

## Folklorama back with online festivities Aug. 6-8

### Staff

Folklorama will be bringing the world to Manitoba in a modified format this year.

Organizers announced last week that the festival, thanks to sponsorship Manitoba Liquor Marts, will be offering three themed nights of entertainment streamed free online.

"We are thrilled to be able to deliver a unique Folklorama experience to festival goers both local and international," says executive director Teresa

### Cotroneo.

Folklorama Fusion will include performances from some of Manitoba's favourite ethno-cultural performers from Aug. 6-8.

Friday, Aug. 6 will feature Asia and Africa, Saturday, Aug. 7 will display the Americas, and Sunday, Aug. 8 will showcase Europe.

During each show, viewers will get to learn about each performance and the importance of keeping culture alive.

A full performer lineup is available at [folklorama.ca/festival/schedule-free-access](http://folklorama.ca/festival/schedule-free-access).

"Today definitely marks a moment in Folklorama's history that we will never forget," says Stan Hall, Folklorama board president.

"The idea of the Folklorama Fusion event began in the fall of 2020, when we met virtually with our pavilions," he explains. "With the reality that a festival as we have known would still not be possible in 2021, the

one message that resonated was the importance of keeping the spirit of Folklorama alive and finding a way to come together safely.

"I would like to take this moment to thank all of our communities — our Folklorama family — for coming together for the better."

The festival is also launching a new virtual marketplace on its website offering treats from the various cultural pavilions. Learn more online at [folklorama.ca](http://folklorama.ca).

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# Some groups left out of vaccination card program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

It's been over a month since the provincial government launched its COVID-19 immunization card, making it possible for Manitobans to carry proof of vaccination both digitally and in their wallets.

But Callum Morrison is still waiting to find out when and if he'll be able to get one.

The wait isn't because he's not vaccinated — it's been well past two weeks since his second shot — but because Morrison is an international student.

As such, he doesn't have the Manitoba health card required to apply for the COVID-19 immunization card.

He's in the same boat as soldiers and temporary foreign workers serving and working in Manitoba, both of whom are eligible to get vaccinated free of charge but are either not issued provincial health cards or must wait months to get one.

It's a piece of bureaucracy that leaves the Altona area resident scratching his head.

"There's actually a large number of people who are perfectly legally entitled to be in Manitoba, who live here, who don't actually qualify for Manitoba health cards," Morrison said. "So now we have this system where even people who are vaccinated can't access these [COVID] cards. It seems madness to me, really."

"The only things on these cards is supposed to be your name and a QR code that says you've been vaccinated. So I really don't understand why a health card is needed at all."

Morrison moved to Canada from Scotland in 2017. After a stint working for a seed company in Morden, he

went back to school to pursue a PhD in agriculture. His studies into cover crop usage have made him a familiar face across the Pembina Valley.

But that familiarity won't allow him to eat at a restaurant with someone from outside his household, even if they're both vaccinated, nor get him into a hospital or care home should he need to visit an ailing loved one. For that, he'll need to show proof of vaccination.

The government has said that those not eligible for the immunization card can get their vaccination record from a public health office.

But with the vast majority of Manitobans about to be carrying around these new cards, Morrison is concerned trying to prove the same with an unfamiliar paper vaccination record is going to cause more hassles than anything.

"First of all, I've yet to actually be able to get that vaccine record anyway," he pointed out. "But when I'm speaking to local businesses they're telling me, 'Well, I've never heard of this vaccine record.'"

"It's on me every single time to try and explain what it is and that it's valid. And I guarantee you that this will eventually cause problems."

He doesn't blame people simply trying to follow the rules for looking askew at someone without a vaccination card, but he does feel the government needs to do more to address this issue.

"The government has put in basically a two-tier vaccination system where almost every single person in the province gets a vaccination card and then a very small percentage gets



**TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
Callum Morrison is an international graduate student in Manitoba, which means he is not eligible to get a COVID-19 immunization card — something he expects is going to cause headaches when he tries to prove his vaccination status.

this record," Morrison said. "To me, it seems like it should be one of the easier fixes ... why not just issue everyone the card?"

"If the government wants to actually incentivize vaccines, it's a funny way to do it where certain groups of people are [excluded like this]," he continued, voicing his worry some won't bother to get the shots at all as a result.

"I would have gotten vaccinated either way, but I have spoken to some international students who said they didn't even know they could get the vaccine," Morrison said, pointing out

that one of the first things asked for when booking an appointment online is one's health card. He was able to book his vaccine shots over the phone — a much more timely process, he found — and then spent even more time at the vaccination site as staff tried to figure out what to do when he wasn't able to show a health card upon arrival. "The poor people whose job was to do it hadn't been given any training [on this matter]."

Morrison has reached out to every serving Manitoba MLA about this issue and has thus far only heard back from a few NDP members, including leader Wab Kinew.

"The Conservatives, sadly, haven't gotten back to me," he said.

"At the beginning, I thought these things would change very quickly because I had faith it was just teething problems," he said. "I do feel like after a month of these cards, they could have at the very least said, 'We admit that there are these problems. We're going to look into them. We're sorry.' ... That would have put a lot of people at ease."

Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief public health officer, was asked at a media briefing last week whether any headway has been made to address the fact international students and others without Manitoba health cards can't get the immunization card.

"There is work being undertaken right now," he replied. "I don't have any specifics to share or an exact date on when we can announce anything, but there will be something upcoming."

As of press time, no new details on the matter had been released.

# RCMP looking for youth advisory council members

Staff

The Royal Canadian Mountain Police are looking for new members for its National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC).

Canadian residents ages 13 to 21 are invited to apply by Sept. 10, though

those who get their applications in by July 30 will be a part of the first selection round and have a better chance of being selected.

NYAC members interact with participants from all over the country and discuss important issues they

face in their respective communities. They share their thoughts about youth crime and victimization topics and help shape RCMP programs and initiatives. NYAC members can also receive reference letters and volunteer hours.

This commitment requires approximately two to four online hours per month, from October to June.

For more information or to request an application package, email RCMP.Youth-Jeunesse.GRC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

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## Most now hospitalized with COVID-19 not vaccinated: Roussin

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's top doc on Monday announced the lowest one-day jump in new COVID-19 cases in months.

At a briefing in Winnipeg that day, Dr. Brent Roussin announced 31 new cases of the virus, alongside 150 cases that were identified on Saturday (87 cases) and Sunday (63).

Two new deaths were also reported alongside one from Sunday, bringing the number of deaths due to COVID-19 to 1,162.

As of Monday morning there were 1,025 active cases of the virus in Manitoba and 54,733 recoveries.

The current five-day COVID-19 test positivity rate was five per cent provincially and 4.1 per cent in Winnipeg.

A total of 138 Manitobans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, including 30 in intensive care here and three at hospitals in Ontario.

Officials note that 74 per cent of the 412 COVID-19 hospital admissions between June 1 and 30 had no vaccine

doses and 22 per cent had one dose but two weeks had not yet passed since that dose — the time needed for the vaccine to take full effect.

Furthermore, of the 90 patients admitted to ICU in June, 77 per cent had not yet received a dose of the vaccine and three per cent had just one dose.

"We don't bring this up to blame or to shame anyone ... for the reason of their illness," Roussin stressed. "We're here showing the power of vaccine. We see very few people being admitted to hospital, really, after a single dose but especially after two doses.

"As we see less and less Manitobans that are unvaccinated, we're going to expect to see that translate into less and less need for hospitalizations and ICU admission," he said, noting they will be reporting this data regularly moving forward. "You can see the incontrovertible evidence of the value of vaccines right here in Manitoba.

"We know some Manitobans are hesitant to get vaccinated," Roussin

continued. "If you have questions, please contact your health-care provider. You trust them with a lot of discussion and information — trust them with this."

Breaking the numbers down further for Monday, Interlake-Eastern reported four new cases of the virus for a total active caseload of 227. There were 13 people in hospital in the region with the virus, including four in ICU. The death count for Interlake-Eastern is 47.

In the Interlake-Eastern region, Arborg/Riverton confirmed six active cases, Beausejour 11, Eriksdale/Ashern 38, Fisher River/Peguis 93, Gimli 0, Northern Remote five, Pinawa/Lac du Bonnet four, Powerview/Pine Falls 44, Selkirk five, Springfield 10, St. Clements three, St. Laurent one, Stonewall/Teulon four, Unknown two, Whiteshell one and Winnipeg Beach/St. Andrews 0.

## Free provincial parks entry through Sunday

Staff

There's still a few days left to enjoy this month's free provincial park entry.

The Manitoba government last week extended free entry to provincial parks beyond the traditional Canada Park's Day to a full week July 12-18.

"We have been listening to how much Manitobans love their provincial parks, and when the idea was raised by members of the public to expand the free access, we enthusiastically embraced it," said Conservation and Climate Minister Sara Guil-

lemard. "All Manitobans should have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and we are pleased to offer free park entry for a full week this summer."

Sunday is the last day vehicle permits will not be required to enter any provincial park, though overnight camping fees are still in effect if you're planning on camping out (head to [www.manitobaparks.com](http://www.manitobaparks.com) or call 1-888-482-2267 to find open sites).

Government officials remind Manitobans that COVID-19 public health orders must be followed in the parks.

This includes gathering limits.

Park visitor centres and museums are currently closed under public health orders, though interpreters offer a range of guided experiences at several parks. Trail hikes, historic site tours and guided paddles are available throughout the week. Information on park events can be found at [www.manitobaparks.com](http://www.manitobaparks.com) and under the events tab on the Manitoba Parks Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MBGovParks](http://www.facebook.com/MBGovParks).

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# get informed

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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY KEITH WALDNER

Help the *Tribune* record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or families enjoying the outdoors. Email: [weather@stonewallteulontribune.ca](mailto:weather@stonewallteulontribune.ca).

## Woodlands history book available for pre-order

By Sydney Lockhart

The Rural Municipality of Woodlands is holding a presale for its new history book titled *Where We Are: A History of the Rural Municipality of Woodlands (1980-2020)* that is in its final stages of publication.

"Bryan Myskiw came forward, wanting to put together a history book. Council thought that since we've had in the last two or three years prior to COVID, so many citizens pass away that were very instrumental in the last 50 years of our history. We felt it was really important to get a record of that history before that generation is gone," said Coun. Orval Procter.

The book size came in at around 600 pages filled with history of the area, families and photos; this is double what the book was planned to be.

"So, council hired Brian to write the book. All the book sales are through

the RM," he said, "It is an RM book, but we paid Bryan honorariums to finance his costs for doing it for us."

There will only be one printing of the book due to copyright, so the RM is holding a presale to see how many people are interested in the book before they publish.

"I think he had well over 200 submissions," said Procter. "The response from the citizens of the RM has been tremendous."

The book focuses on the last 40 years in the community and contains a document from 1880, the Municipal Act signed by the lieutenant-governor. This will be the first time the document that shows the creation of one of the oldest municipalities in Manitoba is reproduced in a history book.

"It just kind of highlights some of the things that stand out in people's memories and documents the change.

Because, ironically, I think as people are more connected socially, the requirement of direct connections isn't what it used to be. It shows how clubs operated and all the things that were popular when I was younger," said Procter.

He said the book would be great for families to remember where they came from and the change that the RM has experienced in the last 40 years.

The book is about the people who have and continue to make the RM of Woodlands the place it is today.

The book will be \$70 through presale until July 31 and \$85 after. Order forms are available through the RM of Woodlands, as well as payment by cheque and e-transfer is available for those outside the area to order. Call 204-383-5679 for more information.

## worship

with us > FAITH

*Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.*

*Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.*

—Psalm 5:1-2

Have you ever looked up at the sky and asked, "Is anyone there? Is there anyone who sees my life and hears my prayers?" The Bible promises that there is. In 1 Peter 3:12 we read that the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open toward their prayer. But if you're like me, then the moment you read that, rather than feeling a sense of comfort, you wonder, "What if I'm not righteous? What if I don't meet that qualification?" For the answer to that doubt, let's take another look at the passage up top.

Notice how the Psalmist addresses the one to whom he is praying: "My King and my God." Every one of these words has meaning. First, he says "my King and my God." This is personal for him. The Lord isn't just an anonymous King off in some other land, just one god among many — He is my King, my God. He belongs to me, and I belong to him.

Second, that the Psalmist calls the Lord his King implies that the Psalmist is his subject. That is, he doesn't view his relationship with God as one in which God is sitting at his beck and call. Quite the opposite because it is the Psalmist himself who is at his King's command. And because the Lord is a good King, the Psalmist knows that he cares about his subjects personally.

Third, that the Psalmist calls the Lord his God implies that the Lord is his highest good. Not money, not health and not earthly success are the treasures of this man. His greatest value is wrapped up in the Being he worships — the one he calls God.

This is what it means to be righteous, in the Biblical sense. To trust God, to give your heart to God, to see God as your very highest good. You may not be righteous in your own eyes, but the Bible teaches that if the Lord is your King and your God, then in his eyes, you are righteous. And he hears your prayers.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

—1 Peter 3:18

Pastor Daren Redekopp  
New Life Church  
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# Dr. Reimer addresses concerns about COVID-19 vaccine development

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Manitoba's task force co-lead Dr. Joss Reimer took some time last week to address those Manitobans who have not yet chosen to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Today I want to talk to some of the people who still have questions, who may not be sure, and may not be confident in the decision to get the vaccine," the Winkler native began at a press conference in Winnipeg July 7.

"There are two top reasons that we hear most often, and they're somewhat interconnected: concerns about how quickly the vaccine was developed and concerns about how quickly it was approved for use."

Some people worry the speed at which this happened means corners were cut, making for potentially unsafe, untested vaccines.

Reimer stressed that is simply not the case.

She acknowledged that vaccines are often years in the making, but the COVID-19 vaccines are unique in that work was already underway on developing vaccinations against other coronaviruses long before the pandemic broke out.

"Fortunately, scientists and other experts around the world were not starting from scratch. While this coronavirus is new, it is not the only coronavirus we have dealt with," Reimer said, explaining that it took scientists a matter of weeks to map the COVID-19 genome after it was first discovered. "That told us what kind of vaccine we would need in order to stop the virus."

"The scale of international partnership and collaboration that was needed to develop a vaccine was unprecedented," she continued, noting multiple vaccines were created in countries all over the world by companies taking different approaches (the normally substantial financial risk to do so offset by government support). "That in and of itself is unique and gives the world a much larger pool of vaccine candidates. A larger pool means the odds were better that some

of them would prove to be effective."

The groundwork for all these vaccines had already been laid by previous research, Reimer said, noting viral vector vaccines (AstraZeneca) have been used for decades while mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) are using a relatively newer technology but one that had been well tested long before COVID-19 showed up.

"In fact, human trials of cancer vaccines using the same mRNA technology have been taking place since 2011. And work is underway on a new rabies vaccine using this technology," she pointed out, adding Moderna had even developed an annual influenza mRNA vaccine a few years ago. "So we were able to take something that was already in development and adapt it to the COVID pandemic."

When it came to testing these vaccines, once again the unprecedented nature of this pandemic worked in our favour.

"The steps that are truly important, and the ones we care the most about, are the underlying science, the medical evaluation, the clinic trials where the vaccines were tested on animals and on people who agreed to participate," Reimer said. "Those all happened as they needed to, as they would for any vaccine. What changed was the pace."

It can normally take years to deal with all the red tape that comes with getting medical trials approved, securing funding, and finding test subjects.

But with the entire world motivated to find a solution to the pandemic, that timeline was able to be condensed significantly.

"For example, it was very easy for the studies to recruit participants," Reimer said. "Volunteers were very eager to take part all around the world."

"It was also much easier to study how well the vaccine protected against the virus because there was so much virus present around the world," she continued. "Normally, you have to wait quite awhile before a large num-

ber of your participants are exposed to a virus that you're studying ... this time, the exposures were happening to participants regularly, and so it did not take very long to get that information [about effectiveness]."

The vaccines that proved effective in trials then moved on to be approved for use by Health Canada.

"Again, for COVID-19, the same processes were followed as for any other vaccine," Reimer said, explaining all new medications and vaccines must complete three trial phases before approval. These phases include a variety of different sizes of test subject pools and test appropriate doses, potential side effects, and efficacy.

"The science didn't change," Reimer stressed, "but, again, the timeline for all of the administrative processes that support the science were condensed."

Health Canada normally asks companies to submit their data for phases one, two, and three at the same time for evaluation. Given the ongoing health crisis, the agency in this case expedited the process by evaluating each phase as it was completed.

"So while the same review occurred, it meant that less time was required at the end of the phase three trial in order to get approval, because phase one and two had already been reviewed," Reimer said, explaining Health Canada was able to do this by prioritizing the COVID-19 vaccines over everything else in the approval queue.

Even once approved for use, the vaccines continued to undergo evaluation in the same way all new vaccines do.

"Canada has one of the best vaccine monitoring systems in the world," Reimer said. "And we use the information that we gather and the information from countries from all over the world to guide our decisions."

That process is what led to the discovery of rare side effects like blood clotting with the AstraZeneca vaccine, for example, which impacted public



SCREENSHOT

Dr. Joss Reimer, co-lead of the province's vaccination task force, took time last week to address a few concerns people hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccines often ask about their development.

health officials' recommendations on who should or should not receive that vaccine.

"I know it can be a challenge to wade through all of the information out there about vaccines, especially when you have questions, but I do want to correct the information and make sure people know that these vaccines were tested, they were approved, and they were shown to be safe and effective in the same way as other vaccines," Reimer said. "The science behind these vaccines is solid. It's built on technology that we know and that we understand."

The speed of their creation will perhaps be food for thought once the pandemic is behind us.

"Now that we've seen how the world can come together to solve a health crisis, the real question may be why other vaccines and other medical interventions take so long," Reimer observed.

If you've got questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your family doctor or head to [protectmb.ca](http://protectmb.ca).

## Farmers encouraged to contact Woodlands if ditch grass is required for hay

By Nicole Brownlee

The RM of Woodlands is asking all livestock producers to contact the municipality office as soon as possible if they would like their ditches left uncut for feed.

The municipality had already started mowing properties' ditches prior to surrounding communities issuing a declaration of agricultural disaster

because of the drought and an infestation of grasshoppers damaging crops.

Lori Schellekens, reeve of the RM of Woodlands, said she's received several calls from community members concerned about having enough food to feed their livestock.

"Our backfield, we usually have about 55 bales; we've got 11," said

Schellekens.

Refraining from mowing the ditches may provide a small support to farmers but also may add to the risk of starting a fire, said Schellekens.

"Everybody needs to be extra careful," said Schellekens.

The reeve advises all community members to remain cautious, be aware and to keep a fire extinguisher

in all tractors. There are also high-pressure wells available for farmers to use for water.

Submit a map with marked roadside areas wanted for haying to the municipality with your contact information to the RM Municipal Office at 57 Railway Ave., Woodlands, or by email to [admin@rmwoodlands.ca](mailto:admin@rmwoodlands.ca) or [pwf@rmwoodlands.ca](mailto:pwf@rmwoodlands.ca).



# Balmoral mother frustrated by ISD transportation rules

By Sydney Lockhart

A Balmoral mother is frustrated that she will have to drive her son to kindergarten after Interlake School Division trustees denied her request to have him picked up at her driveway and transported to Balmoral School.

Amber MacDonald lives on Road 7E between 87N and 88N, which is the dividing line between the Teulon and Balmoral catchments for busing. Her property line to the south is in on the Balmoral side, but her driveway and north property line are on the Teulon side.

MacDonald's son has been attending Balmoral Day Care for the past three years and she automatically registered her son for kindergarten in Balmoral.

"I didn't realize that I wasn't in the Balmoral catchment. They're saying that my driveway falls 178 or 176 metres north of the catchment line. So, when I got the call from the school letting me know that my son was starting school in the fall and he was accepted to Balmoral, they told me that I'd have to call the transportation board to arrange bus pick-up," said MacDonald.

MacDonald called transportation manager Mr. Thiessen to be told that because she lives outside of the catchment line, even though part of her land is technically inside it, her driveway is not and her son would not be bused to Balmoral. MacDonald was told she could appeal his decision with a presentation providing information to the ISD board of trustees with hopes that they would use the catchment line as a guideline and not a rule.

"He (Thiessen) said to me, those are the rules and we do not make any exceptions," but MacDonald felt it was worth her time to meet with the board.

Currently there is no bus travelling past MacDonald's house daily to pick up or drop off students from Teulon, Balmoral or Stonewall. MacDonald said it seemed logical that her son could be picked up at their driveway because she is only a half-mile north of the current Balmoral bus route. MacDonald added that they live much closer to Balmoral than Teulon and she wants to keep her son around the people he has been socializing with the last few years. She also said without transportation, she does not know how she will be able to work if she needs to drive her son to Balmoral School every day.

The school division offered MacDonald transportation if she was prepared to drop him off at a pick-

up location about one mile from her house every day. MacDonald said if she is going to drive her son to the neighbours on the next mile road, she may as well drive the two extra miles and drop him off at school.

"Why is it that children in the town of Gunton, which is four miles northeast of my house, get bus transportation to Balmoral? They're clearly further into the Teulon catchment than I am, considering our borders," said MacDonald.

Trustee and chair of the Interlake School Division Alan Campbell said no school divisions in the entire province have to provide transportation for driveways that sit outside the catchment lines.

"In the case of the family in question, there is no existing route that goes past their residence. So, while it is only a half a mile or it's a relatively small distance, this family resides outside," said Campbell.

Campbell denied her request even after MacDonald appealed because he wanted to stay consistent with their catchment lines.

"They just have to meet the bus at an existing route. I think it's half a mile from their driveway," he said.

MacDonald is frustrated by the double standard. She doesn't think children from Gunton should get transportation to Balmoral or Stonewall school when they are further from the catchment lines than her residence.

Campbell said the only reason some Gunton students are provided transportation outside of their catchment zone is because they are either French immersion students or they are picked up at a dropoff location with French immersion students. French immersion is a protected program and the school division does not have a choice in providing them the service.

"To my knowledge, we've never had an appeal (prior to MacDonald). And, therefore, I don't believe we've ever made an exception," said Campbell, "Asking families who live outside the catchment to meet a bus at an existing stop that is not at the end of their driveway is consistent with what other rural school divisions do as well."

MacDonald said she doesn't know when the catchment lines changed since her brother was bused to Balmoral from her current address years ago. She added that she doesn't feel like the school division is giving her correct answers or explanations as to

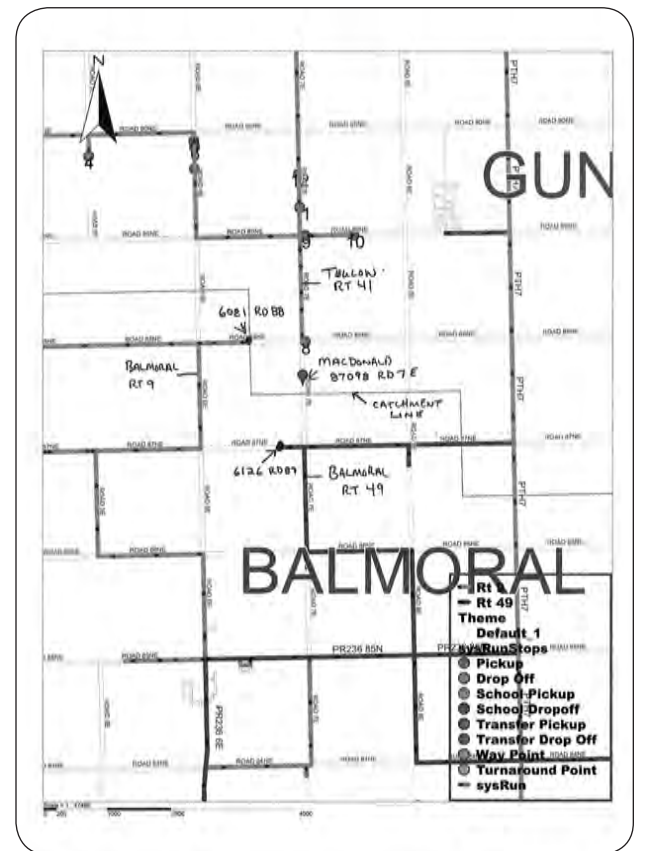


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Amber MacDonald met with the ISD board of trustees to request busing for her son who will be attending kindergarten in Balmoral this fall. The ISD catchment line goes through the middle of MacDonald's property.

why the section she lives on that runs through the catchment line is not eligible for transportation any more.

"In the interest of being equitable to all of the families in the division and similar requests that we have taken from other families and other parts of the division in the past, on that basis, a majority of the trustees did not support her request and we understand that that's frustrating for her but at the same time, we recognize that it's important that she has the opportunity to come and speak to the board," said Campbell.

John Hueging, Bridget Yablonski and Victoria Schindle voted in favour of the request while Campbell, Fran Frederickson, Cindy Brad and Sally Cook voted against it.

# Many Manitoba dogs are getting sick from kennel cough

By Sydney Lockhart

Kennel cough is spreading through Manitoba at high rates this year, causing many dogs to become sick.

"Kennel cough is kind of a broad term covering any infectious or contagious conditions in dogs, where coughing is one of the major clinical signs. It's also referred to as infectious tracheobronchitis," said Dr. Amanda Brown, a veterinarian at the Stonewall Veterinary Hospital.

Brown said that kennel cough is easily transmissible and that its long contagious period makes it easy to spread in places like kennels and groomers. This is because small particles can travel far from

coughing and the enclosed spaces increase the chances of contracting the illness.

"I think it's important to realize that there's several viruses and bacteria that can cause kennel cough, often at the same time. These include adenovirus Type 2, which is a virus, parainfluenza virus, and of course, the bacteria bordetella bronchiseptica," she said.

Brown said it is recommended that dogs who go to parks and are around other dogs get vaccinated at least once a year, if not more, against bordetella to decrease their risk of getting sick.

While kennel cough is often a mild disease, the cost can be chronic, and it can last for up to several

weeks. It can lead to pneumonia if left untreated which can be a serious detriment to many dogs' health.

"The common clinical signs include a loud cough, a cough that is often described as a goose honk, runny eyes, sometimes runny nose, infrequently. Sometimes they have swollen tonsils; sometimes they wheeze, occasionally a lack of appetite or kind of depressed or lethargic behavior," she said.

Often dogs will need to be placed on antibiotics along with a physical examination to treat the bacterium.

# Boomers Funny Farm open for business with COVID guidelines

By Jules Stevenson

Boomer the donkey is the namesake for a brand-new petting zoo, and his owner, Janet Thorvaldsen, says he comes with a lot of personality.

"Pretty much it's my goal to make everyone fall in love with donkeys," says Thorvaldsen.

They hold one-hour farm tours, where families can collect chicken eggs and pet the animals. They provide cups of oats and treats to feed the animals.

Boomer's Funny Farm has goats, lambs, cows and ponies. They also have baby animals who were neglected by their mothers and need to be bottle fed, which guests are allowed to do.

"Everyone is so amazed when I open the gate and say 'Come in' and all the animals come to them. You can pet them and hug them. Our donkeys love to cuddle," says Thorvaldsen.

She says they've had many families bring their kids for their birthdays, since they can't do anything else right now.

They also have areas like Donny's Playground, Molly's Picnic and BBQ and Sparky's Fire Pit Area.

Boomer's Funny Farm also has a boutique where they sell handmade goods like tote bags, mugs and donkey stuffed animals, just like Boomer.

"We're really trying to give people something fun to do," says Thorvaldsen.

Thorvaldsen started Boomer's Funny



Janet Thorvaldsen's son, Henry, enjoys his first birthday with his friend the sheep

Farm with her husband after they decided to buy chickens for their three young boys, ages five, three and one. Thorvaldsen says this was just the beginning.

Soon, they started receiving messages about horses and donkeys in need of homes, too.

Thorvaldsen started a Facebook page to share photos of the animals and received messages from families wanting to visit their farm.

Thorvaldsen says they're doing very well. They are booked some days from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and anticipate they'll be even busier once schools end.

Boomer's Funny Farm is located at 18064 Gimli Park Rd., 1 kilometre west



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Janet Thorvaldsen and her son take a selfie with a donkey

of Highway 8. Feel free to call or text at [nyfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:nyfarm@hotmail.com). 1-204-891-0211 or email boomersfun-

## About \$900 worth of equipment and gas stolen during Inwood Cemetery break-in

By Patricia Barrett

Equipment and gas used to maintain the grounds of the Inwood Cemetery was stolen sometime last week, leaving community members stunned and upset.

Cemetery caretaker Jen Etter, who informed the community through the cemetery's Facebook page, told the *Express* she doesn't understand how someone could do such a thing to a community cemetery.

"This is very sad and shameful. Not only did they take what wasn't theirs, but they disrespected all who are buried in our cemetery and all the families and friends who have loved ones here," said Etter by phone last week.

The cemetery is located near Rosie's Café and the Tempo gas station on Highway 17, just before the highway turns north towards Narcisse and Poplarfield.

The items were stored in a locked utility shed on the cemetery grounds. The break-in and theft may have occurred sometime during the weekend of July 3-4.

"The graves and the headstones weren't damaged, thank goodness," said Etter, who has been the caretaker for over 10 years. "But they broke into the shed and stole equipment and all our fuel. It's

heart-breaking."

Although Etter said the vegetation in the cemetery looks like "fall in there right now" because of persistently high temperatures and lack of rainfall, the cemetery grounds still need — and will need — tending to.

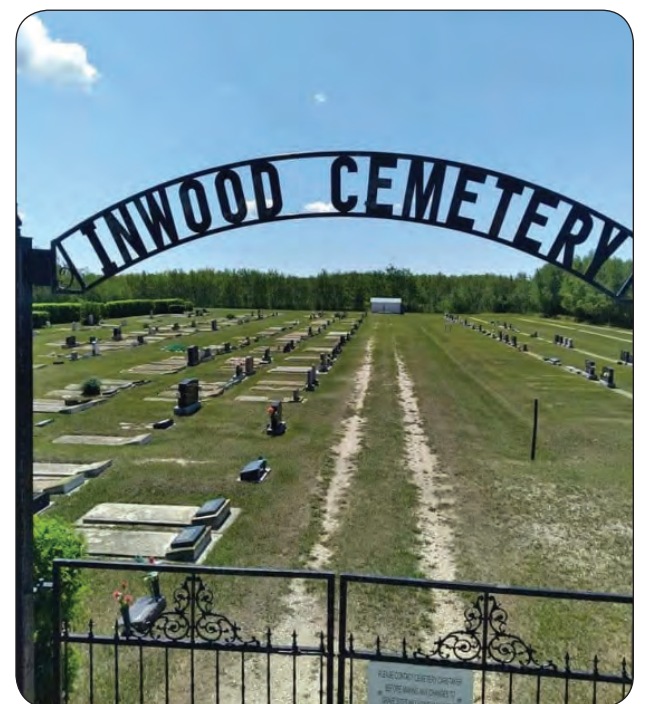
Lori Mott, who is president of the Inwood Cemetery Committee, said they think the break-in may have happened on the Sunday night as people who were at the cemetery on Monday to water vegetation around graves told her they noticed the door to the shed was open.

"The padlock on the shed was cut and around \$900 worth of equipment and gas was stolen," said Mott by phone last week.

The cemetery is supported entirely through donations and sales. It doesn't get any funding from the Municipality of Armstrong.

"Inwood Cemetery is community-run. We survive on donations and plot sales," she said. "And we don't charge people for the perpetual care of the graves."

Anyone with information about the break-in and/or the stolen items can call Lori Mott at 204-278-3418.



TRIBUNE PHOTO INWOOD CEMETERY FACEBOOK  
Gas and equipment were stolen during Inwood Cemetery break-in.

# Barker needs financial support to update inaccessible vehicle

By Nicole Brownlee

Interlake residents have banded together to raise \$80,000 to replace an accessible vehicle for an inspiring man in Teulon.

Rosalie Stelmack heard about Doug Barker through Lorena Mitchell, owner of Evolve Green, an alternative energy company.

Mitchell was dropping off an item to Barker when he shared that he was still without a vehicle two years after an accident had stolen his independence.

Barker, who became a quadriplegic, had been driving to his daughter's house in 2019 in his specialized van that enabled him to drive alone when he was involved in a collision that left his vehicle totaled.

"I said, this is ridiculous. You're my hero. You've been my hero since the moment we met," said Mitchell, who was incensed when she learned Barker had not received funding to replace the vehicle.

"He would have done this on his own," added Mitchell. "His wife had to cancel her retirement plans by about three to four years in order to help with this endeavour."

With the help of Stelmack, Mitchell narrowly convinced Barker to let her help raise the money.

"[The Barkers are] not asking for anything," said Mitchell. "They deserve a hand up."

Stelmack, based in Marchand, runs

the See a Need Fill a Need charitable organization, which advocates for community members who need financial support.

"I can't even believe how positive he and his family are," said Stelmack. "I think he's amazing."

Barker's verve for independence and perseverance stood out the most to Stelmack when she met him in person while interviewing him for SANFAN.

"He still found ways to be a productive member of society, and that is so rare," said Stelmack.

In 2010, Barker designed and constructed a tractor outfitted with a wheelchair lift and switches, so he could continue working on the family's farm and clearing snow in the winter.

"It's tough to lose that independence," said Barker.

"I was even told years ago by somebody ... they said, it's not your right to drive; it's your privilege to drive," said Barker. "That's not what I do. I farm. ... I want to be part of the team."

Though Barker never asked for the charity, every dollar raised by the SANFAN fundraiser will go towards outfitting Barker's van with specialized equipment that will allow him to drive freely once again.

"I didn't really want them to do it because, I said, there's got to be people out there that are more worthy than me," said Barker. "[Mitchell and Stelmack] wouldn't have it."



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROSALIE STELMACK

Rosalie Stelmack and Lorena Mitchell are hoping to raise \$80,000 to outfit Doug Barker's van into an accessible vehicle that he can drive independently.

"I've had some really, really inspiring messages just people saying, you know, thank you for doing this. ... He is obviously a well-known and well-loved community member," said Stelmack.

"He's the type of guy that would give you the shirt off his back," she added.

After talking to Barker, Stelmack looked into other supports for people with spinal cord injuries but found

very few options.

"There's just not many programs out there to help people get back in the vehicle after an accident," said Barker. "You shouldn't have to raise money to get in a vehicle."

To donate to the SANFAN fundraiser, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/doug-barkers-story-doingthisfordoug>.

## > KENNEL COUGH, FROM PG. 9

"The sort of scary part about bordetella is that it can be transferred to people as well, which can cause disease in people, especially if they are immune-compromised. So, we need to make sure that bacteria are killed as soon as possible," said Brown.

She said many people who bring their dogs in coughing don't know that they could catch their sickness.

"There has been a massive increase and it's not just in Winnipeg, and the South Interlake. It is affecting the entire south of Manitoba," said Brown,

"I think that it probably started from one or two dogs that have brought it into Manitoba and now it's just flooding the province."

Brown said the vaccines are an excellent preventative measure to take in injection, oral vaccine and nasal vaccine, which elicits local immunity. She also added that keeping your dog away from public parks and areas when it is sick can help slow the spread of the sickness in the province, and bringing dogs in to be treated fast can help as well.

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 **SOUTH INTERLAKE PLANNING**

**Planning a Project this Construction Season?**

Spring and summer are busy seasons for construction, and it's also a time when many are preparing to enjoy the outdoors.

With this in mind, the South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) would like to issue a reminder that Development and Building Permits are required for most types of construction, renovations, and structures (pre-built, site-built, temporary or permanent). These include but are not limited to: **Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, Decks, Sunrooms, Gazebos, Pergolas, Sheds, Fabric Shelters, Interior/Exterior Renovations or Repairs, Solar Panels, Window and Door Installations (structural only), Basement Developments, etc.**

Permits help ensure that buildings and structures meet the *Manitoba Building Code*, which in turn increases the level of safety for everyone.

If you are unsure whether your project requires a permit or not, or if you have any questions, please contact the SIPD office at 204-467-5587 and we'd be happy to assist you! More information is also available on our website: [www.sipd.ca](http://www.sipd.ca)

# Your FARM



## Grasshoppers and heat disastrous combination; Interlake farmers, towns threatened

By Patricia Barrett

Grass is running low, crops are being destroyed and cattle are heading to auction in the Interlake as a lethal combination of persistently high temperatures and drought-loving grasshoppers moves in.

The repercussions on farmers and farm families are serious enough, but the unfolding disaster could also have devastating spinoff effects on local economies.

Leroy Loewen is part of a family-run farm in the community of Silver, just south of Arborg in the southern part of the Municipality of Bifrost-Riverton. He said pastures in the area have been decimated.

"With the heat and the grasshoppers combined, the pasture behind our place is brown. It looks as if we've sprayed weed killer on it," said Loewen by phone last week.

Grasshoppers hatch well during a dry year and the situation looks dire for all farmers, he said. He feels particularly bad for beef producers as they're very vulnerable right now; there should be "no question of running out of grass," but they are.

"At this time of year, we should have tall green grass and it should last for the cattle for a number of months yet. But we're getting to the point where producers are going to have to supplement hay when pastures should be supporting animals 100 per cent," said Loewen. "There's probably going to be a need for hay here to supplement pasture feeding. This is dire for beef producers."

Along stretches of Highway 7, where it passes through Silver, Loewen said the pavement is discoloured from hordes of grasshoppers squished on the road.

"You can see that the highway is a different colour from the grasshoppers that have been driven over," said Loewen. "There are other places like this, but in Silver it's really noticeable."

In the northern part of Bifrost-Riverton, Ledwyn-area grain farmer Gordon Klym said the grasshoppers are mowing fields clean.

"They've devastated the pastures and they're moving into grain. Farmers are spraying, but a couple of days later they've got to spray again," said Klym by phone. "The grasshoppers were bad last year, and I



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER  
Grasshopper having lunch.

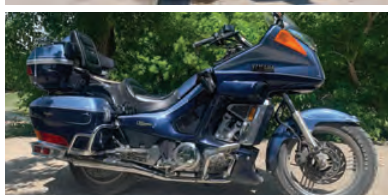
Continued on page 16



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# Your FARM



## > GRASSHOPPERS, FROM PG. 12

think they'll be worse this year."

As far as his own land is concerned, he said he's not sure how things are going to play out in terms of a harvestable crop.

"At this point in time it's hard to differentiate between how much damage the drought is causing and how much the grasshoppers are causing," he said. "We see the grasshoppers and we go out and spray. We see flea beetles and we spray. But at the end of the day, if you've got no crop growing because it's too darn dry, are you really doing any good?"

Bifrost-Riverton farmers are doing what they can to get a crop, he said, but it seems as though they're "fighting a losing battle."

For a second year running, Interlake municipalities are declaring a State of Agricultural Disaster, which triggers requests to both the federal and provincial governments for immediate assistance for things such as paying freight costs to bring in feed, compensation to drill new wells and tax deferrals. The municipalities of St. Laurent and Coldwell have already declared disasters, and last week Bifrost-Riverton issued its own declaration.

In addition to "severe drought" and a "critical grazing situation," the recent manifestation of grasshoppers has resulted in "severe crop and vegetation damage," states the resolution. Producers are now having to sell off their livestock because feed and the cost of freight is prohibitive.

Keystone Agricultural Producers' District 10 (Interlake, north of Selkirk) representative Paul Gregory said the region is in its third year of drought. The Interlake is no stranger to dry conditions but "not this early in the year and not with this ambient heat." Apart from the October 2019 snowstorm, the Interlake has had little moisture.

And grasshoppers are the product of dry cycles, he said. A warm, dry spring this year came on the heels of a mild winter and has allowed the eggs and the insects to flourish.

"Grasshoppers eat grass, but when they get hungry, guess what? Anything will do, including canola, trefoil crops and even alfalfa," said Gregory, who is also president of Interlake Forage Seeds in Fisher Branch. "This is anecdotal, but my brother-in-law told

me he found dead grasshoppers before he sprayed; there are so many grasshoppers competing for food that some are starving."

It's not only the grasshoppers going hungry but so too are cattle. As Interlake pastures wither from the heat and the voracious insects, one thing people can count on is "more cows for sale," said Gregory. It makes "no economic sense" for producers to shell out for expensive hay and feed.

"There's nothing for the cows to eat. There might be some pastures that are in OK shape right now, but very quickly with this coming weekend's heat [July 10-11] it will be 32, 34 Celsius and they'll be done. There won't be any pastures in good shape after this. For anyone north of the Trans-Canada Highway, it's looking tough."

The disaster will naturally have a domino effect on rural communities, he said. Big farm producers will get through, but 10-15 small farm families could go bankrupt if they can't make ends meet. That means there will be fewer people to help support local businesses and keep towns ticking along.

Retail sales for his company, which exports seed to China, the U.S. and Europe, are important, but what's more important is the "future of our towns," he said. Fisher Branch, for instance, used to have multiple farm dealerships, lots of stores and a couple of banks. But "that's all done now" because of an exodus of people from agriculture.

"We saw the negative effect on towns when BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] hit. It changed towns like Fisher Branch, Ashern, Eriksdale and other towns along Highway 6. They would be different today if they had more cattle producers," said Gregory. "A number of my friends who had cattle told their kids to go to Alberta and don't come back to Manitoba because it's too risky and there's no money in farming. If we had a safety net back then or something that would have helped farmers out, there would be way more people in our towns."

The current "safety net" for disasters such as this is a federal-provincial support program called AgriStability. The federal government pays 60 per cent and provinces pay 40 per cent of

"eligible" agriculture losses.

The only problem is the program got "watered down" over the years to the point where coverage is "fairly marginal," said Gregory.

The federal Liberal government under Justin Trudeau reached out to Manitoba and other western provinces in 2020, wanting to "tweak the program a little more in our favour" and "bring coverage back to where it could help producers." After about six months of negotiations, Manitoba rejected it.

In a January news release, KAP said it was hoping the province would support enhancements to AgriStability's reference margin limits and increase the compensation rate from 70 to 80 per cent. President Bill Campbell wrote that the program can, with some adjustment, provide "effective support" for producers, and if the province failed to support the enhancements, it would "represent a failure to protect producers and jeopardize the

agriculture industry into the future."

Gregory said farmers are in "desperate straights" right now.

"We need long-term safety nets," he said. "We're competing on a world stage. European and American farmers have security. When there's a climate disaster in those regions, farmers are supported. And that means farm families will be there further down the road to pay taxes."

To the best of his knowledge, Gregory said he's not aware of any provincial ad-hoc support for Interlake producers at this time.

"I think the province is well aware of the seriousness of what's going on in this area," said Gregory, "but as far as any hard cash or ad-hoc assistance, I know of nothing yet."

The province's agriculture department acknowledged the *Tribune's* request for comment on relief but did not provide answers.

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# Lakeside campground offers rural escape for outdoor enthusiasts

By Nicole Brownlee

A new campground near the Narrows in the RM of Oakview has opened, offering lakeside tenting, kayaking, fishing and more.

Sebastian Anthikatt-Francis bought the property in September 2019, less than three months after moving to St. Laurent from Edmonton. He had wanted to get the ball rolling last summer, but the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted his plans.

"Now is sort of the perfect conditions," said Anthikatt-Francis.

He has worked the past several years as an immigration consultant while running Gratton's Store in St. Laurent with the help of his wife and two children, but Anthikatt-Francis said he's always dreamed of the rural lifestyle.

"It was always an ambition to have rural property," he said.

"Even though I've never farmed before," he added with a laugh.

Anthikatt-Francis began to fantasize about owning farmland while working as a lawyer in Kerala, India.

"I personally wanted a hobby farm for a long time in my life," he said. "I had always been in academic circles, so I didn't have a real chance to be-

come a farmer or to have a taste of farm life."

With over 300 acres of property, Anthikatt-Francis hopes the land will continue to grow and develop with cabins and hobby farms.

"Maybe they can have a few chickens or maybe some goats, you know, like whatever their fancies lead them to," said Anthikatt-Francis.

"I have big dreams for the project."

While he waits for zoning approval to construct cabins on the lakeside property, Anthikatt-Francis said he wants people to enjoy the pure nature of the area while staying at the campground.

"Rural life is really enriching," said Anthikatt-Francis. "It's an opportunity for everybody, and they are also supporting a local business."

Visitors can pay daily rates to stay on the grounds or purchase memberships for up to three years to reserve a space for them to stay for over 100 days. These memberships will help pay for the maintenance of the property.

Tents and kayaks are also available for rent at the Tourist Village.

With over 3,500 metres of shoreline,



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Twenty-five lakeside campsites are available at Lake Manitoba Tourist Village, with tents and kayaks available for rent.

there's lots of space for visitors to explore and take advantage of the shallow water without being interrupted by boats, said Anthikatt-Francis.

He also hopes to connect with local businesses to offer more amenities year-round at the grounds.

"If any local community member wants to rent out his ATV, or snow-

mobile or any resources with any customers of the project," he added.

To learn more about Lake Manitoba Tourist Village, visit [lakemanitoba-touristvillage.ca](http://lakemanitoba-touristvillage.ca) or the Lake Manitoba Tourist Village Facebook page.



## It's berry season!

# Berries available at your local U-pick

Berry picking is a beloved summer pastime, and there are many U-pick farms that welcome visitors at this time of year. If you're looking for a wholesome activity to do outdoors,



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY NICOLE KAPUSTA  
Beautiful Saskatoon berries at the Manitoba Saskatoon U-Pick orchard in Grosse Isle.

consider handpicking strawberries, saskatoons, blueberries and more. The best part is eating them when you get home. A SAFE ACTIVITY In 2020, the U-pick tradition gained popularity thanks to the pandemic. Many families sought out fresh air and flocked to nearby farms to get away from it all. Fortunately, many U-pick farms were able to provide

a safe experience by taking health precautions. In addition, berry picking has the advantage of being an outdoor activity that can be done while keeping ample physical distance between yourself and others. Plus, since you're the only one who will touch the fruit you take home, you don't have to worry about cross contamination. If you pick more

than you can eat, remember there are a number of ways to preserve fresh berries. Freezing, dehydrating and canning are all good ways of keeping these summer fruits on hand. Making jam is another great option.

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# An Interlake snapshot: local photographer to share knowledge

By Nicole Brownlee

Armed with a camera, great lighting and patience, Catherine Sproat captures the beauty of the Interlake through a lens.

"There's so much beauty [in the Interlake]," said Sproat. "To try and capture it all would take more than one lifetime."

Photographing lakes, nature and wildlife in the Interlake came naturally to Sproat as she grew up visiting family in Matlock during the summer and on holidays.

Sproat shoots local products in her spare time but said she prefers photographing landscapes.

"It's kind of challenging compared to what I'm used to doing," said Sproat. "Product you have to have a specific light and equipment to shoot in a smaller space and smaller items."

When she does focus on landscapes, Sproat considers how the sun is creating highlights and shadows, the vibrancy of colours and different textures.

She's been working with cameras her whole life, but over the past decade, Sproat decided to start sharing her work as well.

"It started off more in the form of meditation and stress relief for myself, and then it just kind of expanded with people wanting to buy stuff and me creating things for them," said Sproat.

One of her most requested pieces is photos of piers in the Interlake.

"Everybody wants a picture of their pier," said Sproat. "A few years ago, there's eight piers in Dunnottar, and I photographed all eight of them."

Last year because of COVID-19 restrictions many piers weren't open, said Sproat but she's hoping with loosening rules she'll be able to get



Sproat enjoys photographing the Interlake because of the area's natural beauty.

back to her go-to photography spot.

While portrait and event photographers have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, artists like Sproat who usually work outside have also been impacted.

"Not just me but all small businesses have just suffered without having the access to people and places," said Sproat.

Working as a full-time educational assistant, Sproat also encourages her students to try photography.

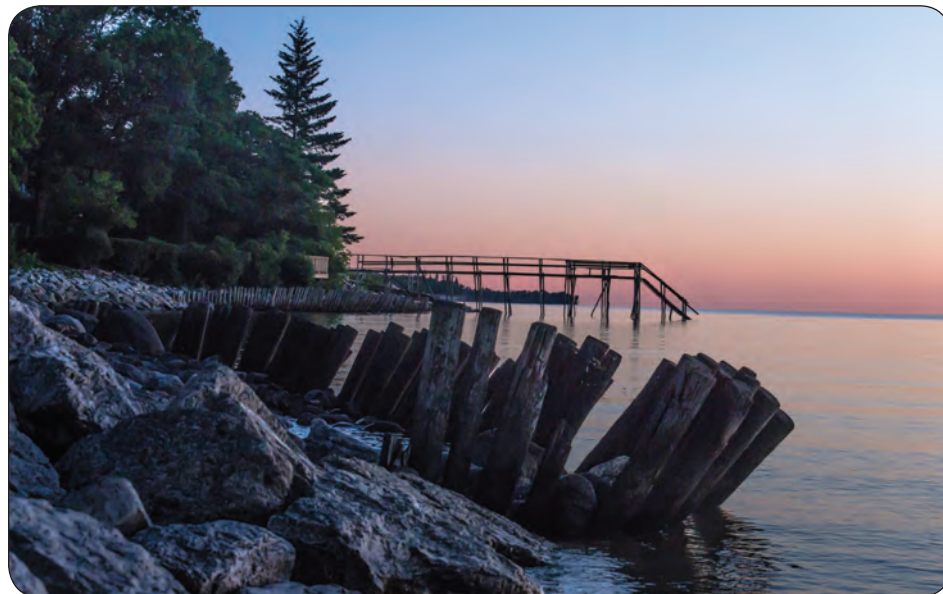
"I've always suggested if they have an interest in stuff like that, they should pursue it ... because a lot of schools offer photography," said Sproat.

Sproat started as an EA in the city in 1999 but hopes to move to the Interlake within a few years. In the meantime, Sproat plans to teach photography in the community throughout July.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Catherine Sproat has been working with cameras all her life and prefers shooting landscapes compared to products and portraits.



Sproat created a calendar last summer with shots of eight separate piers in the Interlake.

To learn more about Sproat's upcoming classes and to check out her work, visit Catherine Sproat Photography on Facebook.

# Rosser council news in brief

By Jennifer McFee

At the regular council meeting on June 22, the RM of Rosser adopted a pilot funding program for the municipal annual grant program and the community support program. If the RM of Rockwood doesn't agree to the program for the two non-profit organizations in Grosse Isle that are part of the pilot, then the RM of Rosser would fund both portions. The pilot funding program will run for three years, and funding agreements must be entered into with the municipality.

For now, due to the timing of the transition between the former grant

program and the pilot grant program, council approved distribution of 50 per cent of the funding from the pilot grant funding program policy to the five organizations included in the policy, without requiring funding agreements with the municipality.

Council approved an application for one temporary approach onto Klimpke Road, subject to location approval from administration, the municipal engineer and the public works committee. The applicant will cover the costs of supplies and installation. Council approved the haul route for soil stripping only to use the

temporary approach, then travelling north on Klimpke Road to Mollard Road, then east on Mollard Road to Route 90/Highway 7.

Council also approved a culvert application for one application onto Road 63N, with the applicant to cover the costs.

Council approved a budgeted expense of up to \$40,000 plus tax for continued GIS implementation for the RM to support the municipality's asset management plan. Suzanne Houliand of Geolind Mapping Solutions will provide the service.

The RM received a request

for funding from St. Michael's Cemetery for repairs to the exterior of the church. Council approved a \$7,000 grant.

On June 29, Rosser council hosted a public hearing at Bel Acres Golf & Country Club regarding the zoning bylaw.

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# Stonewall council elects new council member, considers smoking bylaw

By Tyler Searle

Stonewall town council met in person last Wednesday for the first time since COVID-19 relegated them to virtual meetings.

Mayor Clive Hinds, Deputy Mayor Peter Bullivant and councillors Jackie Luellman and Walter Badger were present.

Council did not allow the public to join the meeting in person but broadcast a live stream online.

Delegates who spoke during the meeting did so virtually, streaming in from their homes, offices and hotel rooms to appeal to council.

The opening delegation came from Action on Smoking & Health Canada (ASH).

ASH policy specialist Adam Anderson joined with his colleagues Hailey Coleman and John McDonald.

Coleman represented the Manitoba Lung Association as a health program and operations support co-ordinator, and McDonald is the executive director of the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance (MANTRA).

The trio presented to council on the danger nicotine-laden e-cigarettes pose to youth in Manitoba.

The e-cigarette market is largely unregulated and regularly targets youth with flavoured products and trendy advertising, Anderson said.

Currently, there are no federal regulations governing nicotine concentration in e-cigarette products — although McDonald expects the government to impose a new restriction of 20 milligrams of nicotine per millilitre of e-cigarette liquid on July 23.

Independent testing has found over-the-counter e-cigarette products contain up to three times the amount of nicotine advertised, and Manitoba has the fastest-growing population of youth consumers, he added.

The 2018-2019 Canadian Student Tobacco Alcohol and Drug Survey found 47 per cent of youth between grades 10 and 12 have tried e-cigarettes.

Anderson described the problem as “an epidemic among Canada’s youth.”

He and his counterparts asked council to update Stonewall’s current smoking bylaw to include e-cigarettes and prohibit smoking e-cigarettes on all town property and during town events.

The group also suggested the town implement tobacco retailer licensing fees, limiting licensing to new tobacco or vape retailers, and prohibiting smoking of all kinds at hotels within city limits.

Coleman spoke about a youth prevention program developed by MB Lung called Lungs Are For Life. She asked council to support the program by contacting the Interlake School Division (ISD) and asking them to adopt the program.

Coleman has contacted every division in Manitoba, and 16 of 37 responded but the ISD was not one of them, she said.

“I can say to my council right now we should lead the way in Manitoba and continue to ban smoking and vaping in all parks, playgrounds, sidewalks and streets,” Badger said following the presentation.

Updating Stonewall’s current smoking bylaw to include e-cigarettes is difficult, and council will likely review potential text amendments in future meetings, said chief administrative officer (CAO) Wally Melnyk.

The second delegation came from Manitoba School board president and ISD board chairperson Alan Campbell, who came to council to garner



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER  
Stonewall’s newest councillor Kim Newman was sworn in on July 12.

support against the Conservative government’s Bill 64, which proposes an amalgamation of Manitoba’s school districts and the dissolution of locally elected school boards.

The ISD is the largest employer in Stonewall, and Bill 64 is an attack on local autonomy and decision making, Campbell said.

On behalf of the association, Campbell asked council to draft a resolution calling for the Conservatives to withdraw the bill. He also asked them to consider lobbying MLA Ralph Eichler and call on him to vote against the legislation.

“To date, the government has failed to provide any evidence whatsoever that Bill 64 will actually help students,” Campbell said.

“Every week, we hear from our colleagues in school boards across the province where local municipal councils are passing — unanimously — resolutions to call on the government to withdraw Bill 64.”

Campbell met with Teulon town council last week, and they passed a resolution. He pointed to the RM of Gladstone and RM of Taché as other examples.

Badger spoke first and expressed his objection to the bill.

“I totally don’t agree with having a council or committee appointed by the government, might as well be a Crown corporation then,” he said.

Badger also took a moment to ask Campbell why the ISD had not responded to Coleman’s request to implement the Lungs Are For Life program.

Campbell was not aware Coleman had reached out but said the ISD already has a prevention plan against smoking and e-cigarettes and would be willing to explore more options.

Hinds and Bullivant also spoke out against the bill.

Bill 64 is confusing for the public, Bullivant said, and he questioned whether the Conservatives were clear about how it will work.

“Bill 64 was troubling and concerning right out the gate,” Hinds said.

“There will be a discussion among us, and we will see how best we can support,” he added.

Council then broke for a five-minute break before returning and approving all the June 2021 monthly reports.

Council also approved the Finance Committee’s authorization of a \$263,00.25 cheque and a June payroll of \$132,959.34.

Settling unfinished business, council held a vote to elect a new councillor to replace the vacancy left by Blair Good following his resignation.

The town had advertised the vacancy and requested a by-election but received no nominations. Fol-

lowing the Municipal Act, the sitting councillors opted to fill the vacancy by appointing a person who was eligible to be nominated in the previous by-election.

Eight people competed for the position: Jimm Simon, John Savage, Kimberly Newman, David Mackinder, Jeff Levesque, Adam Lethbridge, Trent Brownlee and Stephen Breton.

Council voted using a ranked voting system, which allowed each councillor to vote for their first, second and third choice.

Voting was to be conducted in two rounds, with an optional third-round lottery in the case of a tie.

After the first round of voting, council narrowed the pack down to three candidates: Jim Simon, John Savage and Kimberly Newman.

Newman won in the second round, and council officially elected her as Stonewall’s newest councillor.

Before moving on to new business, Hinds took a moment to recognize CAO Melnyk for 30 years of municipal service and Badger for 15 years of public service in the Interlake.

Bullivant congratulated Lion’s Manor resident Ruth Sampson on her 100th birthday and proposed moving forward that all residents who reach a similar milestone should receive a letter from the mayor on behalf of council.

Hinds agreed with the proposal. Community members who wish to have their loved ones commemorated should contact the town.

Council discussed feedback from the Heritage Committee and the Heritage Arts Centre manager, which suggested the town preserves kilns standing on privately owned property on the east side of PR 236.

Hinds determined it was worth approaching the landowner to see if they would allow the town to place a fence around the historical relics.

Council moved to purchase a quarter-page colour advertisement in the annual Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition Book.

The ad, which cost \$415, symbolizes the town’s gratitude toward veterans, Hinds said.

Council resolved to request the assistance of the Manitoba Water Services Board to undertake a water main upgrade, which will see an extension of the main line on 2nd Avenue N., east of PR 236, and the provision of a 250mm feeder main on 4th Street E. from 3rd Avenue S. to 4th Avenue S., and on 3rd Avenue S. from 4th Street E. to Main Street.

Council appointed Exchange Group Chartered Professional Accountants as the town’s auditors for 2021 and adopted an amendment to the town’s organization structure, which changed the employment descriptions for various town jobs.

They also amended the non-union employees policy.

Finally, council reviewed a memo regarding a draft of Bill 37 and Plan20-50.

They discussed how it might affect communities in Winnipeg Metro Region (WMR) — including Stonewall.

Bill 37 is Conservative legislation that seeks to formalize the process by which communities around Winnipeg secure provincial funding for development projects.

Plan20-50 works in conjunction with Bill 37 to outline how the WMR will distribute government



# St. Laurent beach fees create a splash for visitors

By Jennifer McFee

Ripples of change are flowing through St. Laurent, where new beach fees are creating quite a splash.

On June 29, the RM of St. Laurent posted a newsletter outlining the details of the Gros Arbre (Big Tree) Park Entry pilot project that impacts Sandpiper Beach.

The newsletter indicates that many people have been asking questions about the recently announced pilot project as well as the RM's new parks and beaches bylaw, which council passed on June 2. This new bylaw regulates public parks and beaches, including Gros Arbre (Big Tree) Park, which is owned by the RM.

Through this pilot project, visitors to the park will be charged \$10 per vehicle, which includes the driver. In addition, it will cost \$5 for each additional person, although kids six and under will be free.

Visitors also have the option to buy a seasonal pass for \$100, which would cover the fees for two adults and three youth.

These fees will go directly towards the cost of maintaining and enhancing the park.

For full-time and seasonal ratepayers, they can get a free annual park pass through the RM office or park attendant, with one pass available per family.

St. Laurent Reeve Cheryl Smith was not available for comment. Instead, CAO Hilda Zotter suggested the newsletter contains information on the subject.

"Our beaches are now considered a tourism and recreation destination; they are being promoted and advertised as such and visitors and tourists from all over the country as well as some international travellers are coming to our beaches," states the news-

letter.

"Due to the influx and large increase of visitors and tourists, costs of maintaining, enhancing, repairing and monitoring the use of our infrastructure have increased exponentially. These costs should not be borne by our residents and property owners, hence the implementation of a fee charged to visitors."

St. Laurent property owners will need to show ID to verify their local address. If their ID doesn't show a St. Laurent address, the information will be verified through the ratepayer database, referenced by name and civic address.

In the future, the upcoming waste transfer site pass could serve as proof of residency and ownership.

Hours of operation will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The park building will remain open and be locked 30 minutes after sunset.

"We hope this clarifies some of the questions and concerns," the newsletter states. "As this is a pilot project, we thank everyone for their understanding and patience and constructive input."

Meanwhile, the RM of Gimli does not plan to make waves with a similar initiative.

For Gimli Mayor Lynn Greenberg, there's no need to change something that's working fine already.

"I think the best thing is to just leave it as it is. Gimli has been very successful over the years in attracting people to the community and we'll just leave it that way going forward," he said.

"A lot of the people that come, they support the local businesses. That's been happening for 100 years. We don't have to change anything now. We want to attract people, not scare them away."

## Incredible creatures: A scavenger hunt for flying, crawling and cryptic critters

By John Gavloski

Look closely and there are usually a lot of interesting insects living in or visiting any yard. Got some down time this summer, or the kids need an outdoor activity? This month's Incredible Creatures is a scavenger hunt; see if you can find these six types of insects over the summer.

### A bee, or not a bee?

At first glance the insects in the first photo may look like bees, but they are not. They are called hover flies. Look for them around flowers. They can be valuable pollinators. There are 593 species of hover flies in Canada. Adults of many species resemble bees or wasps. But don't worry, they can't sting you. Flies do not have stingers. Hover flies can often be seen hovering and darting around. Their larvae feed on aphids.

### Night-time hunters

Ground beetles are common, mostly predaceous beetles. They mainly hunt at night, and like to hide during the day. Look for them under stones, boards, etc. Many ground beetles like to feed on caterpillars, slugs, larvae and pupae of flies such as root maggots, etc. There are some ground beetles that in addition to being predators also eat plant seeds and are considered valuable consumers of weed seeds.

### Green Lacewings

Adults of green lacewings have wing veins that look like netting, and gold eyes. Adults feed on nectar, honeydew produced from aphids, and a few

species are predaceous. There are 26 species in Canada. Look for them on plants. They may also come to lights at night.

### Cryptic Moths

To many, moths may seem bland, but have a second look. Some can be quite fascinating. The moth shown here belongs to a group called geometer or geometrid moths. The front pair of wings in this group of moths are usually relatively broad, and intricate wavy patterns on the wings are often continuous from forewing to hindwing. When at rest, many will hold their wings flat against what they are resting on, in contrast to some other groups of moths that tend to fold their wings over their abdomen. They are often highly camouflaged. You may see many species and variations of geometrid moths over the summer. The species shown here is the large maple spanworm, and is a fall-flying leaf mimic.

### Darting Damsels

Damselflies are very closely related to dragonflies; they are different sub-orders of the same order of insects (called Odonata). In dragonflies, the rear wings have a broader base and are larger than the front pair. Damselflies, by contrast, have front and hind wings similar in shape, and as a result they fly slower than dragonflies. Also, dragonflies can't fold their wings together when resting, and damselflies can. Both feed on other insects, which as adults they catch on the wing. In Canada there are 154 species of drag-

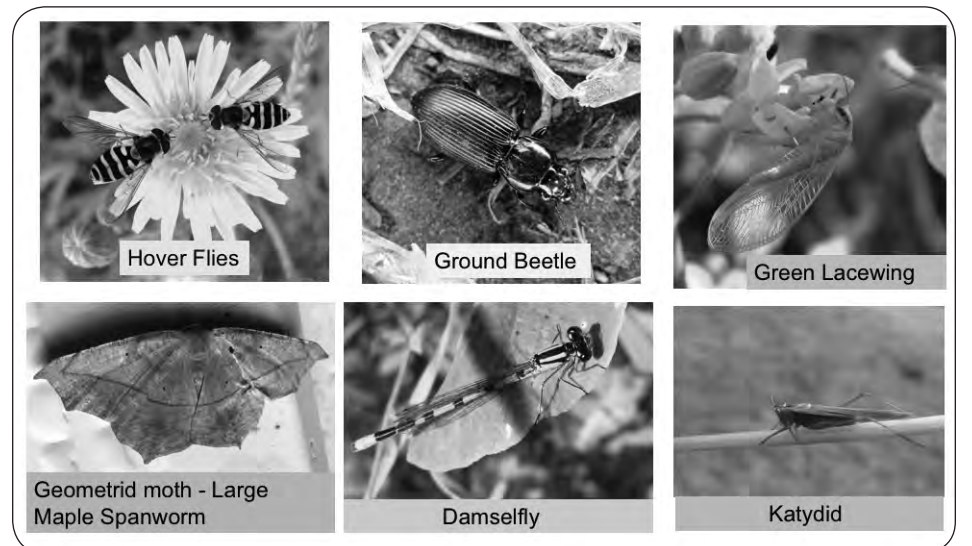


PHOTO SUBMITTED

A scavenger hunt in your backyard can be a fun, outdoor activity.

onflies and 60 species of damselflies.

### Calling Katydids

If you see what looks to be a grasshopper, but it has antennae that are larger than the body, odds are it belongs to a group called the katydids. None of our species of katydids are pests species that will devour crops, like a few of the short-horned grasshoppers (those with shorter antennae) can. Katydids are usually green, and male katydids are noted songsters.

See how many of these insects you can observe this summer, or get a field guide to insects from your library and add other insects to the list. You may find it amazing what you can find in your yard, or out for a summer walk. Have fun exploring!

## > COUNCIL, FROM PG. 16

money over the next 30 years.

The plan could bring benefits like recreation facilities, hospital and school upgrades, or mass transit to Stonewall, but it may also allow the provincial government to elect a representative in the region and limit council's influence over development decisions.

Badger expressed his concern the changes could limit the town's autonomy.

Council deliberated on the pros and cons of the prospective legislation before the public portion of the meeting convened.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## U19 Phillies hit the diamond

By Brian Bowman

For the first time in several years, the South Interlake Phillies fielded a U19 team this season.

The Phillies were busy on the diamond last week, playing four games.

"It's awesome and great to see the girls coming out and playing," said Phillies' head coach Tatum Lindley. "We have lots of local girls and lots of local talent. I'm excited for the upcoming years because we have a couple of girls coming up in the next couple of years that are going to make our team even stronger."

South Interlake started its season July 6 against U21 Legacy at Holenski Field in what was described as a "glorified practice."

The Phillies played to a 5-5 tie in the first game and then lost 4-3 in Game 2.

Last Wednesday, South Interlake dropped a doubleheader to a strong Central Energy team, losing by scores of 14-0 and 9-0, in Stonewall.

"They are a really strong team," Lindley said. "They probably have the best team in the league, I think."

Lindley feels the Phillies have a lot of

talent and some great hitters in their lineup, noting that Sarah Shewchuk and Brooke Wadge had some good at bats.

Defensively, Lindley was impressed with catcher Payton Moyer, who is playing up with the team from U16, as she made a real nice throw to nail a runner at second base.

"Our pitchers are working hard and we only have two of them this season," Lindley noted.

South Interlake has a very small roster with just 10 players in a very shortened season due to provincial health restrictions. The season will wrap up in August and, at press time, it was not known if there would be a provincial championship.

The U19 Phillies' assistant coaches are Rikki Frost-Hunt and Kyra Shewchuk while Corinne Lindley is the team's manager.

The Phillies are back in action this Wednesday with a doubleheader against the Winnipeg Lightning in Stonewall. Game times are 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The South Interlake Phillies' Payton Moyer takes a swing at a pitch against Central Energy during U19 action last week in Stonewall.

## Uhl, Fanning win golf championships

From Golf Manitoba's website

Bobbi Uhl of the Shilo Country Club is the Diamond Athletic Women's Amateur Champion after outlasting Southwood Golf and Country Club's Rhonda Orr in a three-hole playoff Sunday afternoon at Niakwa Country Club.

Uhl shot an 82 in her final round, one stroke better than Orr to end three days of play at 237.

Hannah Diamond of the St. Charles Country Club had the low round Sunday shooting a six-over par 78, missing the playoff by a single stroke.

Breezy Bend Country Club's Charmaine Mackid, who finished fourth, four strokes back of Uhl and Orr, had the shot of the day acing the 14th hole. It was her second career hole-in-one.

Orr won the Mid-Amateur Division championship by one stroke over

Diamond. Meanwhile, it was a first in the storied golf career of Niakwa's Todd Fanning in winning the Diamond Athletic Men's Mid-Amateur Championship on his home course.

Fanning chipped in on the 17th hole for birdie and holed a shot from the sand for another birdie on the 18th hole to fire a one-under par 70 and finish atop of the leaderboard.

Fanning was four strokes better than Jordy Lutz of the Elmhurst Golf and Country Club.

Lutz and Ryan Sholdice of Breezy Bend Country Club each shot 76 to place second and third overall.

The low round of the day belonged to Ryan Terdik of the Pine Ridge Golf Club, he carded a two-under par 69 to finish fourth.

Fanning also won the Mid-Masters Division championship by 10 strokes over fellow Niakwa member Jay Doyle.

## U18 Orioles drop to 0-4

Staff

The Interlake Orioles have had a tough start to their U18 "AAA" baseball season.

Interlake is now 0-4 after a pair of road losses to the Brandon Marlins on Sunday.

Brandon won games by scores of 10-0 and 9-1.

Interlake started its season July 5 with a 12-5 road loss to the Carillon Sultans. The Orioles were then bounced 16-3 by the league-leading North Winnipeg Pirates last Thursday at Quarry Park.

Interlake visited the Elmwood Giants this past Tuesday but no score was available at press time.

The Orioles will then host Pembina Hills in a doubleheader this Sunday in Stonewall. Game times are 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Interlake's U15 "AAA" team lost its season opener 15-3 to the Winnipeg South Wolves last Wednesday in Grosse Isle.

The Orioles played road games against the Bonivital Black Sox on Monday and then the St. James A's Wednesday. Again, no scores were available.

Interlake will host St. James next Monday in Grosse Isle. First pitch is 6:30 p.m.

The U13 Orioles, meanwhile, are 0-2 after losses to the Wolves (17-3) and the A's (14-0).

Interlake had a game with St. James on Monday and Red River Valley Tuesday. The Orioles will host the Black Sox next Tuesday (6:30 p.m.) in Stonewall.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Junior Blue Jays start season 1-3

By Brian Bowman

The Interlake Blue Jays had a great start to their Manitoba Junior Baseball League season with a solid 5-3 home win over the Carillon Sultans last Wednesday.

But the weekend wasn't as pleasant. Interlake lost three road games, dropping a 14-2 decision to the three-time defending league champion Elmwood Giants on Friday before getting swept by the Altona Bisons on Sunday.

Altona won games by scores of 5-3 and 3-0.

In the victory over Carillon, Riley Young pitched 6 innings, striking out nine while allowing three earned runs.

Liam Allen came on in relief and got

the final two outs.

The Blue Jays were led offensively by Kalli Einarson who had three walks and two runs scored. Interlake's other runs were scored by Ben Anderson, Chris Fines and Thomas Waldner.

Against Elmwood, Interlake had just two hits in the game that lasted just four-and-a-half innings due to the 10run mercy rule.

Jeremy Wasilewski and Danion Espanell scored for the Blue Jays.

No box scores from the doubleheader against Altona were posted on the league website at press time.

Interlake will play at the St. James A's on Friday (7 p.m.) and then will visit the Pembina Valley Orioles Sunday for a doubleheader. Games will start at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY KEN ALLEN

The Interlake Blue Jays' Noah Ducharme narrowly misses the tag on a Carillon Sultans' player during Manitoba Junior Baseball League action last week in Stonewall. Interlake won the game 5-3.

## CJHL endorses Portage in its request to host 2023 Centennial Cup

From the MJHL website

Prior to the pandemic, Portage la Prairie was scheduled to host the 2020 Centennial Cup.

With the cancellation of the 2020 event due to the pandemic, Portage requested through Hockey Canada and the CJHL the ability to have an opportunity to host a future Centennial Cup.

At this point, the MJHL supports the Portage Terriers and the City of Portage la Prairie in their request to host the 2023 Centennial Cup. Portage has

also received full support of the CJHL and Hockey Manitoba on this proposal.

Over the coming months, the MJHL, CJHL and Hockey Canada will work together on finalizing a hosting plan for Portage la Prairie that, once complete, would require final endorsement of the Hockey Canada Board to be fully ratified.

"It was disappointing when the event was cancelled in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic," said Kevin Saurette, MJHL commissioner. "The

MJHL and CJHL are fully supportive of the request made to Hockey Canada to allow Portage the opportunity to host the event in 2023.

"The Province of Manitoba and the City of Portage la Prairie have proven to be an excellent host for Canada's National Junior "A" Championship, and the Portage Terriers are proven competitors and champions in previous events."

Portage is excited to host this great event.

"We are thankful for the support

from the MJHL, CJHL and Hockey Manitoba and are eager to work with Hockey Canada for final approval to host this prestigious national event in the Spring of 2023," said Dale Deschouwer, co-chair Centennial Cup Host Committee.

"We have everything in place from our 2020 Centennial Cup preparations to move forward seamlessly with planning and execution of the 2023 Centennial Cup."

## Peake, Kuntz win junior golf championships

Staff

Clara Peake fired a career-best 75 during the final round of the three-day Manitoba Women's Junior Golf Championship to win by 11 strokes over Crystal Zamzow at the Shilo Country Club.

Peake earlier carded identical rounds of 82 to finish at 239.

Rounding out the top five in the 11-player field were Addison Kartusch (87-83-81-252), Cala Korman

(90-85-83-258) and Jeri Lafleche (90-84-84-258).

On the men's side, Breezy Bend's Braxton Kuntz carded a final round 73 to win the 99th Manitoba Men's Junior Championship in Shilo.

He earlier posted rounds of 72 and 74 to finish with a 219 total.

That was three strokes better than Elmhurst's Adam Ingram, who lives in West St. Paul and plays for the

Selkirk Steelers.

Ingram carded rounds of 77, 75, and 70 to finish at 222. His 70 was the low round of the tournament.

Pine Ridge's Noah Fiks (76-77-73) and Pinawa's Ryan Blair (78-71-77) tied for third at 226.

One stroke back of the pair were Jose Mekish-Lacquette (74-80-73) and Jordan McDonald (79-73-75).

Meanwhile, McDonald and Kuntz

combined to win the two-day Junior Interclub Championship at eight-under par 136.

Rossmere Country Club's Carter Johnson and Trey Ross finished four strokes back.

The teams of Ingram and Jacob Taweel of the Elmhurst Country Club and Carman Golf Club's Ryan Orchard and Samuel Sullivan tied for third place at 142.

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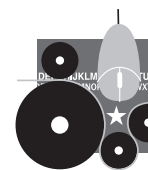
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We thank all applicants for their interest in this position and only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Public Notice is hereby given that the 2020 Audited Financial Statements are available for public viewing in the Consolidated Financials folder on the Town website at <http://stonewall.ca/p/documents>

Wally R. Melnyk, CAO  
Town of Stonewall



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### Government -> Career Opportunities

#### Deadline for Applications:

These positions will remain open until filled.

Applications may be submitted to [info@teulon.ca](mailto:info@teulon.ca) to the attention of Andrew Glassco, CAO.

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## Employment opportunities galore at Interlake-Eastern RHA

By Tyler Searle

There are 48 support positions currently available across the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IERHA)— many boasting flexible schedules, competitive wages, benefits, and pension.

The IEHRA is pushing to fill roles in its support services department, said Keltie Kadynuik, (acting) director of support services.

Support services encompass dietary, housekeeping, and laundry services.

Staff from these departments are integral members of every healthcare team. They work behind the scenes to keep healthcare facilities running smoothly, Kadynuik said.

There are ample opportunities for cooks, assistant cooks, dietary aides, housekeeping aides, and laundry aides. Experience is an asset but not a requirement, and the IERHA is welcoming all applicants.

Staff can choose between full-time, part-time, or casual positions and these positions are unionized, so all employees enjoy competitive wages, promotion opportunities, benefits packages, and pension.

"Our pension is really nice. Even if you're casual, your hours go towards it, and your employer matches it. The life insurance premiums are also really good," said Connie Wiebe, dietary aide at Stonewall and District Health Centre.

"I like my hours right now, and I'm glad that our breaks are scheduled. There are various shifts and a lot of different positions to try. If you want to move up, they're also very open to that," Wiebe added.

The range of available positions and schedules means there is something for everybody. Because the IERHA includes dozens of facilities across the Interlake, applicants can find work close to home, Kadynuik said.

Staff are free to explore different roles within the support services department, she added.

"I'm not just doing the one job, and it's nice because I'm given the opportunity to try different things. I like it because I'm not a person to sit still, and there's always something to do," said Lisa Tate, housekeeping aide at Fisher Personal Care Home.

The opportunity to help others and work as a team are perks of the job, Tate said.

People can view availabilities and apply online at [www.ierha.ca](http://www.ierha.ca) under the "Careers" tab. The website allows visitors to filter by department, facility, and position.

Only online applications are being accepted.



Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority

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#### Housekeeping aide

- Minimum Grade 10 education required.
- Experience is an asset.
- Experience in health-care or institutional cleaning.
- Must demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written English.
- Ability to perform mental and physical aspects of the position.
- Satisfactory employment record.

Positions now available in Arborg, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, Oakbank, Pine Falls, Selkirk, Stonewall, Teulon.

As a condition of employment, all successful applicants will be required to provide a satisfactory criminal record check (with vulnerable sector screening), adult abuse and child abuse registry checks prior to commencing employment.

To learn more about these and other positions available, please visit [ierha.ca](http://ierha.ca) and click on the careers tab. Search under "support services." Online applications only. Student applications welcome!

We value and support employment equity and workplace diversity and encourage all qualified individuals to apply. Accessibility accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All health-care workers are required to be immunized as a condition of employment in accordance with Interlake-Eastern RHA Policy.

*"I like my hours right now, and I'm glad that our breaks are scheduled. There are various shifts and a lot of different positions to try. If you want to move up, they're also very open to that."*

-Connie Wiebe, dietary aide, Stonewall and District Health Centre

**ANNIVERSARY**



Cheers to 50 years!  
Larry and Val Nichol  
July 17, 1971



**ANNIVERSARY**



Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary!  
Congratulations to  
Ruth and Stewart McMahon  
on celebrating their  
60th Wedding Anniversary on  
July 15, 2021

-With much love and heartfelt gratitude  
from your children, grandchildren,  
and great-grandchildren

**BIRTHDAY**



Doreen Schaeffer  
Happy 95th Birthday  
July 20  
Wishing you many more birthdays  
-Love, family and friends

**IN MEMORIAM**



Catherine Ann Buckle  
Days will pass and turn to years,  
But I will always remember you with  
silent tears.  
Missing you.

-Love Mom and Devon  
and family

# Announcements Stonewall Teulon Tribune

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**IN MEMORIAM**



Brian Brindley  
March 25, 1952 – July 19, 2018  
It has been three years  
And you are sadly missed along life's way,  
Quietly remembered every day.  
No longer in our lives to share,  
But in our hearts you are always there.

-Love Mom, Alice, Bev, Donna,  
Jackie, Val, Mary, Karen  
and families

**IN MEMORIAM**



In Memory of  
William (Percy) Wild Bill Cochrane  
August 1, 1927 - July 10, 2015

Six years ago Willie became his Cree given name "Flying Eagle" as he entered the gates of heaven created by the creator of heaven and earth. Willie, Wild Bill, Cowboy Pedro, Flying Eagle, the man of many names, who could turn a frown, growl or smirk into laughter, love and sometimes a hug. When you have a coffee at Robin's Donuts Gimli or Chicken Chef Teulon etc. remember some of his stories and laughter. Jigging music was laughter to his feet and next thing he had you tapping the floor or jigging with him. Willie, Wild Bill is loved and missed by family, friends, and fresh air inspectors who peddle their bike around town, or cowboys who are grooming horses for the next years Rodeo, hope!

P.S. The picture shows Peguis Cap for Hockey, Pow Wows and Father's Day Picnic at the Stone Church where he is resting. The jacket is "proud recycled Rink Rat" for 20 Years in Gimli.

-Love Dorothy, wife 34 years  
step family and brother Dennis

**IN MEMORIAM**



Carole Good  
September 28th, 1959 to July 18th, 2019  
Your life was a blessing,  
Your memory a treasure;  
You are loved beyond words,  
And missed beyond measure.

-Love,  
Kevin, Trevor, Kayla, Derrick,

**IN MEMORIAM**

Lowe  
In loving memory of our parents  
Robert Evans  
July 13, 1923 – February 9, 1987  
and Olive Edna  
July 10, 1928 – July 5, 2011

Parting comes and hearts are broken,  
Loved ones go with words unspoken;  
Life goes on we know it's true,  
But its not the same since we lost you.

-Lovingly remembered by  
daughters Pat, Gene, Lorna, Bobby  
and families

Your memory will live forever  
Engraved within our hearts

**OBITUARY**

Marilyn Lynore Mann (Wood)  
June 10, 1939 - July 7, 2021

It is with great sadness the family of Lynn Mann wish to announce the passing of our dearest Mom, grandma, and great-grandma. With relief in our hearts we know that she is finally at peace and free from her life long struggle with rheumatoid arthritis.

She will be missed but never forgotten.  
A longer obituary to follow with details for her celebration of life TBA.  
The family wish to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Graham and the nurses and care-providers at Stonewall Hospital for the compassion and comfort they bestowed to our mom and grandmother.  
Mom "Forever in our memories, till we meet again!"



**Don't forget  
to send your  
special wishes  
to your friends  
and family.**

**Stonewall Teulon  
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# Announcements



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**OBITUARY**



**Michael Roderick Monkman**  
July 13, 1958 – July 5, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael on July 5, 2021. He was predeceased by his mother, Noel Monkman in 1991 and his brother, Jason Monkman in 2018.

Michael will always be lovingly remembered by his father, Martin Monkman, his sister Jeanine (Tom) Rediger, his nieces Tanya and Vanessa as well as his great nephews and great nieces.

Michael was born on July 13, 1958 in Stonewall, Mb. where he lived the majority of his life.

Michael did have many jobs throughout his life but none made him more proud than working along side his father in the family business, Marty Monkman Auto Body Ltd.

Michael loved Harley Davidson motorcycles so much so, he built his very own which was completed, however he never had the

chance to ride it but no worries Michael, one of your loved ones will take it for its 1st ride as you guide and protect them along the open highway.

Michael's heart was overflowing with abundant love which flowed over to his dogs, taking them from best in breed to 2nd in show and numerous ribbons and trophies, but to Michael they were first and foremost his incredible children whom he loved dearly.

Many knew Michael through the lens of addiction that he battled for many years. That was not the real Michael though, and those fortunate enough who truly knew him, recognized him as someone with a huge heart and who tried to help others as much as he could such as, when asked by his church to speak to students at the Stonewall Collegiate about the effects of addiction on yourself and your loved ones, he did not hesitate to do so, one of his proudest moments.

However, the chains that bound him were stronger than anything he could do on his own. He fought this battle for years, and truly sought God's help during the struggle. He knew Jesus Christ as his Savior, and in the end it was He who finally decided Michael struggled long enough and brought him home.

To his family members, always remember....

"Ya Know Who Loves Ya "

"Uncle Mike does"

We will miss and forever love you Michael.

Til we meet again, Ride free....

Cremation has taken place and a private family interment will be arranged at a later date.

**OBITUARY**



**Sandra Marie (Sobkowich) Wiebe**

Sandra Marie (Sobkowich) Wiebe passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 28, 2021 after a brave battle with cancer.

Sandra was born on June 9, 1951 in Winnipeg to Elizabeth (Nelson) and Alfred Sobkowich. She grew up on the farm in Gregg, Manitoba with her grandparents Andrew and Luella as well as her sister (Cheryl), and three of her aunts (Faye, Andrea, and Linda) who were practically sisters to her. As well as one sister, Sandra had four brothers (Kevin, Sean, Richard, Robert). After high school Sandra moved to Winnipeg to pursue a Fine Arts degree. This is where she met her future husband and love of her life, Jake Wiebe. They married in 1973 in Carberry, Manitoba. Sandra and Jake lived in Winnipeg for two years then they moved to Steinbach, Manitoba for Sandra to pursue her first teaching opportunity. Sandra and Jake later moved back to Winnipeg and lived there until 1992. Their first son, Sasha, was born in 1991 and shortly afterwards their love for country living drew them to move to an acreage in the Stonewall area where they built their own home. Sandra and her family lived there for almost 30 years. Their second son, Christopher, was born in 2001.

Sandra had a passion for the arts and for education and was a strong advocate for both. These passions led her to various jobs in these fields. Sandra's first teaching job was teaching junior high art in Steinbach. After teaching for two years, the opportunity rose to be one of the founding members of Artisans Twelve, the first artisan's co-op in Winnipeg. Under the brand "The Loom Room", Sandra was able to promote and sell her art across Canada. After moving to the Stonewall area, Sandra became a prominent member of the community through the Prairie Oak Regional Arts Council, creating and offering Arts Enrichment classes, being an Interlake School Division trustee for the Balmoral, Argyle, and Stonewall catchments, and various other endeavours.

When she wasn't working on one of the many projects she had on the go, you could find her tending to her plants and garden or being an active supporter of the various extra-curricular activities that her sons were involved in. Sandra was a passionate, strong-willed woman, a caring mother, and a loving wife who will be greatly missed.

A small service with close friends and family was held shortly after her passing.

The family asks that, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to Prairie Oak Regional Arts Council, Box 1279 Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0 or Arts Junktion, 312 William Ave. Winnipeg, MB, R3A 1P9.

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