

102nd Annual Better Newspaper Competition Awards

June 24 2022
2 PM

MCNA would like to welcome you to the 102nd MCNA Annual Better Newspapers Competition Awards

We are very grateful for your participation, hard work and professionalism in serving your communities in Manitoba each week. We are also thankful for your photographic, artistic, editorial and journalistic excellence. Today, we celebrate you!

We are also exceptionally grateful to our dedicated sponsors. Their understanding, kindness and support for this event was steadfast, even during a pandemic.

Life Membership Awards 2021

MCNA would like to announce
that the following three people
were nominated and approved for
Life Membership Awards with MCNA in 2021

Ken Waddell
Vicki Wallace
Don Piett

We extend our sincere congratulations and appreciation
for their years of dedicated service to MCNA and to the
Newspaper Industry in Manitoba and Canada

Gold Quill Award 2021

MCNA would like to announce
that the following person
was nominated and approved for
a Gold Quill Award in 2021

Wes Keating

We extend our sincere congratulations and
appreciation for Wes's 50 years of dedicated
service to the Newspaper Industry in
Manitoba and Canada

Silver Quill Awards 2021

MCNA would like to announce
that the following five people were nominated and
approved for Silver Quill Awards in 2021

Brian Gilroy
Jim Mihaly
Suzanne Mihaly
Connie Kay
Murray Harvey

We extend our sincere congratulations and
appreciation for their 25 years of dedicated
service to the Newspaper Industry
in Manitoba and across Canada.

And now...
On to the 2021
MCNA BNC Awards

Best
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Sandra Barnes



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Best Advertisement – 1st

Dauphin Herald

Jeff Gilroy

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020 THE DAUPHIN HERALD A9

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YOU AND YOUR EARS IN 2020



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> FARMING ROOTS, FROM PG. 12

and we do wholesale," she said.

The business has a truck on the road five days a week supplying large quantities of processed pork products to other retailers as far north as Cypressville, Fisher Branch, Pegu, Irwood, Teulon, Arborg, Riverton and Gimli.

The retail store offers an array of sausage and gaffe rings, which are smoked on-site. The business recently invested \$500,000 into a new smoker, as the old one couldn't keep up with the demand the business had.

Reflecting the ever-increasingly difficulties associated with the beef production industry, Schon said Interlake Packers stopped slaughtering beef roughly four years ago.

"I started with BSE (mad cow) when... Rothway stopped rendering beef. They are still open but render pork," said Schon, referring to what was Manitoba's only rendering company at the time. Rendering is the process of converting waste animal tissue into stable, usable materials.

"We tried to hang on until it just

wasn't sustainable. It got to a point where we were losing money on beef production."

With so many beef producers in the area, those who quit a few producers saddened by the business's decision, she added.

Schon said the company still brings in some beef for certain sausage recipes, but the beef comes in from Beaujour and Carleton after being processed.

"Our sausage is probably the bread and butter of our business, and they're gluten-free. They're so well-known all over the place... People come from B.C. and everywhere else to stock up," said Schon, adding the plant produces 1,000 pounds of sausage daily.

"Our bacon is supposed to be the best in the world, we have a few testimonials... That's probably why we're still standing," she said, chuckling.

For the most part, COVID-19 has impacted businesses in every industry, and Interlake Packers is no exception. Fortunately, the bacon line has not been overly affected by COVID.

Whereas wholesale demand may have dropped off slightly, Schon said the company's custom work has picked up "tremendously."

"It was slow for a while when it first hit in March... but everybody is trying to make their own meat now. They raise a pig, they bring it in here, and we butcher and package the meat as requested," said Schon.

"That's more and more because people like to know what they're eating nowadays, I think. We've also been

doing a lot of wild game from hunters who bring in elk or moose... We do lots of different sausage for them."

Sales in the retail store have increased quite a bit during COVID, Schon said. There are more people at home looking for local product and traditional recipes.

"We've actually hired a couple of people over the pandemic," said Schon. "It's been sad. Some of the restaurants we supply didn't survive, so we know we're fortunate."

Best Agricultural Section - 3rd

Stonewall Teulon Tribune



the facility can be seen from a monitor in Schon's office.



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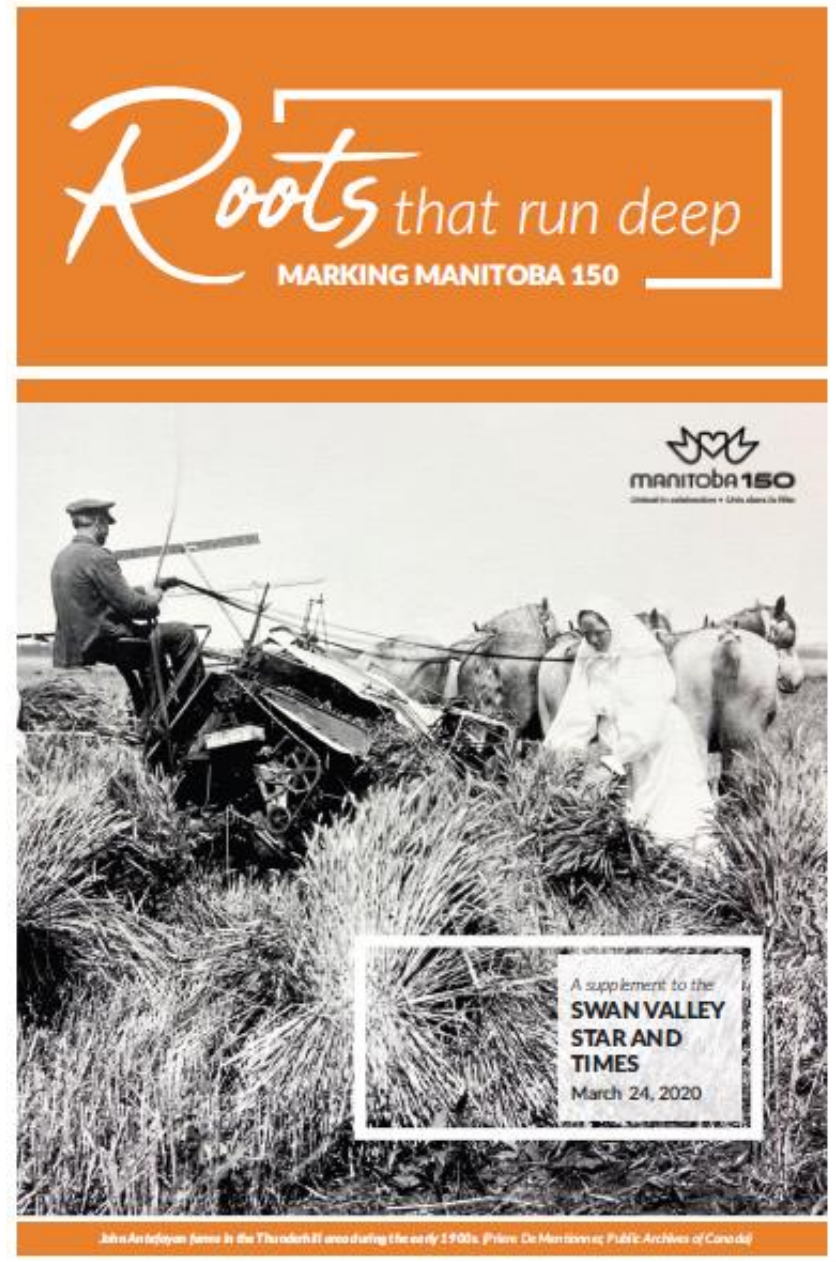
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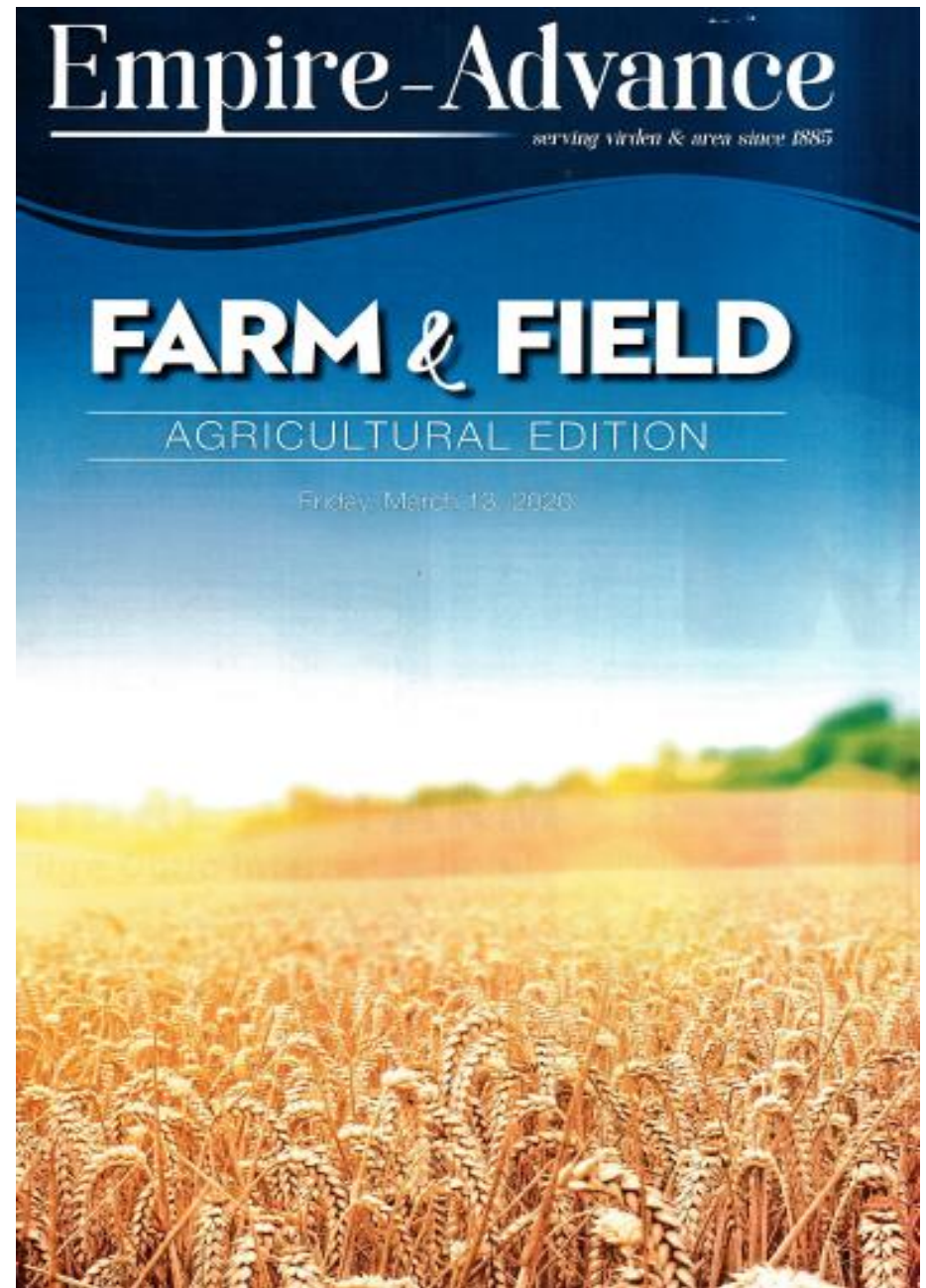
Best Agricultural Section - 2nd

The Swan Valley
Star and Times



Best Agricultural
Section – 1st

Virden
Empire - Advance



Best Agriculture Story – 3rd

Erickson South Mountain Press

Candy Irwin

For the love of farming

>> Onanole couple offering unique locally grown seasonal food baskets through their business Ground to Gut Gardens

CANDY IRWIN
for South Mountain Press

"We are in the midst of a cucumber invasion, which has made us scramble to adapt our planting plans – in beans, peas, squash... and then more," said Traci MacLeod resignedly.

MacLeod, who is originally from Winnipeg, and her partner Sara Tagelinski, who hails from Kansas, are made for really tough work, as are all who rely on the land to make a living.

The couple, who live east of Onanole, are partners in Ground to Gut Gardens. Their operation is referred to as a CSA, which stands for Community Supported Agriculture. In such an endeavor, consumers buy shares in the garden before planting season, acknowledging the risks and then, subsequently, sharing in the bounty.

In Manitoba, not only might a gardener have to contend with the menace of cucumbers, there's also drought, heavy rain, hail and even frost, "which occurred each and every month throughout 2010," noted Tagelinski.

"You have to have a lot of courage and go into every season expecting problems," she said. "While some of it hits us like a ton of bricks," she said, Tagelinski and MacLeod "bridge up their personalities and carry on."

"It's pretty direct, watching your hard work die, but we try to be pragmatic. We make the decision to retreat or press on and then you go on with it," she explained.

Since COVID-19 disrupted food on our doorstep, the public has become much more conscious to where their food comes from, how it is produced and the supply chain that gets it to our grocery store shelves.

When participating in a CSA, consumers can relax, knowing that their food comes from closely and directly



Sara Tagelinski and Traci MacLeod are the operators of Ground to Gut Gardens

it's close or pesticide and potentially harmful chemicals.

Best of all, it all just simply causes lesser and steadily picked produce in much more nutritious!

By purchasing a participating share ahead of time, you can also be assured that what you're buying is a minimum, because the CSA model "helps us to know how much and we need to produce for our members," said Tagelinski.

Beginning the last week of June, MacLeod and Tagelinski pack up their crates and head to pre-arranged, weekly drop-off points, locations in Dauphin and Brandon and, locally, across to their Manitoba CSA's. Important in Onanole.

Shareholders receive seasonal produce, so the first baskets may contain vegetables such as spinach, chard,

beans, radishes, green onions and fresh herbs. You might also get to expand your culinary horizons by enjoying something unusual like lamb quarters, which is a mineral-rich green that causes just a little acidity.

Later in the summer, and continuing until Thanksgiving, participants share in a bounty of veggies, such as, but not limited to, peas, beans, kale, broccoli, celery, corn and tomatoes.

And, think about that! The middlemen (plural) are eliminated and your food dollars are kept within the community.

How does it affect you?

How many people have their own gardens? I asked.

"Well, some people are not interested in the summer, but participate in the fall CSA, which runs from October to December, and/or in our winter CSA, which runs bi-weekly from January to February," said Tagelinski.

Depending on what the

harvest has produced, baskets may include winter storage vegetables like potatoes, carrots, beets, onions, garlic, squash and parsnips – hard-to-find with most grocery stores and farmers' markets.

Some CSAs have diversified to other value-added products like homemade relishes

and salsa, jam and pickle, or even homemade soap.

MacLeod and Tagelinski welcome questions from consumers. "Three days people understand, hear that over time, that it isn't a real security crisis, it's important to have the knowledge and skills to be self-sufficient," said Tagelinski. "That's why Traci and I are supporters of the existing, new community garden in Brandon. We believe that fresh produce should be accessible to all, despite income levels."

According to MacLeod, while he and Tagelinski have spent many hours putting together container gardens on their rooftops to rid the city of weeds and new covers on their roofs to fill the gaps between the two take place in the city that they are currently not alone with their cultivation initiatives.

As mentioned, he posted at www.homesownation.com, where there we found that the same stages of garden prior:

1. Check that the plan had the best soil movement in. Final. Maybe it's not really dead.

2. After. Fine, go ahead and die.

3. Replanting. Perhaps the most are still viable!

4. Replanting. The plan is indeed beyond revival.

5. Thriving. You seek information on how to do better.

6. Replanting. You now try again next planting season.

Best Agriculture Story – 2nd

Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier

Nancy Holman

6 Tuesday, March 21, 2020

Sentinel Courier

Harvest from Hell

Crop Crisis, Producers' Problems, Combine Conundrum

Nancy Holman

The Sentinel Courier talked to farmers at Mather, Crystal City, Clearwater, Glenside and Pilot Mound. We wanted to know about last fall's poor weather and harvest conditions and what that will mean this spring. We learned lots, more than just a few articles can cover, but printed in this issue are a few things we learned.

After a pitched battle, when some potatoes were drying up and hay crops were spotty, the rain came in late August...and in September...and almost 2 feet of snow fell in October. It was a challenging, frustrating, maddening harvest season for Manitowish farmers in the fall of 2019. A season, that for many is not over. There are still some crops lying in the fields - waiting to be combined or buried or destroyed somehow before the 2020 crop can be seeded.

Any farmer who took a chance and combined in August, even if the crop was not totally dry, got a better grade and weight of grain or silage. Last fall it rained so frequently that many



Sprinklers in a field after the October dump of snow. The snow later melted and farmers were able to combine most fields of soybeans, working on frozen ground.

NANCY HOLMAN PHOTO

strawed fields, and even standing fields started to sprout and mold as day after day passed and conditions weren't fit for combining. Fields have rain from trying to get through the mud. Those rats and the compaction to the soil will take years to smooth out.

Grain drying or adding big diesel tractors to seedbeds during and at the very least seedbeds were necessary as very little of the crop came off dry. And a longer damp crop will spoil and rot. As one farmer put it, "Bloody near every bushel we

combined went through the grain dryer." Another learned that even when he combined his corn after the snow and it was better dry, the amount of snow lying around and the freezing conditions made it so the combined grain was starting to form pillars in the bin (large pieces sticking together that take the shape of columns). An "old timer" had warned him this would happen, so at least he knew to look out for it. Dealing with 2019 crop residue or moisture still in the field is proving to many farmers'

misdeeds. One Crystal City farmer noted that they "still have the out. It just didn't combine worth a damn. Light stems, poor quality. Basically crop insurance covered it. We'll try to burn it this spring." Another cattle producer/grower farmer explained, "Crops aren't sure what they're going to do [with the residue]. If the wheat crop was 4 feet high, that's a big growth and, well, can you harvest it? Burning is going to be the answer, I think, but will that be allowed? And how much time will it take for the growth to dry enough to burn?" A different farmer thought the straw would be more rotten than most would think and might break up pretty well with vertical tillage in the spring. A Mather farmer, like many others, is still hoping to combine his wheat in the spring (but there is left after the snow has been trampled on it all winter). The old crop in the fields means more work and time and expense for farmers to manage and deal with before the 2020 crop can be planted.

In October and November combine got stuck. Places on the combine got muddled up, frozen and broken. With the headers skimming the ground to pick up the fallen over and some compacted plants (particularly soybeans) quite a few rocks were also picked up, damaging combines. One farmer questioned, "Is it worth working a \$100,000 combine to get off a crop in

Thanks Folks!

We know we wanted and needed to do some stories on the harvest of 2019. We met for coffee and conversation a couple times with groups of farmers from Mather, Crystal City, Clearwater, Glenside and Pilot Mound. We held another session with a group of older, retired farmers who had lived through trying to live in conditions in previous decades.

All these farmers' experiences, advice and anecdotes gave us a pile of information. In this special agriculture issue, we have tried to impart a little of the wisdom and adventures gleaned from the farmers of our area.

The Sentinel Courier
Susan Peterson, Beth McHenry, Nancy Holman



A snow-covered tractor is not what a farmer wants to see when the harvest isn't done yet.

BLOWLEFT: Combining soybeans in the snow.
BLOWRIGHT: CROPS

the spring that is basically worthless!"

And unless farmers had access to a heated shop big enough to park their machine in, dealing with frozen headers and equipment added even more headaches.

Did you know that combines have black boxes that can be plugged in? Farmers who traditionally deal with combining corn or soybeans in the snow know this, but for others trying to combine in November (or later) on frozen ground, plugging in the combine was something new!

Once weather and the late or unfinished harvest meant fall work did not happen, Jerry Wallen, a farmer and seed producer, said, "This spring is certainly going to be more hectic than usual. Very little fall work including harvesting, tilling and fertilizing was done so all that work has been pushed back to this spring. If we can get into the fields on time or a week early, that would be great. Also, a lot of farmers have switched some or all of their nitrogen fertilizer needs to dry and soaked it this winter because they're afraid the retailers won't be able to haul in the anhydrous ammonia quick enough some crucial time." Availability of fertilizer in the spring was a big concern for most farmers.

The sun is shining today. The fields are starting to dry out although a spring snow storm could certainly change that. The farmers we talked to remain hopeful for a good year, many thinking that the 2019 harvest from hell was a good lesson for the younger farmers to have experienced. One farmer summed it up and said, "We have to be optimistic."

"A...d... I laughed another, "Keep that bottle of whiskey handy!"



Mental health important in agriculture

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) knows that agriculture is more than just a business — it's a human experience filled with passion, dedication and a sense of satisfaction in knowing that everyone who works in a field related is part of an industry that helps to feed the world.

But, there are times when things don't go as planned. The agriculture industry is well known as being a high-stress field where problems are compounded by exhaustion and a sense of isolation that can lead to producers not knowing where to turn.

For these reasons, FCC entered into a partnership with the Do More Agriculture (DMA) Foundation a few years back to create a network of mental health first aiders who can identify and support producers coping with difficult or un-



Danielle Gordon-Broome
STAR AND TIMES EDITOR

fortunate circumstances.

In their first year of the project back in 2018, FCC contributed \$25,000 to the not-for-profit foundation, focused on promoting mental health awareness and well-being in Canadian agriculture.

The funding was used to facilitate mental health first aid training for producers and agriculture industry professionals. It was aimed at raising mental health awareness and equipping participants with basic skills to provide assistance when help is not immediately available.

Local FCC Relationship Manager Clint Kl-

ner was part of that training.

"We are not, by any means, psychologists, but we have taken the training to help recognize if our clients might be facing issues so that we can recommend some help and point them in the right direction," he said.

"In our industry, there is a lot of stress — from everything. Everyone is in a different situation with some being really strong and some struggling. We can't point everyone with the same brush — there are so many different variables.

"One thing we do know is that producers are the most vulnerable — if you are not in control, it's stressful," Klener continued. "And, there are so many things producers can't control.

"Our farmers offer the best crops and the best products, perhaps in the world but you are out of control of

4 simple ways to take control



Don't let holidays and work via your smartphone



Program your smartphone to shut down all functions (except voice texts from select contacts) after 8 p.m.



Be disciplined about setting aside time for discussions and



Ask family members to put their phones in a basket, on a high shelf or near the front door during mealtime — important out of many meals

3 signs you might need a break

Adapted from Business Cyclinder

Constant irritability

Tensions and stress can lead to irritability. Irritability that has led to anger is described as your ability to stay your job. If you find it difficult to stay frequent irritability, schedule a moment to talk.

Disinterest towards farm and family

Disinterest in farm and family is a sign that you are losing touch with your life. When you lose touch with your family, you are losing touch with your life. It is a sign that you are losing touch with your life. It is a sign that you are losing touch with your life.

Frustration about quitting farming

If you are frustrated about quitting farming, it is a sign that you are losing touch with your life. It is a sign that you are losing touch with your life. It is a sign that you are losing touch with your life.

Taken from Farm Credit Canada's publication *Revised Insights*. SOURCE: INFO GRAPHIC

these either, the entire human resources component with bringing staff on, and then you get into the markets with the railway closures, trade with China and now the Coronavirus. There's so

much you can't control that impacts farmers, who are price takers."

Offering resources such as their Revised Insights resources, FCC is sharing the experience of people in the industry who have

overcome mental health challenges and overcome them with support of friends, family, community and mental health professionals.

FCC-SEC PAGE 05

Best Agriculture Story – 1st

The Swan Valley Star and Times Danielle Gordon - Broome

Award winning artist brings Jesus back to Tabor Baptist

BY SHELTON BIRNIE
STAFF REPORTER

TRANSCONA

A familiar face once again looms over the corner of Madeline Street and Harvard Avenue.

Last week, mural artist Charlie Johnston completed work on a new mural depicting Jesus Christ on the front wall of the Tabor Baptist Church (710 Madeline St.).

"This is both literally and figuratively the second coming," said Johnston, an internationally renowned and award-winning artist.

Back in 2007, Johnston was commissioned by pastor Rod Giesbrecht to paint a mural of Christ on the front, and another mural on the back, of the church. While painting the mural on Madeline Street, a neighbour took issue, called the police, and the story made international headlines.

"Murals are a narrative medium" Johnston told the *Herald* in 2019. "They speak to an issue, they tell a story, they're a public conversation. The controversy was the best way to continue the narrative."

In the years since then, the mural became a place marker for many in Transcona. But last summer, a change in leadership following Giesbrecht's retirement had Tabor Baptist Church change its name, albeit briefly, to CityLight Church. The incoming pastors wanted to make a change, so the award-winning mural of Christ was covered up, the wall re-stuccoed.

"We thought long and hard about what to do, but we decided having that newer look for the new church coming in was a good idea," pastor Andre Lederer told the *Herald* in July 2019.

However, following the abrupt departure of the incoming leadership in December 2019, Giesbrecht is back at Tabor Baptist Church as interim pastor. One thing the congregation wanted was a new mural.

"The question was, do you try replacing the past, or do you move into a new future?" Giesbrecht said.

Following lengthy discussions, the congregation decided to move on.

"Poetically, it's also the return of the piece," Johnston said. "It really continues the narrative in a way, rather than trying to repaint the original piece."

"The Bible says, 'Jesus is the light of the world,'" Giesbrecht said. "We wanted that idea, but you don't see anything when you look at light. How do you paint light without looking like a white wall?"

Giesbrecht and Johnston discussed the problem, and came up with a novel solution.

"Another truth about God is he lives in dichotomy," Giesbrecht said. "Light is the same way."

Depending on how the sunlight hits the mural, different aspects of the painting will be illuminated.

"The light is a dynamic element of the picture," Giesbrecht said. "It is one that requires the sun and movement of it. The tension that exists in our reality is a truth that gives that idea of God existing in so many tensions."

This is our effort to make that tension-truth evident in a way that you can understand." Johnston added that the original stucco job featured a different texture, which was incorporated into the original portrait.

"The whole wall was a close cut portrait of Jesus," he said. "By doing the mural at that scale I was able to create that verisimilitude. The stucco was almost analogous to the texture of the pores on his skin at the monumental scale."

As a mural artist, Johnston is no stranger to having his work disappear from the public sphere. Sometimes things just take a while to find their place.

"If you give something enough time, it becomes what it was meant to be," he said, as he put the finishing touches on the new mural.

"Great art can tell you a story on the first



Photo by Sheldon Birnie

Mural artist Charlie Johnston put the final touches on a new mural on the wall of the Tabor Baptist Church (710 Madeline St.) last week after his award-winning mural was painted over at the location last summer.



Photo by Sheldon Birnie

Johnston touched up his old mural on the back of Tabor Baptist Church while completing work on the new mural on the front of the building.

blush and the second blush, and I think we've achieved this again with this mural,"

Giesbrecht added.

Best Arts and Culture Story – 3rd
Winnipeg – The Herald – Sheldon Birnie

St. Vital-based woman's book now on sale

Jonnie's graphic novel aimed at young adults

BY SIMON FULLER
STAFF REPORTER

ST. VITAL

Brianna Jonnie knows all about the power of the written word.

Last month, the 18-year-old south St. Vital resident released her first book, *If I Go Missing*.

Published by Toronto-based Lorimer Children & Teens, the book is co-written by Nahanni Shingoose and illustrated by Neal Shannacappo.

Described as a combination of graphic fiction and non-fiction, and aimed at youth and young adults, Jonnie's novel is derived from excerpts of a letter she wrote when she was 14, which went viral, which called out authorities for not immediately investigating missing Indigenous people, she said.

"Originally, it was supposed to be a novel, and it's also about how I became involved with activism," said Jonnie, a Collège Jeanne-Sauvé alumna who is her first year at the University of Winnipeg, adding that the project evolved into more of a graphic novel after discussions with her publisher.

"I wanted to bring the issue to light with younger audience

es without being too harsh, and also let them know they're not alone. I was really trying to connect with young people, who are not always taken seriously, and let them know that they have a voice and that there are people that believe in them. Growing up where I did in St. Vital, there were two other kids that looked like me, and there are times, when Indigenous culture is talked about, it's a 'them, not us' discussion. One of the goals of the book is to make this message accessible to youth, and connecting it with something people can relate to and understand. It's a human story."

As the project came together, Jonnie said she was "amazed" when she saw Shannacappo's drawings for the first time. She said there are excerpts at the end of the book which can be attributed to both her and Shingoose, who is her aunt, which provide "more insight into the problem."

"It's really important for youth to be engaged. Young people have a lot of really good ideas and opinions, and we don't always hear about all of the empathy there is here in our city," she said, noting her gratitude to her publisher and McNally Robinson, which was the venue of her January book launch.

"My publisher was very open to everything I was saying, and wanted to keep me 100 per cent involved in the process, which was very respectful and supportive."

No stranger to being recognized for her contributions in the community, Jonnie was awarded a 2019 TD Scholarship for Community Leadership.

The hardcover book, which is also set to be published in the U.S. this year, is available online at amazon.ca, as well as at Chapters and McNally Robinson.



Photo by Simon Fuller

Brianna Jonnie enjoyed working with Toronto-based publisher Lorimer Children & Teens.

Best Arts and Culture Story – 2nd
Winnipeg - The Lance – Simon Fuller

Local artist depicts his annual Gimli Dog Party on the seawall

By Patricia Barrett

A Gimli artist who's been bringing dog lovers and dogs together for 12 years through his well-known Gimli Dog Party just completed a festive painting on the seawall depicting what goes on at the annual party.

Alec Baldwin, who has acted and is a painter, musician and athlete, approached the Gimli Art Club executive - which oversees the seawall - for permission to add his work to the gallery of murals that decorate the wall and pay tribute to the area's industries, events and buildings.

Baldwin, who is a member of the club and has touched up other artists' murals in the past, had to first paint the scene on canvas for the club executive to demonstrate his artistic merit.

"I love to paint the dogs anywhere," said Baldwin, who will be applying a protective top coating to his work. "The dogs came from different places to my Gimli Dog Party."

Showcasing the variety of breeds that people bring to his dog party, Baldwin created a colourful and playful nine-foot-long work. It shows the party's dog games, obstacle courses, the cool-down pool and some mischief-making (one of his own dogs is chasing a rabbit). There's also a fun element of fantasy, with dogs flying in on carpets.

It took about a month and a half to complete and came with a number of challenges.

"Without using knee pads, it hurt," said Baldwin, who also brought a mat to sit on as he worked. "It was hard to see on the eyes with the sun shining on a bright day."

Baldwin's depiction of dogs is so striking that the Putra-sponsored National Dog Show in Philadelphia commissioned him to paint a group portrait of dogs for its 2017 show. The painting was depicted on the program's cover and on promotional material.

Baldwin first washed the bumpy concrete seawall then primed it with white primer before sketching out the background, similar to the large field behind his house where he hosts the dog party.

"I finally started painting the sky and the landscape and other things to celebrate the dog party and finally the dogs," said Baldwin.

He even included a few cats - the family cat and his sister's cat - that



Detail showing a dog and a cat which invited itself to one of the dog parties.

tried to crash the party one year, but were chased off by the dogs.

Getting up close to the painting shows the painstaking detail Baldwin put into the scene, right down to the expression in the dogs' eyes.

He said he would paint for five and a half to six hours on good weather days and the only thing that stopped him were two curly anglers who stood right in front of his in-progress work and refused to move a foot over to fish (despite lack of room on the harbour) when politely asked.

And then the insects came. "Fish flies were invading and we cleaned them up with soap and a cloth," said Baldwin.

Baldwin has been asked again by the art club (whose past and present members created the murals) to touch-up murals that have faded from the elements. He'll be completing that project this summer.

He has also been asked by one of his mum's friends, who lives in the U.S. and rescues dogs, to paint a picture depicting her six greyhounds.

"I started painting on Denise's project where six greyhounds are having a great party in her garden," said Baldwin.

His other projects include putting digital artwork he created in Adobe Photoshop (about 170 comic book scenes) together with music and lyrics he wrote on the piano.

Baldwin's mum, Linda Benson, said art is a "real passion" for her son. "He's really into doing this."



Alec Baldwin, with his dogs Cooper and Charlie, completed his dog party mural on the Gimli seawall last week.



Detail from the mural.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT



Alec working on his mural last month.

EXPRESS PHOTO BY TAVIS BENSON

Best Arts and Culture
Story – 1st

Gimli Express
Weekly News

Patricia Barrett

Best Christmas Edition – 3rd Virden Empire - Advance

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is the opportunity to say "Thank You"
and to wish you the very best
For the New Year

SUNRISE
ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES

Claus couple circulate through Virden streets

Santa and Mrs. Claus salute school children at Mary Montessori School Wednesday afternoon.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA

By Rose Dunsen

There's nothing like it - Santa and The Mrs.

...making the rounds about town last Wednesday afternoon. Goulter School was first on the list, then Mary Montessori School, Bolton Place, Villard Parkside II, and Puncheon II on Bridge St.

Kids were ecstatic at Goulter, some were overheard saying, "I can't believe it..." A number raced around the playground keeping up with the Santa cruiser as it circled the school twice.

Now, no one knows how to 'distancel' better than the Claus Family. They do it all the time, hiding in the Polar

region between Canada and Russia, we are told. As the story goes, deliveries begin on or around Christmas Eve, when Mr. Claus would rather duck down a chimney than crowd through a conventional doorway.

However, this year

Santa decided to research Virden in broad daylight. He gave Donna, Lizzy, and the Rudolf team time to rest up for their long night a week away. Virden OH Caps offered to chauffeur Santa and Mrs. C.

Town elders were included in this tour as

the Caps truck glided past the Sherwood, Evergreen, Virden Health Centre, Westman and Rita Place.

The Claus family brought smiles and waves from doorsteps and windows. "That was so nice," a town resident was heard to exclaim.

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The Swan Valley Star and Times



Steinbach The Carillon

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Danny's Whole Hog turning up the heat on 'buy local' movement

By Patricia Barrett

A popular Stonewall-area catering and food service company that's famous for its pulled meat products is putting some extra muscle into the "buy locally" movement in the tri-state area as COVID-19 continues to flatten markets and restrict large gatherings.

Danny Kleinsasser of Danny's Whole Hog BBQ & Smokehouse said it's not only local businesses that are buying from other businesses during these uncertain economic times, but also consumers who are shopping locally after realizing the virus could result in long-term economic consequences for their communities.

"People support the local products. They're supporting me. And not only me as a local family, they're supporting the families that work for me," said Kleinsasser as he took the day off on a tour last week of his Highway 67 facility. "People from the local community are coming here and the city people have been wonderful."

That support is going a long way in helping his company stay afloat and keeping 10 of his staff (he had two layoffs) on the job. To help ease consumers' financial pressures, Kleinsasser said he's created new products, such as family-sized Meals for 4, offered free delivery and lowered some prices as "people have less money to spend."

His never-give-up philosophy and openness to change has helped the business survive in the face of COVID's challenges.

"I'm a positive thinker. I will not put my head in the sand," said Kleinsasser. "I've got employees with families and they've got mortgages to pay. I've got mortgages to pay. I've never been a quitter."

Kleinsasser started Danny's Whole Hog 20 years ago and is guided by the values he grew up with, including integrity, treating others with respect, charitable giving to food banks and St. Michael's Mission, and showing that a "little love can go a long, long way."

His industrial-sized stainless steel kitchen and packaging facility, situated on his family farm, has meat smokers that can do "1,000 pounds of pork a night," sausage-making machines, a huge walk-in freezer and cooler and a public store that he said saw an increase in walk-in traffic during the COVID shutdown as people were "afraid" of crowds in large stores.

Kleinsasser is a stalwart believer in supporting local and Manitoba businesses. He buys dinner rolls and buns from Upper Crust Bakery in Selkirk, pork from Manitoba producers, beef from Canadian producers, sausage buns for his wife's homemade pie and crumbles from a Warren farmer



FOODSERVICE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT
From left: Isalah Kleinsasser, Danny Kleinsasser and Sharon Skinner.

and ice cream from Prairie West Ice Cream in Stonewall.

"We're all helping each other. It's great what Manitoba is doing to support local small businesses. I try to buy from a lot of small businesses to support them," said Kleinsasser. "If they don't have it, then I reach out a little bit further."

Kleinsasser's catering service took a massive hit when COVID began to rapidly spread in the province and public health orders meant gatherings such as weddings and business functions had to be cancelled. He would cater 15 to 25 events each weekend, including about 12 weddings. He also had food kiosks at Blue Bonnet and Coldwater games and supplied the jets with pulled meat products.

"We do a lot of catering for businesses and people all over Manitoba. All the families that work for me depend on that," said Kleinsasser. "Within two weeks, we had a couple hundred thousand dollars' worth of business cancelled."

He said he and his wife and kids and his staff went back to the drawing board to figure out how to compensate for that loss. They came up with new products and services.

"It was remarkable how quickly we could turn it around and start another cash flow," said Kleinsasser. "Since COVID, we've doubled our product offerings."

Kleinsasser created several new products during the pandemic to add to his popular product line, which includes pulled pork, beef and turkey products, gourmet barbecue sauces (the majority gluten free) and smokehouse favourites such as garlic sausage, pepperoni sticks and slab or sliced bacon.

People are destined to eat well with a new summer sausage, homestyle beef stew with life-sized vegetables that's ready to cook in a bag, meat pies

(pork, beef, turkey-vegetable), a do-it-yourself marinated whole hog, marinated roasts "for a great experience," marinated meats for smaller gatherings, saskatoon pie made with (he quipped) "local hand-rolled dough" and Meals for 4.

He's also offering free delivery within a 30-mile radius (orders of \$50 or more). That includes Stonewall, Selkirk and Teulon as well as Winnipeg.

"We established Meals for 4 and we began delivering literally right to people's driveways in Winnipeg. I started that because I don't want to lay off my employees. I went from no cash flow because of catering cancellations to delivering a lot of meals to the city," said Kleinsasser.

Then Lander called, Erikdale called, Ashern called: could he possibly deliver up Highway 67? Yes, he could.

"On Mother's Day, we loaded the van with 200 Meals for 4. That's 800 people. We started in Ashern and delivered all the way down the highway, Oak Point and St. Laurent," said Kleinsasser. "I went along just to say thank you to the people. I was so overwhelmed. I said, 'Thank you for the local support' and every person that came to get a meal, I gave them a free saskatoon pie."

The new products and services are helping the company weather COVID's impact, which may have long-term consequences should a second wave hit, as health experts are predicting. They're also catching the eye of new customers that may be looking at changing the way they shop as the pandemic continues.

"We want to provide good service to the customer and make them happy because they're dealing with their own set of issues during COVID," said Mark Skinner, who oversees the company's delivery service. "We want to provide something consistent and reliable."

Kleinsasser earned a niche in retail stores, including Red River Co-op stores, Safeway/Sobeys and Sobeys-On-Foods, plus mom and pop shops, after becoming certified for retail. But he took it to a new level when he teamed up with De Luca's Specialty Food Store in Winnipeg. De Luca acts as a distributor, getting locally made products into outlets across the province.

"In one year, De Luca grew my [presence in] 25 stores to 90 stores in Manitoba," he said. "That's amazing retail growth."

Kleinsasser launched an online store from his website. Customers can now place orders for frozen and ready-to-eat meats and meals, desserts and other items, and receive free delivery.

He said he continues to work closely with area businesses such as Harvester Outdoor and World of Waste, both in Selkirk, holding combined sales-food truck lunch events to support each other. They talk on a regular basis and encourage each other to stay strong.

Kleinsasser said he's always considering adding new product lines to his business.

"I'm working with a local pheasant grower to smoke pheasants. I may have them available in the store. It would be an addition to my smoked meats," said Kleinsasser, who showed the Cypress bird hanging in one of the meat smokers.

The most important thing businesses and consumers can do as we move through the pandemic, he said, is to continue to buy locally.

"I tell you the interlakes should be proud. Winnipeg and Manitoba should be proud of how they've supported local businesses like myself. The communities have supported us through all this. There's many a day," Kleinsasser paused, then willing up in his eyes, "I think how the community came together to help us with the new ideas we had."

"I believe 100 per cent Manitobans have got to shop local. I've got to see where I can buy from local stores. This is about business owners' survival. When I support them, they support me back."

Visit Danny's Whole Hog at dannys-wholehog.com. To access the online store directly, visit dannyswholehog.ca/shop. Danny's is also on Facebook and Instagram. Customers can call the store at 204-544-5675 or text 431-997-8826 (2277). The store is located on Highway 67 (south side), three miles east of Highway 7. Look for the Danny's Whole Hog sign on the verge.

Best Column or
Feature Article on a
Business Topic – 3rd

Stonewall Teulon
Tribune

Patricia Barrett

Flying over forty years in the community

Riverside Aircraft Maintenance's Gary Polinuk on his business

By Katelyn Boulanger

Riverside Aircraft Maintenance is a unique business in Selkirk providing specialized aircraft repairs. So far, the business has spanned two generations of the Polinuk family with 46 years in the community.

"I grew up in this business with my parents. My dad purchased the whole business in 1972 and I was in high school at the time. As I was in school I was working at the business and it had been an airport at one time, but when we purchased the business, it was being used as a place to store trucks and there was just one hangar here," said Gary Polinuk the owner of Riverside Aircraft Maintenance.

The Polinuks moved in and started flying out of the business' current location on Main St. in 1974 under the original name for the business which was Selkirk Air. At that time they provided charter services for people wanting to fly to northern Manitoba particularly for those wanting to travel to northern fishing camps and lodges.

The maintenance portion of the business started roughly at the same time, as the planes that they were flying to forty involved required repairs.

"When people hear of you being in the camp business, and also hear that you have a maintenance facility, the word of mouth gets out there and then they want to know if you can do any maintenance for them," said Polinuk.

Throughout that time Polinuk went to school to get more experience with aircraft. He received his private pilot's license at 17, however, he had the hours necessary for the license much earlier but had to wait for his 17th birthday so he was able to finally officially receive his license. Next, he received his commercial pilot's license and he was finally qualified as an aircraft maintenance engineer so that he could repair aircraft.

The business has made some changes over the years with their charter service and maintenance services dividing officially into two separate businesses in 2000 and expansions to suit their needs better.

"The first silver building by the highway, that was our first hangar, and then as time went on we built another hangar, the bigger one, we built it in 1985. It was kind of like moving from a closet into a bigger bedroom," said Polinuk.

The bigger hangar now serves as the main maintenance hangar for the business.

In 2010 Selkirk Air closed down alongside Polinuk's father's retirement.

"The maintenance portion of the business was still strong. We were still getting a lot of maintenance business from everywhere so my shop was still really busy," said Polinuk.

Right now the business is working on a damaged Cessna 387 aircraft that was damaged when a windshear blew it backwards bending the tail.

"We're [doing] specialized work in my shop because I'm authorized in my shop to do sheet metal structures which not all shops are. There might be a few shops in Winnipeg and one in St. Andrews that are, but not all shops are, some shops are just qualified to do inspections but my shop is authorized to do inspections, we can do float repairs, we can do structural repairs," said Polinuk.

Another unique aspect of Polinuk's



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Gary Polinuk and his mother Dorcas in Riverside Aircraft Maintenance, their business which has been in the community for over 40 years.

business is that because he is qualified to fly a very diverse array of planes he is able to test fly the planes that he works on prior to his customer's coming to pick them up so they can be very sure of the repairs that he is doing.

"If we did some substantial work on it say we pulled his engine and put a different engine in or overhauled it, I always like to test fly it just to make

sure that everything is working," said Polinuk.

Polinuk takes pride in his business and the product that he has put out over the years in the community.

"It's time consuming but it's rewarding when you look at your job after and you see the kind of job you did and the finished product. You have to do it right or don't do it at all that's what my dad said to me," said Polinuk.

Best Column or Feature
Article on a Business
Topic – 2nd

The Selkirk Record

Katelyn Boulanger

Black's Cycle and Sporting Goods

Family business continues to thrive after 75 years

By Shawn Bailey
Special Staff

Making a success of a small family business can be a difficult task. Having that business remain a success for 75 years is almost unheard of.

Such is the case with Black's Cycle and Sporting Goods, which has been going strong for three-quarters of a century after humble beginnings in 1945 when Ross Black started a bicycle repair shop with \$800 borrowed from a family member.

After growing up in southern Manitoba, Black joined the air force in 1941 as a mechanic. After training in Winnipeg, Black was stationed in Brandon and St. Thomas, Ont., before finally landing at the No. 10 RCAF in Dauphin as a member of the ground crew. In 1945 he returned to train as a pilot, receiving his wings in 1947.

With the war over and, Black was discharged and returned to Dauphin.

After working briefly as a mechanic for Allard's Garage, Black opened his first store on July 16, 1945, in a 10-foot by 14-foot space at the corner of Main Street and First Avenue South West, renamed Alf Blackwell for \$17 a month.

In 1948, Black moved the business to its present location, renting the southern half of the front of the building from the Oddfellows Lodge. As he expanded the lines of sporting goods he carried, Black acquired space in the building as it became available and in 1960 was able to purchase the building from the Oddfellows.

Continuing to grow the business, Black added a workshop in the 1970s and a full basement under the back portion of the building in the 1980s.

"It had harder times, I would say, in the late '40s and '50s, and even the early '60s. It was hard to



Canoe owner Bernice and Lorne Black with a Giant Elio, the latest addition to their many offerings for customers from near and far.

make a living out of this place, really," said Black's son, Lorne, who has worked at the business since 1974, becoming a part owner in 1982 and full owner, along with his wife Bernice, in 1988.

"I wasn't until the 70s when he started to make a little money."

The business has changed over the years, Lorne said, as his father carried a wide range of sporting goods and over the last 30 years he and his wife have narrowed the focus.

"He did everything, all kinds of things, every kind of sporting good there was," Lorne said, adding

the arrival of other sporting goods stores on the scene forced him to change the business model.

"Golf, archery, different types of hunting, shooting and fishing. The bikes started to all and I enjoy them. And the firearms I really never tre-

of. That's my thing. I really enjoy that."

With the focus narrowed, Lorne and Bernice have concentrated on quality, making sure their customers get top-of-the-line merchandise.

As an example, the store has started to sell skis, which have really



Black's Cycle and Sporting Goods, pictured here in 1970, moved to its present location in 1968.

the focus of the store had been selling well, he added.

"Actually better than I thought they would be, because they're not cheap. And I'm not selling cheap ones. I'm not selling the kind you can buy online," Lorne said.

"Instead of expanding in different things that we carry, I think what

we've grown and expanded in is the amount we have of specific items. We've specialized more," Bernice added.

For example, Black's carries ammunition - calibre and brands - which are hard to find anywhere else.

"We have people come

from Winnipeg to buy

ammo here. There's a

people who come from

out west to buy ammo

here," Lorne said.

Online and out-of-town shopping has also really changed the way business is done in a small community, he added. It wasn't until the COVID-19 pandemic forced people to stay at home that he saw the full potential of the bike business.

"We had a bike season that I would never even have dreamed of," Lorne said, adding the two of them sold more than 130 bicycles in a six-week period and more than 100 over the season so far.

"My dad he wouldn't believe it, if he was here to

see it."

Lorne said there was a day in the 1970s when 17 or 18 bikes sold, but there has been no other season like this.

"That only happened one day. This year we have had eight and nine consistently a day," he said.

"It is just too bad that it took COVID for it to happen."

COVID has also changed the way Lorne and Bernice will celebrate the business' 75th Anniversary.

Instead of a one-day celebration on July 16, the reality will last through out the month with special draws, Lorne said.

"Our suppliers have been very generous donating prizes," he said.

They will also have displays of old bicycles, pictures and records from throughout the business' history.

"We'll have some history for people to look at. Bikes, I have one bike that's way older than the business actually. It's one of the earliest OCMs I've ever seen," Lorne said.

"It's an going to put some of them up on the stands."

Best Column or
Feature Article on a
Business Topic – 1st

The Dauphin Herald

Shawn Bailey



Founder Ross Black in 1950, left, and in 1961, right, made steps to expand the business whenever the opportunity presented itself, offer every type of sporting equipment imaginable throughout the years.



Shawn Bailey photo

March 26, 2020

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Why aren't you watching my line?

Hello again my nature loving friends. It's unfortunate that our enjoyment of going fishing has been interrupted because of the Covid-19 virus outbreak. For myself, I have stopped visiting anglers on the ice and am contacting folks by the phone or internet while staying home. The provincial fishing closure in our southern district will soon be upon us starting on April 1, leaving us to sit at home looking longingly at our rods, summer tackle and checking out our boats. Come May 11, hopefully we'll be able to again practice our favorite pastime.

I met a young lad, Trayton Smith, from Selkirk on the Lake Winnipeg ice some time ago and he shared a story where he wound up feeling guilty for not doing what his friend wanted. Trayton and a bunch of his friends, including his best friend "Ossy" were shore fishing on the Red River. With their baited hooks in the water the guys stood around laughing and joking when Ossy had to walk away along the river bank to answer the call of nature and told Trayton to watch his line. Ossy disappeared into the willows and Trayton turned his back on Ossy's line continuing to joke with the other guys.

Soon Ossy came back from the bushes and was startled to see his rod freeing itself from a willow branch only to splash into the water and begin skipping away on top of the water. "Trayton!" Ossy shouted, "Why aren't you watching my line?"

"Oh," was all Trayton said. Ossy plodded into the soft mud along the shore watching and following his rod as it plowed through the water being towed by a fish. "Darn it Trayton that's my best rod!" Ossy exclaimed as he pulled off his shoes, socks and pants. The gang of young guys stood bug eyed as they watched Ossy wade into the muddy river water after his rod. Ossy had strong legs and in no time was within reach of his prize but

just as he reached for it the fish darted away and Ossy fell, belly flopping into the water.

He stood up dripping water, his arms spread wide from the cold. Undeterred, with an enraged growl he leapt forward and grasped the handle of his rod. He stood there up to his waist in water and reeled in whatever was on his hook. His friends cheered him on! Soon, not far from Ossy, the water heaved up and the white belly of a gigantic catfish rolled up on the surface, its head twisting downward as it fought for freedom and the river bottom. Ossy screamed at it, "You're mine!" He kept on reeling in, determined, slowly wading toward his fish as its tail thrashed the water.

In time the fish became quiet and Ossy turned and made his way to shore with the fish in tow. As his feet found mushy ground with his friends rushing over to him, he turned and bent down to gill grab the cat. He dropped to one knee tossing his rod aside and tried to work his hook out of the fish's mouth. His hands and the fish became a grey muddy soup as he reclaimed his hook.

Then Ossy lost his footing. He fell over into the mud losing his grip on the fish which disappeared like a shot into the water! Ossy's buddies came to his aid helping him up and as he caught his breath, Trayton uttered, "Good catch Oss!"

Our fellow fisher and good friend Guy Proulx have graciously agreed to share an experience he had with an old buddy, Larry Gagnon, from Grande Point when they were fishing in Guy's ice shack some time ago. Guy and Larry were about three kilometers off shore on the Lake Winnipeg south basin and both were jigging their short rods in ice holes when Larry got a bite. He became so excited he started shaking and began reeling in much too fast. Guy cautioned him, "Your drag isn't working, you're



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED
Larry Gagnon from Grande Point with his catch of a big walleye out of Lake Winnipeg (with Guy Proulx's help).

turning your crank, but your line isn't winding up." Guy could tell he wasn't getting through to his friend, so he went over to him and bending over Larry's hole grabbed the line and began hauling it up by hand.

"When the fish gets its head up to the hole, grab it!" Guy shouted. Larry just stood there. Soon there was a splashing in the ice hole water as the head of a good-sized walleye appeared. Guy looked up at Larry and realized he wasn't going to be much help so he bent down and grabbed it by the gills, pulled it out of the hole and handed it to his friend. "I guess I gotta throw him back," Larry said looking at its size. "Well he's too big to eat," Guy countered. With great sadness after Guy took his picture, Larry sent his fish down the ice hole back into the water.

Until next time my friends, bye for now.

Best Columnist – 3rd

The Selkirk Record

Arne Weidl

View the Selkirk Record online at selkirkrecord.ca

Best Columnist – 2nd

Steinbach
The Carillon

Michael Zwaagstra

Anti-mask rally was a disgrace

Last Saturday, a national anti-mask organization called Hugs Over Masks held a rally in Steinbach.

Over the last few months, Hugs Over Masks has held events across the country, including in major cities such as Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. Basically, this group opposes all public health measures that governments have put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, because their latest event took place in Steinbach, a lot of people assumed that this was a Steinbach event.

However, this was not the case. Not only did the organizers not request permission from the city to hold this event, none of the key organizers/speakers live in Steinbach. This group even organized a convoy of vehicles to drive out together from Winnipeg to participate in this rally. While some Steinbach residents attended the rally, this was definitely not a Steinbach-led event.

In addition, Mayor Earl Funk released a statement the day before the rally making it clear that this event was not endorsed by the city and that the city encourages everyone to follow public health orders.

Considering the high number of COVID-19 cases in Steinbach, this anti-mask rally was already a bad idea. But what happened at the event made it much worse than advertised.

First, the event was billed as a “car rally” where everyone would stay in their vehicles and respect public health orders. This turned out to be a blatant lie. At the event, people got out of their vehicles and gathered together in large numbers, directly defying public health orders.

Things got worse when the speeches started. One of the keynote speakers was Gerry Bohemler, a retired chiropractor from Winnipeg. Suffice it to say, Bohemler is not a medical doctor and he has no expertise in epidemiology.

I watched an online video of his entire speech. During his remarks, Bohemler claimed that governments were “getting their marching orders from the UN, the WHO, and a whole handful of sociopathic billionaires like Bill Gates.” He also argued that the public health department “knows nothing about health.”

Even worse, Bohemler stated that vaccines are the direct cause of autism. This baseless claim has been refuted many

times by scientists, but it keeps getting circulated. To see people cheering Bohemler on while he peddled his harmful pseudo-science was enough to make your stomach turn.

La Broquerie Reeve Lewis Weiss’s appearance at this event was equally embarrassing. In a bizarre comment reported by CTV, Weiss said that the cure for COVID-19 is being withheld from patients. “It seems very strange that our loved ones are being allowed to die when there are medicines available that very quickly and easily can cure this,” stated Weiss.

That statement was an insult to our health-care professionals who are working hard to keep as many people alive as possible. It’s unconscionable to imply that they are letting people die on purpose.

Things got even worse when enforcement officers began handing out tickets. CBC video footage clearly

shows protesters yelling obscenities at officials for merely doing their job. Anyone who chooses to deliberately defy public health orders needs to suck it up and accept the ticket without making a scene.

I might be more sympathetic to the people involved in this rally if organizers had adhered to public health guidelines, kept their comments respectful, and refrained from promoting crazy conspiracy theories. Sadly, this rally did not take place in a safe manner and it brought out the worst in people.

The Hugs Over Masks rally was a disgrace and an embarrassment to our city. We need to distance ourselves as far as possible from it.

Michael Zwaagstra is a public high school teacher and a Steinbach city councillor. He can be reached at mzwaagstra@shaw.ca.



Think Again

Michael Zwaagstra

Best Columnist – 1st

Flin Flon The Reminder

Eric Westhaver

A story of three teachers

I want to introduce you to three people who had a huge impact on who I am and how I got to where I am in life. I firmly believe that without these three people, I wouldn't be who I am today.

These three people were all teachers I had growing up, each of them in École McIsaac School. I went to school there for about a decade - this was back in the days where preschool classes were held in the school's annex, I didn't get held back or anything. While other teachers were amazing for me and for other students, these three are who I want to talk about today.

They're all retiring from the Flin Flon School Division - to my knowledge, they're the only teachers retiring from the division this year. They deserve our attention and our adulation.

I'll go in reverse order of when I met them - the reason why should be obvious by the time we're done.

Sandy Kowal was my Grade 6 teacher and presided over a transformative year in my life.

Let's add in some context before I tell you about Mrs. Kowal. I was a little rottier. I was big for my age and fought a lot when I was young. I was a bully, usually without even knowing it. When I played physical, kids got hurt.

Then, one summer, I went from being a bully to being a target for bullies. Some teachers knew and couldn't stop it - others didn't know at all, others did know and either didn't seem to care or do anything about it.

When I was in Grade 6, that cycle stopped.

Something happened one day during recess. I don't remember exactly what it was, but it was a breaking point.

In our words

ERIC WESTHAVER

I sobbed. I couldn't handle it anymore.

When Mrs. Kowal heard about what happened, she put her foot down. Instead of us having our normal post-recess class around 11 a.m., Mrs. Kowal called an audible and spoke to the class about bullying. She didn't do it in a way that felt preachy or angry or anything like that - she did it with class and with dignity, with kindness.

She didn't want to admonish anybody for doing anything bad outside that classroom. She wanted to mould better people in that room.

I still remember her saying, "If you're blessed to walk tall, walk tall; if you're blessed to walk short, walk short."

Mrs. Kowal taught me what it was like to feel understood.

She showed me what it looked like to fight for what's right, in the right way. I never forgot that. I learned more in that one morning than I did in some entire grades. I am forever thankful for her.

Monique Rainville was an art teacher and educational assistant. She was in charge of keeping me in check from a young age. She wasn't my first EA and she wouldn't be my last, but she was the longest-serving. She put in six years on the Eric beat. They couldn't have been easy.

Mrs. Rainville inspired me to show courage in self-expression. Sometimes that showed in some ways that were fairly trivial - using the drawing skills and techniques

she taught us to draw cars or hockey jerseys, for instance - but I learned how to get things from inside my head onto a page from her.

Mrs. Rainville is the person who gave me a copy of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in Grade 8. I think it was even the copy from the McIsaac library and I still have it (please don't tell Mrs. Reed, she'll have my hide.) That book broke my brain open and stitched it back together again. Mrs. Rainville was the person who helped me study for math tests that had me overwhelmed, who pushed me into an appreciation of the arts and opened my eyes to seeing the world how others may see it.

She also imbued in me a deep sense of justice. If I had got into an argument or a fight with someone, she would talk with me about what had happened - and if it was my fault, she never hesitated to let me know. She had me write a lot of apology letters when I was little. Tough love was the name of the game, but it was purposeful and never excessive.

Mrs. Rainville taught me how to express myself. That manifests itself in writing, in art, in speech, in everything I do. I am forever thankful for her.

Susanne Westhaver was my Grade 7 and 8 Home Ec teacher and, often, a substitute teacher in every class I can think of.

She's also, as you could probably guess, my mother.

She taught me how to

cook - a skill I still use - and sew - a skill that has lapsed. She also taught me much more than that, mostly outside the classroom.

She has dealt with my bull for 26 years now. While it's my job to use words to describe what I've seen or how I feel, I don't have words for the impact she has had on my life. "Appreciative" doesn't cut it. She's everything.

She was the greatest teacher I've ever had. She taught me how to walk, how to talk, how to do all the basic things a person can do. She's supported me in everything I've done and showed me the importance of having a reason for everything you do.

I've written a few times about my father's dementia and that I moved back home to Flin Flon to help take care of him. When I came back, age 21 with a fresh, shaved face and a new bachelor's degree, she got me through so many nights of angst and anger, of confusion. She looked after my ill father for years while I studied out of province and when I came home, she helped keep me going while I tried to keep Pop safe.

Mrs. Westhaver is the most kind, loving, devoted mother I could ever ask for. I'm glad she's not retiring from being my mom, too - god knows how I'd deal with the world otherwise. I am forever thankful for her.

Congratulations to these three women. Sandy, Monique, Susanne - okay, Mom. I hope you know that you had effects on your students that have outlasted your time in the classroom. I hope you know that you've made the world a better place and I hope you know that at least one of your students is a better man for having known you.

Honouring a legacy of community journalism

I was 17 years old when I got my first newspaper byline for a sports story on how the Zodiacs soccer teams had done in their first games of the season.

It was with our competitor, the Winkler Times, thanks to the kindness of then-editor Don Radford, who saw some potential in the plucky kid sitting across his desk with her "portfolio" of school news stories in hand, asking for a job at a real newspaper.

Last week, news broke that the Winkler Times, along with its sister papers in Morden, Altona, and Carman, among several others in Manitoba, will print their final editions May 7.

It's a sad end for a group of publications that were, at one time in the

distant past, locally-owned and had served their communities for decades.

A lot changed for these papers over the past 20 years or so, as national media conglomerates started buying up small weeklies by the dozens and putting an ever-increasing focus on advertising revenue and cost-cutting measures over local coverage.

It was one the reasons I left the Times a decade ago after years spent cutting my teeth as a reporter in its newsroom.

It's really the reason the Voice exists today. Everyone here began or spent a good chunk of our careers with the Times before venturing out to take a risk with something new, so the news of its demise has brought up a lot of mixed emotions.

When we started the Voice back in 2010 it was because we all felt local ownership was one of the key ingredients to a strong community newspaper. One that is run from the very top down by people who live here, shop here, raise our families here, and actually care about what's going on here.

We still feel that. And we work very

hard to continue to represent these communities we call home.

I wrestled for a long while with whether or not to write this column acknowledging the closure of our longtime competitor.

But ultimately, I feel compelled to pay tribute to all the Times journalists over the decades who took up the job of keeping the communities they loved informed, in spite of disinterested corporate owners who cut down their numbers year after year.

I honour the memories of countless press days spent frantically getting late-breaking stories written, laid out, and proofread.

I honour the memories of long lunches with my co-workers after sending an edition to the press, laughing about the mishaps of the past week and commiserating about the beast that was always waiting in the wings to be fed the next.

I honour the memories of veteran journalists being willing to take an eager cub reporter under their wings and show them the ropes.

And so, as the Times puts its final papers to bed this week, I bid them adieu and thank you.



By
**Ashleigh
Viveiros**

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.

Best Editorial – 3rd
Winkler Morden Voice – Ashleigh Viveiros

Best Editorial – 2nd

The Dauphin Herald

Shawn Bailey

Information please

Area residents concerned that the closure of Dauphin Correctional Centre will have devastating and long-lasting effects on corrections staff, their families and the community as a whole, gathered last night at a townhall meeting looking at least for answers to their questions and, at best, for the provincial government to change its mind and shelve the whole idea.

They got neither.

While the Justice Department did have representatives at the meeting in the form of deputy minister David Wright and assistant deputy minister Scott Kolody, they brought with them nothing more than the crumbs of information the province has already sprinkled over the issue.

However, the absence of Justice Minister Cliff Cullen and Premier Brian Pallister, the real decision makers, told those in attendance all they needed to know, that this is a localized storm the provincial government is hoping to ride out and they have no intention of revisiting their decision.

Local MLA Brad Michaleski also took the air out of the room when he told those gathered he is “okay with the decision” to close the jail. It was not the message the crowd wanted from their elected representative, the one person they expect to fight tooth and nail on their behalf under the dome on Broadway.

Aside from the emotional trauma suffered by Corrections staff and their families, the closure of Dauphin Correctional Centre is a huge blow to the local economy, one that is yet to be fully understood and appreciated.

Dauphin residents are mad as hell and they have every right to be. They want answers and they have every right to them.

This process has unfolded with no input from the community and that is just plain wrong.

Mr. Michaleski sees great promise in the province’s economic development plans for the area. Perhaps it is time to share the exact details of that plan and its expected results with Parkland residents.

Engage us in the process.

We are tired of living in an information vacuum and being told what is best for us.

SB

Best Editorial – 1st

Steinbach The Carillon

Greg Vandermeulen

I have COVID-19

Over the past week I got wallpapered, lichened, and court-stomped by a little thing called COVID-19. I, like many who have to deal with it, am among the high percentage of lucky ones. I'm in my early 40s, with no underlying conditions, and in reasonable physical health. I'm on the road to recovery. The past week has been a rollercoaster of isolation, a quick immersion into the health care system, some frustrating contact tracing attempts, and fever dreams. My goodness, don't forget the fever dreams. Far from my past and present, in a dizzying array of emotions, cycling through my sleeping brain. Some are accuracy, and some just take me places I haven't been in years. Like my elementary school, the hotel I once snuck under, or even the Coptic church pew I sat in as a child.

But it didn't start with a fever. It didn't really start the way they said it would at all. In retrospect, the timeline was unusual. But who was I to wonder why? I did more badger than accept. It was late last Wednesday when I first sensed a phantasm of trouble.

Ahead in the office, handling the paper, I began to feel extreme fatigue. Limbs gained weight and thoughts came slower. How did this happen to me? I was sitting at work feeling sick, in this age, after all the warnings?

Third edition approved, I'm deep in my first set of shifts. Minutes later I'm home, heading straight for the bedroom, and passing out fully clothed into my bed. Welcome home, you're just on time.

It was clear it was likely COVID. My wife quickly decided to stay home from work and the house was divided up into zones. I said goodbye to any form of physical contact.

Initially that wasn't the hard part. Waking up disoriented is sweet, hovering between fever and chills, and spending my waking moments trying to convince the water I know I needed was my only focus. A steady stream of typhoid kept the constant headache at bay, and sleep was my refuge. I would only to look a test.

Yes, the dreaded COVID test. I'll spare you the details of waiting on hold with Health Link, only to be given a phone number with another agency to actually secure the appointment. I'll say only that through the phone I sensed only compassion and care, not the frustration or even boredom they must be feeling.

The Thursday afternoon appointment at Steinbach came quickly, so things do when sleeping and hydrating is one's only goal. Yes, the facility was locked up, but I trudged through the parking lot I could see the gleam of emotions on the faces of those waiting. Mothers waited with children, couples waited in silence, the odd single person made the trip alone.

Inside, music and general helpful professionals directed me to a room, where I sat, listening to the sounds of testing happening.

It's not exactly a private place, though the booths themselves somewhat provide a screen from prying eyes. It's the sound that spreads: nurses tell patients what the test will feel like and how to sign up online to review their results.

I wasn't expecting kindness and compassion. I know how stressed they must be, how much emotional capital is already being used to console children, answer anxious parents' questions, and put aside their own worries about their health and that of their family.

My nurse was professional, informative, and caring—she checked every box you'd expect a health care professional to check off. Even the words weren't that bad.

Back home, the waiting began. It was still two days of fighting demons in fever dreams and trying to stay hydrated and fed.

Saturday morning the test results came back positive.

As the contact moments increase, so does the guilt. Retracting my interactions becomes an interregnum with myself. My interactions had been studied and dismissed, but what about that time I reviewed proofs with a converted Sam, we were masked, but only a few feet apart.

Turns out there were no glaring moments of failure, either before or during my incubation period. Of course, that also means I don't know where I got it, and I can never be sure I didn't spread it. And that's where the real fear is, and what's relaxing is those who like to fill social media with conspiracy theories.

In all this, the worst-case scenario now would be if I spread it to someone else whose body could not fight it off.

Life has continued and the fever has abated. My appetite has returned.

Thousands have gone through varying experiences to fighting COVID-19, and many won't come through the other side. We owe it to each other to do as much as we can.

I feel blessed today. Blessed to have a supportive workplace, to live in a place where I can be off work and not worry about my bills. Blessed to see more examples of goodness around me than not. Blessed to see people supporting others, from hospitals and care homes to small business ones.

We really are in this together.

A better place to learn and play

Ribbon cutting ceremony held for Neepawa's new middle school

By Eoin Devereux
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

Students, teachers and parents in Neepawa recently came together to celebrate the completion of a significant symbol of their community's growth. On Wednesday, Jan. 29, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the official opening of the Neepawa Middle School.

Provincial Education minister Kelvin Goertzen, who was in attendance for the festivities, lauded the efforts of everyone involved with making the day a reality. He added the school is something that the entire community should be proud of.

"This is an exciting day that many, many people have helped make happen. Communities only grow because of the people who are dedicated and committed to the community. This is really about you," said Goertzen. "The new facility will provide quality,

sustainably designed and inspirational classrooms and other facilities for students for many years to come. I am excited that the students and families in Neepawa and its surrounding area will have a better place to learn and play."

An exciting journey for Neepawa

Others in attendance included Agassiz MLA Eileen Clarke, who said that it's great to see this project, which is so important for the community, completed.

"It has been a really exciting journey for me to watch the project grow and develop over the past few years. There has been a lot of years of planning and a lot of hard work that's gone into this. We recognize the importance of upgrading, maintaining and expanding in communities and it's clear to see the growth here is very significant."

*Continued on
Page 2*



PHOTO BY EOIN DEVEREUX

Pictured: Neepawa Middle School students Jayden Hanke and Sheen Calamba were just some of the students who served as tour guides to the public during the NMS grand opening on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Best Education Story – 3rd
Neepawa Banner & Press – Eoin Devereux

Best Education Story – 2nd

The Winkler Morden Voice

Lorne Stelmach

10 *The Winkler Morden Voice* Thursday, May 21, 2020

Teachers finding new ways to engage their students

By Lorne Stelmach

Two months in now since classes were suspended as a result of COVID-19, the transition has been as much of a learning experience for local school staff as it is for the students.

Manitoba schools were shut down March 23 for a period of three weeks that was later extended indefinitely in a bid to battle the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The provincial government has offered some assistance to school divisions with initiatives such as the supplemental online resource My Learning at Home, but the challenge has fallen primarily on local teaching staff to help kids adjust to at-home learning.

Much of the coursework has moved to an online format, but schools are also regularly delivering printed packages to the kids.

Northlands Parkway Collegiate teacher Joey Elias keenly misses the in-person interaction with his pupils.

"That student interaction is kind of

the heart and soul ... that part is lost in large part," he said.

Teaching science and biology, Elias has also had to adapt to not being able to work in a lab environment.

"At the same time, it's a good learning experience for them having to figure it out on their own," he noted.

For example, his Grade 11 class was tasked with designing an at-home lab that involved circulation and respiration aspects, such as measuring heart rate and testing something that might affect your pulse.

"I've been doing some online simulations for different things ... it's tricky trying to teach a very hands-on subject remotely," Elias said.

"Most of the students are great. They've been doing assignments, and they've been asking questions, and they've been engaging online. So in that way, it's been good," he said, noting he feels most students will be well prepared when school does resume, though some perhaps with a little catch-up work to do. "I think for the most part they'll be fine."



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Ecole Morden Middle School physical education teacher Brendan Edie has been using social media to reach out to his students with daily activity challenges while schools remain closed.

Ecole Morden Middle School's Brendan Edie turned to social media early on to engage with his students.

The phys-ed teacher launched a YouTube channel dubbed PE with Mr. E.

"I have to kind of meet them where they're at, and that was going to be through social media," he said, explaining he's hosted a variety of live activity sessions and challenges. "I'm just giving kids a different variety of activities that they can do at home that require little or no equipment."

"It's been a learning process," Edie said. "I've had a little bit of fun with it, and been able to be a little bit creative, and I think it's been shown throughout our division and the province that teachers have been really showing off their creativity and showing their students we still care."

"The feedback has been really positive from my students and the parents and other teachers," he added. "When this is all over, I think it's something I'm going to continue to explore and continue to put out there."

Fellow phys-ed teacher Kyle Turnbull from Minnewasta School says the collaboration between educators has really ramped up thanks to the pandemic restrictions. He's reached out far and wide for inspiration on at-home games and activities to share daily with his students.

"The social networking has been great, the networking between schools ... the networking and the communication has really kept things going well," Turnbull said. "Everybody's just so eager to help everybody, so it would be a shame for, when we get back to the new normal, for this all to end."

In Winkler, the J.R. Walkof School library has been incredibly quiet these past few months, even by library

standards.

"I definitely miss the kids and talking to them about books," said librarian Penny Gilmour. "It certainly is a different way of running a library, not having them come in and be able to read to them."

The elementary school doesn't have e-books for the kids to check out, so Gilmour has been sending disinfected books along with the students' delivered work packages.

She's also kept busy putting up fun teddy bear book displays in the library's windows so kids can still stop by and enjoy them from a safe distance.

It's a small way of "trying to keep that connection without actually being able to talk to them or see them."

Over at Winkler Elementary School, music teacher Shanna Potter initially struggled with figuring how to teach her very interactive course at a distance.

"I teach a hands-on course ... that was one of my biggest struggles in the beginning, trying to figure out how I can give my students some meaningful lessons," she said.

She found her inspiration through music.

"I was having a pretty rough day the one day, and I just thought why don't I write a song to make myself feel better, make everyone feel better ... and my whole staff got on board, and it turned out to be really awesome."

In recent weeks, Potter has engaged her students through simple activities built around listening. She's also challenged them to make an instrument and send in a photo of it. One student surprised her with a video of a song he'd written.

Continued on page 11

Home schooled: how are teachers and students coping?

By Evan Matthews

As classrooms across the country adapt to remote learning, Interlake schools are providing insight as to how things have changed.

Remote learning started on March 23, and in Fisher Branch things have changed for both the early years students as well as the high school students.

Fisher Branch Early Years

"We continue to deliver language arts, math, social studies, science and art lessons every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in keeping with our regular kindergarten schedule," said Fisher Branch Early Years teacher Amber Semenek.

"Teachers collaborate daily via email, text and video chat to plan engaging lessons for the week that meet our targeted outcomes."

Semenek said the school had launched a website designed to be similar to a classroom, with the structure resembling that of what students would experience in school.

"We want students to maintain a connection with their teachers, so most lessons begin with a lesson that I have recorded at home in my make-shift classroom. I upload these videos to YouTube and then link them to our website for our students to watch," she said, adding her four-year-old daughter,

Nataliya, often takes part in many of the lessons and learning activities. Students have found additional interest in getting to know Semenek's daughter, she said.

Lessons are typically supplemented with clips from YouTube, Scholastic online books and/or worksheets created by teachers. Students are encouraged to take photos of their work and submit them to teachers via email.

"This allows us to check in on our students and assess their understanding of the lesson material," said Semenek. "Many of the photos we receive get posted to our website for their peers to see, which is quite exciting when you are five or six years old."

Contact with parents has been maintained via phone and email, according to Semenek, but video chat has been pushed back to provide more time for families to "settle into online learning."

While the website has been received well by both the division and parents, Semenek said remote learning hasn't come without challenges.

"It's not ideal to teach the children without face-to-face contact," said Semenek, adding that planning lessons from a distance via email, text and video chat creates challenges of its own.



EXPRESS PHOTO BY AMBER SEMENEK

Fisher Branch Early Years kindergarten teacher Amber Semenek and four-year-old daughter Nataliya.

"We miss seeing our students in person and we struggle with not receiving instant feedback from them.

The social aspect of teaching kindergarten is impossible to replicate, she said.

"It is odd to have lessons without spontaneous outburst and conversation going on around you," she said, adding that she has been recording kindergarten classes in a silent room.

The hope, according to Semenek, is that the changes to learning are temporary.

Peer interaction, social skill development and immediate feedback are irreplaceable, said Semenek, who has solidified a belief that in-class learning is typically the best method.

"For now, it is very important to keep the children engaged and learning while we are physical distancing. We need to try to make things as normal as we can to alleviate fears and anxiety and keep their minds busy with positive activities," said Semenek.

"Our website is a way to keep connected with the students and for our students to stay connected to each other. As teachers, we are trying as much as possible to bring their kindergarten classroom to them as authentically as possible."

Fisher Branch Collegiate

Collegiate students started remote learning a week earlier on March 16, according to teacher Leanne Kochan.

Students and teachers have been on their computers far more than normal, she said, and learning through methods such as videos, Microsoft Teams.

Kochan says learning has become far less personal.

"When I host a video chat for games, then everybody is very chatty and

excited, of course," said Kochan, emphasizing the need to keep students engaged.

"Giving projects they find fun and engaging is important. ... Also having class every one or two days via video chat — using Microsoft Teams and with videos in Snapchat — helps with keeping them involved and thinking in school terms."

Though students are generally technologically savvy, Kochan said there are other challenges related to remote learning.

With school closures and the world seemingly on hold, she said maintaining positive mental health is of the utmost importance.

"Part of that is routine," said Kochan. "Students need routine, and they actually miss it. It helps with (maintaining one's) mental health."

Not every student is taking to the new routine so well and there are still kinds to be worked out.

"There is a small number of students who are looking at this as a holiday, and, in fact, it is not. Some are not doing any work," she said.

"Then there are other students who have no internet access at home."

But what is obvious to all educators, according to Kochan, is that the personal touches — conversations, interactions with staff and students, the community — lacks through remote learning.

Most everybody is looking forward to a return to some level of normalcy, she said.

"We need social interaction as humans," said Kochan. "I'm looking forward to seeing my students. I really miss them. This is really a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Best Education Story – 1st

Gimli The Express Weekly News

Evan Matthews

Ospreys nesting at Buffalo Place business

Birds have pole-top view of empty parking lot

BY SUSIE STRACHAN
STAFF REPORTER

FORT GARRY

A pair of ospreys has taken advantage of an empty parking lot at a business on Buffalo Place to build a nest, and hopefully raise their young.

The birds moved in the last weekend in April, and set about building their nest atop a quartet of closely-placed light poles, according to Darren Escobar, facilities maintenance coordinator for CWB National Leasing at 1525 Buffalo Pl.

"They have a pretty big nest up there, bridging the gap between the poles with branches and grasses," he said. "We haven't seen any chicks yet, but the female bird has been sitting on the nest for longer and longer periods. Eggs take about 37 days to hatch, and the chicks take around 50 days to fledge, so they're going to be here for the summer."

Ospreys are birds of prey that have a wing span of up to two metres. Their main food is fish, which Escobar suspects they're getting by flying to the Red River. "We've found fish bits in our parking lot," he said. "So, we know

they're making that round trip for food."

Ospreys can live for up to 30 years. They often nest at the top of trees or artificial structures like poles, returning to the same nest year after year. Escobar thinks this pair might have had a nest elsewhere, that was possibly destroyed by the "snowmageddon" last October.

CWB National Leasing is no stranger to animal residents, with ducks, geese, rabbits and the occasional deer strolling through its grounds. Escobar said there is ample green space to attract creatures, including a berry and herb garden and a compost project.

"They've never had ospreys before. Escobar suspects the birds probably chose the empty parking lot as their nest site because most of the company's 300 employees are working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this point, only 10 employees are working in the building. On June 15, that number will increase to 50 people. Escobar said the nest site will be cordoned off, so cars won't be close enough to spook the birds.

"We have a Facebook page set up for the staff to feel connected. We had people suggest and vote on names, and they chose Ozzy for the male and Willow for the female," he said. "When we get everyone safely back in the building, I suspect the coffee room, which has a great view out to the nest, will be popular."



Supplied photo by Tony Dicks, CWB National Leasing

One of the pair of ospreys atop the nest built in the parking lot at CWB National Leasing on Buffalo Place. The birds are welcome guests for the summer.

In a normal summer, the company usually holds ball hockey games in the parking lot. Escobar said a virtual reality arcade was just built, and it's sad to see that and the indoor gym and Zen room sitting idle.

"We purchased an industrial steamer, so that will put us ahead of the game when it comes to sanitizing the building as it's reopened to the staff," he said.

The company engaged the aid of the Manitoba Important Bird Areas program

with the Government of Manitoba to ensure they're doing all the right things for their guests.

"We talked with Tim Poole from the government about the ospreys," Escobar said. "When the birds migrate in the fall, they will come in and move the nest. This will be done to a maximum of 100 metres away, maybe onto a hydro pole, so the birds won't be confused when they return the following spring."

Best Environmental Story – 3rd
Winnipeg – The Sou'wester – Susie Strachan

Best Environmental Story – 2nd

Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier

Katie McInnes

Freeing a Queen

Raising endangered Monarch butterflies for release into the wild can be done from home

Katie McInnes

It's not often that you would get the opportunity to take part in the developmental stages of an insect. Most creatures are pretty happy to avoid human interaction - much less be raised by hand inside a container.

But the endangered monarch butterfly is facing the threat of extinction - and needs a little extra help.

Kristina McWilliams of Clearwater saw an opportunity to play a part, when she ordered a Monarch Kit from Monarch Homestead, a small business based in Melita, Manitoba. Kristina received her monarch eggs, ready to hatch into tiny caterpillars, and milkweed leaves, the only food that the caterpillar can eat.

According to the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Monarch population decline is likely due to a combination of threats: habitat loss, use of herbicides and pesticides and climate change. Due to their dependence on declining milkweed sources to feed on as caterpillars, and wildflower nectar throughout their breeding range, the butterflies have faced severe challenges on their staggering 4000 km migration, which takes them from north-eastern Canada to their overwintering grounds in southwestern Mexico.

Not every butterfly will live to make the trip; the Monarchs go through multiple generations on their northern migration, some living for as short as six weeks. But the butterflies born in late August

in Canada will be the 'winter generation' - living up to eight months as they migrate south.

Kristina and her children Kayden, Mason and Amelia, did their best to give their two monarch caterpillars a good start - feeding them fresh milkweed leaves daily and changing their paper towel bedding (these little caterpillars can poop...a lot) as the caterpillar went through its growth stages over 8-12 days.

Once one of the caterpillars climbed onto the inner lid of its container, and hung upside down in a curved 'J' shape, they knew it was ready to form its chrysalis, where

it would spend about two weeks in its metamorphosis into a butterfly.

As the chrysalis turned from green to black, the butterfly's markings could begin to be seen within. It was ready to hatch - in a flurry of orange and black wings, a female butterfly made her debut. Kristina explained how you can tell by the markings if the butterfly is male or female; male monarchs can be distinguished by the two black spots on their hind wings, while female monarchs have a slightly thicker black border.

As beautiful as she was, she wasn't meant to live in a plastic box, so

Kayden McWilliams carefully handles the container holding the butterfly - emerged from its chrysalis - and ready for release.

KATIE MCINNES PHOTOS



A monarch caterpillar feeding on wild milkweed leaves. Instead of blending in, the brightly coloured black, white and yellow markings tell predators to stay away - this little guy has been feasting on poisonous milkweed sap, and packs an unpleasant punch.

the children brought the enclosure to the Harvest Moon gardens in Clearwater, for the big release. With her wings ready, she shot into the air as soon as the lid was lifted, without so much as a kiss goodbye.

With luck, this female will soar through her arduous journey south, and live to contribute to a future generation of these beautiful, endangered creatures. And perhaps her great-great-great-grand larva will emerge as butterflies in Clearwater, to flutter happily in the faces of the McWilliams children next year.



Mason McWilliams releases the butterfly, with help from big brother Kayden and Natalie Gundrum. The butterfly takes off so quickly, it's easy to miss as it flies just next to Mason's hat.

Sandy Bar was pretty knotty last month

By Patricia Barrett

A female red knot with a flag on her leg was rooting around piles of zebra mussels on the shore of Sandy Bar last month, taking birders by surprise and re-affirming the importance of continuing to preserve the Bar's unique habitat.

The Lake Winnipeg spit, about five kilometres east of Riverton, is a go-to destination for breeding shorebirds and is a vital re-fuelling station for migratory bird species, such as the red knot, in the spring and fall.

The red knot was foot-deep in water beside piles of zebra mussels — which it eats — when birders and first-time Bar visitors Ian Ward and Donna Danyluk from Winnipeg spotted it on the spit on May 25, said Joanne Smith, who's the caretaker of Sandy Bar, a designated Important Bird Area (IBA). The same red knot was spotted and photographed again on May 30 by Peter Slusarenko, another birder who reported it.

"Christian Artuso [Canadian Wildlife Service biologist] pointed out to me how big of a deal this was," said Smith, referring to the bird's presence on the spit for at least six days, possibly more. "I wrote on my Facebook page that this area is very important as a food source for migrating shorebirds. To think that our very own Manitoba IBA plays such a big part in the survival of such shorebirds is very special."

Red knots continue north to the Arctic where they nest and hopefully raise young, said Smith.

The flag (some people call it a band, but banding is actually the name of the process) indicated the bird had been captured, fitted with the flag then released for scientific study.

Smith found out the flag was placed on the red knot's left tibia on March 7, 2017, on Chiloe Island, Chile. Juan Navedo, director of the Quempillen Experimental Field Station, Universidad Austral de Chile, and his team had banded the bird.

With much levity, Smith said the bird managed to dodge COVID-19 border restrictions despite having travelled 10,800 kilometres from Chiloe Island to Sandy Bar. And it took precisely 1,174 days before anyone reported her to authorities.

In addition to its IBA status, Sandy Bar is a provincially designated Special Conservation Area. Because it's vital to both breeding and migrating birds that fly several thousand kilometres each year, the province prohibits vehicular traffic, including pickup trucks and ATVs. Foot traffic is discouraged during breeding season.

The area needs all the birds it can get as North America has suffered a decline in bird numbers.

Scientists found significant and alarming population losses in Canada and the United States over a 48-year period, according to a 2019 study titled "Decline of the North American Avifauna" in the Oct. 4, 2019, issue of the journal *Science*. Scientists undertook a survey of more than 500



EXPRESS PHOTO BY IAN WARD

This female red knot with a flag on her left tibia was banded by researchers in 2017 in Chile. She showed up on Sandy Bar in May.

bird species and found a net loss of about 3 billion birds (or 29 per cent) since 1970.

The decline, scientists noted, was not restricted to rare and threatened species but to common and widespread species. Habitat loss and pesticides are major bird killers.

When the world loses birds, ecosystems suffer. Birds are not only important for the cheery songs that give us a boost, but they also eat insects we don't like such as mosquitoes and grasshoppers and invasive species such as zebra mussels. They pollinate plants and distribute tree seeds that make forests flourish.

Red knots, along with ruddy turnstones and rusty blackbirds (both of which inhabit the Bar), eat zebra mussels, said Smith.

Birders do more than watch birds. They count them during seasonal surveys and submit their data to scientists to help them monitor bird populations, which in turn indicate how healthy a particular ecosystem is.

As caretaker of Sandy Bar, Smith leads a cohort of bird lovers each year to the spit to pull up clover that grows, well, like a weed. Weeds are inhospitable to some birds

who like open sand.

The annual Sandy Bar weed pull has seemingly paid off in terms of increasing red knot numbers, based on Smith's personal observation.

"It seems that in the last few years, the numbers of red knots have increased. In my view it has. I've checked the dates I've been out there and in the last couple of years. I've had at least 10 or 11 at one particular point. Before we started the weed pulls, there were two or three red knots."

Smith cautioned that's just her observation and other factors such as an increase in zebra mussels and the square footage of the spit (because of low lake levels) may have made the area more attractive to red knots.

But she's not alone in thinking weed pulling has made a difference.

"Weed pulling works", said Dr. Artuso to Smith by text, which he agreed to share with the *Express*.

"That bird is probably a rufa red knot as it is migrating through Manitoba. People have suspected that some rufa overwinter on Chiloe Island and this seems to confirm it," he wrote. "Also the 6 day stopover is significant plus the resighting of this individual."

Correction

The June 18 edition of the *Express Weekly News* included an article titled "Arborg graduates looking to the future."

In the article, it was stated the cost for the banner project totalled \$1,400; however, that number was an early estimate.

Melanie Pearce, the project's organizer, contacted the *Express* to say the total for the project ended up being \$3,260.32.

The *Express* apologizes for any confusion this may cause.

RECYCLING NOTICE

Riverdale Place

What's *Your* story?

We want to hear from you.

The Express Weekly News connects people through stories to build stronger communities

Best Environmental Story – 1st

Gimli

The Express Weekly News

Patricia Barrett



PROVINCE-WIDE CELEBRATION

MMF marks
Manitoba 150
with a bright
display

MORE ON PAGE A9

Mintonas was one of the handful of communities in Manitoba that got to participate in a series of simultaneous fireworks displays held throughout the province. The event was organized and paid for by the Manitoba Metis Federation – which also livestreamed the Winnipeg show online – celebrating 150 years since Manitoba officially became a Canadian province on July 15. Here, Swan Valley residents congregated in the field on the north side of Mintonas to take in the twilight pyrotechnics. STAR AND TIMES JEREMY BERGEN

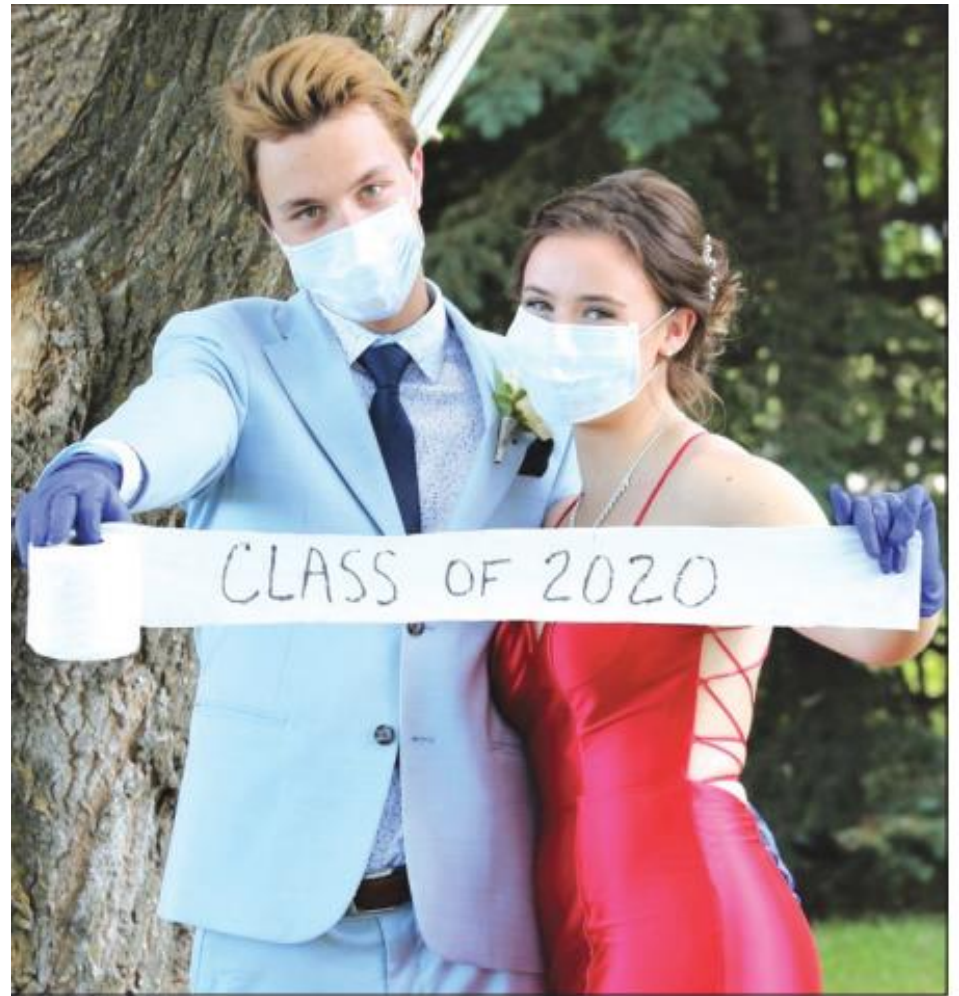
Best Feature Photo – 3rd

The Swan Valley Star and Times – Jeremy Bergen

Best Feature
Photo – 2nd

Beausejour
The Clipper Weekly

Jaymi Witzke



Safe Grad

Photo by Jaymi Witzke

École Edward Schreyer School seniors Kyle Mroz (left) and Francesca Johnson made the best of a Grad 2020 COVID-19 situation complete with masks, gloves and toilet paper banner as they graduated from high school last week.

For photos of grads see pages 10-19.



WHO'S HUNGRY?

VENTON BEATTY/FOR SOUTH MOUNTAIN PRESS

These four robins are all very hungry... it's hard for this parent to know who to feed first! It is estimated that by day five, baby robins start to receive earthworms by parents who break them into small mouthfuls, easy to eat. Baby robins gradually eat more each day, eventually eating whole worms and large insects. Each young robin could eat a whopping 14 feet of earthworms in a two-week period living in the nest. Wow! Adventurous at a young age, baby robins will jump from their nest at roughly 13 days old, but it does take another 10 to 15 days for them to start to fly and become independent.

Best Feature Photo – 1st
Erickson South Mountain Press – Venton Beatty

COMRADE JACK



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MY FAVOURITE
WWII VETERAN INTERVIEWEE, JACK HADDOW HOUSTON

BY BRENDA HUNTER FOR CROSSROADS THIS WEEK



As quoted from Wikipedia – “‘Lest we forget’ is a phrase commonly used in war remembrance services and commemorative occasions in English speaking countries. Before the term was used in reference to soldiers and war, it was first used in an 1897 Christian poem written by Rudyard Kipling called ‘Recessional’. The phrase occurs eight times; and is repeated at the end of the first four stanzas in order to add particular emphasis regarding the dangers of failing to remember.”

I already knew what I was going to write about when I sat down to my computer to write this week's story.

With Remembrance Day fast approaching, I had decided that since this year was the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, we would celebrate that, and how those on the front lines and on the home-front felt when they heard the news it was over. But before I started writing, I sat down with my cup of tea and began scrolling through my Facebook feed. Like I do most mornings at home. That's when this post, shared by a mutual friend, hit me like a ton of bricks – my favorite WWII Veteran interviewee, Jack Haddow Houston, had passed away. Lest We Forget.

Jack Houston knew the importance of passing on the stories, to NEVER quit talking, to NEVER quit being thankful and appreciative, and to wear a poppy

“It is with sincere regret that we inform Members of the Branch and Members of the Branch Ladies Auxiliary of the passing of Comrade Jack Houston, a very staunch Royal Canadian Legion Member of Branch 118 (Kenora, Manitoba) and a World War Two Veteran (XII Manitoba Dragoons)... Farewell to Comrade Str Jack Houston and many thanks for your service to King and Country in WW2 and service to your home community of Kenora.”

“The Virden Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has put their flags at half-mast in Honour of Comrade Str Jack Houston.”

“Lest We Forget.” Growing up near Kenora, I was always well aware of the fact that Jack was a Veteran. He was a very visible representative of the Legion in the community, even before there was a clubroom. As a young girl, I remember him, along with two other higher-ranking Legion repre-

sentatives from other locales, presenting me with an award for winning a Remembrance Day writing contest when I was probably in about Grade 7 or 8. He always led the charge in any Remembrance Day service or event, and proudly donned his navy blue Legion blazer and beret which displayed his decorated military involvement at every opportunity. Lest We Forget.

While I'm almost ashamed to say this now, to me as a kid, Jack was 'the Legion guy with the funny hat', and I admit, that looking back on it, I didn't take him or what he represented, seriously enough.

Age and maturity have an incredible way of changing our values and what we believe in. Getting to know Jack a little better these last couple of years and what he went through, has been a huge wake up call for me. I finally came to appreciate what he actually did for his country, for us so that we may en-

joy the freedoms we have today.

The older I become, the more I realize the significance of the message that Jack has always strived to uphold: Lest We Forget.

Perhaps part of the problem is that as a society, as we become further and further removed from knowing someone or having a loved one that has served, that it somehow becomes less important to us. Perhaps one could even draw the parallel of 'out of sight, out of mind'. Certainly, I'm not suggesting that another war would be beneficial. However, there is some truth to the fact that the fewer of us there are with a close connection to the war, the harder it is to keep the memory alive.

Jack Houston knew this. He knew the importance of passing on the stories, to NEVER quit talking, to NEVER quit being thankful and appreciative, and to wear a poppy... always. Lest We Forget.

Just last week, his friends at his home in Birch Lodge had that very discussion in a group setting with activity director, Dana Routledge, of which Jack was unable to take part in. They recognized the significance of the message that Jack has always stood for and were able to put into perspective, this very issue.

I think our takeaway was that

we talk about our Veterans a lot in PCH because our connections are close, and very real,” said Routledge of the outcome of their group discussion. “However, for those who don't have those connections to anyone serving in any capacity, like the younger generations, talking about it once a year will see that lost. It was (a powerful discussion) as it should have been.” Lest We Forget.

This was certainly a concern for Jack and one of the reasons he was so diligent at preserving the memories, so that we don't forget.

“People need to know,” said Routledge.

She shared of Jack's reaction to an outing to his home community of Kenora with a few of the PCH residents, and the profound effect that it had on her that day.

“I was able to take a few out in the van and I called all the businesses in Kenora and timed it so all the Legion coffee goes could come out and wave,” said Routledge. “We did the whole main drag, and he was waving his hat like he was in a float at a parade. I asked him what he thought of that when we left town, and he said, ‘that it was important and wonderful... ‘cause I won't be back Dana.’”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Best Feature Story – 3rd
Shoal Lake – Crossroads This Week – Brenda Hunter

Community

Jerseys come out for hockey player taken to soon

The community joined together as one for Ryder Armstrong as he lost courageous fight against cancer.

By Trent Allen

This past week, the community rallied to show their support for one of their own in a vibrant display of hockey jerseys that stood for more for the cause that was certainly backed by many of them than the overzealous trust.

Ryder Armstrong, a young boy who had spent nearly two years in a battle against a rare form of cancer called glioblastoma, succumbed to that illness on Friday morning. Ryder was a young hockey player within The Pas Minor Hockey Association and the jerseys were a means for the community to show their unity in support of the young man who loved the game.

Armstrong's battle was known in The Pas and surrounding area thanks to a news public update posted to social media and other media outlets including 102.9 the CMAZ and the Opasquia Times, as well as fundraising efforts which were established to help the family with their costs as they worked to support Ryder. That awareness was brought to an entirely new level last week, when it was revealed Ryder had taken an unfortunate turn for the worse and that he was likely in his final days.

A Facebook page, RyderStrong88, was established in late March, at the request of Ryder himself, by his mother. The page was meant as a means to update people on how Ryder's treatment was going as he battled his stage four diagnosis, but in the first weeks of his life the page, swarmed with followers as people joined to share their photos of hockey jerseys being loaned down, many with Armstrong, or RyderStrong88 emblazoned on the back.

And it wasn't just hockey jerseys. Some who didn't have a hockey jersey used one from a different sport. A few just used whatever they could that resembled a sports jersey, just because they wanted to show their support.

Dawn MacIsaac, a family spokesperson for father Bryan Armstrong's side, stated the family would like to decline comment for this article at this time, citing just how raw emotions are right now, but stated the family is grateful for the show of support the community gave. MacIsaac emphasized the family is completely overwhelmed by the display of jerseys for Ryder and all the words of support and encouragement they have received both prior to and following Ryder's passing.

RyderStrong88 now has over 1,500 followers and posts will come in from all over the world of those paying tribute to Ryder. One post from San Jose has a slide with Ryder being number one in their hearts written on the tape, another from parliament Hill shows a jersey hung in the window. A video from the NHL's Stadium brothers - Luke and Ryan - sending condolences can be seen under the hundreds of others who are honoring a child who was left to face an illness and a fan no child should ever have to.

Thankfully he, and the family never had to face it alone. That's part because of the family that exists within the sport of hockey itself. When Ryder was first told to face his battle, he was quickly shown his hockey brothers and sisters were there for him as well.

"When we first got the diagnosis, when we first found out from the family we all



Times area took part in the effort to show their support for Ryder Armstrong, including the Veterans' Association and the MHSU. Sports Illustrated team. The on sides of jerseys being in windows and put on display were a further display of support. The Pas, CMAZ, 102.9 and beyond.

stood together and then we came and we came in support of him," recalled Chris Richardson, minor hockey coach and President of The Pas Minor Hockey Association. "Each team would have the name Ryder on the back of their jerseys, something to show that we were playing for Ryder and support his journey during that time."

That was the start of a trend which turned into the jerseys we can see today hanging in windows of homes, businesses and holding all over town and in corners of the nation - and the world - for from Ryder's home community.

"It impacted everyone better stuck together," said Richardson, noting just after Ryder's passing they played a game against the Winnipeg Monarchs and dedicated that year. "It's a really big impact on us in a way that has not only brought The Pas Minor Hockey together and done as a family but also impacted teams all around not just Manitoba but Canada and even the NHL."

Richardson has a unique perspective

when it comes to Ryder. Not only has he seen the impact from the side of minor hockey and as a person in the community, he also coached Ryder for three years as Ryder played alongside his son Daniel.

"He was the one of the most people I'd that I ever met and honestly, always, always smiling. He would light up the dressing room when he walked in and he was friends with everyone. He wasn't one of those kids where some people liked him, some didn't, they all liked him," reflected Richardson. "It was a pleasure to coach him, he was easy to work with. He was very talented, he was one of our go to guys, when we needed goals we needed to get the puck to Ryder. My handling to work with a kid like that and there's not many kids that I've worked with over the years that I've been part of coaching where there was a kid that was so humble himself and was just liked by everyone."

Ryder won't be forgotten by minor hockey locally either. MacIsaac and Richardson noted that while it is too early to say exactly what will occur, in the future

the family and The Pas Minor Hockey Association will come together to find a way to establish a lasting tribute to him.

Richardson was pleased to see how minor hockey and the hockey world came together to show their support for Ryder but he wasn't surprised. After all, to him, hockey is more than a game. It's like a family of its own.

"It just shows how much of a family the hockey people are and it's not just within individual towns and cities, it's across. Their support is everywhere," said Richardson. "There's no boundaries within hockey. It's all family and we all support each other through hard times."

"You see as we drive through town there's jerseys that are hanging up everywhere. I also see had to hold back tears because every window has a jersey hanging there and for all in support of Ryder," he said.

A funeral for Ryder will be held at the Veterans Hall on OCN on Saturday.

DEEP READS

Finding an answer and purpose through MAID



The Petterson family, with Judy and Clarence front and centre, spend time together during the 2018 Christmas season at the Manitoba legislature. This would be the family's last Christmas together before Clarence's death three months later.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

Note: The following piece contains graphic descriptions of death and medical assistance in dying (MAID). Some readers may find the subject matter distressing.

Judy Petterson will remember the day forever - March 28, 2018. It was the day her husband Clarence chose to end his fight with cancer before the illness could end him.

Most people in Flin Flon know the broad strokes of the story by now. Clarence, a beloved community figure, a teacher and educator and, for a brief time, a provincial political kingmaker, died following a long battle with cancer. There are no spoilers. The end of the story, as most people know it, is already written.

Contained within that story is how Petterson lived in his final months, how the family came together and stood beside the paterfamilias and how Judy handled her loss and grief. A retired teacher, product designer and writer, Judy has taken to writing and community

support to find solace after his death.

Models created by psychologists break grief down into a series of stages. First, there's a shock or trauma, refusal or inability to understand, then resistance, catharsis - the release of repressed emotions, possibly sadness or despair but also relief and joy - then resignation to reality and reintegration back into the world.

Shock and refusal

Clarence was first diagnosed with cancer in 2013, not long after he was elected as MLA for Flin Flon. He had surgery and was briefly in the clear, but the disease returned in a year.

"At that point, we were told that he would have about four years," said Judy.

"The doctor saw how upset we were and said, 'But some people get longer!' but he had almost exactly four years."

More treatment followed. Once again, Clarence looked like he had beat the disease. A visit to an oncologist in May 2017 proved otherwise.

"When we were in the office and we got that news - and I mean this with all my heart - the doctor left the room and I said to Clarence, 'I feel really bad for somebody but there's been a mix-up. We've got someone else's file,'" Judy said.

Following his diagnosis, Clarence was told his options. Aggressive treatment could extend his life, but the cancer would still eventually overcome. He could also refuse treatment and let the disease take its course, likely ending up in a hospital and dying surrounded by machines.

There was, however, a third option - still new at the time.

A doctor mentioned medical assistance in dying (MAID). At that point, MAID was a new policy in Canada and in Manitoba. For many years, MAID was classified as criminal and anyone who had either helped the person die, helped plan the death or knew about the plan and chose not to intervene would be committing a crime. In several countries, MAID is still seen that way by the law.

Starting in June 2016,

Best Feature Story - 1st
Flin Flon – The Reminder – Eric Westhaver

Best First Nations Coverage Story – 3rd

Gimli The Express Weekly News

Patricia Barrett

2 The Express Weekly News Thursday November 19, 2020

Indigenous commercial fishers exonerated by province for overfishing

By Patricia Barrett

Indigenous commercial fishers on Lake Winnipeg were given an absolute discharge last month for overfishing their quotas after participating in a restorative justice process.

Henry Traverse and his son Herman Traverse from Kinonjoshstegon First Nation (Jackhead) were exonerated on Oct. 6 by Manitoba provincial court judge Ryan Rolston, who heard the case in community court in Peguis First Nation.

"I think it's the first time this has happened [i.e., acquitted by the province] as far as I know because we went through an Indigenous court justice program," said Henry Traverse, who is president of the Keewatinook Fishers of Lake Winnipeg and an advocate for Indigenous fishing rights. "That was the driving force of what took place here."

The province, which regulates the commercial fishery, doesn't recognize the rights of Indigenous people to fish commercially, said Traverse, nor does the federal government although Section 35 of the 1982 Constitution Act recognizes fishing as an Aboriginal right along with rights to land, hunting, their own culture and the power to make treaties.

Section 35 rights apply to subsistence living, said Traverse, and the province will impose penalties if commercial fishers exceed their allotted quota.

"We're trying to get the province to understand Indigenous rights," said Traverse. "It's the same thing that's happening on the east coast with Indigenous [Nova Scotia lobster] fishers that are under federal jurisdiction. It's a big issue. Regardless whether it's provincial or federal jurisdiction, they're still neglecting our rights as a First Nation people."

Kinonjoshstegon has about 40 quotas in total and roughly 20 active fishers, said Traverse, and it's the only First Nation community in Manitoba that sells commercially caught fish to a private buyer in Ontario rather than through the federally run Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

"We're moving in a direction of being our own masters. We want to be able to market and sell our products without interference," said Traverse, who is the Assembly of First Nations' Manitoba representative on a fishery advocacy committee that works with the federal government. "Fishing is a way of life for us. Indigenous people have thrived on it for thousands of



EXPRESS FILE PHOTO BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Lake Winnipeg pickerel and pike in totes.

years and it has got to continue for the next generations."

The Traverses' legal counsel, Cynthia Westaway, who is director of the Westaway Law Group in Ottawa, said she recommended a restorative justice approach as the case was heading to court because it was in keeping with the principles of reconciliation.

The process saw discussions take place over a number of months between the Traverses, Westaway, Manitoba conservation officers and the prosecutor (the provincial department of Sustainable Development) in order to provide an opportunity for all parties to understand each other's perspective, as well as discuss the importance of Indigenous fishing rights in Manitoba. Efforts to build a relationship between provincial conservation officers and fishers were also one of the goals.

"During these conversations, the parties discussed Section 35 Aboriginal rights and the importance of building a relationship between conservation officers, the province and Indigenous fishers," said Westaway by email. "The Traverses earned a greater understanding of the roles of conservation officers under the regulations, while the conservation officers learned about the vital role that fish plays in the Traverses' community and identity."

The Traverses were charged for violating Section 12(2) of the Manitoba Fishery Regulations. Henry has a commercial fishing quota of 19,970 kilograms of walleye/sauger and whitefish and went over his quota by 2,986 kg on his 59th delivery. Herman has a commercial fishing quota of 11,430 kg and went over by 2,200 kg on his 45th and final delivery.

They were facing provincial fines of up to \$100,000.

The Traverses depend on fishing for their livelihood, said Westaway, and fines and/or fishing suspensions are

harmful to families and communities that rely on fishing.

Kinonjoshstegon has faced many challenges, she added, including a lack of clean drinking water, regional flooding and lengthy power outages, all of which are exacerbated by poor economic outcomes, historic racism and systemic discrimination.

She also cited the monopoly held by FFMC, which was "problematic" and "detrimental" to Indigenous fishers, and the province's formal withdrawal from FFMC that occurred without meaningful consultation.

"Canada and Manitoba have not stepped in to provide marketing capacity to Indigenous fishers in order for them to successfully participate in an open market. As a result, Indigenous fishers are struggling, especially during this pandemic," said Westaway.

Although Westaway was able to have the charges against the Traverses dropped, she said Indigenous fishers are still not exempt from Manitoba's fishing regulations.

"Justice Rolston did not make any determination on the applicability of Manitoba fishing regulations on Indigenous fishers in Manitoba as Henry and Herman pleaded guilty and took full ownership of fishing beyond their quotas," she said. "Justice Rolston stressed that the goal of the criminal justice and regulatory system is to ensure we all live peacefully together."

Westaway said while the provincial government doesn't recognize an inherent or treaty right for Indigenous people to fish commercially, it must consider the potential impacts on them "before making decisions" that affect their rights.

"This includes how Manitoba enforces fishing regulations on Lake Winnipeg, through fines or other penalties for Indigenous fishers," said Westaway.

Best First Nations Coverage Story – 2nd

Erickson South
Mountain Press

Candy Irwin



Arlen Dumas, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, smiles as Kindergarten student Caleb Wilson tries on his headdress
PHOTO COURTESY ERICKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A grand day at Erickson Elementary

>> Manitoba Grand Chief Arlen Dumas connected with students during a visit to school

CANDY IRWIN
for South Mountain Press

It was a grand day at Erickson Elementary School (EES) on Thursday, Feb. 20 when Arlen Dumas, Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), spent time with students and staff in honour of 'I Love to Read Month'.

To many of the students at EES, Dumas has almost 'rock-star' status and it's easy to see why. His manner was kind. He was generous, but judicious, with his praise. His humour was gentle and his words, inspiring.

The Grand Chief's visit began with a traditional offering of tobacco and it didn't take him long to connect with the

students.

"Let me begin by telling you a story," he began.

Dumas went on to explain that he was born in Pukatawagan, MB, a remote community over 700 kilometres north of Erickson. He described it as an "isolated place" where, when he was young, there were very few children's books, even in the school.

"But my Grandpa had one. As a little boy, I loved that book so much that I asked him to read it to me every day – day after day. Sometimes I asked him to read it to me three or four times in just one day! It even had a song in it! Oh, it was a good book!"

When Dumas revealed that the book was "Cinderella" and

that the song was "Bibbidi, Bobbidi, Boo," the K-Gr. 2 students giggled, but the Gr. 3 – 6 students guffawed!

"One day, that book just disappeared," he mused.

After that story and another about how he decided to become a chief when he was only in Grade 2, a genuine rapport was firmly established. He then read two age-appropriate books to each group, engaging the students by adding personal stories.

"I encourage you to do the best you can, because reading will be important to you for the rest of your life," he said. "In a book like 'Cinderella,' the author creates a whole new world for you and as a reader, you are allowed to en-

ter that world, created by someone else's imagination.

"You can learn a lot from books, too," he said, pleased to read 'Go Show the World' by Wab Kinew (Leader of the Manitoba New Democratic Party and current Leader of the Opposition in the Manitoba Legislature) to the older students. Kinew's book celebrates stories of Indigenous people throughout time, some of whom are personal acquaintances of Dumas.

The Grand Chief, however, "believes in taking a non-partisan position because, as governments change, we have to be willing to work with whichever party is elected."

SEE VISIT INCLUDED, P2

Best First Nations Coverage Story - 1st

The Swan Valley
Star and Times

Danielle
Gordon - Broome



Students taught traditional practices

Since the beginning of their time, Canadian Indigenous peoples have been using plants and other natural materials as medicine.

With more than 400 different species of plants – as well as lichens, fungi and algae identified to have medicinal applications, generations of Indigenous people have passed their knowledge and their traditions down, following protocols for harvesting and application.

At Chief Charles Audy Memorial School (CCAMS) on Wuskwilip First Nation (WSFN) it is Brenda Gaudry who is educating the youngest generation on their cultural practices.

Working at the school as an educational assistant specializing in cultural teaching, Gaudry – who owns her own business, Creative Spirit, shares her knowledge with the students.

"I started working here four



Danielle Gordon-Broome
STAR AND TIMES EDITOR

years ago and at first it was just as an educational assistant, helping in the classrooms," she said, noting that last year the school began offering cultural-based classes based on outdoor education.

"My main job is to instill pride in our students by understanding their cultural backgrounds and teachings. So, I go back hundreds of years and teach them what our people had to do to live and survive."

"From there we started teaching a few Cree words a day. I would say, on our reserve, there is only about 20

percent that know the language and none of the students knew it."

Beginning to learn about culture and language leads to curiosity from the students about traditional ceremonies and pow wow.

"In order to go into pow wow there are certain protocols that need to be done," said Gaudry. "They had to go through the sweat lodge ceremonies and get their traditional names and their colours for their regalia."

"None of them knew how to sew so I had to show them how to use the sewing machine and how to make their own regalia. Here, the boys do the Grass Dance and the girls do the Fancy Shawl."

Now, the school has 15 children with full regalia who attend a handful of pow wows each year. They even have their own drum group.

"This year we focused more on outdoor education and showing the students what our creator has put on Mother

Earth for us to sustain ourselves with," Gaudry said.

"When we lived a 1,000 years ago there was nothing here. So, I'm teaching them what kind of medicines were used, what was picked and what they were used for. We have an entire list of things we are picking."

"I start them in Grade 1 and they (age appropriately) pick the plants," she continued. "There is a teaching for every plant that we pick – everything has a story and a meaning behind it."

"We've had to locate all these items that are naturally grown and are easy for the students to access and pick."

The students closely follow cultural protocol when harvesting items with sustainability being the key teaching.

"We remind the children that the Creator has put these things in the ground for our use but that we have to be grateful," said Gaudry.

LEARNING: SEE PAGE D2

Best Habitat Conservation Story – 3rd

Gimli
The Express
Weekly News
Patricia Barrett

2 The Express Weekly News Thursday, July 30, 2020

Goats get down to mob grazing and soil enhancement at Gimli High School

By Patricia Barrett

Gimli High School was the site of mob grazing last Tuesday when a herd of goats was let loose for a day of natural lawn-mowing.

Farmer Jordan Dankochik brought about 20 or so of his goats to a patch of native grasses and flowers that ring a wetland on the front lawn of the high school after the East Interlake Watershed District initiated a project to weed the space and provide more room for native grasses and flowers to flourish.

EIWD manager Armand Belanger said prairie grasslands evolved to withstand regular fire events and, normally, the EIWD would have undertaken a prescribed burn in the fifth year of growth to regenerate the grasses.

But the district, which monitors surface water and groundwater quality and carries out projects to promote the health of the watershed, opted for a spot of "short-term mob grazing" that native grasslands also learned to endure long ago when bison herds roamed the prairies.

"Our goal is that the goats remove some of weeds, which typically grow in the early part of the season, and give space to the many different types



Oscar Belanger helped put up fencing and visited with the goats.

of native grasses and flowers, which typically grow in the latter part of the season," said Belanger.

The wetland and the knoll of native grasses and flowers growing along its perimeter were projects initiated



EXPRESS PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ARMAND BELANGER

The goats went to work, eating weeds to regenerate the grasses and plants around the small wetland.

in 2014 by a group of students led by Dean Mulroy, Steven Hess and Zenon Matkowsky, with help from teacher Cheryl Bailey.

Called the Gimli High School Wetland Enhancement Project, the students created the wetland in order to help filter surface water on its way to Lake Winnipeg. They also created the natural riparian area to assist in purifying water and provide a resource for pollinating insects and birds and a habitat for wildlife, said Belanger. The site includes walking paths. The students received funding support from the EIWD, Ducks Unlimited and the Evergreen School Division.

Nine different types of native grasses and 20 different types of native flowers were planted in June 2016, he said. Those plants include the aster, false sunflower, yarrow, Canada milk vetch, side oats gamma and big blue stem (Manitoba's provincial grass).

The advantage of growing native plants is that they have long roots and there is little need to water or fertilize them, said Belanger. The long roots also stabilize the soil, reduce erosion, absorb water thus decreasing flooding events, sequester carbon and increase biodiversity.

The EIWD provides tours of the site, encouraging people to identify as many plants as they can using a hand-out. The organization has a sign posted at the site and has been monitoring and maintaining it with prescribed mowing and weeding as needed.

As the goats chowed down on weeds, they deposited a bit of "natural fertilizer" on the grassland.

"The goats will ... leave behind nutrients and activate beneficial microbes and bacteria, which will further



While I'm here, I should smell the flowers.

increase a healthy native grassland stand," said Belanger.

Jordan Dankochik, who farms near Gimli, has a herd of about 150 goats and after Christmas, he accepts donations of pine trees, which his goats consider a treat.




Belanger said Dankochik was pleased with his goats' efforts to help regenerate the grassland, saying they're now well-trained for their next lawn-cutting and soil-enhancing job.


People who saw the herd at the school stopped by to visit and learn about the importance of creating and preserving wetlands and plants that grow around them.

"It is such a pleasure to go to this site and see the great diversity of native flowers and grasses. The amount of life that is jam-packed in this small project is just remarkable," said Belanger. "There have been sightings of ducks, geese, beavers, deer, frogs, tadpoles, dragonflies and even a sighting of a least bittern, which is a small heron you may find swaying in the wind to resemble marsh vegetation. Now, how many schools have that?"

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Burrowing owls can't survive on their own

The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program is in great need of donations, funding

By Ligia Braidotti

A Garson resident is hoping she can help keep an endangered species alive.

Jane Seniw, a licensed arborist at Tree Care, recently donated a painting of burrowing owls she was gifted when in Saskatchewan for a watershed conference in 2003 to the Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program. The painting by Saskatchewan artist Fred Lahrman was part of a series of artwork to draw attention to grassland species at risk. He created the painting from memories dating back to the 1930s when it was common to see burrowing owls nesting in Western Canada.

Seniw was touched when she heard the recovery program was facing funding challenges due to cuts from the provincial and federal government.

"When I heard about the program, I thought 'I will donate this,' and they can do with it

whatever they wish to raise funds to keep the program going," she commented. "The more promotion that they get on the whole program, it may prompt somebody else to say 'Maybe I'll donate something.'"

Alexandra Froese, project manager at Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, said it costs about \$100,000 a year to run the program at its fullest — research, recovery, educational programs, and supplies for burrowing owls.

"We rely mostly on the public and private sector donations," Froese explained.

The Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program started in 2013, a year after Froese completed her master's research and found out that the number of burrowing owls had dropped. The program focuses on three goals — reintroduction of burrowing owls, research and monitor of the birds, and education.

"We do surveys all around southwestern Manitoba, and then we look for habitat, open grassland, no trees, no shrubs, there's got to be ground squirrels and burrows available because burrowing owls can't dig their own nest, so they need some holes available," Froese said.

THE THING WITH BURROWING OWLS IS THAT IF THERE'S NO ONE HELPING THEM, THEY ARE NOT GETTING OFF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

Burrowing owls are the only North American bird that nests in the ground, and because they are not able to dig their own, they rely on abandoned nests that were previously occupied by animals like badgers, foxes, ground squirrels, coyotes, and pocket gophers. According to the recovery program, the burrowing owl population has decreased by 96 per cent since 1987.

"You hear people here in Manitoba saying that they haven't seen a burrowing owl since the 80s," Froese commented.

"I have never seen one in my life," Seniw added.

The recovery program works with landowners to arrange suitable locations for artificial nest burrows.



RECORD PHOTO BY LIGIA BRAIDOTTI
Jane Seniw (left) and Alexandra Froese, project manager at Manitoba Burrowing Owl Recovery Program, stand beside the picture Seniw donated on June 14.

Continued on page 4

Best Habitat Conservation Story – 2nd
The Selkirk Record – Ligia Braidotti

Black bears: rescue, rehabilitate, release

>> Black Bear Rescue Manitoba cares for orphaned cubs until their return to the wild

CANDY IRWIN

for South Mountain Press

After seeing my first black bear in the wild – a large, rangy and hungry looking adult male ambling along the Lake Audy Dam Road – I wondered why so many people, both historically and currently, choose to give their children toy bears?

If you've wondered that yourself, check out the adorable Facebook photos of the eight

small cubs recently provided with safe harbour and life-saving sustenance by Black Bear Rescue Manitoba (BBRM), located in the R.M. of Rockwood, near Stonewall.

In a fundraising campaign dubbed "30 Smiles for \$30," the organizers have posted the www.inducing photos of baby bears, including two tiny siblings who came into care weighing only eight ounces each. Posted for 30 days throughout

April and May, the premise was that if each photo elicited a smile, and that smile was worth one dollar, that viewers would happily donate \$30 to the organization.

The money so garnered will be spent on things like milk-replacement formula, puppy kibble and canned peaches, amongst other delicious bear fare.

These two tiny cubs, and others who have come into care,

usually do so because of chance encounters with human beings who have accidentally disrupted their mom's hibernation.

It is a fallacy that all sows (females) dig dens, while boars (males) just snuggle down in dense undergrowth. Some bears, including females with cubs, hibernate with only an insulating layer of snow for cover, somewhat like sleeping in a quincee.

SEE **QUALITY**, P2

Best Habitat Conservation Story – 1st
Erickson South Mountain Press – Candy Irwin

COMMUNITY LIVING



Surviving domestic violence and abuse

Parkland woman shares her story with hopes of helping others through a difficult time

Jennifer
LAVIOLETTE
Star and Times

Author's note: The name of the woman in this story has been changed to protect the identity of herself and her children.

It is suspected that Domestic Violence is one of the main incidents that go unreported in Canada. There are so many reasons for this, ranging from fear and stigma to the extreme difficulty for people to escape and survive from it.

Jess Do, from the Parkland area, is still going through this process, years after she ended a domestic abuse relationship.

"I wish I could be more helpful and promising by telling my story and that somehow this will make a difference, but I would be naive in thinking that," said Do. "Every woman I have come across that has been in a domestic violence relationship has a different story to tell, but there are factors and elements that make their stories very much alike."

"I will admit I was very uninformed about what domestic violence really was. People tend to stereotypically view the victims as uneducated women with limited resources and opportunities. This was not the case for me, myself or for many others. I was a successful career woman, with children, educated, and volunteered with various organizations."

Do said she went through different forms of domestic violence and abuse over the years. The worst forms of the abuse, for her, were psychological.

"Looking back on it, all the warning signs were there. I just didn't allow myself to process it," she said. "Things like lies and exaggerations to burst of anger

over things like who I was talking to and how much money I spent. Stomachs would arise where my family and friends would be blamed for being judgemental and I was told I had to keep away from them. From then, it began to escalate. I noticed people who were mutual friends began to treat me very differently. Those people would act like, all of sudden, I had done something wrong or disrespected themselves from me. At the time, I had no idea that I was being manipulated through a barrage of lies as a desperate attempt to isolate me from people and to make me look like a villain."

"All throughout the while, our children were behind the scenes watching those threats of this family life unravel. When I tried to leave with the kids, I was told I could go but the kids had to stay. The kids expressed that they didn't want to stay and they made this clear. Threats were made saying CPS and the RCMP would come and make sure my kids were taken away from me and I would be around if I tried to leave with them. I was told no one would be able to help me and I would be alone about anything. Several scary tactics were used and my cell phone was taken away so I could not call anyone. That night I admitted defeat and spent the night in my bedroom with my children."

"The next morning I got up and saw my phone was left outside the kitchen table that was my breaking point." Do continued. "I grabbed it and I saw the police. While on the phone, I was caught talking to them, asking if the kids and I could stay there."

While on the phone, I was caught talking to them, asking if the kids and I could stay there. Something instinctively told me to put my family on

speakers so they could hear. My parents began to tell my ex-partner that if he did not let us go, they would call the cops. Reluctantly he let us go and that was what I had hoped would be the end."

Despite Do's hopes, it was far from over. She was lucky in the sense that the separation was filed very quickly and felt like she could re-engage back to work and pick up the pieces to form a new life.

"The kids were slow to adjust to this new life, but I could tell they were still worried," she said. "I would receive threatening voice mail messages and texts, I would get threats that he had people watching our every move and he knew where we were up to. While at work, I would get threats that he would commit suicide. This began to take a toll on the kids and myself and we found ourselves living in constant fear and uncertainty. I was trying to hide the fact that this was going on and trying to make it look like everything was ok, but really, my world was crumbling down."

All the stress and worry took its toll and Do began to feel like she was losing her job. Despite numerous calls to the RCMP about the incidents, the nightmare continued. There was always a loophole or delay for the matter being dealt with. As this dragged on, Do realized she was going to need a protection order and sought out supporters from her local crisis shelter.

"It was the most difficult thing I have ever had to do," said Do. "First I had to come up with a safety plan for myself and the children because our lives all of a sudden became at risk. Then I had to recant, in great detail, about incidents, common ex made,

and the overwhelming fear I had for my children and myself to a judge on the record. I had to prove I had sufficient cause for this order. In the back of my mind I could hear him saying 'no one will believe you' and I began to doubt myself."

Do was able to secure a protection order for herself and her family, but was still not safe yet.

"One detail her enforcement order was that a protection order can be appealed again," she said. "So the other party has an option to challenge someone's grounds for needing that order."

Do found herself in a most unsettling situation of being unemployed and having to seek a lawyer. Legal Aid was not an option for a variety of circumstances, so Do cleaned the very little savings she had and most of our credit cards to retain a lawyer.

"I had hoped a lawyer would be able to rectify this situation and I would be over," said Do. "Instead it dragged on and on, with the bills adding up. To get back on my feet, I took a job, even though I wasn't ready mentally."

The job did not last long for Do. Out of fear of judgement, she didn't discuss what she was going through. Week after week, her cause was remanded and she had to miss work on a weekly basis to attend court. Finally when her employer questioned her about it, she had to come clean and tell them she was going through a domestic violence situation. The next day, they let her go.

The legal bills and proceedings dragged on and Do was unsuccessful in finding work. "I was supporting my family through ill bene-

fits and the charity of family, but both were running short," she said. "I was on my last day of benefits and I went to the Employment Income Assistance (EIA) office to see if I could qualify for benefits. I felt humiliated to be asking for support and assistance, but I had no choice. I will never forget filling out the application and reading with the worker. She was quietly looking through my paperwork and said to me, we do not get many people like you coming into our office. I felt so degraded as I was completely void of the conversation."

Do never did receive a cheque from EIA, she managed to find a job the next day that supported her situation. Despite Do's life changes, she is still not free from the incidents or fear and is continually caught in a revolving door of phone calls to police and court dates. The reality in the protection orders always seems to be under scrutiny and always open to interpretation whenever they are violated.

"Some days I go beyond frustrated as to how the system is failing," said Do. "Whenever there is a breach of the order and action has to happen, I feel like I have nothing more than just a piece of paper with words. When I would call and nothing was done about the breaches, I often want to say to the RCMP officers, this is my story, please remember it in case you respond to an incident that ends up costing me my life, at least you may remember how to spell my name on the body bag."

Do feels that when there are children involved, the whole ordeal never completely ends. "When children are involved, it's a lengthy process," said Do. "Family and Criminal courts do not work together. Where one may

be charged criminally for acts of domestic violence, those charges do not necessarily have any bearing in family court. This complicates things like access and visitation. Many families, like mine, are caught in between the two and it's a never-ending battle until the children turn 18."

Many domestic violence survivors are being challenged in court across Canada by their former partners for personal alienation as a form of retribution.

"What is even more concerning, is the fact that the concept of parental alienation is often misunderstood and being used against domestic violence survivors who are trying to protect their children from being abused," explained Do. "Parental alienation is a case where one parent doesn't get the children on Christmas day or get their way in a specific request. Not in a way a decision is made to protect a child from severe physical harm or abuse. The definition of parental alienation is the process of psychological manipulation of a child into showing an unwarranted bias, disrespect or hostility towards a parent and/or other family members."

This will forever be a life-changing event for Do and her children. The reclassification of domestic violence leaves a variety of impacts to all involved. "I am not sure when this whole ordeal will ever be over, but I keep going on," concluded Do. "I talk about it to people now instead of hiding it shame, in hopes that I can help and the stigma and be the one person that can help someone else in a similar situation. Hopefully someday the system can better enforce and protect those who have suffered from domestic violence and abuse."

Best Health
Story – 3rdSwan Valley
Star and Times

Jennifer Laviolette

Better access to CF meds required

Springfield mother fighting for son, other children living with cystic fibrosis

By Tony Zerucha

An Oakbank woman is fighting to get access to important medications for her son and all other children living with cystic fibrosis and wants to speak with provincial and federal politicians to press her case.

Sheralin Spring said her four-year-old son Wyatt was fortunate he was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) at less than three weeks old thanks to a provincial newborn screening program. That allowed doctors to be proactive in treating the boy.

"It makes a world of difference to be able to treat right away especially with cystic fibrosis being a progressive disease," Spring explained.

An active young boy, Wyatt undergoes as much as two and one-half hours of therapy every day, including inhalation of drugs and "pummelling", where his parents cup their hands and tap on different parts of his chest to loosen mucus.

Wyatt also takes medications, seven different ones every day to manage his symptoms, clear mucus and ensure he absorbs essential vitamins.

Living in Manitoba is doubly hard for people living with cystic fibrosis and their families, Spring said. Manitoba is the only province in Canada without a cystic fibrosis drug plan to cover daily use drugs and antibiotics either for free or with an affordable deductible.

They used to have one, Spring explained, but it was gradually eliminated between 1995 and 2018, leaving families to pay the entire cost of those seven drugs.

On a national level, Canada needs to join the growing list of countries with a rare disease strategy to assess drugs specific to rare diseases like cystic fibrosis, which affects an estimated 130 Manitobans. The frustrating aspect for families like the Springs is there are drugs being produced that can greatly improve the lives of 95 per cent of Canadians living

with cystic fibrosis, drugs which treat the causes, not just improve the symptoms.

"It needs to change because we have all of these drugs that are either existing or in the pipeline for cystic fibrosis in particular that we don't have access to because the Canadian government

will not provide funding for them," Spring said. "I don't think anyone should lose their battle to cystic fibrosis when there's drugs that exist right now (that can help)."

Three drugs in particular greatly improve the lives of people living with cystic fibrosis. Orkambi can help improve breathing, reduce the risk of lung infections and improve weight gain. It costs \$250,000 per year. Kalydeco is a pill that helps a specific protein function better, which improves lung function and weight gain. Its annual hit is \$300,000. Then there's Symdeko, which costs

\$381,200. A fourth drug, Trikafta, was recently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. A year's worth could cost \$407,000 in Canada.

Spring said she and other parents want to meet with federal and provincial politicians to introduce them to their children and explain why these drugs are so important. Even getting an initial discussion booked has proved elusive. But they're not giving up.

A spokesperson for Manitoba Health said the provincial government supports both the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health's (CADTH) Common Drug Review (CDR) process, as well as the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) process when considering the selection of drugs to be included on the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary.

"Before a drug is added to the provincial formulary, it must first be reviewed through CADTH's CDR process," the spokesperson explained. "CADTH conducts rigorous and objective evaluations of the clinical and economic value of drugs and health technologies. These evaluations are then used to provide formulary listing recommendations to publicly funded drug plans across Canada."

The government currently provides drug coverage for various therapy classes which treat CF, the spokesperson added. This includes Kalydeco. The spokesperson said is covered under Part 3 Exception Drug Status through Manitoba Pharmacare.

Orkambi and Symdeko won't be covered, the spokesperson said.

"CADTH reviewed Orkambi in November 2018 and recommended that it not be reimbursed



Photo by Tony Zerucha

Sheralin Spring, with four-year-old son Wyatt, says there are drugs that can improve the lives of 95 per cent of Canadians living with cystic fibrosis but the federal government does not provide funding for them.

due to the uncertainty in whether the use of Orkambi was associated with improvements in cystic fibrosis outcomes. As such, Orkambi is not publicly funded in Manitoba," the spokesperson explained. "CADTH has been unable to recommend reimbursement for Sym-

deko as a drug submission has not been filed by the manufacturer to date. As such, public funding is not considered for Symdeko in Manitoba at this time."

More details on Wyatt's journey can be found at walkingforwyatt.com

Best Health Story – 2nd
Beausejour – The Clipper Weekly – Tony Zerucha

Family of Warren man, who voluntarily chose to die under MAID, grateful for service

By Patricia Barrett

The wife of a Warren man, who voluntarily chose to die using Manitoba's Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) service, said she's grateful the program exists for patients suffering from a terminal illness.

Kelvin (Kev) Baldwin, 86, died at home last November surrounded by his wife of 66 years and family members after suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a progressive illness that causes obstructed airflow.

Kelvin's wife, Donna, said he was on oxygen for about a year prior to his death and was terrified he would wake up one morning and "gradually suffocate." After one particularly bad night, on which he experienced "God-awful" pain, he asked Donna to contact MAID to see if he was eligible for the service.

"Your lungs just gradually shut off," said Donna. "It would be like somebody putting a pillow over your head and suffocating you until you pass out, then taking it off and you come to and they put a pillow over your head and suffocate you again — that's what that ending would be like."

After Kelvin set a date for the MAID team to administer the end-of-life procedure in the family home, his children and in-laws gathered in Warren, some flying in from out-of-town days before the procedure took place, and were with him on the day of his death.

"The night before he died, he was in bed and all the four kids and the grandchildren were here with him. They had their cell phones and they're looking up jokes. Kev is telling more jokes than they can find," said Donna. "We had a wonderful evening. Tuesday morning, he woke up, he come out here [living room] — he always sat in the rocking chair — and MAID came at 10 o'clock."

The medical team re-confirmed with Kelvin that he wished to die and the procedure took place in the bedroom.

"I lay beside him on the bed and the doctor came in and put the apparatus in his arm. It's like when they do an operation, they stick the needle in your arm and say count to 10. I don't remember ever getting past two. You lose consciousness so fast," said Donna. "All the kids were in there except one of our daughters, who did not want to see her dad die."

Federal legislation allows — at the request of a person — a medical practitioner or a nurse practitioner to administer a substance that causes death, or the provision of a substance the patient can self-administer and cause their own death.

In Manitoba at present there are no medications



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Kelvin Baldwin chose the MAID team to administer the end-of-life procedure.

available for self-administration and only physicians can administer MAID; nurse practitioners are not authorized to complete documentation regarding the registration of a death. Medical residents are prohibited from administering MAID.

The provincial service, made up of an inter-disciplinary team of health-care providers, has a number of criteria patients must meet before they're deemed eligible for MAID, according to the Manitoba Medical Assistance in Dying Overview for Health-Care Providers document on the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's website.

Criteria include being eligible for publicly funded health-care services, being at least 18 years old, having the ability to make decisions about one's own health, having a "grievous and irremediable" medical condition (a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability, an advanced state of irreversible decline and enduring physical or psychological suffering), and making the request voluntarily without external pressure.

The patient must also provide informed consent after having been made aware of all care options to alleviate suffering, including palliative care. Two independent physicians (not the patient's physician) will conduct a review of a patient's eligibility.

There are a number of safeguards built into the end-of-life service. Patients must complete a minimum 10-day reflection period between the day they sign their request and the day MAID is provided. At the time of the procedure, the administering physician must confirm the patient is capable of making medical decisions and must also give the patient an

opportunity to withdraw his/her request.

Family or other caregivers have no legal authority to consent to or authorize MAID on a patient's behalf.

Sara Locke, senior communications and government relations specialist with Shared Health, an organization created by the government in 2018 to co-ordinate provincial health services, said MAID became available in Manitoba in February 2016 after the federal government legalized it across Canada, and requests for the service are increasing.

"Across Manitoba, MAID has experienced a steady increase in the number of requests since the service became legal in Canada," said Locke. "However, it is important to note that MAID services are only provided to those who meet the eligibility criteria, and those who are eligible may choose not to proceed with provision of the service."

Twenty-four patients were deemed eligible for MAID in 2016; 63 in 2017; 138 in 2018; and 157 in 2019 (as of November 30, 2019).

Eligible patients can access MAID in most health-care facilities, in their own home or at another mutually agreed upon location, said Locke. The patient decides whether he/she would like to have family members or other caregivers present.

The MAID team is highly trained and includes physicians, nurses, social workers and speech pathologists who are "dedicated to supporting a patient and their family through the eligibility review and medical assistance in dying process," said Locke.

Donna said she would like to see the service broadened to include people who had requested to voluntarily die but who became medically incapable — after the 10-day waiting period — of re-confirming their wish to the MAID team at the scheduled date of death.

Another thing she said she wished could have been different was the ability for her to die alongside her husband.

"When we first talked about going to MAID, I said to Kev, 'We'll get MAID, they'll come here and they'll put us both to sleep.' That was my dream. I wanted to go, too," said Donna.

"Well, there's no way they're going to let someone die if there's nothing wrong with them, which isn't fair. Here I am. They say people have to be of sane mind to say they want to die. Well, I was in sane mind and I wanted to die, but they need a doctor's certificate saying I have a terminal illness."

For more information about the MAID program, visit wrha.mb.ca/MAID.

Best Health
Story — 1st

The Stonewall
Teulon Tribune

Patricia Barrett

Chronicling community a labour of love for Prawda correspondent



Inside Prawda home, Gordy Dobash reviews an archived copy of a column she wrote 20 years ago for the work.

by JORDAN ROSS

For more than 50 years, Dorothy Dobash has exceeded the ups and downs of the community she calls home. I think the reason that I started to write was because things were happening and they weren't being put out to the public. Nobody knew what was going on," Dobash said.

The 75-year-old dedicated her months to write after 52 and a half years as The Carillon's correspondent in Prawda, a community nestled along the Trans-Canada Highway that many pass through but few stop to appreciate.

Dobash's final column was published June 25.

Her column first appeared in the newspaper on Dec. 7, 1967, and a column that appeared in the paper on the opening of the new Rayville Community Hall.

By the following week she was reporting on a fire in Radakovich's that destroyed buildings and equipment belonging to the provincial forestry department, and how that caused a tanker hauling acid to overturn near Kenna.

"There were things going on," Dobash recalled. "The hall had been built. There were happenings, weddings—people were getting married left and right. There was always something to write about."

For many years Dobash wrote her columns by hand. Eventually she began a computer and began typing her submissions.

"But I'm not online," she said, preferring to send a fax.

The Birch River flows through the property where Dobash and her husband, Rich, have lived since 1963. They married two years earlier and briefly lived in Red Lake.

Dobash was born in Steinbach, now Strathport, but spent the bulk of her childhood near Kenna, B.C.

"I used to hate the place," she confessed. "There was nothing there, just the land. When the clouds would get dark over the town, I would imagine that they were my ancestors."

Today, Dobash can't imagine living anywhere other than the property where the acid tanker derailed and the night guards.

The Carillon has employed community correspondents since its inception in 1946.

Dobash can't recall how she got the job, but she didn't have to move herself to founding editor Eugene Derlano.

"There was no interview," she said.

It was her reputation for community involvement that led to the opportunity to be hired.

"I have been active in the community. I

think all through the time we have lived here, as has Rich."

Over the years, Dobash held just about every position on the board of the local community club, where she made many people and callsigns.

She also worked as a short-order cook at two stations in Prawda and Radakovich, the Mohawk Motor Inn, and the Nelson Lake golf course restaurant.

Dobash also served two terms on the board of trustees of Agassiz School Division, which later became Dobash.

Not long after she arrived in Prawda, when her children were still small, she noticed there were few organized activities for them.

"I wanted them to learn how to swim because we were by the river," she said.

With help from the Women's Institute in Radakovich, Dobash founded a winter swim and crafts club that swished to swimming lessons in their names. Rich made a beach by the riverbank and an instructor was called in.

"The kids would come from all over," Dobash said.

She was also assigned to write by another long-serving Carillon correspondent, Russ Kozak of Kenna, who began her column a few months earlier. (Kozak's daughter and Dobash now would live well.)

After a few weeks, Dobash found the quiet that she needed to write.

"You get to meet so many wonderful people. I learned how to spell Ukrainian names," she said with a chuckle.

She has written about things as small as birthdays and as large as flooding in the Steinbach.

"The water was deep all over," she recalled.

She also covered a house meeting in Falcon Lake where residents were upset about sewage being discharged into the Winnipeg River.

"You always know that when you walked into a room and it went quiet... they were going to say what they were talking about, because Dorothy's here and she might put it in the paper," Dobash said.

Sometimes news unfolded in her own front yard.

"I have chased down a catbird," Dobash said.

One day a red pickup truck drove onto the yard. A crane hooked its front to the back and loaded up a pile of car batteries and vehicle parts, and drove off.

Dobash asked around and learned of a nearby quarry operation.

She followed a gravel truck to the site, where she spotted the pickup still loaded with the stolen items. She contacted the foreman,

who called over the exhausted driver. The items were returned and Dobash didn't press charges.

More recently, Dobash chronicled the demise of Prawda School, which was shuttered in 2014 after years of declining enrolment.

"The closing of the school was a big loss," she said.

Dobash hopes the school can one day re-open as a new young teacher as well as the old of Rayville.

She began reading retirement after she answered surgery but fell. She spent four months recuperating in hospital, returning home one month before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived.

The recovery process meant she couldn't gather news in person, and she said doing so by phone just isn't the same.

There are also fewer celebrations to cover these days. Her columns were once staffed with them.

"It seems before there were weddings and anniversaries and birthdays. Well, now it seems there's funerals and funerals and funerals."

But Dobash's spirit remains undiminished. She lives at 430 d.m. to do her physical therapy and maintain a workout routine.

"I already tried to read," she said.

She read over 100 books while recovering from surgery.

"I already tried to read," she said.

A copy of Robert Lusk's The River of the River is on her coffee table.

She'll also continue to write, albeit to a smaller audience.

"In this day I still write letters to people at Steinbach, which people find old papers. They run out of it as to what they have done through the year and they send it to everybody. I still think I do not mind. I just figure if I'm not special enough for you to write me a letter, then I don't want it."

Best Historical Story – 2nd

Erickson
South Mountain Press

Rachael Flintoft

Beth
Naylor

BEHIND THE COLLECTION

By RACHEAL FLINTOFT | SOUTH MOUNTAIN PRESS

A collection speaks in volumes of the person who acquires it... a lifetime sentiment for the yesteryears and a passion to ensure the preservation of time period garments to share with future generations.

"Beth was a quiet and very refined woman who took pride in her collection," explained Patti Rough, chairperson of the Beth Naylor Collection Inc. as well as Assesippi Parkland Tourism (APT). "It was only when you knocked on her door would she invite you in to have a cup of tea and show you what she had been doing that day... sewing buttons on dresses and adding feathers to hats."

With a deserving remembrance, Both restored the life of old era clothing and gave historical recognition knowing that the collected pieces were once a part of everyday life and held importance to someone at some point.

With over 650 articles in the Beth Naylor Collection, mostly all from the region and all between 1855 to 1990s, Beth made a lasting and forever impact. Although Beth passed away in 2007, she continues to inspire through the work of countless volunteers that share in her esteem.

SIGNATURE LOOK

Warm and kind, creative and dedicated, thrifty and skilful – Beth lived her life in Russell, never married or had any children. An important member of Beth's life, her cat Bentley watched over the collection on the landing that led up to the attic that housed the clothing for years.

"Beth's working career started in the Smallale store as a grocery clerk, she then began working at the Russell post office - later becoming postmaster - until her retirement," Blomch said. "She never

drove a car so she walked to work; this is where you would see her dressed in classic clothes, never pants." She continued, "with a hat and cane as I remember, and possibly something from the collection that matched her skirt or blouse, her passion for shoes and hats was her signature look."

Both was involved in every aspect of the community, helping to contribute to province-wide endeavours as much as she could. She acquired many deserving awards within her lifetime that highlighted the future legacy that she left to her community.

She was a collector of things that most would disregard as important. To Beth, she felt attached to all of these items.

"Clothing, hats, purses, gloves, shoes, jewellery, catalogues, books, sewing notions," listed Raugh, talking about the things important to Beth. "All of these are still in the collection and we never

Amongst the items, sifting through scrapbooks, she kept hundreds and hundreds of thank you cards all addressed to her. Beth's willingness and love to share her collection with not only her community

but the entire province, including the bordering province of Saskatchewan, is noted by the multitude of heartfelt appreciations kept within her things.

"Thank you, Beth, for your contribution to our school play, our fashion show, our exhibit, our performance, our community, our past loved one," one card reads, showing her passion was enjoyed and appreciated by so many.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Every item has its importance, to Beth every piece shared a spot in her heart. Her aspiration for collecting clothing began in 1995 at the

early age of 17. Gifted an old dress by Mrs. John McMillan, with a keen interest, Beth learned that the crumpled black heap was a wedding dress dated 1872. Surprised by a black wedding dress, she learned that they were a common sight in the 1800s – a black dress was often chosen for marriage by a widow or

also used as a gown that could be worn for more than one occasion. Beauty was in the eye of the beholder, Beth saw the grace of this throwaway dress before it was considered beautiful again, brought it home and hung it in her shed. As the seasons changed and the

winter melted away, the dress had come to life – the wrinkles surpassed – leaving the dress restored to its former glory and ready for a new life. Feeling an instant connection to the life that the black wedding dress once had, Beth became dedicated to reinvigorating old era garments, viewing them as once forgotten aspects of history.

Remembering the days gone by, those that have a likeness for dated period pieces, whether it be antiques, artifacts or clothing, find importance in the history that follows the item just as much as the item itself.

"If you are storing garments yourself, now is the time to collect all of the information as to who wore it and when... write it down and store it with the article so that whoever inherits it will know its history, as this is very important." Both expressed in writing on an old

note pad. "This is the only way we can preserve the past so future generations can see the authentic garments."

Documenting the article specifications was vital to preserving the accurate and important history to the trove of time-pieces Beth treasured. Why are these items special, what are these tell us about

FIVE YEARS INTOUCH

After Beth passed away, her estate was divulged and sold with no home to maintain the clothing. The fate of the collection was left to sit untouched in a trailer for over half of a decade.

"As part of Assessippi Parkland Tourism (APT), we felt it was very important to preserve this unique collection and keep it in our area," Hough stated. "We met with the trustees over a couple years to formulate a plan for presentation and display that they would agree to."

tially APT formulated a plan for the collection. Once the transfer took place, the Beth Naylor Collection Inc. was formed in 2013 that included assistance from the Town of Russell and Economic Development to carry the collection into the future.

"Cynthia Norbas, former chair for APT, was instrumental in getting the collection out of the trailer to ensure that it was properly taken care of," expressed Reagh. "After five years, I felt awesome to get the collection out of storage and to be able to share it with the public – such a collection could not be hidden away and deserved to be shared."

With approximately 10 to 15 volunteers contributing to the Beth Naylor Collection Inc., the hard work and dedication of volunteers does not go unnoticed. Volunteers maintain the collection, work on displays and fashion shows which are all important aspects to showcasing

Various locations throughout the area help to showcase and display the items, "the tourism group felt it was important to display the collection throughout the area - Ingalls Elevators, Park Manor, Tourist Booth in Russell, Smellie Building, Russell Library, Hinescarth Drop-in Center," explained Raugh. "We work on seasonal terms and when possible feature items

To maintain the vitality of the items, the group has applied for grants over the years to purchase displays, mannequins, storage, and other supplies as the clothing is maintained by lying flat, wrapped in cotton and now kept in acid free boxes. The collection is currently stored in the basement of the new Russell J. Thomas.



ABOVE: Beth Naylor in 1938, at age 19 in the black wedding dress that started the collection

BETH'S LEGACY

Beth's lifetime of collecting demonstrates her pure appreciation for the one-of-a-kind pieces never able to be replaced. Often, you'd see Beth sewing a button or mending as needed, with her goal of ensuring the collection will be enjoyed for years into the future.

"The Beth Naylor Historic Clothing Collection opens a window to the past and into the lives of the people who lived here," noted Rought. "It is a history that visitors will be able to relate to on a personal level - brought to life through authentic period clothing and accessories... we are fortunate to have such a marvelous collection available to present to the public."

To feel the garments and imagine their past after decades of being forgotten – to unbox history and give it a future – to deliver historical remembrance to those who live before us are all fundamental to Beth's legacy. Through the continued efforts of countless volunteers, the community and those preserving her collection, Beth's vision of ensuring the past is remembered for future generations is kept alive.

"While spring cleaning, are you tempted to throw out Great Grandmother's old dress, bonnet, or other garments?" wrote Beth on an old scrap piece of paper. "It's falling apart, and no one wants it - just junk. Think again. It was worn before 1800 to the middle 1900s, those cannot be replaced... now is the time to give it to someone interested in preserving them for the future."

Re-vamping the Winnipeg Ventilator to help support life for pandemic victims

A 30-year-old ventilator model is being re-designed for the war on COVID-19 – with help from Killarney's Earl Gardiner and Darren DeCock.

KIM LANGEN

The starting gun has gone off, and it is now a race against time to provide ventilators for badly afflicted COVID-19 patients who can't draw breath.

Thousands of the devices are needed, and there will simply not be enough of them in Canada, in the coming days and weeks, for expected pandemic victims who develop pneumonia, and will not be able to breathe for themselves.

But a medical team in Winnipeg, which includes two Killarney natives, is currently working

all-out to push out a newer, lower-cost ventilator model, based on a 30-year old device created by an intrepid retired University of Manitoba professor.

This story is really all about oxygen supply – and it actually began in Killarney Hospital, back in the early 1980s, says Darren DeCock, who grew up here, and is now a major player in the white-wind Winnipeg Ventilator project.

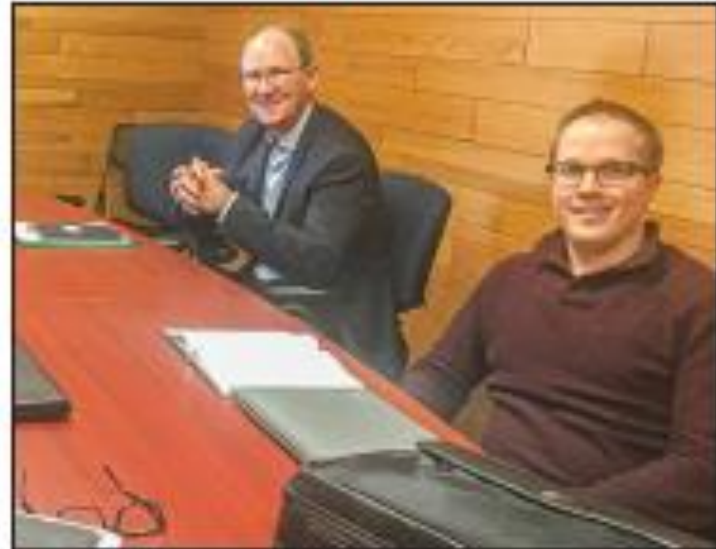
"My dad, Lex DeCock, was the hospital administrator here, and he was working with Earl Gardiner, who was the hospital accountant, back in 1983," said Darren DeCock, vice-president, Canibra Health in Winnipeg. "They provided oxygen to Killarney hospital. They were very entrepreneurial, and they researched this idea of piping in oxygen, instead of using tanks and

concentrator devices, and came up with the idea of how to do it."

But tragedy struck in the midst of the duo's plans to modernize the hospital's oxygen dispensing.

"I was born in 1983, and that was the year my dad passed away," said Darren. "My dad was flying back from Winnipeg, after meeting with an engineering firm there, to discuss the idea of connecting several oxygen concentrators together, and to feed that into a compressor – one used to fill scuba tanks – that would then fill the large oxygen tanks used to supply the hospital. But he did not make it home safely after that meeting. His plane, a Cessna, crashed on the flight back from Winnipeg to Killarney, in freezing rain, coming down somewhere between Pilot Mound and Crystal City."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



KILLARNEY DUO AT VENTILATOR HELM – Earl Gardiner (left), executive chair for Winnipeg company Canibra, along with Darren DeCock, vice president, Customer Success, for Canibra. Both men are originally from Killarney, and are working alongside Dr. Magdy Younes and medical device company Starfish Medical to update the original Winnipeg Ventilator for a new use during the COVID-19 pandemic. The design stage is nearly complete, and the next step will be preparing it for manufacture, and to eventually create up to 10,000 new ventilators for Canada, hopefully beginning in May.

Best Historical Story – 1st
Killarney – The Guide – Kim Langen

Herald Lance Metro Sou'wester Times Headliner

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Best In-House Ad – 2nd

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Sentinel Courier Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7



The Sentinel Courier

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Best In-House Ad – 1st

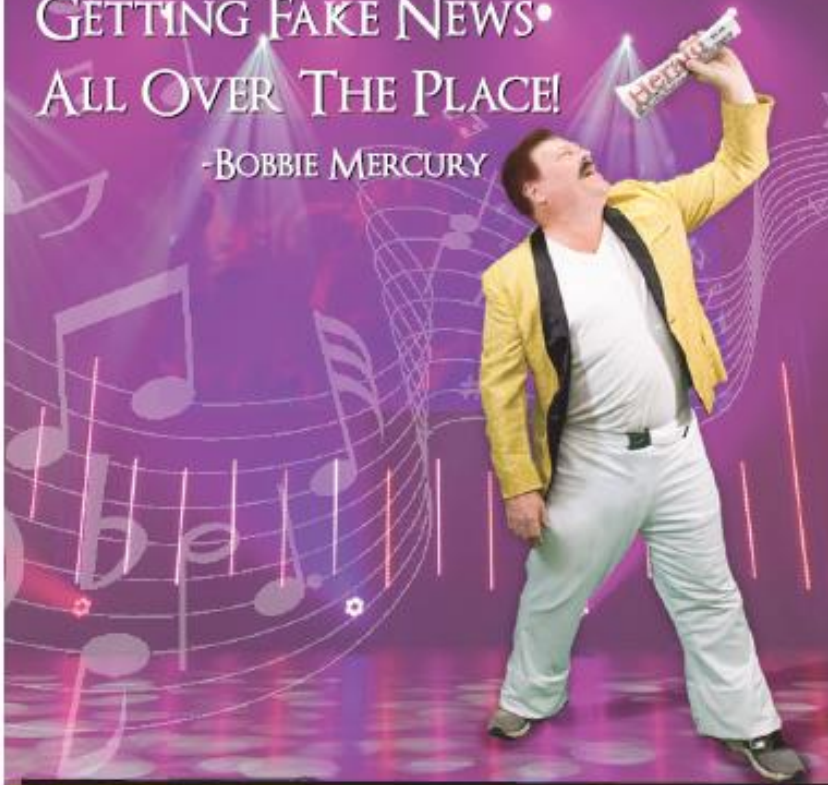
The Dauphin Herald

Samantha Gallaway

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Best Local Editorial on a Business Topic – 3rd

The Dauphin Herald

Shawn Bailey

Shop smart

Today marks the beginning of Amazon Prime Days, two days of deals the online retailing giant offers to its members on everything from electronics to fashion to home improvement, groceries and more.

Good news for some, not for others.

The Manitoba government recently issued a press release announcing Amazon Logistics' intentions to open a new delivery station in the Inkster Industrial Park, northeast of Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport.

The 113,000-square foot site is set to launch in 2021 and is expected to create hundreds of direct and indirect full-time and part-time jobs in areas such as parcel sorting, management and third-party delivery services. The delivery station will receive and sort parcels from other distribution centres and co-ordinate deliveries to homes and businesses in the Winnipeg area.

Manitoba Economic Development and Training Minister Ralph Eichler is excited to welcome the world's largest online marketplace indicating, "Manitoba is a great place to do business and we thank Amazon for its investment and for showing confidence in our economy."

Not every Manitoban shares Mr. Eichler's enthusiasm for Amazon or is as excited about the Goliath's arrival. Small town retailers cringe at the mention of Amazon as they have watched their customer base decimated over the last several years with people choosing to do their shopping from their couches rather than visit a business owned by their neighbour.

However, that does not stop those same people from walking through the doors of those small, independent retailers with their hands out looking for support for their child's sports team or club, their friend's wedding social or the myriad of other requests local retailers face each and every day.

Online shopping has its place. For those obscure items that can not be found locally, the advent of online shopping was a windfall. But with consumers utilizing their computers for everyday essentials, local retailers are at risk. And once they are gone they are not coming back.

So if you need a pair of running shoes, a new power drill or a new dress shirt for your cousin's wedding, get off of the couch and head downtown . . . while you still can.

SB

Best Local Editorial on a Business Topic – 2nd

The Swan Valley Star and Times

Danielle Gordon - Broome

Keep up the local support



Weekly
COMMENTARY
Danielle Gordon-Broome

The same story has been broadcast across the world: small businesses are suffering the most through this pandemic. Small business sales remain concerningly low for this time of year, according to the latest data on the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)'s Small Business Recovery Dashboard. Key indicators show that 63 percent of Manitoba's small businesses are fully open, 47 percent fully staffed and 31 percent making normal sales.

Additional data from Chase Merchant Services shows credit and debit card sales for Canadian small businesses are on average 25 percent lower for March-June 2020 than the same time in 2019 even though many customers have switched from cash to these methods.

In a recent press release, CFIB's Prairie Region Director Jonathan Alward said, "things are slowly getting better, but small businesses depend on Canadians to choose local so the hardware store down the street, the independent pet shop, the mom and pop bakery can survive. We urge everyone to be mindful of where they spend in the coming months and to choose a small, independent business every chance they get."

It's funny though, in a time where consumers should have a fear of shopping at a big box store those stores seem to be busier than ever.

Here in Swan River, the economic situation was a lot sunnier than anyone could have predicted through the COVID-19 pandemic. While travel was discouraged and crossing borders required a 14-day quarantine Valley residents didn't have much choice but to keep their money locally, in our community, and the impact this made was huge!

Instead of going to Yorkton to buy a TV, businesses like The Brick and Merv's sold completely out of any stock they could get their hands on. And, instead of heading to Winnipeg to get their renovation and repair supplies, people dropped by Northern Specialties and Home Hardware to browse their selections. Long time customers and new customers mix in our local stores and the bottom line for many of our businesses saw a positive impact that they might not otherwise have received prior to COVID.

But, as soon as borders opened up, many businesses have reported a decline in sales as people continue in their habits of shopping out of town. The point is that COVID has made it so that we can support our local businesses and be sufficient in our own community. And, in doing this, we can prosper as a Valley and this benefits us all.

With COVID case numbers creeping up I think it's important to remember that we should still be staying as close to home as possible and that the physical and financial health of our community depends on it.

DGB

Best Local Editorial on a Business Topic – 1st

The Pas
Opasquia Times

Ralph McLean

8 Opasquia Times, Wed. December 2, 2020

Community

Buy local or bye local if we don't act in time of need

Ralph McLean
Editor

We are all asking for a vaccine as a sticking point, but that is not likely as we will need to continue to be diligent and safe for

this holiday season. The other side of this pandemic is the focus to support local businesses. As consumers we have a responsibility to do our due diligence to see where we can purchase our gifts from local vendors as

many will not make it through the holidays and into 2021 without our support. As many as 25% of businesses will permanently close their doors before the end of 2020.

Holiday shopping accounts for 35% of yearly sales for retailers and with many lockdowns looking or already in place, we must show up for our local businesses. A common phrase many are hearing is it BUY local or it is RYE local.

As business owners and operators, there is an opportunity to do due diligence to capitalize on this shop local movement. Big box stores and Amazon cannot provide everything to everyone. Here are some tips for businesses to support their customers who want to support them:

Black Friday Weekend
Many businesses are seeing a huge buildup in inventory due to the lockdown and lower foot traffic throughout the year. Now is the time to offload as much as possible. Offer curbside pickup. Commu-

nicate the terms of your promotions. Research for this year is suggesting Black Friday will last longer this year. Offering promotions for an extended time would be a good opportunity to move through some of the inventory that could be a depreciating asset.

Personalization
This is the biggest opportunity to add value in ways the big box store cannot. Book an appointment and they will get optimum results. Many on consumer and personalize the experience. Have virtual personal shopping appointments so you can select the perfect gift while supporting a local business. Pick up gift orders already wrapped and ready to go under the tree. Highlight the fact that this is easy for the consumer and take in customer purchases.

Instagram & Facebook
This is a spot to share inspiration and how your products or services can add value to your customers lives. You can use your social media as a point of contact for email or phone sales if you do not have an e-commerce site. Post about gift ideas for people. Post often about different products and showcase your inventory. Ensure you are posting contact information so people can connect with you to make your purchase.

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Safety-conscious virtual events
Creating a safe opportunity for social interaction is extremely valuable. Add a bit of fun into the holiday shopping as a great way to capture new and existing customers. Host virtual shopping appointments. Use a video call to allow your customers to shop with you. Allow customers to book in-store appointments before or after hours. Show holiday tips and tricks on your social media platforms for wrapping, personalizing, decorating the house. Host virtual parties to teach your customers how to use the products in your store.

Make it easy!
So much of the appeal of shopping on Amazon or with the big box store is the appeal of everything being convenient. Local businesses can offer even additional conveniences to their customers. Things like offering delivery. There is more pressure than ever on couriers to deliver holiday goods this year than ever before. This is a great way to capitalize on their limitations. There are potentially 700 million gifts at risk of not arriving or being late for Christmas. Offer two-day delivery for local customers (bonus if it is already gift wrapped with a personal note in a card). Create a new return policy. Offer an extended return window for customers to exchange or return their items. Offer curbside returns 42% want their shopping to be contactless

Gift Cards
37% of Canadians plan to give more gift cards than in previous years. Make sure you have a process in place for offering gift cards. There is a huge focus this year to support your local business. Fortunately, the big box retailers and Amazon leave something to be desired for a personalized touch that can really enhance your holiday experience. If a business can offer some, many or all of the above tips then not only are we helping our community, we are making our holidays a little more magical and let's face it, this year we need as much magic as possible.

Notes to the General Public
Now is the time to support your local business. They have been there for you over the years supporting your social prices, your school events, your charity fundraising, local whatever reason they have supported you in the past there. These local business owners are not trying to buy a second year; they are trying to keep the lights on, the mortgage paid and put food on the table. Amazon and the other big box retailers do not care about you; that local business owner does and might even be your neighbor, so while we all go through the next few months together, there is no better time to shop local for the good of your community.



Families voice concerns about care home visitation restrictions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The families of several local personal care home residents are raising concerns about the impact continued visitation restrictions are having on their loved ones.

At the direction of public health officials, Manitoba's long-term care facilities closed their doors to visitors at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic this spring.

Those restrictions have begun to ease in recent weeks, but things are still far from normal. Visits with care home residents are limited in frequency and duration. Physical distancing is also required.

It's left some residents feeling isolated from their families and is taking a toll on both their mental and physical health, says Sharon Webb, whose grandmother lives in Salem Home in Winkler.

"We're not giving them the dignity that they deserve and the quality of life that they deserve," she says. "Isolation should never be an answer to anything."

Melinda Hamm's mother also lives at Salem. She says her mom doesn't understand why she's only able to see

a family member or two for a limited time each week.

"I know my mom doesn't understand what COVID is, so for them to say, well, this is the new normal, she doesn't get it. She's feeling abandoned ... and the loneliness that's setting in, I see it in her eyes."

Linda Friesen sees the same pain in her mother's eyes. Losing touch—literally—with her support network while living at Salem has led to a steady decline in health.

"My sister and I were having a little visit with her on the patio and she was definitely going through a hard time and she just came to tears," Friesen recalls. "My instinct was I've just got to hold your hand or give you a hug as your daughter ... it breaks my heart that I wasn't able to embrace her and give her some comfort that she really needed."

"They don't deserve this, especially since we are at such a low risk," she says, pointing to Manitoba's handful of active COVID-19 cases last week. "I feel like they should be able to have more rights as elderly people."

Tina Doell, who lives at Salem, says that while staff take good care of the residents, this forced time away from



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Sharon Webb, Anne Penner, Elaine Hildebrand, and Melinda Hamm say COVID-19 visitation restrictions have left seniors living in personal care homes feeling cut off from their families.

her family has left her feeling like a prisoner.

"There are days you literally feel like you're in jail," she says. "Why can't we see our families personally in our room? We have contact with our workers all the time and they go shop out in the community the same places our children do. So they can touch us but our children can't? What's the difference?"

"Why is it a bigger risk for our families to come and see us then when the

workers come and touch us and take care of us? Sure, they wear masks; our families could too."

"They shouldn't have to die of loneliness," says Elaine Hildebrand, Doell's daughter. "Once you're 90-something, you're not going to be living for 20, 30 years, but you would like those three months, six months that you do have, that God grants you, to be quality time with those you love."

Continued on page 4

Best News Story – 3rd
The Winkler Morden Voice – Ashleigh Viveiros

Overnight robbery at Erin Inn shocks new owners

BY KIM LANGEN

Police are currently investigating a violent robbery that took place recently at a local hotel.

Corporal Bryan Weatherald of the Boissevain RCMP said that an emergency call came through police dispatch during the early hours of Thursday, January 2, that a break-and-enter was in progress at Killarney's Erin Inn Motor Hotel on Broadway Avenue.

"The callout came at around 4 a.m. of a robbery taking place at the Erin Inn," said Corp. Weatherald. "Two suspects were committing a break and enter with violence, which makes it a robbery. The bar was closed, and they had broken into the bar. They were trying to escape with a cash box, and in the process one of the bad guys struck one of the owners with their car, who was trying to prevent them from getting away with the merchandise. He suffered minor injuries, and was taken by ambulance to the local hospital."

Owner of the Erin Inn Motor Hotel, Jong Kim, said that he and his son, Jin Kim, had been asleep in the hotel when the break-in occurred during the early hours of the winter night.

"At around 4 a.m. we heard unusual footsteps in the entrance, going tap tap tap," said Jong Kim, who took over the business last March. "We were alone in the hotel in our separate rooms; there were no guests. The footsteps were of more than one person. My son and I both woke up, and we got up to check. My son went to the basement, and I went to the front entrance."

It was then that Kim realized that intruders



KIM LANGEN/KILLARNEY GUIDE

RECOVERING AND REBUILDING - Jong Kim (right), owner of the Erin Inn Motor Hotel, was still reeling on Monday, following a break-in and robbery that took place in the hotel during the early hours of the morning last Thursday, January 2. Behind him, handyman Kim Tripp replaces a shattered exterior door to the bar, which is where the thieves broke into the premises. Police are investigating the crime.

were indeed in his hotel, and that damage was already underway.

"I saw the machine in the lobby was gone," he said. "But I couldn't see the intruders. I opened the door to the bar. It should have been locked, but it opened, and I entered, and I saw a guy behind the bar. It was dark, so I couldn't recognize him. I shouted out, 'What are you doing here?' and

all the time he was trying to pull out the cash till. He got it out. My son had followed me into the bar,

and he saw at the same time another guy, at the exit door from the bar, which goes to the outside

smoking area and patio. That guy fled."

Meanwhile, Kim was still dealing with the intruder behind the bar wielding the metal cash till.

"The guy with the till confronted me," said Kim. "He tried to get out with the till in his hands, and he threw the till at me and hit me in my upper legs, and I fell on the floor. He escaped through the door, and my

son and I tried to chase them. We chased them through the bar and into the smoking area outside. This area is fenced, and the gate there was broken open."

That was when the robbers' escape plan was revealed, he said.

"Their car was parked there, backed up to the smoking area gate, ready for a getaway," said Kim. "My son tried to stop the car. He went to the driver's seat, and grabbed him by the shoulder. Then the car zoomed away very fast, and my son was still holding onto the man's shoulder, and he was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



TAPED OFF - Police tape cordoned off the entire front parking lot of the Erin Inn on the morning of January 2, while RCMP searched the premises for evidence.

JAY STEPHEN/KILLARNEY GUIDE

Best News Story – 2nd

The Killarney Guide

Kim Langen

Tragic tornado leaves grief in Westman



The funnel of the tornado as seen from Len and Kathy Skelton's home about two miles north-west of Giovanni Colangelo's farm where it touched down.
PHOTO: KATHY SKELTON

By Anne Davison

The tornado that came down in the Scarth area 16 kilometres south of Virden last Friday night claimed the lives of two motorists on Highway 83, injured a third motorist and devastated a farmer's yard. A memorial fund has been started in honour of the Melita youth, Shayna

Barnesky and Carter Tilbury, who died there in the tornado that night.

The truck they were in was picked up and carried over a kilometre away into a field. They were ejected from the vehicle by the EF2 tornado winds, that were estimated at 190 kms/hr.

They were just 18, Shayna having just graduated from Gr. 12. She

had decided to work for a year before furthering her education. Carter was already working for the Enns Brothers John Deere dealership, but had planned to study mechanics.

On social media there has been an outpouring of grief and condolences for the loss of these two young people. Friends

and relatives throughout southwest Manitoba have expressed their concern for the families, some sharing precious memories of both Carter and Shayna, who were a dating couple.

Gloria Vanbeselaere, through Facebook, has announced a memorial fund in their honour:

"In response to so many community members,

family and friends who would like to be able to do something for the families of Shayna and Carter... a memorial fund has been set up at the Sunrise Credit Union where you may donate in person, by phone or e-transfer at shaynabarnes-kymemorialfund@gmail.com or cartertilburymemorialfund@gmail.com."

Pg 2 ►

Best News Story – 1st

Virden
Empire-Advance

Anne Davison

Best Photo Essay – 3rd

Flin Flon The Reminder

Eric Westhaver

The Reminder

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 • 11





Top row left: Provincial Road 465 was completely washed out by the storm. The culvert from the road was swept into the adjacent field. Top row centre: An aerial shot of the flood waters as they reached the edge of Hillcrest Estates, on Neepawa's southeast end. Top row right: Volunteers assisting with the filling of sandbags on July 1.

Middle row left: A view of the Park Lake berm after it has collapsed. Middle row centre: Road 87N, located a little northwest of Arden. Middle row right: Volunteers help in sandbagging a home on Mill Street in Neepawa.

Bottom row left: A group of pelicans relax on top of some water weeds in what had been Park Lake. Bottom row right: An aerial shot of the water across the Neepawa Lions Riverbend Campground.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DALE BERTH, SWANE MARSH, EGIN DEVEREUX, JOHN DRINKWATER AND JON LUIGI PIDO



Best Photo Essay – 2nd Neepawa Banner & Press Eoin Devereux, John Drinkwater and Jon Luigi Pido

Best Photo Essay – 1st

Steinbach
The Carillon

Jordan Ross



Weevil makes first appearance

Expected pea leaf pest found in Northwest ag area

By Sharna Bailey
Herald Staff

There's a new bug in town. At Dauphin Agricultural Society's Farm Outlook 2020, Mar. 5, Jon Gavolicki, the provincial entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development, told producers gathered that the pea leaf weevil was found in Manitoba for the first time ever last year.

"We had suspected that it should be coming into Manitoba any time soon based on what Saskatchewan was finding. And we purposely looked for it. We set a large amount of baited traps in the southwest, we had people looking in peafields, and we could not find it," he said.

"After an agronomist from up in the Northwest sent me a sample of weevils from the Sour River area in September and they were pea leaf weevils."

The adult phase of the tiny weevil is not a problem, Gavolicki said, adding the adult will chew tiny notches on leaves which do not cause problems.

The difficulty for producers, he said, comes from the larval phase.

"They feed underground and they don't feed so much on your roots. The roots have the nod-



The pea leaf weevil has been found in Manitoba.

ules on them in pea plants that fix nitrogen. The leaf weevils feed on the nodules on pea roots so you lose your nitrogen fixing potential of your root system," Gavolicki said.

"You'll still have a robust enough root system, you're not going to have a situation like canola with root maggots where you pull it up and it's just rotting roots. The roots are good. This just don't have any nodules left if you have pea leaf weevils."

The and result is a nitrogen deficient crop, he said, adding research is currently underway in Alberta to see if more nitrogen put down in fields with pea leaf weevils is beneficial.

"Again, this is a new one in Manitoba so it is something that's worth keeping a lookout for," Gavolicki said.

"If you do think you have one, let me know because we are trying to track when they are and how abundant they are in the province. So that's something to look for going into next year," Gavolicki said. He can be reached by phone at 204-750-0596 or by email at Jon.Gavolicki@gov.mb.ca.

Best Special Section – 3rd

The Dauphin Herald

Covid-19 pandemic impacting markets . . for now

By Sharna Bailey
Herald Staff

Coronavirus is the latest thing to impact the markets and ag markets are no immune to the effect. Bruce Burnet, a market analyst with Glacier Farm Media, told producers gathered at the Dauphin Agricultural Society's Farm Outlook 2020, recently.

"Ag markets are a bit of a subsector in terms of the impacts here," Burnet said.

"Basically the ag markets will recover first, when you compare them with some of the other markets out there."

With a slow down in the global economy, the economically sensitive commodities of oil, copper, aluminum and cotton are hit the hardest, Burnet said. Ag commodities are able to weather the storm better, he added.

"The idea is, basically, if the economy goes down this, you don't stop eating. Plain fact, all across the world," Burnet said.

"So really the fundamentals for demand for agricultural goods, the goods that we produce in western Canada, will not change all that much."

Burnet added the sector may be impacted by logistics issues and possibly by hoarding, but by little else. Looking at the markets for corn and soybeans, the lower



markets to rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic much more quickly than other markets.

"It has been fundamentally good news for us and should result in higher exports in not only wheat, but also corn, all types and other commodities that Australia produces," Burnet said.

"The harvest in Australia and Argentina have been completed. They're exporting right now, but they have nearly as much to export as they would in previous years."

"We've got a period of good

weather. With only 3,000 deaths globally, so far, Burnet is confident that is not going to happen.

"So markets are in the panic mode, dramatic money flows moving out of commodities. And markets are going to eventually reassert back to the fundamentals. So a month from now, six weeks from now we'll probably be back to the fundamental trading," Burnet said, encouraging producers to keep to their marketing plans.

"Don't panic sell because you're sure the world is coming to an end. I will assure you the world is not coming to an end."

What?

A challenging growing season and even worse harvest season in western Canada last year, followed by rail disruption was followed globally by drought in Australia and economic distress in Argentina.

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weather. With only 3,000 deaths globally, so far, Burnet is confident that is not going to happen.

Ron Brook Memorial Award presentation delayed to fair

By Sharna Bailey
Herald Staff

It was with mixed emotions that the Dauphin Agricultural Society's winner of the Ron Brook Memorial Award this year, and we certainly look forward to presenting it more formally later.

Citing some of the fair's achievements, Sykalo said although much of their life took place outside of the Dauphin area, the couple raised four children who are involved in ranching and purchased with other ranchers in selling bulls to 45 different countries.

On a national level, Lyle served as the president of the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina for eight years and was inducted into the Canadian Bloodstock Hall of Fame Locally, Sykalo said, Lyle owned and a 4-H club and sale, string them and some by the fair.

"And anytime, perhaps there was no kids, you would see Lyle raise his hand," Sykalo said.

"He would certainly ensure that no kid who made the effort to raise a beef steer or market lamb, didn't get a fair prize for their efforts."

rise them and hopefully some of you will be able to join us at the fair," he said.

"Lyle and Virginia are great recipients of the Ron Brook Memorial Award this year, and we certainly look forward to presenting it more formally later."

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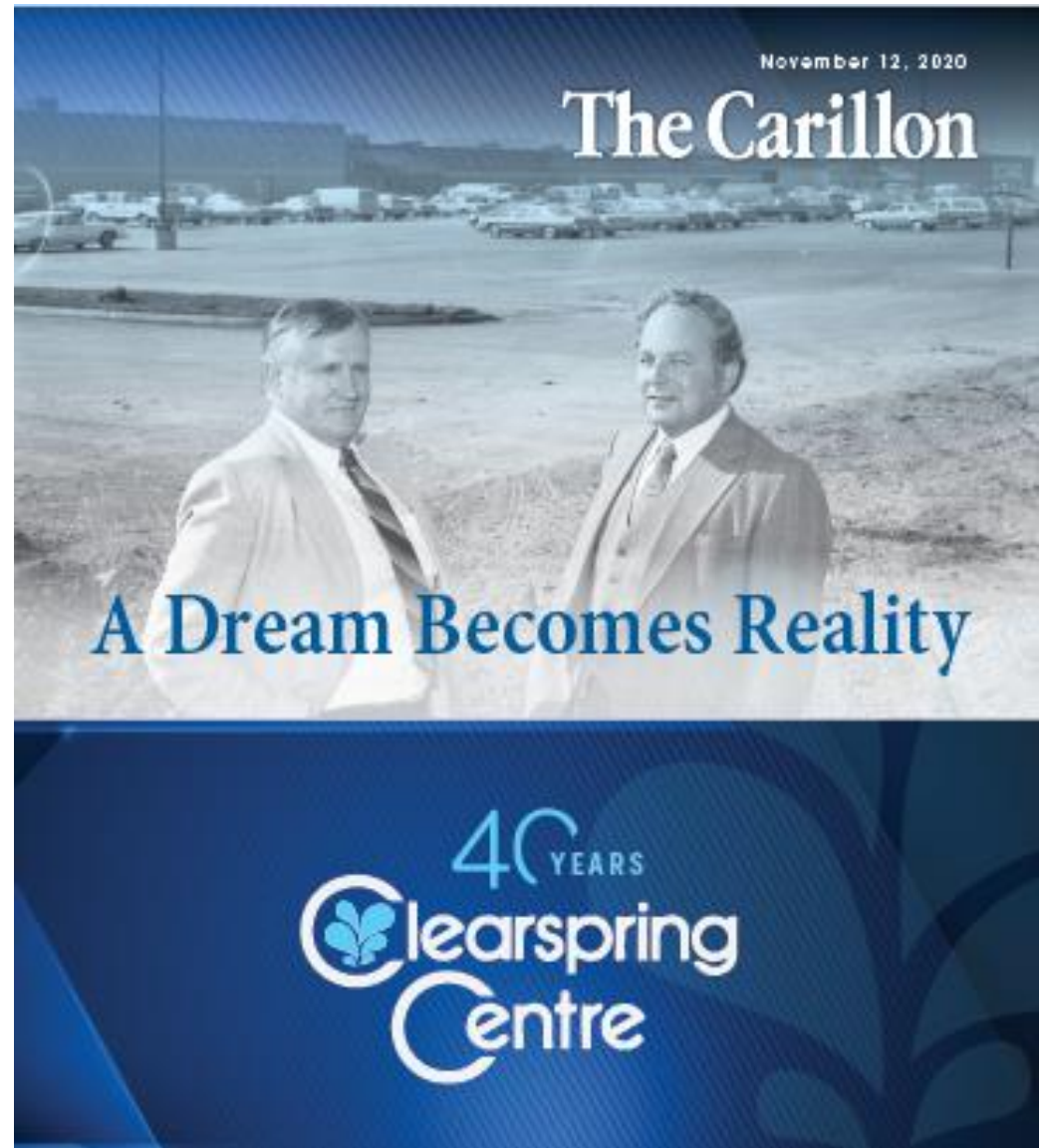
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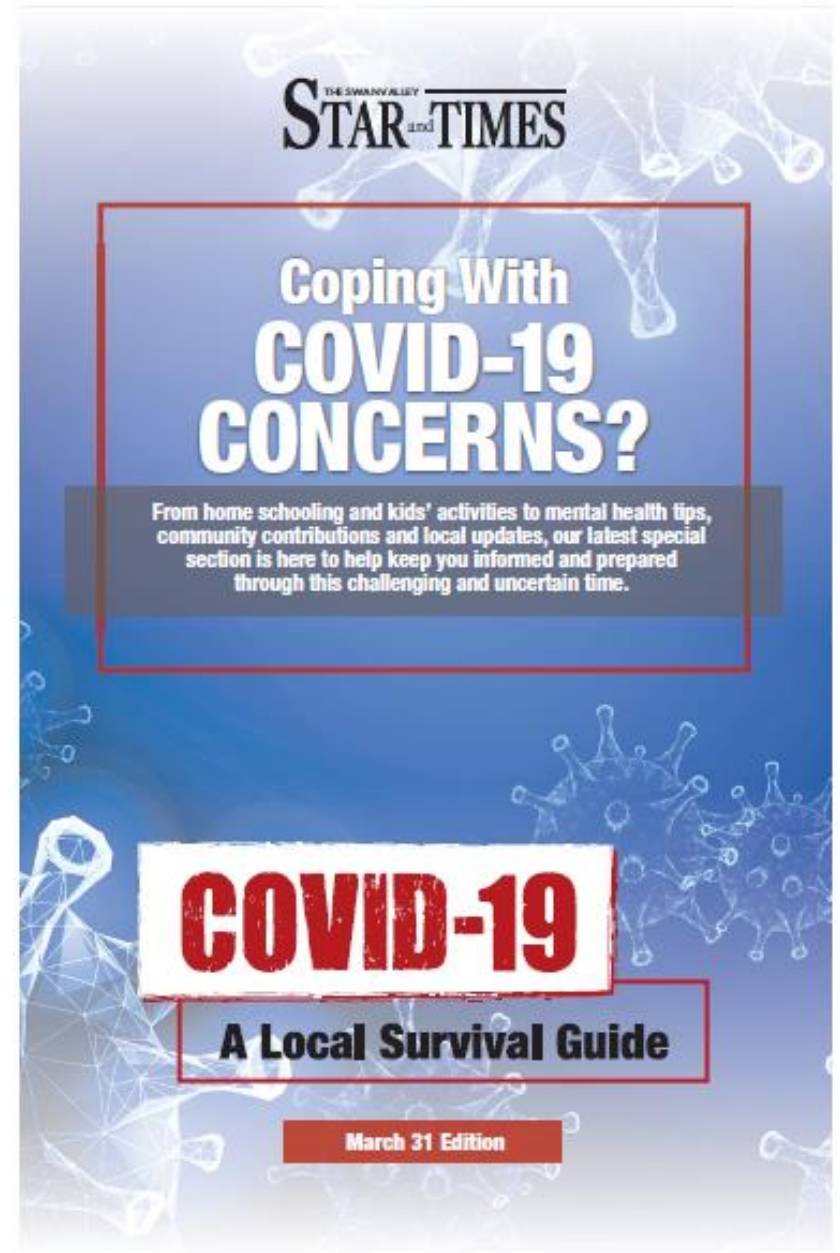
Best Special
Section - 2nd

Steinbach
The Carillon



Best Special Section – 1st

The Swan Valley
Star and Times



Best Sports
Photo – 3rd

The Winkler
Morden Voice

Rick Hiebert



Best Sports Photo – 2nd

The Pas
Opasquia Times

Trent Allen





This batsman bears down on the ball during a pick-up game of cricket at L.A. Barkman Park in Steinbach.

TERRY FREY FOR THE CARILLON

Best Sports Photo – 1st
Steinbach – The Carillon – Terry Frey

Best Sports Story – 3rd

The Swan Valley
Star and Times

Danielle
Gordon - Broome

IN SPORTS

SECTION B • VOL. 119 • NO. 14 • TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

REPURPOSED ROCKS

Durban curling
stones get a
new life in
Colorado

MORE ON PAGE B6

The Cloud City Curling Club in Leadville, Colo. was able to form thanks to the donation of the rocks from the defunct Durban Curling Rink. Here, a group of curlers play at sunset on their outdoor rink surface. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Terry Frey

**THE JOURNAL**

Center Jeffrey Gump, among them, said, after he filled a 100-yard bag with the valuable goods at the store on May 11, Gump then returned to the market. "I did not see any other things on the market," he said.

The *Black Knight* is meant to be funny, and it is a real shame that Garry's superb comic skills and sense of the humor are so badly wasted in this farce.

Best Sports Story – 1st

Erickson
South Mountain Press

Robin Wark



The **52.36** **SECONDS**

that changed everything

Ten years after winning gold at the 2010 Winter Olympics, Russell's Jon Montgomery reflects on the amazing race that is now his life

By **ROBIN WARK** for South Mountain Press

Ten years ago, 52.36 seconds changed Russell's product Jon Montgomery's life.

That is how long the skeleton racer's final run took at the Whistler Sliding Centre at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Following his run, the son of Eldon and Joan Montgomery waited with bated breath to see if Latvian rival Martins Dukurs' final effort would beat him. It did not. Montgomery earned the gold medal at the Vancouver and Whistler event by 7/100ths of a second. Now, a decade later, what does Montgomery recall about his final run?

"I remember standing at the start line not really thinking anything. Just being present," he said this summer. "I wasn't scared, or nervous, or over excited... I just was I try to reconnect with the sensation now and I can't do it. I'm not able to achieve to the same level of presence because I so far removed from the state of preparedness that allowed me to feel that way."

"It's overwhelming now to place myself at the start line again. When I watch the video of my final run, it conjures emotions of anxiety now - it's blurry and totally understandable when you consider where the source of our confidence is derived - investment of time and energy into preparation delivers peace of mind and presence."

A reported 4.6 million Canadian viewers witnessed Montgomery's gold medal moment. They then watched him further establish himself as a Canadian icon as he walked



through the Whistler Village with a pitcher of beer that was handed to him. The good times kept coming in British Columbia for Montgomery.

"The final week of the Games was the experience of

a lifetime," he said. "It felt like we floated from scene to scene and event to event on a cloud of positive energy that was omnipresent in the Olympic corridor - and across the country to all in-

sent."

Winning the gold medal certainly changed Montgomery's life. Utilizing the success and fame he earned along with his every Canadian persona, personality, and other attributes, the former car salesman and autodidact has become a professional public speaker, host of CTV's Amazing Race Canada, and a fundraiser for many charities and causes he believes in.

"It created a fundamental change in terms of opportunity," Montgomery said of how the Olympics changed his life. "I was fortunate to be able to benefit from a surge in interest for Canadian abilities and their personal stories, and an awareness of who I am as a person."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



JORDAN ROSS THE CARILLON

Rollover victim airlifted

A STARS air ambulance touches down northwest of Mitchell Saturday to airlift a 20-year-old Winnipeg man to hospital following a single vehicle rollover. St Pierre RCMP were called at 9:05 p.m. to Road 37N, also known as Randolph Road, one and a half miles east of Provincial Road 206. Hanover Fire Department District Chief John Schroeder said the driver was travelling alone. "He was found outside of the vehicle, in the ditch." Paramedics treated the man at the scene while firefighters created a landing zone for STARS. Spokespersons for STARS and Manitoba RCMP were unable to provide details on the man's condition. St Pierre RCMP continue to investigate the incident.

Best Spot News Photo – 3rd
Steinbach – The Carillon – Jordan Ross



Flames and thick black smoke comes up from the Co-op cardlock site at Timber Lane May 22. A fuel truck burst into flames at the station, creating a fireball and cloud that could be seen from as far away as Creighton.
PHOTO BY ERIC WESTHAVER

Best Spot News Photo – 2nd
Flin Flon – The Reminder – Eric Westhaver



Members of the Glenora and Baldur Fire Departments responded to a single vehicle rollover on October 8th on PR 253 just west of the "Nine-Mile Road" leading to Baldur. The one-ton truck was fully engulfed in flames upon arrival, with the bulk of its load of shingles spread across the highway. The driver and passenger were treated for minor injuries on the scene, but did not leave with the ambulance. R.C.M.P. were also on scene.

Best Spot News Photo – 1st
Baldur – Glenboro Gazette – Mike Johnson

Tourism takes hit as virus cancels festivals

by JORDAN ROSS

The executive director of Eastman Tourism says the prospect of a festival-less summer is a big blow to the region's tourism economy.

Jenny Dupas said she has heard from many disappointed festival planners from across the Eastman region over the past six weeks.

"It's very disheartening," she said. "Most of these events are volunteer-run."

The detection of the first case of COVID-19 in Manitoba on Mar. 12 set off a wave of April and May event cancellations. As the pandemic wore on, many June and July festivals were also cancelled, and August celebrations were called into question.

Yesterday, Dr. Brent Roussin, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer, stated mass gatherings like concerts, summer festivals, and major sporting events "will not be considered before September 2020."

In an interview prior to Roussin's announcement, Michelle Beaudry, executive director of the Steinbach Chamber of Commerce, said if the Pioneer Days parade can't be held as planned, organizers may consider postponing it or holding a "virtual parade" instead.

Hanover Ag Fair organizers were set to meet yesterday after press time to discuss the pandemic, said Curtis Dawydiuk, president of the Hanover Ag Society.

St Pierre's Sugaring Off festival was postponed to mid-September, but Dupas said rescheduling to 2021 is becoming more common as organizers contend with evolving pandemic projections.

"Next year's going to be one heck of a year for events, believe me," she said.

Just two months ago, Dupas said the Eastman region was on track to deliver one of the most jam-packed summers yet, with Manitoba 150 events adding to an already busy festival season.

"There were quite a few events planned around the 150. They started in January and they would have went right up until the end of 2020."

The precise extent of the economic fallout from the pandemic remains to be seen, but Dupas said organizing committees have a tough year ahead.

According to Travel Manitoba, tourism expenditures across the province totalled \$1.64 billion in 2018-19.

Tourism-related spending in the Eastman region reached \$138.4 million in 2014, the most recent figures available, Dupas said. That same year, the Eastman region received over 2.2 million visitors.

"I don't know how much those numbers are going to drop, but we know it's going to drop substantially," she said.

In response to the pandemic, Travel Manitoba compiled an online toolkit containing government and industry resources, and conducted an impact survey that drew 639 responses.

Asked how their sales or revenue had changed between early March and early April, 47 percent of respondents said they had seen declines of more than 50 percent.

Dupas said Travel Manitoba is currently "re-writing their provincial tourism strategy because of COVID-19."

"A lot of these businesses are living from week to week."

The Eastman region is a popular boating, hunting, and fishing destination, and home to many lodges, cabins, bed and breakfasts, and restaurants that depend on that traffic.

"All of that, pretty much, is on hold," Dupas said.

Tourism season in the Eastman region normally kicks off during the May long weekend. "That's not going to happen this year," Dupas said.

Georges Beaudry, who runs Oroseau Rapids Park near Senkwi, said the Apr. 9 email he sent to guests informing them the 2020 camping season may be cancelled "wasn't easy to write."

For now, May bookings are cancelled and the campground and adventure area are closed. If gatherings of more than 10 people are allowed this summer, Beaudry hopes to open his hiking trails to social-distancing day trippers.

Dupas said localized day trips may be the main tourism option this summer.

"You may see more people driving because gas is cheaper, but they won't be staying overnight."

While public health orders are in place, Dupas suggests sightseeing outside within a half-hour drive of home.



Georges Beaudry of Oroseau Rapids Park near Senkwi, pictured here hosting the 2018 Rainbow Trout Music Festival, said he worries about rebuilding his clientele after the pandemic.

"Time in nature has not been cancelled," Dupas said. "Spending time in nature is probably one of the best things that people can do right now."

Tourism marketing will also change. "In the long run, there's going to be more 'staycations' once the travel ban is lifted, and our markets are going to be Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba," Dupas said.

Every August for the past eight years, Oroseau has hosted the Rainbow Trout Music Festival, which attracts 900 guests.

Beaudry normally spends the weekend crisscrossing the grounds on his ATV, greeting festivalgoers and assisting organizers.

On Apr. 17, the pandemic forced Rainbow Trout organizers to cancel the 2020 festival.

Beaudry said he's going to miss the festival, which feels more like a reunion with each passing year.

"People enjoy coming here because of the personal touch that we add to the experience. After a while it's like one big family."

He said his biggest hurdle isn't financial, but relational.

"What we are most worried about is to gain back the clientele that we had. That's our biggest worry I think."

Beaudry said he normally reinvests "a good portion" of his annual profits back into the campground. He plans to complete some grounds improvements during the temporary shutdown, upgrading washroom facilities, repairing picnic tables, and building a new shelter.

Dupas said any non-refundable expenses incurred this year by festival planning committees could eat into the budget for next year.

"These festivals have to buy insurance, so they've paid that upfront. They may be able to cancel and recoup some of it."

Cancelled festivals that received a government grant can usually keep the funds if they can figure out a way to hold their event online, Dupas said.

Some tourist attractions in Winnipeg are offering virtual tours, something Dupas said rural museums and heritage sites don't have the resources to offer.

Even after Manitoba's public health orders are lifted, other variables will remain.

"Peoples' mindsets—maybe they won't want to go anywhere. We don't know how people are going to react," Dupas said. "It feels like uncharted territory."

Best Tourism Story – 3rd
Steinbach – The Carillon – Jordan Ross



The diligence of Benito residents and volunteers ensures that recreational opportunities are abundant in the isolated community. Here, disc golf is available on the fringes of town, free for anyone to use at their leisure.

STAR AND TIMES
FILE PHOTO

Benito offers recreational opportunities for all

Jeremy
BERGEN
Star and Times

While the Village of Benito is no longer completely self-governing as a municipal entity – now operating as a Local Urban District (LUD) under the Municipality of Swan Valley West – the people of the commu-

nity pride themselves at being the south-western anchor of the Swan Valley, maintaining a level of service somewhat disproportionate to an urban area of its size and population.



And, being nearly a half-hour drive away from the nearest town with major services – Swan River – residents in and around Benito find it important to hold onto what they have and even expand on what they have, such as recreational activities.

The Benito and District Recreation Centre (BDRC) consists of a skating rink, a curling rink, a concession and lounge, as well as an entire village block of green space, baseball

fields and a playground. While the facility is aging, it is still diligently maintained as a hub of activity within the LUD.

"In the wintertime, we have our curling league that runs on Wednesdays and Thursdays from Dec. 1 until Feb. 28," said BDRC Treasurer Scott Schneider.

The curling surface is fortunate enough to run with artificial ice, ensuring a consistent experience every year. The skating surface is one of the remaining natural

ice surfaces, and is booked four evenings a week.

"Our public skating is free to all participants because of the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and the Benito Klubs, and it runs on Wednesdays and Fridays, 7-9 p.m.," said Schneider.

"Weather dependent, (our season runs) from mid-December to the beginning of March, about when the time change occurs."

COMMUNITY: SEE PAGE A19

Best Tourism Story – 2nd

The Swan Valley Star and Times – Jeremy Bergen

The Art of the Political on exhibit

Gallery exhibition runs until Saturday, September 26, at the Heritage Home for the Arts

BY KIM LANGEN

It took over a year to organize, and arts administrator Jane Ireland is thrilled with the sharp calibre of political art on display this month at the local gallery.

"Why shouldn't a small town have an exhibition like this?" said Ireland. "I came up with the idea last year, and it came together thanks to so many

wonderful people, and at such a tumultuous time. Who could have predicted a year ago that we would be living through a pandemic, government scandals, international protests and counter-protests, and civil disobedience against racism? You might almost think that our September exhibition was predestined."

The exhibition features the work of a number of politically charged artists such as Killarney-raised international photojournalist Phil Hossack (covering the 1993 attempted Russian coup in Moscow), and the work of the late international artist Dennis Tourbin (the FLQ terrorism and



KIM LANGEN/KILLARNEY GUIDE

International photojournalist Phil Hossack on display.

October Crisis of 1970).

Spanish-born painter Maria Lezon is featured with her three colourful images of the Queen of England (relaxed in the real world), while Bhat Boy presents one of his works in the tradition of medieval paintings, and incorporating selective scale and whimsy. There is also work by the late American lithographer Rich Ahern, featuring his panoramic print of Parliament Hill.

And the work of renowned writer and cartoonist Terry Mosher, who used the name of his eldest daughter, Aislin, as his nom de plume, can be seen in the Montreal Gazette's striking cartoon of a laughing Queen,

published in August, 1973, with Prince Philip balanced on her knee, depicted as a puppet.

Below this cartoon is a letter of complaint, sent within hours from Buckingham Palace's Press Secretary to the Queen to the newspaper's editor, demanding that the Gazette explain the meaning of the cartoon.

This is an exhibition not to be missed. It is a journey into the past for many of us, who may still remember the days of the horrifying FLQ crisis, and the shocking statement from Pierre Trudeau during those hours that martial law was to be imposed for the first time in Canada.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Best Tourism Story – 1st
The Killarney Guide – Kim Langen

Better Communities Award— 3rd

Flin Flon The Reminder

Eric Westhaver

COVID-19

Drive-in dodges legal tie-up, opens up for summer

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

It's movie time at the Big Island Drive-In once again. After legal signposts with the province about shut down the season before it began, cars are parked and the show is back on - with a handful of changes.

In the meantime, for the business owners, there's a more pressing concern. The projector failed a couple times during a recent showing - nothing that couldn't be seen itself, but enough to leave the Hadyes peeved. Dawn and Don, husband and wife and the owners and operators of the drive-in, are both projectors and participants.

"We have some really good projector techs that were able to walk in through those things. The whole movie world is changed amongst COVID-19," said Dawn.

Modern problems require modern solutions. The technicians for the drive-in is in Alberta - another technical fix for the drive-in is based out of Iceland. Keeping the theatre going is a worldwide effort.

COVID-19 has meant sweeping changes for many industries, including outdoor picture shows. One set of changes that hasn't been in is brought in relative to social distancing while watching - that's something the Drive-In already has done to a degree.

While drive-in movies already include social distancing in normal times, operation of a drive-in during COVID-19 hasn't always been a straightforward business.

Drive-ins that still operate within Manitoba - as few as two, by some counts - and in recent years, they are seen by authorities in a similar way to conventional indoor theatres. When provincially mandated business shutdowns were announced for theatres, the Hadyes thought that, being outside, they would be in the clear.

But so far, "I really didn't think there was going to be any objection from the province at all. I was following the drive-in industry from all over the world and everyone was allowed and thriving. I thought, 'Perfect. Were going to be okay,'" she said.

"I started managing a bunch of private business services and I was told, 'Oh, no. You can't open. There's a movie theatre. We're not a movie theatre, we're an outdoor theatre, but there have been people watching us. They weren't even accepting

any sort of business plan from us."

Hadyes submitted new plans to accommodate COVID-19 to business authorities. Those didn't have the desired effect either.

At that point, they would allow us to serve concession food and people could stay in their cars - they just couldn't watch a movie," she said.

"It just didn't make any sense."

Hadyes started pushing the province over the restrictions. Eventually, she ended up doing a press run, doing multiple interviews with provincial and national news outlets and sending letters to elected officials in hopes that her business wouldn't still through the cracks.

"It was still a no. Everywhere I was talking, it was a no," she said.

Then, not long after yet another rejection, Hadyes got a phone call. With little warning or explanation, rules for drive-in theatres were changed and the season was saved.

"It's like three in the afternoon, I got an email that said, 'You're now included, you can now open up,'" she thought. "Well a minute, you just told us there wasn't a go," she said.

Once the curve came in, there was a scramble to start preparing for the season again and update the drive-in for new guidelines.

The drive-in now uses concession payment and debit. A new in-the-WIFI network and cell service booster allow people to check their phones at the site - something that was a pipe dream only a year or two ago.

For a mostly single cash-only business, all this technology can sometimes be problematic," said Dawn.

"It's all finally working to our expectations as of yesterday. It's kind of weird, I'm spending."

Ordering from the concession, with local curbside like pickled eggs, breaded pickle spears and the like, can be done through the Drive-In's website. That same concession has a limit of 10 people inside and a one-way entrance and exit system.

"There was an indication of say not like that have before. Now, we're installing Wi-Fi," said Dawn.

"The technology cost has been extreme this year because of the debt and mobile technology from year to year."

With updating viewers on social distancing rules and guidelines are handed out to people when they come into the theatre area. There are no limits on the number of cars that can come and park, but



Big Island Drive-In owner and operator Dawn Hadyes holds out a Square debit card reader at the ticket booth of the Drive-In May 21. COVID-19 has meant a slew of changes for the drive-in this season, including debit payment for tickets and movie watching for the concession.



Employee Dilyn Johnson scoops out popcorn in the theatre's concession. The concession now holds a maximum of 10 customers and has a defined entrance and exit.

once people step out of their cars the rules are in effect.

The drive-in has led to a larger problem the drive-in and the Hadyes can solve - access to new movies. Dawn said she had access to only a small number of new movies all season, due in large part to the pandemic.

"Getting movies is difficult because all the shipping depots are closed. Instead of movies coming from new locations, the library making movies coming from all over the country, all over the US," she said.

In the meantime, old movie projects are up in the concession. "There's Something About Mary" is in the display case, for instance - and there are plans for some old-school drive-in classics like Double Bill, creature features, possibly even a sing-along or two.

"This year's going to be chaotic. It's going to be those fun old drive-in movies from the past, like and finally a sort of summer."

Next year may include

some similar issues, as film production and distribution has essentially ground to a dead halt. Right now though, Dawn said the opposite may be true for the drive-in next year - they may have too many movies to show.

"We're already thinking we might have to open again next year, just to

accommodate it all," she said.

The theatre has served as a sign for some community members that life is continuing, that summer has arrived even though a late winter and spring will see many people laid over soon.

"There's people that literally haven't left their house since the middle of March."

I've talked to these people here and this is the first place they've come. They're just completely full of gratitude for something to do," Hadyes said.

"After this, it's been so overwhelming. This little business in the middle of nowhere has put Flin Flon on the map."

Elmwood Bear Clan officially on patrol

BY SHELTON BIRNIE
STAFF REPORTER

ELMWOOD

Now that Elmwood's community patrol has the official backing of the Bear Clan, organizers are hoping its reach will grow.

"We've had three iterations of street patrols in the past, but they didn't work out, for whatever reasons," explained Chris Mott, Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation executive director, who identified 'safety' as one of the principle concerns of area residents.

In October 2019, CNRC and other community stakeholders held a public meeting to gauge the interest in launching a new street patrol program.

"People were asking why we didn't have a Bear Clan," Mott said.

Originally formed in the North End in 1992, the Bear Clan returned to the streets after an extended hiatus in 2015. Official groups regularly patrol the North End, West End, West Broadway and North Point Douglas neighbourhoods.

According to their website, Bear Clan's mission is to "provide restoration and maintenance of harmony within the community by promoting and providing safety; conflict resolution; mobile witnessing and crime prevention; maintaining a visible presence on the streets; providing an early response to situations; as well as providing rides, escorts

and referrals."

On Nov. 6, 2019, Bear Clan's James Fazel spoke about the organization's principles and model at a public meeting at 180 Poplar Ave. with 116 people attending.

The Elmwood group made its first patrol on Dec. 6. Since then, patrols ranging from approximately six to 12 volunteers have gone out on Tuesday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Thanks to a number of Clay grants, the group purchased safety vests, gloves and other gear.

"We're trying to make contact with people, see if they need assistance," Mott said. "We're also looking for hazards. We've found some needles; we've found things that could be harmful to kids or pets. Our view is, if it's a hazard, we want to keep an eye on it. Anything dangerous, like glass or needles, we pick up. We go into playgrounds to look for needles. I'm hopeful we can mitigate a lot of that stuff."

John King, a lifelong Elmwood resident, has been volunteering with the patrol group since it launched in December.

"It's about giving back to the community, taking pride in the community," King, who worked with youth in crisis before retiring, said. "We're just trying to help people."

To date, the group has patrolled almost every corner of Elmwood. Provided more people volunteer, the patrol will make more regular forays into East Elmwood.

"The interest is there, but we're trying to get more interest," Mott said. "It's a process."

"It's a way to meet your community, make friends, and feel good about contributing to the neighbourhood," King said. "It's about nine kilometres a night, and that's all good too, great exercise."

Throughout their early patrols, the Elmwood group remained in constant communication with the Bear Clan. Earlier this month, the group officially joined the Bear Clan. On March 17, the Elmwood chapter was joined by Bear Clan members from the North End and West Broadway on their patrol.

"We've been accepted and watched over," Mott said. "The Bear Clan model is what we wanted [because] it focuses on people."

"It's a really exciting time to be involved in this," King said, before the patrol. "It's good to have something like this in Elmwood. We've had so much taken away from us."

Anyone interested in taking part in Elmwood Bear Clan patrols is encouraged to come on down to 180 Poplar Ave. any Tuesday or Saturday evening by 5:15 p.m. Mott said there is some paperwork to be completed, and a waiver signed.

"Hopefully we get more people, with the nice weather, who want to come out for a nice walk and meet some people who want to do good for the neighbourhood," King said.

During the ongoing outbreak of COVID-19, patrols will still be taking to streets as planned for as long as they can. However, volunteers who feel sick or are at risk are



Photo by Sheldon Birnie

Chris Mott (left) and John King, Elmwood Bear Clan volunteers, were joined by Bear Clan members from the North End and West Broadway on a neighbourhood patrol on March 17.

asked to stay home.

Visit www.bearclanpatrol.org for more information.

Better Communities Award – 2nd
Winnipeg – The Herald – Sheldon Birnie

Winkler Habitat family eager to move into their new home

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The first Habitat for Humanity family in the Winkler-Morden area in decades is preparing to move into their new home.

On Saturday, the local Habitat chapter handed John and Margaret Wiebe the keys to the Main St. South house the community helped them build.

It's overwhelming to know so many people had a hand in making their family's dreams of home ownership a reality, said John.

"We'd like to just thank everyone who has helped with anything on the house and anything to do with getting us here," he said, flanked by his wife and four kids, Latisha, Alia, and toddler twins Owen and Emma. "It's very much appreciated."

The house is everything the Wiebes wanted and needed for their young family, who were previously crowded into a tiny mobile trailer.

"I never expected to have a brand new home at such a young age," Margaret said. "Where we were, we always talked about we would like a home but we never expected that we would get to build our own with so many amazing people. It's just wonderful."

"There's a lot of people who have put a lot of effort into helping with this," she added, thanking the many volunteers—amateur hammer swingers and professional tradespeople alike—for their work. "We're so grateful for God to [have] put all these people in our lives."

The Wiebes themselves have put in over 600 hours of sweat equity into the house since the sod was first

turned on the project last July.

Under the Habitat model, the family will now begin to pay off their interest-free, no down-payment mortgage. That money will go to help Habitat build its next home in the region.

Knowing they'll be able to pay the kindness they received forward is another blessing, Margaret said.

"To be able to help another family get their own home, it's just wonderful," she said. "I'm so happy we can help another family like we've been helped."

That's the power behind Habitat for Humanity, said Steve Krahn, the non-profit agency's provincial representative.

"One of the things that Habitat talks about is that through shelter we empower," he said in his remarks at

"I NEVER EXPECTED TO HAVE A BRAND NEW HOME AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE."

the key ceremony. "For you, John and Margaret, we are giving you the opportunity and we know that you are going to run with it. You are already running with it."

"We all know, and research has shown, that when you have a strong, solid home base to operate from, your world completely opens up," Krahn added, stressing the value in having a stable mortgage payment and a safe, well-built building to call home. "It is truly an opportunity for your family to succeed and to thrive ... build wealth for your family that you can pass on to the next generation and the next generation beyond that."

"It's a really simple concept at Habitat that is incredibly powerful."

"WE KNEW IT WOULD WORK"
The Wiebe home is the first Habitat



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

John and Margaret Wiebe and their kids Latisha, Alia, Owen, and Emma with the key to their new Habitat for Humanity Home. The family plans to move in next month.

tat for Humanity house to be built in Winkler since the 1980s.

The community was the first in Canada to build a Habitat house, which makes the return of the agency to the region all the more sweet, said Duane Falk, Winkler-Morden chapter president. Falk and his wife Christina spearheaded the organization's return to the area.

"It's just been such an amazing time," Duane said of the whirlwind of the past two years of fundraising and building—both of the house it-

self as well as the extensive team of committee members, volunteers, and sponsors. "Words can't express how excited we are."

"People just came on board. Every step we didn't know how it was going to work and it always worked," added Christina. "I'm kind of blown away that it's happened. It could have taken years to get it going but here we are. That's a testament to everyone here."

Continued on page 3



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

This Main St. South house in Winkler is Habitat for Humanity's first local build in decades. Now the Winkler-Morden chapter is turning its attention toward fundraising for its first Morden house.

Better Communities
Award – 1st

The Winkler
Morden Voice

Ashleigh Viveiros



Photographer of the Year – 3rd
Shoal Lake – Crossroads This Week – Darrell Nesbitt



Photographer of the Year – 2nd
Flin Flon – The Reminder – Eric Westhaver



Photographer of the Year – 1st
Steinbach – The Carillon – Jordan Ross

Reporter of the Year — 3rd

Steinbach
The Carillon
Jordan Ross

Shari Nussli, an ER nurse at Bethesda Regional Health Centre in Steinbach, says the staff there who have strained hospital staff and resources like never before.



A hospital overwhelmed

Bethesda ER nurse exposes “dire” situation

by JORDAN ROSS

A emergency room nurse at Bethesda Regional Health Centre in Steinbach says the staff there who have strained hospital staff and resources like never before.

“We have a nurse for 12 years and I have just never seen anything like this before. It gives me the chills,” Shari Nussli said Friday in a phone interview following a string of COVID-19 patients arriving from across the Steinbach.

She explained she is speaking out not to cause trouble but to spur government to act. A problem can be addressed with an acknowledgment, she said.

“While discussing, I’m just so surprised that there isn’t more help, that there isn’t more action to this,”

Debbie Jackson, president of the Manitoba Nurses Union, said in a statement Friday that multiple units at Bethesda are experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks and seven clinics had tested positive. Jackson more nurses and support staff were needed immediately.

On Monday Loretta Stangas, chief nursing officer for Sharned Health, announced several measures intended to address the situation at Bethesda.

Bethesda Health staff will be redeployed, Stangas said, and staff from other local academic sites will be offered shifts at Bethesda. Sharned Health also put out a call for ER nurses from other regional centres to pick up shifts at Bethesda. Additional physical, physician assistants, housekeeping and security staff were also approved.

The Bethesda ER waiting room will also be reorganized to house separate COVID-positive or COVID-suspect patients from others, what Stangas said will “facilitate the need to stage patients in their vehicles.”

Stangas claimed the measures were part of the site’s “long-term capacity plan,” developed in spring. But were being implemented due to “increasing pressure” at Bethesda staff.

Nussli welcomed the changes but implored them to “direct response” to her call for help three days earlier. She said most of the steps announced were not previously on the table.

“Every single bed is full”

In the Friday interview Nussli described a hospital stretched to its limits as it contends with worsening COVID-19 case counts.

“Our workload has tripled. COVID-positive cases” stop counting. Every single bed is full,” she said.

On any given day this month, the estimated half-dozen hospital beds contain COVID patients.

Very given shift, we probably have up to 30 in our ER alone. But since our COVID surge,” Nussli said. “I’ve seen just 30 percent of all our patients are very ill, we are completely and shockingly overwhelmed, and we’re seeing this already.”

The situation at Bethesda began deteriorating three weeks ago, around the time Manitoba surpassed 5,000 total cases of COVID-19. Two weeks later, the province surpassed 10,000 total cases.

“Our numbers just blew up. People just don’t stop coming to us,” Nussli said.

She explained Bethesda is not an intensive care facility.

“We don’t have that capability. We’re not trained, we’re not staffed to be an ICU. That puts us in a very big predicament when we see the COVID curve rise in our region.”

Staff rely on ambulance transport to Winnipeg when a patient needs intensive care. That’s a problem when Winnipeg has no available ICU beds.

“We are treating people in hallways, COVID-positive patients are waiting in stretchers, in chairs. We just don’t have room for anybody,” Nussli said.

Bethesda staff fear about Winnipeg ICU beds including a patient.

“Sometimes we have to admit, and they’re like, ‘Sorry we can’t take the patient,’ because they just got from Winnipeg that week last day,” Nussli said.

She recalled a shift last week when three patients were being prepared for admission.

“The ICU called us and said, ‘There. We don’t have beds. You need to pull them in. That is shocking.’

Lately, Bethesda has relied on STU staff at the hospital, as the hospital can’t spare staff to accompany patients in a ground ambulance. STU staff might come to Bethesda for off-site facility transport between Nov 1 and Nov 14. A spokesman wouldn’t confirm how many cases COVID patients, citing patient confidentiality.

“I have heard about the STU staff personally, because I see them every day,” Nussli said.

She thanked the situation at Bethesda reached a new low. Doctors and nurses had to admit patients for hours, hoping a Winnipeg ICU

bed would become available.

“We have several people who are exhausted that don’t even have a bed to go to,” Nussli said.

ER staff began sending triaged COVID patients back to their vehicles to wait for a bed.

“We can’t just have them coughing in our waiting room, spreading it to everybody who doesn’t have it,” Nussli explained.

Stangas told reporters it is “not unusual” for nurses to triage COVID patients in an ambulance but before bringing them inside. She added Bethesda Health’s leadership is “doing the best they can in a very stressful situation.”

Equipment shortages

Infection staff at Bethesda are also struggling with equipment shortages, Nussli said. There is only plastic wrap for that must be changed and washed with new tubing after each case. There is also a single high-flow oxygenator.

She said the hospital has an adequate supply of personal protective equipment, except for N95 masks, or “equivalent” for doctors.

Jackson said in a statement that nurses at Bethesda have also reported shortages of consumables and infection gowns.

Rob Moore, president of the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals, issued a statement Friday saying he and diagnostic imaging staff at Bethesda are also coping with critical shortages confirmed or probable COVID patients, but no dated N95 masks “under very specific circumstances as well.”

“This is what the system looks like when it’s overwhelmed, and it’s scary,” Moore said.

Staffing shortages

Stangas repeatedly stated over the past week that infection situations will become a challenge as the pandemic wears on. Specialized equipment like ventilators are in short supply, she said.

Nussli said infection monitoring and general observation are ongoing pressures on Bethesda’s existing levels.

“Most days, we have short staffed. I worked 11 hours yesterday. I did not sit down for one single break, not once.”

“If you don’t have staff but your numbers are going down, how are we going to care for these people?”

She explained COVID patients require less care, because I see them every day,” Nussli said.

“We feel that we’re not able to give our best care because we are just spread so thin.”

Moore said continuously transmission at Steinbach is so prevalent that paramedics

now assume any patient they transport has COVID-19.

“Members have been working five-out, six-in, more than their usual 12-hour shifts to treat and transport patients. While knowing that the vast majority of these patients will COVID-positive or need hospitalization.”

Infection was predictable

Nussli said she spent the last two and a half years of her 15-year nursing career in the Bethesda emergency room. She married one of them. She dated one. She

In the spring she and other nurses received weekly training sessions on how to anticipate and care for COVID patients, but they were not given to larger operational planning discussions.

She said she doesn’t know why Manitoba health officials didn’t foresee a fall spike in cases.

“This was predicted and the reality was how they missed it to body,” she said. “We saw it happen in Italy. We saw it happen in New York. It spread in, and I think we got complacent. We’re for the most part complacent. We just need help.”

Jackson said at her statement, “Health officials do not appear to have an adequate plan to meet the dramatically increasing need, despite having months to prepare.”

Really disconcerting

Nussli said the anti-lockdown rally held Saturday at A.D. Penner Park was an effort to the overwhelmed health-care staff sending a few blocks away.

“It’s completely disregard for our health system. When they’re sick, where are they going to go? They’re going to come to us.”

Community response

The situation at Bethesda highlighted by Nussli prompted Steinbach business and industry to establish a crowdfunding campaign to supply food from local restaurants to staff at Bethesda’s care facilities and care homes. Some funds will be donated to the Bethesda Foundation.

Steinbach MLA Robert Coates took to social media over the weekend to organize gift card donations for Bethesda staff.

On Sunday, Nussli said she and her colleagues appreciated the outpouring of support.

“I am thankful that we have been heard and seen and have been given a show of solidarity from our community of Steinbach,” she wrote in a message.

Coming to Canada

Three immigrants share why they chose the Great White North as their new home

By Ashleigh Viveiros

What does it mean to choose Canada? Most of us lucky enough to have been born here don't give it much thought.

We take in the Canada Day fireworks and enjoy the day off. Maybe we put a flag or two out, or take a moment to sing along to the national anthem for the first time since who knows when before going on about our summers.

But there are many in our community who spend years, decades even, working towards the day they can call themselves Canadians.

The *Visitor* sat down to chat with three such people recently.

Their home and native lands are all over the globe. Some have been here for years while others just arrived. All are proud to now call Canada home.

Kyoung Min Kim arrived in Morden-Winkler this spring with her husband and three-year-old daughter a day before the borders closed due to COVID-19.

Now, a few months later, she's still marvelling at the clean air and wide open spaces rural Manitoba offers.

"The pollution in South Korea is very severe. We always had a mask on our faces," Kim says. "My daughter had a cough a lot because of the pollution, so I was looking for somewhere [that] has a clean, clean air."

As they researched potential countries to move to, Canada made the shortlist alongside Australia and New Zealand.

It was the Great White North's reputation that ultimately clinched it for Kim.

"At that time there were a lot of people around me going to Canada and they said it was so good and they didn't want to come back ... hearing that, I decided to come to Canada," she says, explaining she chose Morden-Winkler specifically after her research

brought up all the settlement services available to newcomers through programs like Morden's Community Driven Immigration Initiative and Regional Connections.

"Supporting immigrants is very, very important. I feel that now," Kim says. "There are a lot of programs, a lot of connections that [are] very helpful for us."

Before coming here, Kim says her mental image of our nation was formed in large part through television shows and movies.

"There's a TV show called *Kim's Convenience*. We watched that and studied that because that's our future, right?" she says with a grin, referring to the CBC comedy about a Korean family who runs a convenience store in Toronto. "[Through that] we were very impressed by Canada. Many, many people from many countries are mixed up together and they have very good lives. That was my very first impression."

It's an expectation that we've lived up to so far, Kim says, noting she's found Canadians to be very welcoming and friendly.

And her daughter's persistent cough? Long gone.

"She was coughing every day, but after [we got to] Canada, it just stopped. That was so great," Kim says, adding she looks forward to seeing her grow up in their adopted home. "She can be more Canadian, better than we can, in a very short time."

"Being Korean is good but being Canadian means so much more opportunity for her."

FROM ZIMBABWE TO WINKLER

If you had asked Shepherd Chiwandire a few years ago if he would ever want to live somewhere the mercury can drop to -50 C, he'd have said you



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Kyoung Min Kim and husband Byoungwa Lee moved to Canada from South Korea with their young daughter just before the global pandemic shut down international travel.

were nuts.

"I was in church one Sunday, that was in 2012 maybe, and my pastor was preaching about seasons," Chiwandire recalls. "He said in Canada that year it was -50 and that was big deal to us. I said to my friends, 'Who would

ever [live there]?'"

But then he met a Winklerite while she was working in Africa. The pair fell in love, did the long-distance thing for awhile, and ultimately got married.

Continued on page 4



Reporter of the Year – 2nd
The Winkler Morden Voice – Ashleigh Viveiros

COVID-19

Drive-in dodges legal tie-up, opens up for summer

ERIC WESTHAVER
Reporter

It's movie time at the Big Island Drive-In once again. After legal rigmarole with the province almost shut down the season before it began, cars are parked and the show is back on - with a handful of changes.

In the meantime, for the business owners, there's a more pressing concern. The projector failed a couple times during a recent showing - nothing that couldn't be soon fixed, but enough to leave the Hladys peeved. Dawn and Dan, husband and wife and the owners and operators of the drive-in, are both projectionists and perfectionists.

"We have some really good projector techs that were able to walk us through those things. The whole movie world is changed amongst COVID-19," said Dawn.

Modern problems require modern solutions. The technician for the drive-in is in Alberta - another technician for the drive-in is based out of Ireland. Keeping the theatre going is a worldwide effort.

COVID-19 has meant sweeping changes for many industries, including outdoor picture shows. One set of changes that hasn't needed to be brought in relates to social distancing while watching - that's something the Drive-In already has down to a science.

While drive-in movies already include social distancing in normal times, operation of a drive-in during COVID-19 hasn't always been a straightforward business.

Few drive-in theatres still operate within Manitoba as late as two, by some counts - and in most ways, they are seen by authorities in a similar way to conventional indoor theatres. When provincially mandated business shutdowns were announced for theatres, the Hladys thought that, being outside, they would be in the clear.

Not so fast. "I really didn't think there was going to be any objection from the province at all. I was following the drive-in industry from all over the world and everyone was allowed and thriving. I thought, 'Perfect. We're going to be okay,'" she said.

"I started encouraging a bunch of provincial business services and I was told, 'Uh, no. You can't open. You're a movie theatre.' We're not a movie theatre, we're an outdoor theatre, but that's how they were categorizing us. They weren't even accepting

any sort of business plan from me."

Hlady submitted new plans to accommodate COVID-19 to business authorities. Those didn't have the desired effect at first.

"At that point, they would allow us to serve concession food and people could stay in their cars - they just couldn't watch a movie," she said.

"It just didn't make any sense."

Hlady started pushing the province over the restrictions. Eventually, she ended up doing a press run, doing multiple interviews with provincial and national news outlets and sending letters to elected officials in hopes that her business wouldn't fall through the cracks.

"It was still a no. Everywhere I was turning, it was a no," she said.

Then, not long after yet another rejection, Hlady got a phone call. With little warning or explanation, rules on drive-in theatres were changed and the season was saved.

"By like three in the afternoon, I got an email that said, 'You're now included, you can now open up.' I thought, 'Wait a minute, you just said no three hours ago,'" she said.

Once the news came in, there was a scramble to start preparing for the season again and update the drive-in for new guidelines.

The drive-in now uses contactless payment and debit. A new on-site WiFi network and cell service booster allows people to check their phones at the site - something that was a pipe dream only a year or two ago.

"For a mostly simple cash-only business, all this technology can sometimes be problematic," said Dawn. "It's all finally working to our expectations as of yesterday and it's week three [of operating]."

Ordering from the concession, with local curbs like pickled eggs, breaded pickle spears and the like, can be done through the Drive-In website. That same concession has a limit of 10 people inside and a one-way entrance and exit system.

"There was no technology of any sort like that here before. Now, we're talking WiFi," said Dawn. "The technology cost has been extreme this year because of the debit and mobile ordering from your car."

Hladys updating viewers on social distancing rules and guidelines are handled out to people when they come into the theatre area. There are no limits on the number of cars that can come and park, but



Big Island Drive-In owner and operator Dawn Hlady holds out a Square debit card reader at the ticket booth of the Drive-In May 31. COVID-19 has meant a slew of changes for the drive-in this season, including debit payment for tickets and remote ordering for the concessions. PHOTOS BY ERIC WESTHAVER



Employee Dilyn Johnson scoops popcorn in the theatre's concession. The concession now holds a maximum of 10 customers and has a defined entrance and exit.

once people step out of their cars, the rules are in effect.

The disease has also led to a larger problem the drive-in and the Hladys can't solve - access to new movies. Dawn said the opposite may be true for the drive-in next year - they may have too many movies to show.

"We're already thinking we might have to open seven days a week, just to

accommodate it all," she said. "The theatre has served as a sign for some community members that life is continuing, that summer has arrived even through a late winter and spring unlike many people had ever seen."

"There's people that literally haven't left their house since the middle of March."

I've talked to those people here and this is the first place they've come. They're just completely full of gratitude for something to do," Hlady said. "After this, it's been so overwhelming. This little business in the middle of nowhere has put Flin Flon on the map."

TOM LINDSEY

MLA FOR FLIN FLON CONSTITUENCY

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Reporter of the Year – 1st

Flin Flon – The Reminder

Eric Westhaver

General Excellence Categories

THE WESTERN CANADIAN

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LOCALLY OWNED • SERVING MANITOU AND AREA SINCE 1900

Inside This Issue

**MUNICIPALITY OF
PEMBINA**
Council Meeting
Page 4

**Royals Team
Wrap Up Ball Season**
Page 5

Garry Christoff Retires After 45 Years with Pembina Manitou Fire Dept.

Members of the Pembina Manitou Volunteer Fire Department held a retirement evening at the fire hall on Saturday, August 15th in honour of their former chief.

Garry Christoff was being recognized by the department for his 45 years of dedicated service to the community as a volunteer firefighter.

Christoff officially joined the Fire Department in 1975 at the age of 25 years, although he had helped out occasionally prior to that. His father, Ray Christoff was Fire Chief at that time.

According to Garry, "Fire fighting has been in my family for several generations, starting with my grandfather, Baker Christoff, my father, Ray Christoff, my brother-in-law, Lee Christoff and Lee Wilkins, also two good friends."

(Continued on Page 3)



Pembina Manitou Fire Chief Ed Reynolds congratulates Garry Christoff on his retirement from the fire department after 45 years of service to the community. Members held a retirement evening in his honour and presented him with a gift as a token of appreciation. Reeve Glenn Sheldahl was also in attendance, extending thanks and congratulations on behalf of the residents of the municipality.

Funds Required to Install Ice Plant at Manitou Arena

The donation of a used refrigeration unit has begun the process to upgrade the ice plant at the Manitou Community Arena, allowing them to make artificial ice much easier in the winter.

Don and Stephanie McLean acquired a used 70 ton dollar unit fridge at a very reason-

able cost at auction and have donated it to the Manitou Arena to be converted into a 50 ton ice plant. This will greatly help their sliding coverage.

With the current system, they are at the mercy of the weather. Arena Board President Glen Jagg says, "The

ground source unit isn't large enough to build ice early in the fall. We start the plant in September, but are lucky to have ice ready by mid-November."

This delay sends most of our indoor hockey teams to other communities to rent ice until it is ready in Manitou.

With the larger capacity, they could have ice ready for October, or earlier if needed.

The existing ground source loop will continue to maintain the heating and air conditioning of the walking room and change rooms, as well as the refreshment room at the swimming pool. The new unit

will be strictly for the ice.

The Manitou Arena Board has had contractors look at the unit to determine cost to convert it to an ice plant, as well as additional electrical upgrades required to run it, and a building to house the large unit.

(Continued on Page 7)



0 - 1,299
Best Front Page – 3rd

Manitou
The Western
Canadian

0 - 1,299
Best Front Page – 2nd

Flin Flon The Reminder

the Reminder

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Flin Flon, Manitoba, Canada \$1.50

FOR UP-TO-DATE COVID-19
COVERAGE, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT
thereminder.ca

**Bomber goalie Delorme earns
US sports shot**

TODAY
Armed robberies 2
COVID-19 3
Hockey 1903 5

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Community Calendar 16
Charities 17
Crossword 18



3 DAY FORECAST

TUE 20	WED 21	THU 22
10°C / 50°F	10°C / 50°F	10°C / 50°F
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA AS OF AUGUST 18



RAINBOWS AND SMILES Julia Suchylo and Emma Giesli show some pride during the Flin Flon Pride march on Green Street August 16. For more photos from Flin Flon Pride celebrations last weekend, see page 11.



SAILING AWAY Amanda Ureanu and Jordana Oulala, complete with unicorn floats and kayak, hit the water during the Flin Flon Pride party event at Lake Athapapuskwan August 14.



FLYING HIGH The Canadian flag, a Water and the Wind flag and the rainbow flag fly together above City Hall.

WEDNESDAY

Company gets gains from Manitoba COVID-19 instability scrubs Peru guidance as Flin Flon, Snow Lake keep working

ERIC WESTMAKER
Reporter

Madbury posted a net loss of \$1.9 million in the second quarter.

The company was held up by its Manitoba operations during the quarter, seeing metal production go up over the first half of the year and having gold production from Labor rise to record levels. While operations at Madbury's Chibougamau mine in Peru were shut down for eight weeks, the 777 and Labor mine as continued operation and all cost guidance and production targets are on track to be hit.

At 777, ore mined during the second quarter increased slightly, going from

about 280,000 tonnes in the first quarter to about 282,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Both numbers are down from the second quarter of 2019, when about 288,000 tonnes of ore was mined.

Copper and zinc grades rose slightly in the second quarter from both the first quarter and from last year, rising from 1.34 per cent in second-quarter 2019 to 1.72 per cent this year for copper and 3.37 per cent last year to 4.11 per cent last quarter and 4.13 per cent in the second quarter for zinc.

Gold and silver recovery at 777 also increased. Gold increased from a second quarter 2019 amount of 1.4 grams per tonne to 1.82 in the first quarter of

2020, then up to 1.91 in the second quarter. For silver, levels went from 18.92 in 2019 to 23.46 in 2020 first quarter and 35.73 in the second quarter.

Ore milled at the Flin Flon concentrator dropped, going down to 35,006 tonnes. Although copper and zinc grades and gold and silver amounts increased.

Operating costs for Madbury's Manitoba Business Unit went up to the same levels they were in the second quarter of last year, climbing back to around \$135 per tonne.

"The Manitoba business unit had solid operating performance across the mine, mill and zinc plant during the second quarter,"

reads the company's quarterly report.

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"We're briefs assert that current law broadly authorizes mining-related activities, such as ore processing and tailings storage, to be conducted on open Forest Service lands," the statement reads.

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The country's state of emergency is continuing until August 31 at least, leading Madbury to plan ahead.

"The situation in Peru, like everywhere else in

0 - 1,299
Best Front Page – 1st

Killarney The Guide



Volume 125 - Number 47 • Friday, August 21, 2020 • \$1.40 Per Copy (G.S.T. incl.)

Sun shining on the harvest so far



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR HARVEST – Harvest is roaring forward in the area, with many fields already cleared. Late Tuesday morning Jeff Cuvelier was out combining grain (that's Harley Dickson in the truck) on the west side of #18, just south of town. Dry conditions are helping ease the harvest of grains and canola, although some rain would be good for corn and soybean crops that are still finishing and need the moisture. Sweathed canola can be seen on other fields in the area, some manure is being spread, and hay and straw is being baled on some farms. Turn to the Manitoba Ag Report on page 9 for more.

Run on fresh produce keeps vegetable farmer hopping

BY KIM LANGEN

A local vegetable producer said he is seeing a rash of hungry customers this year.

Tim Freeman, who operates Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm, arrived as usual for his regular Tuesday afternoon service this week, underneath the oak trees at the Emerald Isle Motel, and the shopping line-up along the roadway was already stretching out into the distance.

More than 20 customers were armed with their re-usable bags, and waiting for Freeman, who was valiantly unloading hefty boxes of fresh zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, beets, and cucumbers from his

pickup truck as fast as he could.

"I have been seeing long line-ups all season," said Freeman, who hauls in his precious produce from the family farm located southwest of town. "But last week was a record. What are the top sellers? Potatoes, tomatoes, and carrots. And peas, when we have them, but they have a short season."

This COVID-19 dominated year the Freeman family also offered a 12-week delivery of seasonal veggies, which are dropped off to homes or picked up at locations in both Killarney and Boissevain each Friday afternoon.

And Freeman said he experienced the same strong demand for this

fresh offer of his produce.

"We have about 40 customers for the Friday delivery," said Freeman. "Around 20 of them are in Killarney, and the other 20 in Boissevain. Most of them order the regular size bag, which goes for \$30."

The popular Tuesday market stall at the Emerald Isle Motel will continue to run until the third Tuesday in September, said Freeman, and he will be there each week - laden with his farm's bounty - from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm is a family-owned and operated market garden, and the Freeman's have been growing vegetables there since 2008.



LONG LINEUP FOR FRESH VEGETABLES – Tim Freeman, of Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm, has been seeing some very long line-ups for his lovely fresh vegetables. Here he is on Tuesday afternoon, with 20 shoppers – spaced nicely apart – waiting for their turn at his shady portable stall, set up beneath the oaks at the Emerald Isle Motel.

NEW RESTRICTIONS FOR PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN - 4

NOSTALGIC NOZZLE FINDS FIRE HALL HOME - 11

TREASURED CANADIAN ICONS ON DISPLAY - 28

1,300 – 3,299
Best Front Page – 3rd
Thompson
Nickel Belt News

Volume 93 • Issue 34

Friday August 21, 2020

Thompson, Manitoba

Nickel Belt News

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Three men from Quebec with 70 fake IDs arrested in Norway House for identity theft

Three men from Quebec were arrested for identity theft and other charges Aug. 6 after Norway House RCMP pulled them over and found 70 fake IDs in their vehicle.

Police were alerted about the vehicle around 8:35 p.m., after it went through the community's COVID-19 checkpoint, with the occupants appearing not to know where they were going and refusing to answer multiple questions.

Officers located and stopped the vehicle and their subsequent investigation led to a search, which also turned up such multiple cell phones and pepper spray.

Rami Ghazi, 32, of Chateaugay, is charged with 31 counts of identity theft, three counts of possessing a forged document, three counts of failing to comply with court-ordered condition, identity fraud, possessing property obtained by crime, unauthorized possession of a weapon and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Salim Toure, 36, also from Chateaugay, is charged with 31 counts of identity theft, two counts of possessing a forged document, two counts of failing to comply with court-ordered condition, identity fraud, possession of property obtained by crime, unauthorized possession of a weapon and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose.



RCMP photo
Three men from Quebec were arrested Aug. 6 by Norway House RCMP officers who found cash, several cell phones, pepper spray and more than 70 counterfeited IDs in their vehicle.

ing property obtained by crime, unauthorized possession of a weapon and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Winnipeg's Jordan, 22, of Maccles, is charged with 31 counts of identity theft, two counts of possessing a forged document, identity fraud, possession property obtained

by crime, unauthorized possession of a weapon and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

The two appeared before a judge and were released with a court date of Oct. 7. Norway House RCMP continues to investigate and ask anyone with information about this incident to call the detachment at

204-359-6483 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-4477. Secure tips can also be submitted online at www.manitoba.com/stoppers.com.

Sherridon man charged with manslaughter after 62-year-old dies of injuries sustained in Cranberry Portage assault

A 41-year-old Sherridon man has been charged with manslaughter in connection to the death of a 62-year-old man from Cranberry Portage.

Jamichael Colquhoun was arrested and charged Aug. 12. He was remanded into custody pending an appearance in provincial court in The Pas Aug. 17.

The charge relates to an assault that occurred on Mulvan Street in Cranberry Portage around 11:15 p.m. Aug. 7. Responding Cranberry Portage RCMP



officers found an injured man who was taken to hospital and died of his injuries Aug. 16. Cranberry Portage RCMP, Major Crime Services and Forensic Identification Services continue to investigate the death.

Island Lake RCMP seeking 16-year-old female last seen in Garden Hill July 20

Island Lake RCMP are asking the public to help them locate a 16-year-old Garden Hill First Nation female last seen July 20.

Tammy Jocelyn Nattaway was reported missing July 21 and it is possible she may have travelled to St. Theresa Point or Waganmack, say police, who, along with Nattaway's family are concerned for her well being. Previously RCMP said she may have been in Winnipeg.

More than 300 volunteers and an RCMP search team have been combing the area for Nattaway for the past two weeks, going house-to-house and through wooded areas and waterways, CTV Winnipeg reported Aug. 16.

Nattaway is about five feet tall and approximately 100 pounds with short black hair and brown eyes. She has not been active on social media since she was last seen.



RCMP photo
Tammy Jocelyn Nattaway of Garden Hill First Nation was last seen July 20 and reported missing July 21 and it is possible she may be in St. Theresa Point or Waganmack.

Anyone with information about Nattaway's location can call Island Lake RCMP at 204-456-2626 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-4477. Secure tips can also be submitted online at www.manitoba.com/stoppers.com.

Kivalliq News

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Words from Whale Cove: part four

- Connor Reuther, organizer, recognizing umpire Dave Whisman for a stand-out job officiating Reuther's inaugural community fast pitch tournament, page 2.

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Boissevain
The Recorder



TMSD and SW Horizon prepare for school

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New restrictions for Prairie Mountain Health starting Monday as COVID-19 cases rise in region

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

Due to high COVID-19 numbers in the region, new restrictive rules will come into force on Monday, August 24.

The province announced on Thursday, August 20 that Prairie Mountain Health has been declared a "restricted" area under its new colour-coded pandemic system. Restricted, or "orange" is the colour code, means assembly transmission of the coronavirus is occurring.

The restrictions include public gatherings being restricted to 10 indoors and outdoors. These numbers do not include workplaces, retail outlets or other sites already covered under other parts of the emergency plan.

Masks will be mandatory for indoor public places and all public gatherings within the PMH region.

Thirty-three new cases of COVID-19 were identified in the province on August 20, with 17 of those in Prairie Mountain Health. Overall, there are 95 cases in PMH, including 56 in a cluster in Brandon.

The province released its colour-coded system on August 19, which allows them to focus on areas with higher numbers. Orange is the second-highest colour. More details on restrictions are to come.



Past to Present Agricultural Parade features 190 pieces

Bartie rode rides a vintage Massey Harris tractor in the Past to Present Agricultural Parade down South Railway Street on August 9. Organized by Warren and Kelly Wright, the event brought together 190 pieces of agricultural machinery from all areas of local farming to show off on the streets of Boissevain. It was a great break from COVID-19 news and demonstrated the vast history of agriculture in the area. A large crowd came out and watched while social distancing.

PHOTO BY LORRAINE BRANNON

Local businesses start requiring masks

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

At least a few local businesses have been taking an extra step to protect staff and customers as the coronavirus continues to rise in the region.

At one point, COVID-19 looked as if it had run its course in the province, with only one active case. However, by mid-July, it began to rise again.

By August, Manitoba Health was reporting several days with high numbers, to the point where by August 20, there were 247 active cases and 12 deaths. Of the 33 new cases announced that day, 17 were in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

Continued on page 2



Lorraine Brannon (left), Marlee Stewart, and Renee MacCallum work the pharmacy counter while Erin Wannemacheke takes medication from the shelves at Hazelwood Drugs, Uxas Boundary Co-op, the Boissevain pharmacy has instituted a mandatory mask policy for its employees. This is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing number of cases in Manitoba. Originally, there was no mandatory policy for patrons, but the region was named restricted by Manitoba Health and masking in public will be mandatory by Monday, August 24.

PHOTO BY PAUL RAYNER

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune



3,300 – 9,999
Best Front Page – 2nd

Headingley The Headliner



JUMP ON BOARD
SFX Community Club board seeking new members
PAGE 3



ROOM FOR GROWTH
1st La Salle Guilding Unit opens park
PAGE 5



LA SALLE BALL PLAYER RECOVERING
Pelvis injury puts Nate Lodewyks on the bench
SPORTS PAGE 6

AT THE RACES
Assiniboia Downs trainer wants to start school for indigenous jockeys
SPORTS PAGE 11

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Supplied photo

A mother and daughter living in a rental home in St. François Xavier escaped a house fire on Aug. 10. Robyn Syrenne, her 11-year-old daughter Callie, and dog Luna, fled in time, but it's believed three kittens died in the fire, which completely consumed the structure. "Callie and I didn't even stop to grab our shoes," Syrenne said.

BY JENNIFER MCFEE
SPECIAL TO CANSTAR

ST. FRANÇOIS XAVIER

A mother and daughter escaped with nothing more than the clothes on their backs after a fire burned their home to the ground last week. On Aug. 10 just before 2 p.m.,

Robyn Syrenne was lying down in her bedroom in the home she rents on Highway 26 in St. François Xavier. Her 11-year-old daughter Callie was nearby in the living room.

"I could hear popping coming from the kitchen and I thought my daughter was making popcorn," Syrenne said.

"When I heard the kitchen win-

dow break, I ran into the kitchen from my room. What I saw there was fire and smoke pouring in through the window."

She knew she had to act fast to get them out of the burning two-storey house, located right across from the local school.

"I was yelling for my daughter as the fire alarm finally went off. Two

men opened my back door, yelling for everyone to get out. I yelled back at them that my daughter was still in here. I ran through the dining room into the living room. My daughter, Callie, was standing there holding our dog, Luna," she said.

Continued on next page

Steinbach The Carillon

[illegible]

10,000 + Best Front Page – 3rd Beausejour The Clipper Weekly



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THE CLIPPER WEEKLY

Vol. 29 No. 34

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August 20, 2020

Liberals call for Vivian silica mine hearing *Lamont, Gerrard push for Manitoba CEC to host discussion before approval considered*

By Tony Derwiche

Manitoba Liberals have joined a group of citizens concerned about the potential impact of CanWhite Sands' proposed silica sand mining operation near Vivian.

On Aug. 11, Manitoba Liberal Leader Dougall Lamont and M.L.A. Joe Gerrard called for the Minister of Conservation and Climate Change, Gordon Klassen to direct the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to hold a hearing into the project before approval can be considered.

Early in 2019 a company eventually purchased by CanWhite Sands acquired mineral rights for land sections in five southeastern Manitoba municipalities including Springfield, with Springfield's section including the local area Vivian where the company wishes to set up shop. Their eventually showed promising deposits of silica sand which, depending on its purity level can be used in a range of products. CanWhite plans on selling to oil and gas companies, Scania Pallet Group, said to prospective investors in 2019.

The issue focus on the oil and gas industry was minimized during CanWhite's previous public appearance in Springfield, when they described a much wider customer base including glass companies, golf courses and other product producers in addition to the energy sector.

CanWhite held a virtual town hall May 26 and that led a group of residents to organize a press conference near the site of one of the excavations June 9. With their concerns not to be addressed they called the Liberals' help.

"The concern here is majority the effect on the aquifer," Gerrard said. "The Sandhills Aquifer is a

large aquifer... like a Lake Winnipeg under the surface... we need to be very careful about what we do."

"It looks like the province is putting the cart before the horse when it comes to a proposal," Lamont added. "The plan has been approved but the mine hasn't been." "The company isn't interested in any long-term investment," Lamont added, hinting at a lack of concern for the local environment on the part of CanWhite. "They want to sell it off in two years' time."

Lamont was referring to 2020/2021 investment when he said he expects the company to be cash flow-positive within a couple of years, which makes it a takeover target.

"I'd be honest that the business model here is to build and sell," he said. "We've got some big guys in Wisconsin that have the ability to come and take us if they want us. We want to prove to them that they should. That is the real goal for us for the next couple of years."

If CanWhite Sands isn't sold, though, the company will continue with extraction in Vivian.

Lamont questioned why the provincial government allowed CanWhite to proceed with their approval process in two stages, with the plan being laid before the mine is approved. He called it a "foot in the door technique" designed to improve the mine's chances of approval. He called on the Union to pressure accountable developers from environmentally sound companies who want to stay in Manitoba long-term.

Springfield resident Tony Bell called on an elected member who called on Klassen to order a CEC hearing, including the size and scope of the project, risks to agriculture sustainability and contamination.



M.L.A. Joe Gerrard (left) speaks with Dougall Lamont (right), Tony Bell (right) near the mine site.

tion, said silica sand is being drained into the environment, and an approval mining technique.

"It is being introduced into our aquifer," Bell said. "Allowing the project to be divided into two and the particular order in which it is being assessed prevents thorough comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts."

Bell called for a hearing along with increased funding for groups wishing to present.

Approval process for the mine was environmental when asked about a referral to the CEC, only saying that CanWhite must file a mine closure plan and provide a financial security to address any environmental liabilities.

"The company has submitted an Environment Act proposal for the proposed sand processing facility," the spokesperson said. "The environmental assessment and licensing process will be fol-

lowed and the project thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the Environment Act. The public is invited to provide their feedback on the proposed project until August 23."

The CEC was established in 1989 to give the public a say in participating in decisions which affect the environment while also providing advice to ministers. They can conduct public hearings, conduct studies and mediation.

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Flying free

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A Monarch butterfly paused for a second before flying free at the butterfly garden at Winkler Arts and Culture recently. See inside this edition of the Voice for this story.

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Brandon man This Week

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Flin Flon The Reminder

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Wednesday, August 19, 2020

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Bomber goalie Delorme earns US sports shot

TODAY

Armed robberies	2
COVID-19	3
Murder 1963	5

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Charities	17
Crossword	18



3 DAY FORECAST

DAY	20	21	22
WED	20	21	22
THUR	20	21	22
FRI	20	21	22

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA AS OF AUGUST 18



RAINBOWS AND SMILES Julia Suchylo and Emma Giesli show some pride during the Flin Flon Pride march on Green Street August 15. For more photos from Flin Flon Pride celebrations last weekend, see page 11.



SAILING AWAY Amanda Ureanu and Jordana Oulala, complete with unicorn floats and kayaks, hit the water during the Flin Flon Pride party event at Lake Athapapocuan August 14.



FLYING HIGH The Canadian flag, a Water and the Wind flag and the rainbow flag fly together above City Hall.

HIGHLIGHT

Company gets gains from Manitoba COVID-19 instability scrubs Peru guidance as Flin Flon, Snow Lake keep working

ERIC WESTFAVER
Reporter

Madbury posted a net loss of \$1.6 million in the second quarter.

The company was held up by its Manitoba operations during the quarter, seeing metal production go up over the first half of the year and having gold production from Labor rise to record levels. While operations at Madbury's Chibougamau mine in Peru were shut down for eight weeks, the 777 and Labor mine as continued operation and all cost guidance and production targets are on track to be hit.

At 777, ore mined during the second quarter increased slightly, going from

about 280,000 tonnes in the first quarter to about 282,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Both numbers are down from the second quarter of 2019, when about 288,000 tonnes of ore was mined.

Copper and zinc grades rose slightly in the second quarter from both the first quarter and from last year, rising from 1.34 per cent in second-quarter 2019 to 1.72 per cent this year for copper and 3.37 per cent last year to 4.11 per cent last quarter and 4.13 per cent in the second quarter for zinc.

Gold and silver recovery at 777 also increased. Gold increased from a second quarter 2019 amount of 1.4 grams per tonne to 1.82 in the first quarter of

2020, then up to 1.91 in the second quarter. For silver, levels went from 18.92 in 2019 to 23.46 in 2020 first quarter and 25.73 in the second quarter.

Ore milled at the Flin Flon concentrator dropped, going down to 35,000 tonnes. Although copper and zinc grades and gold and silver amounts increased.

Operating costs for Madbury's Manitoba Business Unit went up to the same levels they were in the second quarter of last year, climbing back to around \$135 per tonne. "The Manitoba business unit had solid operating performance across the mine, mill and zinc plant during the second quarter,"

reads the company's quarterly report. "Higher 777 ore grades during the second quarter of 2020 was expected and consistent with the raise plan which included the raising of higher-grade copper stops during the quarter. As a result, grades of all metals increased over first quarter levels."

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Madbury's biggest possible profit centre. Need to be one of America's biggest open-pit mines/lower cost production, the company

filed the appeal in June and a series of briefs from mining industry groups have also been filed in support of the project. The company now alleges that a district court in Arizona had incorrectly interpreted mining law in dismissing the project.

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The situation in Peru, however, is not a

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Fun in the sun The Pas Friendship Centre hosted their first ever Colour Run Run. P8

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Baldur – Glenboro Gazette



Photo by: Baldur-Glenboro
Spray planes have been busy helping keep control of the weeds in the pastures.



THE GAZETTE

Thursday,
August 20,
2020
Vol. 18 No. 38
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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF BALDUR, BELMONT, CYPRESS RIVER, GLENBORO, GLENORA, NINETEEN, STOCKTON, TREHERNE & WARMAN

Randy Wallis named Resident of Distinction

Glenboro Community Development Corporation holds AGM

The Glenboro Community Development Corporation held its bi-annual Annual General Meeting on the 11th of August at the Glenboro Community Hall, with approximately two dozen attendees, including Board members.

"The past year has been an interesting one, and I apologize for the absence of the AGM, but given the situation with Covid, we've all been a little off our game, I believe," stated Board Chair Tracy Rimmer.

The GCDC Board, consisting of local residents and business owners Kirby Wallis, Scott 1201, Tracy Rimmer, Tanya Driskewler, and Amanda Nash were introduced, as well as Steve Nelson and Jodie Ruxton, who were unable to attend.

The first item on the agenda was the proposed Municipal autonomy which was proposed in 2019 by the Municipal Board.

"Last year at our AGM, we discussed the renewed focus of the GCDC on economic development in our community, and turning our sights away from recreation and building

management in order to accomplish that," said Rimmer. "This year, we have continued with that. By the end of 2020, the Hall will be under the management of the Ag Society, as it should be, and the Museum, given the agreement of the attendees, will be autonomous from the GCDC and will be run by their own, very capable board, while the GCDC will retain ownership of their premises for now."

In addition to relocating to more economic development goals for the community, and following the volunteer group of management of several sites in order to allow the time and effort needed toward the goals, the Board has proceeded with exploring several opportunities for industry in the community. Inquiries have been made with several different industries and commercial groups, and information collected on requirements for possible expansion into the Glenboro area. Retailers require space, or space for development of facilities, and industry, of course,



Randy Wallis (left) was presented Glenboro's Resident of Distinction Award for his continued involvement in the community by Board Chair Tracy Rimmer.

require things such as retail gas, which the Municipality is working toward. A lot of discussion was the opportunity available with empty land within the village and the possibility of future industrial, commercial, recreational, and residential development.

"We would hope for development across several

previously outlined needs, including industry, retail, private business, housing, as well as green areas. The possibility of a bike park and a water splash pad have also been discussed."

It has been known for a while that the Corporation requires a Strategic Plan for moving forward

Border Baseball League shuts down

Out of an abundance of caution, the remainder of the 2020 Border League Baseball season has been cancelled due to local surges in the Coronavirus pandemic.

The executive of the Border Baseball League and representatives of each member club reached this unanimous decision after much careful consideration. All involved in this decision believe it is in the best interest of public safety and for the well being of our communities, players, coaches, fans, on-field officials and all other associated persons day staff and volunteers. We believe that we have made this decision in a responsible manner by considering all possible outcomes, and then weighing the chance that those potential outcomes might occur. After considering this risk, we believe we have come to the only decision that could responsibly be made.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 ROBLIN, MB VOLUME 107, NO. 32 PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 2020-08-18 \$1.25 including taxes



MEN AT PLAY

The Roblin Golf & Country Club hosted its annual Moonshine Daze Men's Open tournament Saturday with 47 golfers, some pictured here waiting to hit the links for the 11 a.m. shotgun start, registered for the one-day 18-hole medal play tournament. The Open, which featured prizes at every hole, was limited to 72 entrants this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Several former residents and out-of-towners showed up to take part. The Gilbert Plains Country Club's Chad Fawcett picked up a birdie in the last two holes and beat out his golfing partner Jarrett Newson by one stroke, 74-75, to take the championship flight. The Cross Towns Motors hole-in-One prize went unclaimed.

INSIDE



WHAT TO WATCH



LINE UP

- Manitoba Education
- Manitoba Education
- Manitoba Education

Mask use 'strongly recommended'

Back to school protocols released

The Manitoba government has released practice guidance and protocols to ensure students, teachers and families know what to expect upon returning to classrooms in September.

Education minister Kelvin Goertzen said the protocols, which will also provide consistency across schools, will be implemented in all school divisions.

"The safety and health of students and staff, and their families, are the priority as Manitoba returns to in-class learning," he said.

The protocols include additional Public Health advice regarding the use of masks at schools.

It is "strongly recommended" that students in Grades 5 to 12, school staff and others in schools wear non-medical masks in common areas and where physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

Younger students can also use non-medical masks if they or their parents or caregivers so choose.



Education minister Kelvin Goertzen, left, and Dr. Brent Roussin at the press conference announcing the new protocols. PUBLISHED

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School District of Mystery Lake releases school reopening plan

BY JAYO BARNUM
CITIZEN THOMPSON EDITOR

The School District of Mystery Lake (SDML) released its reopening plan for the 2020-21 school year Aug. 14.

The 11-page document, which includes about five pages of written information as well as three provincial health infographics and a school-year calendar, isn't heavy on particular details, some of which will be laid out in individual school plans, which are expected to be made publicly available at least a week before in-person instruction resumes Sept. 8.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will receive five full days of in-class instruction per week, while those in Grade 9 to Grade 12 will have up to five days of in-class instruction per week, with avoid large numbers of students and the use of subgroups of students who do not mix with other groups of students to reduce the risk

of a spreading COVID-19 and more documentation for contact tracing can be implemented. Special needs students in all grades will receive five days of in-class instruction per week, while remote learning will be in place for students who are not advised to return to in-class learning for medical reasons.

Classrooms will be reconfigured to enable physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, while students in Grade 3 and above will be strongly encouraged to wear non-medical masks, as recommended by the provincial government. Students in kindergarten to Grade 4 can also choose to wear masks and extra masks will be available at all schools through the year for students who do not have their own. Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered to avoid large numbers of students in school hallways at any one time.

Parents will be expected to screen their children for



COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school. There will also be screening protocols for all people entering schools and health units will be made available at all access points as well as throughout the schools and in classrooms whenever possible. All people using the school will be expected to wash their hands for at

least 20 seconds with soap and water at the start and end of each school day, after going to the bathroom, before preparing food, before and after eating, any time they get their hands dirty, after using their nose or handling dirty tissues, after coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose and

to stay home. Balanced distancing protocols will be instituted in schools and hand sanitizers will be made available at all access points as well as throughout the schools and in classrooms whenever possible. All people using the school will be expected to wash their hands for at

least 20 seconds with soap and water at the start and end of each school day, after going to the bathroom, before preparing food, before and after eating, any time they get their hands dirty, after using their nose or handling dirty tissues, after coughing, sneezing or blowing their nose and

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Byelection to fill council spot left vacant by death of Judy Kolada will take place Oct. 13

Voters will likely be electing a new school board member as well due to anticipated resignation

BY JAYO BARNUM
CITIZEN THOMPSON EDITOR

Thompson residents and property owners will elect a new council member Oct. 13 to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Judy Kolada last in April.

Council passed a resolution at their Aug. 10 meeting to set the election date for the second Tuesday of October in hopes that the winner will be sworn in in time for the regional council meeting at the beginning of November, when committee chairpersons and members are appointed by the mayor and elected by their fellow councilors.

A provincial order related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic had postponed the holding of

byelections until it expired July 31.

"This is the date that would get us the quickest election possible," said city manager Anthony Malinski, who said that the School District of Mystery Lake also anticipates having a vacancy on their board of trustees that could be filled with a concurrent by-election on the same date, though the resignation, reportedly of trustee Samantha Charnaud, has not yet been approved by the board.

The by-election will be the second in Thompson in less than two years.

Come, Andrew Friesen has been elected as the new councilor for the 2019 to fill a vacancy that resulted when Friesen and Cheng received the same number of votes for the final available spot during the October 2018 municipal election. Prior to that, it had been almost 10 years since the last council by-election in Thompson in December 2009, when Rita Stewart beat four other candidates to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Cory Young.

The by-election will be overseen by Horne Hawley, who was approved by council in May as the new senior election official, taking over the job from Dave Turpin.

While the details of when candidates must register by and the timing of the by-election will be in Hawley's hands, Malinski said it will likely look a bit different than the previous by-election.



in Hawley's hands, Malinski said it will likely look a bit different than the previous by-election.

"We're going to have to modify some of the voting procedures to ensure social distancing," he said. "We'll have to take all those extra precautions and encourage the use of the mail-in

ballots."

To run for council, candidates must be Canadian citizens, 18 years or older as of election day and voters in the municipality in which they are running. Municipal employees may run for office if they also have a leave of absence from their jobs. Members of the Mani-

toba legislature, the House of Commons or the Senate are not eligible to run, nor are judges or justices of the peace. Those previously convicted of an election offense or who failed to pay a fine after being convicted of other Municipal Act offenses are also not eligible as candidates.

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Thompson Citizen

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The Swan Valley
Star and Times

BACK TO CLASS: Plans unveiled to return to school, A7
RETURN TO PLAY: MHSAA releases plan for school sports, B3

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CLEAN, FRESH WATER:
Wuskwisiipik opens
water plant, A10

FUNNEL CLOUD
More twisted weather in the area

Summer storms have continued to sweep through the Valley bringing rainfall and the odd funnel cloud. This one was spotted in the Little Woolly District around 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 12.

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Stonewall Teulon Tribune

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020
VOLUME 11 EDITION 33

Stonewall Teulon Tribune

Kicking it up for cancer

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTOR

Rayle and Livia Chatfield enjoyed the entertainment at the 10th Annual co@fo@house to end cancer last Friday at the ice palace in Stonewall before heading home to bed. The sisters danced to the music while abiding by provincial social distancing regulations. Over \$80,000 was raised at the event for cancer research. See more on page 2.

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Inside this week



A fair old time in Gladstone
 Page 3

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CENTURY 21
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An ice surprise for Neepawa's Junior 'A' Hockey Club

\$40,000 anonymous donation helps with ice rental costs at Yellowhead Centre

Submitted
NEEPAWA JUNIOR 'A' HOCKEY CLUB MEDIA RELEASE

Neepawa's Junior 'A' Hockey Club has received a big pre-season boost. The organization announced, via media release on Wednesday, Aug. 19, that the team has received a major donation from a family whose members are long time users fans. The support is for just over \$40,000, with the family repaying that the money be used to help paying for last year's ice bill at Neepawa's Yellowhead Centre arena and to pre-pay the ice bill for the 2020-21 MJHL season. The family has also asked that they remain anonymous. This cheque was delivered to the Yellowhead Centre board at their most recent monthly meeting last Monday.

Neepawa head coach and general manager, Ken Pransky, who also sits on the Yellowhead Centre board expressed gratitude for this generous and unexpected patronage.

"This is a very thank-



Submitted
 The cost of ice rental for Neepawa's Junior 'A' Hockey Club 2020-21 MJHL season at the Yellowhead Centre has been covered by an anonymous donation given to the team by a family of long time supporters of the organization.

I wish our team a successful and successful year!"

A challenge to the community

The donor family is also hoping that other com-

munally minded people will consider matching the donated dollars as an effort to get the team on a more financial footing after a few years of losses on operations.

Since the team's inception in 1984, the Neepawa's Junior 'A' Hockey Club has paid over \$350,000 in ice rental and the team's game have brought in over \$150,000 to the Yellowhead Centre's operations. The Yellowhead Centre is community owned, similar across in many municipalities that are owned by the respective towns or municipalities.

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Vol. 29 No. 34 Serving Beausejour, Brokenhead, Springfield, Whittemouth, Reynolds and area August 20, 2020

Liberals call for Vivian silica mine hearing *Lamont, Gerrard push for Manitoba CEC to host discussion before approval considered*

By Day Toronto

Manitoba Liberals have joined a group of citizens concerned about the potential impact of CanWhite Sands' proposed silica sand mining operation near Vivian.

On Aug. 11, Manitoba Liberal Leader Doug Lammert and M.L.A. Joe Gerrard called for the Minister of Conservation and Climate Change, Gordon Klassen to direct the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to hold a hearing into the project before approval can be considered.

Early in 2019 a company eventually purchased by CanWhite Sands acquired mineral rights for land sections in five southern Manitoba municipalities including Springfield, with Springfield's section including the location Vivian where the company wishes to set up shop. Their eventually showed promising deposits of silica sand which, depending on its purity level can be used in a range of products. CanWhite plans on selling to oil and gas companies, Scania Pallet Group, said to prospective investors in 2019.

The issue focus on the oil and gas industry was minimized during CanWhite's previous public appearance in Springfield, when they described a much wider customer base including glass companies, golf courses and solar panel producers in addition to the energy sector.

CanWhite held a virtual town hall May 26 and that led a group of residents to organize a press conference near the site of one of the excavations June 9. With their concerns not to be addressed they called the Liberals' help.

"The concern here is majority the effect on the aquifer," Gerrard said. "The Sandhills Aquifer is a

large aquifer... like a Lake Winnipeg under the surface... we need to be very careful about what we do."

"It looks like the province is putting the cart before the horse when it comes to a proposal," Lammert added. "The plan has been approved but the mines haven't been." "The company isn't interested in any long-term investment," Lammert added, hinting at a lack of concern for the local environment on the part of CanWhite. "They want to sell it off in two years' time."

Lammert was referring to 2007/2015 Greenpeace when he said he expects the company to be cash flow positive within a couple of years, which makes it a takeover target.

"I'd be honest that the business model here is to build and sell," he said. "We've got some big guys in Wisconsin that have the ability to come and take us if they want us. We want to prove to them that they should. That is the end goal for us for the next couple of years."

If CanWhite Sands can't sell, though, the company will continue with extraction in Vivian.

Lammert questioned why the provincial government allowed CanWhite to proceed with their approval process in two stages, with the plan being built before the mine is approved. He called it a "first in the door technique" designed to improve the mine's chances of approval. He called on the province to promote sustainable development from environmentally sound companies who want to stay in Manitoba long-term.

Springfield resident Doug Bell said he has an earned income why Chelmsford should order a CEC hearing, including the size and scope of the project, risks to agriculture sustainability and contamination.



Photo by Day Toronto

M.L.A. Joe Gerrard (foreground) speaks with Doug Lammert (left), Brenda Lefebvre and Doug Bell (right) last week.

silica sand mining operation near Vivian, and silica sand mining drainage into the environment, and an improved mining technique.

"It is being introduced into our aquifer," Bell said. "Allowing the project to be divided into two and the particular order in which it is being assessed prevents thorough comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts."

Bell called for a hearing along with increased funding for groups wishing to present.

Angus Cameron for Chelmsford was unimpressed when asked about a referral to the CEC, only saying that CanWhite must file a mine closure plan and provide a financial security to address any environmental liabilities.

"The company has submitted an Environment Act proposal for the proposed sand processing facility," the spokesperson said. "The environmental assessment and licensing process will be fol-

lowed and the project thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the Environment Act. The public is invited to provide their feedback on the proposed project until August 23."

The CEC was established in 1989 to give the public a say in participating in decisions which affect the environment while also providing advice to ministers. They can conduct public hearings, conduct studies and mediation.



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The Selkirk Record



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RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER
The Clansmen Pipes and Drums group performing at a remembrance ceremony honouring the 75th anniversary of VJ Day at Veterans Memorial Gardens in Selkirk on Aug. 15.

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The Selkirk Record

10th Anniversary Edition

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Flying free

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

A Monarch butterfly paused for a second before flying free at the butterfly garden at Winkler Arts and Culture recently. See inside this edition of the Voice for this story.

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EVERY WEDNESDAY

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3 DAY FORECAST

DAY	DATE	TEMP	WIND	PRECIP
TUE	20	10C	10 km/h	0 mm
WED	21	12C	10 km/h	0 mm
THU	22	14C	10 km/h	0 mm

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA AS OF AUGUST 18



RAINBOWS AND SMILES Julia Suchylo and Emma Giesli show some pride during the Flin Flon Pride parade on Green Street August 16. For more photos from Flin Flon Pride celebrations last weekend, see page 11.



SAILING AWAY Amanda Ureanu and Jordana Oulala, complete with uniform floats and kayak, hit the water during the Flin Flon Pride parade event at Lake Athapapukau August 14.



FLYING HIGH The Canadian flag, a Water and the Wild flag and the rainbow flag fly together above City Hall.

HADGAY

Company gets gains from Manitoba COVID-19 instability scrubs Peru guidance as Flin Flon, Snow Lake keep working

ERIC WESTFAWER
Reporter

Hadgay posted a net loss of \$1.9 million in the second quarter.

The company was held up by its Manitoba operations during the quarter, seeing metal production go up over the first half of the year and having gold production from Labor rise to record levels. While operations at Hadgay's Chibougamau mine in Peru were shut down for eight weeks, the 777 and Labor mine as continued operation and all cost guidance and production targets are on track to be hit.

At 777, ore mined during the second quarter increased slightly, going from

about 280,000 tonnes in the first quarter to about 285,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Both numbers are down from the second quarter of 2019, when about 288,000 tonnes of ore was mined.

Copper and zinc grades rose slightly in the second quarter from both the first quarter and from last year, rising from 1.34 per cent in second-quarter 2019 to 1.72 per cent this year for copper and 3.37 per cent last year to 4.11 per cent last quarter and 4.13 per cent in the second quarter for zinc.

Gold and silver recovery at 777 also increased. Gold increased from a second quarter 2019 amount of 1.4 grams per tonne to 1.82 in the first quarter of

2020, then up to 1.91 in the second quarter. For silver, levels went from 18.92 in 2019 to 23.46 in 2020 first quarter and 25.73 in the second quarter.

Ore milled at the Flin Flon concentrator dropped, going down to 35,000 tonnes. Although copper and zinc grades and gold and silver amounts increased.

Operating costs for Hadgay's Manitoba Business Unit went up to the same levels they were in the second quarter of last year, climbing back to around \$135 per tonne. "The Manitoba business unit had solid operating performance across the mine, mill and zinc plant during the second quarter,"

reads the company's quarterly report. "Higher 777 ore grades during the second quarter of 2020 was expected and consistent with the raise plan which included the raising of higher-grade copper stops during the quarter. As a result, grades of all metals increased over first quarter levels."

Throughout Hadgay's business plans, the company has not seen the stability it has in Manitoba. The company filed an appeal on the revocation of a permit needed to move ahead with the Rosemont project.

Hadgay's biggest possible profit centre. Need to be one of America's biggest open-pit mines/lower cost production, the company

filed the appeal in June and a series of briefs from mining industry groups have also been filed in support of the project. The company now alleges that a district court in Arizona had incorrectly interpreted mining law in challenging the project.

With briefs filed, the company now broadly anticipates mining-related activities, such as ore processing and tailings storage, to be conducted on open Forest Service lands," the statement reads.

"The District Court decision that the Forest Service mining regulations do not apply to mining activities unless those activities are conducted entirely on valid mining

claims and hence above ore bodies, is contrary to plain language reading of the general mining laws, as well as Forest Service regulations, which explicitly allow for mining-related activity to occur on lands not covered by any mining claims."

Peru has also seen problems for the company. An ongoing state of emergency declared by the national government, coupled with the six-week suspension of services at the mine, has led the company to throw out their first set of guidance for their operations there. The country's state of emergency is continuing until August 31 at least, leading Hadgay to plan ahead.

"The situation in Peru, like COVID-19 in the U.S., is highly uncertain and

0 - 1,299
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Killarney
The Guide



Sun shining on the harvest so far



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR HARVEST – Harvest is roaring forward in the area, with many fields already cleared. Late Tuesday morning Jeff Cuvelier was out combining grain (that's Harley Dickson in the truck) on the west side of #18, just south of town. Dry conditions are helping ease the harvest of grains and canola, although some rain would be good for corn and soybean crops that are still finishing and need the moisture. Sweathed canola can be seen on other fields in the area, some manure is being spread, and hay and straw is being baled on some farms. Turn to the Manitoba Ag Report on page 9 for more.

Run on fresh produce keeps vegetable farmer hopping

BY KIM LANGEN

A local vegetable producer said he is seeing a rash of hungry customers this year.

Tim Freeman, who operates Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm, arrived as usual for his regular Tuesday afternoon service this week, underneath the oak trees at the Emerald Isle Motel, and the shopping line-up along the roadway was already stretching out into the distance.

More than 20 customers were armed with their re-usable bags, and waiting for Freeman, who was valiantly unloading hefty boxes of fresh zucchini, tomatoes, potatoes, beets, and cucumbers from his

pickup truck as fast as he could.

"I have been seeing long line-ups all season," said Freeman, who hauls in his precious produce from the family farm located southwest of town. "But last week was a record. What are the top sellers? Potatoes, tomatoes, and carrots. And peas, when we have them, but they have a short season."

This COVID-19 dominated year the Freeman family also offered a 12-week delivery of seasonal veggies, which are dropped off to homes or picked up at locations in both Killarney and Boissevain each Friday afternoon.

And Freeman said he experienced the same strong demand for this

fresh offer of his produce.

"We have about 40 customers for the Friday delivery," said Freeman. "Around 20 of them are in Killarney, and the other 20 in Boissevain. Most of them order the regular size bag, which goes for \$30."

The popular Tuesday market stall at the Emerald Isle Motel will continue to run until the third Tuesday in September, said Freeman, and he will be there each week - laden with his farm's bounty - from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm is a family-owned and operated market garden, and the Freeman's have been growing vegetables there since 2008.



LONG LINEUP FOR FRESH VEGETABLES – Tim Freeman, of Wakopa Sunshine Harvest Farm, has been seeing some very long line-ups for his lovely fresh vegetables. Here he is on Tuesday afternoon, with 20 shoppers – spaced nicely apart – waiting for their turn at his shady portable stall, set up beneath the oaks at the Emerald Isle Motel.

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Crossroads This week

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Park West readies reopening guidelines

With summer coming to an end, schools in the Park West School Division (PWSd) are preparing to reopen for teachers and staff on Sept. 2, with students returning to class on Sept. 8. Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week, with schools having the ability to choose to stagger student return at the beginning of the school year. Students in Grade 9 to 12 may follow a hybrid model of in-person instruction and at-home learning. If a hybrid model is followed, attendance in person will be at least every second day.

Maximizing in-class learning while maintaining a focus on safety and reducing the risk of transmission is the goal of the upcoming school year. As schools plan to welcome students back, plans may change based on the advice of public health at that time, as well as over the days and weeks that follow.

Contingency plans will be put in place for various public health situations, which may also vary across the province.

STAGGERED RETURN TO SCHOOL

Students in Grades K to 12 may have a staggered return to school in September. A staggered return will ensure additional time for focused student assessment to finalize recovery learning needs and for teaching students about the new divisional guidelines and provincial health measures necessary for in-school classes. It will also allow additional time for teaching students about the new divisional guidelines and provincial health measures necessary for in-school classes. This will help to create smaller groups for reviewing learning expectations.

Individual schools will determine whether a staggered return to school is necessary.

CLASSROOM AND REMOTE LEARNING

All students are expected to participate fully, even when remote learning is required. Remote learning will be available for students who are unable to return to school due to personal or family health risk factors related to COVID-19.

SEE PWSd P.2



HAYING ONGOING

DANIEL NISBITT/CROSSROADS THIS WEEK

Whether it's round or square, one can never have too much hay stored away within the feed yard as another cold, and long winter season approaches. While harvesting has been initiated in some municipalities, farmers are also still focusing on getting fodder cut, baled and hauled home, before shoveling calls for a pair of extra hands. Earlier this month, Don Yurash was spotted cutting a blend of alfalfa, clover, and tame hay just east of the junction into Shoal Lake, paying close attention to the tight turns. As harvest will quickly go full steam ahead, motorists are reminded to take extra care while sharing the roadways with large equipment.

Walk of Hope heading online

>> Expanding Community Cancer Care is among groups forced to alter plans for fundraisers

RACHEAL FLINTOFF

Crossroads This Week

Fundraisers are certainly looking a bit different this year, and Kalamazoo Community Cancer Care (KCCC) is among groups opting to head online.

"This is the first for a virtual Walk of Hope and hopefully the one and only," states Gloria Tibbatts, president of KCCC. "This is a very new experience for us, and we are confident it will be a

success."

Consistently raising between \$45,000 - \$50,000 yearly, as one of KCCC's flagship fundraisers, the Walk of Hope is celebrating its fifth year.

"Our Walk of Hope is an annual event and one of our largest fundraisers; we feel that if we drop the Walk completely, we will never get it back again so by holding a virtual Walk of Hope this year (and hopefully for only one year), the momentum will be

still there," stated Tibbatts.

Community members will have the ability to take part from Aug. 20 to Sept. 20, participating in activities that accumulate to a personal total distance of over 30 kms during the set month.

"Participation consists of walking, swimming, biking, treadmill, hiking or any activity whatsoever," said Tibbatts, "separately or in any combination."

"The walk is usually held at

the Millennium Park in Russell where we have approximately 15 to 20 teams plus individuals who collect pledges for the five-hour walk, along with entertainment, people's choice auction, and a bake sale," she explained. "This year, because of COVID-19 we are holding a virtual Walk of Hope but wish to have our 6th Walk of Hope back in the park next year."

SEE FUNDRAISING P.4



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MURAVUT'S Award-winning voice of Idvavliq

Words from Whale Cove: part four

- Connor Reuther, organizer, recognizing umpire Dave Whisman for a stand-out job officiating Reuther's inaugural community fast pitch tournament, page 2.

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Kicking it up for cancer

TRIGUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTOR
 Tayle and Livia Chatfield enjoyed the entertainment at the 10th Annual co@fo@house to end cancer last Friday at the ice palace in Stonewall before heading home to bed. The sisters danced to the music while abiding by provincial social distancing regulations. Over \$50,000 was raised at the event for cancer research. See more on page 2.

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The Dauphin Herald

Police seek suspect in weekend slaying

Herald Staff

Police are searching for a British Columbia man in connection with a murder in Dauphin over the weekend. Nicholas Ryan-McKinnon, 23, is wanted for second degree murder and aggravated assault after Dauphin RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing at a residence in the 100 block of

Seventh Avenue South East, at approximately 7:40 a.m., Aug. 12. Upon arrival, officers located a deceased 33-year-old man in the residence. Officers were also made aware that a second adult man was injured at the residence and that he had made his way to the hospital. The injured 18 year old was treated for his injuries and

has since been released. Ryan-McKinnon is described as six feet tall, weighing 165 pounds, with light brown hair and blue eyes. Originally from British Columbia, Ryan-McKinnon has been living in the Dauphin area since December 2019. He may still be in the Dauphin area. Manitoba RCMP is asking anyone with information about

Nicholas Ryan-McKinnon's location to call the Dauphin RCMP at 204-622-3020 or Crime Supports anonymously at 1-800-222-6477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobacrimsupport.com. Investigators with Major Crime Services and Forensic Identification Service are assisting with the ongoing investigation.



the Dauphin Herald

Tuesday,
August 18, 2020
Vol. 125 No. 33
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ISSN: 1913-0491
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The Carillon

News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

SANTA LUCIA PIZZA

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STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 2020

ISSUE 1111 THURSDAY 26

Two deadly crashes Sunday

By JENNIFER PACE

Manitoba RCMP reported on Tuesday that two people died in two separate crashes on Highway 101, one involving a semi-truck and a car, and the other involving a car and a truck.

The first crash occurred on Highway 101 near the town of Carleton Place, where a semi-truck pulled out in front of a car, causing it to crash into the side of the truck.

The second crash occurred on Highway 101 near the town of Carleton Place, where a car pulled out in front of a truck, causing it to crash into the side of the car.

RCMP said the driver of the semi-truck was not injured, but the driver of the car was killed. The driver of the truck in the second crash was not injured, but the driver of the car was killed.

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Getting the golden treatment

Photo: Lisa D'Amico for Steinbach Record

For a lot of people, getting a massage is a luxury. But for some, it's a necessity. For example, a man with a chronic back problem found relief at a massage parlor in Steinbach.

The man, who is in his 50s, has been suffering from a chronic back problem for several years. He has tried many different treatments, but nothing has worked. He decided to try a massage parlor in Steinbach, and he was amazed at the results.

After just a few sessions, his back pain was gone. He was able to move around more easily, and he was able to sleep better. He was so happy with the results that he decided to make the massage parlor a regular part of his routine.

COVID-19 case counts, deaths shake Southeast recovery effort

By TUCKER REIFE

Public health officials in southeastern Manitoba are warning that the COVID-19 outbreak in the region is still a threat to the recovery effort.

The officials say that the number of new cases is still rising, and that the number of deaths is still high. They say that the recovery effort is being slowed down by the COVID-19 outbreak.

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Falk withholds endorsement

By JENNIFER PACE

Parliamentary MP Ted Falk is withholding his endorsement of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Falk says that he is withholding his endorsement because he is not satisfied with the party's record on certain issues. He says that he is withholding his endorsement because he is not satisfied with the party's record on certain issues.

Through COVID-19, Falk also... Falk... Falk...

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RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN DOULANOWICZ

The clanderboye pipes and drums group performing at a remembrance ceremony honouring the 75th anniversary of VJ Day at Veterans Memorial gardens in Selkirk on Aug. 15.

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10th Anniversary Edition

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Vol. 29 No. 34

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August 20, 2020

Liberals call for Vivian silica mine hearing

der Sozial-Vertrags

Manitoba Liberals have joined a group of citizens concerned about the potential impacts of CanWest's transfer proposed action and its long operation with the province.

On Aug. 13, Manitoba Liberal Leader Douglas Lammont and M.L.A. Jon Gerrard called for Minister of Conservation and Climate Change, Orlan Pearson to direct the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to hold a hearing into the project before approvals can be considered.

Early in 2019 a company eventually purchased by Cas-White Sands acquired oil and/or mineral rights for land sections in five southeastern Manitoba municipalities including Springfield, with Springfield's section including the landowner Victor who sells the company wishes to set up shop. That eventually showed promising deposits of oil and/or which, depending on the purity level can be used in a range of products. Cas-White plans on selling to oil and gas companies, such as Fiskel Energy and to prospective investors in 2020.

That laser focus on the oil and gas industry was minimized during CanWhite's previous public appearances in Springfield, when they described a much wider customer base including glass companies, golf courses and solar panel producers in addition to the energy sector.

CoWhite held a virtual town hall May 26 and that led a group of residents to organize a press conference near the site of one of the excavations June 8. With their concerns yet to be addressed they solicited the Liberals' help.

"The concern here is majority the effect on the aquifer," Overend said. "The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is a

large aquifer... like a Lake Win-
nipeg under the surface... we need to
be very careful about what we do."

"It looks like the province is putting the cart before the horse when it comes a proposal," Lamont added. "The plant has been approved but the order hasn't been." "The company isn't interested in any long-term investment," Lamont added, hinting at a lack of concern for the local environment on the part of CawWits. "They want to sell it off in two years' time."

Lamont was referring to **StrongIDIS** investment pitch when he said he expects the company to be cash flow-positive within a couple of years, which makes it a takeover target.

"I'd be honest that the business intent here is to build and sell," Kozlowski said in 2009. "We've got some big guys in Wisconsin that have the ability to come and take us if they trust us. We want to prove to them that they should. That is the end goal for us for the next couple of years."

If CanWhite Seeds isn't sold, the Japanese company will continue with extraction in Vietnam.

Laurent questioned why the provincial government allowed CarWhite to proceed with their approval process in two stages, with the plant being built before the mine is approved. He called it a "test in the new technology" designed to improve the mine's chances of approval. He called on the Tories to promote its sustainable development from environmentally sound companies with regard to open in Manitoba, too soon.

Springfield resident Tanya Red said there are several reasons why Chatham should order a CEC hearing, including the size and scope of the project, risks to water sustainability and consump-



MLA Joe Girard (Oregon) speaks with Douglas Lambert (NY), David Lefkowitz
and Sami Ben-Michael last on.

tion, and reduces rotative drainage into the environment, and an improved sealing technique.

"It is being subdivided into two aquifers," he said. "Allowing the project to be divided into two and the particular order in which it is being assessed prevents thorough comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts."

Hell called for a hearing along with intervention funding for groups wishing to present.

Asplundgren says for Orlowski was noncommittal when asked about a referral to the CSC, only saying that CanWhite must file a mine closure plan and provide a financial security to address any environmental liabilities.

"The company has submitted an Environment Act proposal for the proposed sand processing facility," the spokesperson said. "The environmental assessment and licensing process will be followed."

lowed and the project thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the Environment Act. The public is invited to provide their feedback on the proposed project until August 23.

The CSC was established in 1989 to give the public a way of participating in decisions which affect the environment while also providing advice to ministers. They can conduct public hearings, do investigations and mediation.

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THE WESTERN CANADIAN

Volume 120 Number 31 Publication 882 Journal 807000 Friday, August 21, 2020

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Inside This Issue

**MUNICIPALITY OF
PEMBINA**

Council Meeting
Page 4



Royals Team
Wrap Up Ball Season
Page 5

Garry Christoff Retires After 45 Years with Pembina Manitou Fire Dept.

Members of the Pembina Manitou Volunteer Fire Department held a retirement evening at the fire hall on Saturday, August 15th in honour of their former chief.

Garry Christoff was being recognized by the department for his 45 years of dedicated service to the community as a volunteer firefighter.

Christoff officially joined the Fire Department in 1975 at the age of 25 years, although he had helped out occasionally prior to that. His father, Ray Christoff was Fire Chief at that time.

According to Garry, "Fire fighting has been in my family for several generations, starting with my grandfathers, Baker Chabrowsky, my father, Ray Christoff, my brother-in-law, Lee Gelsowski and Les Wilkison, also the yard boss on Justin."

(Continued on Page 3)



Pembina Manitou Fire Chief Les Reynolds congratulates Garry Christoff on his retirement from the fire department after 45 years of service to the community. Members held a retirement evening in his honour and presented him with a gift as a token of appreciation. Reeve Glenn Shildes was also in attendance, extending thanks and congratulations on behalf of the residents of the municipality.

The donation of a used refrigeration unit has begun the process to upgrade the ice plant at the Manitou Community Arena, allowing them to make artificial ice and snow in the winter.

Don and Shephard McLean acquired a used 70 ton dollar unit fridge at a very reasonable cost at auction and have donated it to the Manitou Arena to be converted into a 50 ton ice plant. This will greatly help their sliding coverage.

With the current system, they are at the mercy of the weather. Arena Board President Glenn Jagg says, "The

Funds Required to Install Ice Plant at Manitou Arena

ground source unit isn't large enough to build ice early in the fall. We start the plant in September, but are lucky to have ice ready by mid-November."

This delay sends most of our indoor hockey teams to other communities to rent ice until it is ready in Manitou.

With the larger capacity, they could have ice ready for October 1st, or earlier if needed.

The existing ground source loop will continue to maintain the heating and air conditioning of the walking room and change rooms, as well as the mechanical room at the swimming pool. The new unit will be strictly for the ice.

The Manitou Arena Board has had contractors look at the unit to determine cost to convert it to an ice plant, as well as additional electrical upgrades required to run it, and a building to house the large unit.

(Continued on Page 7)



0 - 1,299 Best In Class – 2nd Baldur – Glenboro Gazette



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PROSSER
Crop planes have been busy helping keep control of the weeds in the pasture.

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GAZETTE

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Randy Wallis named Resident of Distinction

Glenboro Community Development Corporation holds AGM

The Glenboro Community Development Corporation held its belated Annual General Meeting on the 11th of August at the Glenboro Community Hall, with approximately two dozen attendees, including board members.

"The past year has been an interesting one, and I apologize for the lateness of the AGM, but given the situation with Covid, we've all been a little off our game, I believe," stated Board Chair Tracy Rimmer.

The GCDC board, consisting of local residents and business owners Kirby Wallis, Brent Hild, Tracy Rimmer, Tanya Ormiston, and Amanda Nash were introduced, as well as Steve Nelson and Jodie Ruston, who were unable to attend.

The first item on the agenda was the proposed Museum autonomy which was proposed in 2019 by the Museum board.

"Last year at our AGM, we discussed the renewed focus of the GCDC on economic development in our community, and turning our sights away from recreation and building

management in order to accomplish that," said Rimmer. "This year, we have continued with that. By the end of 2020, the Hall will be under the management of the Ag Society, as it should be, and the Museum, given the agreement of the attendees, will be autonomous from the GCDC and will be run by their own, very capable board, while the GCDC will retain ownership of their premises for now."

In addition to relocating on more economic development goals for the community, and relieving the volunteer group of management of several sites in order to allow the time and effort needed toward those goals, the board has proceeded with exploring several opportunities for industry in the community.

Inquiries have been made with several different industries and commercial groups, and information collected on requirements for possible expansion into the Glenboro area. Retailers require space, or space for development of facilities, and industry, of course,

requires things such as natural gas, which the Municipality is working toward. Also discussed was the opportunity of a bike park and a water splash pad have also been discussed."

It has been known for a while that the Corporation requires a Strategic Plan to move forward.

"We would hope for development across several



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PROSSER
Randy Wallis (left) was presented the Resident of Distinction Award for his continued involvement in the community by Board Chair Tracy Rimmer.

previously outlined needs, including industry, retail, private business, housing, as well as green areas. The possibility of a bike park and a water splash pad have also been discussed."

It has been known for a while that the Corporation requires a Strategic Plan to move forward.

"We would hope for development across several

Border Baseball League shuts down

Out of an abundance of caution, the remainder of the 2020 Border League Baseball season has been cancelled due to local surges in the Coronavirus pandemic.

The executive of the Border Baseball League and representatives of each member club reached this unanimous decision after much careful consideration. All involved in this decision believe it is in the best interest of public safety and for the well being of our communities, players, coaches, fans, on-field officials and all other associated game day staff and volunteers. We believe that we have made this decision in a responsible manner by considering all possible outcomes, and then weighing the chance that those potential outcomes might occur. After considering this risk, we believe we have come to the only decision that could responsibly be made.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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US sports shot

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3 DAY FORECAST

Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22
Windy Cloudy	Windy Cloudy	Windy Cloudy

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT CANADA AS OF AUGUST 18



RAINBOWS AND SMILES Julia Suchylo and Emma Giesli show some pride during the Flin Flon Pride march on Green Street August 15. For more photos from Flin Flon Pride celebrations last weekend, see page 11.



SAILING AWAY Amanda Ureux and Jordana Oulala, complete with unicorn floats and kites, hitting the water during the Flin Flon Pride party event at Lake Athapapowauk August 14.



FLYING HIGH The Canadian flag, a Water and the Wind flag and the rainbow flag fly together above City Hall.

HIGHLIGHT

Company gets gains from Manitoba COVID-19 instability scrubs Peru guidance as Flin Flon, Snow Lake keep working

ERIC WESTHOFER
Reporter

Hudbay posted a net loss of \$1.9 million in the second quarter. The company was held up by its Manitoba operations during the quarter, seeing metal production go up over the first half of the year and having gold production from Labor rise to record levels. While operations at Hudbay's Chibougamau mine in Peru were shut down for eight weeks, the 777 and Labor mine as continued operation and all cost guidance and production targets are on track to be hit.

At 777, ore mined during the second quarter increased slightly, going from about 280,000 tonnes in the first quarter to about 283,000 tonnes in the second quarter. Both numbers are down from the second quarter of 2019, when about 288,000 tonnes of ore was mined.

Copper and zinc grades rose slightly in the second quarter from both the first quarter and from last year, rising from 1.34 per cent in second-quarter 2019 to 1.72 per cent this year for copper and 3.37 per cent last year to 4.11 per cent last quarter and 4.13 per cent in the second quarter for zinc.

Gold and silver recovery at 777 also increased. Gold increased from a second-quarter 2019 amount of 1.4 grams per tonne to 1.82 in the first quarter of 2020, then up to 1.91 in the second quarter. For silver, levels went from 18.92 in 2019 to 23.46 in 2020 first quarter and 25.73 in the second quarter.

Ore milled at the Flin Flon concentrator dropped, going down to 35,006 tonnes. Although copper, zinc and silver amounts increased.

Operating costs for Hudbay's Manitoba Business Unit went up to the same levels they were in the second quarter of last year, climbing back to around \$135 per tonne.

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Crossroads

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Shoal Lake Crossroads This Week

Park West readies reopening guidelines

With summer coming to an end, schools in the Park West School Division (PWSd) are preparing to reopen for teachers and staff on Sept. 2, with students returning to class on Sept. 8. Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week, with schools having the ability to choose to stagger student return at the beginning of the school year. Students in Grade 9 to 12 may follow a hybrid model of in-person instruction and at-home learning. If a hybrid model is followed, attendance in person will be at least every second day.

Maximizing in-class learning while maintaining a focus on safety and reducing the risk of transmission is the goal of the upcoming school year. As schools plan to welcome students back, plans may change based on the advice of public health at that time, as well as over the days and weeks that follow.

Contingency plans will be put in place for various public health situations, which may also vary across the province.

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SEE PWSd P.2



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Walk of Hope heading online

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RACHEAL FLINTOFF

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success."

Consistently raising between \$45,000 - \$50,000 yearly, as one of ECCC's flagship fundraisers, the Walk of Hope is celebrating its fifth year.

"Our Walk of Hope is an annual event and one of our largest fundraisers; we feel that if we drop the Walk completely, we will never get it back again so by holding a virtual Walk of Hope this year (and hopefully for only one year), the momentum will be

still there," stated Tibbatts.

Community members will have the ability to take part from Aug. 20 to Sept. 26, participating in activities that accumulate a personal total distance of over 30 kms during the set month.

"Participation consists of walking, swimming, biking, treadmill, hiking or any activity whatsoever," said Tibbatts, "separately or in any combination."

"The walk is usually held at

the Millennium Park in Russell where we have approximately 15 to 20 teams plus individuals who collect pledges for the five-hour walk, along with entertainment, people's choice auction, and a bake sale," she explained. "This year, because of COVID-19 we are holding a virtual Walk of Hope but wish to have our 6th Walk of Hope back in the park next year."

SEE FUNDRAISING P.4



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New restrictions for Prairie Mountain Health starting Monday as COVID-19 cases rise in region

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

Due to high COVID-19 numbers in the region, new restrictive rules will come into force on Monday, August 24.

The province announced on Thursday, August 20 that Prairie Mountain Health has been declared a "restricted" area under its new colour-coded pandemic system. Restricted, or "orange" is the colour code, means assembly transmission of the coronavirus is occurring.

The restrictions include public gatherings being restricted to 10 indoors and outdoors. These numbers do not include workplaces, retail outlets or other sites already covered under other parts of the reopening plan.

Masks will be mandatory for indoor public places and all public gatherings within the PMH region.

Thirty-three new cases of COVID-19 were identified in the province on August 20, with 17 of those in Prairie Mountain Health. Overall, there are 95 cases in PMH, including 56 in a cluster in Brandon.

The province released its colour-coded system on August 19, which allows them to focus on areas with higher numbers. Orange is the second-highest colour. More details on restrictions are to come.



Past to Present Agricultural Parade features 190 pieces

Bartie rode rides a vintage Massey Harris tractor in the Past to Present Agricultural Parade down South Railway Street on August 9. Organized by Warren and Kelly Wright, the event brought together 190 pieces of agricultural machinery from all areas of local farming to show off on the streets of Boissevain. It was a great break from COVID-news and demonstrated the vast history of agriculture in the area. A large crowd came out and watched while social distancing.

PHOTO BY LORRAINE BRANNON

Local businesses start requiring masks

by PAUL RAYNER
Recorder staff

At least a few local businesses have been taking an extra step to protect staff and customers as the coronavirus continues to rise in the region.

At one point, COVID-19 looked as if it had run its course in the province, with only one active case. However, by mid-July, it began to rise again.

By August, Manitoba Health was reporting several days with high numbers, to the point where by August 20, there were 247 active cases and 12 deaths. Of the 33 new cases announced that day, 17 were in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

■ continued on page 3



Lorraine Brannon (left), Marlee Stewart, and Renee MacCallum work the pharmacy counter while Bin Wannenweche forms medication from the shelves at Hazelwood Drugs, Uxas Boundary Co-op, the Boissevain pharmacy has instituted a mandatory mask policy for its employees. This is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing number of cases in Manitoba. Originally, there was no mandatory policy for patrons, but the region was named restricted by Manitoba Health and masking in public will be mandatory by Monday, August 24.

PHOTO BY PAUL RAYNER

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The Swan Valley
Star and Times

BACK TO CLASS: Plans unveiled to return to school, **A7**

RETURN TO PLAY: MHSAA releases plan for school sports, **B3**

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SWAN RIVER, MANITOBA • VOL. 120 • NO. 33 • 28 PAGES • TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020



**CLEAN,
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Wuskwik Sipiik opens
water plant, **A10**

FUNNEL CLOUD

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Summer storms have continued to sweep through the Valley bringing rainfall and the odd funnel cloud. This one was spotted in the Little Woolly District around 10:15 p.m. on Aug. 12.

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The Dauphin Herald

Police seek suspect in weekend slaying

Herald Staff

Police are searching for a British Columbia man in connection with a murder in Dauphin over the weekend. Nicholas Ryan-McKinnon, 23, is wanted for second degree murder and aggravated assault after Dauphin RCMP responded to a report of a stabbing at a residence in the 100 block of

Seventh Avenue South East, at approximately 1:40 a.m., Aug. 15.

Upon arrival, officers located a deceased 33-year-old man in the residence.

Originally from British Columbia, Ryan-McKinnon has been living in the Dauphin area since December 2019. He may still be in the Dauphin area. Manitoba RCMP is asking anyone with information about

has since been released.

Ryan-McKinnon is described as six feet tall, weighing 165 pounds, with light brown hair and blue eyes.

Manitoba RCMP is asking anyone with information about

Nicholas Ryan-McKinnon's location to call the Dauphin RCMP at 204-622-3030 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, or submit a secure tip online at www.manitobastoppers.com.

Investigation with Major Crime Services and Forensic Identification Services are assisting with the ongoing investigation.



the Dauphin Herald

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August 18, 2020
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Robert Nabian shows his support for Tim Hortons Camp Day, Aug. 12, with the purchase of hot and iced coffee. All proceeds from the sale of hot and iced coffee went to the Tim Hortons Foundation to help send children to camps. Besides a few items leftover from the yard sale a few days earlier, the local Tim Hortons also sold biscuits and washed windows of vehicles going through the drive-through in exchange for a donation.

—Doug Zyzanski/News 11

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Flying free
PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE
A Monarch butterfly paused for a second before flying free at the butterfly garden at Winkler Arts and Culture recently. See inside this edition of the Voice for this story.

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RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

the clandeboyne pipes and drums group performing at a remembrance ceremony honouring the 75th anniversary of VJ day at Veterans Memorial gardens in selkirk on Aug. 15.

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The Selkirk Record

10th Anniversary Edition

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August 20, 2020

Liberals call for Vivian silica mine hearing *Lamont, Gerrard push for Manitoba CEC to host discussion before approval considered*

By Day Toronto

Manitoba Liberals have joined a group of citizens concerned about the potential impact of CanWhite Sands' proposed silica sand mining operation near Vivian.

On Aug. 11, Manitoba Liberal Leader Dougald Lamont and M.L.A. Joe Gerrard called for the Minister of Conservation and Climate Change, Gordon Klassen to direct the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) to hold a hearing into the project before approval can be considered.

Early in 2019 a company eventually purchased by CanWhite Sands acquired mineral rights for land sections in five southeastern Manitoba municipalities including Springfield, with Springfield's section including the limestone Vivian where the company wishes to set up shop. There is already a small processing deposit of silica sand which, depending on its purity level, can be used in a range of products. CanWhite plans on adding oil and gas companies, Sande's Fluid Drilling, said to prospective investors in 2019.

The issue focus on the oil and gas industry was minimized during CanWhite's previous public appearance in Springfield, when they described a much wider customer base including glass companies, golf courses and other product producers in addition to the energy sector.

CanWhite held a virtual town hall May 26 and that led a group of residents to organize a press conference near the site of one of the excavations June 9. With their concerns not to be addressed they called the Liberals' help.

"The concern here is majority the effect on the aquifer," Gerrard said. "The Sande's Fluid Drilling is a

large aquifer. Like a Lake Winnipeg under the surface... we need to be very careful about what we do."

"It looks like the province is putting the cart before the horse when it comes to approval," Lamont added. "The plan has been approved but the mines haven't been." "The company isn't interested in any long-term investment," Lamont added, hinting at a lack of concern for the local environment on the part of CanWhite. "They want to sell it off in two years' time."

Lamont was referring to 2007/2019 investment when he said he expects the company to be cash flow positive within a couple of years, which makes it a takeover target.

"I'd be honest that the business model here is to build and sell," he said. "We've got some big guys in Wisconsin that have the ability to come and take us if they want us. We want to prove to them that they should. That is the end goal for us for the next couple of years."

If CanWhite Sands can't sell, though, said the company will continue with extraction in Vivian.

Lamont questioned why the provincial government allowed CanWhite to proceed with their approval process in two stages, with the plan being held before the mine is approved. He called it a "foot in the door technique" designed to improve the mine's chances of approval. He called on the province to promote sustainable development from environmentally sound companies who want to stay in Manitoba long-term.

Springfield resident Doug Bell called on an elected member who called on Klassen to order a CEC hearing, including the size and scope of the project, risks to agriculture sustainability and contamination.



Photo by Day Toronto

M.L.A. Joe Gerrard (left) speaks with Dougald Lamont (right), Brenda Lefebvre and Doug Bell (right) last week.

silica sand mining operation into the environment, and an improved mining technique.

"It is being introduced into our aquifer," Bell said. "Allowing the project to be divided into two and the particular order in which it is being assessed prevents thorough comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts."

Bell called for a hearing along with increased funding for the groups wishing to present.

Angus Cameron for Orlowski was unimpressed when asked about a referral to the CEC, only saying that CanWhite must file a mine closure plan and provide a financial security to address any environmental liabilities.

"The company has submitted an Environment Act proposal for the proposed sand processing facility," the spokesperson said. "The environmental assessment and licensing process will be fol-

lowed and the project thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the Environment Act. The public is invited to provide their feedback on the proposed project until August 23."

The CEC was established in 1989 to give the public a say in participating in decisions which affect the environment while also providing advice to ministers. They can conduct public hearings, conduct studies and mediation.

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