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VOLUME 16 EDITION 4

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

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**Honouring the haggis**

RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Clandeboye Pipe Band hosted a Robbie Burns Day celebration on Jan. 25 at the Clandeboye Community Hall. The Band played and highland dancers entertained at this fun celebration of Scottish culture. See more photos inside.

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# Selkirk Biz hosting Selkirk Biz Fitness 50/50 Challenge

Get fit with Selkirk Biz, Glow Fitness and Iron Image this year

By Katelyn Boulanger

Selkirk Biz is bringing back the Selkirk Biz Fitness 50/50 Challenge. This program took a brief pandemic related break but is coming back this year to encourage area residents as well as employees of Selkirk Biz members' businesses to get fit in a healthy way.

"It's a health and fitness initiative hosted by Selkirk Biz, and we have collaborated with Glow Fitness and Iron Image. This initiative is basically to help participants achieve their personal goals," said Selkirk Biz Executive Director Bianca Lessard.

She explained that this challenge is about achieving healthy habits and a healthy lifestyle.

"We're trying to help out the business community and the public with encouraging sustainable eating habits, exercising, and also trying to foster connections," said Lessard.

The start date for this challenge is going to be towards the end of February with initial check-ins scheduled for between Feb. 18 and 22.

Matt Evans of Iron Image explained that he had the idea for this challenge in 2017 when he was a board member at the Selkirk Biz and they were looking for a way to challenge residents but he didn't want it to be a weight loss challenge. This challenge is about creating a healthy lifestyle and upping residents quality of life.

"Everybody does weight loss challenges and weight loss is not a long-term thing. It's learning how to be healthy. One of the ways to teach people how to be healthy and fit is not just to lose an amount of weight because everybody rebounds after a huge weight loss challenge. This is just to show people like the best way to do it is have everybody actually compete and learn the skills to actually become healthy," Evans explained.

The challenge itself is a 50/50. It costs \$25 to sign up and at the end of the challenge the winner, which is calculated by both the percentage of fat lost as well as the amount of lean muscle gained will win 50 per cent of the pot. It will take place over 12-weeks.

Some residents may wonder why Iron Image and Glow Fitness might collaborate on a project like this because they could be thought of as competing businesses. However, the two business owners explained that they actually collaborate often trying to find the right fit for the people who come looking for a place to improve

their fitness.

"We're so excited to work together as a team to motivate and inspire our surrounding community. We're all part of our community. (Both businesses are) locally owned, with invested business owners at both gyms and so that's why it's so exciting for us to team up and work like this and improve the health of our own community. I think we would both probably agree that a healthy community is a stronger, more prosperous community," said Katie Hartle of Glow Fitness.

Evans also explained that this challenge doesn't tell people how to achieve their goals but having the two gyms, who have different options, both be involved allows everyone to benefit in a way that works best for them.

"It's okay to try different things and open yourself up to new challenges at different gyms and different facilities that cater to different styles. Health and fitness isn't just about weights and cardio. It could be about pilates. It could be about self-defence, or different aspects of each and just as long as you're getting in and doing something for yourself is the important thing," he said.

Lessard explained that this challenge is not just good for the two gyms but also for our greater business community.

"If businesses were to participate, having a healthy employee in the

workplace definitely affects the employees as a whole. Because exercising reduces stress and anxiety, and with that, that may equal, more engaged employees and increased energy levels, which means you'll have happier people and better work quality," she explained.

Hartle explained that physical health and mental health can connect in positive ways.

"You make your body stronger, you make your mind stronger, you make your neighbourhood stronger. And since we are all so connected to and

part of these neighbourhoods, it's good for us to and exciting to watch and help contribute to this healthy growth of our own community. As I mentioned, a healthy community is a stronger, prosperous community, and that's the community we're all a part of. It's also a perfect way to beat the long, cold winters that we have here in this area. So, the timing is just right for a program like this, and our hope is to see friends, neighbours, and co-workers supporting, motivating,

Continued on page 6

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# Malanka at the MATAO Event Centre



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

The MATAO Event Centre in Selkirk held a Malanka celebration last weekend. Malanka is a Ukrainian folk holiday celebrating New Year's Eve traditionally celebrated in January. Residents had a great time listening to the live band Sloohai and watching the Druzhba Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Paches Brothers Choir.

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# Rotarians welcome residents to Ribapolooza event in February

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Rotary Club of Selkirk is hosting a rib dinner at the Gordon Howard Centre in Selkirk on Feb 15 and they are calling it the Rotary Ribapolooza.

"It's our first try at a Valentine's dinner and Ribapolooza. You get a full rack of ribs, and with that comes mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, a vegetable and dessert. The price is \$40 per person, but with that, you also get a \$15 tax receipt," said Rotarian David Thorne.


The idea for the event came from wanting to show the love to residents in our community.

"It's sort of an event that, we figured you can take that special person in your life out to, for a great deal, and to meet some fantastic company. It's all about the fellowship. It's not really a fundraiser, per se. We wanted to keep the price as low as possible and still cover the bills, of course. But really, we just wanted to extend that community spirit to all people within the Selkirk, St. Clements and St. Andrews areas, and just have a great night out and celebrate Valentine's," said Thorne.

This event will take place just after Valentine's Day which is a time of year when the Rotarians like to engage with our community.

"We've done different things around Valentine's in the past. We used to do a wine-tasting event at the golf course years ago, and then all of a sudden, COVID hit, and we had to really pivot to raffle ticket fundraisers. So for the last, I think, three years, we had the Lucky Loot and Lotto last year, and Viva la Vino was another wine giveaway during the COVID years. But, we're past that now, and we really wanted to come together and celebrate some great fellowship with the citizens of Selkirk, and at the same time show people what Rotary does in the community," said Thorne.

Though this isn't really a fundraising event because they are trying to keep the tickets as reasonably priced as possible the Rotary Club of Selkirk has done some amazing fundraising in our community in the past which has contributed to our area in a big way. Some examples of this are their



**ROTARY RIBAPOLOOZA**  
 Hosted by: **ROTARY CLUB OF SELKIRK**  
 at the  
**Gordon Howard Center**  
 to be held on  
**Saturday, February 15th, 2025**  
 Reception: 5:00 p.m. | Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
 CASH BAR 50/50 DRAW  
 Tickets: **\$40.00** #000 Tax Receipt: **\$15.00**

RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Residents should grab their tickets to Ribapolooza before they sell out.

donation for the Selkirk Skate Park, the Echocardio Project donation to Selkirk Regional Health Centre, and the peace poles that now make their home in our communities. Right now, the big project that they are fundraising for is to give \$150,000 to the Gaynor Family Regional Library for their planned expansion which will include more room for the kid's area, increased study space, and increasing the amount of room for books and programming. They also have an ongoing project with local schools where they provide snacks for the weekends when students might not be able to access meal programs or other school nutrition resources.

"We're proud of our accomplishments in our service club. You just have to look around, a lot of service clubs are struggling and our service club, I think we're doing pretty good. We've grown our club with a lot of new people and new younger members. We're pretty proud of that accomplishment, and everybody from the club is pitching in for this dinner," he said.

Thorne explained that tickets are

selling fast so residents who want to come to the event should reach out as soon as they are able because barbecue ribs in February are going to be a fun opportunity.

"I can't wait to sink my teeth into some of those delicious ribs. We've got our expert chefs in the kitchen all ready to prepare and cook us a great meal and then have a great night, having fun," he said.

The best way to contact the Rotary

Club for your ticket is to email them at [rotaryclubofselkirkmanitoba@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubofselkirkmanitoba@gmail.com).

Thorne recommends that residents come down and check out the Ribapolooza event if they are interested.

Also if you are interested in becoming a member of the Selkirk Rotary Club they are always welcoming to more members that want to make our community a better place.



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RECORD FILE PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Glow Fitness.

### > SELKIRK BIZ FITNESS CHALLENGE, FROM PG. 3

encouraging each other, and maybe joining this together to make it even more fun,” said Hartle.

Residents should know that you don’t have to be a business owner or someone working for a Selkirk Biz



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Iron Image.

connected business to participate. Anyone from our local area of East St. Paul, St. Andrews, St. Clements, Selkirk or West St. Paul can sign up.

There, of course, are also some promotions that Glow Fitness and Iron Image are going to be offering in order to make participating in the challenge a little more accessible to those wanting to take advantage of these local gyms.

Glow Fitness will be offering a nutrition program.

“We are launching a women’s focused group nutrition program on February 17. It’s going to be led by a local nutritionist with a master’s in nutrition. It’s called Eat to Glow, and it’s a 12-week program because we wanted to give participants who are coming in through Glow an edge in this competition. We are offering anybody who signs up for the Selkirk Biz 50/50 a discount on this nutrition program,

although it’s open to everyone,” said Hartle.

Iron Image is going to be offering a membership promotion.

“There’ll be a discounted membership price for the people that are signing up for this at Iron Image and then there’ll be a class pass discount as well,” said Evans.

To sign up for this challenge residents can contact Selkirk Biz at [info@selkirkbiz.ca](mailto:info@selkirkbiz.ca). You can sign up at Glow Fitness’s website at <https://www.glowfitnessforwomen.ca/selkirk-5050-signup.html> or you can drop by during their staffed hours to sign up in person. You can also contact Iron Image at [matt@ironimage.ca](mailto:matt@ironimage.ca) to sign up.

Both gym owners encourage residents to sign up for this challenge.

“It’s not just about the money that you might be winning. You’re going to learn a life skill and be able to utilize this for the rest of your life. What you learned through here, it could become part of your lifestyle and with that, you gain more basically years of your life where you can be mobile and be healthy,” said Evans.

Hartle agrees.

“I would say the number one thing that people frequently say is they only wish they had started sooner because they feel so amazing. This is happening right now, this winter, this season, so it’s really the perfect time. With all the encouragement and motivation of your whole community being engaged in this program, it just seems, like the perfect time to do it. Why not go ahead and take advantage of this opportunity?” she said.

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# Springfield Trailblazers celebrate new shop for club

Local snowmobile group finishes their new space just in time to hit the trails

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Springfield Trailblazers are celebrating the completion of the new shop for their club on CIL Rd. in St. Clements which will allow the group to store its equipment and continue to keep up local snowmobile trails for seasons to come.

Pat Neskar, president of the Springfield Trailblazers and co-contractor of the new shop acknowledged that it was a dream of the Trailblazers to have a shop of their own and a partnership with the Municipality of St. Clements as well as a provincial a Building Sustainable Communities grant and a lot of volunteer effort made it possible.

"We put out roughly 900 signs every year. Stop, stop ahead, cautions, etc. Right now, those are stored at my home, so that'll all move over here. All the spare parts, tools, compressors, and, of course, the groomers (will be here too)," said Neskar.

Currently, the space is built more as a storage area than a permanent club space but Neskar explained that they hope to add a mezzanine for some space for members in the future. For right now, they have a completed, heated and finished building inside and out and are celebrating that accomplishment.

This will be a great addition to the club as they groom 240km of trails for their members every winter season which benefits our community in many different ways.

"Our area brings trails to a lot of the local gas stations, into Selkirk, Petersfield, Clandeboye, the Esso on 44 and South Beach Casino, they're a big one and they're a big supporter of us. It's about making these trails and keeping them safe. And also, if there are trails, people tend not to wander onto private land," he explained.

Neskar explained that the Springfield Trailblazers are one of the oldest snowmobile clubs in Manitoba having started in 1968.

"We're around 60 plus members. We have, in the summertime, a barbecue and a fall corn roast. In the winter-time, we have organized rides every week. We have three different groups within the club. They're each responsible for putting a ride on their weekends. So that could be anywhere from going to Spruce Woods to going up to



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Members of the Springhill Trailblazers outside of their new shop.

Lac du Bonnet for lunch or whatever. And then, also during the winter season, we plan a weekend away where everybody in the club is welcome to come," said Neskar.

He explained that they try to keep the rides fun with warming shacks at the end of routes as well as hotdogs and non-alcoholic drinks.

The club is an active member of Snoman and membership is \$30 per family per year.

Neskar explained that this new shop is going to be very beneficial not just for increased storage but so that the volunteers that keep all of the trails and club activities running can do their jobs a little easier.

"It's a lot less volunteers having to work outside. You can well imagine working outside when it's 40 below, or even trying to get the machine started when it's that is cold is a bit of a challenge. Now we can come here if there are any repairs to do. It's just like a dream come true for myself and a lot of the club members as we have

a really good volunteer base," he said.

Kevin Kostecki a member of the Springfield Trailblazers and also co-contractor of the new shop said that it was so humbling to see the new shop get built.

"When we look at this building, we know that it was years, not just the four or five months of construction, but years of fundraising and just the culmination of, I'd say, the better part of half a decade's work, getting where we got to," he said.

As for what's next for the club they say that they are going to continue on with their community activities.

"We're always trying to grow the club membership without pushing it, but just kind of getting it out there. We feel an obligation, and it's a priority for us to reach out to the youth in the area and have a grassroots program that promotes safe snowmobiling, and everything that that

it comes with," said Kostecki.

He and Neskar welcome anyone who wants to join the club and enjoy the benefits of being part of the group.

"We certainly are not shy to put out the advantages of riding in groups and just the safety of numbers and seeing so many different places in Manitoba based on the knowledge of the club's groups captains," said Kostecki.

If you're looking for a snowmobile club and the Springfield Trailblazers sound like the kind of group you'd like to belong to you can contact them to sign up at [springhilltrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:springhilltrailblazers@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/STSCadmin1/>.

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# get informed

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## Canada Revenue Agency cutting back on mailing 2024 paper tax packages

**By Patricia Barrett**

The Canada Revenue Agency is cutting back the number of paper income tax packages it used to automatically mail to taxpayers who had previously been filing their taxes by paper, forcing them to print out their own packages and forms, place an order for them or switch to online filing.

The CRA sent out a notice in early January to those who had been automatically receiving paper packages, stating it's "committed to making sure individuals can easily file their income tax and benefit returns" but will not be mailing out paper tax packages except to "vulnerable" individuals.

CRA media relations spokesperson Nina Ioussoupova said the agency identified certain "vulnerable" Canadians who had previously filed by paper and will still be proactively sending them the paper tax forms they require.

The reduction in the mailing of print packages is part of CRA's effort to support a "greener future" in line with the Government of Canada's Greening Government Strategy and the CRA's commitment to sustainable development, she said.

About 485,000 Canadians will no longer automatically receive paper tax forms in the mail, and they should

be receiving a letter to educate them on other ways to file their income tax, as well as instructions on how to order paper tax packages if they prefer using paper.

"These letters aimed to educate these tax filers on alternative filing options," said Ioussoupova. "Even though these letters encouraged tax filers to file online, it also provided instructions on how they could self-source their own paper copies of the tax forms."

The reduction in paper mailouts is expected to save CRA about 25 per cent.

"Due to increases in postage and printing costs decisions needed to be made to ensure the CRA continues to be fiscally responsible in serving Canadians, while continuing to proactively provide paper tax forms to the Canadians that need it most," said Ioussoupova. "This year the CRA anticipates that it will realize a year-over-year savings of approximately 25%."

Paper tax packages have not been not available at Service Canada outlets since 2018 when CRA stopped providing them, said Ioussoupova. CRA has informed other departments/partners, such as Employment and Social Development Canada, about CRA's reducing the mailing of

paper tax packages. The agency also educates tax filers on alternative ways to file their income tax and how to get paper packages through posters and digital messaging in Service Canada outlets.

People who prefer to file their taxes using paper can still obtain a paper package, she said, by calling the CRA's automated ordering phone line at 1-855-330-3305 or using the CRA's online ordering tool: [canada.ca/cra-forms](https://canada.ca/cra-forms).

For those who have computers and printers, forms can be downloaded from CRA's website then printed.

People who do not have access to computers and printers can visit a public library to see whether it's possible to have tax forms printed out.

"Public libraries are an option that tax filers can leverage if they do not have a computer or printer. If a library is unable to provide printed copies, tax filers can use library computers to place an order for a tax package directly with the CRA at [canada.ca/cra-forms](https://canada.ca/cra-forms)," said Ioussoupova. "Public libraries will not be reimbursed for printing costs. If libraries do not have the means to provide printed copies, then tax filers can use library computers to place an order for a tax package ...."

## letter to the editor

Fixing Feral Felines and Project Blue World Foundation are very grateful for the article published in the *Record* on January 16, 2025. "Fixing Feral Felines says that 2024 was the worst year they've ever seen".

We have had positive feedback

about the article from persons active in animal welfare and those not previously aware of the matter.

As before, Ms. Boulanger has done an excellent job of capturing and relating our message accurately and concisely.

Thank you for the ongoing support of *The Selkirk Record*.

Veronica Walsh  
Founder of Fixing Feral Felines

> Got something you want to get off your chest? How about an act of kindness to share?

Send your letters to the editor or acts of kindness to [news@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:news@selkirkrecord.ca). Please include your name, address, and phone number for confirmation purposes.



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### EDITORIAL

**Katelyn Boulanger** 204-485-3337  
[news@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:news@selkirkrecord.ca)

View the *Selkirk Record* online at [selkirkrecord.ca](https://selkirkrecord.ca)

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

### TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?

**Christy Brown**, Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

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# Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund first grant awarded to Selkirk Food Bank

Donation will help particularly in slower donation months of January and February

Submitted by Selkirk & District Community Foundation

Essentially, the Selkirk & District Community Foundation is in the inspiration business, so it was fitting that a donation to the Selkirk Food Bank from Manitoba's Lt.-Gov., Anita Neville inspired Foundation board members in a very significant granting decision.

Late last year, Neville, through her Sharing Hope Initiative, delivered more than 350 pounds of non-perishable food to the Selkirk Food Bank. According to Foundation Executive Director Bev Clegg, the timing of the Lieutenant Governor's generous gift was significant.

"It was because of the Honourable Anita Neville's thoughtfulness and generosity that the Foundation decided to provide additional funding to the Selkirk Food Bank," Clegg said.

"The Foundation was about to award the first grant from the Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund, and it became clear to everyone at the Foundation that the Selkirk Food Bank was the perfect recipient."

The Foundation has provided grants to the Food Bank over the years for costs associated with keeping the operations going, but this grant, in the amount of \$22,903.32, is directed to food security and will help the Food Bank keep its shelves stocked year-round. The funds are actually earmarked for perishables, like fruits, vegetables, milk and meat, that have a short shelf life.

Foundation Chair David Thorne surprised the Food Bank executive with the news during a visit to Government House in December 2024. Food Bank representatives were told they were visiting to say thank you to Neville.

"It was my pleasure, and the pleasure of everyone on the board and who works for the Foundation, to inform the Food Bank representatives of the Thomas Sill grant," Thorne said.

The Thomas Sill Foundation ceased operations on Dec. 31, 2023 and created endowment funds with several Manitoba community foundations. This grant is from the Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund, administered through Endow Manitoba and held at the Winnipeg Foundation.

The Sharing Hope Initiative was started by Neville in September 2023. Guests to Government House are invited to bring non-perishable food items whenever they attend events.

"As Lieutenant-Governor, I want to use my voice to do what I can to raise awareness of food insecurity throughout our province and encourage others to join me in taking an active role to support our neighbours and friends in feeding their families," Neville said.

"Access to nutritious food is a fundamental human right. It is my intent to continue this program for the duration of my time in office."

Since its inception, Sharing Hope has been able to donate about 5,000 pounds of food items to half a dozen different food banks in the province. News that Sharing Hope inspired the Foundation to grant funds to the Selkirk Food Bank was humbling for Neville.

"I was delighted, I thought it was wonderful. I'm so impressed with the volunteers in Selkirk and the commitment of everybody involved in the Food Bank and to meeting the needs of people in Selkirk," she said.

"I was not aware that my donation would kick start that kind of donation from the Selkirk & District Community Foundation through the Thomas Sill Fund, and if we can lever other supports, we'll continue doing it."

Selkirk Food Bank Spokesperson Bonnie Singleton says she and other board members were thrilled to be invited to Government House but had no idea how wonderfully the morning would unfold.

"We were totally blindsided, we had no inkling that this was even going to happen so it was quite a shock for our board members that were in attendance," Singleton said.

"It was quite an emotional presentation. We were incredibly surprised, thankful and grateful that the Foundation had chosen us to share the grant money with. We have been fortunate enough to receive a lot of grants over the years, but a lot of those are earmarked for operations, building upgrades, those sorts of things.

"What this will do is help secure food for a long period of time. It will help keep our shelves stocked, especially in January and February when donations really go down, and that historically happens. But our usage numbers continue to go up. This is going to really help in terms of food security for us."

The SDCF is accepting grant applications for the Western Canada Games Legacy Fund and the Community Grant program now, with the dead-

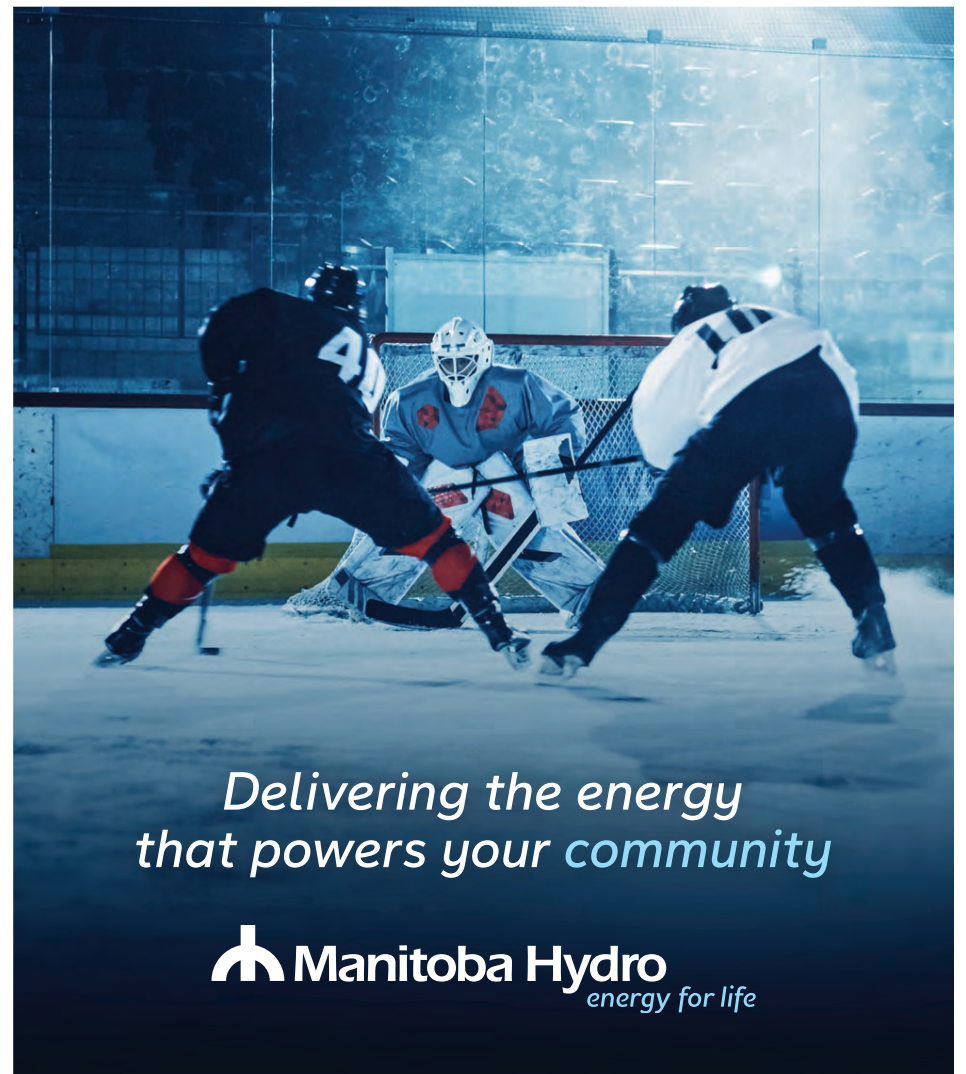


RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Selkirk & District Community Foundation and Selkirk Food Bank members with Lt.-Gov. Anita Neville at Government House last December for the Thomas Sill Manitoba Fund announcement. Left to Right: David Thorne (SDCF Chair), Bonnie Singleton (Selkirk Food Bank - Vice Chair), Lesli Malegus (Selkirk Food Bank - Treasurer), Dianne Stolar (Selkirk Food Bank - Secretary), Lieutenant Governor Anita Neville, Bonny Wynnobel (SDCF Secretary), Sig Banman (Selkirk Food Bank - Chair), Deborah Vitt (SDCF - Vice Chair), Bev Clegg (SDCF - Executive Director), and Brandon Sutherland (SDCF - Treasurer).

line to apply being Feb 28. Grant applications have moved solely online. Go to [sdcf.ca](http://sdcf.ca) for an application. Call

204-785-9755 or email [cd.officer@sdcf.ca](mailto:cd.officer@sdcf.ca) for more information.



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# Library welcomes residents to I Love to Read Month activities

City of Selkirk, Selkirk and District Community Foundation and United for Literacy team up for fun reading nights

By Katelyn Boulanger

Literacy is a really important skill and teaching children the value of reading early is essential to them navigating our world. To promote literacy in our community, the City of Selkirk, Selkirk and District Community Foundation, and United for Literacy have once again teamed up to host I Love to Read in PJs nights at the Gaynor Family Regional Library. These four activity nights will give local kids and their parents a chance to celebrate literacy in a fun way for I Love to Read Month.

“This is actually the fourth year we’ve had the I Love to Read in PJs nights. It’s held every week in February at the Gaynor Family Regional Library and the program has a guest reader each week. The guest reader reads to the kids, and then, after the reading, the kids get to do an activity and have a snack, and at the end of the program, they get to take home the book,” said Ellie Longbottom,

Culture Coordinator for the City of Selkirk.

I Love to Read Month is a province-wide celebration of literacy that takes place annually in February.

This month’s I Love to Read in PJs nights will take place on Feb. 4, 13, 18, and 27.

Longbottom explained that this is a free program to attend but that residents do have to sign up in advance because there are a limited number of spots for kids and their families.

The readers for the evenings will be Avery Martin of Big Brother Canada reading *Meet Viola Desmond* by Elizabeth MacLeod, members of the Selkirk Steelers reading *Erik the Elk: The Big Hockey Game* by Chloé Baillargeon, Raeesa Hoque from Manitoba Council for International Cooperation will read *I Am Cherished* by Onome Ako, and local author Sharlene Yarish will read her book *Hobbledy Gobbledy learns to be thankful*.

Sandra Ross, Community Coordinator for United for Literacy explained that I Love to Read in PJs started as an online event during the pandemic which was transitioned into an in-person event once we were able to be together again.

“We thought, what better but to do it as I Love to Read in PJs so that (after the reading, activities, and snack) the parents can just take their kids home and put them to bed,” she explained.

Ross said that promoting literacy in our community is very important and having the whole family involved shows the children that their caregivers value literacy.

“The caregiver’s involvement has a really positive impact on children’s reading acquisition. So, it’s really a great way for us to promote early literacy through joint book reading,” she said.

She also wants residents to know that whether your child is more shy or outgoing they will be able to enjoy this program.

“The library is a great location. They’ve really got a



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

A photo from previous I Love to Read in PJs event where Selkirk Steelers came to read



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Reading together as a family is a great way to promote literacy in our community.

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# letter to the editor

## The Ecological Corridor program is stopped: lessons learned and a path forward

Mercifully, the Assiniboine West Watershed District has decided not to sign a contribution agreement with Parks Canada for a \$1 million grant to deliver programming within the federal government's Ecological Corridor program framework. This ends a months-long, divisive battle between a rapidly expanding group of local agricultural producers, known as the Manitoba Land Stewards Inc. (MLS), and the Assiniboine West Watershed District (AWWD).

The conflict has raged on since last fall, with the intensity increasing to a fever pitch leading up to an eventful Town Hall Meeting in Erickson last week (Jan.15). Hundreds of concerned citizens and landowners packed the town's Legion Hall to hear presentations from the MLS and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The rural community has been divided, feelings have been hurt, and damage has been done to all involved.

Unsurprisingly, the blame game has begun, with some pointing fingers at the MLS and the MWF as the cause of all this heartache. Usually, all parties can claim some fault in situations like this.

Sorry, not this time.

The Ecological Corridor program was doomed from the start. Only a federal bureaucracy, sequestered in an office in a faraway city, could have thought it was a good idea to place the Ecological Corridor program under the banner of Parks Canada. The Corridor program is functionally a private-land agricultural conservation program; it just didn't know it. The federal folks out east who designed the Corridor program didn't think of it from an agricultural producer perspective, which was their first mistake.

Nor would federal policy experts from far away realize that Parks Canada has a long and somewhat difficult relationship with landowners south of Riding Mountain Park, including, among other things, attempting to create a sort of "buffer zone" around the parks many years ago. Landowners have a long memory, and those feathers are still ruffled to this day.

Agriculture Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada would have been better choices to lead the Corridor program. Moreover, an institution like Agriculture Canada knows how to talk to farmers and is in the business of producing documents for agricultural producers. Regrettably, when it comes to rural landowners, the Parks Canada documentation for the Corridor



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A community Town Hall meeting was held in Erickson on Jan. 15. Concerned citizens and landowners attended to hear presentations from the Manitoba Land Stewards and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation on the The Ecological Corridor program.

simply could not have been worse.

The program materials were hyper-focused on species at risk and spoke of what "compatible activities" would be allowed within the Corridor with no clear indication of what that actually meant, only repeated references to the need for "regulatory mechanisms." It's all scary stuff for agricultural producers, so it's no wonder there was push-back.

The most surprising part was the AWWD response to the push-back. Repeatedly and systematically, the concerns of landowners were framed as "unfounded." Minimizing your customer's feelings is never a good approach, especially when your business relies on private land access.

Watershed Districts are chronically underfunded, so nobody can blame them for chasing federal grants to work in their area. We can imagine that the allure of a \$1 million dollar grant from the federal government must explain how the AWWD continued to push forward when it was clear landowners were not comfortable and did

not trust Parks Canada as the lead agency.

On the Corridor, questions were asked, and good answers never came. Not surprising when the nearest contact from Parks Canada for the Corridor was in Quebec. The lack of timely, solid information added to the growing fears, and well, here we are.

So, What Now?

Trust is everything when it comes to conservation in rural agricultural communities. It is hard to establish but easy to lose. So, it's paramount now that everyone let bygones be bygones and remember that a program that essentially guaranteed a bad outcome for all involved put us all in a bad position.

We would all do well to remember that the Watershed District has always been a great organization with a solid community-based conservation model. The last thing we need to do now is throw out the baby with the bathwater. Yes, the District should do some soul-searching and understand why it took this far over a single federal grant, and we hope they will.

The Corridor program focused heavily on the need for Indigenous leadership and laws, even though the land is vastly privately owned. But let's please all remember that it wasn't our Indigenous friends who designed this federal program which excluded meaningful engagement for farmers. Lord knows Indigenous communities know better than anybody what it's like to be excluded from planning.

We look forward to reaching out to Indigenous communities to start a new dialogue without government interference.

The Corridor is stopped, and the sun rises on a new day. Federal winds of change are blowing. Regardless of who runs the country next, we all have an opportunity for a new national conservation strategy that brings us all together instead of dividing us. A conservation restart is needed, with a focus on good engagement for all involved. Let's hope conservation groups and new government leaders learn from what went wrong in western Manitoba because we all need conservation.

Rob Olson, M.N.R.M  
Senior Science Advisor  
Manitoba Wildlife Federation

### > I LOVE TO READ, FROM PG. 10

great space for it. We're able to encourage the kids to come up and to sit around with the guest reader, but at the same time, if they're a little bit shy, they can stay back with their parents and still follow along with it," said Ross.

Longbottom hopes that the kids who attend the program are not only excited about the books and reading but come away with a connection to our community and want to go back to the library.

"I hope what kids take away

from the program is like positive memories, spending time at the library and connecting with people in their communities," she said.

Longbottom's favourite part of this program is seeing the kids enjoying

## Ed Teplyski

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## MPI and Snoman hit the trails and roadways to highlight snowmobile safety

Submitted by Manitoba Public Insurance

January and February are great months for hitting the trails on your snowmobile. It can be thrilling, challenging, and a great way to get a sense of community with other riders. It is also true that January and February have the highest fatality rates for snowmobilers in Manitoba.

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) and Snoman Inc. joined forces to highlight snowmobile safety to close out International Snowmobile Safety Week (Jan. 12-18) and lead into Manitoba's first Winter Trails Day on Feb. 8.

Last week, MPI and Snowman held a safety demonstration near Stonewall, where three different components of safety were highlighted:

- Sharing the roadway
- Trail safety and trail grooming equipment
- Safety equipment for snowmobiles and riders

"By highlighting safety concerns, we are creating awareness that there are many proactive steps riders can take to make themselves safer while out on their snowmobiles, especially wearing a helmet, controlling speed, and riding sober," said Maria Campos, Vice President & Chief Customer and Product Officer. "MPI doesn't advocate for and educate about safety alone. It is through partnerships, like the one we have with Snoman, that we are able to fulfill our road safety mission – whether it is on or off-road."

From 2021-2024, there were 12 snowmobile fatalities in Manitoba. Speed was the leading contributing factor. Other factors included:

- Alcohol impairment
- Lack of helmet use
- Driver inexperience
- Careless driving

Snoman emphasized that riders have to be aware of safety concerns.

"Excessive speed is a contributing factor in the majority of incidents and can lead to fatalities," stated Jason Wiebe, President, Snoman Inc. "Riders have to be cognizant of their abilities and to not impair their sense of control by consuming alcohol or drugs while riding. Safety is first and foremost for our organization."

Safety is a shared goal for MPI and Snoman. When you register your snowmobile, MPI collects a \$25 non-refundable annual fee on all off-road vehicle registrations on behalf of the Government of Manitoba to support trail maintenance and development, off-road vehicle safety education and training programs, and rehabilitation of public lands impacted by off-road vehicle use.

Purchasing a Snopass to ride on 12,000 kilometres of designated provincial trails helps Manitoba invest in grooming and maintaining trails, which contribute to snowmobile safety.

Ride safe and enjoy the snowmobile season.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

(Left) Maria Campos, Vice President & Chief Customer and Product Officer, MPI; and Joe Thievin, Vice President, Snoman Inc. in front of a trail groomer.



# Marching in the Haggis for Robbie Burns



The Clandeboye Pipe Band entertained a full house on Jan. 25 at the Clandeboye Hall celebrating Robbie Burns Day. Pipers, drummers, a guitar player and a sword dancer showed off their skills in celebration of the life and poetry of Scottish poet Robert Burns. In addition to the music, a fantastic spread of food including scotch eggs, and haggis was enjoyed by all. Some residents even partook in having a wee dram which is a small serving of scotch. The annual event was an entertaining fundraiser for the Clandeboye Pipe Band.

Record photos by Brett Mitchell



Jack Pallen on classical guitar, Keira Wilson doing the Highland Fling and Sword Dance.





# Worsening morale, staffing and workload cited by MAHCP allied health members in 2024

Only eight per cent said they saw improvement in morale

By Patricia Barrett

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) says a majority of over 1,400 of its frontline allied health-care members feel staffing, workload and morale had worsened over 2024.

MAHCP conducted an online survey last December to understand its members' feelings with regard to Manitoba's health-care system, which is struggling with fewer doctors, recruitment and retention issues and long average wait times for diagnostic procedures and care at emergency departments.

"Allied health-care professionals are dedicated to their patients and they understand the system isn't going to get fixed overnight, but they were hoping for some improvement by now," said MAHCP president Jason Linklater in a Jan. 23 news release. "The most troubling result in this survey is the high proportion of members – half or more – who say that staffing, workload and morale are actually getting worse."

The NDP's April 2024 budget promised to rebuild health care in Manitoba. For rural areas in particular, the government set a course to recruit doctors, invest in the expansion of medical transportation services, create positions for advanced care paramedics, build a new ER in Eriksdale and build personal care homes start-



ing with Lac du Bonnet (in progress) then Winnipeg and Arborg, among other investments. The government also promised to invest \$6.9 million to expand allied health staffing to facilitate weekend patient discharges and encourage colleges and post-secondary institutions to remove barriers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who want to become allied health professionals, physicians and nurses.

About 48 per cent of respondents to MAHCP's survey said they had lost people from their department or area while 11 per cent said staffing had improved. Only eight per cent said they saw improvement in morale. And with regard to workload, 62 per cent of respondents said they're do-

ing more now than at the start of 2024 while only two per cent said they've seen their workload decrease.

"We know these issues are linked to staffing, and we also know demand for everything from mental health services to diagnostic tests is only growing," said Linklater in the release. "Our recent survey results should be a wake-up call: much more needs to be done, and much more quickly, or Manitobans will continue to see negative impacts in high wait times for services like testing, emergency care,

mental health and addictions support, and more."

MAHCP represents over 7,000 allied health professionals working in more than 50 specialized disciplines in labs, clinics, hospitals and long-term and community care. Its members include paramedics, lab and imaging technologists, respiratory therapists and mental health clinicians. The union's collective agreement expired in March 2024.

MAHCP

## Community shows charitable holiday spirit

### Campaign raises just over \$32,000 for Interlake Eastern Health Foundation

By Jennifer McFee

The holiday spirit was alive and well in local communities where residents shared a healthy dose of donations with the Interlake Eastern Health Foundation.

The Interlake Eastern Health Foundation aims to improve quality of life throughout the region by supporting facilities and programs close to home.

Averill Stephenson, executive director of Interlake Eastern Health Foundation, shared her thanks with everyone who made donations to the organization — including many people who chose to donate in lieu of giving holiday gifts to friends, family

and co-workers.

"Despite our holiday campaign looking a little different this year with no direct mail, the support of the community did not waiver," she said.

"With a social media campaign and articles in local newspapers, we raised just over \$32,000."

In addition to monetary contributions, the foundation also received many messages from patients and families to share their gratitude and support for health-care staff.

Learn more about Interlake Eastern Health Foundation at [www.iehf.ca](http://www.iehf.ca).

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



Servings: 10  
5 Avocados From Mexico, peeled and pitted  
1 lemon, juice only  
1/2 cup white onion, finely chopped  
1 cup tomatoes, diced  
1/2 cup cilantro, chopped  
1 pound bacon, fried  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
tortilla chips, for serving (optional)  
crackers, for serving (optional)

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To prepare avocado: In a bowl, use fork to mash the avocados and lemon juice until creamy. Then add the onion, tomatoes and cilantro.

To prepare bacon: Cut the bacon into squares then place it in a hot skillet over medium heat and cook 15 minutes, or until golden. Transfer to a plate to drain excess fat and let cool.

To prepare guacamole: Add the bacon, garlic powder, salt and pepper, to taste, to the guacamole; mix well.

To serve, put guacamole in bowl and serve with tortilla chips or crackers, if desired.



Avocados From Mexico partner Rob Gronkowski's favorite guacamole recipe  
Servings: 4  
2 Avocados From Mexico  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
3/4 cup chicken breast, cooked and

## Gronkamole

shredded  
1/4 cup blue cheese, crumbled  
3 tablespoons Buffalo sauce  
salt, to taste  
corn chips, for serving (optional)  
carrot sticks, for serving (optional)  
In a small bowl, mash avocados and stir in lemon juice.

Add chicken, blue cheese and Buffalo sauce to guacamole mixture. Add salt, to taste.

Serve with corn chips or carrot sticks, if desired.

## Barbecue Chili

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
Servings: 8-10  
1 pork loin (2-3 pounds)  
1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies  
2 cups barbecue sauce, divided  
1 cup water  
1 can (29 ounces) tomato sauce  
2 cans (27 ounces each) chili beans  
1 package chili seasoning  
1 tablespoon barbecue seasoning  
1 tablespoon onion powder  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
salt, to taste

## Incorporating probiotics for optimal health

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

The health benefits offered by fermented foods have taken centre stage in recent years, with many people opting to add great tasting foods like yogurt, kombucha, or sauerkraut to their grocery list. Research has revealed that including probiotic in your regular diet assists with optimal digestion, strengthened immune function, absorption of nutrients, alleviation of mental health issues, and weight control - often within a matter of weeks there are noticeable improvements.

Gut-friendly bacteria are found in probiotics, along with yeasts that benefit human health by restoring balance in the digestion system that can often be thrown out-of-whack by conditions like stress, eating a diet high in processed foods, or use of antibiotics (sometimes unavoidable!). Some signs that your digestive tract may be reason for concern include constant fatigue, skin irritation, stomach pain, strong sugar cravings, and weight fluctuations.

It's easy to get started, such as with breakfast consisting of yogurt, fruits and nuts. Kimchi, a traditional Korean dish of fermented vegetables combined with spices, can be a great lunch, or used in the same way as sauerkraut, as an ingredient to add flavour to a sandwich. A personal favourite is Kombucha, which is available in many great fruity flavours, and has low sugar varieties in most grocery stores. This is also an easy way to boost your water intake daily, which is going to help everything function better within your body.

The microbiome in your body, and throughout your digestive system is very complex, and is greatly impacted by the foods you choose most often. Think 'eat the rain-



Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

bow' and aim to get lots of colours on your plate, along with the foods mentioned above to improve your overall health and wellness. If you haven't jumped onto this trend yet, pick a few items to add to your shopping list this week, and trust that you are putting your gut-health safely in the hands of science generated from tradition!

Are you interested in articles on this topic? Reach out to me with your comments and questions at [info@juliegermaine.com](mailto:info@juliegermaine.com), or if you want to discuss your individual nutrition questions, fitness goals and struggles with me, simply visit my website [www.juliegermaine.com](http://www.juliegermaine.com) or schedule a consult by visiting: [www.calendly.com/juliegermaine](http://www.calendly.com/juliegermaine)

Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to long-life health! She is an active mom, Registered Personal Trainer, a 2x Pro Fitness Champion, Certified Nutrition Expert & Fitness Specialist. She has helped many thousands of people worldwide improve their health since 2005.

pepper, to taste  
sour cream, for serving  
shredded cheddar cheese, for serving  
corn chips, for serving  
Place pork loin in slow cooker. Cover with diced tomatoes and green chilies, 1 cup barbecue sauce and water; cook on low 4-6 hours.

Cut up cooked meat and place in Dutch oven along with juices from slow cooker.

Add remaining barbecue sauce, tomato sauce, chili beans, chili seasoning, barbecue seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Cook over medium heat 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with sour cream, shredded cheese and corn chips.

Tip: Add can of beans if serving bigger crowd.

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Dear seeking Slow-Pitch gold at third Challenge Cup

By Kieran Reimer

Devren Dear hopes to make it the third time a charm at the 2025 USSSA Slow-pitch Challenge Cup this weekend down in Viera, FL.

The 30-year-old St. Andrews native is entering his third Challenge Cup in Team Canada West's outfield, where he's helped them finish ninth and 15th place in the past two years.

The Challenge Cup, which features the top softball teams from states, regions, and countries worldwide, is better known as the "Slow-pitch Olympics" because it is the most prestigious tour-

nament in the sport.

Dear and Team Canada West's training is much more difficult than most at the tournament because American and other international teams can train outdoors year round.

Dear's training leading up to the tournament has been centered around gym workouts and weekly batting practice.

Just a few days before the tournament, he said he felt better about his game than he ever had before entering the Challenge Cup.

"I'm playing the best I've ever been the last couple years and I'm finally at the age where I'm smart enough now and not just a young kid so I'm a veteran now. It's a little different but I enjoy it and I'm at my best now," said Dear.

Dear is also looking forward to playing alongside his Canada West teammates, whom he only plays with once a year at the Challenge Cup, as he plays his club slow-pitch locally for the Southern Sailors and Anarchy Astors.

Like other years, Team Canada West is primarily made up of players from Alberta and British Columbia, with Dear as the only exception. Each year, the team is selected by coaches who scout players from across the four western provinces.

Having been the only Manitoban on the team for the past three years, Dear is excited to represent Canada, Manitoba, and St. Andrews again on the national stage.

"It's been pretty special especially coming from a small town like St. Andrews, it's kind of nice to get represented on such a large scale," said Dear. "It's awesome to get back and play with some of the boys I've been with for three years now. It's better to play with them then against them."

Team Canada West's tournament kicks off this Thursday against Team New England at 10:40 p.m. at Space

Coast Complex Stadium in Viera.

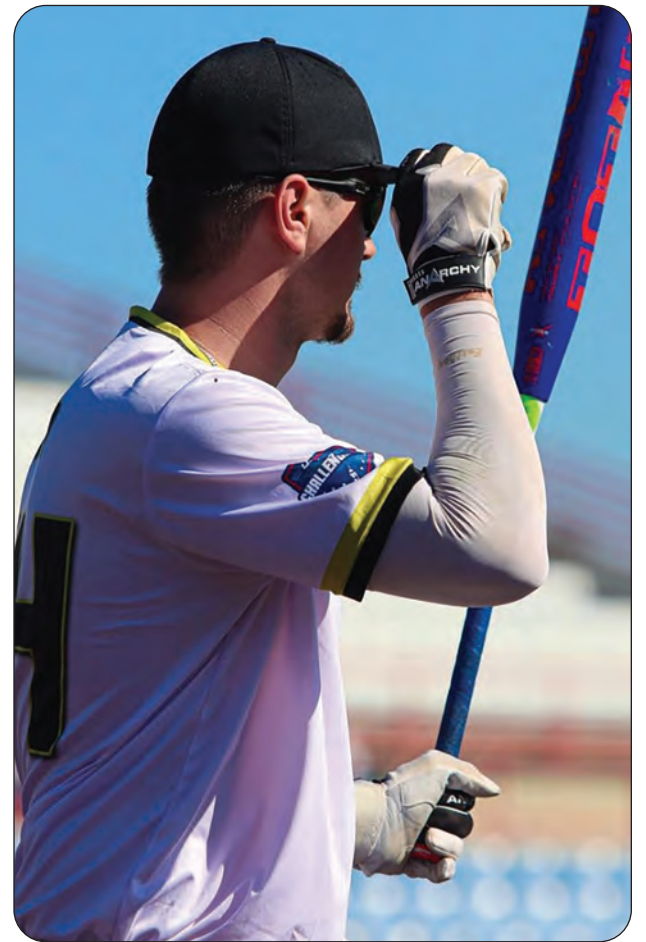
They will play two games in Pool B, which features Team Arkansas, Team Canada West, Team New England, and Team Ohio. Each team will make the playoffs, and the first-place team will get a bye to the quarterfinals.

Team Canada West is seeking their first-ever gold medal at the tournament.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Andrews' Devren Dear is feeling better than ever heading into his third USSSA Challenge Cup in Viera, FL from Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Dear and Team Canada West are seeking their first gold medal at the tournament.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

St. Andrews' Devren Dear is the lone Manitoban on Team Canada West for the third straight year at the 2025 USSSA Challenge Cup that takes place Jan. 30-Feb. 2 in Viera, FL. The 30-year-old outfielder helped Team Canada West to a ninth and 15th place finish the past two tournaments.

**The Selkirk Record**

217 Clandeboye Ave., Selkirk

Proof Deadline **Fridays at 4 p.m.**

Booking Deadline

**Mondays at 4 p.m.**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-5:00



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**NEXT HOME GAMES**

- VS Waywayseecappo Wolverines, Sat, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 pm
- VS Virden Oil Capitals, Sat, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm
- VS Steinbach Pistons, Tues, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

**NEXT HOME GAME**

• VS Dauphin, Tues, Feb 4 - 7:30 pm

**www.selkirksteelers.com**

the Steelers Box Office is open 1 hour before game time  
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**THE STEELERS BOX OFFICE**





# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Steelers snap losing skid with comeback win over Swan Valley

By Kieran Reimer

The Selkirk Steelers had an improving week that culminated in a significant win against the Swan Valley Stampede on Saturday. Earlier in the week, the Steelers suffered a 4-1 defeat on the road to the Steinbach Pistons, where they conceded three goals in the second period. Dawson Dear scored Selkirk's only goal, while Noel Olsonawski faced 34 shots, saving 31 of them.

The Steelers then shifted to their weekend slate with the Portage Terriers at home Friday night.

After falling behind 2-0, the Steelers fought back with goals from Remy Hlady and Owen Warnick, forcing the game into overtime. Unfortunately for Selkirk, Portage forward Scott Cousins scored just 10 seconds into overtime, denying the Steelers a comeback and an extra point.

Head coach Hudson Friesen noted that the overtime loss spurred the team to push even harder the next night, and they responded with a 4-2 win over the Swan Valley Stampede on Saturday night at home. After trailing 2-1, the Steelers scored three unanswered goals to complete the comeback. Landon Jamieson, Griffin Krone, Rohan Guevarra, and Owen Warnick all found the back of the net, while Ethan Sawyer made an impressive 49 saves out of 51 shots to lead the Steelers to their first win since Jan. 12.

"We took a lot of big strides this weekend in where we want to get to," said Friesen. "We struggled to score at five-on-five a bit in the previous games and it kind of let into Friday a bit. We had our chances and looks and unfortunately we weren't able to put them away and it went into overtime and ended quick. It was disappointing because we played well defensively and physically and were emotionally engaged so it was definitely



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Steelers' goaltender Ethan Sawyer stopped 49 of 51 shots in his Selkirk's 4-2 victory over the Swan Valley Stampede at home last Saturday.

a heartbreaker but the boys used it as motivation for Saturday. The scoring took a bit to come to fruition but the third period, once we got that second goal we never looked back and I think we played extremely well in all six periods over the weekend."

Had it not been for Sawyer's outstanding performance, recording 49 saves, the Steelers might have felt much differently heading into a six-day break. Saturday's win could be considered the best of the rookie netminder's 13-game season. While they

will continue to rely on veteran Noel Olsonawski for much of the remaining 18 games, Sawyer's standout performances will be crucial for the Steelers' playoff push. They currently hold a record of 21-16-2-1, totaling 45 points, which puts them six points behind the Niverville Nighthawks for the final playoff spot in the MGEU East Division.

"We have a lot

of trust in him and if he's getting a start our team has confidence in him and the way we play," said Friesen. "He was extremely focused (on Satur-

Continued on page 18

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**The Selkirk Record**



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Raiders close homestand with pair of wins

By Kieran Reimer

The Raiders Jr. Hockey Club returned to form last weekend, achieving two victories over the River East Royal Knights and the St. James Jr. Canucks on home ice.

On Friday, the Raiders defeated the River East Royal Knights 5-2, bolstered by a two-goal performance from Nathan Lenoski. The Raiders jumped to a 4-0 lead and added an empty-net goal late in the third pe-

riod. Other goals came from Owen Lourenco, Cole Kennedy, and Andrew Denoon. In goal, Owen Savoie made 23 saves on 25 shots.

On Sunday, overtime heroics from Lucas Desousa, combined with another two-goal night from Denoon, propelled the Raiders to a 4-3 victory over the St. James Jr. Canucks. After trailing 3-1 entering the third period, the Raiders pulled level with an early

goal from Ryan Cromie and Denoon's second goal late in the period. Desousa then sealed the game with an unassisted goal in overtime. Evan Banera was instrumental in net for the Raiders, stopping 30 of 33 shots.

With these two wins, the Raiders improved their record to 14-16-4 and climbed to seventh place in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

- Wednesday, Jan. 29: vs Charleswood Hawks, 7:30 p.m. at Eric Coy Arena
- Friday, Jan. 31: vs. Transcona Railer Express, 7:30 p.m. at Seven Oaks SportsPlex
- Sunday, Feb. 2: vs St. Boniface Riels, 3 p.m. at Southdale Community Centre

### > STEELERS, FROM PG. 17

day). Rebound control was good, he competed all night, and at times if we needed a save he came up big so he stepped up big for us. The games he's going to play down the stretch for us, we have a ton of confidence he's going to go in and do the job."

The Steelers will now have a break until Saturday due to the MJHL-SJHL

Showcase taking place at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex this week. Selkirk has six representatives on two of the three MJHL All-Star teams that will compete against teams from the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. Remy Hlady, Owen Warnick, and Rohan Guevarra will play for Team MJHL 18U White, while Luke Mc-

Carthy, Wyatt Witham, and Owen Johnston will represent Team MJHL 20U Black. Team MJHL 18U White will play on Tuesday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 5 p.m. against Team SJHL 18U Blue. Team MJHL 20U Black will take the ice on Tuesday at 3 p.m. against Team SJHL 20U White and on Wednesday at 11 a.m. against Team SJHL 20U Gold.

### UPCOMING GAMES:

- Saturday, Feb. 1 vs Waywayseecappo Wolverines, 7:30 p.m. at Selkirk Recreation Complex

## Fishermen ousted in overtime by Comets

By Kieran Reimer

The Selkirk Fishermen took an early lead but ultimately fell short, losing 4-3 in overtime to the Beausejour Comets on Friday night at the Sun Gro Centre.

Jaedys Dancyt made a significant impact for the Comets, scoring the game-tying goal in the third period and the game-winner just 20 seconds into overtime.

Logan Saluk and Izzy Aime each scored to give the Fishermen a 2-0 advantage in the first period, and Dawson Bergagnini added an-

other goal in the third. However, the Comets matched the Fishermen's efforts with timely responses each time.

The Fishermen outshot the Comets 45-43, with Johnny Ens-Demchuk making 39 saves in goal for Selkirk. Despite the loss, they earned a point for the overtime defeat, bringing their season total to 32 points. They currently sit fourth in the Capital Region Junior Hockey League with a record of 9 wins, 11 losses, 0 ties, 1 overtime loss, and 3 shoot out losses.

Next, they will host the third-place Lunda-

Falcons on Sunday afternoon at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. Puck drop is scheduled for 3 p.m.

## Correction

In last week's edition of the *Selkirk Record* Josh Shedden was incorrectly identified in the below image. We regret this error.



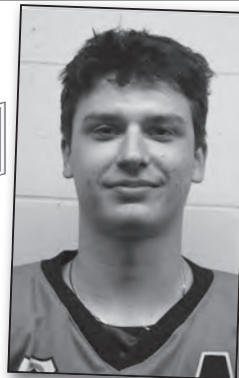
### NEXT HOME GAMES

at the Selkirk Rec Centre  
**SUNDAY, FEB 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
VS Lunda Falcons 3:00 pm  
**MONDAY, FEB 10<sup>th</sup>**  
VS North Wpg Satellites 8:15 pm  
**SUNDAY, FEB 16<sup>th</sup>**  
VS Arborg Ice Dawgs 3:00 pm

**NEXT AWAY GAMES**  
Wed, Feb 5 - vs La Broquerie - 8:00 pm  
Fri, Feb 7 - vs St Malo - 8:00 pm



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2024-2025



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The Selkirk Record

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Rule Apartments located at 424 Eveline Street. 2 beds & 1 bath apartment suites available from \$1,250/month to \$1,350/month includes water and parking. Tenants pay their own hydro. Elevator in building, front door intercom, in-suite laundry. Located close to many amenities, Selkirk Park, public transportation, legion, fishing, shopping & more! Sorry, No pets & no smoking policy. Call/text Rule Apartments for more information 204-290-3805.

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## CITY OF Selkirk PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding Special Service Plan No. 2025-01 and By-Law No. 5392 for the Provision of Transportation Services

The Council of the City of Selkirk has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held at:

**The Council Chambers, 200 Eaton Avenue**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm**

to present the following Special Service Plan

### Special Service Plan Summary

The City of Selkirk currently provides Transportation Services within the City of Selkirk. Transportation Services includes Snow Removal and Dust Control, Boulevard Grass Cutting and Weed Control, Street Tree Planting or Control of Tree Disease, Storm Sewer Maintenance, City Transportation Network Maintenance, and Street Lighting.

Council is proposing to shift the tax levy for Transportation Services from the General Municipal Levy - City At Large to a Special Service Tax Levy. The Special Service area to be levied will apply against all real properties within the City of Selkirk including Taxable, Otherwise Exempt, and Grants in Lieu of Taxes. Exempt from this Special Service Tax Levy will be real properties that are identified in Schedule "B" of the Special Service Plan.

Under this plan, the Special Service Tax Levy is to be phased in gradually over four years of the five-year period, starting in 2025, as follows:

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Transportation Services</b>					
Phase-In Percentage	25%	50%	75%	100%	100%
Special Service Tax Levy - Phased-In	649,184	1,456,243	2,289,477	3,191,959	3,361,953
General Municipal Levy - City At Large	1,947,550	1,456,243	763,159	0	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>2,596,734</b>	<b>2,912,486</b>	<b>3,052,636</b>	<b>3,191,959</b>	<b>3,361,953</b>

The method of taxation to be applied will be based on each property's portioned assessment value. The actual mill rate for the Special Service Tax Levy shall be determined by Council annually, based on the Transportation Services Net Expenditure amount within the City's Financial Plan to a maximum annual levy identified as per the estimated Special Service Tax Levy amount above. Based on the 2025 portioned assessment value of 895,707,500 for all real properties included in this Special Service Plan and the estimated Phase-In Net Expenditure of \$649,184, a 0.725 mill rate ( $\$649,184 / 895,707,500 \times 1,000$ ) will be required. Calculated on a residential property, for each \$100,000 of the property's assessment value, the shift in tax levy from the General Municipal Levy - City At Large to the Special Service Tax Levy will be \$32.63 in 2025.

A written objection may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer at 200 Eaton Avenue, Selkirk, MB, R1A 0W6 prior to the Public Hearing. At the Public Hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the Special Service Plan.

All objections written or verbal must be filed prior to the adjournment of the Public Hearing and must include the name and address of the person filing the objection and the grounds of their objection.

Copies of the Special Service Plan No. 2025-01 are available at the Municipal Office at 200 Eaton Avenue during regular business hours Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on the City of Selkirk's website [www.myselkirk.ca](http://www.myselkirk.ca). Those without access to online services are asked to call **CitizenSupport** at 204-785-4900.

Dated at the City of Selkirk this 27th day of February, 2025, and issued pursuant to Section 318 of *The Municipal Act*.

Kevin Richter, CPA, CMA, Director of Finance, City of Selkirk

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-Margaret and Thorlene

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### IN MEMORIAM



Jake Gerald Niebel

April 25, 1988 - January 29, 2024

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You are not forgotten and never will be,  
I still don't understand why you're gone  
and what happened.  
Lots of unanswered questions,  
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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### IN MEMORIAM



Jake Niebel

April 25, 1988 - January 29, 2024

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RM of St. Clements is seeking proposals from businesses, organizations, and individuals for the naming rights to the St. Clements Activity Centre, the build is currently underway and the building is set for opening in spring of 2025. When completed it will be a prominent facility dedicated to serving the local community through a variety of recreational, educational, and social programs.

#### Proposals are invited for:

- Exclusive naming rights for the St. Clements Activity Centre
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#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Proposals must demonstrate alignment with the values and mission of the RM of St. Clements.
- Preference will be given to proposals that offer a mutually beneficial partnership with the local community.

**Proposal Submission Deadline: March 21, 2025 at 4:00pm**

For more information and to request an RFP package, please contact:

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## OBITUARY

### Robert Milne



After facing several months of health challenges and a difficult diagnosis, Robert Milne passed away on the evening of January 22, 2025, at the age of 79 due to complications from asbestos exposure.

He was predeceased by his mother, Mary Milne (Kososki), father, John Milne, and brother, George Milne.

Robert is lovingly remembered by his wife of 56 years, Madeleine Milne (Sicotte), and their three children: Derik (Alana), Jason (Nikki), and Diana (Gord). He also leaves behind six grandchildren—Gina (Zach), Mia, Clara, Tanner, Max, and Brody—and their mother, Kelly, as well as step-grandchildren Tyler (Logan) and Noelle (Jayce). Robert is also survived by his brothers Don (Glenda) and Art (Donna), his sister Agnes, close family friend Elaine, sister-in-law Rita, and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was born in Neepawa on August 10, 1945 and moved to East Selkirk at the age of six where he attended school with his mother, Mary, as his teacher. He spent his childhood and much of his life on the east side, where he eventually built his dream home. In 1968, Robert married Madeleine, and together they raised their family in the community they loved.

A dedicated public servant, Captain Robert Milne was a founding member of the East Selkirk Fire Department, serving with pride for 34 years. Through his service, he formed many enduring friendships before retiring in 2001. His ties to the fire department did not end with retirement as he continued to attend events each year thereafter.

Robert worked at the University of Manitoba, where he and his colleagues affectionately joked about his role as a "doctor of plumology." He retired in 2015, but the bonds he formed with his co-workers lasted well beyond his career.

In his spare time, Robert embraced life to the fullest. He was a passionate marathon runner, an avid traveler, and a devoted family man. He enjoyed family vacations, days spent on his pontoon boat, and adventures in his motorhome. He also had a keen eye for Audi vehicles, always on the lookout for his next prized car.

Robert's warm spirit, unwavering dedication, and love for his family and community will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Liang at the Health Sciences Centre and the staff at Selkirk Hospital for their compassion and care.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to an organization of your choice in Robert's memory. Family and friends are invited to a service at Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk January 30, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The livestream can be accessed at [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com).

Condolences can be left on his tribute wall at [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.





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## OBITUARY



### Patricia Jean Choquette (nee Stinson)

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Patricia (Pat) Choquette on January 15th, 2025 at the age of 79.

She leaves behind to grieve husband John; sons Jamie (Andrea), David (Katrina); grandchildren Lee and Ben; sisters Bunt (Howie) and Tami; along with many more family members. Pat was very involved in the community taking part in many different crafting circles, making many life long friends through her love of crafting.

A celebration of life will happen at a later date and will be announced.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Manitoba Lung Association or Heart and Stroke foundation are appreciated.

Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## OBITUARY



### Harold McCumber 1949 - 2025

Harold Martin McCumber of Medicine Hat, beloved husband of the late Gloria McCumber, passed away on Saturday, January 18, 2025, at the age of 75 years.

Cremation entrusted to Pattison Funeral Home.

To leave a message of condolence you may visit [www.pattisonfuneralhome.com](http://www.pattisonfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are by the  
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## OBITUARY



### Irene Rose Taylor (nee Poschner)

The family of Irene Taylor would like to announce the peaceful passing of Irene Rose Taylor (nee Poschner), our beloved Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma, Auntie, and friend, on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Left to cherish her memories are her daughters Tanis, Debby (Tony), grandchildren Billie (Fed), Amy (Shaun), Ed (Becky), James (Amy). Her great-grandchildren Noah, Jackson and Riley, Juliet and Isabelle, Darrion, Olivia and Emily, Harlon, Kirston and Karlie.

Mom was predeceased by her husband Tim and son Kerry, also by her parents, George and Marie, brothers George, Mike, John (Ruth), and her sister Mary (Gordon), her in-laws, John and Winnifred Taylor, her brother and sisters-in-law Thelma (Peter),

Roy (Frances), Bill (Rita), Doris (Dave), Harold (Liz). Mom also leaves behind numerous nephews and nieces and their families who mom always enjoyed visiting with.

Mom was born in Edwin, Mb, on October 22, 1933, moving to Meadowdale and then to Petersfield in 1945 to the farm where Petersfield Park later was. Mom and Dad were married in the yard there in 1951. Eventually moving to Selkirk in 1961.

Mom was always hard working, starting off in farming the family farms, having three children and then branching out in the 60's to working at Corrigal Pharmacy moving on to the family business at the Esso agent on Greenwood. After retiring she still kept busy delivering minnows and being a caregiver to Wannetta. Mom had many passions. We all agree #1 was curling! Mom and Dad had so much fun going around to various bonspiels across the province and into the States. Mom was very proud with her team and herself for winning her Selkirk Zone for a spot in the Scotties in 1976 (then known as the Lassies). In the later years catching every event of any curling on TV. When ice curling was no longer an option, she started stick curling and went around to various events around the province with her team from Petersfield and the Gordon Howard Centre. Mom loved an adventure, her and Dad went on many excursions over the years from coast to coast of Canada only missing the Yukon to Texas, Vegas, Hawaii, a road trip down to Columbus Mississippi with Tanis in a semi, visiting Deb up in Gjoa Haven Nunavut in 2003. She was a big beach bum too...anytime we could get to the beach or the lake on a beautiful day. In 2009 we took Mom to Amsterdam, London and Paris, definitely on her things to do list. She was such a trooper, always curious, an avid reader since a very young woman. There wasn't much Mom wouldn't tackle! Painting houses inside and out, always having gardens, flowers, a greenhouse which she spent hours at every season, especially when they moved into their new house in Pelican Bay in 1977. Her cooking skills were amazing, sewing, knitting, crocheting, any new pursuit she would master. Her and Dad were always up for hosting family BBQ's and all of the special celebrations year-round.

Mom was the kind of Grandma and Great-Grandma that every kid would want, ever so welcoming and warm and full of love. Her home and arms were always open to her grandkids. Her unwavering dedication and unconditional love to all us was will be forever appreciated, missed and we are so much better for her example.

A service for Mom will be held on February 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Gilbart Funeral Home in Selkirk.

The family would like to thank a whole team for Mom's care and support in her final month including the compassionate care by Dr. Cynthia Czajka-Fedirchuk, Paramedics, ER staff, the ward nurses and attendants, and when she came home, the Home Care and Palliative Care teams at SRHC and the staff at Woodlands for their great food and service. The support and tender care were incredible. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you so desire, you may donate to: St. George Wakefield Church E-transfer: [stgeorgewakefield@outlook.com](mailto:stgeorgewakefield@outlook.com) or Box 219, Clandeboyne MB R0C 0P0.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## OBITUARY



### B. Allan Thompson

December 11, 1939 - January 17, 2025

On January 17, 2025 at 85 years of age, Bjarni Allan Thompson passed away peacefully at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

Allan is survived by his wife of 61 years Louise and his four children, Brent (Brenda), Lyle (Lynda), Sandra, Corinne (Brad) and his nine grandchildren, Eric, Michael, Kelsey, Teeson, Talin, Liam, Abigail, Brady and Brooke. Also, by sisters Betty Berthelet, May Ryplanski and brother Robert Thompson, brother-in-law Clint Smith, sister-in-law Joyce Thompson, brother-in-law Allan Bott along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Allan was predeceased by his parents Helgi and Hlif, brothers Clifford, Stanley (Vera), Harold, sisters Margaret (Keith), Eileen (Mike), Eleanor (Norm), Linda (Bruce), Sylvia, brothers-in-law Roger Ryplanski and Lou Berthelet, and son-in-law Jeff Smith.

Allan was born in Langruth, Manitoba and raised on the family farm. After completing high school, he attended Teachers College in Winnipeg in 1959 - 60. Al's teaching career spanned nearly 20 years taking him to places as Mulvihill, Altamont, Flin Flon, Selkirk, and Winnipeg. Al loved his time teaching and mentored many young people. He was respected by his students who remember him as always having their best interest at heart.

In 1979, Al ventured into a new career when he and Louise purchased Skinners in Lockport, Manitoba. Al absolutely loved this new challenge. He had endless dreams which included building Skinners Wet n Wild Waterslide Park, Pitchers Bar and Grill, ball diamonds, and Grand Slam Batting Cages in Lockport. Al and Louise operated them until closing in 2004. He also expanded Skinners to the Forks Market in Winnipeg and operated it for 30 years.

Sports were an important part of Al's life. He loved playing hockey and especially baseball/ fastball. The hardest thing he had to do was hang up his cleats after he purchased Skinners. He was an avid hunter and loved his moose hunting trips to Northern Manitoba and deer hunting back in Langruth with his sons and close friends.

Al was a community-minded person. He loved meetings and being part of a common purpose. He was a school trustee for the Lord Selkirk School Division for five years and a member of the Lockport Community Marketing Cooperation and Lockport Children's Festival for many years. Al was also active in politics and involved in many elections in Manitoba serving as campaign manager for candidates. He also coached his children in their various sports, always willing to volunteer when needed.

Al loved to travel and visited many parts of the world with Louise and their family. Their trips to Iceland were most memorable for him. He completed his bucket list after they were able to take their nine grandchildren there. He was very proud of his Icelandic heritage and to share this with his grandchildren was a highlight of his life.

Al was a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. His laid-back personality was appreciated by all who knew him. He would always take time for people and while he enjoyed a good debate, would always listen to another's perspective. Al loved nothing more than a boat ride on the creek and a sing-song with family and friends - Green Green Grass of Home was his signature song.

He will be deeply missed.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Dr. Showue and the staff of Selkirk Regional Health Centre for the excellent care which Al received. Also, thank you to Gilbart's Funeral Home for their compassionate care in arrangements.

A celebration of life and luncheon will be held at Selkirk Rec Centre Hall on March 29, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Children's Hospital Foundation at <https://goodbear.ca> or #533A - 715 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3E 1M6 or to a charity of your choice.

Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.





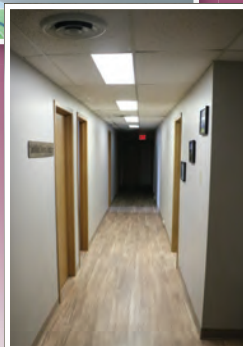
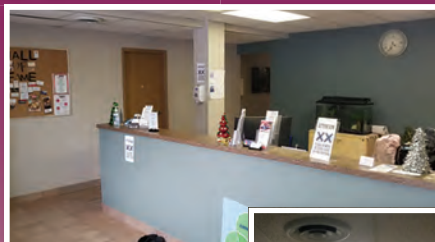
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FOLLOW US ON SOCIALS!  
@HACKINGHOMETEAM

WWW.HACKINGTEAM.CA  
HHTeam@C21.CA

HUNTER WONNACOTT, REALTOR®  
204.813.8091

GEORGE HACKING, REALTOR®  
GEORGE HACKING PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION  
204.461.0747

KASEY HACKING, ASSOCIATE BROKER  
KASEY HACKING PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION  
204.485.5303

VICTORIA BEAUCHAMP, REALTOR®  
204.619.3955

BRAD MATTHES, REALTOR®  
204.510.9900

**355 Purvis Blvd, Selkirk \$429,900**

PRICE REDUCTION on this quality 2020 built 2 story w/4 beds, 2.5 baths. Spacious layout for your kitchen, dining & living areas. Second floor laundry. Full partially finished bsmt. Garage insulated & heated. Fully fenced & landscaped yard. Steel beam construction & ICF foundation!



**FREE, No Obligation Market Evaluation!**

Wondering What Your Home, Land or Business Worth?  
Scan the QR code or go to [SELKIRKMBHOMES.COM](http://SELKIRKMBHOMES.COM)



**FEATURE OF THE WEEK! 28092 74 ROAD N, ST CLEMENTS \$330,000**

Pastoral Paradise! Go back in time to this well maintained farmyard with gorgeous perennials, treed privacy, yet very commutable location close to Hwys 44 & 59. 908 Sqft bungalow with an eat-in kitchen, large living space, 2 bedrooms, 1 full bath, and a functional entryway with some storage. 3.6 Acre Property features many good quality double detached garage and multiple outbuildings including sheds, 2 metal granaries that make great storage or firepit covers, and a metal barn with lean-to and a red barn with metal roof.



**RIVERFRONT!**



1117 Breezy Point Rd  
St. Andrews  
\$497,500

**NEW!**



28092 74 Road N  
St Clements  
\$330,000

**NEW! 6+ ACRE LOT**



28100 74 Road N  
St Clements  
\$175,000

**NEW! 65 ACRES**



0 74 Road N  
St Clements  
\$279,500

**NEW PRICE!**



355 Purvis Blvd  
Selkirk  
\$429,900

**4 BEDRMS, 2 BATHS!**



3 Willow Avenue  
Matlock  
\$239,900

**3 BEDRMS, 2 BATHS!**



1014 Vaughan Ave  
Selkirk  
\$549,900

**.64 ACRE LOT W/SHOP!**



7716 Henderson Hwy  
St. Clements  
\$244,900

**2.20 ACRES!**



9 Fuller Road  
East Selkirk  
\$109,900

**100' X 120' LOT!**



16 Greening Ave  
Libau  
\$58,995

**SOLD!**



726 Vaughan Ave  
Selkirk  
\$359,900

**SOLD!**



201 Edith Ave,  
Petersfield  
\$39,900



1,481 SF Bungalow



1,365 SF Snowbird



1,420 SF Bi-Level



1,655 SF 2 Storey



1,711 SF 2 Storey

**EMERALD GROVE ESTATES, GIMLI'S NEWEST SUBDIVISION!**

Secure your spot! Home styles & pricing options to suit everyone's needs. FREE appliance pkg for a limited time. Imagine your dream home: thoughtfully designed in the style of your choice set on a spacious lot. Tons of customizable options. Add your personal touch & upgrades to make it uniquely yours. Gimli is more than just a place to live—it's a lifestyle. Vibrant community, beautiful beaches & rich Icelandic heritage. Unique blend of small-town charm & modern conveniences. Relaxed, scenic lifestyle without sacrificing city amenities.



**ASHLEY DOUGLAS, REALTOR® | CENTURY 21 ADVANCED REALTY**

OFFICE: 1415 A HENDERSON HWY, WINNIPEG | OFFICE PHONE: 204.925.7999

Contact me for all of your  
real estate needs!

Call or Text 204.485.4051  
E: [ashley.douglas@century21.ca](mailto:ashley.douglas@century21.ca)  
Follow me on socials!  
@ashleydouglasrealtor

Scan here to view  
all of my listings!



**GREAT LOCATION!**



36 Barbara Bay, Selkirk  
\$359,900

**40 ACRES!**



20040 PR229 Sandy Hook  
\$425,000

**CREEKSIDE ESTATES LOT!**



2 Pearson Parkway, Selkirk  
\$159,900

**35 ACRE CREEK PROPERTY!**



705 CIL Rd, St. Clements  
\$930,000

**DUPLEX REVENUE PROPERTY!**



132 Lorne Ave, Winnipeg  
\$169,900

**INCREDIBLE RIVER LOT!**



81068 St. Peters Rd, East Selkirk  
\$538,500

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

*Dinner Buffet*

**FEBRUARY 14, 4PM - 9PM**

Enjoy a romantic feast this Valentine's Day!  
Join us for an unforgettable dinner buffet,  
featuring delicious dishes to share.



**SOUTH BEACH**  
**CASINO & RESORT**  
*Simply Irresistible!*

DETAILS AT [SOUTHBEACHCASINO.CA](http://SOUTHBEACHCASINO.CA)