



Meet me at the market

RECORD PHOTO BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

Tennille Frost, owner of My Patterned Life based in Lockport, shows off her wares during the Artisan Market hosted by Bud and Bloom at the Gwen Fox Gallery last Thursday evening. The market, which brings together local artists, crafters and makers, runs the third Thursday of every month from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit gwenfoxgallery.com.

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Selkirk breaks ground on Vaughan Avenue West

By Justin Luschinski

Shovels going into the ground helped signify the start of construction of Selkirk's largest subdivision in decades on Monday.

The new housing development, Vaughan Avenue West, will feature more than 100 homes and be an extension of Vaughan that spans west from Annie Street. The homes will range from single-family housing to multi-family dwellings, designed for first-time renters or home buyers.

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson said there's a lot of demand for new housing in the city.

"I've talked with people in Winnipeg Beach, Gimli ... who are looking at Selkirk as a place to retire, and a place to bring up kids. People are looking at Selkirk, not just as a place to shop, but as a place to live and buy a house here," Johannson said. "It's a fantastic opportunity. We're starting to see some strong interest from developers who've seen our growth ... and are looking to invest in Selkirk."

Phase 1 of the development began on Monday and will see the construction of 47 single-family homes and two multi-family lots. The city has partnered with GRG Investments to develop the land.

Johannson said they've been working on this agreement for around three years, and it will be "the city's largest subdivision in decades." The city will put up a little over \$500,000 to extend Vaughan Avenue from Purvis Boulevard to Annie Street, to get traffic off of Manitoba Avenue. The developers will pay the money back within five years, and they've already invested around \$750,000 in capital towards the development.

GRG Investments, the development team behind Vaughan Avenue West, which is a multi-phased subdivision featuring 104 single-family homes and two multi-family residences, say



RECORD PHOTO BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

City of Selkirk council and **GRG** Investments developers gather for a ground breaking announcement at the Vaughan Avenue West development site on Monday.

they are excited to be part of all the good things going on in Selkirk.

Greg Crognali, Randy Bialek and Gerald Hawranik make up GRG Investments. Bialek said they consider multiple factors before deciding to partner with a city. Selkirk's rapid growth enticed them to partner with the city.

"One thing we notice is they're constructing new property on (infill lots). When (the lots) are selling out so rapidly, the need is there," Bialek said. "The city is growing at such a fast pace, it's being seen across the province ... (Selkirk) has been welcoming,

they've been willing to work with us. We'll be coming back to work with them again for sure."

The city will be using the existing storm water management pond that's

already there, and the developers will fund mechanical improvements to help sustain future communities.





Ridership on the rise for Selkirk Transit

By Lindsey Enns

Ridership continues to rise for Selkirk Transit and Selkirk Mobility.

The city's transit authority held their annual general meeting (AGM) in Selkirk last Wednesday, giving their board a chance to look at the numbers.

Denis Fitzpatrick, chair of the Selkirk Transit Authority and Selkirk Mobility Board, said since their inception in 2011, their ridership has grown each year.

During their first full year in operation, they saw around 20,000 riders,

which grew to 37,600 in 2018. From 2016 to 2018, their ridership grew by 22 per cent.

"Perhaps one of Selkirk's best good news stories," Fitzpatrick said in his report during the AGM. "From humble beginnings to our new Vicinity buses that can seat 27 comfortably, Selkirk can be proud of the service provided by our transit."

Charlene Dunning, Selkirk Transit's manager of transportation services, said from January 1 to March 1 of this year compared to the same time last year, their ridership has already in-

creased by 52 per cent. She credits the jump to a pilot project currently being funded by the Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation. Dunning said the purpose of the five-month pilot project, which is expected to wrap up at the end of March, is to remove the financial barrier for those who wouldn't normally take the bus.

At the end of this month, Selkirk Mobility will also



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Both Selkirk Transit and Selkirk Mobility are seeing an increase in their ridership over the past few years.

"SOMETIMES IT'S
OVERWHELMING TO TRY
SOMETHING NEW, BUT
ONCE PEOPLE GET FAMILIAR
WITH IT, THEY BECOME OUR
REGULAR CLIENTS."

be adding three new buses to their fleet. Two of the buses will be gas operated while the third will be a hybrid.

"We've very excited to add a hybrid vehicle to our fleet," Dunning said.

When it comes to their increase in ridership over the years, Dunning said they are "pleasantly surprised." She added they will be looking at expanding their hours of operations in the future.

"It would be a good year to be looking at having those discussions with the city about expanding our services," she said.

Selkirk Transit currently operates Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. They currently don't run on Sundays and on certain holidays. For a transit map and more information, visit mysta.ca or you can find "Selkirk Transit" on Facebook.

Selkirk Mobility was started in 2015 after the collapse of the former handibus service.

"There have been a few bumps along the way as we started with used buses that have been sometimes taken to their limits," Fitzpatrick said. "Repairs have proven costly over the past couple of years; however, our staff and drivers of mobility rose above the challenges to provide the best service possible."

Selkirk Mobility provides "a really important" service for Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements residents, Dunning said.

"Mobility has been amazing," she said. "To give options of transportation is just so wonderful. It helps give people the opportunity to age in place."

Selkirk Mobility has also been seeing an increase in ridership over the last three years, she added. In 2016, they saw a total of 16,600 riders, in 2017 they had 17,600, and in 2018, they saw just under 20,000 riders.

Dunning said she credits their ridership increase to their staff continuously "going above and beyond" for their clients.

The transit authority has also been trying to raise their profile within the community with some help from public transit orientations. Dunning said they are open to hosting these orientations at any interested business or organization.

"It's a really easy route to use," she said. "Sometimes it's overwhelming to try something new, but once people get familiar with it, they become our regular clients."







Gwen Fox Gallery to host 'An evening with Wilma Derksen'

By Lindsey Enns

Members of the Gwen Fox Gallery say they are "thrilled" to be welcoming Wilma Derksen to the local art gallery next month.

Selkirk's Gwen Fox Gallery will be hosting "An evening with Wilma Derksen" on Thursday, April 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Derksen will be speaking about art therapy-creativity and moving on.

"We welcome the community to join us for this unique experience," a spokesperson for the Gwen Fox Gallery said in an email to the Record last week."Our mandate includes providing a place for the provision of educational programs for all interest levels and areas."

To learn more about the event, call the Gwen Fox Gallery at 204-482-4359.

Derksen has been on a more than 30 year journey seeking truth, justice and forgiveness.

Since the abduction and murder of daughter Candace in 1984, Derksen has influenced victims, offenders and various community members by sharing her story. She has written numerous books on criminal victimization, trauma and the criminal justice sys-

She has also facilitated a support group of survivors of homicide, organizing dialogues between victims and inmates in prison, conducting trainings, giving lectures, participating in panel discussions, presenting her in-



WILMA DERKSEN

sights to the justice system, and addressing victims' needs at restorative justice conferences throughout Canada and the United States, according to her website.

She also help found numerous programs, including Child Find Manitoba, Family Survivors of Homicide, Safe Justice Encounters, Voice of Resilience, Victim Companions, Candace House and the Paying Forward

For more information about Wilma Dersksen, visit wilmaderksen.com.

City to unveil updated Manitoba Ave. East design at open house on April 4

The City of Selkirk will be unveiling its new design for the redevelopment of Manitoba Avenue East during an upcoming open house.

The design will be on display on Thursday, April 4 at the Gordon Howard Centre multi-purpose room (lower level), located at 384 Eveline St., from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Storyboards will reveal the new Manitoba Avenue East and project leads, city staff and Council will be available to provide further information.

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson said it's exciting to know years of planning are about to become reality when work begins this summer on the redesign on what is arguably Selkirk's most iconic avenue.

"The Downtown Selkirk Renewal Strategy was adopted in 2016 and put the wheels in motion for a rebirth of Manitoba Avenue East, but the thought process began long before that, and it's special to be on the cusp of seeing that long-term vision come into focus," Johannson stated in a release on Monday. "I'm really proud of our team that's worked so hard on this to get it right, and I'm equally proud of the citizens of Selkirk who embraced this idea and owned their right to have a say in this plan."

In June 2018, the city adopted a concept design for Manitoba Avenue East (from Main Street to Eveline Street) and then applied for, and received, funding through the Building Canada Plan from the federal and provincial

governments to finalize and re-construct the new design.

Through collaborating with design partners and engaging the public at open houses, the concept for Manitoba Avenue East was developed.

There are significant changes planned for Manitoba Avenue East, all with the goal of creating a vibrant downtown area that is both vehicle and pedestrian friendly.

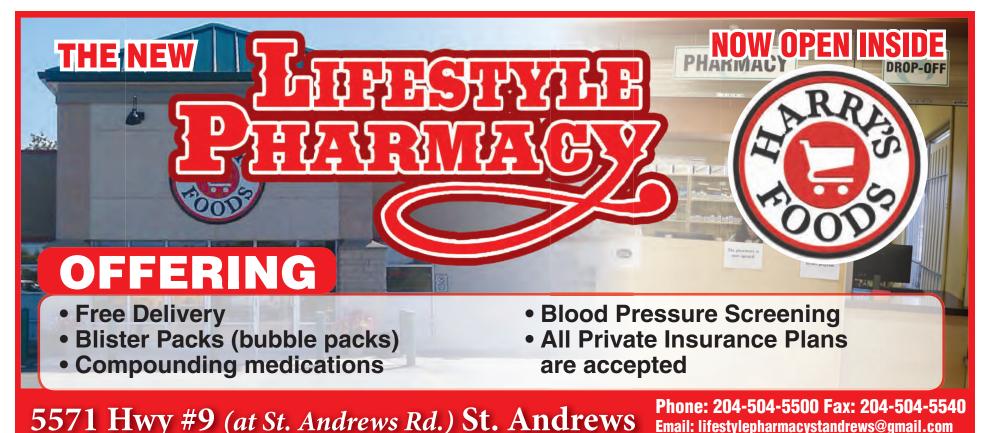
Two of the biggest improvements will be Manitoba Avenue East will be converted from a one-way to a twoway street for vehicle traffic and angle parking will be replaced by parallel parking.

The new Manitoba Avenue East will include decorative paving and pedestrian scale lighting as well as active transportation infrastructure like an off-street bike lane. Planters and landscaping, space for public art along with two pocket, or mini, parks will enhance the avenue.

Construction on Manitoba Avenue East is expected to begin in June and will be completed in phases to allow for traffic flow and access to businesses throughout the project. Construction is expected to be completed in October of this year.

This project is a partnership project cost shared among the Province of Manitoba, Government of Canada and City of Selkirk under the Building Canada Plan.

For more information, visit the city's project web page MySelkirk.ca/ MyDowntown.



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The fish with two tails

Hi gang, how was your week?

It's funny how we're surprised each spring when the world we see around us seemingly almost instantly changes from short, dark winter days in endless white snowfields to summers greening grasslands and the coming alive of our trees. We feel an awakening of renewed vitality surrounded by longer sun filled evenings. On the snow-ice pack of our rivers and lakes we squeeze out the last of this year's ice fishing days before the six week spawning layoff from April 1st to the 11th of May is upon us.

Contentedly cruising down our roads lately with the strengthening suns heat on my face, my thoughts wandered back to a time on the Red River just before the ice cutters began doing their magic and I happened upon a red portable ice shack. As I pulled up to it and getting out of old red I could hear radio music from inside. I called out, "How's fishing?"

"Not worth a darn," came back a frustrated answer. Still, there was a welcoming tone to the voice so I opened the zipper door and before me sat the chap you see in this week's feature picture. The fish he's showing us was caught days earlier! We got to talking and the subject of thinning spring ice came up. Our new friend, Jeff Correia, of Riverbend, Winnipeg said,"I take very seriously the thin ice in the fall and spring along the shore line of our waterways. That's usually where you go through!" I can't argue with that!

Some weeks ago I came across George Swain of Winnipeg ice fishing offshore from the Belair area. He was a big happy-go-lucky guy with a grey pointy goatee, loud deep voice and kind friendly eyes. When I asked if anything unusual had happened to him while fishing, his eyes lit up as he said, "Yeah, I was summer boat fishing farther north of here last year and caught a smaller jackfish. It broke



RECORD PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL Jeff Correia of Winnipeg with a great walleye catch out of the Lake Winnipeg south basin.

from the water's surface maybe two boat lengths away but it was hard to see it because the glare of the afternoon sun in my eyes. I got the impression I was looking at two fish on my one hook!

The white underbelly of the fish showed as it rolled over on top of the water. I lowered my head from the sun and pulled down the peak of my cap so I might better see my catch. I was stunned! The fish had two tails! Head down, I reeled in the not so heavy fish. Close to the boat it disappeared under a wave but when I hauled up on my line it floated to top of the water. Before me were two fish bodies, one a jackfish having taken the hook, the other a salamander stuck fast with its sucker to the side of the jack! Both got used for bait later in the day!

Not long ago I met a trio from Mor-

den, Dalas Loettke, Levi Wiens and Rob Dudgeon who had come to try their luck off the west side of Lake Winnipeg. Levi of average size was a jolly, energetic guy who had the habit of jerking his head from one side to the other as he talked rapidly. His round face was covered with a dark brown three day old beard. Dalas, though not tall, had a powerful body, short hair and a long pointed beard with long streaks of grey. Rob was a tall guy, well built, with short cropped salt and pepper hair and a handle bar mustache. He was also the most talkative of the group. I asked him for a story for us and after thinking for a moment he said, "Well I've had a few unpleasant things getting in the way of some good fishing. Coming here today, we were ten minutes from my house when I realized I had forgotten our tub of minnows. I would have picked up some on the way but my buddies insisted that I turn back and get those "special" minnows! Last spring I was ice fishing on the Pembina River and all of a sudden a muskrat come splashing up from my ice hole with my minnow bait in its mouth! I grabbed a piece of firewood and tossed it at my thieving unwelcome guest. Fate and a lucky throw decided that piece of firewood would end the errant rodents' time on earth." Rob rose and gathering the hapless rat, walked with it to the edge of the riverbank and set it into its final resting place in a snowdrift!

As my time with you for this week comes to an end, I welcome my Canadian fishing brothers and sisters in joining with me thanking our American brothers and sisters for coming to enjoy sport fishing in Manitoba. We love to see and share great fishing experiences with you. You are never alone here! If you have trouble, we will do our best to help you anytime. See you next winter!

So long for now.

View the Selkirk Record online at selkirkrecord.ca

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The Selkirk Record welcomes submissions to Letters to the Editor. Letters can be emailed to news@selkirkrecord.ca or dropped off at our office. Letters must include the name and mailing address of the writer.

TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?

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Province, West St. Paul partner to replace Grassmere drain bridge

By Justin Luschinski

The province is partnering with the RM of West St. Paul to replace the Grassmere Drain structure on Highway 9 as well as build two new pedestrian bridges.

The Grassmere Drain culvert is more than 100 years old, originally built in 1913, and the new bridges will help connect existing residents with the new housing development being built near the Sunova Centre.

"The replacement of the Grassmere Drain culvert at PTH 9 is long overdue and is much needed for the West St. Paul community, as well as all those who commute on Main Street each and every day," Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler said."This project will not only enhance flood protection and improve drainage, but increase public safety."

The total project cost is estimated to be \$7.6 million and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2020. The design and construction costs of the pedestrian bridges are being shared by the province and the municipality.



RECORD PHOTO BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler, alongside West St. Paul Mayor Cheryl Christian, announces the province is partnering with the RM of West St. Paul to replace the Grassmere Drain structure on Highway 9 as well as build two new pedestrian bridges last Friday morning.

One bridge will be built on the east side of Grassmere Creek, close to where the current drain structure is tion has not been determined.

on Main Street. The other will be on Grassmere Road, but the exact loca-

West St. Paul Mayor Cheryl Christian says this is an exciting project for the community.

"I want to thank Minister Schuler and his department for moving forward with this important bridge replacement project," Christian said. "Replacing the bridge addresses flooding and drainage concerns in our community, as well as neighbouring communities along the Grassmere Drain."

Christian added that the new pedestrian bridges will improve public safety, and promote a connected and active community. Currently, there is no way to walk to the Sunova Centre from Grassmere Road safely.

Christian stressed that these would be pedestrian bridges, and she is committed to not having any additional vehicle roads leading onto Grassmere Road.

Schuler added that the province is consulting with the community to ensure minimal interruption to traffic and businesses in the area.

Trade minister stops in Selkirk to talk infrastructure investments, pharamacare

By Justin Luschinski

Minister of International Trade Diversification Minister Jim Carr stopped in Selkirk on Monday to discuss investments in municipal infrastructure and national pharmacare.

In total, the Liberals are allocating \$2.2 billion, cross country, directly to rural municipalities. According to Carr, there are no requirements, Selkirk and surrounding areas have a wide range of items they can spend it

Carr said the municipalities understand the needs of their communities, and the federal government wants to give them all the support they need.

"I think we understand the importance of Canadians who don't live in big cities. (We want them) to have the same quality of life that those who live in those big cities ... Our role is to share the national wealth with the municipalities," Carr said during his stop at the Gaynor Family Regional Library on Monday afternoon."I'm in the business of signing trade agreements. But they're only bridges, those bridges have to be crossed by people, investments, and good services. That's you. That's the people you represent."

The funding amounts are double the usual allocation from the federal government, and while the funding is allocated towards infrastructure, Carr said the definition is broad enough that the RMs can use the money in a variety of ways. The minister added the Liberals will allocate funds to encourage sustainable energy, and help fund eco-friendly retrofits for existing public buildings.

St. Andrews Mayor Joy Sul said the additional money will really help the RM's infrastructure projects.

"(St. Andrews) is getting \$671,863. And he gave us some excellent leads on where we can get additional funding for the wastewater project, if we choose the Selkirk option," Sul said. "We've got so many things we can use that money for, we're very grateful."

Carr said Selkirk will be getting \$556,387.

Carr also spoke about the ongoing trade issues with China, which claimed that a shipment of Canadian canola was "impure." Canada is in talks with the Chinese government to solve the dispute, and in the meantime, Carr said they are looking to sign new trade deals in other markets. Carr listed Japan as a noteworthy buyer of Canadian products.

Carr also highlighted that Budget 2019 announced the government's intention to work with its partners to move forward on three foundational elements of national pharmacare.

These measures mark important first steps on the way to a system that helps all Canadians get the medicine they need," Carr said.



RECORD PHOTO BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

Minister of International Trade Diversification Minister Jim Carr discusses investments in municipal infrastructure and national pharmacare at the Gaynor Family Regional Library on Monday afternoon.



403 Eveline Street, Selkirk Office: 482-4319 Bar: 482-6015 www.selkirklegion.org

April Events Calendar

Apr 5 – Geoff Erickson & The Rockets 8pm Open Sundays 12 Noon-7:00 pm

Apr 7 - Ladies Auxiliary Tea 1-3pm

Apr 12 - Buster Keys Band 8pm

Apr 18 – Friday Draws on Thursday

Apr 18 - Ravin Band 8pm Apr 19 - CLOSED, Good Friday

Apr 21 - Open, Easter

Apr 26 - Rock the House Band 8pm

Apr 27 - Trivia Night \$50/team 7pm

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Dart League Sept-Apr 7pm

Poker 7pm

Fridays Meat Draw & Chase the Ace 4:30-8pm

Everyone Welcome! Members-Only Specials

Selkirk GM partners CAA launches Worst with Steeltown Ford



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Walters family, which owns and operates Selkirk GM, has bought into Steeltown Ford and will now be partnering with their neighbours across the street. Pictured above: Jason Sargent, dealer principal at Steeltown, left, and Matthew Walters, Selkirk GM's general manager.

By Lindsey Enns

Two well-known family-owned and operated businesses in Selkirk are joining forces.

The Walters family, which owns and operates Selkirk GM, has bought into Steeltown Ford and will now be partnering with their neighbours across the street on Manitoba Avenue.

Jason Sargent, dealer principal at Steeltown, said after losing both his brother and his father, he's been missing having a business partner.

"Over the last few years, I've been approached by several dealers to buy out Steeltown, which is a take over situation," Sargent said. "I wasn't ready for that and wanted to take care of my employees and continue working with my Steeltown family."

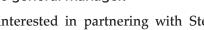
Sargent said when he learned Don Walters, Selkirk GM's dealer principal, and his son Matthew Walters, Selkirk GM's general manager, were

interested in partnering with Steeltown, he felt it was the right fit.

"We're a pretty tight group, it's not that easy to get in, but after looking at it for a few years ... it just looked like it would be the perfect fit," Sargent said."(Matt's) got a great track record across the street, he comes from a family-owned dealership, so he's got all the characteristics of how Steel-

looking at expanding and hiring more sales staff in the future.

He added despite this new partner-Steeltown anytime soon.



town was built." Both Sargent and Walters say it will be "business as usual" on both sides of the street. Sargent said they will be

ship, he has no intentions of leaving "But I do have to start planning,

there needs to be a succession plan in place," he said. "This is going to make Steeltown stronger and Steeltown's future brighter."



Manitobans from across the province rely on the existing road network to travel each and every day. Whether you are driving, cycling, walking or taking public transit, many of these roads are in a state of disrepair.

Last week, representatives from Bike Winnipeg joined CAA Manitoba in encouraging all road users to focus on safety and infrastructure challenges when they vote on their Worst Roads

"Everyone has a role to play in making our roads safer, and that's why we want to hear from all Manitobans about their concerns," says CAA Manitoba president Tim Scott. "Our annual CAA Worst Roads campaign has influenced change for over seven years by taking input and bridging the public's interest in the state of good repair of our roads and bridges. In fact, a recent survey of CAA Manitoba members showed that 90 per cent of respondents were concerned about the state of Manitoba's roads. Moreover, nearly 75 per cent of CAA Members believe that not enough is being done to maintain roads, and that repairs are not occurring in a timely fashion."

Best in class asset management includes prioritizing connectivity for commuters, fixing infrastructure, focusing on safer roads, and includes

cycling lanes and increasing transit options. A well-balanced road user program will reduce the wear and tear on Manitoba's infrastructure and taxpayers' pocketbooks.

"Properly maintained roads and a healthy transportation system translates into safer travels, a healthier economy, and efficient delivery of goods and services," says Raymond Chan, Government Relations, CCG Club Group.

Worst Roads are classified as having potholes, crumbling pavement, poor road signage, limited or non-existent cycling or walking infrastructure, traffic congestion, or limited crossing opportunities.

Mark Cohoe, Executive Director of Bike Winnipeg, sees a variety of issues that need attention. "When people vote in the CAA Worst Roads campaign, they should think of how the roads affect people walking and cycling along our streets as well as those driving along them."

Voting runs until midnight on April 16. Manitobans can nominate their Worst Road online at caaworstroads. com or through the CAA app. Voters can identify themselves as motorists, cyclists, pedestrians or transit riders and pinpoint a particular stretch of the road for crumbling infrastructure, safety and congestion.

Brokenhead school forced to close after car crashes into gym

Roads campaign

By Justin Luschinski

Sergeant Tommy Prince School at Brokenhead Ojibway Nation was forced to close earlier this month after a car reportedly crashed into the school's gymnasium.

According to RCMP, the collision took place at around 12:50 p.m. on Friday, March 15. Officers were advised that a vehicle had struck the gym wall of the school, and fled the scene. Police later identified the driver, whom has since been charged.

RCMP say the 48-year-old male from Brokenhead drove to the school to pick up his son, and when he went to leave, he hit a patch of ice, lost control of his vehicle, and struck the wall.

The driver was later located at home by officers.

The man was later charged for driv-

ing without a license under the Highway Traffic Act. No criminal charges are pending. Police say alcohol was not a factor in the collision.

Calls made to Sergeant Tommy Prince School, the Manitoba First Nations School System and the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation community office went unanswered last week.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances and safety concerns, classes are cancelled until further notice. Spirit week activities will be postponed until after spring break on April 1-April 5 2019," was posted on March 17 on the Sergeant Tommy Prince Facebook page. "We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your support. Updates will be posted.

"All staff are to report to work."

Province unveils 'flexible' rural infrastructure funding program

By Justin Luschinski

Rural municipalities in Manitoba managed to revive a provincial funding program, which will give them less funds, but it will come with more flexibility and less red tape.

As part of Budget 2019, the province will be distributing an additional \$10 million in unconditional operating funding to rural municipalities, including Selkirk. The announcement was made last Tuesday during an Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) event in Winnipeg, and it's supposed to provide the RMs with sustainable, long-term funding, on their terms.

The new funding is replacing the previous \$14-million municipal road and bridges program.

Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton said the \$10 million in unconditional funding will help RMs in their decision making.

"Essentially AMM and their municipalities wanted a funding program that would be predictable, sustainable for the long haul and reduce red tape," Wharton said. "And this model that we presented today does exactly that."

The new funding model is unconditional, meaning the RMs can use



RECORD PHOTO BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton talks about the province's new rural infrastructure funding program during a press conference at RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg.

the money on whatever projects they decide. The funding won't mandate a 50 per cent-matching requirement, which is common among other levels of government for road and bridge projects. It will also allow "stacking" with federal investment dollars. For example, this will allow municipalities

to use the funds as their contribution to access provincial and federal funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program or apply them towards projects funded under the federal Gas Tax Fund. AMM President Ralph Groening, said he applauded the move to more flexible funding.

"The funding is equivalent. The process of distributing will be similar. Perhaps (funding) can be improved on, but it will be similar," Groening

A spokesperson for Wharton said later that although \$14 million was available through the previous road and bridge program, only around \$9.7 million was accessed annually over the past six years. The new funding model won't have any lapsed or unused money.

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson said the funding will help reduce the city's financial burden.

"We got all the things we were looking for. It's flexible funding, there's no red tape, and we don't have to match dollars, I'm very pleased," Johannson said. "For the past few years, we were doing around \$800,000 of road work, that's very substantial for a community of our size.

"Now, with this program, we'll continue to do great work on our roads."

According to Johannson, this program gives the city more security in funding other projects.

Selkirk is currently planning several infrastructure projects, including a revitalization of Manitoba Avenue East.

IERHA to offer Building Circles of Support course this spring

Submitted

month, Interlake-Eastern RHA's fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) diagnostic coordinators are offering Building Circles of Support an eight week educational series for parents, caregivers, family members and professionals who support children and youth diagnosed with FASD.

diagnostic co-ordinators, Sherisse Picklyk Dear and Devon Ungurain who work with families with children/youth exposed to prenatal alcohol, are now accepting registration for sessions in Pinawa and Selkirk.

"Building Circles of Support is an informational series that helps caregivers and professionals understand the complexities of FASD. It provides brain-based strategies to use at home, school and in the community," Picklyk Dear said. "It also gives people a chance to connect and network with other families or professionals, who may have similar experiences. Over the nine years we have been hosting this series in the region, we have received very positive feedback form the participants."

Starting April 4, Building Circles of

Support will be broadcast via Telehealth across Manitoba.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 2 for the hospitals in Selkirk and Pinawa. Both sessions run 4:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m. every Thursday starting April 4 and ending May 23.

To register for the Selkirk session, call Sherisse Picklyk Dear at 204-785-7547. To register for the Pinawa session, call Devon Ungurain at 204-268-7705.

FASD is a medical diagnosis that refers to the range of effects that may occur in a fetus exposed to alcohol prenatally (Canadian Guidelines 2015). FASD is a lifelong brain-based physical disability that can impact individuals, their families and society. Effects can vary and may include a range of physical, cognitive and behavioral challenges. FASD is often called an "invisible" disability because most people affected do not have noticeable physical features.

FASD is said to be the leading known cause of developmental disability among Canadians. There are about 130 FASD related births each year in Manitoba.

Home Hardware hosts grand opening event



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured from left to right: Selkirk Home Hardware Building Centre's Scot Borthistle, Heather Brincheski, Krista and Rob Borthistle celebrated the grand opening of the newer, bigger and better local hardware store on March 14, 15 and 16. The three-day event featured sales, prize draws and savings throughout the newly renovated store.

Manitoba expands rebate available to young farmers

Submitted

As part of Budget 2019, the Manitoba government is partnering with the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC) to increase the maximum amount eligible for the Young Farmer Rebate program to \$200,000 from \$150,000.

"One of our government's priorities is to increase the number of young people in the agriculture industry," said Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler. "Increasing the young farmer rebate supports our focus on young producers by reducing the cost of borrowing while they grow their operations."

Recent census data shows the average age of a Manitoba producer is over 53. In consultation with stakeholders, industry groups and young producers, it was noted that assistance for young farmers is necessary, given rising costs and changes in farm economics over the past decade.

The program provides an annual rebate of up to two per cent on the principal of a loan from MASC for up to five years. As a result of the expansion, the lifetime maximum rebate will also increase, to \$20,000 from \$15,000.

"Agriculture is the backbone of Manitoba's rural economy, and young farmers are the future of the industry's growth," said Jared Munro, president and CEO, MASC. "This enhancement to the Young Farmer Rebate program

"INCREASING THE YOUNG FARMER REBATE SUPPORTS OUR **FOCUS ON YOUNG PRODUCERS** BY REDUCING THE COST OF **BORROWING WHILE THEY GROW** THEIR OPERATIONS."

is expected to provide an additional \$500,000 in interest reductions next fiscal vear."

MASC designs and administers lending and insurance programs targeted at young and beginning farmers. As farms consolidate and barriers to entry increase, MASC is enhancing its programs, with a target that 75 per cent of new loan approvals be for young farm-

The young farmer rebate program is part of MASC's Bridging Generations Înitiative, which provides producers under the age of 40 with financial incentives and customized terms and repayment options. In 2017-18, MASC issued 815 direct loans under the Young Farmer Rebate program. Other measures geared at young producers include higher percentages of available financing for large purchases and the ability to make interest-only payments for the first five years of a loan.

> Eichler this change will be implemented on April 1. For more information Budget 2019, visit www.gov.mb.ca/ budget2019/index.html.

Fraud Prevention Month

Taking your time can help you spot a scam

When it comes to protecting yourself from fraud and spotting a scam, one of the best things you can do is take your time and think things over before handing over your money or personal information.

"It's important to take your time with everything," said Cst. David Wong, the Selkirk RCMP's community policing officer. "One of the resounding themes amongst most of the scams out there is that they will tell you that it is very time sensitive."

March is Fraud Prevention Month across Canada. According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, fraudsters target specific segments of the population, including small businesses, seniors and students but no one is immune to fraud.

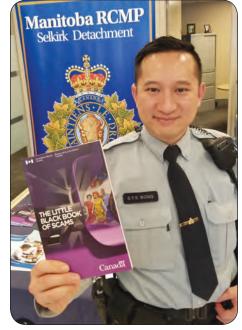
Wong says the best advice he could suggest is that if you're ever in doubt, ask for the advice of a close friend or relative, or even your banker.

"The more you talk about it, people will see those red flags," he said. "If you're concerned about your bank accounts, I recommend you call your bank, not answer the questions that were given to you over the phone from an unsolicited call.

"Hang up on them and call your

Wong added some of the more popular scams as of late include romance scams and ones involving the Canada Revenue Agency.

In 2018 alone, Canadians lost approximately \$97 million to fraud, which only accounts for the estimated five per cent of cases that were reported to the authorities, according to



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

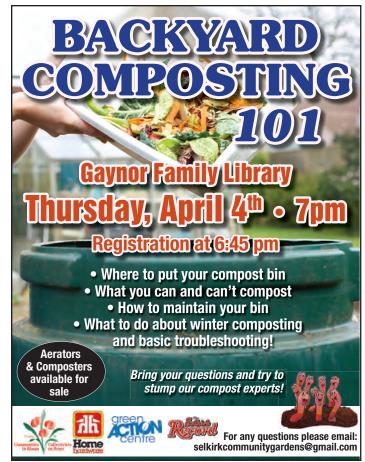
Selkirk RCMP Cst. David Wong recently visited the RBC Royal Bank in Selkirk to share some tips during Fraud Prevention Month.

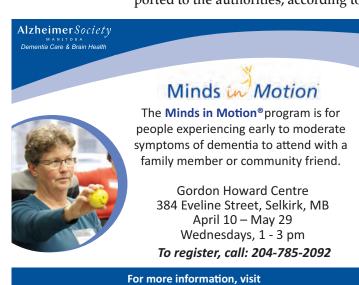
Competition Bureau Canada.

This year, the bureau launched a new webpage to help businesses fight fraud and a new fraud prevention online portal. For more information, visit competitionbureau.gc.ca.

Wong also strongly encourages community and area members to report any suspected fraudulent activity.

You can advise the RCMP of this fraudulent activity by calling the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or by contacting your local RCMP detachment.





alzheimer.mb.ca/mindsinmotion



Bird's-eye view of **Selkirk**

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM MATTHEWMAN JR. Jim Matthewman Jr. gave us a bird's-eye view of the City of Selkirk with a little help from a drone last week. To check out more of his work, you can find him on Instagram by searching @jim.m4.





Liquor Marts launch new efforts to combat theft

Staff

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries is launching a multi-point theft reduction plan to combat Liquor Mart thefts and robberies.

Liquor and Lotteries has been working closely with the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) to identify and arrest suspects using in-house technologies and intelligence. These collaborative efforts have resulted in 113 arrests since October 2018; however, aggressive thieves and an increase in the frequency of thefts has resulted in the need to introduce additional security measures to ensure the safety of employees and customers while protecting assets.

"Individuals who take alcohol products without paying have become increasingly brazen and unpredictable when confronted, and the measures we're taking address this shift," Liquor and Lotteries President and CEO Peter Hak stated in a release last week. "We want our customers and our employees to know that we take their safety seriously and we also want to send the message that if you steal from a Liquor Mart, you will be caught."

Tactics under the new strategy include:

• New trained Loss Prevention Of-

ficer team stationed at stores during peak periods or where incidents of theft have increased;

- Expanded use of uniformed Special Duty Constables in Winnipeg Liquor Marts;
- Bottle locks and alarm pedestals and lockable shelf cases to secure high-value targeted products;
- Making certain high-value targeted products are available on a byrequest basis;
- As per our "Show your Age" program, customers appearing under the age of 25 will continue to be required to show proof of age at point of purchase. All customers who enter a Liquor Mart, regardless of age, may be asked to show valid, government-issued photo ID to a security guard at the door. Those who are unable to produce the required identification may be refused entry;
- Requiring customers to check bags when entering some stores using a claim check system; and
- Video displays at store entrances to alert potential thieves they are being recorded along with continued use of high-resolution digital surveillance to assist WPS to identify and arrest suspects after they've left the store.

Other future measures will include:

Creating additional physical barri-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISD.CA

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries is launching a multi-point theft reduction plan to combat Liquor Mart thefts and robberies. Part of the new strategy includes bottle locks and alarm pedestals and lockable shelf cases to secure high-value targeted products.

ers such as controlled entrances and exits;

- Additional security staff to support current complement; and
- Enhanced surveillance.

While some of these measures are already in place, others will be rolled out over the next several weeks and months, Hak said, adding that the measures will be supported by a public information campaign to let Manitobans know what to expect when they shop at Liquor Marts. The campaign includes sharing information about security measures and ongoing arrests at MBLL.ca/StopTheft, as well as outdoor signage, in-store posters,

and digital media messages.

Liquor and Lotteries has also been working in close contact with the Manitoba Government Employees Union (MGEU); which represents Liquor Mart employees.

"We are very encouraged by these initiatives. It shows that the employer has taken the concerns we've raised on behalf of liquor store employees seriously and has come up with a well-thought out plan," MGEU President Michelle Gawronsky stated in a release. "We will be anxiously waiting to see the results of these initiatives and what the outcomes will be."

SNC-Lavalin scandal overshadows federal budget: Bezan

By Justin Luschinski

The new federal budget has offered some help for seniors, but it may be too little, too late.

The Liberals released their last federal budget before the fall 2019 election last Tuesday.

They've committed \$22.8-billion across a number of areas, spending a majority of the \$27.8 billion revenue bump in 2018, including tax breaks for working seniors.

But some feel that the budget does little to address Canada's aging population.

Melody Bodnarchuk is the co-chair of the Kildonan/St. Paul's Senior Council. The council held forums around West St. Paul, listening to the troubles facing seniors, and handed a report off to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Bodnarchuk said that while there are some positives to the budget, very few of the council's recommendations were addressed.



JAMES BEZAN

"It was good to see that working seniors will keep more of their money, before the claw back. But it's a little disappointing to see nothing helping seniors age in place, or a national

pharmacare system," Bodnarchuk said. "Seniors are making decisions on whether they eat, or pay for their medications.

"For many of these policies, it's a step in the right direction, but it's not enough."

Bodnarchuk said she would have liked to see a housing incentive for seniors, which was one of the recommendations the council put forward. The council pushed for housing that would not exceed 30 per cent of a senior's income as well as a national pharmacare program to help deal with increased medication costs.

Seniors receive benefits from the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), which is a tax-free incentive available to low-income families collecting an Old Age Security pension. Currently, seniors and their spouses can earn \$3,500 a year before they get a reduction in benefits, usually referred to as a "claw back."

That only applies to employment in-

come. Self-employed seniors do not receive benefits.

The new rules raise the cap to \$5,000 in income a year before the claw back, and it applies to self-employed and regular working seniors. The second cap stops just shy of \$30,000 a year, before the benefits are reduced. The new caps are expected to take effect in July 2020.

The Conservatives say the Liberals massive spending spree is meant to distract Canadians from the SNC-Lavalin scandal.

Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman MP James Bezan called the Liberals latest budget"very underwhelming."

"I don't really see how it's going to benefit anyone. For working seniors the (tax benefits) might be helpful, but a national pharmacare program is nowhere in sight," Bezan said. "The Liberals want to change the channel on the (SNC-Lavalin) scandal, and change the channel on how they shut down the justice committee hearing."

Staff, students attend annual school boards convention

Staff

Lord Selkirk School Division (LSSD) staff and students attended the Manitoba School Boards Association annual convention on March 14 and 15 in Winnipeg.

The theme of this year's convention was "local voices, local choices," and there was a decidedly LSSD flavour

Proceedings started with a video of "O Canada" produced by the Comp's choral and band programs, set up and staging was done by the drama program and was filmed using seven camera angles and a drone by the photography program.

"Not unlike the community Christmas Spectacular in its quality, it was a stunning showcase of the students and staff of the Performing Arts and Photography Programs for the rest of the school divisions in the province." the LSSD stated in a release last week.

Grade 12 student, Taylor Stevens was selected to receive the Student Citizenship Award from nominations submitted from Hanover, Interlake, Seine River, Evergreen, Lakeshore and Sunrise School Divisions. In addition to her involvement and leadership in many school-based activities, she is also active in her community as a volunteer and mentor, and a most worthy recipient of this award.

Annie Rossington, also in grade 12 was selected to participate on a panel of four students, moderated by Dr. John Weins. She spoke of her passion for music and French language and culture. She shared how access to these programs and her teachers have

helped to shape her as an individual and guide her future career choices.

Both Taylor and Annie spoke to a group of more than 300 trustees and school officials.

LSSD Supt. Michele Polinuk, Assistant Supt. Jerret Long, director of information technology Brett Saunders,

school board chair and vice chair Lena Kublick and Jack Bogaski also facilitated a workshop related to the social media threats that were made in December 2018. The purpose was to share lessons learned and changes made as a result of the event with other school divisions in the province.

A resolution was also put forward by the LSSD advocating for funding support to cover the expenses related to implementing seat belts on school buses, should this become legislated.

Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen was also in attendance to meet with board chairs and respond to

a litany of questions submitted by school divisions in relation to the K-12 Education Review.

The public will have opportunity to provide input with online submissions as well as in person presentations that would be selected from applications received. The location of these public

consultations have not been finalized, but Winnipeg, Brandon, Steinbach are the southern Manitoba locations listed. For more information about the K-12 Education Review, visit edu.gov. mb.ca/educationreview/.

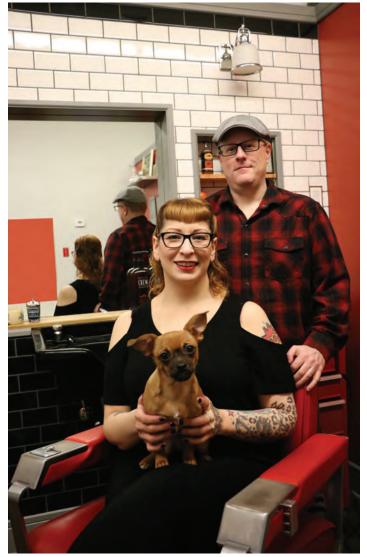
A New Look for Midtown! **Downtown Barbershop Steps Back in Time**

Tucked away towards the back of 226B Manitoba Avenue, Midtown Barbershop surprises customers as walk through the door. The new location was extensively renovated before moving from next door and features many nods to the barbershops of yesterday. Subway tile and glass bricks add to the nostalgic vibe that owner Angela Bercier and her husband Steve Ward set out

Angela, a Master Barber with 29 years of experience, has owned and operated Midtown Barbershop for over two years now. During this time, she has quickly earned a reputation for her clean, precise fades and classic men's cuts. Raised in Selkirk, Angela enjoys working and owning a business here. "I have so many awesome returning clients and meet plenty of new people every day. I really enjoy chatting with my customers, but my ultimate goal is a clean, prompt haircut. I realize that time is valuable, so I want to get them in and out as quickly as I can."

Midtown Barbershop offers relaxing straight razor shaves. Angela believes that straight shaves are a great way for men to pamper themselves. "My shaves take some time and are quite relaxing. I've had more than one customer doze off under a hot towel."

Eventually, Midtown will be expanding their men's grooming products to offer more shaving and beard care products. Angela adds, "Lots of guys have beards

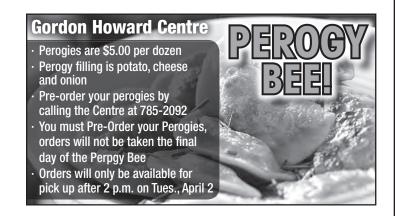


but not too many of them understand that they need proper upkeep. We'll be adding some nice new products to help out with that soon."

Midtown Barbershop operates on a walk-in only basis. Most customers prefer it that way as they can drop in when it suits them. Current hours of operation are 10:00 to 6:00 Tuesday to Thursday, Fridays 10:00 to 5:00 and Saturdays 9:30 to 3:30.

The barbershop is looking to add another barber/stylist in order to serve their customers better. If you're interested, please send resumes to midtownbarbershop@shaw.ca or drop one off at the shop during business hours.

ADVERTORIAL







Selkirk Safeway gives back

RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Selkirk Safeway staff and management continue to work hard at giving back to the community. They recently gathered to celebrate and present the Selkirk Food Bank with a \$6,873.13 donation. Safeway sold a total of 496 hampers, which helped raise \$2,975 and the local store also brought in a total of \$3,898.13 in cash donations, which were presented in the form of gift cards to the local food bank.



Hundreds attend Red River Basin Commission gala



RECORD PHOTOS BY JUSTIN LUSCHINSKI

ABOVE: Infrastructure Minister and St. Paul MLA Ron Schuler, pictured left, and Selkirk MLA Alan Lagimodiere, right, were among the more than 300 people, below, who attended the 11th annual Red River Basin Commission Fish Dinner Gala at the Sunova Centre last Thursday evening. Those in attendance enjoyed dinner while learning about the Netley Marsh.



Manitoba finalizing second phase of cannabis retail rollout

Submitted

To meet its goal of having a non-medical cannabis retail store available within a 30-minute drive for 90 per cent of Manitobans within two years of legalization, the Manitoba government is finalizing a selection process for the second phase of its retail rollout.

In July 2018, the province released a Request for Pre-Qualification seeking potential retailers interested in a future opportunity to operate cannabis retail stores in Manitoba. Nearly 100 applicants pre-qualified as part of this process.

Selected applicants can then proceed

through the agreement and licensing process to operate in one of the following seven Manitoba communities: Altona, Flin Flon, Lac du Bonnet, Niverville, Rural Municipality of Russell-Binscarth, Swan River, and Virden.

While municipalities control where cannabis stores are located in their communities, the province plays a supportive role to answer questions and outline options available, including reviewing how close the stores may be to schools, houses of worship and community centres, at the municipality's request.

For more information on cannabis in Manitoba, visit manitoba.ca/cannabis/.

Living with an invisible disease

MS support group helps local residents feel less alone

By Justin Luschinski

The fear of the unknown when it comes to living with multiple sclerosis (MS) can be scary, but for some Selkirk and area residents, getting together to talk about their experiences with the disease is what's carrying them through.

The MS Society of Canada's Manitoba division hosts a support group once a month at the Gaynor Family Regional Library in Selkirk. The group gives those living with MS a supportive network, where they can chat with other residents dealing with the disease, or bring family members along to learn about what MS might be doing to their loved ones in a confidential environment.

One Selkirk resident, who the Record is naming Jennifer because she wanted to remain anonymous, said she was initially terrified when she was diagnosed. After leaving the doctors office, she wracked her brain, imagining the worst possible scenarios for her disease. Will she be able to take care of her child? Will she be able to work ever again?

She said being able to talk about it with her peers helped her calm down.

"When I first came to the meetings (in 2018), I started to feel better about it. It was really good to know that I wasn't the only person going through this," Jennifer said. "To hear about people who've had (MS) for 10, 15, 20 years, and they're still doing OK, I

felt better. People who don't have MS don't understand. They'll try to give you solutions, but there really are no

"Symptoms are symptoms and they just stay with you."

Jennifer said she had some symptoms for a while, but it got really bad while she was at work. She used to work in a seniors complex, and as she walked back to the locker room, her legs gave out. She grabbed the handrails, but she couldn't feel anything in her hands.

One day when she got home, her husband told her to go to the doctor. She got a CT scan, and was diagnosed with MS a few days later.

MS is an autoimmune disease of the central nervous system, around the brain and spinal cord. The disease attacks the myelin, the protective covering of the nerves, causing inflammation and often damaging them. MS is very unpredictable, and can cause symptoms such as extreme fatigue, tingling, and cognitive impairment. Currently, there is no cure. The severity of symptoms vary wildly, and some days are better than others.

Canada has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the world. It's estimated that one in every 385 Canadians live with the disease.

Another local woman, who also wanted to remain anonymous, said she was diagnosed with MS in 2016 after struggling with her symptoms for a long time. After she was finally diagnosed, she felt relief, because now she had a label for the pain she was feeling. She said she refused to make her name public because there's a stigma associated with the disease.

"The first thing people usually say is



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

The Selkirk MS support group meets every third Thursday of the month.

'oh, you look great.' Which, OK, thank you, but I still have MS. When I was in the hospital, I had to use a walker, and the looks that I got, it just shocked me," she said. "Just so many disapproving looks. I guess they've never seen a younger person with a walker before. I'm so happy the walker gave me my mobility back, because I wouldn't have been able to walk very far on a bad day."

A"bad day," as described by many of the local support group's members, is when their symptoms flare up. Sometimes, their symptoms are so bad, they can barely walk through the Walmart parking lot. Both women mentioned similar experiences, where they parked in a handicap spot to shop for groceries, and faced disapproval and negative attention from residents who didn't know about their disease.

But the support group takes care of one another. Some members have even become friends.

Another woman, who the Record is referring to as Annie, was diagnosed with MS around 10 years ago. She struggled with accepting her disease

for many years, she was and scared to come to the MS support group, fearing not be able to relate to the younger

But now she considers many group members her friends.

"These are not just ... people with MS. These are my friends. I get to hear about how they're doing, I learn new ways to cope, we're not just people that are going through the same thing," Annie said. "I am the grandma of the group, but they don't make me feel like the grandma. Age doesn't matter, you're a friend here. It's a nice group of friends who can chat with you."

Several members mentioned a few coping techniques. A few have had success with a local yoga program for people living with MS, which has helped alleviate some of their symptoms.

The Selkirk MS support group meets every third Thursday of the month.

For more information, contact Tara Mamchuk at the Manitoba MS Society at 204-943-9595 or via email at tara.mamchuk@mssociety.ca. You can also visit mssociety.ca/manitoba for more information.

Spring thaw to result in dangerously thin ice: Province

Submitted

The Hydrologic Forecast Centre of Manitoba Infrastructure is advising the public of potentially hazardous ice conditions on rivers, lakes and drainage ditches throughout Manitoba as the spring thaw commences.

While the ice may appear normal, it may be very thin and no longer support people and heavy objects such as snowmobiles and vehicles.

Use of the rivers, lakes, floodways or drainage ditches for activities such as skiing, sledding and snowmobiling could be hazardous at this time and should be avoided. People living near waterways should be especially careful to prevent children and pets from wandering onto the ice.

Daily temperatures are warming gradually and are causing ice thickness and strength to deteriorate. The quality of river ice within communities is also uncertain, so citizens are advised to stay off rivers and retention ponds.

Manitoba Sustainable Development advises ice fishing shelters should already be off of the Red River. Shelters must be removed by March 31 in the rest of the southern division and by April 15 in the northwest, north central and northeast divi-



Province increases support for vision-loss rehabilitation, other services

Staff

The Manitoba government has increased its support for vision-loss rehabilitation and other services provided by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

"This long overdue investment will fund a number of services for Manitobans impacted by blindness or vision loss, helping them to live the lives they want to lead," Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen stated in a release recently. "We are proud to partner with the CNIB to invest in these worthwhile services."

Budget 2019 provides \$240,000 in additional annual funding to support CNIB's post-vision-loss rehabilitation services. Those services include, but are not limited to, maximizing a client's remaining eyesight through lighting and contrast, training on how to use a white cane, and finding assistive technologies that meet a client's needs.

Funding will also be used to address CNIB's outreach services to rural Manitobans, peer support and mentorship, diabetes awareness and education.

"Vision Loss Rehabilitation Manitoba, a division of the CNIB group, is grateful that the Government of Manitoba has taken this important step of fully supporting the low vision program, which will help individuals with vision loss to mitigate or eliminate the barriers around safety, education, employment and quality of life, and to also enhance their remaining vision," said Garry Nenson, executive director, CNIB Manitoba.

Until now, Manitoba was the only province in the country that did not provide funding for post-vision-loss services, said Friesen, noting previous requests for funding from the CNIB were not fulfilled by the previous government.

In total, the Manitoba government and related agencies provide the CNIB with more than \$1.7 million in annual funding, primarily investments in career and employment services for Manitobans aged 18 and older.

Approximately 17,200 Manitobans live with vision loss or partial sight.

For more information on the CNIB and the services it provides, visit cnib.



> BY TODD MACKAY

PST cut a victory for taxpayers

Sometimes it's hard for taxpayers to imagine anything will change, but Premier Brian Pallister's PST cut proves the people have a powerful voice

Before diving into the details, let's remember how far we've come. Former premier Greg Selinger promised not to raise the PST, but broke that promise. Manitobans were incensed. Legislative committee meetings that are typically sleep-inducing were suddenly flooded with angry taxpayers.

Voters registered their anger at the ballot box where they booted Selinger and backed Pallister's promise to cut the PST.

But, since becoming premier, Pallister's top priority has been to get the province's runaway deficit under control.

Throughout all of this, Manitoba taxpayers paid about \$300 million every year because of the PST hike. Until now.

In this year's budget, Finance Minister Scott Fielding is cutting the PST from 8 per cent to 7 per cent, effective July 1.

That one-point change is huge. The government projects the move will save Manitobans \$325 million every year. More concretely, the government estimates the average Manitoba family will save \$500 per year.

That's money Manitoba families can put into home renovations or retirement savings. It's money entrepreneurs can use to reinvest in their businesses and hire more workers. It's tax relief that will make Manitoba more competitive.

At the same time, the deficit is shrinking. Last year, the government projected an operational deficit of \$521 million. This year, even with the PST cut, the government is projecting an operational deficit of \$360 million. Reducing the deficit is an important accomplishment that means the Manitoba government is leaving a smaller bill for future generations.

However, the shrinking deficit in the operational budget is not the whole story. Balancing the operational budget just means the government has enough money to keep the lights on – to cover its annual expenses and debt payments.

The government projects the province's debt will rise from \$25.2 billion to \$26.1 billion. The operational deficit is part of that. But borrowing for infrastructure makes up most of that money. And, while governments like to differentiate between types of borrowing, it all increases the debt.

It doesn't matter if you use your credit card to buy groceries or a new snow-blower – you still have to pay the bill and the interest.

That increasing debt leads to increasing interest costs. This year the province will pay \$1.1 billion to cover interest charges on the debt. To put that number into perspective, the Winnipeg School Division's entire annual budget is about \$416 million. That means Manitobans are sending two and a half times more money to bond fund managers on Bay Street and Wall Street than they send to schools in Winnipeg.

Lowering taxes and shrinking defi-

cits leave governments open to accusations of cuts. It's true that things are tight. However, it's also true that the Manitoba government's overall spending is going up – not down – this year.

We also know that money simply can't solve every problem.

Manitoba has the second highest per-person health spending among the provinces, at \$7,354 – higher than Saskatchewan at \$6,931 and Ontario at \$6,584, according to the Canadian Institute of Health Information.

Manitoba has the second highest per-student education spending at \$14,499 – higher than Ontario at \$13,276 and much higher than British Columbia at \$11,216, according to the Fraser Institute's analysis of Statistics Canada data.

Manitoba needs to continue finding more efficient ways to deliver services.

The numbers matter, but remember what this means to Manitoba taxpayers beyond the dollars and cents.

When taxpayers lined up at those committee microphones to denounce the PST hike, they wondered whether what they said mattered. Every time they got hit with that higher PST in the following years, doubts fed cynicism about broken political promises.

But this year, when Premier Pallister honours his commitment to cut the PST, he'll do more than save Manitobans money. He'll prove the people can drive real change.

— Todd MacKay is the Prairie director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

AMM touring Interlake region this week

Staf

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will continue its annual round of municipal visits this week by touring the Interlake District of the province and meeting with local councils from a number of municipalities.

The AMM makes it a priority to visit each of its member municipalities at least once during each four-year election cycle.

AMM President Ralph Groening will attend each visit. "One-on-one meetings with local Councils allows the

AMM to listen first-hand and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing municipalities," Groening said. "Given the recent municipal election, the new AMM Executive team is eager to meet with returning and newly-elected officials across the Interlake District."

The group toured West St. Paul, St. Andrews, Teulon and Gimli on Tuesday and were scheduled to visit the RM of Grahamdale and the West Interlake on Wednesday with stops in the RM of Woodlands, RM of Rockwood and Stonewall on Thursday.

et inspir



Serves 2 to 4 For marinating the chicken: 4 boned, skinned chicken breast halves (about 11/4 pounds) 1/2 teaspoon salt 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice 1/4 cup heavy whipping cream 1/2 teaspoon homemade garam masala (see below)

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper 1/4 teaspoon ground roasted cumin seeds (see below)

1/2 teaspoon paprika

1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed to a pulp

1/2 teaspoon peeled, finely grated fresh ginger

For sprinkling over the chicken: Salt as needed Freshly ground black pepper

A little homemade garam masala A little ground roasted cumin seed A little cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon dried mint flakes Generous squeezes of fresh lemon

Preheat the oven to its highest temperature and arrange a shelf in the top third of the oven.

Cut 3 diagonal slits across the top of each piece of chicken breast, being careful not to cut all the way through and also not to go to the edge. Prick the chicken pieces with the sharp point of a small knife. Put them in a

Silken Chicken

single layer in a large baking dish and rub both sides with the salt and lemon juice. Leave for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the cream with the garam masala, cayenne, cumin seeds, paprika, garlic, and ginger in a bowl. Stir this mixture well and pour it over the chicken. Rub it into the meat and leave for 10 minutes.

Lift the chicken pieces up (most of the marinade will cling to them) and place them down in a single layer in a shallow baking pan lined with aluminum foil. On top of each, sprinkle a little salt, black pepper, garam masala, ground roasted cumin seed, cayenne, dried mint, and lemon juice. Put into the top third of the oven and bake for 15 minutes, or until the chicken is just white all the way through. Serve immediately, minted side up.

Garam Masala

1 tablespoon cardamom seeds

1 2-inch cinnamon stick

1/3 of one nutmeg

1 teaspoon black peppercorns

1 teaspoon black cumin seeds

1 teaspoon whole cloves

Place ingredients into a clean coffee or spice grinder and ground to a powder.

To make ground roasted cumin seeds: Put 4 to 5 tablespoons of the whole seeds into a small cast-iron frying pan and set over medium heat. Stir the seeds and roast them over dry heat until they turn a few shades darker and emit a wonderful roasted aroma. Wait for them to cool slightly and then grind them in a clean coffee or spice grinder. Store in a tightly closed jar.

CROSSWOR

CLUES ACROSS

1 .loint

6. A group of countries in special alliance

10. Stone

14. Move with a splashing sound

15. Can be fixed

17. Giving human characteristics to the nonhuman

19. Other side of yang (Chinese)

20. Consume

21. Gave it a go

22. One point north of due east

23. Fat used to make puddings

24. Turfs

26. Not awake

29. Not nice

31. Frighten

32. Political action committee 34. Skin problem

35. Type of music

37. Intestinal pouches

38. Eight

39. Emerald Isle

40. Interpret characters

41. Abandon

43. Felines

45. Energy and enthusiasm

46. Resembles a pouch

47. Relating to sense of smell

49. Swiss river

50. Bradley Int'l Airport

vonder

57. Tarred and 58. Boyish

59. This (Spanish)

60. Male parent

61. Lounge chair

CLUES DOWN

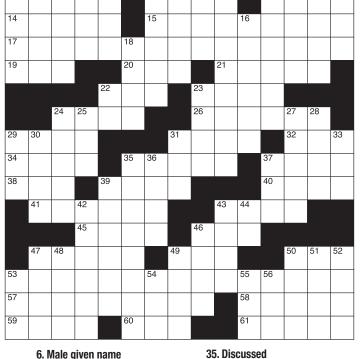
1. Sports award

2. Monetary unit of Angola

3. Some animals live here

4. Former CIA

5. Global health group



6. Male given name

7. Opposite of right

8. Open Payment Initiative

9. Desert plants

10. A bird that cannot fly

11. Off-Broadway theater award

12. Lump of clay

13. Barbie's pal 16. Seldom

18. Noses

22. Denotes past 23. Selling at specially reduced

prices

__ Claus

25. Comes before two

27. Fencing swords

28. Nocturnal rodent

29. Chinese revolutionary

30. Electronic counter-

countermeasures

31. Enjoyable 33. Villain

53. Nigerian City 54. Amount of time

52. Body parts

55. Coloring material

51. Famed sci-fi novel

36. Waterfall (Scottish)

39. Roughly chipped flint

42. Helps change channels

43. Sagan, astronomer

44. Cooling unit

46. Uttered words

47. Small integers

48. Type of data

49. Inspired

37. Old television part (abbr.)

56. Type of constrictor snake

50. France's first Jewish PM

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Fishermen win Midget A1 hockey championship again

By Brian Bowman

It sure wasn't easy, but the Lord Selkirk Fishermen won the Midget A1 hockey championship for the second consecutive season.

The Fishermen defeated MacDonald 3-2 in overtime last week in Game 4 of their best-of-five final series.

James Lee scored the game winner in OT, lifting a nice shot past the Mac-Donald goaltender.

"It was pretty crazy," said Fishermen coach Mike Snifeld."They scored with a minute left to tie it up."

Selkirk lost the first game of the final series. It was the Fishermen's lone loss in the past two seasons but Selkirk rebounded nicely to win the next three games to claim the league title.

"At first, (that loss) hit them pretty hard in the room but then they used it to help them," Snifeld said. "We took it to them in every aspect of the game after that. It was pretty amazing to watch."

Selkirk won three straight playoff games to reach the final. But the first game of the postseason wasn't exactly easy as Selkirk eked out a slim 2-1 win over the last-place team.

The Fishermen trailed 1-0 in the third period of that game.

"We scored two goals in the third period and it was a hard-fought victory," Snifeld recalled. "It was amazing,

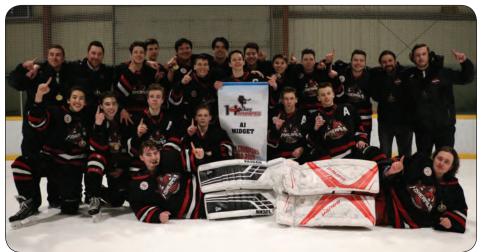


The Fishermen's Matthew Brooks creates a scoring opportunity against MacDonald in the Midget A1 league final.

they just didn't roll over. They gave us everything they had - they were playing for their lives."

The Fishermen had an incredible regular season, finishing first in their nine-team league with a stellar 19-0-2 record.

"They're a great group of kids," Snifeld said, noting he was thankful for the help his coaching staff gave him this past season. "Every kid does whatever it takes to win. If someone



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Lord Selkirk Fishermen's championship team features Jeff McBride (coach), Billy Craplewe (coach), Ethan Blacksmith, Marcus King, Alphonse Gaborieau, Larry Savoie, Hunter Gaborieau, Lucas Parent, Matthew Epps, Jeremy Rusk, Mike Snifeld (coach), Jordan Brooks (coach), James Lee, Nick Hnatiuk, Karson Koshelanyk-Penwarden, Zak Smallwood, Dawson Doucet, Conrad Pragnell, Matthew Donald, Matthew Brooks, Jordan Yakiwchuk, and Robert Mangnall.

takes a shift off, there's another one to fill the void. It's not like one or two guys doing it - it's the whole team that makes it work. Everyone does their own little part, which is awesome."

Selkirk scored a league-best 127 goals during the regular season while allowing a league-low 14.

Allowing a meager 14 goals in 21 games is an amazing accomplishment.

"We had solid goaltending from both of our goalies," Snifeld said.

The Fishermen look to be in great shape next season as just five players age-out of Midget hockey.

"If everybody comes back, we should do just as good (next year), I hope," Snifeld said, noting it was a great bunch of kids to coach and the parents were awesome, too. "That's the plan."

Training sessions to be held in the area

Staff

Competitive athletes looking to work towards being a better - and more resilient athlete - for next season are invited to register for spring training sessions from April 1 to May 30.

The sessions aim to improve movement, speed, coordination, and strength. Depending on the sport and current activity level of the athlete, the sessions may include mobility, core, resistance, plyometric, sprint, and reactive agility training.

Sport Manitoba Athlete Development Coordinator Jordan Koroll will run the sessions.

He played CIS football and now works with athletes from the Mani-

toba Games, Canada Games, and university sports.

The sessions, for athletes ages 14-19, cost \$225.

There will be no sessions on April 3, April 17, April 22, or May 20.

The training program includes up to 12 sports, all taking place in the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School weight room on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Meanwhile, the summer session program focuses on speed development for athletes aged 13-20 who are pursuing high-level competitive success

The program is designed for athletes

with a background in competitive sport(s) who may benefit from speed and power training. Further, the goals of this learning-based program are to improve linear speed, change of direction, coordination, and running efficiency.

The program also includes:

Speed-specific warmup: activation, mobility, coordination and running efficiency

General and sport-specific strength circuits

Functional and transferable games Testing and monitoring

Athletes may be coached one-onone, in small groups, or in sport-specific groups. The program will also be run by Jordan Koroll.

Program and location details:

When: Monday and Wednesday through July and August (no sessions July 1 or Aug. 5). It ends Aug. 28.

Where: Beausejour: 12-1 p.m., Sungro Centre

Selkirk: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Selkirk track Stonewall: 5-6 p.m., Stonewall soccer fields

Cost to register before May 30 is

After May 30, the cost is \$320.

For more information on either session, please call Jordan Koroll at 204-481-0974 or via e-mail: jordan.koroll@sportmanitoba.ca.



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Halvorsen, Jaquet big winners at Steelers' awards banquet

The Selkirk Steelers held their annual season-ending banquet earlier this month and had a pair of players win two major awards.

Nate Halvorsen was named

the Steelers' most valuable player and was also Selkirk's top scorer with 38 goals and 63 points in 58 regularseason games. Halvorsen also added two goals and four assists in the quarter-final Steelers' loss to the Virden Oil Capitals.

Colby Jaquet was selected as Selkirk's best defenceman and top rook-

ie. He finished fifth overall in league scoring among rookies with 39 points (six goals, 33 assists).

The Steelers' top local player was St. Andrews' forward Connor Barley. He

finished second on the team in goals scored (31) and points (57).

Selkirk's other major award winners included Noah Basarab (top defensive player), Blake Burr (most improved), Ryan

Sokoloski (most inspirational), Nolan Ferguson (community ambassador), Brett Namaka (hockey ability and sportsmanship), and Ryan Piwniuk and St. Andrews' Colby Dudek (ironman award).







Colby Jaquet

Tae Kwon Do progidies



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

TK Tae Kwon Do members took some time out to pose for a picture recently. The local club has had yet another successful season. Pictured, front row, Mathew Roszmann, Brendan Dutka and Sean Beck; middle row, Jenn Bidinosti, Ashley Bargenda, Ruslan Asender and Stanley Kulish; back row, Andrew Beck, Dante Dutka and Briauna Noble.

Tomko terrific again



RECORD PHOTO BY WAY PRODUCTIONS

East Selkirk's Devin Tomko, left, improved his pro boxing record to a perfect 7-0 after he defeated Simon Pierre Adde last Saturday in Montreal. Tomko currently trains with Final Round Boxing in Ottawa.

CRJHL announces league all stars

The Capital Region Junior Hockey League announced its all-star team for the 2018-19 season on March 24.

Each team had two players selected while a pair of goalies were also named to the team.

The Selkirk Fishermen were represented by forwards Reece Tessier and Dawson Courchene. Courchene finished tied for second in league scoring with 43 points (14 goals, 29 assists) while Tessier was tied for fourth with 19 goals and 42 points.

The other league all stars included the Lundar Falcons (Josh Wilkinson and Mason Medeiros), North Winnipeg Satelites (Rustyn Lodon and Derian Emes), St Malo Warriors (Robert Guimond and Tyrel Bueckert), and the Arborg Ice Dawgs (Derric Gulay

and Colton Davies).

The all-star goalies chosen were Selkirk's Austin DeBoer and Arborg's Tre Strachan.

DeBoer had a sensational season, leading all goalies with a stellar 15-3 record and two shutouts. He also posted an impressive 2.43 goalsagainst average and .924 save percentage.

Magic to represent Manitoba at ringette nationals

By Brian Bowman

The Magic U16 AA ringette team is headed to Prince Edward Island next month.

But sightseeing in the picturesque province is not on the top of the agenda.

The Magic will be Team Manitoba at the Canadian Ringette Championships, competing against the top teams in the country, from April 7-13 in Charlottetown and Summerside, P.E.I.

"Our goal is to medal," said Magic head coach Samatha Renooy last week. "I don't think we can win it. It would be awesome to win it, but our goal is to medal or even get in the top four."

The Magic's roster has players from various locales, including three - Shereise Fetterly, Val Smuttell and Jill Smuttell - from our area.

All three players have made tremendous contributions to the Magic's success this season.

"They're all very strong," Renooy said. "Jill, in fact, is in her first year of playing 'AA' and she has been outstanding. Val is on our top forward line so (the twin sisters) bring a lot. Val and Shereise are our scorers. They are kind of like our core."

Jill plays defence while Val is a forward and Fetterly is a centre.

The Magic earned the bragging rights of representing our province after defeating the Angels 2-1 in a best-of-three final series earlier this month.

After the Angels won Game 1, the Magic stormed back to win the next two matchups by scores of 3-2 and 6-2.

"It was lots of fun," Renooy said. "The girls played

really well and they are now very excited to be Team Manitoba."

In the series-deciding Game 3, the Magic went up 2-0 but the Angels battled back to tie the score before the winners netted four unanswered goals.

"It was getting a little scary there," Renooy admitted. "But then the girls started taking the lead. It was a really good game played by them...and I really think it was their attitude that won them that game."

Defensively, the Magic were really good, allowing just four goals in the final two games of the series.

"Ringette is usually a high-scoring game but I've always coached my girls to be very defensive and we have a really good group of defencemen this year," Renooy noted. "They are very strong."

Before the series against the Angels, the topranked Magic swept the fourth-seeded Flames in a best-of-three semifinal series.

The Magic finished first in league play and competed at tournaments in Ottawa and Edmonton. The Ottawa tournament had several very talented teams, said Renooy. Many of those teams are expected to be at nationals.

Renooy said the Magic improved quite a bit from their first tournament in Edmonton to the second one in Ottawa. In fact, the Magic showed tremendous improvement over the course of the season.

"Being in Manitoba, we don't have a lot of competition, so going away really shows the girls what else is out there and how hard these other teams are training," Renooy explained. "So, it's really nice to see those other teams and to compete against them



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Local players Jill Smutell, far left, Shereise Fetterly, middle, and Val Smuttell will be competing at the Canadian Ringette Championships next month in P.E.I.

to see how your skills match up against them."

Falcons force Game 7 in CRJHL semifinal series

Staff

All seven games were needed to decide the winner of the Selkirk Fishermen and Lundar Falcons' best-of-seven Capital Region Junior Hockey League semifinal series.

Selkirk hosted Lundar in Game 7 this past Tuesday evening at the Rec Complex but no score was available at press time.

Lundar forced a Game 7 after edging Selkirk 3-2 on Sunday.

Josh Wilkinson scored the game-winning goal with 3:45 remaining in the third period.

The Fishermen's Evan Bedard had tied the score at 2-2 about six minutes earlier.

Kobe Campbell gave Selkirk a 1-0 first-period lead but Lundar answered with goals from Eric Miller and Storm Swan in the middle frame.

Chris Lesage made 35 saves for the win. At the other end, Austin DeBoer stopped 34 Lundar shots.

Selkirk took a 3-2 series lead after a 3-2 victory last Saturday at the Rec Complex.

Campbell scored the game winner in the third period.

The Fishermen grabbed a 2-0 firstperiod lead with goals from Jordan Donald (on the power play) and Juliano Garcea.

But Lundar's Xavier Haltermen responded with a power-play goal be-

fore the first period ended.

Wilkinson then scored the lone goal in the second period.

DeBoer made 27 saves for the win while Lesage stopped 23 Selkirk shots.

In the other CRJHL best-of-seven semifinal series, North Winnipeg defeated the Arborg Ice Dawgs 4-2. The Satellites won Game 6 by a 4-0 score on March 19.



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Jordan Donald (26) scored a first-period power-play goal to lead the Selkirk Fishermen to a 3-2 victory in Game 5 of their Capital Region Junior Hockey League semifinal series last Saturday at the Rec Complex.

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Cyr to be inducted into MHSAA Hall of Fame Class of 2019

Bv Brian Bowman

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Hall of Fame has a very impressive list of members.

And that list became even better with the announcement that former Selkirk Royals' star athlete Megan Cyr will be part of the 2019 class.

"When I got the email saying I was inducted, it was a little shocking. I know I had success in high school and that those will always be some of the best memories in my volleyball career," said Cyr, a St. Andrews product, last weekend via email from Hondu-

"But, what I often forget is how many incredible athletes I got to play beside. From volleyball to the basketball court, I was always surrounded by great people with a lot of talent. I always had coaches with a lot of experience and knowledge. I always had opportunities.

"I feel so honoured to receive this award, but at the same time, feel it has nothing to do with me. I put in the work and showed up with a passion for the game — the recognition and success came as a result of all the people working together, supporting each other, and sacrificing a lot."

Cyr excelled in volleyball while receiving many awards during her ca-

She was a team all star, provincial MVP, and was voted the No. 1 high school volleyball player in 2007. Cyr was also a provincial champion, Female Athlete of the Year, named to the Canadian junior national volleyball team, and received the Mike Burchuk

Cyr had a phenomenal high school career.

"I feel incredibly blessed to have been a part of such a prestigious era. I really cannot say that this award has anything to do with me, but more to do with the fact that I was surrounded by so many amazing athletes and teammates during my high school career," said the ultra-talented setter. "I had success because we had success. I was blessed to be coached by Rick Scott from a young age and throughout my entire high school career.

"It was a perfect fit and one that I couldn't have planned out for myself. I wanted to achieve my volleyball goals, but all the external factors made that possible. "Amazing family, good friends, talented teammates, supportive community, experienced coaches, and an awesome high school. Those things were out of my control and, thankfully, in my favour," she added.



Cyr sets the ball.

After high school, Cyr received a scholarship to the University of Colorado and later transferred to North Carolina State University.

In three seasons at N.C. State, Cyr played every point in 96 matches and

She had at least 1,000 assists in each of her three seasons and finished her career with 3,660 assists, which ranks third in the school's history.

"N.C. State was such a gift for me. I had a disappointing two years at the University of Colorado as far as volleyball goes," Cyr said. "I transferred to N.C. State with the goal of making the NCAA tournament and by the end of my time there, we did just that. Again, I was so lucky to have coaches who believed in me and teammates who were so talented."

In 2011, Cyr was selected to the Canadian senior women's national team where she played until 2018.

In her career with Team Canada, Cyr competed in the FISU games (Russia), Pan Am Cup, two FIVB World Championships (Italy and Japan), and the NORCECA Olympic qualifier.

Cyr was named the setter of the tournament for NORCECA World Championship qualifier in 2017.

The international experience is something that Cyr will always definitely cherish.

"Representing Canada on an international stage is incredibly humbling," she said. "When I stand on the court singing the national anthem, I am overcome with gratitude for where my feet are planted — all the people, the time, and the energy that's been poured into my career and life.

"It's overwhelming and hard to believe at times."

Cyr was also a member of professional volleyball clubs in Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy and Switzerland. She won a bronze medal in the LNA league with Sagres NUC (Switzer-



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Former Selkirk Royals' star setter Megan Cyr, middle, will be inducted into the MHSAA Hall of Fame in May.

"Professional volleyball has definitely been an experience. There have been extreme highs and some dark lows," she said. "I get to see the world and places I never even dreamed of living. But, it's a very lonely lifestyle. Living in a foreign country for eight months out of the year with potentially nobody you know is not always the easiest."I have had seasons where I lived in incredible places, such as Switzerland, and found family away from home.

"But, I lived in other countries that I spent the majority of the time alone, whether it be because of cultural differences or the extremely small size of the town."

The pressure of performing at an elite level every time you're on a volleyball court as a pro can be real tough.

"My job is to practice and play the sport I grew up loving, day in and day out," said the 28 year old. "But, with that comes a lot of pressure to perform and be at your best most of the time. I have had a different life experience in every country I've lived in.

"I've grown in ways I never would have had I stayed in Canada or even North America my whole life. At the end of the day, I feel so grateful for the opportunities I've had through the sport of volleyball."

Still, Cyr still misses good ol' Mani-

"It actually gets harder to be away as I am getting older, which surprised me," she said. "I have had a lot of unplanned trips back in Canada and time at home due to the instability of a career as a professional athlete. I

took a year off because I was not sure if I wanted to play anymore. I had jaw surgery last year so I was at home for

"I most recently was released from my team in Greece and felt that I needed to come home to reset after that. I have a lot of plans after my volleyball career, but my life has always unfolded before my eyes in ways that I cannot predict or even plan myself. So I trust that I will continue to just follow where I'm led."

Cyr is currently in Honduras right now as a staff member/mentor/leader for Athletes in Action.

It is another chapter in Cyr's incredible journey made possible through vollevball.

"We took a group of high school students and volleyball players from Canada down here on a missions trip," she said.

"I found out I was coming only about one-and-a-half weeks before the trip was planned and I just know I'm meant to be here."

Two outstanding athletes and three builders were also selected this year. The other athlete to be inducted is Missy Penner, a former multi-sport athlete with Miles Macdonell Colle-

Builders to be inducted include Michael Babb – Elmwood High School (multi-sport), Mark Diboll -Portage Collegiate Institute (multi-sport), and Phil Hudson – Dakota Collegiate (vol-

They inductees will be presented with their awards at the MHSAA's Hall of Fame reception on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South.

Interlake Thunder players receive championship rings

The Interlake Thunder midget football team's perfect 2018 season was completed last week when the Interlake squad received their championship rings. They were the best team in the Rural Manitoba Football League all season long winning all nine games in convincing fashion so they definitely earned their rings to say the

The Interlake Thunder football program has long been a fixture that has provided athletes in the 14-17 age range with the opportunity to play football at a high level while the kids are still in high school. The Thunder compete in the Rural Manitoba Football League and it's an eight-team league where at season's end the top-four teams compete for the Doug Steeves Trophy while the last four teams compete for the Murray Black

After going 7-0 in the regular season, the Interlake Thunder were the top seed in the playoffs and defeated Virden in the semi-final 32-6 before capping off their season with a 42-20 win in the championship final over Swan Valley.

The championship rings were done by Corrie Aasen at Heavy Metal Design in Winnipeg. Interlake Thunder





Interlake Thunder midget football team championship ring.

head coach Mitch Obach said that, "She is a local jeweler who does awesome work. When I won the 2008 provincial championship coaching the Stonewall Rams we got our rings through her, so it was a no brainer to go back to her again this year."

Coach Obach is extremely proud of the boys' work this season and is excited that the team will have these championship rinks to remember their season by for the rest of their

"This was by far the best group of guys that I have ever played football with and would not have wanted to win a championship with anyone else," said running back Graeme Perrie. "This season everyone worked really hard pushing each other to become the best that they could be and it payed off. Everybody on our team was super hyped about winning the



The Interlake Thunder midget football team won the Rural Manitoba Football League last season.

championship but even more excited to get the rings. It took a while to get the rings but it's well worth the wait. They were everything that I and the team were expecting them to be. They represent our season very well and look really nice. My favourite part about the rings is how heavy they are and how big they are. Everybody comments on them saying that the rings are super cool and shiny."

"Winning the championship was awesome," added quarterback Josh Charison. "We had a really good group of guys; the coaches were great and we had a lot of fun all year. The championship was the perfect way to cap off the undefeated regular season. The rings we got are really cool and we'll always have that piece of hardware that will remind us of this year."

"It was a pretty fun season because in my previous years of playing football the teams I was never on a team that won a lot like this season," recalled running back Benjamin Olafson. "It's a good feeling to be on the winning side of the game. Getting the ring is cool because it'll be a part of something that I will remember forever. It was great finally getting the ring to show that I was a part of this winning team."

The Interlake Thunder are excited at the prospect of possibly defending their Rural Manitoba Football League championship and hoisting another Doug Steeves Trophy this fall.

Skate Canada Manitoba announces award recipients

Skate Canada Manitoba will be holding their annual Awards Gala evening on April 27 at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre in Winnipeg to celebrate their award recipients.

"This is the time of the year when our organization gathers to recognize the successes of our skaters, coaches, and officials and to thank our many dedicated volunteers," said Donna Yee, Chair of Skate Canada Manitoba.

The first set of recipients were selected from nominations submitted by members throughout the province in skater, coach and volunteer catego-

Skate Canada Manitoba CanSkate Athlete Award - Haleigh Cuvelier from Skate Brandon

Skate Canada Manitoba STARSkate Athlete Award - Melissa Kerik from **Skate Brandon**

Skate Canada Manitoba CompetitiveSkate Athlete Award - Annika Duguay from the Carberry Figure Skating Club

Skate Canada Manitoba Program Assistant Award - Cassidy Miller from Skate Brandon

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Award - Marlow Gwynne from Skate

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Coach Award - Cynthia Chartrand from the Neepawa Figure Skating

Skate Canada Manitoba Volunteer Award of Excellence - Don Brown from the East St. Paul Figure Skating

Several other award/bursary recipients were also announced;

Ian Carmichael Memorial Award winner is Andrea Laskovic from Skate

Dodie Wardle Memorial Award winner is Sadie Graetz from Skate Win-

Manitoba Open Junior Artistic Award winner is Ava Kemp from **Skate Winnipeg**

Manitoba Open Senior Artistic Award winner is Olivia Sawatsky from the Morden Figure Skating Club

Manitoba Open Bursaries awarded to Sloane Walker from Skate Winnipeg, Ava Kemp from Skate Winnipeg, Jade Pilat from the East St. Paul Figure Skating Club, David Howes from Skate Winnipeg, Emmet Dewar from the East St. Paul Figure Skating Club and Marius Peter-Joyal from Skate Winnipeg.

Boehmer 4-2 after round-robin at 2019 Everest Canadian Seniors Championship

Petersfield's Dave Boehmer, representing Manitoba, finished with a 4-2 round-robin record at the 2019 Everest Canadian Senior Men's Curling Championship in Chilliwack, B.C.

That record advanced his rink to the championship pool where they played Northern Ontario on Tuesday (no score was available at press time).

Boehmer opened play with a 6-3 win over Newfoundland and Labrador but then lost 6-4 to Nova Scotia.

Boehmer then reeled off victories over Prince Edward Island (8-5), Quebec (7-6), and Northwest Territories (11-6) before getting defeated 10-2 by Alberta.

Bruce Korte's Saskatchewan rink clinched first place in Pool "B" with a

Also advancing to the championship round from that pool were Northern Ontario's Al Hackner (4-2), B.C.'s Wes

Craig (4-2) and the reigning champions from Ontario, skipped by Bryan Cochrane (3-3).

In Pool "A", Wade White of Alberta, the 2018 world champion, finished at 5-1 to claim top spot.

Behind him were Boehmer, Quebec's François Roberge (4-2), and Nova Scotia's Brent MacDougall (3-3).

Boehmer's rink features third Terry McRae, second Tom Want, lead George Hacking, and alternative Kerrv Fedorchuk.

The championship pool consists of the top four teams in each pool crossing over and playing the teams from the opposite pool. The rest of the teams will play in a seeding pool to determine standing for next year.

For event information, visit www. curling.ca/2019seniors.

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Tollak Place has 1 & 2 bedrooms available. Nice quiet area located at 40 Eveline St. Tollak spacious 2 bdrm. fridge, stove, air conditioners, large storage area and large balconies, utilities included, parking extra. Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg. Riverview apts. with central air, units have fridge, stove, dishwasher, microwaves and a large storage area off the kitchen, also have balconies. utilities and parking extra. Call 204-482-2751 for more information.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Capable male willing to do all kinds of work from breaking ice to hauling garbage, and cleaning out garages! Part-time or full-time. Call Mike at 204-671-0003 or leave message 204-378-2905.

HELP WANTED

ROUND-TUIT CLEAN-ING has a permanent, part-time janitorial position available. Call 204-785-3257 for information.

SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

HELP WANTED

PIZZA DEN Restaurant in Stonewall is hiring a part time or full time evening cook, shifts include weekends. Previous cooking experience required. Go to pizzaden.ca to see menu. Self-starter, able to multi-task, team player. Call or text 204-799-2423 or email resume to robert.magnifico@ amail.com

Barney Gargles Restaurant in Selkirk is serving looking for staff, prep dishwashers, cooks & a baker. Must be upbeat and excited about working in a fast paced environment with the other members of the Barney's Team. Drop resume in person to 157 Main Street in Selkirk.

Dream Job! Live in caregiver/housekeeper. Summers in Winnipeg and winters in the tropics. Call 204-997-4629.

Seasonal work Churchill, MB. Mechanic needed to work on buses and passenger vehicles. Welding experience an asset. Transportation to Churchill supplied. Contact Paul yyqpounder@out look.com or phone 204-348-7444.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Construction Company looking for private lenders. Minimum \$1,000 \$25,000 investment. Up to 15% return. Call 204-797-5836.

For lease, seasonal pizza, chicken and burger takeout. New building and equipment on Hwy #59 near Grand Beach. Bert 204-754-7205.

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RM OF WEST ST. PAUL PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE 2019 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the RM of West St. Paul intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2019 at a public hearing at the Municipal Office, 3550 Main Street in the R.M. of West St. Paul on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 6:00pm. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the municipal office at 3550 Main Street, West St. Paul. Manitoba or on the municipal website at www

Dated this 28th day of March 2019.

Crystal Shuhyta, CPA, CGA, B.Comm Finance Manager RM of West St. Paul

R.M. OF ALEXANDER

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Municipality of Alexander will receive written applications for the following positions:

GREEN TEAM STUDENT WORKERS For the period of June 3 to August 30, 2019

Applicants must be able to perform a variety of Public Works duties which will require physical labour and working outdoors. A valid Class 5 driver's license is required. These positions are open to full time students between the ages of 16 and 29 who are returning to school in the fall of 2019.

Please submit a letter of application and

Jason Green, Public Works Manager R.M. of Alexander

1 Bouvier Trail

PO Box 100, St. Georges MB R0E 1V0

Application deadline: April 17, 2019, 4 p.m.

Thank you to all candidates for your interest, however, only those individuals considered for an interview will be contacted.

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April 6, 2019 1:00 P.M. Lundar Agri-Ed Centre - Auctioneer - Bud Bergner

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9 - 2vr. Herefords

10 - 1yr. Angus 4 - 2vr. Angus

7 - 1yr. Gelbvieh

7 - 1yr. Simmental

2 - 1yr. Limousin

2 - Hereford Heifer

1 - Simmental Heifer

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R.M. OF ALEXANDER

FULL TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY - MUNICIPAL OFFICER

The Rural Municipality of Alexander is seeking an experienced, qualified, self-motivated, enterprising and results oriented professional municipal administrator to join our team. The Municipal Officer reports to the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer and is responsible for high level administrative and clerical services in support of the legislative system for the municipality.

This is a full-time union position (COPE) and requires 35 hours per week. The Rural Municipality of Alexander offers a competitive package of benefits.

Key Job Responsibilities:

- Prepare and distribute Council meeting agendas and minutes of all meetings of Council and Council Committees including preparation of draft resolutions
- · Manage all corporate correspondence on behalf of Council, CAO and A/CAO
- · Coordinate all administrative aspects of municipal By-law enforcement including compliance notices, orders and all required documentation
- · Work with municipal lawyer on By-law enforcement files, land leases and other legal matters
- Oversee the maintenance of all electronic and physical municipal records filing systems
- Prepare public notices required under all required provincial and municipal legislation
- · Supervise reception staff and coordinate activities within the office

Key Job Requirements:

- Minimum five years of related municipal office experience
- CMMA certificate or willing to obtain
- Extensive knowledge of the Municipal Act and Planning Act
- Attention to detail and proven organizational skills including the ability to work with legal documents
- Excellent communication skills French language ability would be considered an asset
- · Experience with office technology and ability to provide limited IT support for office staff
- Experience with All-Net Meetings and Muniware would be considered

A full job description is available at the municipal office or on the RM website at www.rmalexander.com

Please forward resume with cover letter marked "Municipal Officer Position" by 11 am Friday, April 12, 2019 to:

Rural Municipality of Alexander, c/o Don Dowle, CAO Box 100, St. Georges, Manitoba, R0E 1V0 Or e-mail cao@rmalexander.com Please call (204) 367 6173 for more information

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted

Selkirk

TENDER NOTICE

2019 GRANULAR MATERIAL **REQUIREMENTS**

Separate sealed Tenders will be received by the undersigned at 200 Eaton Avenue up until 2:00 pm local time on Thursday, April 11, 2019 for the following:

TR-2019-04 2019 Granular Material Requirements

Tender for Gravel, Sand and Limestone Material for the 2019 Construction Season for the Operations Department.

Specifications and tender packages are available at the Operations Department, 739 Sophia Street, Selkirk, request a copy at operations@cityofselkirk.com

or view on the City's website at MySelkirk.ca/tenders.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. All inquiries relating to this tender should be directed to:

> Ryan Sicinski **Manager of Public Works** City of Selkirk 204-785-0843

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Call 785-1618

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Grand Marais Rec Centre will once again be holding its Annual General Meeting on April 20th/19 at 7 p.m. Positions up for election are as follows: Treasurer (2 yr. term), Secretary (2 yr. term), Bar Manager (2 yr. term), and Youth Co-ordinator (2 yr. term).

Antique & Collectible Sale! Huge spring event! Largest of the season. Over 220 tables! Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$7 per person. Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Great selection, door prizes and free parking. Ph: 204-478-1057.

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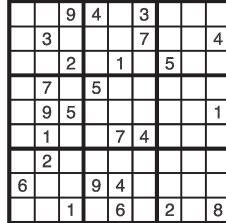
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Sudoku Answer

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Crossword Answer

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IN MEMORIAM



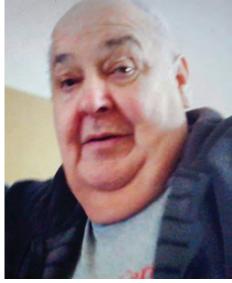
Alexander (Sandy) Field March 28, 2016

Your memory a treasure, Your life a blessing. Lovingly remembered, Always in our hearts.

-Tanis, Kerry, Robert and family, Tara and Jason

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



James Begg June 3, 1952 - March 29, 2016 The years may pass but you still stay, As near and dear as vesterday. -Love Kathy and family

OBITUARY

John Frederick Hokanson

John Frederick Hokanson (March 21, 1949) passed peacefully away at Selkirk General Hospital one day short of his 70th birthday on March 20, 2019 from cancer.

He was predeceased by his father Raymond John Hokanson and his sister Roxanne Lana.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Wendy of 48 years; his sons John William (Nicole), James Earl (Donna), Corr Christopher and Josef Raymond; grandsons B. John, Wolfe, Noah, Owen and granddaughters Jessica, Hannah and Lauren and great-grandson

Also leaving to mourn are his mom Lena (Helen); sisters, Tanis, Venda (Wayne), Sharyn, Orlanda (Andy) and Dianna and brothers Bob (Denise), Lorne (Terry), Ray (Doris); as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

John loved to work and he was a jack of all trades, mastering many occupations in is life. He was a Captain of minor waters, a Captain of the Amphibex Icebreakers, the driving force for Hokanson Construction, Stonemason, farmer.

John was a good husband, father, grandpa and great-grandpa. He was a good friend, a good teacher and a good coach.

He cared deeply about his family and friends. If he was working at something, he spent his time gardening, fishing and hunting, playing cards, darts. He had a lifetime membership at the Selkirk Legion branch #42 and was the founder of the Selkirk Junior Darts, running that program for 11 years. In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a come and go celebration of his life will be held on Tuesday, April 9 from 1 - 3 p.m. upstairs at the Royal Canadian Legion in Selkirk.

Condolences can be left on his tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



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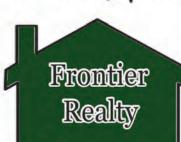
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OBITUARY

Frankie Shields

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Frankie on March 21, 2019 at the age of 66 years. She is survived by her husband Darrell Reimer; daughter Stacy (Richard); son Brendan (Teresa); and grandchildren Sebastian, Rorie, Reece, Keegan, Terran and Aislan. Also left to mourn her passing are her brothers Bob and Don and sisters Audrey, Darlaine and Pat.

Frankie was born in Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1952. She was a stay at home mom until her children were in school. She then moved into the workforce until tragedy struck at the age of 29 suffering a severe stroke. She defied the odds and fought back hard to regain her independence, learning to walk and drive again. When she was told by the experts she would not be able to do something she worked twice as hard to prove everyone wrong. She was a resilient woman and an inspiration to many.

She touched the hearts of those who were in her life. Frankie enjoyed cooking, Bingo, and painting however her greatest love was her grandchildren. She was very proud of them. Whenever they would visit Nana she was sure to have a treasure for each of them. She charmed people with her sense of humour and dare-devil attitude. She was always game to get into some mischief if she had a partner

Special thank you goes out to Selkirk Mental Health Centre, Geriatric Team, and the Area 7 staff. You were part of her family and provided her with the best quality of life possible. Thank you to Betel Home for the wonderful care provided until the time of her passing. Limitless gratitude goes out to Frankie's best friend Bernice Colmer who was always by her side over the years through her many challenges. Your friendship truly meant the world to her.

A Celebration of Frankie's Life will be held later this summer.

Condolences may be left on her tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home. Selkirk in care of arrangements.



Bryan Robert Colin Bergmann November 13, 1962 - March 22, 2019

After a hard and courageous battle with liver disease, we had to say goodbye to our dear husband, father and grandfather.

Bryan will be missed dearly by his wife Marilyn; children Nichol (Ian), Jennifer (Darcy), Justin (Kailey) and Joshua; also by his granddaughter Rylie, who was his apple of his eye. She will miss her Peapa. He is also survived by his brother Mattew and sister

The family sends a special thank you to Dr. Zoppa and the amazing nursing staff at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

In accordance with Bryan's wishes, cremation has taken place and no formal service will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Liver Foundation

Condolences may be left on his tribute wall at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



Sheldon Dwayne Laye

On Saturday, March 23, 2019, Sheldon Laye, aged 63 years, formerly of Selkirk, MB passed away.

Gilbart Funeral Home. Selkirk in care of arrangements.





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