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Dear Santa ...

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Three-year-old Dillyn Burdett mails her Christmas wish list to Santa at the Magical Mailbox during the Warren Breakfast with Santa, hosted Sunday by the West Interlake Trading Company.

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From Lakefront to Countryside – Your Home is Here in the Interlake!

Lake Francis producer raises alarm about predation after bear kills young cow

By E. Antonio

A Lake Francis resident is speaking out about rising livestock predation after one of her cows was killed by a bear.

Dianne Riding discovered the dead animal on a Wednesday morning in November — an unexpected and costly loss.

“We have a big predation problem in this province and it’s getting worse and worse,” she said.

Riding has lived in Lake Francis her entire life and noted she never had issues with predators until three years ago when she first spotted a bear on her property. On Christmas Day 2024, a wolf killed one of her cows. The recent attack has her increasingly worried about the future of her herd.

“Once these predators know there’s food here, they will have an easy meal to come back to,” she added. “Once they start killing the livestock, they are going to keep it up. I don’t want to be that cruel person, but we need to start eliminating some of the problem predators.”

Riding immediately filed a claim through the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC)’s Wildlife Damage Compensation for Livestock Predation program. The program compensates producers up to 90 per cent of an animal’s value, to a maximum of \$7,000 (increasing from \$3,000 as of April 1, 2025), when livestock is killed or injured by a bear, wolf, cougar, fox or coyote.

Although no one witnessed the incident, the MASC adjuster confirmed a bear was responsible, identifying characteristic throat markings and signs that the heart had still been pumping when the cow was attacked.

“She was an extremely healthy cow that I bought earlier this year. She was drinking water on Monday, then just completely gone the next day,” Riding said.

The young cow will likely be valued at around \$3,000. Even with approved compensation, she expects to lose out on several hundred dollars.

Riding describes herself as “very wildlife accepting person” but says that changes when predators threaten her animals.

“If they can take out livestock, they have the ability to harm somebody’s child,” she added. “If someone’s kid gets mauled, then what are we going to do?”

Riding posted a warning on social media after the kill, urging residents to be cautious as bears remain active and food sources diminish. She said predators are affecting livestock well beyond her community, and she’s heard of farmers losing upward of 100 cows a year in other areas of the province.

Even with compensation programs, she says producers are still left with gaps.

“They’ve done studies and these studies show that for every kill compensated, it’s likely you have already lost two more.”

During the 2024–25 fiscal year, MASC processed 2,920 predation claims, with 90 per cent confirmed as predation-related. Coyotes accounted for roughly 75 per cent of cases, wolves about 20 per cent, and bears and cougars the remaining five per cent.

MASC chief product officer David Van Deynze noted to qualify for compensation, a carcass must be present



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

A farmer from Lake Francis had one of her cows killed by a bear this November. She wants stronger prevention measures when it comes to protecting livestock from predators.

for inspection.

“Producers have reported losses to livestock where the entire carcass has been removed by the predator. In those instances, the producer is not eligible for compensation,” he said.

Compensation levels vary depending on inspection findings: 90 per cent for a confirmed kill, 45 per cent for a probable kill, and none when there is no evidence.

For claims where compensation is less than 80 per cent of the value lost, the payout is funded 60 per cent by the Government of Canada and 40 per cent by the Province of Manitoba. Claims above 80 per cent are fully funded by the province.

Producers must report incidents within 72 hours. Inspectors assess the carcass and site for bite marks, scratches, blood, drag marks and other indications of a struggle.

MASC and Agriculture Manitoba recommend several deterrents, such as predator-resistant fencing, deadstock composting areas, solar

foxlights, electronets, fladry and turbo-fladry lines and livestock guardian dogs. Partial reimbursement is available for producers who adopt certain measures.

Riding said she has followed many recommendations, including fencing upgrades, foxlights, removing attractants and keeping donkeys as livestock guardians. But she says the number of predators in the region overwhelms these strategies.

“I try to follow those recommendations, but the problem is we have far too many bears and wolves on the landscape for them to work efficiently,” she explained. “The resources do help, but they are a great expense, and depending on the size of your field, that amount is not feasible.”

She is calling for stronger conservation measures and wants the province to consider introducing a bear and wolf bounty program. She said conservation officers often relocate prob-

Continued on page 8

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STONEWALL

Elves help spread Christmas cheer in Warren



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The West Interlake Trading Company hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa at the Warren Memorial Hall last Sunday morning. Children visited with Santa and listened to Christmas stories read by Mrs. Claus, while elves whipped up breakfast for a record crowd. Kids also made holiday crafts and posted letters in the Magical Mailbox. Santa's elves volunteered their time to bring a little magic to the children.



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Hunters celebrate season, tradition at Woodlands Wildlife Club ball

By Jo-Anne Procter

The Woodlands Wildlife Club wrapped up another successful season as hunters gathered at Meadow Lea on Dec. 6 for the annual Hunters Ball, where 42 deer, elk and bear entries were scored by the Manitoba Big Game Trophy Association (MBGTA). The competition featured some impressive results across all categories. Kaden Stewart led the way in the adult men's typical class, winning with a 158 4/8-inch buck. Hailey Dew topped the adult women's typical class, claiming first with a 149 7/8-inch buck. Blake Adams earned the title for most symmetrical rack over 120 with his 142-inch buck, which had just a 3 6/8-inch variance, while Ashley Adams captured the non-typical category with a 138-inch buck.

Youth hunter Armond Buors secured first place in the typical buck class after his entry scored 121 3/8 inches. In the big game divisions, Hailey Hueging and Robin Green took top honours in elk with a 198 1/8-inch bull, and Corey Pasichnyk won the bear category with an 18 9/16-inch skull. The Hunters Ball remains a season highlight for local outdoors enthusiasts, offering both competition and recognition for ethically harvested Manitoba game. The MBGTA, founded in 1969, travels throughout the province to score animals and maintain Manitoba's official record book for big game.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Left photo: From left, Woodlands Wildlife vice-president Dylan Hildebrandt, men's first-place typical winner Kaden Stewart and Woodlands Wildlife president Darrell Hueging. Right photo: Hildebrandt, women's first-place typical winner Hailey Dew and Hueging.



Left photo: Blake Adams, centre, won the most symmetrical over 120 category. Right photo: Ashley Adams, centre, took top spot in the non-typical class.



Left photo: Armond Buors, centre, claimed first in the youth typical class. Right photo: Hailey Hueging, centre, and Robin Green (not pictured) earned top spot in the elk category at the Woodlands Wildlife Club Hunters Ball.

Free Flicks feature



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY RAQUEL DUMAS
Emma Fontaine was among the crowd at The Flicks on Saturday for the Stonewall & District Lions Club's free holiday movie, *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*. Approximately 130 people attended the annual event, which members say has been a community tradition for about 35 years. Simba the Lions mascot also made an appearance to welcome moviegoers and hand out candy canes.



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BIG DOLLAR

This is for the birds: Christmas Bird Counts help document species, ecosystem threats

By Patricia Barrett

You might think that driving down back roads or tramping around in the bush during a bright, bracing Manitoba winter day while making ticks in a ledger is for the birds — and you'd be right.

The annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is coming up, and five Interlake areas are playing host to the census that sees volunteers eagerly hitting the roads or sitting sentry at their living room windows to count the different species (and numbers of each species) of bird they spot.

And there's no better time than now for those who want to become better acquainted with the feathery dinosaur descendants and give counting a go while enjoying the great outdoors — not to mention the satisfaction of contributing to data sets that scientists use to determine bird population trends and the impact of the climate crisis or habitat quality.

"The Christmas Bird Count is ideal if you want to get into learning about birds because there are fewer birds around in the winter than there are in the summer when we've got a few hundred," said Joanne Smith, who is the Hodgson CBC organizer, or compiler as the CBC head office calls their organizers. "Now is a good time to participate in a bird activity. And if people are not sure if they saw a hairy woodpecker or a downy woodpecker, we can talk about it and usually get a pretty accurate idea of what species they saw."

The Hodgson CBC was started in 2011, and Smith said it comprises a 24-kilometre circle that includes Fisher Branch and Fisherton to the west, plus a bit of the southern part of Peguis (using the road network).

The CBC is a census of early-winter bird populations that takes place from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5. It's North America's longest running citizen-science project. Birds Canada oversees the Canadian program in partnership with the National Audubon Society. The data is entered into an ornithology database that's used by scientists to assess bird population trends and distribution.

The first Christmas Bird Count

began in 1900 after American ornithologist Frank Chapman thought it might be better to start a tradition that helped preserve birds rather than carry on the tradition of shooting them for fun. The first official CBC in Manitoba took place in 1925.

There are two categories of bird census-takers: the field counters and the feeder counters. The field counters can either get out in the bush or drive down back roads and periodically stop to count birds. They can opt for or be assigned a specific area or a certain road within their CBC ambit. The feeder counters stay home and count birds that come into their yard, whether to a feeder or a tree.

So, what job is more exciting? The correct answer is both.

"They can both be exciting. I wouldn't say one is more exciting than the other. If you're driving the back roads, you could see unusual species. But you could also get unusual species showing up in your yard, too," said Smith. "Some people got a gray partridge in their yard, which we don't always see, or a bohemian waxwing [peach-coloured birds with sweeping black eye markings that resemble winged eyeliner]. Those of us driving last year spotted four great gray owls. Any owl is cool to get."

Driving the back roads and stopping to spot or listen for birds can be done individually — but don't bird and drive — or in teams in which one person can drive, one person can spot and count, and one person can pour coffee and distribute snacks.

Smith said she can always use more field and feeder counters to take part in the Hodgson count.

"If people can contact me before Dec. 18 (the Hodgson count is scheduled for Dec. 22), I can give them more information. If they want to help with driving, I can assign a route for them," said Smith.

Field counters are advised to dress accordingly. Snowpants, puffer jacket, Arctic-quality snow boots are must-haves. So is a set of binoculars. People new to the census might want to bring a camera; they can snap a photo if they're unsure and let their



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

A woodpecker is shown in Loni Beach in the north end of Gimli. Birds are a barometer of ecosystem health, and counting them every year during annual Christmas Bird Counts helps scientists understand changes to the environment such as habitat loss or the impact of pollution and the climate crisis.

organizer have a gander.

From ravens and redstarts to thrushes and thrashers, Smith can identify most birds by sight and sound, and volunteers don't need to be experts. They can write down the appearance of the bird and describe its behaviour for later review.

And there's always an app. Merlin, for instance, can help identify bird calls, although its not 100 per cent foolproof, said Smith. Those who prefer old school can bring along a print bird guide.

People can also use the website All About Birds.org, which provides quality photos and soundbites.

The five Interlake Christmas Bird Counts are as follows:

Dec. 16 in Selkirk. Compiler Gerald

Machnee. Contact: machneeg@gmail.com

Dec. 18 in Gimli. Compiler Bonnie Chartier. Contact: cwe@mymts.net

Dec. 20 in Balmoral. Compiler James Duncan. Contact: owlfamily@mymts.net

Dec. 20 at Oak Hammock Marsh. Compiler Paula Grief. Contact: p_grief@ducks.ca

Dec. 22 in Hodgson. Compiler Joanne Smith. Contact: picsmith@live.ca

Visit the Birds Canada website and click on the map for information about Christmas Bird Counts in your area and how to contact a compiler. Field counter and feeder counter cheat sheets are also available.

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Jennifer McFee
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Manitoba RCMP launch annual holiday Checkstop campaign

Increased roadside screening underway through December

By Lana Meier

As holiday gatherings ramp up across the province, Manitoba RCMP are once again stepping up enforcement on roads and highways with the launch of their annual December Checkstop campaign.

Beginning last weekend and continuing throughout the month, motorists can expect to see a heightened police presence as officers conduct roadside stops, check for signs of impairment and complete mandatory

alcohol and drug screenings.

"If enjoying your holiday season involves consuming drugs or alcohol, then we strongly encourage you to plan ahead so you have a safe ride home," said Insp. Robert Wusky, head of Manitoba RCMP Traffic Services. "You can avoid a criminal charge and save lives by arranging for a designated driver or calling a cab, rideshare or Operation Red Nose to get you home."

Officers will be equipped with screening devices that detect alcohol and drugs, and anyone found impaired faces serious consequences — including criminal charges, licence suspension, vehicle impoundment and costly fines. Beyond legal penalties, police stress the emotional

burden and irreversible harm caused when impaired driving results in injury or death.

Last year, 21 fatal collisions occurred in RCMP jurisdiction where drug or alcohol impairment was suspected as a contributing factor. An additional 43 collisions led to serious injuries where impairment was confirmed or believed to be involved.

Police say those tragedies were preventable, and are urging Manitobans to make responsible choices before heading out to holiday parties and family gatherings.

The message is simple — don't drink or use drugs and drive. Plan a safe ride, look out for friends and loved ones, and help ensure everyone gets home for the holidays.

WMR survey open until Dec. 12

By Jennifer McFee

Time is running out to share your opinion about Winnipeg Metropolitan Region's new regional plan.

A public survey is now underway for community members to share their perspectives on economic development, growth, housing, infrastructure and the long-term future of the region.

The Capital Planning Region is a

statutory corporation established through provincial legislation and operates as the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region. It is responsible for adopting a regional plan by Jan. 1, 2027.

"The new regional plan is an important opportunity to consider how our region grows and how we plan for the future," said Michael Moore, chair of the Capital Planning Region.

"Hearing from people across the re-

gion will support the board's work as we continue developing a plan that supports strong communities and a strong economy."

The survey is until Dec. 12, 2025, and it takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Visit <https://winnipegmetroregion.ca/news/regional-survey-launched-for-new-regional-plan/> to take the survey.

Correction

By Jennifer McFee

The article "RM of Woodlands offers holiday sale for local history book" in the Dec. 4 edition of the *Tribune* contained an error in the phone number for the RM office. The correct phone

number is 204-383-5679.

The RM of Woodlands is reducing the price of its history book *Where We Are* to \$65 including GST as a Christmas promotion. Printed in 2021, this history book details the municipality's history from 1980 to 2020.

Purchasers will also receive an edition of the older history book *Yesteryears* for free. *Yesteryears* is the munic-

ipality's prior history book from 1978.

The promotion will end on Dec. 24, 2025.

The municipal office accepts cash, cheque or e-transfer payments. For more information, call the office at 204-383-5679.

The *Tribune* regrets the error.

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Shortfall persists in paramedic hiring, EMRs not a solution, says MAHCP

Province expanding paramedic training seats, training more emergency medical responders (EMRs)

By Patricia Barrett

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) says rural regions are still struggling to hire and retain primary care paramedics despite the provincial government’s work on improving emergency services that includes recent announcements to expand paramedic training seats in Winnipeg and the north and train emergency medical responders (EMRs) in rural areas.

The government announced Nov. 19 it’s expanding paramedic training seats to strengthen emergency medical services across the province.

Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew and health minister Uzoma Asagwara said a new, direct-entry primary care paramedics program at Red River College Polytech will add another 14 seats, increasing total primary care paramedic seats to 40. And to further support northern and rural communities, the government added 16 more seats for a total of 32 seats at the University College of the North.

“Our government is opening doors for more Manitobans to pursue careers in emergency care,” said Asagwara in the Nov. 19 news release. “This will help stabilize emergency medical services staffing, reduce wait times and ensure our paramedic workforce reflects the communities they serve. We’re committed to supporting workers from their first day of training through to advanced practice.”

Paramedic losses (rural) have out-paced paramedic gains, according to data analyzed by MAHCP, a union which represents allied health professionals, including rural paramedics.

MAHCP president Jason Linklater gave the government credit for acknowledging the paramedic shortfall, but said the magnitude of the crisis requires a “proportionate” response.

“Today’s announcement about direct-entry paramedic training at RRC Polytech does not represent a significant solution to the paramedic staffing crisis. The magnitude of the crisis requires a proportionate response, and we’re not seeing it. It’s good that the Red River training seats are now full, after years of being underfilled. But those new students won’t be ready to work for years, and meanwhile rural Manitoba continues to lose full-time paramedics due to years of short-staffing, mandatory overtime, difficult working conditions and lack of opportunity,” said Linklater in a Nov. 19 news release.

In terms of paramedic gain up to November 2025, Linklater said Shared Health had a net gain of only one paramedic as the authority is “losing them as fast as they can hire them.”

Over a two-year period, rural regions/EMS zones

saw 70 paramedics resign, retire or be terminated, according to MAHCP’s analysis, said spokesperson Karen Viveiros on behalf of MAHCP.

“By our count, and based on monthly turnover reports from the employer, 70 paramedics resigned, retired or were otherwise terminated from full-time or part-time positions between October 2023 and October 2025 in all rural regions/EMS zones, excluding Winnipeg and Brandon,” she said.

As far as data for the Interlake region in particular, MAHCP doesn’t have a breakdown of how many paramedics resigned, retired or were terminated. But Viveiros said the union can say “with confidence” that all rural regions have experienced “significant turnover and difficulty retaining paramedics due to difficult working conditions and lack of opportunity to move to positions in other locations.”

During the 2023 provincial election campaign, the NDP promised to hire 200 paramedics and re-open three Winnipeg emergency rooms (Seven Oaks, Concordia and Victoria hospitals) in Winnipeg that had been closed by the previous PC government, as well as rebuild the Eriksdale ER. Plans for Victoria and Eriksdale are already underway.

The paramedic vacancy rate in the Interlake is roughly 25 per cent, with 40 vacant, unfilled positions — a number that does not include other positions that are vacant due to paramedics being off related to physical or psychological injuries.

“The 40 positions have remained vacant for well over a year because Shared Health does not want to post positions, which would give paramedics an opportunity to leave the west or the north to come to the Interlake,” said Viveiros. “Despite having approximately 200 vacancies across the province, (mostly permanent positions), Shared Health is only hiring for a handful of specific stations in Prairie Mountain Health and the North.”

Linklater said the union remains willing to work with the government to meet its commitment to hire 200 net new paramedics in its first term.

A shortage of rural paramedics and the ongoing temporary closures of emergency rooms at hospitals in the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority have led at times to delayed response time and lengthy journeys on the highway to get to an open ER. Issues with the 911 telephone service resulted in dropped calls in municipalities such as Fisher and Bifrost-Riverton, and may have contributed to the death of an RM of Fisher man whose family could not dial out to 911.

On the heels of its announcement to expand paramedic training seats, the provincial government said it will help municipalities recruit emergency medical responders (EMRs) by offering a new bursary program and in-community training programs. The training will “support” rural emergency response services.

“This initiative will help local municipalities recruit emergency medical responders and it will start to reverse the damage done by the previous gov-

SCOPE OF WORK COMPARISON		
Emergency Medical Responders & Primary Care Paramedics		
MAHCP Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals		
This document is adapted from Shared Health's patient care maps*. MAHCP adaptations include removing the scope of work for Intermediate Care Paramedics and Advanced Care Paramedics and simplifying medical language.		
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Recover a patient who has been sedated.	X	✓
AIRWAY & BREATHING	EMR	PCP
Airway device insertion to ventilate	X	✓
Carbon dioxide measurement	X	✓
Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) ventilation	X	✓
CIRCULATION	EMR	PCP
Defibrillation with rhythm interpretation	X	✓
Perform EKG/ECG	X	✓
TRAUMA & SURGICAL	EMR	PCP
Foreign body removal	X	✓
Urinary catheter irrigation / removal	X	✓
VASCULAR ACCESS	EMR	PCP
Insert an IV	X	✓
Insert a subcutaneous line	X	✓
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION BY ROUTE OR PROCEDURE	EMR	PCP
Inhalation with nebulizer	X	✓
Give a needle injection into a muscle	X	✓
Give fluid or medications via IV	X	✓
Injection into peripherally-inserted central catheter (PICC) device / line	X	✓
Give fluid or medications via intraosseous line	X	✓
Injection into subcutaneous device / line	X	✓
Give fluid or medications subcutaneously	X	✓
Give controlled medications for nausea & vomiting	X	✓
Give controlled medications for pain	X	✓
Give controlled medications for a heart attack	X	✓
Give controlled medications for anxiety, agitation, psychosis	X	✓
Give controlled medications for hemorrhages	X	✓
Give controlled medications for seizures	X	✓
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION DURING PATIENT TRANSPORT	EMR	PCP
Prescribed or as needed medications via multiple administration routes	X	✓

*Shared Health Care Maps: A06.2 EMS & PT Work Scope (Procedures); A06.3 EMS & PT Work Scope (Medications)

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
In response to the province's plan to train emergency medical responders for rural areas, the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals put together a scope of work practice chart showing EMRs being unable to perform at the level of paramedics.

ernment which dissuaded people from pursuing a career in emergency medicine, especially in rural communities,” said Asagwara in a Nov. 26 news release. “We’re offering financial help to make enrolling in a course more appealing and we’re putting trainees in rural municipalities, where they can get hands on experience on real-world emergency calls and fall in love with rural Manitoba.”

The province said it partnered with the Criti Care Paramedic Academy (in Winnipeg) to offer the emergency medical responder training and provide a new \$5,000 bursary for students who complete the training. Graduates who receive the bursary will enter a one-year return-of-service-agreement once hired. This year, students will train in Arborg.

It’s expected that 50 to 60 EMRs will graduate by fall 2026, complete the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators exam and be eligible for hiring into provincial EMS, states the news release.

Criti Care’s website has an application form for its EMR program, but the *Tribune* could not determine what its training entails.

After seeing the province’s EMR announcement, MAHCP put together and published a “scope of work comparison” between EMRs and paramedics. Adapted from Shared Health’s patient care maps — which describes medical care and interventions —

Two Manitoba businesses receive federal boost

By Jennifer McFee

Manitoba-based companies continue to fill gaps in Canadian markets while also growing the economy and contributing to accessible medical care — and a repayable federal government investment will help two of these companies scale up to meet the demand.

Two Manitoba companies are receiving more than \$2.9 million in repayable federal investments, as announced in Rosser by Winnipeg West MP Doug Eyolfson on behalf of Eleanor Olszewski, minister of Emergency Management and Community Resilience and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada.

MoveMobility, a Rosser-based accessible vehicle manufacturer, is expanding into the Canadian ambulance market, providing communities with a homegrown option for specialized medical vehicles. MoveMobility will receive \$1.1 million in federal support to increase manufacturing capacity for its medical vehicle line, including new ambulances built on van platforms that can be manoeuvred.

QDoc Inc. is a Manitoba-based virtual health-care company that connects patients with providers. QDoc Inc. will receive \$1.9 million in federal support to expand its innovative virtual health-care delivery platform and invest in digital technology development.

“As a physician, I am committed

to building a stronger and healthier future for Manitobans,” Eyolfson said. “That is why I am pleased that our new government is supporting MoveMobility and QDoc. These investments help strengthen our one Canadian economy while expanding access to medical care across the province.”

Olszewski expressed pride in supporting these two Manitoba companies that are creating jobs and helping Canadians to access the care they need.

“By investing in MoveMobility and QDoc, we are not only strengthening our local economy but also bringing innovative, homegrown solutions to communities across the Prairies and the country,” Olszewski said. “This is exactly the kind of collaboration and innovation that drives growth and makes health care more accessible for all Canadians.”

MoveMobility CEO Richard Jones also expressed enthusiasm for the initiative.

“It’s inspiring to have PrairiesCan’s support for our mission to remove barriers to health care and transportation,” Jones said. “With this backing, we can accelerate our efforts to deliver a Canadian-made solution that brings meaningful results and helps everyone we serve.”

Dr. Norman Silver, co-founder and CEO of QDoc, shared similar sentiments.

“The support from PrairiesCan has



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

More than \$2.9 million in repayable federal investments were announced last month for Manitoba-based companies MoveMobility and QDoc during an event in Rosser, where stakeholders and officials gathered to highlight the impact of expanding locally built medical vehicles and virtual health-care services.

been instrumental in helping QDoc scale our made-in-Manitoba virtual care platform to delivering over 250,000 virtual visits, expand access to health care across rural and northern communities, and deliver on our mission of connecting every patient to the right provider — anytime, anywhere,” Silver said.

These investments are expected to create 35 jobs and assist one additional business. The Regional Economic Growth through Innovation (REGI) program is delivered by regional development agencies across Canada to fuel economic growth through innovation and create more well-paying

jobs for Canadians. Funding offered under the REGI Business Scale-up and Productivity supports high-growth businesses that are scaling up and producing innovative goods, services or technologies.

Jamie Moses, provincial minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation, highlighted Manitoba’s impact across the country.

“Manitoba’s investment of \$1.3 million, now boosted by additional federal funding, shows how supporting manufacturing, health care and innovation highlights Manitoba’s excellence on the national stage,” he said.

> BEARS, FROM PG. 2

lem animals but believes this simply

Al-Anon and AA Meetings Information

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

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

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

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

shifts the issue to other communities.

“Mr. Bear will keep coming — they don’t care about where they have lunch,” she suggested. “Bears are becoming too brave around people and one day someone is going to get hurt.”

Carson Callum, general manager of Manitoba Beef Producers, said many producers across the province have dealt with rising predation over the past decade.

“Losing animals means losing part of your income,” he explained. “It’s stressful for these producers who care deeply about their animals.”

He noted MASC’s compensation program is helpful but does not cover every loss, especially when carcasses are not found. He also noted the 72-hour reporting window can be challenging on weekends or outside business hours, though MASC is working on improvements.

“I think there are areas we can work on — like the photo submission process — but, overall, the program has been supportive over the last number of years.”

Callum said management tools such as fencing and deterrents help but believes the “main solution lies in completely eliminating the problem in the first place.”

Riding also wonders whether Black Bear Rescue Manitoba could be unintentionally contributing to habituation. “If people are raising these bears and bottle feeding them, the bears are going to expect food from you,” she explained. “The rescue is doing amazing things for these bears ... but in a roundabout way, we are setting them up for disaster.”

Black Bear Rescue Manitoba founder Judy Stearns said their protocols are designed specifically to prevent habituation.

“Per protocols established in accordance with bear behaviour experts and authorized by the province, all necessary steps are taken to ensure that bears who come to BBRM are not habituated and are released back into their natural habitat as wild bears,” she noted.

Riding emphasizes she wants to coexist with wildlife, acknowledging that displaced animals — especially following wildfires — are increasingly moving through agricultural land. But she added producers need more support and more effective long-term solutions.

“This is turning into less of a conservation and agriculture issue and into a people issue,” she added. “Something more needs to be done.”

Sounds of the season ring out at concert in Warren



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

The holiday season is a time for gathering, joy and celebration. Families and friends filled every pew at Warren United Church for the annual Christmas Musical Evening on Dec. 4. Darryl Brunger opened the program with a solo performance that set a cozy tone, inviting the audience to settle in and embrace the holiday spirit. A surprise performance followed as Don and Cathy Horbas played familiar Christmas melodies — Don on clarinet and Cathy on organ. The Quarry Choristers later took the stage, delivering heartfelt renditions of traditional carols that warmed the room and stirred emotions throughout the evening. Guests enjoyed refreshments after the concert.

> MAHCP, FROM PG. 7

MAHCP determined that EMRs cannot perform duties paramedics are trained to do.

For instance, EMRs cannot diagnose a patient's illness or injury, insert an airway device to ventilate a patient, perform defibrillation with rhythm interpretation, perform EKG/ECG, remove foreign bodies from a patient, perform urinary catheter irrigation/removal, insert an IV, insert a subcutaneous line, give fluid or medications via IV, give an injection into a muscle, give controlled medications for a heart attack, hemorrhages, seizures, anxiety, psychosis, pain, nausea and vomiting, and give medications during patient transport.

MAHCP said in a Nov. 27 post that it is not "advocating against" EMRs, but that an alternative level of care will not solve the paramedic staffing crisis.

"This week, the province announced financial support for students and in-community training programs to recruit emergency medical responders in rural Manitoba. While the announcement was framed as a way to increase ambulance coverage and shorten wait times, MAHCP is concerned about the level of care EMRs can provide in a critical emergency, which ... Minister Asagwara called an 'alternative level of care,'" states MAHCP. "Manitobans aren't looking for an alternative; they want the 200 paramedics the NDP government promised, only 18 of which have been added since October 2023."

MAHCP's president Jason Linklater added that EMRs are "valuable professionals" who play an important role in supporting emergency med-

ical services (EMS), particularly in stable patient transport and medical first response. But EMRs' limited scope of practice and clinical training "does not allow them to provide anywhere near the same level of care that paramedics can." And putting EMRs rather than paramedics on ambulances puts them and patients at risk. Two fully trained paramedics are required to deal with high-acuity, time-sensitive calls such as cardiac arrests, severe trauma, violent or unstable patients, obstetrical crises and complex medical emergencies.

"Shared Health and our provincial leaders are opting for fast and cheap — a long-term solution that isn't good for rural Manitobans, or any Manitoban, when what you need is a highly skilled primary care paramedic to treat and stabilize a patient," said Linklater.

Among the measures to improve rural emergency services, MAHCP said the government/Shared Health needs to ensure the continuous hiring of paramedics by posting and filling all vacancies promptly, make paramedic training more accessible to rural Manitobans, cover tuition for paramedic training including EMR-path students, require new EMRs to complete paramedic training with a set time period, and offer incentives and cover the costs of travel and accommodation in hard-to-fill areas.

The Tribune asked Shared Health how many paramedics were hired for the rural region (up to November 2025), how many paramedics left the rural region (up to November 2025), a description of EMR training, when the EMR program starts in Arborg and how many students have enrolled.

Shared Health responded, saying it will look into the questions but did not provide answers by deadline.



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Town of Stonewall applies for revised water and wastewater rates

By Jennifer McFee

The Town of Stonewall has applied to the Public Utilities Board for revised water and wastewater rates. The current rates have been in effect since Jan. 1, 2025.

If approved, the quarterly service charge would remain unchanged at \$22.50. Water per cubic metre would rise to \$1.09 from the current rate of \$1.04. Wastewater per cubic metre would rise to \$0.95 from the current \$0.91.

The minimum quarterly charge would rise to \$50.33 from \$49.10, while wastewater only customers would pay a minimum quarterly charge of \$72.97, up from \$70.85. The wastewater disposal tipping fee per cubic meter would rise to \$4.70 from \$4.50.

An emergency lagoon dumping fee, outside of regular operating hours, would be \$75 per instance.

“We go through this process every year,” said CAO Wally Melnyk.

Details of the application are available at the town office. Any comments or concerns can be shared at www.pubmanitoba.ca by Jan. 6.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

- Stonewall resident Dean Fuller is being inducted into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame in May 2026. The town will buy a one-page ad for \$150 in the induction banquet program to congratulate Fuller.
- Council hosted a public hearing and gave first reading to a proposed special services plan for curbside waste and recycling as well as for special urban services. The proposed waste management levy would increase by \$14.25 (8.3%) in 2026 and \$9.68 (5.2%) in 2027.
- Council also hosted a public hearing and gave first reading for a proposed special services plan for special urban services. On Jan. 1, 2024 five quarter-sections of land came under the control of the Town of Stonewall after a six-year process with the RM of Rockwood. The town and RM

have a formal agreement that outlines how taxes and services are addressed between the two municipalities after the annexation.

For properties in the annexed area, the town committed to not raise taxes for services that aren’t provided. The town’s at-large “catch-all” mill rate would reflect the RM’s at-large mill rate as best as possible. The town’s urban services levy would offset the cost of some of the services that aren’t being provided to the annexed lands or are being funded outside of taxation, such as street lighting, snow removal and parks and arena services. The difference between the two municipalities is about \$478,000, which will be moved from the town’s at-large mill rate to the urban special services levy.

As a result, the urban services levy will based on the current projected 2026 assessment of 1.083 mills. There is an additional line item on tax notices, but there is no financial impact.

- Council gave first reading to a bylaw to authorize the expenditure and borrowing of \$425,000 for a road-work project to upgrade about 560 metres of Limestone Bay from gravel to asphalt.
- The federal government has imposed tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, which resulted in reciprocal tariffs from China on agricultural products from Canada, including canola seed, pork and seafood. The Town of Stonewall is joining other municipalities in asking the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to lobby the federal and provincial governments for compensation for affected agricultural and related food products in line with those made to support the automotive industry.
- Council accepted a \$5,200 quote from Crosier Kilgour to complete an assessment for repairs to the bridge and stairs at the Heritage Arts Centre as well as the lake concession. The deteriorating infrastructure could pose a safety concern, so the town the assessment will identify the need for structural repairs.
- Council approved the next

steps for the development of the age-in-place campus from Braid Solutions, including site remediation. Manitoba Hydro owns a piece of land to the east of the site that supports their main distribution line access to Stonewall. The town needs Manitoba Hydro’s permission to acquire a portion of the lands to align the future road and service corridor. Braid Solutions and town administrators have negotiated an agreement with Manitoba Hydro for joint planning of the road and service corridor. Council authorized the land acquisition.

“We’re one step closer,” Mayor Sandra Smith said.

- Citizen representatives have been appointed to the town’s 2027 board of revision: Glenn Leskiw, David Cassidy, David Kalnuk, Lockie McLean and Susan Scrivens. Leskiw will be the presiding officer, and the town’s corporate services manager will be the secretary. Each member will receive remuneration equivalent to paid members of council with a minimum of \$110.
- Council approved an offer to purchase agreement between the Town of Stonewall and Imperial Oil for a property located on 4th Street East.
- “When the most recent renovation and expansion to the current fire hall occurred, there was a commitment made to look at space for a new facility before the next upgrade was necessary. While the existing building is not in immediate need of replacement, the Stonewall Rockwood Fire Department is increasingly limited by space as its operational demands continue to grow,” said town administration. “In response, the department identified several potential locations for a new facility, with the parcel of land on 4th Street East emerging as one of the leading candidates. Although further assessment is required before confirming the site’s suitability, town administration said it was important to secure the land as an essential step in allowing due diligence to continue. Additional evaluations will be done

in the months ahead before determining whether the 4th Street East property will become the future home of the community’s fire hall.”

- Council approved subdivision file for phases 10 to 15 of Quarry Ridge Park.
- “A development agreement to address matters including but not limited to site service, drainage, roads, sidewalks, landscaping, design standards and capital lot levies was a condition of the site approval,” Smith said.
- Council is nominating Quarry Park manager to be Manitoba’s representative on the board of directors for the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.
- “Kelly Kimball possesses the strength, qualifications, knowledge and experience that would allow her to success in this vital liaison role in the parks and recreation sector,” Smith said. “It would be good to have her on the national stage representing not only Manitoba but the Town of Stonewall.”
- Coun. Walter Badger echoed similar sentiments.
- “She would make a great rep, that’s for sure,” he said.
- The 2026 Communities in Bloom theme will be “therapeutic gardening,” which recognizes the restorative power of green spaces to nurture the mind, body and spirit.
- Council approved the annual adjustment to indemnity payments, which is based on the cost of living allowance calculated by the Consumer Price Index for Manitoba. As of Oct. 31, 2025, the yearly Consumer Price Index is three per cent. As a result, the mayor’s indemnity for 2026 will be \$24,740, up from \$24,010 in 2025. The deputy mayor’s 2026 rate will be \$21,960, up from \$21,320. Councilors will get \$18,180 in 2026, up from \$17,650 in 2025. The daily per diem will rise to \$230 from \$220. In addition, citizen members will receive a 2026 hourly rate of \$28.75, up from \$27.50.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEA

Gingerbread Dip

Servings: 8-12
4 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons molasses
- 1 container (16 ounces) Maple Hill Vanilla Greek Yogurt
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 2 cups whipped cream
- graham crackers
- fruit
- In medium bowl using electric mixer on medium speed, beat cream cheese and sugars about 1 minute. Add molasses and mix until combined.
- Add Greek yogurt, ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg; beat until combined. Fold in whipped cream and mix until fully incorporated. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving or overnight.
- Serve with graham crackers and fruit.



Dr. Jade Young returns to Interlake to open Prairie Sky Health & Wellness

By Lana Meier

When Dr. Jade Young walked into her new clinic for the first time as owner and physician, the moment represented more than the start of a business. It was a return to the place that raised her — and the beginning of a medical model she hopes will reshape rural care in the northern Interlake for years to come.

Young was born in Dauphin in 1993 and raised in Eriksdale, later moving to Lundar Collegiate for Grade 9 through 12 before graduating in 2011. Like many rural students, she left home to pursue higher education, completing a Bachelor of Science at the University of Manitoba and later earning her MD at the Max Rady College of Medicine in 2019. She finished her residency through the Northern and Remote Family Medicine Program in 2021 — training built around the realities of practising where resources are thin but needs are great.

Her path since then has been anything but conventional. Instead of remaining in an urban centre, Young chose to work in remote First Nations communities through Ongomizwiwin Health Services (OHS), beginning immediately after graduation.

Since 2021 she has provided clinical care in Garden Hill and Red Sucker Lake, and recently added Cross Lake and Wassagamak to her rotation. She spends one week and one weekend per month in the north, also providing remote call coverage and serving as Chief of Staff for the Island Lakes communities — a leadership role requiring frequent off-site meetings and ongoing coordination with local health teams.

At the same time, Young returned to the Interlake to practise in Eriksdale. Between 2021 and 2025 she worked across settings — clinic, hospital, emergency room, personal care homes, and at Lake Manitoba First Nation. She describes those years as formative, demanding, and deeply rewarding.

"I was fortunate to work with an amazing administrative team, skilled allied health, and a supportive group of providers in Eriksdale," she said. "I loved many aspects of my job and learned to manage a lot during that time."

But as she settled into motherhood and gained experience in system navigation, she began to see gaps that felt increasingly difficult to ignore. Young emphasizes that her decision to leave the regional structure was not about a lack of commitment — but about being unable to deliver care in the way she believed would actually move outcomes.



The Prairie Sky Health & Wellness logo was designed by Jade's sister Megan Parkes.

"Over the years it became apparent that the priorities and goals I had for improving health outcomes in my communities were not aligned with regional leadership," she explained. "Reconciling the love for my job and my commitment to community with the inability to make that job either sustainable or authentic became impossible."

Young submitted her resignation to the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority in November 2024. The choice, she said, was painful — but necessary.

At the same time, an opportunity emerged. The RM of Coldwell and Sigfusson Northern approached her with the idea of building something new — a private clinic created from the ground up to reflect community needs rather than system limitations.

"I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to open Prairie Sky Health & Wellness," she said. "It allows me to honour the commitments I've made to my communities while participating more fully in my family life and being true to myself."

Prairie Sky Health & Wellness officially opened Oct. 20, 2025. It offers primary care in Lundar and at Lake Manitoba First Nation, where Young provides two to three clinic days per month. The building in use today is phase one of a longer development plan made possible through infrastructure partnerships with Sigfusson Northern.

Inside the clinic are exam rooms, therapy spaces, administrative offices and room for growth. Mental health services are already offered on-site through Newleaf Therapy with therapist Amber Dregger, and massage therapy is scheduled to begin in March 2026.

Young is clear that the clinic was designed to evolve. Capacity exists — and is actively open — for additional family physicians, nurse practitioners, physiotherapists, foot care nurses and other allied health providers, with flexible participation models to attract diverse practitioners.

Students from the Masters of Phy-



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Dr. Jade Young with her parents and siblings. From left to right, Megan Parkes, Tracy Parkes, Dr. Jade Young, Mark Parkes and Evan Parkes

sician Assistant Studies Program and Northern Remote Family Medicine Program also train at the clinic — something Young says is strategic.

"Hosting learners is an important part of recruiting medical professionals to rural and remote Manitoba," she said. "It is also of benefit to youth in our communities to connect with these learners. We look forward to working with Lundar Collegiate on a longitudinal wellness program."

As staffing grows, phase two will include furnished housing for visiting professionals — addressing a barrier familiar across rural Manitoba. Young also plans to begin biannual wellness days, community outreach events, and ongoing mentorship for local students considering health careers.

Young identifies proudly as Métis, emphasizing that the way she experiences medicine — from patient relationships to systemic navigation — cannot be separated from identity.

"My perceptions and experiences along this journey were often influenced by my Métis identity," she said. "As an Indigenous person navigating medicine and now a woman in a position of privilege, I have not often felt like I belonged. More commonly I have felt I needed to make a place for myself — not just for me, but for others who have yet to come."

Prairie Sky Health & Wellness she hopes, can be that place.

She does not have formal training in Indigenous healing practices, but values community-held knowledge and

welcomes respectful learning.

"I believe in its value, and I am always thankful to patients and community members who share their knowledge with me," she said.

Looking ahead, Young sees the future of rural medicine rooted not in physician recruitment alone, but in multidisciplinary teams — a model expected to grow under Canada's upcoming funding changes recognizing "physician equivalent" services such as nurse practitioners.

"Broadening the disciplines of providers broadens the pool of people to recruit from," she said. "When built thoughtfully, multidisciplinary teams utilize physician expertise more effectively and allow the team to reach more patients. I believe this model is the model to strive for."

Her goal is a clinic environment where professionals feel supported, community-connected, and able to practise sustainably.

"There is more work here than I could ever hope to attend to on my own," she said. "I look forward to sharing this work — and my communities — with new team members."

The response so far has encouraged her. Community members have stopped in, sent gifts, and offered thanks. Others simply say, welcome home.

And for Young, coming home — and building something built from home — is exactly the point.

Gunton resident hosts 3rd annual Christmas Cheer food and toy drive

By Lana Meier
Residents of Gunton are invited to support the Teulon & Area Christmas Cheer Board during Craig Lamm's 3rd Annual Gunton Christmas Cheer Food & Toy Drive on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lamm will be travelling through the community with his festive wagon, collecting non-perishable food items and new toys to help local families during the holiday season. Residents wishing to ensure a stop at their home can contact him directly to schedule pickup.
To arrange a donation or for more information, email cuglamm10plus@hotmail.com or call 204-467-5079.



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Wonderful
Residents of Gunton**
Saturday, December 13, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
**Craig Lamm's 3RD Annual Gunton
Christmas Cheer Board Food & Toy Drive**



I will be travelling the community of Gunton with my Festive Wagon collecting non-perishable food items and toys for the Teulon & Area Christmas Cheer Board
For more info or to ensure I stop in at your residence to collect your donation please message me or call: 204-467-5079 or Email: cuglamm10plus@hotmail.com

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This holiday season, we're celebrating dedicated healthcare professionals who work hard to provide exceptional care every day.

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Rural healthcare comes with unique challenges – including limited specialized training opportunities that are close to home.

Thanks to donors like you, Interlake Eastern Health Foundation (IEHF) has already helped bridge this gap by funding in-house training programs and purchasing new mannequins for training across the region.

With your help we can take the next step: adding an advanced training simulator. This tool will make it possible for our team to offer more courses locally, ensuring our staff can get the training they need, right here at home.





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2025 CPKC Holiday train rolls through Rosser

By Jo-Anne Procter

The sound of a train whistle carried through Rosser on Dec. 5 as students from Rosser School lined the railway fence to watch the CPKC Holiday Train roll through the community on its 2025 route.

The brightly lit train, travelling west toward Portage la Prairie, Minnedosa, Neepawa and Shoal Lake, offered a brief but memorable moment for local children, with some even catching a wave from the conductor as it passed.

The Holiday Train is making 196 stops across Canada and the United

States between Nov. 19 and Dec. 21, raising food, funds and awareness for community food banks. Manitoba stops included Whitemouth and Winnipeg, where a live outdoor concert was held Dec. 3 featuring Canadian artists Jade Eagleson and Teigen Gayse performing from the train's stage.

Since its inaugural journey in 1999, the CPKC Holiday Train has raised more than \$26 million and collected about 5.4 million pounds of food for food banks across North America.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY AMANDA MULLIGAN

Rosser Elementary School students watch the CPKC Holiday train roll past their school on Dec. 5.

Sharing warmth and joy



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

There's still time to donate to the South Interlake Regional Library's Mitten Tree at the Stonewall branch. Staff and patrons are collecting new mittens, scarves, hats, gloves and socks for the Christmas Cheer Board until Dec. 19. Pictured left to right: Kelsey Dingwall, Murray Paull, Brenda Paull, Scarlett and Hazel Dingwall.

Drop the Gloves for Good

Come cheer on our local Jets as they heat things up on and off the ice!



Game Day: Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

When they take on the St. James Canucks on home ice.

Fans are encouraged to bring toques, mitts, socks, scarves, blankets or anything that helps keep neighbours warm this winter. Items must be bagged and can be tossed onto the ice after the Jets first goal.

All items will be donated to the Stonewall & District Christmas Cheerboard.





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STONEWALL

Net full of cheer



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LAINE WILSON

Players and families helped kick off the Fill the Net for Christmas Cheer campaign during the U15 Stonewall Minor Hockey and Ringette Association tournament at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex. Donations of toys, gifts and cash were collected for the Stonewall & District Cheer Board throughout the event.

Christmas Greetings

To advertise your Christmas Greeting in the December 18th & 25th, 2025

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Please contact Christy Brown at 204-467-5836 or email ads@stonewallteulontribune.ca

Booking Deadline is December 12, 2025 @ 4:00 pm

Hollywood trio drop in for movie night at The Flicks

Stars surprise Stonewall audience with casual visit

By E. Antonio

Moviegoers at The Flicks Cinema got an unexpected thrill on Dec. 7 when three Hollywood actors slipped into Stonewall for a night at the movies.

Jon Hamm, Johnny Pemberton and Paul Walter Hauser arrived to catch a screening of *Running Man* while taking a break from filming *Sticks and Stones* in Winnipeg.

"They said that they wanted to see the movie, Googled it and found our website and decided to make the short drive out to Stonewall from Winnipeg," a Flicks Cinema staff member said. "This is our first celebrity encounter since the change of

ownership."

Co-owner Griffin Levenec was working that evening and had the chance to talk with the actors. He said the visit brought excitement to both staff and guests.

"Turns out even Hollywood can't resist a cozy cinema night right here in our community, and after the movie Jon Hamm thanked us for keeping the movies alive," staff shared in a social media post.

The quiet drop-in created big buzz among theatre-goers — a memorable night where the silver screen wasn't the only star power in the room.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hollywood actors Paul Walter Hauser, Jon Hamm and Johnny Pemberton made a surprise stop at The Flicks Cinema in Stonewall on Dec. 7 while on break from filming *Sticks and Stones*, posing for a photo with employee Griffin Levenec.

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OR 1 MILE SOUTH ON HWY 7 AND 1.25 MILES WEST ON ROAD 84N (Watch for Stonewood Elk Ranch sign)

2025 Holiday Events

Wed. Dec. 10 - Ecole RW Bobby Bend School Concert Matinee 12:00pm and 7:00pm (ticket holders only)

Wed. Dec. 10 - Stony Mountain School Concert (Grade K-4) 2:00pm & 6:30pm

Sat. Dec. 13 - Light Up our Town - St. Laurent 5:30pm

Sat. Dec. 13 - Ride for Rob in Stony Mountain 7:00pm

Sat. Dec. 13 - Stonewall United Church Cantata 7:00pm
Tickets \$20/\$10 children under 12 - 204-467-5469 unitedc@mymts.net

Sun. Dec. 14 - Stonewall United Church Cantata 2:30pm & 7:00pm
Tickets \$20/\$10 children under 12 - 204-467-5469 unitedc@mymts.net

Sun. Dec. 14 - Old Fashioned Church Bazaar - St. Laurent Parish Hall 11:30am

Tues. Dec. 16 - Balmoral Elementary School Concert Matinee 2:15pm & 7:00pm

Tues. Dec. 16 - Grosse Isle School Concert at Grosse Isle Hall 1:30pm & 7:00pm

Tues. Dec. 16 - Inwood School concert 6:30pm

Wed. Dec. 17 - Brant Argyle School Concert at Argyle Hall 2:00pm & 6:00pm (Argyle Lantern Walk following evening concert)

Wed. Dec. 17 - Rosser Elementary School Concert at Grosse Isle Hall 1:30pm & 6:00pm

Wed. Dec. 17 - Teulon Elementary School Concert at Rockwood Centennial Centre 1:30pm & 7:00pm

Wed. Dec. 17 - Warren Elementary School Concert 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Wed. Dec. 17 - St. Laurent School Concert 6:00pm

Sat. Dec. 20 Breakfast with Santa Meadow Lea Hall 9:00am-11:30am

Tues. Dec. 23 Candlelight service at St. Peter Lutheran Church - Teulon (Highway 7) 7:00pm

Mon. Jan. 26 - College Stonewall Collegiate Band/Choral Winter Concert 7:00pm

Thurs. Jan. 29 - Ecole Stonewall Centennial School Grade 5/6 Lunch Choir & Grade 7/8 Choral 7:00pm



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STEP TWO: REGISTER FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS

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STEP THREE: MOVE ALL VEHICLES OFF THE STREET

After you receive the VOYENT ALERT for your Snow Zone, be sure that all your vehicles have been removed from the street. Any vehicles left at the time of snow removal will be subject to ticketing and towing.



You can sign up for VOYENT ALERT to receive alerts and updates on when your Snow Zone will be cleared by doing one of the following:

REGISTER ONLINE:
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Activities are in accordance with the Council-approved Policies on Snow Clearing. Snow Clearing Policy No. 8.1 can be viewed on the Town website at: <http://www.stonewall.ca/p/snow-clearing-policy>

Run as fast as you can; you can't catch me – I'm the Gingerbread Man



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY DANA SCRIVENS
Ecole RW Bobby Bend School French Immersion Grade 2 student Brooks Scrivens found his gingerbread man hiding in the window of the Stonewall Town Hall building.

By Jo-Anne Procter

Grade 2 French immersion students at ERWBB are on the hunt this holiday season after a mischievous classroom craft took on a life of its own.

After reading *Gingerbread in Disguise*, students created their own disguised gingerbread characters — but sometime after, the cookies mysteriously “escaped” and have since been spotted hiding around town.

Over the break, students will search for the runaway gingerbreads and record their sightings on a chart so teachers Mme. Millar and Mme. Tesluck can round them up in the new year. If a student finds their own gingerbread, they’re encouraged to snap a selfie and send it to their teacher.

A light-hearted project turned community adventure, the hunt has students watching closely in hopes of bringing their gingerbread creations safely back home.

SHOP LOCAL - SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Youth bonspiel crowns champions, raises support for Revan

By Lana Meier

The Teulon Curling Club youth bonspiel held this past weekend delivered competitive curling, community spirit and emotional support for a local family, raising over \$3,000 to support area kids fighting cancer, including 10-year-old Revan Louis, who is undergoing treatment after a recent brain cancer diagnosis.

The bonspiel — hosted in partnership with Curl Manitoba and the Jonathan Watson Memorial Bonspiel (JWMB) committee — featured six U15 teams from across the region. After a full day of round-robin action, the Reynolds rink out of Gladstone captured gold, the Einarson rink of Petersfield/Gimli earned silver, and the McLean rink from Ste. Anne secured bronze.

Alongside the on-ice competition, spectators packed the lounge and lobby for silent auctions, 50-50 draws

— with \$105 going to Chris Dawson, \$333.50 to Lisa Taylor and \$125 to Karla Willis — a Toonie Broom raffle won by Michelle Andersen, and generous drop-off donations throughout the weekend.

Funds raised will go directly to the Louis family to help with travel, parking, meals and household needs while Revan receives treatment.

For Revan's mom, Nancy Louis, the community support has been overwhelming.

"Revan is a strong boy, and I'm so proud of him because he's been such a trooper through most of this," she said. "He had his biopsy four weeks ago and we're just waiting for pathology results to confirm the type of tumour."

Nancy said the fundraiser will make a real difference in the weeks ahead.

"I am so grateful for the community we live in and the bonspiel," she said.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Team Reynolds captured U15 gold at the Teulon Youth Bonspiel held Dec. 5-7. Weekend proceeds support local youth Revan Louis and his family as he undergoes cancer treatment.

"It's going to help a lot with things like parking, fuel and any extra medication he will need. I've been off work since Oct. 23 and the extra money sure helps because, like everyone know, something always comes up."

Revan is described as a caring kid with a love of humour, games and YouTube shorts.

"He's a very loving child who likes to make people laugh," Nancy said. "Hospital stays are hard on him — he'd much rather be home with his

dogs and his sisters. He misses them a lot."

She said the hardest moments have been eased by how quickly friends, family and neighbours stepped in.

"I'm very grateful for my close friends and family who jumped in and helped when this all came crashing down on us," she said. "The best part about living in a small town is how wonderful the community is when something happens — everyone gathers to help support you."



Team Einarson earned U15 silver.



Team McLean earned the U15 bronze.

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Indigenous land-based learning grows in Interlake School Division

By Lana Meier

Interlake School Division (ISD) is expanding Indigenous education with a new land-based learning program that takes students outdoors to learn from the land, alongside First Nations and Métis knowledge keepers. The program aims to deepen cultural understanding, increase engagement and help students develop meaningful relationships with nature and community.

Kathy Simcoe, Indigenous education support teacher for ISD, said understanding Indigenous culture cannot happen solely within four classroom walls.

"To truly understand Indigenous culture is to understand the relationship with the land, including the water and all of nature," she said. "Education, as we know it, has typically been taught inside a classroom. Indigenous land-based education is a different way of approaching learning where the focus is on the land as the teacher, curriculum and classroom, with the help of elders and knowledge keepers."

Simcoe said one of the core goals is ensuring students remain connected and engaged in learning.

"Ultimately, the goal is that all students succeed, and for that they need to stay engaged. At this crucial time in our world, it's about introducing them to the land so they care about it, and having them walk alongside other people so they learn how to work together," she said. "My job is to build capacity in teachers, most of whom are non-Indigenous, so they feel comfortable infusing what knowledge they can and knowing when to call on knowledge keepers."

In addition to divisional high school gatherings, Grade 7 and 8 teachers are being supported to offer land-based

learning either through coursework or extracurricular programs. A year-end celebration is planned to bring participating middle-years students together for land-based activities and community learning.

The division has now held two sessions — the first on Oct. 9 in partnership with Peguis Special Projects, where students helped erect a tipi, listened to elders and received an introduction to traditional teachings.

"Students were respectful and receptive, and expressed interest in learning about harvesting wild game," Simcoe said. "Almost all of the students returned for Day 2, with a few added."

The second session took place Thursday, Nov. 20 at the Manitoba Métis Federation building in Teulon, where students immediately got to work chopping wood, preparing soup and bannock and building a fire. Once classmates arrived from Stonewall and Warren, the group — 35 in total — rotated through three activity stations: deer harvesting, trapping and beaver skinning, and bannock-on-a-stick cooking.

Knowledge keepers Joe Sutherland and Kinnan Stevenson-French from Peguis, along with Métis trapper Bob Church of Swan River, opened the day with cultural protocol. Tobacco and jam were offered — gifts that show respect and request teachings. Each knowledge keeper shared their own practices for honouring animals taken from the land.

"As they guided the students through hunting, trapping and preparing meat and furs, they emphasized sustainability," said Simcoe. "The teaching of respect using the buffalo robe was reinforced, showing that as many parts of the animal as possible are used to avoid waste."



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY KATHY SIMCOE

Students from Teulon, Warren and Stonewall spent the day learning on the land during Interlake School Division's Indigenous land-based education gathering on Nov. 20 in Teulon. Guided by First Nations and Métis knowledge keepers, students participated in deer harvesting, trapping and bannock-making while learning cultural teachings, protocols and the importance of showing respect for the land.

Students learned to carve roasting sticks, prepare bannock from scratch, chop vegetables safely and reflect on gratitude before eating — ensuring knowledge keepers were served first.

The goal, Simcoe said, is not only cultural literacy but community connection. ISD's continuous improvement plan prioritizes high-quality learning experiences that are accessible, equitable and responsive, especially for students who may not see themselves reflected in school environments. About 20 per cent of ISD students identify as Indigenous, most of them Métis.

"The hope is that the spark will be lit for students who need it — that small successes and opportunities for leadership will carry over into their educational experience and beyond," she said.

Teachers are also building long-term relationships with knowledge keepers through Treaty Education for All and a growing contact network accessible to staff division-wide.

One example of integration at the school level is the work of industrial arts teacher Garret Groves at Collège Stonewall Collegiate. Groves previously partnered with Simcoe on an annual fishing trip when both taught at Teulon Collegiate and continues to bring Indigenous perspectives into his courses. His involvement in the land-based program adds another dimension to that work, supporting the division's goal of increasing capacity among staff.

Meaningful shifts are already happening. Teachers have reported increased confidence and engagement from students who attended, and Simcoe observed youth naturally



A student assists with the deer harvest under the guidance of knowledge keepers during ISD's Indigenous Land-Based Education gathering on Nov. 20 in Teulon.

stepping into leadership roles during the gatherings.

"Students have begun to make connections with each other across schools, creating a sense of community," she said.

Future plans include a traditional Métis fish harvest and shore lunch in St. Laurent with knowledge keeper Allan Gaudry. Eventually, Simcoe hopes older participants will return to mentor younger students, building a program that grows year after year.

"The biggest take-away I hope for is connection," said Simcoe. "Connection between students, with knowledge keepers, with the land. I hope they leave understanding that all of us and all things are connected — and that they carry that forward as caring citizens who honour 'all our relations.'"



6 ways to prioritize BUYING LOCAL DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is an ideal time to support the businesses in your region. Here are six ways to make buying local a part of your Christmas celebrations.

1. GIFT GIVING

If you plan to participate in a holiday gift exchange with your friends or family members, take this opportunity to introduce them to local merchants. For example, regionally made body care products, handcrafted jewelry and artisanal foods make great gifts.

2. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages and the holiday season go hand in hand. This year, serve beers brewed in your region, wines made at a local vineyard and spirits distilled

nearby. To add to the fun and sample an assortment of products, consider organizing a tasting event at your next holiday party.

3. PERSONAL WELLNESS PRODUCTS

Entice your guests to buy local products themselves by placing a handmade bar of soap in the bathroom, lighting locally crafted candles or providing an all-natural hand cream to relieve dry hands.

4. FOOD

If you're whipping up a homemade meal for your holiday guests, plan your menu around seasonal and local products. If you'd rather take a break from cooking, hire a caterer who uses regional goods. Don't forget to purchase dessert from a

nearby pastry shop or bakery.

5. CLOTHING

Create head-turning holiday ensembles by shopping at local clothing stores. Shirts, dresses, skirts, pants and accessories come in many stylish and comfortable options.

6. DECORATIONS

Spruce up your holiday decor with unique, locally crafted items. Wreaths, vases, sculptures and other handmade treasures are sure to infuse your home or office with the Christmas spirit.

This holiday season, be sure to boost your community's economy by supporting your local businesses.



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7 reasons to do your holiday shopping in person



Are you tired of handing over your hard-earned dollars to online retailers? If so, offline shopping is a trend that's becoming increasingly popular. The principle? Focus on in-person shopping experiences rather than anonymous exchanges on the internet. Here are seven great reasons to do all your holiday shopping offline.

1. TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
Making purchases from your local merchants at this busy time of year is a concrete way of giving back to your community. Your money goes directly into your neighbours' hands and helps to create — and keep! — jobs in your region. In contrast, ordering a gift online from the other side of the world doesn't help the people closest to home.

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2. TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE

When you visit the businesses in your region, you get to interact directly with local merchants. Of course, shopping online (in your pajamas?) has its advantages but talking to salespeople and fellow shoppers is even better.

3. TO STIMULATE THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The more people support local retailers, the longer their businesses can continue to thrive and serve the community, thereby creating a strong local economy. What's more, dynamic neighbourhoods are much more pleasant to live in than those whose shops have been forced to close and are accumulating dust, dirt and graffiti.

4. TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Visiting businesses in your neighbourhood will increase your ties to the region. When you explore the area around you, you'll rub elbows with your neighbours and discover amazing goods and services a stone's throw from your home.

5. TO BENEFIT FROM EXCELLENT SERVICE

Returns and exchanges are a breeze when the product you've purchased comes from a nearby store.

And local merchants know they need your business to survive, so they'll do everything they can to ensure you're happy. Conversely, returning and exchanging items bought online is sometimes difficult.

6. TO ENJOY A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS

Are you familiar with all of the goods and services available in your region? Probably not. In fact, there are likely more businesses in your area than you realize! Consider spending a day visiting them. You'll find that in just a few hours, you've completed all your holiday shopping and are still close to home.

7. TO BE KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Shopping locally not only eliminates the cost of shipping, but also tends to reduce the distance products travel before reaching you. In addition, you can avoid the need for extra packaging materials when you shop in person, especially if you bring your own tote bags.

This year, go ahead and get your holiday gifts, goodies and decorations a few minutes from home — you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

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STONEWALL

A Wild Life: Stonewall biologist shares stories from 45 years in the North

Meet the author Dec. 13,
12–4 p.m., at QPHAC

By Lana Meier

Most Manitobans know the North only through postcard images — endless tundra horizons, drifting snow, the distant shadow of a caribou herd. But for Stonewall resident Murray Gillespie, those landscapes shaped not only a career but a lifetime of memories, risk, and wonder. Over more than four decades as a wildlife biologist, Gillespie worked in remote camps from Hudson Bay to Nunavut, travelling by bush plane, canoe and snowmobile, often without communication, comfort or a second chance if things went wrong.

His new book, *A Wild Life*, captures that northern life in vivid stories—moments when instinct mattered more than protocol and when the unexpected arrived on four paws, through a tent flap or out of the sky. He will share those experiences during a book signing downstairs on Saturday, Dec. 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at Quarry Park Heritage Arts Centre in Stonewall, where readers can meet him, ask questions and take home a signed copy.

Gillespie's connection to wildlife began long before he held a field notebook. Growing up in rural Manitoba, he spent spring watching for the first returning birds and fall counting geese against the horizon. He remembers the creak of the wind, the smell of poplar and the thrill of new life moving across the Prairies.

One figure stands out from those early years: a local naturalist, Alec MacKay, who taught him not only how to see wildlife but how to respect it. In his book, Murray recalls MacKay calmly setting the broken leg of a pet crow — a moment that showed young Murray the quiet skill and empathy behind conservation work.

"That relationship shaped the course of my life," he said. "I had many childhood dreams of working with wildlife or becoming an archeologist. My family supported that direction."

Raised in Manitoba with a deep appreciation for nature, Gillespie's path to wildlife biology began long before he carried a rifle for bear safety or logged flight time in a bush plane or helicopter. A

childhood spent outdoors led to a career with Manitoba Natural Resources and Canadian Wildlife Service that took him across the Arctic and subarctic, studying migratory birds, managing game populations and supporting field research. He became known for his calm presence in windy radio tents, his ability to jury-rig broken equipment in camp and his commitment to collecting wildlife data even when weather or wildlife had other plans.

Still, biology was not his first path. After high school he joined Manitoba Telephone System as a lineman and later an installer, a job he remembers as fun and rewarding. It wasn't until he took leave to attend the University of Manitoba — first intending to study engineering — that everything changed.

"I found my passion in biology," he said simply.

What followed was a working life many can only imagine. As a young biologist, Gillespie spent summers and weekends working for Manitoba Natural Resources. Tasks shifted fast — one day banding birds, the next responding to a disease outbreak. Crews worked as long as wildlife windows allowed.

"We worked seven days a week when necessary, without overtime or holiday pay," he said. "It wasn't about money. It was commitment to the program and following through."

Field seasons meant long stretches away, sometimes weeks, sometimes months. Weather was unpredictable. A survey might involve crawling through black spruce bog, living in a tent beside a windswept shore or waiting for fog to lift so the helicopter could return. In the far North, adversity was part of the job — and communication was often non-existent.

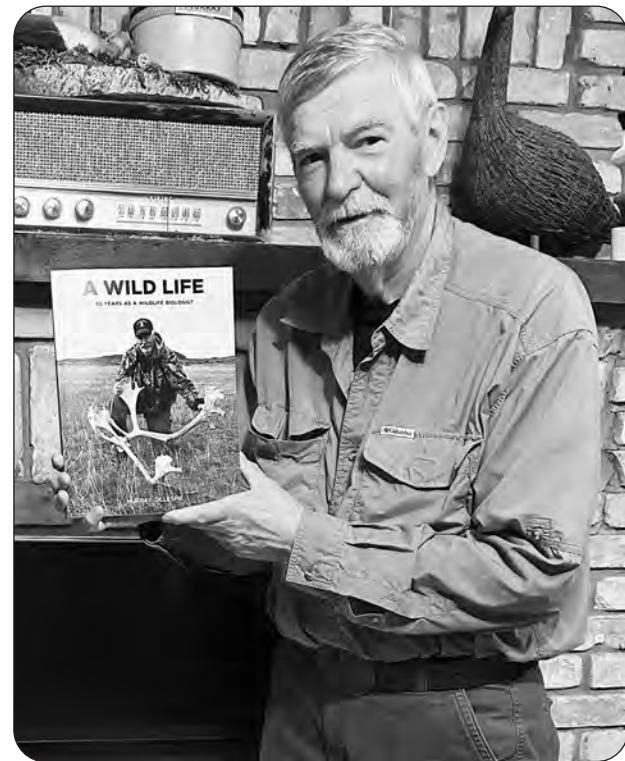
"You needed to solve problems without support," he said. "And you had to learn how to deal with bugs without going mad."

The work also meant close calls — experiences that shaped his instincts for risk. Once, while conducting goose surveys over Hudson Bay Lowlands in a Cessna 180, the engine quit at low altitude.

"There was nowhere to land except trees and wetlands," he said. "We drifted toward the ground preparing for impact. Just before we hit, the pilot restarted the engine and pulled us out."

Other near misses included remote canoe expeditions, polar bears approaching camps and the kind of silence that makes a biologist suddenly aware they are not the only one watching.

Gillespie's book shares these moments not as tall tales but as lived truth. The wolverine story, already a favourite among early readers, is one example. He recounts sitting alone in a Perry River wetland with a lawn chair, camera and three goose decoys — hoping to photograph spring migrants — when a wolverine appeared on the horizon and walked straight to-



Murray Gillespie with his new book *A Wild Life*, a collection of stories from four decades working with wildlife across the Arctic and Subarctic. Gillespie will host a public signing in Stonewall on Dec. 13.

ward him, closing the distance to just 12 yards.

"It stood up on its hind legs and stared me down," he writes, "so close I could see the teeth."

Other encounters blur the line between danger and delight — an Arctic fox with a Coca-Cola habit (page 52), a polar bear punching through a helicopter windshield (page 45), and countless quiet hours waiting for birds to land or muskox to wander into view. Gillespie refuses to choose a favourite species.

"I love them all," he said. "People overlook lemmings, but they're fascinating. I've spent countless hours following caribou, photographing foxes, watching muskox walk by within feet."

Some memories are small but unforgettable — lying so still that caribou heard the click of his shutter and turned to find the hidden photographer, or feeling an Arctic fox nudge his camera bag out of curiosity.

After 40 years, Gillespie has seen landscapes shift before his eyes.

"Climate change, the timing of ice breakup and freeze-up, and warming summers are changing the North," he said. "Many people in the south don't understand how fragile those ecosystems are."

If he could pass one message to the public, especially youth, it would be responsibility.

"The land and wildlife can't speak for themselves," he said. "We need informed citizens who will stand up for habitat and ecosystems — not just decisions based on economics."

Gillespie never set out to write a book. He wrote stories first for his children — and later for grandchildren — so they would know the world he lived in.

"My stories come from memory," he said. "I was fortunate to have vivid recall, and I was even more fortunate to have the support of a wonderful wife. I couldn't have done any of this without her."

Encouraged by family, he shaped those memories

Continued on page 22



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MURRAY GILLESPIE

A curious wolverine approaches Murray Gillespie's goose decoys on the tundra near Nunavut's Perry River — one of several unforgettable encounters featured in his new memoir *A Wild Life*, chronicling 45 years as a wildlife biologist in the North.

Local kids' colourful creations travel to Ottawa and beyond

By Jennifer McFee

Local students created colourful artwork that's cute as a button and made a lasting impression on Parliament Hill.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, Laine Wilson travelled to Ottawa to advocate for community parks and recreation through her work on the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) board. Wilson represents Manitoba, alongside colleagues from across the country.

To showcase the community's creative flair, Wilson brings items made by local school kids that offer a glimpse into Manitoba life. In previous years, she has brought friendship bracelets to share on Parliament Hill, and last year Stonewall Centennial students created a brightly coloured suit for her to wear. During a previous visit, she also donned a pair of shoes decorated with designs by Grade 2 students at Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend.

This year, Grade 4 students from Ecole R.W. Bobby Bend crafted artistic buttons for Wilson to share with members of Parliament, while Grosse Isle students created artwork for the occasion.

Susan Hannah, a Grade 4 teacher at ERWBB, expressed enthusiasm for the Parliamentary button project.

"In preparation for her visit to Ottawa, Laine provided our students with a button maker and all necessary supplies, inviting them to design buttons to share with politicians across Canada," she said.

"To guide our work, students from 4H selected a theme aligned with outcomes from the social studies curriculum, specifically the expectation to identify and research provincial monuments and symbols. Students explored various roadside and community monuments throughout Manitoba, selected one that captured their interest and developed several design drafts using different colours and backgrounds."

Throughout the process, the students collaborated with peers, exchanged ideas and used maps to locate the communities connected to each monument.

"Students engaged in the project



Laine Wilson stands proudly on Parliament Hill wearing a coat decorated by Stony Mountain School students and holding student-made art pieces and buttons. Wilson promoted parks and recreation while sharing Manitoba creativity with federal leaders through her role with the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association.

with great enthusiasm and were excited by the idea that their designs would reach Parliament and help others learn more about Manitoba. Popular selections included the Three Mushrooms from Meleb, Gilbert the Golfer from Gilbert Plains, Chuck the Channel Cat from Selkirk, Happy Rock from Gladstone, the Hockey Stick from Winkler, the Crocus from Arden and Sara the Camel from Glenboro," Hannah said.

"We also shared this project with Mrs. Rudge's class 4R, and together our two classes proudly created more than 150 buttons."

At the same time, teacher Justin Anderson's students at Grosse Isle School worked on artwork for Wilson to bring with her to the nation's capital. The Grade 5 and 6 class was tasked with creating an art piece to be distributed to community leaders



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Top photo: Grade 5 and 6 students at Grosse Isle School proudly display the artwork they created for Laine Wilson to take to Ottawa as part of her visit to Parliament Hill on Nov. 22. Bottom photo: Students in Susan Hannah's Grade 4 class at École R.W. Bobby Bend show the buttons they designed as part of a social studies project highlighting Manitoba monuments and symbols.



from across Canada.

"We chose to tie this in with a research project for social studies. Each student chose a province or territory to research and then came up with an artist from their province or territory to study. The students then created an art piece in the style of their chosen artist that included features of their province, such as the landscape," Anderson said.

"We are really proud of how they turned out and excited to see them make their way across Canada. This project allowed students to gain an appreciation for the diversity of both artists and styles of art across Canada. Our goal was to be able to put all of the art pieces side by side and see how each art piece represents its respective province or territory."

While in Ottawa, Wilson shared the

buttons with federal government officials, while the Grosse Isle artwork went home with CPRA representatives from each province and territory. Continuing with the made-in-Manitoba theme, she also wore a coat decorated by Stony Mountain students last spring.

"The students' artwork, buttons and coat were more than creative pieces — they were proof of the strength of our community partnerships. Bringing them to Parliament showed how collaboration can uplift young people and amplify their voices," she said.

"I'm so grateful for the students and community partners whose creativity and collaboration made a huge impact on the hill. Their work is a powerful reminder that when we come together, our impact stretches from coast to coast across Canada."

> A WILD LIFE, FROM PG. 21

into *A Wild Life* with the help of an editor. He still has many stories not included, but rather than writing a sequel, he hopes to continue sharing his knowledge in schools and seniors' homes across the province.

"Students are so thirsty for real-world knowledge," he said. "I try to get them excited about ecosystems, animals they've never seen, the importance of the land."

Launching his first book signing

in Stonewall feels fitting.

"I know many people here," Gillespie said. "I hope the book inspires conversations — stories of their own. Maybe it encourages someone to talk with a grandparent or a young person to follow their curiosity outdoors."

Whether you arrive for the wolverines, the bears, the Arctic foxes or the quiet moments under Northern light, expect to leave with something rare: a true story from a man who lived the wilderness, one footstep and one heartbeat at a time.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Varsity Thunder conclude championship season with year-end awards

By Kieran Reimer

Celebrations continued last week for the Varsity Interlake Thunder.

It's been just over a month since the Thunder defeated the St. Vital Mustangs in the 2025 Rural Manitoba Football League Championship in Stonewall. The Thunder finally got past the Mustangs this season after falling to them in the finals the previous two years.

They did it with their most dominant roster in that stretch, finishing the season a perfect 9-0.

On Saturday, Nov. 29, the Thunder gathered for their year-end awards banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 in Stonewall.

Eight players received awards for their contributions this season, as selected by head coach Christof Hasselfield and staff.

Hasselfield has coached many of the players for multiple seasons, including graduating seniors who he has guided throughout their varsity careers.

"It's some of my favourite, most cherished memories," said Hasselfield. "Not just talking about a championship, but even just growing as a coach while those guys are growing up as players and kids and everything. Them being there when I make mistakes and forgiving me for it and vice versa. It's an awesome group. I look forward to the other guys, but this one will always be special to

me."

AJ Nadon was named the team's Most Valuable Player after once again leading the Thunder's run game. The 2025 season was his final year of eligibility for the senior running back from Winnipeg Beach.

Handling the ball often in 2025 was Gimli's Jessie Batenchuk, recipient of the Thunder's Most Outstanding Offensive Player Award. Batenchuk took on the starting quarterback role in 2024 after previously playing receiver. It proved to be a smooth transition for the now-senior QB, who capped his RMFL career with a championship.

A favourite target of his was Jamie Dandeneau, who received the Charlie Cook Leadership Award. The wide receiver from Stonewall was also a senior this season.

Paving the way for the Thunder offence was Gimli's Jakob Samborski, named Most Outstanding Lineman.

On defence, Stonewall's Cooper Ponton earned the Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award in his senior year.

Gimli's Dylan Maclean was also recognized in his final season with the Ed deLaroque Impact Player Award.

Rounding out the honours were Fraserwood's



Winnipeg Beach's AJ Nadon was the recipient of the Thunder's Most Valuable Player Award. The senior running back was one of eight award winners.

Marlo Lapierre and Gimli's Caleb Miyai. Lapierre received the Most Outstanding Special Teams Player Award, while Miyai was named Most Outstanding Rookie. Both are eligible to return in 2026.



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Varsity Interlake Thunder held their year-end awards on Saturday, Nov. 29 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 in Stonewall, just weeks after defeating the St. Vital Mustangs for the 2025 RMFL Championship.



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Phillies putting in the work ahead of 2026 season

By Kieran Reimer

The softball season runs year-round — even for Manitobans.

The start of the 2026 Manitoba Premier Softball League season is still months away, but the Interlake Phillies AAA Softball Program is already deep into indoor training.

"We've had some indoor practices, some hitting, and our pitching and catching goes every week, so they're getting lots of reps in," said U15 Phillies head coach Mike Hammond.

Interlake will ice three clubs next season — U13, U15 and U17.

Hammond returns to the U15 dugout after guiding the team to provincial bronze and a sixth-place finish at the 2025 Canadian Championships. Joining him behind the bench are Jon Reimer, Chelsea Snively, Emma Wirgau and Kenna Reimer.

The U15 roster features a strong mix of majors and minors — and several athletes are keeping sharp through winter ball. Krystal Crampton, Lily Hammond and Kardyn Reimer are among players getting game action with Minnesota-based Midwest Speed this off-season, while others are currently in hockey season.

Come summer, the Phillies will be chasing a return trip to the Canadian Championships, scheduled for July 29–Aug. 2, 2026, in Fredericton, N.B.

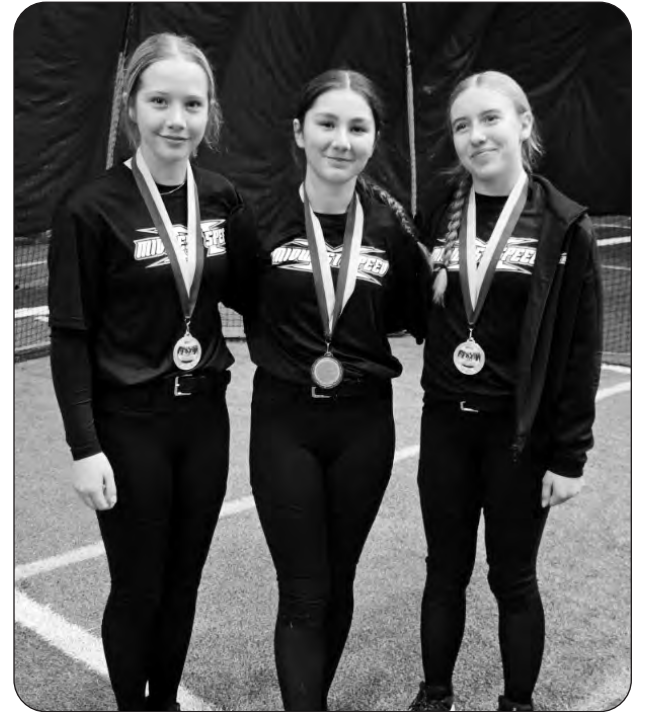
"The core of this group has been together for a while now," Hammond said. "The minors coming up are very strong. We've got two new girls from AA that we're excited about, so we're looking forward to seeing what they can do this year."

The Phillies will also enjoy home-field advantage during Softball Manitoba U15 AAA Provincials, set for July 9–12, 2026, at Stonewall's Quarry Park — the same venue where the program last hosted and captured the title.

"It's going to be nice," Hammond said. "We hosted it a couple years back when we won it there, and it was great having the community come out and support us and having all the families there."

At the U17 level, Kirt Swanson returns as head coach alongside staff members Maddy Fines, Denis Woods, Tom Rinn and Robyn Deprez.

The reigning Western Canadian champion U13 Phillies, meanwhile, will be led by new head coach Colin Ballantyne, with Mel De Pena, Maddy Fidler, Heidi Fingas and Deana Ballantyne rounding out the staff.



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lily Hammond, Krystal Crampton and Kardyn Reimer are spending their winter playing with the Minnesota-based Midwest Speed. The trio will suit up for the U15 AAA Interlake Phillies this summer in the Manitoba Premier Softball League.

Oliver makes Top-7



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Warren Collegiate's Camryn Oliver capped off her high school volleyball career in style at the MHSAA Volleyball Manitoba A/AA/AAA Graduating All-Star Game and Banquet in Winnipeg over the weekend. Oliver was recognized as a Graduating All-Star and later named to the All Manitoba Team, placing her among the top seven players in A–AAA schools and earning top libero honours. Adding to the celebration, her father and coach, Tyler Oliver, received AA Female Coach of the Year. Adria Vandersteen of Stonewall Collegiate also earned a spot on the All Manitoba Team.

Wildcats in battle for second place after another perfect week

By Kieran Reimer

The Warren Wildcats boys' hockey team is in a share of second place after a successful week on the ice.

Warren opened with a 5–0 win over Linden Christian at Sam Southern Arena.

Mason Klassen stopped all 21 shots he faced for the shutout, while Braeden Ivany and Jonathan Gilmore led the offence with two goals apiece. Ty Olson added the other Wildcats marker as they claimed their ninth win of the season.

They made it 10 victories with a 4–2 win over the Windsor Park Royals on Friday at St. Vital Centennial Arena.

Josh Tristam got the start for Warren and made 20 saves in the win. The Wildcats led 4–0 in the third before Windsor Park spoiled the shutout with back-to-back goals. Layne Noren scored the game-winner as part of a two-goal performance, with Lexon Hogg and Ashton Baldwin also finding the back of the net. Warren improved to 10–1 in Winnipeg High School Hockey League

Price Division play.

They then faced Niverville on Monday with an opportunity to take sole possession of second place. Due to press deadlines, the result was unavailable at print time.

Their next game is set for Thursday at 1 p.m. in Lundar against the Lundar Falcons.

GIRLS BLANKED BY ST. MARY'S

The Wildcats girls' hockey team was also in action last week, playing a single game Tuesday against St. Mary's Academy.

Warren was shut out 4–0 on home ice as St. Mary's netminder Kate Bru stopped all 17 shots. The Wildcats dropped to 5–7–0–3–0, sitting sixth in the Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League Division 1/2 West.

Next up is a Wednesday matchup against Garden City at 3:45 p.m. at Seven Oaks Sportsplex, followed by a Thursday game at 4 p.m. against John Taylor at Hockey For All Centre.

The winning search continues for U15 Lightning

By Kieran Reimer

The U15 AAA Female Interlake Lightning continue to fight for their first win of the 2025-26 regular season.

Playing in the Winnipeg AAA Hockey League this year, the Lightning have gone 0-10-0-1 through their first 11 games of the season, which sits them seventh in the league.

Last Sunday they played a sound defensive game but couldn't find a way to get goals against the Winnipeg Avros Red at Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

They went on to lose 4-0 for their 10th regulation loss of the season which brings them into a three-game December, looking to earn their first

win before the Christmas Break.

January will include eight games for Interlake, four of which on home ice.

February will run similarly with two of their five games at home before the start of the Winnipeg AAA Hockey League's postseason.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Tuesday, Dec. 9 vs Winnipeg Ice Navy, 7:45 p.m. at Eric Coy Arena

Saturday, Dec. 20 vs Winnipeg Ice White, 5:15 p.m. at Kinsmen-Allard Arena

Sunday, Dec. 21 vs Winnipeg Ice Navy, 3:45 p.m. at Stony Mountain Community Centre



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Interlake Lightning's Paige Bernier forces an Avros Red player to the boards in her team's 4-0 loss last Sunday in Stonewall.

Warren 67's seeks momentum heading into road weekend

By Haley Cvar

The Warren 67's are aiming to reset and find traction this weekend as they prepare for a back-to-back on the road, looking to build on the lone win they've earned so far this Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League season.

Warren (1-13-0-2) has battled

through a challenging opening stretch, earning four points in 16 games while showing brief flashes of the structure and compete level that carried them to their early-season victory. The team has scored 46 goals this year but continues working to tighten its defensive zone play after surren-

dering 122.

Despite the standings, the 67's have stayed competitive in stretches, relying on a young core still adjusting to the league's pace.

With two road tests this weekend, the focus remains on internal progress rather than standings pressure.

Warren continues to lean into development, resilience and gradual growth as they search for another breakthrough performance to build on.

The 67's visit Grunthal on Saturday at 8 p.m. before travelling to Steinbach on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Stonewall Jets to 'Drop the Gloves for Good' in winter fundraiser

Items tossed after first goal to support Christmas Cheerboard on Dec. 14

By Lana Meier

The Stonewall Jets are turning game night into a chance to give back.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, the local Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League team will host its "Drop the Gloves for Good" fundraiser — sponsored by Interlake Kneads Massage Therapy — when they face off against the St. James Canucks on home ice. The event encourages fans to bring winter cloth-

ing items to help support the Stonewall & District Christmas Cheerboard.

Spectators are invited to bring toques, mitts, socks, scarves, blankets and other warm-weather essentials. Donations must be bagged and can be tossed onto the ice following the Jets' first goal of the night, transforming the rink into a wave of generosity in true holiday spirit.

Organizers say the goal is to help keep local families warm this winter while creating a memorable community moment inside the arena.

All collected items will be donated to the Christmas Cheerboard for distribution to residents in need throughout the holiday season.

Puck drop is scheduled for 7 p.m.

Drop the Gloves for Good

Come cheer on our local Jets as they heat things up on and off the ice!

Game Day: Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

When they take on the St. James Canucks on home ice.

Fans are encouraged to bring toques, mitts, socks, scarves, blankets or anything that helps keep neighbours warm this winter. Items must be bagged and can be tossed onto the ice after the Jets first goal.

All items will be donated to the Stonewall & District Christmas Cheerboard.

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

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Jets explode for nine-goal win, split weekend games

By Lana Meier

The Stonewall Jets lit up the scoreboard Thursday night, routing the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club 9-3 at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex before falling 4-1 on the road to the league-leading Transcona Railer Express on Sunday.

On Thursday, captain Karson King scored twice in the opening five minutes and the Jets never looked back, burying five in the first period alone. Alex Kaczorowski also struck twice, while Peyton Bateman earned first star with a four-point outing, including a late third-period marker to seal the win.

Stonewall outshot the Raiders 42-27 and finished 1-for-3 on the power play.

King opened the scoring just 1:09 into the game, converting a feed from Rylan Slatcher and Gavin Holod. He added another on the power play at 5:11, before Raiders forward Logan Ashe cut the lead at 7:29. The Jets responded with goals from Evan McMurtry, Slatcher and Kaczorowski to take a commanding 5-1 lead into the first intermission.

Kaczorowski added his second of the night in the middle frame, followed by Evan Deprez, who finished off a setup from Holod and Adam Newcombe at 18:57. In the third, Talon Hogg and Bateman rounded out the scoring, while the Raiders added singles from Riley Kushnier and Riley Yourchenko.

Goaltender Spencer Hunnam stopped 24 of 27 shots for the win.



Gavin Holod picked up multiple assists in Stonewall's 9-3 win over the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club on Thursday. Holod also sits tied for third in MMJHL scoring with 29 points.

Sunday matchup tighter versus league's top team

Three days later, Stonewall ran into a red-hot Transcona squad, dropping a 4-1 decision at Ed Golding Arena. The Railer Express, who sit atop the MMJHL standings with an .875 win percentage, secured their 10th straight victory.

Wylie Garchinski scored the Jets' lone goal just eight seconds into the second period, converting a pass from Kaczorowski to tie the game briefly. Transcona answered late in the period with a shorthanded tally from Keaton Johnson, then added two more in



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Peyton Bateman led the way with a four-point night and later added a third-period goal as the Stonewall Jets defeated the Raiders Jr. Hockey Club 9-3 on Thursday at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex. Bateman sits tied for third in MMJHL scoring with 29 points.

the third — including a power-play marker from Hayden Kochen, who finished with two goals and an assist to earn first star.

Hunnam turned aside 31 shots in the loss, while Transcona's Thomas Wyatt was sharp, stopping 28 of 29.

Standing tight in the middle of the pack

The Jets sit fifth in the MMJHL at 10-10-1 (21 points, .525), battling in

a crowded mid-table race. The club is led offensively by Peyton Bateman (10G, 19A) and Gavin Holod (7G, 22A) — both tied for third in league scoring with 29 points.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

- Dec. 11 – Stonewall vs. St. Boniface Riels – 8 p.m.
- Dec. 14 – Stonewall vs. St. James Jr. Canucks – 7 p.m.

Merces offensive push results in victory over Winterhawks

By Kieran Reimer

There was just one game on the Warren Merces' schedule last week — a date with the Springfield Winterhawks on Saturday at Access Credit Union Arena.

After going down 1-0 early in the first, the Merces did what they do well which is scoring goals.

Eric Swanson and Drake Lindsay

netted back-to-back tallies for Warren's first lead of the game.

Dasek Sobkow then tallied for Warren in the second as things shifted to the third knotted up at threes.

Warren's Sam Mollot, Gianluca Esteves and Kyle Lundale then netted goals in the third with only one goal scored by the opposition in the frame.

With the help of 36 saves from Evan Baty, Warren finished off the Winterhawks 6-4 for their fourth win of the season.

They now sit fifth in the 10-team South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League entering a new week of games.

Warren will play Friday and Sun-

day this week for their first two-game weekend of the season.

UPCOMING GAMES:

- Friday, Dec. 12 vs Winkler Royals, 8 p.m. at Access Credit Union Arena
- Sunday, Dec. 14 at Portage Islanders, 7:30 p.m. at Stride Place

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VMSC, Stonewall

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Rams rally in second but fall 6-4 to Sanford in WHSHL play

By Lana Meier

The Stonewall Rams mounted a strong second-period comeback but couldn't hold off a late surge, falling 6-4 to Sanford in Winnipeg High School Hockey League action Wednesday at the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

Sanford opened the scoring with goals from Nathan Baxter at 7:55 and Jake Johnston at 4:10 of the first. The Rams answered with energy in the middle frame, scoring three straight to erase a 3-0 deficit. Liam Cox sparked the rally at 10:26 from Mason Bernier and Brody Slatcher, then struck again less than three minutes later on a setup from Nate McIvor and Dustin Campbell. With 36 seconds left in the period, Bernier buried Stonewall's third from McIvor and Matthew Hawryluk, sending the game to the third tied 3-3.

Sanford responded with four in the final period — all from Cooper Rodewald, including an empty-netter — to take control. Campbell cut into the lead at 1:33 from Jacksyn Arbez and Hawryluk, but the Rams ran out of time. Cox finished with two goals while Bernier and Campbell each posted a goal and an assist.

Rams battled again in 7-5 loss to

CPET Friday.

Stonewall returned to Winnipeg Free Press Division play Friday at home, falling 7-5 to CPET in another high-scoring matchup.

The opening period was a back-and-forth affair with Stonewall goals from Cox and Bernier, while CPET's Landon Huot struck twice to leave the game tied 2-2 after 20 minutes. CPET gained momentum in the second with markers from Luke Ford and Andrew Augert-Yarema to lead 4-2 heading into the third.

A determined Stonewall push saw three goals in the final frame — Chase Corbett at 8:59 from Slatcher and Alec Harrisko, Cox again at 2:50, and Arbez at 2:17 from Hawryluk and Corbett — but CPET answered each time, including two third-period tallies from Braxton Caruk, one into an empty net, to seal the win.

Cox had another strong outing with two goals, while Corbett and Arbez each recorded a goal and an assist. Slatcher added two helpers, and Hawryluk, McIvor and Harrisko also found the scoresheet. Goaltender Jonah Van Den Bogaard made 12 saves on 18 shots for Stonewall.

The Rams continue WHSHL league play next week, hosting St. John's Ra-



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Stonewall Rams' Liam Cox scored twice in his team's 6-4 loss to the Sanford Sabres in Winnipeg High School Hockey League action on Dec. 3.

venscourt on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Stonewall Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.

Blues win U15 home tournament



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The U15 Stonewall Blues won the A1 division at their home tournament on the weekend, which featured 16 teams — eight in A1 and eight in A2.

Stonewall opened round-robin play with a 5-3 win over St. James, tied Royals White 1-1, and defeated Dryden 2-0 to finish first in their pool. In the semifinal, the Blues edged Brandon 2-1 to advance to the final, where they met Royals White for the second time. Stonewall sealed the tournament with a 2-1 victory in the gold-medal game. Pictured back row (left to right): Coach Ryan Richen, Coach Darryl Peters, Gabe White, Logan Deprez, Reed Moran, Liam Kauk, Alex Walker, Ashton Kozyra, Stetson Chartrand, Coach Kyle Kauk, Coach Scott McFadyen; Front row: Dyson Chura, Elliot Davidson, Beck McFadyen, Kris Sheldon, Hunter Krahn, Elliott Peters and goaltender Noah Willis.

Provincial gold for golden gals



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Arlene Deprez team from Stonewall was crowned Provincial Golden Gals champions in Petersfield after going undefeated in six games from Nov. 26-28. They edged the Susan McRae rink from the Granite Curling Club 8-7 in an extra end to secure the title. Pictured left to right: Arlene Deprez, Janine Pruneau, Diane Mauthe and Phyllis Klimpke.

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Sudoku answer on page 26

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IN MEMORIAM

**Remembering Our Beautiful Daughter,
McKenna Riley**
September 10, 2000 – December 15, 2020

Five years have passed since we lost our sweet, vibrant girl to an AVM at only 20 years old. It still doesn't seem real. Time has moved forward, but our love and longing for her have stayed exactly the same. McKenna lived her life with a warmth that touched everyone around her — a bright smile, a kind heart, and a way of making even ordinary moments feel special. She was a daughter, a sister, a friend, and a light in this community.

We miss her laughter, her hugs, her big dreams, and the joy she carried with her everywhere she went. We honour her by trying to live as she did: with kindness, courage, and love.

-Forever in our hearts,
Mom, Dad, Brooke, Griffin
and all those who loved her

IN MEMORIAM

Trevor John Mollard
February 6, 1967 – December 17, 2019

As the day goes by, my heart is filled with sorrow,
If we could share just one more day,
If there was one more tomorrow
I'd hold you close within my arms and never let you go.
I love and miss you so much, more than these words could ever show.
You were my world, my rock, my best friend.
A love so strong and true.

-Love Lisa xoxoxo
Forever loved and remembered by
your family and friends
Miss and Love you Papa T – Eastyn

CARD OF THANKS

Marion Woloshyn – My heartfelt thank you to my friends and family for all the support following my sister Marion's passing. Thank you for the visits, messages, cards, baking and donations during this difficult time. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

-Love Joan

OBITUARY

Jason David Schroeder
October 17, 1973 - November 27, 2025

With great sadness we have to announce that Jason has passed away way at the early age of 52.

Jason will be remembered as a proud Stonewall boy.

He is reunited with his late parents, Keith and Colleen, and Nanny Joyce.

Jason will be deeply missed by his loving wife Roxanne. His children Melissa, Cole, Kody and his partner Abby.

Held close by his chosen family Bill and Felicia Archer, Brad Dann and partner Kris Lobay; along with extended family and many Railroad Industry buddies.

Jason's kindness, humor, and big heart will be cherished and celebrated forever.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Warren Memorial Hall, 145 Macdonald Ave., Warren, MB.

OBITUARY

Joyce Elizabeth Stewart

With family at her side, Joyce Elizabeth Stewart passed away peacefully, November 29th, 2025 at Stonewall's Rosewood Lodge. She lived a full life over 91 years, filled with strength, joy and love of family.

She was the devoted wife of Alex Stewart until his untimely passing in 2014. The two married in October 1958 and built a life together in Balmoral raising four children Wendy Lillies (Kimo), Rick Snell (Marg), Jim Stewart (Lee) and Lori McEwen (Terry). She cherished her nine grandchildren Cindy (Murray), Gord (Amy), Geoff (Leslie), Kristle, Don, Eric, Dan (Kelsey), Jodie (Tyler), and Shawn (Steph) as well as her 11 great-grandchildren.

Mom was vibrant, generous and ambitious. She delighted in the company of others and welcomed anyone who came to the door, no matter what the hour. The hospitality and baked goods were shared with a laugh and a cup of tea.

In her early years, she attended Brant-Argyle School and we would marvel at the stories she would share about travelling by horse and buggy, plowing fields with horses, milking cows and cutting wood. Mom willingly pitched in on these physical tasks on the McCulloch homestead working alongside her dad, Howard. Her mother, Isabelle, was an excellent cook and Mom perfected the recipes of scones and shortbread handed down for many generations.

Mom was the youngest of three girls with sisters Irene Pearson and Bernice Fraser (deceased 2000). Life was not without heartache, but she forged ahead with two young children following the death of her first husband Gordon Snell in April 1957.

She found work rewarding in the Rosewood Lodge kitchen and excelled in the social aspects of working in the Hallmark store. Her true passion was the farm in Balmoral, where she raised her family. The grandchildren visited often and her rolling pin was the busiest. She worked tirelessly tending to the garden, preparing meals and helping anyone in need. Mom thrived in the kitchen. It's where she beamed with delight in serving another family meal. Those gatherings would bring the beautiful chaos of all the grandchildren together and the aroma of freshly baked buns. She was our family matriarch and a passionate community volunteer. She had a great appreciation of music, dance, and singing along to her favourite tunes.

In Balmoral, Mom and Dad were avid curlers enjoying the company of neighbours, playing cards, following sports teams and making special memories. In 2008, life slowed down some as they gave up grass cutting and moved to a house in Stonewall. Phone calls kept her connected to family friends and the Free Press filled her mornings. Then word of a baseball or hockey game, home renovation or any celebration meant grabbing something from the freezer and hitting the road.

The grandkids were extra special to her and she valued each relationship. The most dedicated fan, she was always proud to be present to cheer at a sporting event or celebrate a milestone.

We were so grateful for Mom's resilience when she moved to Lion's Manor in 2019 where she continued to tend flower beds, deliver baked goods to neighbours and clear snow long into her 80's.

She will be remembered for her outgoing spirit, kindness and unwavering support of family. Mom embraced all the seasons along with the birds, challenges and beauty each would bring. Those sharing in our loss are the Snell and the Stewart families, many nieces and nephews, and those gone before her and her dear friends.

You are missed every single day, for you were someone special, who meant more than words can say. By strength and courage, we love you. May you rest in peace.

Thank you to the caring staff at Goodwin Lodge and Rosewood Lodge for her exceptional care.

A private family service will take place.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Victoria Cemetery in Balmoral, MB.

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Love and remembrance last forever.

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OBITUARY



Jennifer Essery (nee Smith)

It is with deep sadness that the family announces the passing of Jennifer Ann Essery (Smith) on November 29, 2025. She passed peacefully at the Gilbert Plains Care Home in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba after a courageous battle with Dementia.

She is survived by her two children Stephanie (Phillip), Shawn (Cally) and her sister Susan, along with her eight grandchildren Nicholas, Shailee, Riley, Maya, Noelle, Chris, Mackenzie and Brianne, and two great-grandchildren Kalicee and Leliana.

She is predeceased by her husband Art, her mother Jean and her father George.

Born January 6, 1953 in London, England, she immigrated to Canada with her family when she was five years old. They settled in Regina and spent most of her formidable years growing up in the Saskatchewan capital. She met her first husband and married

him late in her teens. The couple was blessed with two children, Stephanie and Shawn. After a short marriage, the couple went their separate ways. This allowed for a move to Stonewall. While working at Interlake Publishing, she met Art, embarking on a lifelong romance. Married in June 1981, they spent the next 42 years by each other's sides.

Jenny started her career as a graphic artist after attending classes at Red River Community College. After a short stint in the field, she joined a start-up division of MTS, exploring emerging technology, being one of the first employees of MTS Cellular. For two decades she was a fixture in the cellular/mobility industry and made countless friends and had countless adventures along the way.

In the early 2000's, she moved away from the mobility industry and moved towards her lifelong passion of helping people. Through her Qi Quest business, she focused on the health and wellbeing of everyone she came in touch with.

Jenny always lived her life with love, laughter and a contagious excitement when it came to career, friendships and above all family. She will truly be missed but never forgotten.

A private memorial service will be held in the coming weeks with family and close friends.

In lieu of flowers, if friends desire, please donate to the Alzheimer's Society of Manitoba, the Parkland Region Health Authority or the Gilbert Plains Personal Care home.

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at Gilbert Plains Personal Care Home and the staff at Happy Haven assisted Living in Dauphin, for all the love and care they have shown to Jenny over the last period of her life.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Matthew Thomas Porteous
August 31, 1985 – December 1, 2025

It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of our son and brother, Matthew Thomas Porteous, at the young age of 40 years of Inwood, Manitoba.

He was predeceased by his father Gregory Porteous, grandparents Evelyn and Tom Porteous and Leona and Abe Redekopp.

He is survived by his parents Doreen and Darrell Tomchak, his brother Dustin and his sister Katerina (Caleb), his step siblings Kyle, Clinton, Shane, Laura and Ashley and their families. Also aunts, uncles, cousins and many great friends.

Matt was born in Teulon, MB. and raised on a farm near Inwood, MB. He was educated in Teulon. Although his best education was his own life experiences, good or bad. He was a truck driver

and equipment operator since the age of 18, that caused him to move around a lot. He was a responsible, conscientious, and comical individual, always enjoyed a good laugh. He enjoyed quading, hunting, fishing and music. He also liked to be in nature and interacting with animals ("Lucky the dog"). One of his favorite things to do was joking around with family and friends. If you needed a hand, all you had to do is ask. Matt was a wonderful son, brother and friend. He will be missed by all. I'll miss his big hugs.

A celebration of Matt's Life will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Komarno Hall in Komarno, MB. Lunch to follow. As cremation has taken place, interment will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, if so desired, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Manitoba Humane Society.

Thank you to the EMS and Gimli RCMP for their immediate response and support. Also thank you to Ken Loehmer for his care and support in this time of great need.



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