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# The Selkirk Record

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

VOLUME 17 EDITION 8

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The Selkirk Legion is welcoming any youth dart players who want to learn the sport to take part in their weekly youth dart league. You don't have to be a member to join the fun, and the program is free. Pictured: The youth darts players lining up their shots. Learn more inside.

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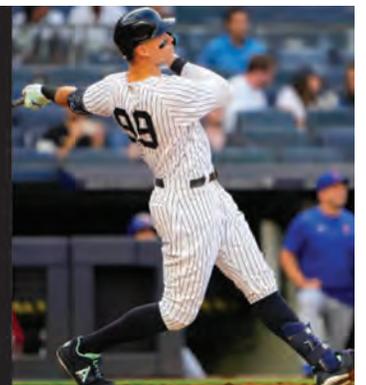


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# Selkirk Legion Youth Darts League welcomes under 18 to take aim

If you're a young person wanting to learn a new sport, consider taking part

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Selkirk Legion (Royal Canadian Legion Branch 42) is a place of gathering for the whole community. The

club welcomes everyone to gather for sports, entertainment and local events. One new way that they are making the space available is by host-

ing a free youth darts league, which many hawk-eyed young people have already started to take part in.

"We got it up and running (last fall). We got the kids involved. I called all the schools and got pamphlets out there, (and) we have the Selkirk Youth Darts page on Facebook," said Lisa Herron, President of the Adult Darts League at the Selkirk Legion.

Steve Renni, Youth Darts Coach, said that this Youth Darts League is completely free for youth between the ages of 10 to 17 to join, and they've consistently had a good group of

about 12 to 14 kids attending their Sunday afternoon practices.

Renni decided to take on the task of coaching the youth darts league when he realized that there were opportunities for kids in darts.

"I had heard that there was a provincial dart tournament for kids, and it was underutilized. There were only like three or four kids that showed up, and I thought we could do better. So, now we have a whole bunch of kids who are going to make it out. The tournament is on March 8, and

Continued on page 4



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

The kids were focused at youth darts practice at the Legion.

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> **YOUTH DARTS AT THE LEGION, FROM PG. 3**

I think we're going to have a pretty solid group from here. And then, plus hopefully the three kids from last year," he said.

This league is actually a bit of a reboot of an older youth darts league that used to take place in Selkirk previously. Now, with renewed effort being put into darts, kids in Selkirk and the surrounding areas have more opportunities to have fun.

"I just thought it's something different to get the kids out through winter. There's hockey and ringette to get kids through winter, and skating, but darts and pool are underappreciated. So, we're trying to get the kids into something new and get them out for a few hours," said Herron.

In addition to the sport being a way to keep the winter boredom at bay, darts is actually a very fun way to reinforce learning that will help kids with some of their school skills.

"There's the obvious hand-eye coordination, there is respect, there's following the rules in place for what they can and cannot do, as far as pulling darts out of the board, and just the etiquette of the game, and the math is a huge one. It's been really good for their math," explained Renni.

For those that may not have played the game before, the math is quite intensive for a game, and there is a reasonable amount of strategy involved with hitting precise portions of the board so that you don't bust and you

have the best shots available for yourself later.

Renni credits the success of the Youth Darts League to the support of the Adults Darts League which is making it possible for the kids to play and learn completely for free and also supporting them in their provincial goals.

Renni said that so far it seems that the young players are having a good time, "There's some competition happening, friendly competition, but I think they're pretty excited to come out, and that's really all you can ask for."

Herron said that, for it being their first year, it's been very busy.

"It's been a great year for starting. We got a lot of kids, more than I thought we would have, and I hope it just grows. We had one of the kids, and she had a friend who wanted to try it out. (And they asked) 'Oh, do you have to register?' And, nope, we said just come and try," she said.

The league is free to attend, and also, if you don't have darts of your own, the youth league has dart sets donated by the adult darts league, so there is no barrier to entry for anyone who wants to join.

The league is now winding down for the summer, but plans to pick up again in the fall.

The group practises on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. in the back room of the Legion where it's quieter.

"If you like some competition and want to have some fun. We're trying to make it as easy to get here as possible," said Renni.

Youth Darts players who have played this year will be going to the provincial



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER AND BRETT MITCHELL

The players were right on target at youth darts practice at the Legion.



championships in March, and then, with any luck, some may make their way to nationals in May.

If you've got any questions or would

like to keep up with the group check them out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Selkirk-Youth-Darts/61580442137535/>.

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# Soft Corners and Hard Edges comes to the Gwen Fox Gallery this month

If you want to check out a show with some shapely art, look no further

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Gwen Fox Gallery is bringing together its many artists once more for a distinctly symmetrical show this March. The Soft Corners and Hard Edges exhibition features art by 33 artists, with every piece being a circle or a square featured at just the right angle.

Brenda Hedberg, Volunteer Coordinator for the Gwen Fox Gallery, explained that the idea behind the show was to challenge the gallery's

members while giving them room to express themselves.

"Everything has to be either square or round, nothing in between, no rectangles, no ovals. That's it," she said.

The 33 artists who participated each had the opportunity to submit up to three pieces of art, so there's a lot of work to see this month.

In addition to the idea being fun for artists, the limitation gives the gallery a fun atmosphere.

"It just gives the gallery a different

look, just like last March was all black and white, and it was a completely different look in the gallery. We'd never had that before. And, again, you come in, and you notice that everything is round or square, and you wouldn't think that it would really make a difference, but it does," said Hedberg.

The gallery is free to visit, and she encourages anyone who's interested in being inspired by art or looking for something to hang on their wall to stop by.

"Come in and see this one, because we're amazed. While we were setting

the show up, we were so amazed at how different everything looks and how beautiful it is. The art that people put into circles and squares is just, it's awesome," she said.

The Record couldn't feature all 33 artists, so below are a small selection of the artists that are on offer.

## Ed Dumanski

Dumanski is a multi-media artist with two square pieces in this month's show.

"I range from watercolour, to acrylic,

Continued on page 6



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Ed Dumanski.

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> GWEN FOX GALLERY, FROM PG. 5

to water-soluble oil, to pencil drawings, to sumi-e—Chinese calligraphy, and a lot of mixed media and collage,” he said.

He explained that nature is what inspires a lot of his art.

“I do a lot of photography, so I translate that onto paper or canvas. My teachers, who I’ve taken classes from or workshops or seminars, inspire me because I enjoy their vision, and I like to learn from them and create my own version of their journey. I’ve had over 30 teachers, so it’s always nice to observe what their journey is,” said Dumanski.

He has two square collage pieces in this month’s show.

“I’ve done one black and white, and then I worked one in coral colours, and the coral colours were very spring and natural. I love them. They gave an organic look to the art. I love the black and white one because it’s so stark and it brings your eye right to the paper,” he said.

As far as his own personal art jour-

ney, Dumanski explained that it started 40 years ago with watercolour.

“After quite some years, I decided to venture into acrylic and oil. You get, not distracted, but you get encouraged, and you get inspired by what you see in other artists and so forth. So, you want to try that. You want to venture out into other venues,” he said.

Dumanski has been an artist at the Gwen Fox Gallery for three years now and makes his way to Selkirk from Winnipeg.

As a longtime artist, his advice to aspiring artists is to learn.

“Take some classes and immerse yourself in what you love and what inspires you. Whether it’s a Canadian artist or if it’s someone online. If you frequent galleries, by all means, whatever takes you on your journey, go with it, and just don’t be afraid to just dive in and experiment. There’s no right or wrong in art,” said Dumanski.

He also recommends that you check out the exhibition this month.

“This place is a gem. It not only showcases Selkirk talent but also the surrounding areas, and it’s quite a beautiful collection of art. The nice thing about the gallery is it changes all the time. It’s always fresh. Every month is an all members (show), or another month it’s a four member show, or specialty shows. We had large format (recently). We had black and white (last year),



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Loris Sargeant.

and now it’s the square and round. So, there’s always something new to look at. And of course, there’s the gift shop,” he said.

Loris Sargeant

Sargeant is a Stonewall pysanky artist who uses the traditional medium mixed with modern influence to create beautiful pieces.

“Most people would know it as Ukrainian easter eggs. But taken it to the next level, is what I’ve done because traditional Ukrainian eggs are done just on chicken eggs or goose eggs, and I’ve really broadened out doing ostrich eggs and doing different designs with it (being) much more modern looking,” she explained.

Her journey to creating pysanky started when she was very young

with her mother.

“I have done eggs since I was probably three or four years old with my mom. Always did them. And my mom taught me how to make the dyes from the natural greens, and the yellows from the onion skins and stuff like that,” she said.

After learning from her mother, Sargeant took time away from the craft after she left home, but came back to it.

“My mom passed, and I had the hardest time with my mom passing. One of the folklore (traditions) is that you put an easter egg on their grave to help them get to heaven,” she explained.

Though she didn’t have any doubt about her mother already making it

Continued on page 7

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> GWEN FOX GALLERY, FROM PG. 6

to heaven, Sargeant felt close to her mother after making the pysanky and has continued to make them ever since.

"I love the history. I love the folklore that goes with it. It's just so much. There's so much to it. It's so interesting. Every day I learn something new about it," she said.

As for this exhibition, Sargeant has brought three of her eggs to the gallery this month. Two are smaller samples, but one is an ostrich egg, which is very impressive.

As for the inspiration for her designs, she says that they come from many places. Her phone is filled with pictures that she takes from a cool design on a co-worker's shirt to a rooster image she saw at a hardware store.

She's so inspired by the pysanky that she doesn't just do the art herself. She also shares her art with others by teaching classes on how to make them. With Easter right around the corner, she's teaching a class at the St. Andrews Heritage Centre on March 21. You can learn more about this class at the St. Andrews Heritage Centre's website at <https://www.standrews-rectory.ca/eventsprograms>.

Her advice for newer artists is to never get mad when you make a mistake.

"A mistake is just the intention of what was written. I always tell (my students) that there is never anything wrong with what you have on your egg, whether your lines are squiggly, whether you've got a blob. You know what? That blob, we can make it into a flower. There's always an intention, and that wavy line, you know what? There's symbolism in a wavy line," said Sargeant.

She hopes that everyone who wants to, finds some time to stop by the gallery this month.

"Enjoy the culture, enjoy the art," she said.

If you'd like to keep up with Sargeant, she's online at <https://prairie-harvestpysanky.square.site/> and on social media at [https://www.instagram.com/prairieharvest\\_pysankybyloris/](https://www.instagram.com/prairieharvest_pysankybyloris/).

**Hope Winfield**

Winfield has brought a single stunning, colourful piece of art to the gallery this month.

"For me, my art is abstract. I like looking at bright colours. I like using media that is recycled, giving new life to materials. I would identify myself as an emerging artist. So, this is something I'm just starting to learn and starting to grow in. But as a military chaplain, for which I have served 23

years now, and I'm looking at retirement coming, this is an opportunity to find a sense of community, sense of healing, (and) to be able to connect with like-minded people," she said.

She uses acrylics for her art, but it's not conventional paint and canvas work.

"I've used acrylics. I like doing collage as well. So I like to be able to either go into a piece letting go of what preconceived notions of what I think it should be, and seeing what emerges, or taking, like collage items and making a picture out of all the chaos," said Winfield.

Her art is inspired by the process as much as the product.

"I've seen the value of the healing benefits of art and the benefits of having a sense of community outside the military. And, I think it's so important to have organizations like this, whether you're retiring, and looking at where to retire, or whether you're where you're newly posted, to be able to find people to learn from (who are) welcoming, affirming people who're willing to share their knowledge of art. And also, I think for me, art is one of those lifelines to something deeper within oneself, and that resiliency," she explained.

Winfield, who is planning to settle into the Gimli area when she retires, explained that her art journey is on the newer side but that she's taken some classes and is happy to start by plugging into the local community.

She's been a member of the Gwen Fox Gallery for about two years, and this is the first group show that she's participated in.

"One of my pieces just happened to be four pieces that made a square. It's exciting that they have different things every month, and it just happened that I had something that fit," said Winfield.

The piece, Freedom, that is in the gallery this month, is perfect for the spring season that is right around the corner with its colour and fun pattern.

"I have two that are a set that are reminiscent of a stained glass window . . . It really started as more of a meditative line, and then filling it in with various colours, and then I have a collage on the other side," she said.

To other emerging artists, Winfield says to be



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

**Hope Winfield.**

easy on yourself.

"Sometimes we're our own worst critics. So just find something immediate that you enjoy and just go for it and don't be worried about any preconceived notions of what you think it should look like, because what's going to happen is what it should be," she said.

She also encourages everyone to check out this month's show.

"It is certainly worthwhile taking the opportunity to come look at and

support local artists. And, I would say to anybody that's military or a veteran in the community that this is a very welcoming and affirming group, and that if you're looking at making a connection, this is definitely a place to explore," said Winfield.

If you would like to visit the Gwen Fox Gallery, they are open Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. and late on Thursdays until 8 p.m. It's always free to stop by.

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## RCMP urge vigilance as Fraud Prevention Month begins

By Haley Cvar

The number of reported scams and frauds in Manitoba continues to climb, siphoning tens of millions of dollars from the bank accounts and wallets of hundreds — if not thousands — of residents each year.

With Fraud Prevention Month now underway, the Manitoba RCMP is reminding the public that fraudsters use a wide range of tactics to separate people from their money.

“Fraud is increasingly a problem in Manitoba, across Canada and around the world,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Cavanagh of the Manitoba RCMP Major Crime Services Cyber and Financial Unit. “We encourage Manitobans of all ages to remain vigilant and do your research before making payments or sharing banking and other personal information, particularly when individuals you don’t know are reaching out in person or online for any reason.”

According to the latest annual report from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, Manitobans reported losing approximately \$31 million to scams in 2024 alone. Officials caution that the true figure is likely far higher, as only an estimated five to 10 per cent of victims report fraud to law enforcement.

Frauds range from relatively simple schemes — such as phishing texts in-

questing payment information for a package never ordered — to increasingly sophisticated operations. Some scams now involve artificial intelligence to create convincing “deep fakes” that lend credibility to bogus investment opportunities.

The most commonly reported frauds in Manitoba include identity theft, false or misleading service-related promotions, and scams posing as investment opportunities.

While seniors are often perceived as the most vulnerable, police say scammers target all age groups. National data shows the average dollar amount lost by victims in their 40s is nearly as high as that reported by victims in their 80s.

Police are offering several reminders to help residents protect themselves:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it likely is. Offers of large inheritances or lottery winnings in exchange for “processing fees” are not legitimate. Nor are buyers who offer more than the asking price for items listed for sale online.
- Be cautious of unsolicited contact. Phone calls, texts or emails from unknown individuals or organizations pressuring you to purchase goods or services you never expressed interest in

should raise red flags.

- Safeguard personal information. Avoid sharing personal details with strangers, particularly over the phone or online. Be mindful of what is posted on social media.
- Verify before you act. A caller claiming to be a grandchild in need of bail money or a company threatening to cut off service over an unfamiliar overdue bill may not be legitimate. Ask detailed questions and, if necessary, hang up and contact the individual or organization directly using a known phone number.

Anyone who believes they have been defrauded is encouraged to report the incident to their local RCMP detachment or police service. Police say reporting fraud can help investigators identify patterns, link suspects and prevent others from becoming victims.

Victims are also asked to file a report with the National Cybercrime and Fraud Reporting System, which serves as a central repository for fraud and cybercrime reports across Canada. Additional information is available through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

## Phishing scam impersonates Manitoba RCMP

By Lana Meier

Manitoba RCMP are warning the public about an elaborate online phishing scam in which fraudsters are impersonating police officers.

Police say the scam begins with a random text message or email sent to an unsuspecting individual. The message includes a link directing the recipient to join a video conference call with someone claiming to be a police officer.

If the link is clicked, the fraudster attempts to convince the individual

they could be arrested unless they assist police by sending gift cards or bitcoin. In some cases, the caller claims there is a warrant for the person’s arrest that can be removed if payment is made.

Over the past two weeks, dozens of individuals have reported being given the Manitoba RCMP’s general line phone number by scammers in an effort to appear legitimate.

Police stress the messages are fraudulent.

The RCMP will never send unsolic-

ited texts or links asking the public to click on them. Anyone who receives such a message is advised not to click the link and to delete the text immediately.

Those who have clicked on the link or provided personal information during a fraudulent online meeting should contact their financial institution immediately and report the incident to their local police service and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

RCMP are also reminding the pub-

Continued on page 11



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TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?

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

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# Not Just Tourists welcoming new volunteers in Selkirk

Looking to be more than just a tourist on your next vacation? Here's how

By Katelyn Boulanger

Not Just Tourists is an organization that helps travellers take part in humanitarian aid while they are taking vacations. The Manitoba hub for this organization is in Selkirk, and the group is looking for not just tourists, but also local volunteers to help them help others.

"Not Just Tourists is a humanitarian medical non-profit organization that brings medical aid around the world through travellers going to different destinations," said Tim Blazanovic, Program Director, Not Just Tourists Manitoba.

The way the program works is that travellers going to places, like Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, just to name a few, will bring a suitcase with medical supplies with them to their destination and then take some time on their vacation to visit pre-arranged clinics, hospitals, or other places where people need medical supplies and drop the suitcase off.

"We have one person right now going to Africa, to Liberia. We've helped the Philippines during different storms, Jamaica, etc. We have a big list on our website of different countries that so far travellers have taken humanitarian medical supplies to," he said.

The idea behind the name is that for that small portion of your vacation, you aren't just a tourist but a humanitarian. Blazanovic explained that participating is pretty simple, you just go to their website, select the Winnipeg chapter, and follow the steps.

Originally, the Manitoba Chapter was based out of Winnipeg, but now the operation is run out of Selkirk.

"We are operating, actually, out of Selkirk. We have a donated space in the church basement there at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, that allows us to use it for storing and packing," said Blazanovic.

Though the church is donating the space for this great cause, the Not Just Tourists group itself is non-denominational and non-political, so everyone is welcome to participate or volunteer.

Blazanovic said that in addition to the traveller volunteers, the group is looking for volunteers from Manitoba to help with packing during the year, which is a fairly low-commitment endeavour as they really just need people to show up and help out a half a dozen times or so during the year. They also accept volunteers who

would like to help run suitcases to travellers or pick up donations.

The group has been quite busy lately, as there was an influx of people bringing supplies to Cuba before flights to that country were cancelled earlier this year. The group is also seeing needs for other places growing, and Blazanovic said that he's had more requests from January until now than they had the entire 2025 year, so the need for more local volunteers and also donations is increasing.

"We've even reached out to a lot of our donors and said, 'Hey, we need anything you can spare, if you have anything,' and now we're reaching out to the public also to ask for donations of medical supplies. We do not accept any kind of narcotics or prescription medications because nobody can cross the border with those, of course, so nothing like that, but gloves, masks, bandages, children's vitamins, children's Tylenol, or Advil, or anti-histamines, especially for children, stuff like that," he said.

He explained that though many people generously want to help financially, they don't take cash donations as they work on a model where they are volunteer-run and only accept donated supplies.

To make it more convenient for those people who want to donate without having to take in cash, they've employed technology to help connect people with the items they most need.

"My Travel and Donations Coordinator started an Amazon account with a wish list of some of these items, including stethoscopes, and (items like) that, because we get people always asking," he said.

In addition to medical supplies, they could also use donations of new or gently used suitcases to help people carry the supplies to their destinations. They've even used old hockey bags before

Blazanovic explained that this work of helping to bring medical supplies around the world, one suitcase at a time, makes a difference because, without supplies, the health care workers are limited as to what they can do to help people, and there might be many different reasons these supplies aren't making it to them.

"They just can't get the supplies, whether it's through policies, regulations, embargoes, whatever have you, they just can't seem to get these supplies (in some places)," he said.



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Not Just Tourists is looking for volunteers to help with humanitarian aid that extends well beyond Selkirk.



If this is something that you'd be interested in participating in, Blazanovic suggests going to their website, [njt.net](http://njt.net), and filling out a Volunteer Form for the Winnipeg chapter, which meets up in Selkirk, the Take a Suitcase Form or the Donate Form, depending on how you'd like to help.

"(For Selkirk volunteering, after filling out the form), our volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you thereafter to help make everyone aware of when a packing party, or whatever else, is going on," said Blazanovic.

He encourages anyone who would like to participate to reach out, as they

are a welcoming group of volunteers and would love for new people to come and help out.

"If you've got a little bit of time, and you'd like to become not just a tourist but be a humanitarian in your spare time, and come, and volunteer and help us out, please come see what we're about. Try it out. It'll make you feel a lot better in your heart knowing that you're helping hundreds, if not thousands of people," he said.

To view the group's Amazon wishlist, you can visit [https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/2BZQFMBRjFY7K?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/2BZQFMBRjFY7K?ref_=wl_share).

# Rounding out I Love to Read month



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

It was a month of extra fun literacy learning in the Lord Selkirk School Division as February was I Love to Read Month. Leaders from all around our community came to Lord Selkirk schools and rounded up the month with reading circles for students. Pictured: A couple of Selkirk Steelers stopped by Ruth Hooker School. LSSD Trustee Jack Bogaski took a turn reading at Ruth Hooker School. Tom Ethans from Take Pride Winnipeg took two stops at Ruth Hooker School and Centennial School, teaching the joy of reading and the importance of helping our Earth by reducing, reusing and recycling litter.



## ISEE hosting virtual sessions to help recognize and prevent child sexual exploitation

By E. Antonio

Interlake Sexual Exploitation Educators (ISEE) are encouraging parents and caregivers to become informed about the realities of child sexual exploitation — particularly in the online world.

The Selkirk-based committee is offering a free virtual presentation for adults exploring the various ways children and teens can be exploited online. The first session will take place Wednesday, March 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., with a repeat presentation

March 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

ISEE is a collaborative committee made up of local organizations, schools, agencies, community groups and concerned residents. The group provides free sexual exploitation prevention resources to adults and youth as part of the Province of Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Strategy, Tricia's Trust.

ISEE co-chairs Jim Dao and Sherisse Picklyk Dear say the committee is committed to educating, supporting and informing community members

about childhood sexual exploitation — both in person and online.

"We want to help kids — and their parents or caregivers — understand this is happening now," Picklyk Dear said. "Not only raising awareness of child and youth sexual exploitation that is happening globally, but also right here in the Interlake."

March marks Manitoba's Stop Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Month, and Dao and Picklyk Dear are encouraging all adults who interact with children to attend one of the two

sessions — regardless of the child's age.

"Even if your child is young, you need to be able to aptly prepare for this," Picklyk Dear said. "Anyone who interacts with kids who use a device should be aware — including school staff, coaches, CFS workers, doctors and relatives."

With experience working in the public sector, both co-chairs say they have seen firsthand the risks youth face

Continued on page 15

# Local grower credits seminar for 1,000-pound pumpkin success

## Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar is March 28 in Miami

By Lana Meier

A friendly neighbourhood bet in Balmoral has grown into a full-fledged giant pumpkin rivalry — and one local grower is crediting a winter seminar for helping tip the scales in his favour.

Travis Williams captured both first and second place in this past season's Balmoral pumpkin growing competition, highlighted by a massive 1,022-pound entry. The success followed his attendance at the Manitoba Giant Growers Association's Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar last year.

"A few years ago, my good neighbour Don Slater and I had a bet to see who could grow the biggest pumpkin," Williams said. "In 2024, five families from Balmoral decided to have a pumpkin growing contest. As the size of the pumpkins got bigger, so did the number of entries."

This past season, nine families entered what Williams describes as a "friendly" competition.

As interest intensified, so did the search for a competitive edge.

"The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar became of high interest for those looking for a competitive edge," he said.

The seminar, which returns March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, features experienced growers sharing techniques on producing pumpkins weighing 1,000 pounds or more.

Williams said the event proved invaluable.

"The seminar is of tremendous value. Arthur Cameron is very welcoming. Milan Lukes is an excellent presenter," he said. "In addition to the table stakes of lots of sunshine, water and space, Milan gave helpful hints on pumpkin placement, plant maintenance and fertility."

Despite the knowledge gained, the growing season came with challenges.

"Pumpkins love sunlight and water. The smoke from the forest fires reduced the amount of sunlight. May, June and July had very little rain," Williams said. "We can water our pumpkins, but irrigation is not a direct substitute for rainwater."

Even so, he knew he had something special in his patch.

"I could see that my pumpkins were much bigger this year, but I was surprised with how much they weighed," he said. "My dad thought we might have underestimated their size when he could feel the weight of the pumpkin on the tractor when we picked them up to move them."

The competition itself added to the excitement.

"It was kind of like a game of poker," Williams said with a laugh. "There was a lot of posturing, embellishing and bluffing throughout the growing season. We never saw each other's pumpkins until the official



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Manitoba Giant Growers Association will host its annual Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, offering tips, techniques and free seeds for aspiring growers.

weigh-off. We then had to show our hands as we weighed each grower's pumpkins one at a time. The Slater barn was filled with music, cheers and laughter."

When the final weights were announced, Williams stood atop the podium — twice.

"It was rewarding to be on the medal podium holding the championship belt with my family," he said. "Marc Van Hussen and family brought home the bronze with a pumpkin that was more than twice the size of last year's winner."

The leap in size from one year to the next was dramatic. In the previous season, the largest pumpkin weighed under 200 pounds. This year, the top three pumpkins tipped the scales at 1,022 pounds, 734 pounds and 414 pounds.

"Everyone grew bigger pumpkins," Williams said.

He strongly encourages others to at-

tend the upcoming seminar.

"Having the correct genetics is super important to grow a giant pumpkin," he said, noting that free seeds are provided. "Art, Milan and other growers are very approachable. The seminar is a must."

For those who may find the idea intimidating, Williams offers simple advice.

"If you're committed to implementing the best practice, be prepared to commit the time," he said. "And remember, no different than farming, that you'll learn something new every year."

The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar runs from 1 to 3 p.m. March 28 in Miami. Admission requires an MGGA membership for growers, while others are welcome to attend by donation. Memberships cost \$10 for individuals or \$15 for families. Free refreshments and snacks will be provided.



Travis Williams, joined by his wife Jamie and family, celebrates at the official weigh-in after their 1,022-pound pumpkin captured first place in Balmoral's friendly giant pumpkin competition.

### > PHISHING SCAM, FROM PG. 8

lic to take precautions to avoid falling victim to online scams. Residents should avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments in unsolicited messages, never send personal or banking information in response to unexpected communications, and verify the source of any message before responding.

Police emphasize they will never ask members of the public to transfer money or make payments using cash,

credit cards, gift cards or bitcoin; provide remote access to a computer; or share personal information such as date of birth, address or banking details by text message.

Anyone who suspects they have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime is encouraged to report it to their local police service and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online at [reportcyberandfraud.canada.ca](http://reportcyberandfraud.canada.ca).

# Get ready to love reading in a bigger space

Submitted by the Selkirk and District Community Foundation

February was I Love to Read Month, but at the Gaynor Family Regional Library (GFRL), love for reading is a year long affair.

The library that serves Selkirk, St. Andrews, St. Clements and the Village of Dunnottar is one of the most well used libraries in the province. If we read the GFRL's story so far, we would learn that it was built 13 years ago and has been a treasured spot for young readers, students and adults whose love of the library necessitated an expansion.

In 2024, there were more than 149,000 visits to the library, more than 5,400 children showed up and 50,000-plus items were borrowed.

When space previously used by the local planning district was vacated, the opportunity arose for the library to expand. The Story Continues – the Gaynor Family Regional Library Expansion Campaign was born and a fundraising effort to hit \$1.3 million in community donations was launched. Member municipalities contributed \$1.2 million of the \$2.8 million project.

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation granted \$100,000 over two years to the library.

Meredith Boerchers, Foundation Executive Director, says the value of the library to the communities it serves is undeniable and data points in the Foundation's Vital Signs 2025 report show that usage of the library has remained constant over the years.

"Vital Signs showed that the number of items checked out from the Gaynor library was 6.4 per capita in 2016 and in 2024 it actually rose slightly to 6.5. In Winnipeg and the rest of Manitoba, items checked out dropped by almost half," Boerchers said.

"That shows that people in our communities make use of the library, enjoy going to the library and will be happy to have more space when the expansion is complete."

The expansion will take the library from 11,000 square feet and 5,000 shared square feet to a total footprint of 22,500 square feet.

Ken Kuryliw, Director of Library Services, says the library breaks old stereotypes of what a library is – sure, you need to exercise a certain amount of quiet consideration for others, but it's more than a study and reading place, it's where the community gathers.

"We're not a shushing library," Kuryliw said.

"Yes, we support literacy and learning, but we're also a place to hang out and escape to and meet friends,

without necessarily needing to spend money."

The expansion will add another 6,000 square feet and include more space for youth programming and events and more study cubbies. It's a massive project that is scheduled to begin at the end of March and wrap up in the fall.

Along with the expansion, there will be improvements throughout the entire space. Tens of thousands of books will be moved and new study areas created and the goal will be to have the library open throughout the vast majority of the construction. It will require staff and users to work and read around the construction, but Kuryliw is hopeful they can do it.

"The goal is to limit library closed days to under 10 over the six months," he said.

Parkwest Projects Ltd., who built the library in 2013, have been awarded the contract to do the expansion. Phase 1 and 2 will both be done this year, along with other improvements to the parking lot, accessible walkways for the decks and interior blinds.

Kuryliw said support for the project came from many directions.

"The incredible community support from donors, municipalities and the Province of Manitoba made this project possible. We have basically reached our fundraising goals with only \$10,000 of the \$2.8 million left to raise in 2026," Kuryliw said.

"This amazing project would not have been possible without the amazing support of the Selkirk & District Community Foundation and critical community donors that helped encourage the municipal and provincial support. We are very excited by the expansion and what it means for the region and can't wait until the fall."

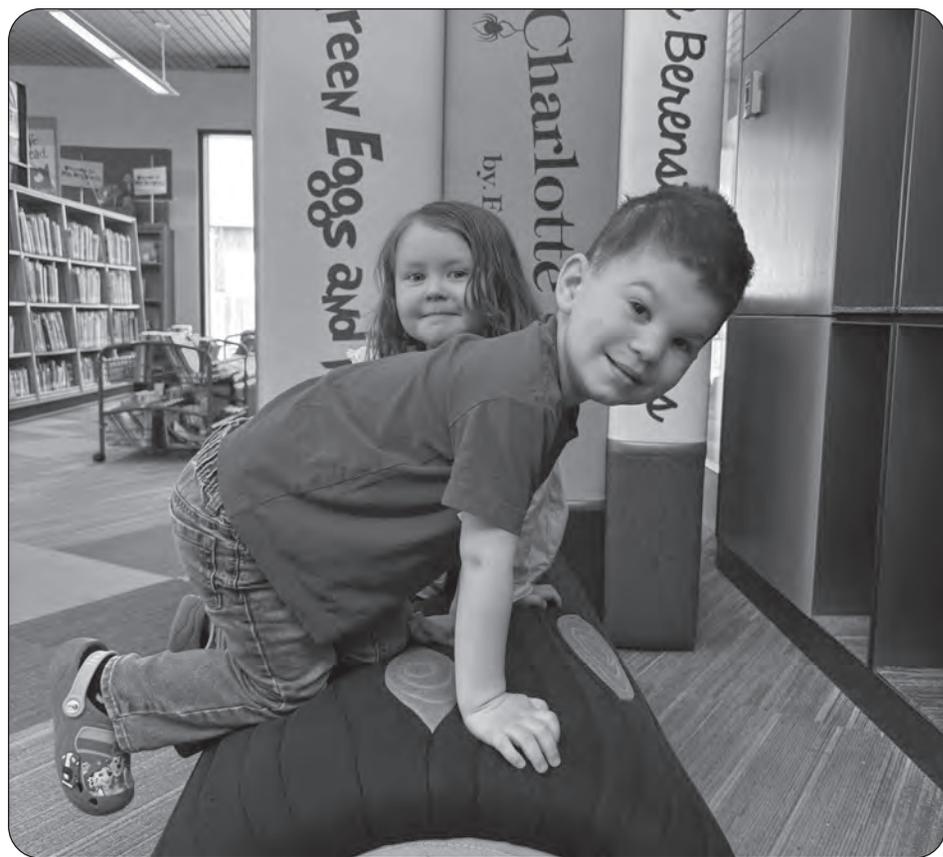
SDCF funds support learning and literacy all year long. There are four designated funds at SDCF that support the GFRL. They are:

**Libri Fund:** Supports general operations, collections management and capital projects at the Gaynor Family Regional Library

**Mooring-Griffioen Selkirk Library Fund:** Supports inter-library loan services and costs, and/or adds to book collections at the Gaynor Family Regional Library.

**John Mytz Memorial Fund:** Supports general operations, collection management and capital projects, at the Gaynor Family Regional Library

**Lawrence Paquin Estate Fund:** Provides assistance to the Gaynor Family Regional Library and the Marine Museum of Manitoba (Selkirk).



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The library is a welcoming place for kids already and with the expansion to the children's section getting underway soon, parents are going to have a hard time getting their kids to leave.

## Watch party at Legion



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

It was a heartbreaking defeat for Canada's men's hockey team on Feb. 22 when they fell in a 2-1 overtime loss to the United States' team in the final of the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. Pictured: The Selkirk Legion saw a crowd come together for a watch party in support of the Canadian team who took home the silver medal.

# Legion stoked for Up in Flames performance



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Up in Flames brought the heat when they played at the Selkirk Legion recently. The band includes members Real Jolicoeur on rhythm guitar and vocals, Ken Wiebe on lead guitar, Joe Bukoski on bass guitar and vocals, and Andrew Palanuk on drums and vocals, with Paul Bedard as backup drums and Josh Deserranno as backup on bass when needed. Three of the group's main cast are firefighters when they aren't rocking stages in the region, so Up in Flames seemed like the perfect name for the group. They started their journey as a group at a talent show at Clandeboye Hall and now play a mix of upbeat newer country, classic rock, and a mix of 90's music at weddings, campgrounds, formal dinners, fundraisers, fairs, private parties, Legions, rodeos, and more.



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# Napier Emergency Consulting providing expertise and boots on the ground

By Patricia Barrett

As part of 115th annual International Women's Day on March 8, the *Record* is celebrating women whose work helps people in the Interlake and who've made a significant impact in their industry.

Shelley Napier is the managing director of Napier Emergency Consulting, teaching people how to prepare for and survive an emergency.

Prior to setting up her consultancy, Napier worked with the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization before retiring in 2017.

Napier identifies risks, creates emergency plans and provides training for specific emergency situations that can range from floods, severe winter storms, tornados, wildfires, community evacuations and shootings.

Napier has overcome a number of challenges working in a male-dominated industry and has made a name for herself. She is a much sought after expert in her field.

"As a woman in this business, I've learned that you're going to have your challenges. You have to be willing to be strong and have your voice heard, and find a way to make that happen by being respectful, by building a good team and by working together," said Napier, who has decades of emergency management experience and is a founding member of the annual Manitoba Disaster Management Conference.

"You've got to deal with people where they are. It's not my job to change anyone's mind. It's my job to try to educate people and allow them to see how much stronger their community or organization can be if they implement the emergency plans and processes we teach them."

Napier delivers training to emergency managers across Canada, Indigenous communities, municipalities and other organizations. She works on getting people to the stage at which they can take charge of whatever emergency they happen to find themselves in and execute a carefully considered plan tailored to their unique physical location.

Those plans are very detailed and can include knowing exactly how many cars can fit on a ferry at one time when an island community has to be evacuated, how many boats a lakeside community has that can be used for escape, identifying how much gasoline a community has at one time, identifying muster points or staging areas for evacuation where a head count can be done, identifying escape routes for several thousand people attending festivals such as the Icelandic Festival in Gimli or the Corn



**PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLEY NAPIER**  
Shelley Napier has earned several awards for her emergency management work, including a King Charles III Coronation medal. She works with communities, businesses, organizations, academic institutions and First Nations across Manitoba, Canada, as well as overseas.

and Apple Festival in Morden.

Napier's consultancy team is made up of professionals with specialized areas of expertise. They're academics who bring emergency management research and best practices to the table, and practitioners who've had their boots on the ground during emergencies - a team Napier calls "pracademics." The team includes "really strong women."

"We do phenomenal work. When I look at what we do and what we produce, everything is individually tailored and everything meets the clients' needs," said Napier. "We work on emergency topics that no one has really has looked at; there's not been a lot of work done on those with physical disabilities. And we work with numerous Indigenous communities across Canada, helping them build emergency programs. They're on the front line, and oftentimes they're unable to get help quickly if they're located in remote areas."

Climate change can be a challenging topic for emergency managers; the trend towards more severe weather events and disasters may not necessarily be viewed by some in the context of global warming.

"We can call it weather that is very different from what it used to be, or we can call it climate change - it doesn't matter. But I think we have to acknowledge that there are more frequent weather emergencies happening," said Napier. "We're having earlier and earlier fires burning. Last year [one of Manitoba's worst wildfire seasons] was not a one-off. I think we're going to see that again and again."

Emergencies in Manitoba may, in the



Napier found herself in lockdown in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, last month when cartel members with guns staged violent demonstrations in the streets of the popular tourist destination and set fire to Pemex stations.



Napier said 69 Oxxo convenience stores were destroyed in last month's cartel attack on Puerto Vallarta. From an emergency management standpoint, Napier said alerts in multiple languages should have been issued so that visitors could understand what was happening.

public's mind, be primarily associated with weather. But Napier said it's not beyond the realm of possibility to imagine mass shootings here along the lines of that in Tumbler Ridge, B.C., or in Nova Scotia where a gunman disguised himself as an RCMP officer and killed multiple victims.

"I think a lot of the events happening around our country are a wake-up call," she said.

Ironically, Napier found herself in lockdown last month when she was in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, at the time members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel staged violent demonstrations in the wake of the government's capture of their leader, Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes (El Mencho). Mayhem ensued in the streets of the popular tourist destination, with cars and buses commandeered and set on fire, as well as trucks carrying petrol. Oxxo convenience stores and Pemex gas stations were destroyed.

Looking at the riot and its aftermath from the perspective of an emergency manager, Napier said communication

from the top could have been much better. She struggled to understand instructions in Spanish to not leave her unit and had to use Google Translate.

"I think a proactive approach would have had [emergency alerts in] multiple languages so visitors could understand what was going on. That can reduce fear and start to calm people," said Napier. "This was new for Puerto Vallarta. And there was a lot of AI-generated information that was not accurate."

Europe is a good example where public messages are relayed in multiple languages, she said.

She has worked with the Canadian International Development Agency overseas managing emergencies, with NATO, and in countries such as the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and in Asia.

"One of the things I recognized early on in my international work was how grateful I am to be Canadian be-

Continued on page 16

## > ISEE INFORMATION SESSION, FROM PG. 10

online and the importance of digital safety. Picklyk Dear described as “horrible” the things predators can do to youth online.

“They are master manipulators, they are tech savvy — they know exactly what they are doing,” she said.

The presentation will outline what online child sexual exploitation can look like, how to speak with children appropriately about the topic, and what resources and supports are available. Short videos will help participants better understand real-world scenarios, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

Dao noted exploitation can begin slowly through everyday online chats on a variety of platforms, including Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok and online video games such as Roblox.

“At the end of the day, predators will turn the conversations to a sexual nature, and the goal will be to acquire pictures or videos,” he said. “Most caregivers are not tech savvy and don’t know what’s happening online or how to keep kids safe. Kids are left

to deal with the online world themselves, and they don’t know the dangers and risks. Predators will target these kids.”

He described the online world as a predator’s “new playground.”

“When they are young, we teach kids about safety. We put on their seatbelt, put on their life jacket or helmet — now we need to make sure kids are taught safety in their new online playground.”

While acknowledging the subject matter can be difficult, Picklyk Dear and Dao emphasized their goal is not to alarm families, but to equip them with knowledge and tools.

They say “awareness is key” when it comes to addressing child exploitation and stress the importance of open conversations between caregivers and children.

“We need to talk about it,” Dao added. “We never want to brush it under the carpet.”

In addition to the March sessions, ISEE offers free school presentations to students in Grades 7 to 12 through-

out the year. These sessions cover topics such as exploitation, grooming, luring, cyberbullying and consent, using youth-friendly language and interactive discussions.

Advance registration is required for the March 11 and 12 parent and caregiver presentations. Adults can register through the Microsoft Form linked via the QR code on the event poster. Each participant will be entered into a live draw for a \$50 gift card.

Due to the sensitive nature of the content, children should not attend the virtual presentation, either alone or alongside an adult.

For more information, to access resources, or to schedule a presentation, visit [www.interlakesee.ca](http://www.interlakesee.ca) or follow ISEE on Instagram (@iseeinterlake) and Facebook.

An 18+ presentation. Follow us on Instagram @iseeinterlake for any and all updates.

### ISEE Parent & Caregiver Online Presentation

In acknowledgement of the Provincial Stop Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness month, the Interlake Sexual Exploitation Educators (ISEE) committee is hosting FREE virtual presentations to parents & caregivers! The 2h presentation will explore the various ways that children & teens can be exploited in the online world. Parents learn the dangers of popular social media and how it can put kids at risk for sexual exploitation and affect their mental health. By providing information and strategies, we hope to empower caregivers to help keep kids safe. Awareness is key!

**FREE ENTRY**

MARCH 11: 1:00-3:00PM  
MARCH 12: 6:30-8:30PM

Visit our website [www.interlakesee.ca](http://www.interlakesee.ca) for more info and FAQs for the presentation!

Scan the QR code to RSVP your attendance to a ZOOM presentation!

CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD FOR ATTENDING!

**PHOTO SUBMITTED**  
Interlake Sexual Exploitation Educators (ISEE) offer free resources and learning opportunities about child sexual exploitation.

# VIDIR HERO SCHOLARSHIP

for all Vidir Employees' Children in Grade 12

A core value at Vidir is that Education Elevates Excellence. We also believe in Raising Others Up, especially our employees and their families. We want to see the future generation continue to learn and elevate both the Interlake and the world. Vidir is now offering two \$1,000 scholarships to children of Vidir employees.

**Application deadline is April 30th, 2026 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2026.**

**To apply, you must meet these criteria:**

1. Your parent must have worked at Vidir for 5 years or more and must be in good standing with the company.
2. You are graduating grade 12 this year in any high school.
3. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

**When applying:**

1. Fill out the scholarship application.
2. Submit most recent transcript.
3. Submit a recommendation letter from a non family member regarding what you want to study and why you will do well in it.
4. Submit 2 essays:
  - 1st essay: 600 words on a Vidir value, why you think you exemplify it, and how you hope to use your studies and that value to make a difference in the future.
  - 2nd essay: 500 words on a time where you saw a need in your community and an innovative solution you came up with to meet that need.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD EMAIL [JODI.LEEKAEMINGK@VIDIR.COM](mailto:JODI.LEEKAEMINGK@VIDIR.COM) FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

MARCH 2 - 8, 2026

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**\$139,000**

> **NAPIER CONSULTING, FROM PG. 14**

cause we do emergency management really well at home," she said. "We don't have a top-down system in Canada: we have a bottom-up system that's driven from a municipal level where a timely awareness of what's happening can help avoid damages."

In addition to training municipal and community leaders how to handle various events, Napier said it's important to also "build public education" whereby people become more aware of how they can prepare and help themselves should an emergency arise. That messaging should be delivered frequently to the point where it really sinks in.

"What can you do to prepare yourself? You can prepare a go bag of essential items. You can identify neighbours who might need help. You can implement a buddy system in your neighbourhood. You can't expect a council in a small municipality with few resources and staff to be able to do everything," said Napier. "We need to start implementing better public education. That could be handouts reminding people when we're in fire season. People should know access and exit points. Make this so common

that it starts to sink in."

She heard stories from last year's wildfires that people didn't know they had to evacuate because they were in an area with no cell towers, she said. But they should have been given enough public messaging beforehand to make them aware of risks during fire season and to know how to get out.

"Maybe you want to have a satellite phone. You want to have your ID, medication, important documents and change of clothing in a go bag," she said. "If this message is delivered every fire season, it becomes muscle memory."

Part of emergency planning in communities can include identifying volunteers to be part of a response team, holding town halls where emergency planning is publicly discussed or arranging presentations from emergency management experts.

Napier said she tries to make emergency preparedness training fun for communities, and some of the tools she uses are games such as "Hazard Bingo" with emergency supplies as prizes.

"We try to make it so that the public is excited to try to build a safe community," she said. "That happens through knowledge-sharing and from backing from a municipal council."

Napier said the training uptake from councils has been "amazing." She cited The RM of Grahamdale and Victoria Beach - which is a peninsula surrounded by boreal forest - as being "so tuned in" to emergency planning and what sorts of programs they can implement to reduce the risk of fire damage.

And she has emergency exercises planned this month with the RM of Armstrong.

In addition to in-person emergency management training, Napier offers monthly online workshops through her website. Called LearnEM Academy, the workshops are hosted by emergency management practitioners from across Canada.

Napier said she absolutely loves her job and the rewards it brings.

"This has never been work for me. I love what I do. I love the people I work with. I learn something new from each client. And I've made so many friends across the country," said Napier. "I feel very honoured to be given a chance to help somebody build an emergency management program for themselves. It's never been monetary for me; we do some pro bono work in certain situations. If it's going to save a life, I will help. I will help as long as I possibly can."

# Low-to-moderate risk of spring flooding predicted across Manitoba

Submitted by the government of Manitoba

Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's Hydrologic Forecast Centre reports the risk of spring flooding

is low to moderate for most Manitoba rivers heading into the spring runoff period.

Spring flood risk remains largely de-

pendent on weather conditions from now through the melt period, including additional snowfall and spring rainfall, as well as the snowmelt's

timing and rate.

Most Manitoba lakes are expected to remain within desired operating ranges after spring runoff and the risk of flooding along Manitoba lakes is low.

A moderate risk of flooding is in effect for the Red, Pembina, Assiniboine, Souris and Qu'Appelle rivers, the Interlake region including the Icelandic and Fisher rivers, and portions of the Saskatchewan River in northern Manitoba. A low flood risk is in effect for Red and Assiniboine river tributaries including the Rat and Roseau rivers. Eastern Manitoba, including the Winnipeg River basin and Whiteshell lakes area, and most Manitoba lakes have low risk of spring flooding.

Current basin conditions indicate generally low to moderate spring runoff potential. Soil moisture at freeze-up was near normal to below normal across most of Manitoba, winter precipitation has ranged from near normal to below normal in many regions and soil frost depths are generally shallower than normal, allowing greater infiltration of meltwater. Snow accumulations are generally within the normal range, except for parts of southern Manitoba where

Continued on page 25



**Branch 042 Selkirk**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

### Cornhole Tournament

**Saturday, March 14**  
 Registration: 5:00-5:30 PM  
 \$10 per person • Maximum 20 teams  
 Blind draw • 100% payout  
 Sign-up sheet on bulletin board  
 For more information: Ryan - 204-869-9548

### Hockey Trivia Night

**Saturday, March 21 - 7:00 PM**  
 \$10 per person  
 Blind draw teams • 100% payout

### Pickeral Fish Fry

**Saturday, March 28 - 6:00 PM**  
 \$20 each (available at the bar)  
 \$5 rebate to members showing 2026 membership

**Selkirk Legion, Branch 042**  
**403 Eveline Street, Selkirk 204-482-4319**



## SELKIRK UNITED CHURCH is seeking a CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

to manage church office operations and provide administrative support to the minister, the Board, and church committees.

This position is responsible for day to day office administration, record keeping, communication, and coordination of meetings, events, and facility use. The Administrator serves as a primary point of contact for the church and supports efficient, professional operations.

Hours are flexible and follow the ebb and flow of the United Church calendar.

**Key Responsibilities**

- Office administration, records, and correspondence
- Supporting the minister, Board, and committees
- Preparing bulletins, newsletters, and reports
- Coordinating meetings, events, and facility bookings
- Maintaining confidentiality and organized systems

**Qualifications**

- High school graduation
- Strong administrative and organizational skills
- Computer proficiency
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- United Church experience is an asset

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[sucsearch2026@gmail.com](mailto:sucsearch2026@gmail.com)  
 Deadline to apply is March 2, 2026



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**SAVE \$5**  
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8-12 BREASTS 1.36 kg

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**Haddock Tenders**  
8-12 PIECES 454 g

**SAVE \$3**

**Flatbreads**  
460 g - 515 g  
Choose from 4 varieties.

**SAVE \$3**

**Pizza Rolls**  
8 PIECES 460 g  
Choose from 2 varieties.

**SAVE \$2**

**Sausage Rolls**  
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**INCREDIBLE PRICE**  
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**Chicken Pad Thai**



**Cabbage Rolls**

**SAVE \$1.66**

**INCREDIBLE PRICE**  
**3<sup>33</sup> each**



**Stuffed, Breaded Chicken** 142 g

Choose from:  
• Broccoli and Cheese • Kiev • Parmesan • Swiss



**Bistro Chicken** 114 g

Parmesan

Swiss Ricotta & Spinach

**APPETIZERS & SNACKS**

**SAVE \$2**

**12<sup>99</sup> each**

**SAVE \$4**

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**Fried Battered Mushrooms** 300 g



**Jumbo Coconut Shrimp**  
16-19 SHRIMP 340 g



**Dry Garlic Pork**  
50-70 PIECES 600 g



**Sirloin Beef Meatballs**  
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**PARTY PACKS**

**SAVE \$3**

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**Asian Party Pack**  
38-46 PIECES 632 g



**Puff Pastry Quartet**  
32 PIECES 576 g



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32 PIECES 740 g



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LIMITED TIME ONLY

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13-16 PIECES 454 g

**SAVE \$7.50**

**MIX AND MATCH**

**Mozzarella Sticks**  
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# St. Andrews artist featured in Soulful Seasons: Transitions of Change in Winnipeg

## Jordan Miller has solo exhibition at 210 Gallery

By Katelyn Boulanger

If you like paintings with spontaneity, flow, and landscapes that keep you looking for more, you'll want to stop by 210 Gallery in Winnipeg while Jordan Miller's exhibition Soulful Seasons: Transitions of Change is taking place.

"For this particular exhibition and my last couple of exhibitions, I've kind of been working towards abstracting the landscape in terms of more of an emotional response to the environment that is around in the area, or things that I have seen where the pieces could be literally anywhere. It's sky, grass, water, lakes, those kinds of things, but it's not a specific place," Miller explained.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Miller with her alcohol ink work.

Her abstracted landscapes are created with layered alcohol ink and acrylic mark-making, reflecting on transition, resilience, and change.

"I used to travel across Canada with my parents, so I saw a lot of common elements in the environment that have always inspired me," she said.

The exhibition opens on March 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. and closes on April 4.

Miller will be in the gallery on Saturdays (March 7, 14, 21, 28) from 12 to 4 p.m. as well as April 3 and 4 (12-4 p.m.).

She plans to have 33 pieces in this exhibition and a further 15 pieces in the gift shop, and is excited to be able to get them up on the wall.

"When I take them out of the box, when I go to hang the show, I celebrate all the work that went into them. You just kind of need that little bit of time away from them to really appreciate them," she said.

This exhibition is all landscapes, which is different than her last one, which was the final exhibition at Cre8tery in Winnipeg, the gallery that she owned before transitioning to being a full-time artist and mentor.

Though she has examples of her work online, Miller welcomes residents to check out the art in person, saying it's a different experience.

"When it's in a gallery, you walk through, you really get that feeling of what it looks like, what it feels like, that sensation that you're standing there with," she said.

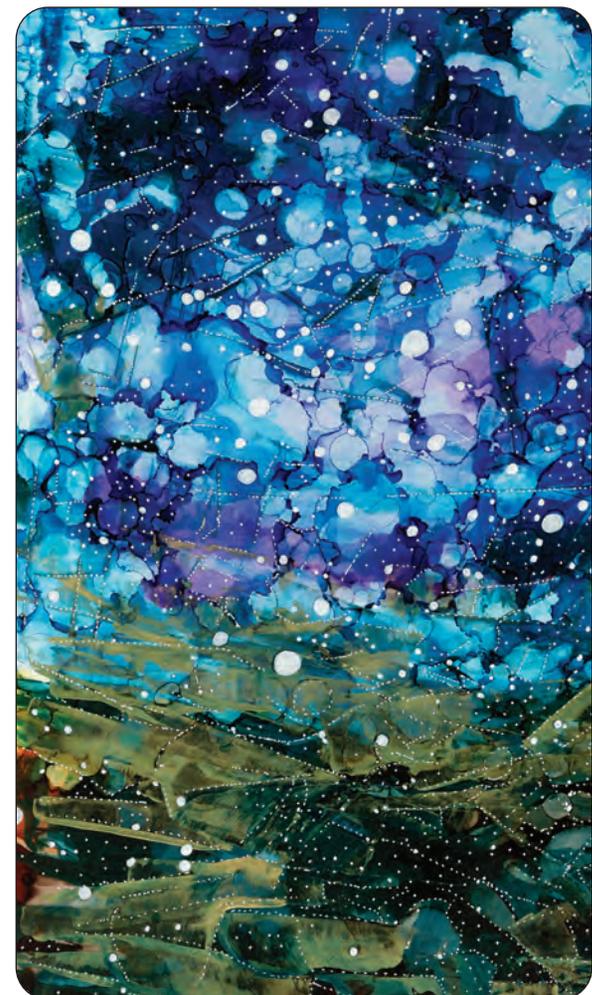
She hopes that when visitors are at the gallery, they enjoy their time.

"I just hope it makes them happy and feel good. There's a lot of (stuff) in the world. There's a lot of hard times out there. Everybody seems to be struggling, that I know, with their health or their finances or just whatever they might be struggling with, family, friends. I just want people to feel calm when they walk in there and just appreciate beautiful pieces," said Miller.

She encourages anyone interested to check out the exhibition.

"I just want people to come and enjoy my work and sort of celebrate it with me absolutely," she said.

Continued on page 23



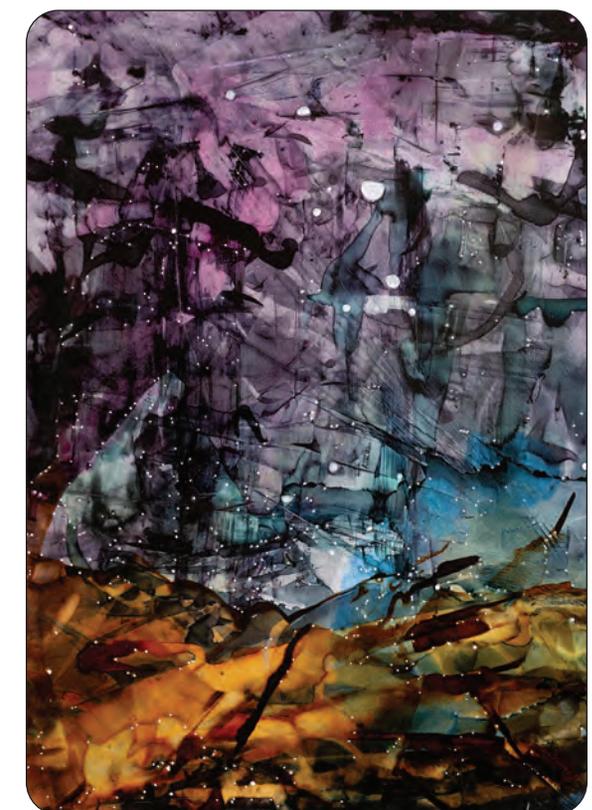
RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Most Beautiful Blues by Jordan Miller



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fruit Punch Packs a Punch by Jordan Miller.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Masts of Memory by Jordan Miller.

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**SEE YOU AT THE CURLING CLUB THIS WINTER 381 Jemima St. Selkirk**



# YEAR IN REVIEW | 2025



## Welcome to the 2025 Year in Review

What a year it has been in the RM of St. Clements! As we begin a new year, we're excited to share the stories, milestones, and moments that made 2025 memorable. From new facilities and heritage projects to emergency response efforts and community events, there's plenty to celebrate. This Year in Review reflects the progress we've made together, the projects that improved daily life, the programs that brought people together, and the efforts that kept our community safe and thriving. It's also a chance to recognize the dedication of staff, volunteers, and residents who make St. Clements such a special place to live.

From celebrating milestones like the St. Clements Activity Centre to responding to challenges like the Libau wildfires, 2025 highlighted the resilience, creativity, and spirit of our community. Flip through these pages to see how your municipality has grown, evolved, and come together over the past year—we hope it leaves you informed, inspired, and proud of the community we call home.

## Council Updates & Community Leadership

Throughout 2025, Council focused on leadership, partnerships, and initiatives that support the well-being of the community and the responsible management of municipal resources.



### Water Stewardship

The RM proudly recognized Robert Belanger, founder of Red River Operation Clean Up, who received the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Endowment Fund Grant for his dedication to water stewardship. The organization focuses on improving water quality and protecting the Red River through debris removal, riverbank restoration, and community-led conservation efforts. This marked the first time the RRBC awarded the grant to a grassroots organization, recognizing the significant impact of locally driven initiatives to protect and preserve the Red River. The award highlights the importance of community leadership and environmental stewardship within the RM of St. Clements.



### STARS Support

Council also demonstrated ongoing support for regional emergency services by contributing to STARS Air Ambulance, reinforcing the importance of life-saving services that serve St. Clements and surrounding communities.



### Library Expansion Launched

Municipalities within our Library Region, including the RM of St. Clements, the City of Selkirk, the RM of St. Andrews, and the Village of Dunnottar, came together in 2025 to sign a new regional agreement, officially launching the library expansion campaign. This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to strengthening library services and ensuring long-term sustainability for residents across the region. The project supports continued access to education, literacy resources, and inclusive community programming for people of all ages.

## Recreation, Culture & Community



### St. Clements Activity Centre

Significant progress continued in 2025 toward the completion of the St. Clements Activity Centre, a \$6 million community investment on a 10-acre site designed to support recreation, programs, and gatherings for residents of all ages. Construction milestones were reached throughout the year, bringing the facility closer to opening. Site improvements include \$2.7 million dedicated to water features, playgrounds, and paved walking trails, improving accessibility and creating a safe, welcoming space for recreation and community use. The facility will provide versatile programming space for all ages, supported by an annual \$200,000 contribution to recreation reserves. The Activity Centre represents a long-term commitment to active living, connection, and inclusive community spaces within the RM, with a grand opening anticipated this spring.



### Old St. Jude Restored

This 130-year-old building was saved from demolition when the RM took ownership in 2014 and designated it a Heritage Site in 2018. Lovingly restored by the Friends of Old St. Jude, careful work to maintain the building's original features ensures it remains a lasting symbol of the community's history. The RM celebrates its past and provides residents and visitors with a tangible connection to the heritage that shaped St. Clements.



### Red River Paddle Challenge

Outdoor recreation and regional connection were highlighted through the Red River Paddle Challenge, an annual event that brings paddlers of all ages together to enjoy the river's natural beauty. The challenge promotes active living, tourism, and community engagement while celebrating the Red River and surrounding environment. The event also underscores the importance of preserving and respecting local waterways for future generations.



### Highland Gathering

The 57th annual Highland Gathering once again welcomed residents and visitors to East Selkirk Legacy Park, celebrating Scottish heritage, history, and culture. Attendees stepped back in time through historical villages, living history demonstrations, and reenactments, while enjoying traditional heavy games, dancing, food, and music. Supported by local historical groups, the Gathering continues to be a unique cultural event that fosters community pride and regional tourism.



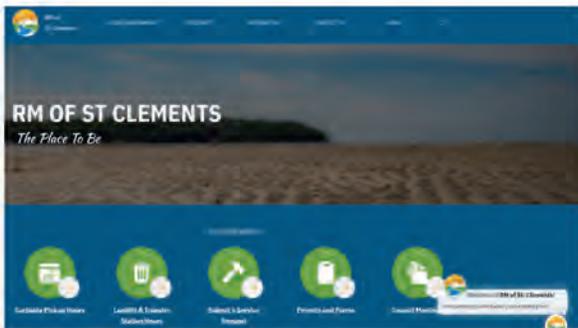
### Trail System Revitalization

In 2025, the RM undertook important maintenance and improvements to its walking trail system to enhance safety, usability, and appearance. Approximately 5 km of trails across the municipality were treated to control weeds, and gravel surfaces were reclaimed and refreshed, improving walking conditions for residents. A tender will also be issued for ongoing trail maintenance as needed, helping ensure local trails remain accessible, safe, and enjoyable for everyday use.



### Recreation Programs & Community Events

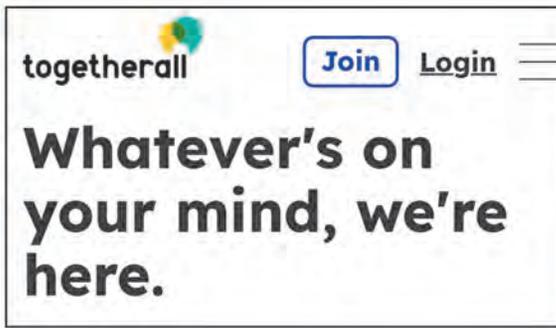
Recreation programming remained a strong focus in 2025, thanks in large part to the work of Taylor, the RM's Recreation Programmer, who moved on to a teaching position at the end of August. Throughout the year, Taylor delivered a wide range of successful and well-attended programs and events, including a Spring Market, Intro to Beekeeping, Maple & Mushroom workshops, Trivia Night, Paint Night, and an Outdoor Movie Night. She also hosted the annual RM Open House, and coordinated a First-Time Home Buyers Workshop. The Summer Camp program, which Taylor revitalized when she began with the RM, returned once again in 2025, continuing to provide engaging programming for local youth. Her creativity, dedication, and impact on community programming were felt throughout the year.



### Staying Connected

In 2025, the RM of St. Clements continued to strengthen communication with residents by improving access to information, expanding outreach tools, and encouraging community participation. A major milestone was the launch of the new municipal website, designed to be more user-friendly and accessible. The updated site improved navigation, simplified form submissions, and created a centralized hub for news, alerts, council information, and community updates, while new formats such as AI-generated podcasts and video updates offered additional ways for residents to stay informed.

The RM also expanded communication through RM Connect, helping ensure residents receive timely updates, reminders, and important notices related to municipal services, public works projects, emergency notifications, and community events throughout the year.



Mental health and community wellness were also a priority in 2025 with the RM's partnership with Togetherall, providing residents with free, confidential online mental health support. This partnership expanded access to resources and support for all residents of all ages.



Community engagement was further encouraged through a Resident Photo Contest, which invited residents to share images showcasing life in St. Clements. The contest highlighted local scenery, events, and everyday moments, celebrating the unique character of the community while strengthening connections between residents and the municipality. Many of the resident-submitted photos are proudly featured throughout this Year in Review newsletter.



### New Entrance Signs

In December 2025, the RM began installing new entrance signs at 12 key locations throughout the municipality, welcoming residents and visitors alike. Inspired by Council's vision for a warm and inviting entrance, the signs improve visibility and wayfinding while serving as a symbol of community pride and connection across St. Clements. Each sign also includes space for fire ban notices, helping ensure important safety information is clearly communicated during periods of elevated fire risk.

### Q-Alert

The RM also continued to promote QAlert, a user-friendly tool that makes submitting service requests easier than ever. Whether reporting an issue, requesting a service, or sharing feedback, QAlert ensures concerns are received, tracked, and addressed in a timely manner. Building on this system, the RM is working toward launching a municipal app in the coming year to expand features and improve access to services. QAlert's reporting capabilities also help the RM better track and analyze requests internally, supporting service delivery and planning across the municipality.

## Water & Utilities

### Beaconia Well

The Beaconia Well has been at the centre of significant activity throughout the year. Originally drilled in 1964, well before modern groundwater regulations were established, the free-flowing artesian well has long served as a valued source of fresh water for residents and cottagers alike.

However, its uncontrolled flow and aging infrastructure put it in contravention of the Groundwater and Water Well Act, and on February 18, 2025, the Province of Manitoba issued a formal well sealing order requiring decommissioning by September 2, 2025. The RM engaged in extensive dialogue with the Province, exploring options including reclassifying the well as non-potable or building a compliant fill station, but provincial regulations ruled out several alternatives. With the deadline looming, the RM secured an extension and moved decisively into action: Maple Leaf Drillers was brought on site in late August to drill a replacement well, with engineering firm Dyna-Pro Environmental Safe Drinking Water Solutions designing a new turnkey fill station. The goal throughout has been to preserve the spirit of the original Beaconia Well, a safe, accessible place for residents to fill jugs and pails, while bringing the system into full compliance. Water quality testing will guide the final design, and the RM remains committed to keeping residents informed every step of the way as this important community resource is renewed for the future.

### Regional Water & Wastewater Expansion

Water and sewer collaboration with the RM of East St. Paul is also underway, with both councils passing resolutions to plan and cooperate wherever possible. These partnerships reflect a philosophy that scarce infrastructure dollars go further when municipalities work together, while environmental risks from aging private septic systems are better managed. Having aligned their planning for many years, neighbouring municipalities are now sharing systems rather than building them in isolation. For residents of St. Clements, this means a utility network that is steadily expanding, becoming more resilient, and laying the groundwork for residential and commercial growth in Lockport, East Selkirk, and South St. Clements.

The RM's multi-phase water and wastewater program continues to modernize and expand regional infrastructure. Phase 1 (2021) upgraded the East Selkirk Water Treatment Plant and Henderson Wastewater Project, while Phase 2 (2023) connected East Selkirk to Lockport and replaced the aging Lockport Sewer Plant. In 2025, Phase 3 was approved, including a new Lockport reservoir, well field expansion, and a waterline beneath the Red River to connect with the RM of St. Andrews. Supported by provincial grants and regional partnerships, these projects strengthen system resilience, support growth, and ensure efficient, shared infrastructure for residents and neighbouring communities.



### AIS

The RM also received Provincial Government funding to support Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) initiatives, strengthening prevention, monitoring, and education efforts to protect local waterways and ecosystems.



### Lead Testing

Free lead water testing was offered to residents hooked up to East Selkirk Water as part of its ongoing commitment to water safety and public health. This initiative provided residents with peace of mind and valuable information about their household water quality.

## Infrastructure & Environment



### Roadwork Upgrades

Road improvement remained one of the RM's continued commitments in 2025, with a total investment of \$3.76 million directed toward major hard-surface road projects. The priority list this year included Rebeck Road (Coronation to McKay), Quarry Road, and Donald Road (Henderson to Rebeck). This work also marked the completion of the RM's multi-year commitment to rebuild previously hard-surfaced roads in need of full reconstruction, a cumulative investment of approximately \$3.5 million. In addition, Council

continued increasing day-to-day road and drainage maintenance for the drainage brushing budget increase by \$30,000 for the second consecutive year (reaching \$70,000), roadside mowing was increased to allow for deeper ditch cutting, and gravel road maintenance, dust control, and additional gravel work received a \$315,000 boost for 2025, bringing total roads maintenance spending to \$1.685 million. Ongoing drainage projects in locations like Ashfield Road, Coronation Road, Church Road South, and Sinclair Avenue in Grand Marais are also moving forward, with some awaiting drainage licensing from the Province. Looking further ahead, Council approved a strategy to incrementally increase the mill rate dedicated to hard-surface roads by 0.1 mills per year over 10 years, building toward a stable, long-term road funding model. A major traffic safety improvement project includes a roundabout in East Selkirk that is underway at an estimated cost of \$2 million



### Public Works Fleet Renewal

In 2025, the RM continued to invest in Public Works capital equipment to support reliable service delivery across the municipality. Major purchases included a new grader (\$565,000), a new loader (\$360,000), a used highway tractor (\$70,000), a pickup truck (\$55,000), and a used end-dump trailer (\$30,000). These investments reflect the RM's ongoing commitment to maintaining a modern and efficient fleet to support roads, infrastructure, and municipal operations.



### 2 Billion Trees

The RM participated in the 2 Billion Trees Program. This federal initiative aims to plant 2

billion trees across Canada in 10 years. In 2025, the RM planted approximately 120 trees, mostly in the East Selkirk area. These trees were provided at no cost to the RM supporting long-term environmental sustainability and contributing to tree planting efforts that enhance ecological health and community green spaces.



### Libau Landfill Expansion

Significant progress was made on the Libau Landfill expansion in 2025, helping ensure the

RM is prepared to meet future waste management needs. Substantial completion was achieved on a new engineered waste cell featuring a dual liner containment and leachate collection system. The Regional Class 1 landfill continues to serve not only the RM of St. Clements, but also the RM of Lac du Bonnet, RM of Brokenhead, Town of Beausejour, and Brokenhead Ojibway Nation communities. Design work was also completed to expand the facility's leachate management system, with construction of a new leachate management cell planned for 2026.



### Housing and Community Development

In 2025, Council approved new residential development projects in East Selkirk aimed at supporting continued community growth and housing availability. A 110-unit multi-family rental development, consisting of 55 duplex buildings, received approval and will provide landscaped rental housing options to help meet increasing demand within the region. Construction also continued on a 56-unit row housing development located adjacent to the RM Municipal Office, with completion anticipated in 2026.

Council also approved a new commercial development in East Selkirk that will expand local services and business opportunities. Planned Phase 1 development includes a full-service gas bar, National coffee chain, hand-wand car wash, and a retail and professional strip mall with space for medical, professional, and small retail businesses. A future Phase 2 proposes additional office space and a restaurant or grill, supporting long-term economic growth and increased amenities for residents within St. Clements.

## Protective Services

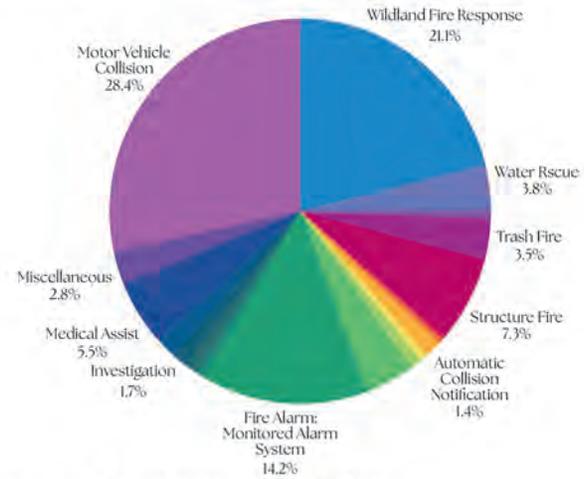


### Wildfire Response & Community Resilience

In May 2025, the RM of St. Clements experienced a significant wildfire in the Libau area, sparked under dry conditions and rapidly spreading through grass and brush near Road 91 N and Road 32 E. Fire crews from the East Selkirk, Narol, and East Beaches fire departments responded alongside neighbouring departments, provincial air support, and conservation services.

Residents were asked to avoid the area as crews worked to contain flare-ups, protect properties, and monitor fire movement. Through coordinated efforts on the ground and from the air, the fire was stabilized over several days, with no homes lost and continued monitoring to ensure public safety.

Throughout the season, the RM implemented a municipal fire ban due to elevated risk, prohibiting outdoor burning while providing regular updates to residents. The response highlighted strong regional cooperation and the dedication of emergency personnel, whose coordinated efforts, supported by community vigilance, helped minimize impacts during a challenging wildfire season.



### Emergency Response at a Glance

In 2025, Fire Services responded to 307 emergency calls across the RM of St. Clements. Wildfires accounted for a significant portion of these responses, reflecting the challenging fire season experienced locally and across the province. All three fire halls remained extremely busy throughout the year, responding to a wide range of incidents and demonstrating the dedication, coordination, and resilience of our emergency responders in protecting residents, property, and natural areas.



### Strengthening Protective Services

This year, the RM continued to invest in emergency services and fire protection across the municipality. More than 10 new firefighter recruits joined our teams, strengthening capacity within our fire departments, while recruitment efforts remain ongoing, including with the East Beaches Fire Department, to maintain reliable emergency coverage.

Emergency response capabilities were further enhanced with the addition of two new fire department command units, representing a capital investment of approximately \$1.3 million. These units improve on-scene coordination, communication, and operational efficiency, allowing fire crews and partner agencies to respond more effectively to complex situations.

Another highlight was the delivery of the Wildland/Grass Fire truck for the Narol Fire Department, a capital investment of approximately \$115,000. Nearly built from the ground up and completed within budget, the truck strengthens the RM's ability to respond to wildfires and other emergency situations.



### Closing message from Mayor & Council

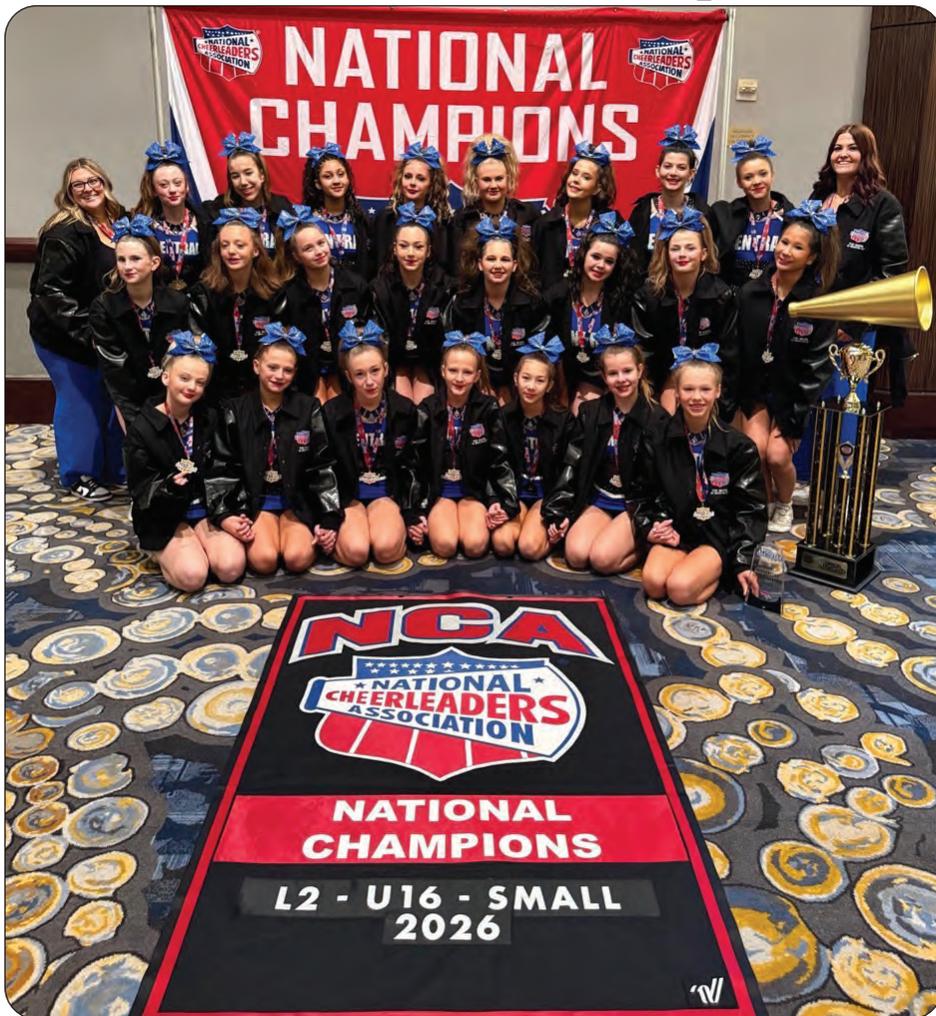
As we reflect on 2025, Council is proud to recognize a year marked by significant investment and progress across the RM of St. Clements. Major improvements were made to roads and drainage infrastructure, alongside continued advancement of regional water and wastewater projects, including Phase 3 of the South St. Clements Regional Utility and construction of a replacement Beaconia Well to ensure long-term water access for residents.

Recreation and community development also remained a priority, with the St. Clements Activity Centre nearing completion and expansion work completed at the Libau Landfill to support future regional needs. Investments in municipal equipment, fleet renewal, and fire services strengthened service delivery across the municipality, all while achieving a 13% reduction in the municipal mill rate through responsible financial management.

Council extends sincere thanks to residents, volunteers, and community partners whose support continues to shape St. Clements into a strong, connected, and growing community. It is an honour to serve and help build the future of our municipality together.

On behalf of the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements - Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn and Councillors Glen Basarowich, Sandra Strang, Scott Spicer, Robert Belanger, Dave Sutherland, and David Horbas

# Local athletes capture NCA national cheer title



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of Team Icons won the U16 Level 2 Small division at the NCA All-Star National Championship in Houston, Texas last weekend. The Manitoba squad moved from fifth place after Day 1 to first overall with a hit-zero routine on Day 2. Pictured are coach Joan McNeilly of Selkirk (back row, far left), Arianna Manness of Stonewall (back row, beside McNeilly), Molly Beachell of Rosser (front row, far right) and Roxanne Rulan of Matlock (back row, fifth from left).

By Lana Meier

Several local athletes are national champions after their team delivered a stunning performance at the NCA All-Star National Championship in Houston.

Competing in the U16 Level 2 Small division, Team Icons of Central Cheer entered Day 2 of the prestigious event sitting fifth overall before delivering a “hit zero” routine — meaning no deductions — to vault into first place with a score of 97.15 out of 100 and claim the championship.

The NCA All-Star National Championship is widely regarded as the world’s largest and most prestigious all-star cheerleading competition. Branded as “The Work Is Worth It,” the event typically features more than 1,300 teams and attracts over 65,000

attendees annually, bringing together athletes from more than 39 U.S. states and nine countries. Winners are awarded championship titles, jackets and the coveted Golden Megaphone trophy.

This year marked a milestone for Manitoba, as a team from the province competed at NCA for the first time.

Among the champions were Molly Beachell of Rosser, a high flyer; Arianna Manness of Stonewall, who competes in the base position; Roxanne Rulan of Matlock, a back spot; and coach Joan McNeilly of Selkirk.

Team Icons’ dramatic comeback on the national stage capped an unexpected but historic victory for the Manitoba squad.

## > SOULFUL SEASONS BY JORDAN MILLER, FROM PG. 18

You can see some examples of Miller’s work online on her website (<https://www.jordanmiller.com/>) or Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/jordanmillerartist/>), but make sure to see the exhibition in person, as she doesn’t have her work up her

website just yet, so the whole show will be new to see.

You can also visit Miller’s website if you are an artist wanting to tap into the many years of experience that she has as a gallery owner as she also offers consulting services.

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Application deadline is April 30th, 2026 and decision will be released on May 9th, 2026.

To apply, you must meet these criteria:

1. You are an Interlake high school student graduating grade 12 and going into a Vidir-specific post-secondary area of study (examples include welding, engineering, machining, accounting, business, marketing, HR, etc.).
2. Must have maintained an 80% or higher GPA throughout high school.

When applying:

1. Fill out the scholarship application.
2. Submit most recent transcript.
3. Submit a recommendation letter from a non family member regarding what you want to study and why you will do well in it.
4. Submit 2 essays:
  - 1st essay: 500 words on why you love the Interlake and your chosen career path and how you think you will make a difference in the Interlake in the future.
  - 2nd essay: 500 words on either an innovation, safety measure, or community service or activity that you feel would benefit the Interlake and how you would propose making that happen.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD EMAIL  
[JODI.LEEKAEMINGK@VIDIR.COM](mailto:JODI.LEEKAEMINGK@VIDIR.COM)  
FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



# Veteran hunters push back on proposed swan, dove seasons

By E. Antonio

Retired Manitoba wildlife biologists and longtime hunters are urging Ottawa to reconsider a proposal that would allow tundra swan and mourning dove hunting seasons in the province as early as 2028.

The proposal would allow up to 400 tundra swan permits to be issued annually in Manitoba, aligned with existing fall migratory bird hunting timelines. Permits would likely be distributed through a random draw using an electronic licensing system. The proposed daily bag limit is one tundra swan per permit, with hunters restricted to a single permit per season. According to information published by the Government of Canada, officials estimate approximately 148 individual hunters would ultimately harvest a tundra swan each year.

In Manitoba, however, opposition is coming not only from non-hunters, but from veteran wildlife biologists, conservation educators and lifelong hunters who argue the proposal is unnecessary — and potentially harmful.

Ted Muir, a former Manitoba Wildlife educator, founding lead at Oak Hammock Marsh and lifelong waterfowl hunter, said he was stunned when he first heard of the proposal.

“As a naturalist and waterfowl hunter, I was completely taken aback,” he said. “We are blessed in Manitoba to have a bounty of waterfowl hunting opportunities — especially in the prairies. There is absolutely no need to introduce these new seasons.”

Muir’s greatest concern centres on trumpeter swans — a species that was once nearly wiped out across much of North America. Recovery efforts began in earnest in 1988 when Minnesota’s Non-game Wildlife Program launched a restoration initiative, incubating and raising birds at the

Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. Over the years, those efforts have helped nesting pairs gradually re-establish themselves in Manitoba, including in areas such as Hecla Island, Oak Hammock Marsh and Delta Marsh.

Tundra and trumpeter swans can appear strikingly similar, particularly at a distance or in shifting light. While experienced observers can distinguish them — trumpeters are generally larger, with longer bills and subtle differences in facial markings — critics argue that in real-world hunting conditions, mistakes are possible.



A mourning dove perches on a fence post in Manitoba. The species is among those being considered for a potential hunting season under a federal Notice of Consideration.

“Introduction of this new swan hunting season could reverse the positive gains that have been made to restore trumpeter swans to their historic range,” Muir said.

The United States already permits hunting of tundra swans and mourning doves in some jurisdictions with higher population densities. But Muir believes Manitoba does not need to mirror American policies.

“Just because they do it doesn’t mean we have to,” he said. “Trumpeter swans are a valuable resource in Manitoba, attracting residents and visitors who travel far and wide to view these magnificent birds on many of Manitoba’s wetlands.”

He emphasizes he is not opposed to hunting. As a hunter himself, he says ethical harvest and conservation are core values of the tradition. What concerns him most is the potential for misidentification — and the risk of damaging public trust in the hunting community.

“Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should,” he added.

Hannah Boonstra, spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), said tundra swan and mourning dove hunting seasons have not yet been introduced as formal regulatory changes. The department is currently reviewing feedback after outlining the potential additions in its Notice of Consideration.

She explained that Canadian hunting regulations are reviewed and amended every two years, with input from provinces, territories and other stakeholders.

“When a new hunting season for a species that is not currently har-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Delta Marsh provides vital habitat for swans, ducks and other migratory birds. Critics of a proposed tundra swan hunting season say protecting long-term species management must remain a priority.



A tundra swan (left) and a trumpeter swan are shown side by side. Retired Manitoba wildlife biologists say the two species can appear strikingly similar in field conditions, raising concerns about potential misidentification if a tundra swan hunting season is introduced.

vested in a jurisdiction is under consideration — as is the case for tundra swan and mourning dove — it is first posted as a Notice of Consideration for the Canadian public to review and comment on,” she said. “If the season is pursued, it is posted as a regulatory proposal two years later for public comment and may contain adjustments that reflect comments or concerns received during the first public consultation.”

In addition to public feedback, ECCC considers population trends and statistical data when determining whether to proceed.

Dr. James Duncan of Balmoral, former director of Manitoba’s Wildlife and Fisheries Branch and a lifelong owl researcher — as well as a deer hunter — views the proposal through a broader conservation lens.

He notes that federal avian studies continue to show long-term declines in many bird species, particularly grassland and insect-eating birds.

These trends are shown in the 2024 Bird Canada Study with 36 per cent of Canadian species declining since 1970 with grassland, insectivorous and shorebird species hit the hardest.

While duck and goose populations

remain relatively strong, he questions whether expanding game species should be a priority.

The Government of Canada website notes, “Not all waterfowl are adequately surveyed using breeding ground surveys because of issues related to distribution, density and timing of surveys relative to arrival of birds on breeding grounds,” adding that tundra swans are more effectively monitored through winter surveys. The survey used to track the eastern tundra swan population is conducted mid-winter in parts of southern Ontario, as well as along the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways.

According to the Management Plan for the Eastern Population of Tundra Swans, the objective is to maintain a three-year population index of at least 80,000 birds. The current three-year average (2023 to 2025) is 92,755.

For mourning doves, population statistics were drawn from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) between 2007 and 2015. During that period, the survey estimated Manitoba’s breeding population at approximately one million birds — about 15 per cent of

Continued on page 25

## > HUNTERS PUSH BACK, FROM PG. 24

the national total. The Government of Canada website also states, "Since 1970, there has been no detectable long-term trend in the abundance of Mourning Dove's in Manitoba's portion of [Bird Conservation Region (BCR)] 11, which is the core of the species range in the province. However, the BBS shows a significant short-term increase (1.8% per year, 2012 to 2022) in the number of breeding Mourning Doves in the Manitoba portion of BCR 11."

These population trends, meanwhile, still don't justify newly regulated hunting seasons to the opposed hunters.

"Most people consider mourning doves to be songbirds," Duncan said. "They're associated with peace. Swans, meanwhile, are delicate and beautiful birds. Is it really worth it for the limited number of people who would actually harvest them?"

Duncan also points to the success of Minnesota's trumpeter swan recovery efforts, calling them exceptional. Introducing a hunt for a nearly identical species, he suggests, feels counter-intuitive.

"Even experienced observers can

find it challenging in certain conditions," he said. "Why take that risk?"

As a deer hunter, Duncan says he understands the role hunting can play in conservation and food security.

"I take great pride in responsibility for the land and animals," he said. "I'm getting a fresh source of local, healthy food, helping manage populations and supporting the economy. But for these birds? I think we should remain watching them."

Warren resident Doug Langrell, an educator, orchardist and lifelong hunter, described his reaction to the proposal as a mix of curiosity and discomfort.

"Through my hunting career, I've never considered either of these species as game birds," he said. "I think of ear-pleasing tunes and beautiful ballets in the sky — not meat."

Langrell questions whether harvesting swans or mourning doves serves any meaningful purpose in modern Manitoba.

"I doubt very many people need swan meat to survive," he said. "It feels irrelevant in this day and age."

Stonewall's Murray Gillespie, a retired provincial wildlife biologist and

former game bird manager with more than 45 years of experience tracking bird populations, also questions the necessity of the proposal. He said the introduction of a tundra swan hunting season would lead to an "incidental harvest of trumpeter swans," risking setting back population numbers again. "Local nesting trumpeters would especially be vulnerable to harvest under the terms of this proposed season," he added.

He notes that Manitoba already provides ample waterfowl hunting opportunities and emphasizes the province's importance within continental migratory corridors.

"We are stewards of the land and resources," Gillespie said. "Any decision that might pose a threat to long-term species management needs to be looked at carefully and not taken lightly. Stakeholder consultation needs to be part of the process of developing new hunting seasons."

All of those speaking out stress that they are not anti-hunting. Instead, they say the issue comes down to conservation priorities, ethical considerations and maintaining public confidence in wildlife management.

They are encouraging Manitobans

— hunters and non-hunters alike — to share their views with federal and provincial leaders as consultations continue.

"The government is giving us an opportunity to respond," Duncan said. "It's important that we exercise our democratic rights and express our thoughts and feelings about it."

A provincial spokesperson with the Province of Manitoba is aware the federal government is seeking public comment for the proposed hunting seasons and said, "The province looks forward to the opportunity to review the results of this federal engagement."

Letters can be submitted or emailed to federal and provincial ministers at: Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of the Environment, and Climate Change and Nature House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6, julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca, and Honourable Ian Bushie, Minister of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Room 301-Legislative Bldg, 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8, minnrif@manitoba.ca. Public inquiries can also be made to ECCC at 1-800-668-6767 or enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca.

## > MODERATE FLOODING RISK FOR RED, FROM PG. 16

snow accumulation remains below typical values for this time of year.

Lake levels across the province are within operating ranges. Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba are well-below normal for this time of year, and inflows into most major lakes are expected to be below seasonal normals, reflecting generally drier-than-normal conditions across contributing river basins.

The Red River Floodway is not expected to be operated under normal or favourable weather conditions but may be operated under unfavourable conditions to reduce water levels within the city of Winnipeg. The Portage Diversion may be operated under unfavourable weather conditions or to mitigate ice-jamming on the lower Assiniboine River. The Shellmouth Reservoir is being operated in consultation with the Shellmouth Liaison Committee to reduce downstream flood risk while maintaining water supply and recreation objectives.

Outflow from the Shellmouth Dam is expected to increase to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the previous 768 cfs. A further increase to 1,300 cfs will happen as part of normal winter operations. This increase is expected to cause up to a two-foot rise in water levels along the Assiniboine River from Shellmouth to Brandon. The rise will diminish as the river approaches Winnipeg.

Ice-cutting and breaking activities are underway along the Red River to reduce the risk of ice-jam flooding. There is also risk of flooding on other rivers that are historically affected by ice jams including the Saskatchewan, Carrot, Swan, Icelandic and Fisher rivers.

Ice conditions and spring weather will play a key role in determining breakup timing and localized flood potential.

Spring flood risk will continue to depend on weather conditions through the melt period. As temperatures warm and ice strength deteriorates, Manitobans are reminded to stay off waterways, rivers and retention ponds.

The Manitoba Emergency Management Organization continues to work with local authorities, First Nations and emergency management partners to prepare for potential spring flooding. This includes reviewing emer-

gency plans, sharing information, and preparing resources for flood response, as well as co-ordination with Indigenous Services Canada and Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations for First Nations and northern communities.

An updated flood outlook is expected to be released in late March.

The 2026 spring flood outlook report is available at: [https://gov.mb.ca/floodinfo/pdf/2026/february\\_2026\\_flood\\_outlook\\_report.pdf](https://gov.mb.ca/floodinfo/pdf/2026/february_2026_flood_outlook_report.pdf).

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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

## St. Patrick's Day Stew

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley  
Sprinkle beef chunks with 1 teaspoon salt. In large pot over medium-high heat, heat olive oil.

Pat beef dry with paper towels and add to pot, working in batches to avoid crowding pot. Cook until browned on one side then flip and brown.

Add garlic cloves to pot with beef and saute 30 seconds, or until fragrant. Add beef stock, water, beer, wine, tomato paste, sugar, thyme, Worcestershire sauce and bay leaves. Stir.

Bring mixture to simmer then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

In separate pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions and carrots; saute until golden, about 15 minutes.

After beef mixture simmers 1 hour, add onions, carrots and potatoes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Simmer uncovered until beef and vegetables are tender, about 40 minutes. Discard bay leaves and spoon excess fat.

Sprinkle with parsley and serve.  
Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Recipe adapted from Simply Recipes  
Prep time: 30 minutes  
Cook time: 1 hour, 40 minutes  
Servings: 6  
1 1/4 pounds marbled chuck beef stew meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks  
1 teaspoon salt, plus additional to taste, divided  
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
6 garlic cloves, minced  
4 cups beef stock  
2 cups water  
1 cup extra stout beer  
1 cup red wine  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 tablespoon dried thyme  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
2 bay leaves  
2 tablespoons butter  
1 large onion, chopped  
4 carrots, cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
3 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch pieces  
freshly ground black pepper, to taste



## Luck O' the Irish Cupcakes

Preheat oven to 350 F and arrange rack in center of oven. Line 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners. In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

In large bowl, using handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat granulated sugar and butter until light and fluffy, 3-4 minutes. Add egg whites and vanilla; beat until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add sour cream and beat until combined.

Add half of dry ingredients to wet ingredients. Beat on low until incorporated. Add milk and beat to combine. Add remaining dry ingredients and beat until combined.

Add batter to liners until three-quarters full. Bake 19-22 minutes, until slightly golden on top.

Remove cupcakes from pan and cool completely.

To make frosting: In large bowl, using handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter until fluffy. Add powdered sugar and beat until combined. Add heavy cream, vanilla and salt; beat until combined. Mix in green food coloring.

Transfer frosting to piping bag and pipe frosting onto cupcakes.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Recipe adapted from Delish  
Prep time: 30 minutes  
Cook time: 1 hour  
Yield: 12 cupcakes  
Cupcakes:  
1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 cup granulated sugar  
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
3 large egg whites, at room temperature  
1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract  
1/2 cup full-fat sour cream, at room temperature  
1/2 cup whole milk, at room temperature  
Frosting:  
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
4 cups powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons heavy cream  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt  
green food coloring  
To make cupcakes: Preheat oven to 350

## Three signs you're not eating enough carbs

By Fitness Expert Julie Germaine Coram

Carbs are a hot topic in diet culture, particularly with the keto diet. This approach to nutrition has been quite successful for individuals with weight-loss goals; however, many find that upon reintroducing foods such as fruit, bread or pasta, the scale climbs right back up again. This yo-yo dieting is not only frustrating, but unhealthy.

You need carbohydrates. They are your body's preferred source of energy — carbs are digested into simple sugars that fuel you throughout your busy day. Your workout requires energy, of course, but so do your workday, family life and even your time asleep. If you are not eating enough carbohydrates, you may experience negative side effects associated with deprivation, such as:

**Brain fog** — If you feel sluggish and sleepy during the day, you may not be consuming adequate carbohydrates. This obvious sign is important to acknowledge, as you cannot be your best self if you are unable to focus, have headaches or feel mentally exhausted.

**Anger issues** — Being quick to anger or easily irritated can indicate that you are lacking calories in the form of carbohydrates. Serotonin production is directly affected by carbohydrate intake. Serotonin is the hormone that helps us feel happy and content.

**Digestive issues** — Fibre, a non-digestible form of carbohydrate, is found in foods such as vegetables, fruits and whole grains. When you limit these foods in your regular diet, you deprive your body of nutrients that help you feel full after a meal and aid digestion. Without fibre, you risk feeling bloated or constipated, as it is essential for proper digestion.

The best way to reverse symptoms such as those listed above is to monitor your diet and take note of how many carbohydrates make it onto your plate. Canada's Food Guide suggests that a quarter of your plate should come from whole grains and about half from fruits and vegetables — is that what your meals look like?

Stop seeing carbs as "good" or "bad." Instead, pay attention to the timing of your energy-boosting meals (earlier in the day) and your food



Fitness Expert, Julie Germaine

choices (non-processed whole grains and fresh produce).

Discuss your health goals or fitness struggles by scheduling a free online consultation at [www.calendly.com/juliegermaine](http://www.calendly.com/juliegermaine) or email [julie@juliegermaine.com](mailto:julie@juliegermaine.com).

Coach Julie Germaine Coram is dedicated to lifelong health. She is an active mom, registered personal trainer, two-time pro fitness champion, certified nutrition expert and fitness specialist. She has helped thousands worldwide improve their health since 2005.

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# Local companies recognized in Innovation Showcase

By Lorne Stelmach

Three local companies were honoured as Innovation Showcase winners at the recent Manitoba Ag Days in Brandon.

The event featured 28 new products or services in seven categories, and the south-central region was well represented.

In the agricultural equipment category, the CornerStone planter ready row unit created by North Valley Precision Planting located in the Homewood area earned top honours.

Representative Andrew Kippen said it came from a fairly basic idea to help producers.

"We wanted to showcase what North Valley can do with old equipment, so we rescued an old planter ... stripped it down, painted it and made a bunch of different adaptors and mods to fit with all the new tech," he said.

They then took the idea further and created a blueprint for installing it onto equipment.

"We mentioned it to a couple of customers who are actually on the Ag Days board, and they said that's a real innovation there and you should showcase it," said Kippen.

"The whole idea is if you're happy with what you have today, let's retrofit and customize and make it fit," he added.

He said there has been a lot of good positive response so far.

"It might not be a build we would do for everyone, but it kind of shows that you can take something that's 50 years old and make it into something that's new," said Kippen. "New equipment is not cheap ... so this is an option for guys who kind of want the new tech but don't want to spend that kind of money."

In the farm safety category, the fence line mower created by R-Tech Industries, also in the Homewood area, received accolades.

Representative Josh Hennan said their innovation also came from a fairly basic need, especially for cattle producers.

"If you have the grass get long and start touching the line, it will short it out, and it will lose its voltage," he explained. "Right now, people are just using weed whackers; that's the main way to do it ... but to go out and weed whack miles of fence line is a little crazy."



The fence line mower created by R-Tech Industries was recognized in the farm safety category in the Innovation Showcase at Ag Days.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The CornerStone planter ready row unit created by Homewood's North Valley Precision Planting earned top honours in the Manitoba Ag Days Innovation Showcase agricultural equipment category.

They created something that will do the job quicker and more efficiently for producers.

"It's a simple idea for sure, and they do exist in Europe, but it just seemed you couldn't really find them out here in North America."

He saw a need for this relatively straightforward innovation here in southern Manitoba especially, and he appreciates receiving the recognition.

"It's good. It gets our name out there ... it's especially about safety," he said.

Hennan said they have been receiving good initial response to their product.

"Here's some people who came to Ag Days just to look at it, so there is a need for it," he said, noting they only did testing over last summer and started taking orders at Ag Days.

Another honour in the agronomics category went to the Feed Eazy Pro 3020 tub grinder produced by Kanpar / Allagparts located in the RM of Stanley.

The tub grinder arose through a partnership with a company based overseas that had been distributing a model of a tub grinder.

"They decided they needed to beef their machines up, so they designed their own unit and strengthened the areas where they had issues, and we were able to import these machines into Canada now at over \$20,000 savings over the competition," explained sales rep Todd Botterill.

"It's a stronger machine," he said, noting its advantages include not only its ruggedness but its

price as well.

"Cattle producers looking to increase the quality of their feed and using vertical mixers might need stronger equipment and need up to an hour to an hour and a half to chew up a bale," he explained.

"So it's a lot of wasted time and horsepower ... with a tub grinder like ours, we can use a 170 to 200 horsepower, and it takes five minutes to chew up that bale.

"We're in a more competitive price point. It makes it more feasible for smaller operators to use this machine and improve their feed quality and not spend as much to do it."

Botterill noted the Manitoba Ag Days is the perfect forum for companies like them to showcase what they can offer to producers.

"It's a great program that they have, and the publicity that we get from it helps a lot."

First-place winners in the showcase received \$500 and a \$1,000 advertising credit, while the runners-up received \$250 and a \$500 advertising credit.

A spokesperson for Ag Days said it is always rewarding to see the level of innovation that Manitoba companies put in to making things easier and better for producers in the province.

"Farmers really want to see what is new and how it might work for them. They like the opportunity to see products first hand and ask specific questions," said Dwayne Leslie, Manitoba Ag Days innovation showcase committee chair.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Royals taking positives from opening tournament into new season

By Kieran Reimer

16U Royals taking positives from opening tournament

Winter volleyball season is underway across Manitoba, and the Selkirk Royals Volleyball Club is looking to make a splash.

The 16U Royals boys got their first taste of action last week when they hosted their annual Selkirk Royals Boys Volleyball Club tournament at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School. The team played several split sets en route to a fifth-place finish.

Head coach Jamie Evans of Lockport saw her 13-player roster show early promise.

"I think the biggest positive was that these boys were encouraging each other and stepping up in roles that they don't otherwise typically have to play," said Evans.

"One of our two setters played as an outside hitter and had a phenomenal attacking kill average, which was fabulous. One of our middle hitters, who doesn't usually pass a ball in serve receive, had one of our best passing averages. So we saw some really great things come out of unexpected places, which just really motivates all of them to work that much harder at what they do."

The club was also without a couple of players, in part due to injuries, which made those stepped-up performances even more critical.

The Royals carry one of the larger rosters in the province, with two players coming from the Lord Selkirk

varsity boys team and the remainder from junior varsity programs at Lord Selkirk and other schools.

They practise three to four times a week, while also working on strength and conditioning at local gyms. The group has been together since January following December tryouts.

The coaches and players are familiar with one another from the 2024 Manitoba Summer Games, where they represented Team East Region.

"They're a great group of boys. They're very encouraging of each other, eager to learn and soak up what we teach them — both my two assistant coaches and myself. They are quickly catching on to different pieces, so really the sky's the limit on how far they can go," said Evans.

She said the players have set a goal of placing in the top three at a tournament before the 2026 Volleyball Canada Youth Nationals in May.

The 16U boys national championship is scheduled for May 29-31 in Calgary.

"They are looking to increase their attack kill averages, their serving averages and their overall serve receive as a team to be one of the strongest defensive teams in the province," said Evans.

Until nationals, the Royals will continue tournament play every other week and mix in exhibition games along the way.

Volleyball Manitoba is expected to release its rankings in the coming weeks.



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Royals' Kypdyn Hopkins drops low to dig a hard-driven ball during tournament action at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, as teammates look on.



Abinet Pruden elevates to set the ball for the 16U Royals



Connor Evans rises for a powerful spike



Tate Hofer drops low to bump the ball for the 16U Royals

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Petersfield athletes earn top finishes at Prairie RockFest

By E. Antonio

Interlake curlers went head-to-head with the Prairies' best at the U15 RockFest Prairies in Moose Jaw after earning their spots through a provincewide skills competition.

In total, 96 athletes aged 11 to 15 from Manitoba and Saskatchewan took to the ice, showcasing their skills and passion for the sport. RockFest is a national youth development initiative hosted by Curling Canada, designed to help young athletes learn, grow and compete in a fun, supportive environment.

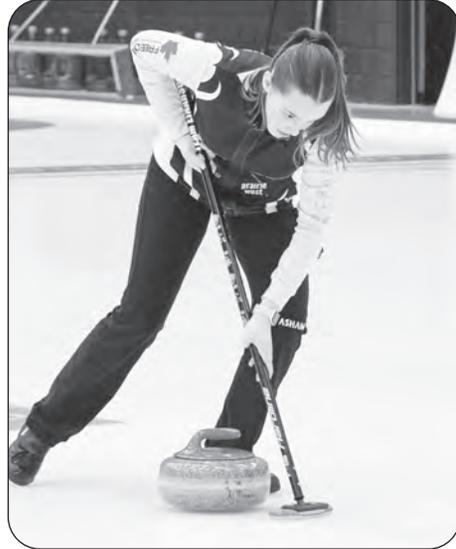
To earn a spot at the Prairie event, curlers first had to qualify at one of several Manitoba competitions, where they performed a series of skill-based shots and accumulated points. The top 15 male and top 15 female competitors in the province advanced to the Prairie competition, including Joséphine Jolicoeur, Nadine Jolicoeur and Ella Lavoie of the Petersfield Curling Club.

The athletes said they enjoyed their experience both on and off the ice and were proud of how they performed.

Fifteen-year-old Joséphine said she valued the chance to compete against other Manitobans and Saskatchewanians. Her highlight of the weekend was the opportunity to make new friends and travel with family and friends. She said she gained more than friendship in Moose Jaw.

"The skills competition taught me how important it is to socialize with people outside of your town, city or even your province because you never know who you could be playing with in the future," she said.

She plans to apply that lesson at the Canada Games trials in April, where she will compete in the U21 mixed doubles and U18 women's divisions.



Joséphine Jolicoeur demonstrates her sweeping skills at RockFest.

Her 13-year-old sister, Nadine, said RockFest pushed her to perform at her best, earning a third-place finish. Like her sister, she pointed to meeting other curlers as a highlight. She said the event felt similar to tournaments she had previously attended, but competing in an individual format was a new experience.

"The competition part was very different from most curling events because of the triples event," she explained. "This was scored on individual skill and not on a team score."

Next up for Nadine is the Manitoba Winter Games in Thompson, where she will represent the East region in curling.

Ella, 12, a Manitoba Winter Games and RockFest teammate from Petersfield, said the Prairie event marked her first time competing out of province. She placed seventh overall.

"It was nice to meet so many people and to attend clinics that were taught by some professional curlers," she



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Petersfield Curling Club athletes Nadine Jolicoeur, Ella Lavoie and Joséphine Jolicoeur competed at the U15 RockFest Prairies Feb. 21-23 in Moose Jaw, Sask.



Ella Lavoie focuses on her line as she releases a shot.

said. "It was nice to know that my hard work has paid off and to receive compliments on my skills."

She admitted she felt more nervous than usual but still enjoyed the week-



Nadine Jolicoeur, who earned a third-place medal, releases a shot during U15 RockFest Prairies competition end with her friends. Next year, she hopes to build on the experience and reach the podium.

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# Carruthers announces retirement from competitive curling

By Haley Cvar

Canadian curler Reid Carruthers of West St. Paul has announced his retirement from competitive curling after more than two decades in the sport, closing the chapter on a career that included national titles, international appearances and a lasting impact on the province's curling community.

Carruthers shared the news in a written statement, saying the decision comes with mixed emotions but a deep sense of gratitude.

"After an extraordinary 20-plus years in competitive curling, it's with a heavy heart that I am announcing my retirement from the sport," he wrote.

Carruthers described curling as one of the defining parts of his life, pointing to the friendships, experiences and lessons gained along the way.

"Curling's been a huge part of my identity and although it will be hard to fill that void, I am very much looking forward to the next chapter in life," he said. "I am very much looking forward to spending more time with my son."

The Winnipeg curler's career spanned junior, men's and mixed disciplines, and he recently learned he will be inducted into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame alongside longtime teammate Derek Samagalski — an honour he called an under-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Reid Carruthers delivers a rock during competition at the 2025 Montana's Brier. The West St. Paul curler announced his retirement from competitive curling after more than 20 years in the sport.

statement.

Throughout his statement, Carruthers thanked teammates, coaches, family and fans who supported him throughout his career, saying their encouragement made his journey possible.

"To my current team: BJ, Catlin, Connor, Kyle. Thank you, gentlemen, for being the best group of guys I could curl with," he wrote. "Lots of great memories I'll cherish forever on and off the ice."

He also paid tribute to coaches and mentors, including the late Alex McInnes, Norm Gould and Dan Carey, as well as longtime coach Rob Meakin.

Carruthers said he leaves competitive curling at peace with his decision and proud of what the sport has given him.

"As I step away from competitive play, I'm not filled with sadness, but with gratitude and pride," he wrote. "I am at peace with the decision as I leave the sport with lasting friendships, unforgettable memories, and a deep appreciation for everything curling has taught me — discipline, resilience, teamwork, and heart."

While retiring from elite competition, Carruthers said he does not plan to step away from curling entirely and hopes to remain involved through coaching, mentorship or occasional events.

# Fishermen one win away from semifinals

By Kieran Reimer

The Capital Region Junior Hockey League playoff run continues for the Selkirk Fishermen, who sit one victory away from advancing to the semifinals.

Selkirk carries a 2-1 lead in its best-of-five opening-round series against the Lundar Falcons after a dramatic weekend that featured overtime heroics and a late third-period winner on home ice.

The series opened last Tuesday at the Selkirk Recreation Complex, where Lundar claimed a 2-1 victory.

Dawson Bergagnini gave Selkirk a 1-0 lead in the first period, and the score remained unchanged for more than 30 minutes. The Falcons broke through with just under 10 minutes remaining in regulation, solving Fishermen netminder Johnny Enns-Demchuk and striking twice in a two-minute span to take a 2-1 lead.

Despite a strong push from Selkirk, Lundar goaltender Dylan Leclair stood tall, turning aside 37 shots to secure the win and a 1-0 series advantage.

The Fishermen responded Saturday at Lundar Arena, evening the series with a 2-1 overtime victory.

Cole Baker opened the scoring in the first period, and Selkirk appeared poised to ride the goal to a shutout as Marcus Sharpe kept Lundar off the board for nearly 58 minutes. The Falcons finally broke through on a late

power play to tie the game and force overtime.

Just over two minutes into the extra frame, Sage Courchene buried the winner to square the series at one game apiece.

Back on home ice Sunday, the Fishermen delivered another clutch performance, edging Lundar 3-2 to take their first lead of the series.

Zach Lemire and Ashton Schroeder scored in the second period to give Selkirk a one-goal cushion heading into the third. Lundar tied the contest late in regulation, and overtime seemed inevitable.

Ryan Cromie had other plans.

With 57 seconds remaining, Cromie found the back of the net to lift Selkirk to victory. The Fishermen controlled much of the play, finishing with a 45-25 advantage in shots.

Now one win from advancing, Selkirk will attempt to close out the series in Game 4 on Wednesday, March 4 at 8 p.m. at Lundar Arena.

If necessary, Game 5 is scheduled for Friday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Selkirk Recreation Complex.



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Selkirk Fishermen battle the Lundar Falcons during Capital Region Junior Hockey League playoff action at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. Selkirk holds a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five opening-round series after a 2-1 overtime win and a 3-2 victory, following a 2-1 loss in Game 1.

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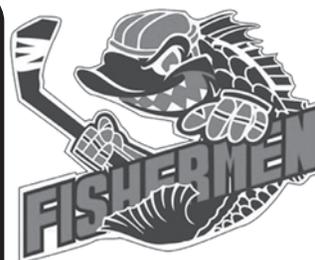
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Game 5: Mar 6 @ 7:30pm in Selkirk

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Meet the Fishermen 2025-2026



#33 Johnny Enns-Demchuk Goalie

# Interlake duo heading to Western ringette championship

By Kieran Reimer

The Interlake will have representation at the 2026 Western Canadian Ringette Championships.

Stonewall's Tayte Chatfield and St. Andrews' Madison Leferink are both members of the Eastman Flames U14AA squad that will compete at Westerns.

This year's event will take place from March 18-21 in Saskatoon, featuring teams from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan — along with the Flames as Manitoba's representative.

"It's going to be really cool because I have lots of friends and family who are cheering me on and lots of people who are going to be asking about the games, so I'm really excited to be representing Manitoba and the Interlake," said Leferink.

Saskatoon will mark the first Westerns appearance for both Leferink and Chatfield. With nationals not beginning until the U16 age group, winning Westerns would be the Flames' highest possible accomplishment at this level.

"Our goal is just to play the hardest we can and hopefully medal because we're a pretty good team," said Chatfield.

The Flames would not have qualified without a gutsy comeback against the U14AA Angels at the Ringette Manitoba provincials.

After losing Game 1, Eastman battled back to even the best-of-three series at one game apiece. Then last Sunday, Eastman won the deciding Game 3 with a pair of late goals.

"We were all really excited and just happy that we could go to Westerns as Team Manitoba," said Chatfield.

The Flames will be one of the more experienced clubs at Westerns, having played all season against older players in the U16A/U14AA loop of the Winnipeg Ringette League.

With another year of U14 eligibility remaining, both girls were among the youngest players in the league. The age gap, however, has only helped their development.

"I've grown a lot," said Leferink. "Our coaches have really helped us work to play our best, and just in general we all are doing a lot better than we did at the beginning of the year."

The Flames will continue to skate in the weeks leading up to Westerns. They already have plans to play exhibition matches, including one on Friday, March 13, to keep them in game shape.

That game is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. at Stonewall's Veterans Memorial Sports Complex.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Madison Leferink of St. Andrews (left) and Tayte Chatfield of Stonewall make up the two Interlake locals on Team Manitoba heading to the 2026 Western Canadian Ringette Championships from March 18-21 in Saskatoon.

# Raiders blank Twins, drop two to close week

By Annaliese Meier

The Raiders Jr. Hockey Club opened their final week of Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League regular-season play with a shutout victory before dropping back-to-back contests at Seven Oaks SportsPlex.

The Raiders defeated the Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins 3-0 on Tuesday night.

Defenceman Matthew Wilson led the offence with a pair of goals, scoring at 9:19 of the first period and adding his second just 1:22 into the third. Zach Einarson factored in on both tallies, while Lucas Desousa also picked up an assist.

Ashton Henry sealed the win with an empty-net marker at 19:12 of the third period.

Goaltender Owen Savoie was perfect in net, turning aside all 29 shots he faced for the shutout. Kennedy Kerr made 24 saves on 26 shots in the loss for the Twins.

The Raiders were outshot 29-27 but

controlled the scoreboard throughout, improving their record to 15-25-3 at the time.

The momentum didn't carry into Friday's road matchup, as the Raiders fell 6-4 to the River East Royal Knights at Terry Sawchuk Arena.

Cole Kennedy opened the scoring late in the first period, with Mason Laarveld and Einarson drawing assists. After River East scored three times in the second, Desousa responded to keep the Raiders within striking distance.

In the third, Brennan Feschuk and Cole Bilous scored to pull the Raiders within one, but the Royal Knights added a shorthanded marker and an empty-net goal to secure the win.

Andre Ferreira made 32 saves on 37 shots in goal for the Raiders, while Kyle Beilman stopped 30 of 34 for River East.

The Raiders wrapped up the week-end Sunday with a 2-0 loss to the St.

James Jr. Canucks.

Aidan Wuerfel opened the scoring in the first period before Cole Warsaba added a power-play goal midway through the third.

Savoie was solid once again, making 27 saves on 29 shots, but the Raiders were unable to solve St. James netminder Riley Brown, who stopped all 25 shots he faced.

The Raiders went 0-for-6 on the

power play in the contest.

With a 15-27-3 record and 33 points through 43 games, the Raiders have clinched a playoff spot and currently sit eighth in the MMJHL standings.

They close out the regular season Friday on the road against the league-leading Transcona Railer Express before hosting the St. Boniface Riels on Sunday afternoon.



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# Gators' HTJHL playoff run comes to an end

By Haley Cvar

The East St. Paul Gators' season came to a close over the weekend after back-to-back losses to the Macdonald Swarm, who won the quarter final series 3-1 in the Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League.

The Swarm took control of the series with a 10-1 win on home ice Friday before sealing it with an 8-0 victory Saturday in East St. Paul.

Macdonald took control of the series with a 10-1 victory Friday night on home ice.

The Swarm built a 5-1 lead after the first period and never looked back. Caleb Hofer scored the lone goal for East St. Paul, finishing a pass from captain Luke Tyslau late in the opening frame.

Austin Spicer led Macdonald with four goals and one assist, including two powerplay goals and a short-handed marker. Kayden Robertson added two goals and three assists, while Carter Campbell scored twice and Talon Weselak had a goal and an assist.

East St. Paul used two goaltenders in the game. Aiden Poseluzney made 28 saves through the first two periods, and Preston Laschyn stopped 18 shots in relief.

The Swarm then sealed the series Saturday with an 8-0 win in East St. Paul.

Macdonald scored twice in the first period and extended its lead with three goals in each of the second and third periods. Austin Spicer had two goals and two assists, Carter Campbell scored twice, and Kayden Robert-

son added two goals. Slade Sotheran contributed four assists, while Jeremy Wuerch had a goal and a helper.

Poseluzney faced heavy pressure in Game 5, making 46 saves in the loss. Jack Martin turned aside all 20 shots he faced to record the shutout for Macdonald.

The defeat brought the Gators' 2025-26 season to a close. The team's season ends with the focus now shifting to the offseason and preparations for next year.

# Women's Royals eliminated despite third-period push

By Kieran Reimer

The Lord Selkirk Royals' season came to an end last week after a two-game sweep by the Shaftesbury Titans in the Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League Division 1/2 playoffs.

Selkirk dropped Game 1 by a 4-0 score Monday at the Selkirk Recreation Complex. The Titans found the net in all three periods and outshot the Royals 34-28. Royals goaltender Megan Pellaers made 30 saves in the loss.

The series shifted to the Hockey For All Centre on Tuesday, where Shaftesbury secured the sweep with a 5-3 victory.

Trailing 4-0 after two periods, Selkirk mounted a spirited comeback

attempt in the third. Madigan Czarnecki opened the scoring early in the frame, followed shortly after by a goal from Kennedy Simpson to cut the deficit in half.

Shaftesbury responded just over a minute later to restore a three-goal cushion at 5-2. Simpson added her second of the game later in the period to bring Selkirk within two, but time ran out on the Royals' rally.

Titans netminder Sofia DiNicola turned aside 25 shots in Game 2 to secure the series victory, while Pellaers made 23 saves in her final appearance of the season.

With the win, Shaftesbury advances to the second round of the MWHSHL Division 1/2 playoffs.

# Royals fall in decisive Game 3

By Annaliese Meier

In the Winnipeg High School Hockey League Platinum Promotions Division, the Lord Selkirk Royals pushed their second-round series to a decisive third game against the Vincent Massey Trojans before their season came to an end.

Lord Selkirk opened the series Feb. 17 on the road, dropping a narrow 4-3 decision. Mason Grant scored in the first period from Jaxon Beasley and Chase Brydges to cut into an early Vincent Massey lead. In the second, Nolan Dear struck shorthanded from Brydges and Grant, and Kageon Carver added another from Erik Evason and Stanley Hallock, but the Trojans held on for the one-goal win.

Back on home ice for Game 2, the Royals responded with a 3-2 victory to even the series. Chase Brydges opened the scoring in the first from Dear and Mateo Malbasa. After Vin-

cent Massey tied it in the second, Dear restored the lead late in the third from Malbasa. Following another Trojan equalizer, Noah Hartwich netted the winner at 12:25 of the fourth period to force a deciding game.

Game 3 on Feb. 20 saw the Royals again on the road, where they fell 5-2. Erik Evason opened the scoring for Lord Selkirk on the power play in the first from Carver and Dear, and Sebastian Cychowski added a third-period power-play marker from Beasley. However, Vincent Massey's offence proved too much, securing the win and ending the Royals' playoff run.



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Lord Selkirk Royals forward Mikayla Clarkson bangs away at puck in front of the net during Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League Division 1/2 playoff action against the Shaftesbury Titans last week. The Titans completed a two-game sweep to end Selkirk's season.

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Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimu- late red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail [stonewood elkbranch@gmail.com](mailto:stonewood elkbranch@gmail.com)

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SUPPORT  
OUR LOCAL  
BUSINESSES**

ADVERTISE IN THE RECORD

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE OF LINDA LALIBERTE, LATE OF ST. ANDREWS, MANITOBA, DECEASED.

ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE ABOVE ESTATE, DULY VERIFIED BY STATUTORY DECLARATION AND WITH PARTICULARS AND VALUATION OF SECURITY HELD, IF ANY, MUST BE SENT TO THE UNDERSIGNED BEFORE THE 13TH DAY OF MARCH, 2026.

BROOKS MACK LEGAL  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
BOX 250  
LANGENBURG, SASKATCHEWAN  
S0A 2A0



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SELKIRK UNIT #151 ARMY NAVY & AIRFORCE MANAGER POSITION

Come join our team, the successful candidate should bring:  
- Strong leadership and communication skills  
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- Experience in Quick Books.  
- A minimum of 2 references required.  
One must be from previous employer.

You may email resume and references to: [anavetsmb@gmail.com](mailto:anavetsmb@gmail.com) or drop them off at 231 Clandeboye Ave, Selkirk, R1A 0X2

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## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. ANDREWS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RECREATION COORDINATOR Full Time/Permanent

Under the supervision of the Recreation Director, this position will lead or assist in the delivery and expansion of recreation and leisure services in the municipality. This includes programs and events, registration and payments, municipal and community promotion via social media, organizing summer student and student programs, as well as providing administrative assistance and performing other related duties as required for culture, heritage and tourism initiatives and the RM of St. Andrews administration office.

To find more details, including qualifications please go to: [www.rmofstandrews.com/p/job-opportunities](http://www.rmofstandrews.com/p/job-opportunities)

## NOTICE OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS ELECTRONIC VOTING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (the "AGM") MEMBERS OF ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED (the "Credit Union")

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CREDIT UNION

### VOTING FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TAKE NOTICE THAT voting for the Board of Directors is open to all members who have a share at any Credit Union branch. Voting will be done by electronic ballot and will be tallied electronically by a third-party provider. Voting will be open from 9:00 a.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 25th day of March, 2026 until 5:00 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, the 8th of April, 2026. Members of the Credit Union are invited to vote online at [www.accessvotes.ca](http://www.accessvotes.ca). Each member may vote on a personal electronic device or should any member prefer, devices for the purpose of voting will be available at all branches of the Credit Union during operating hours.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the AGM of the members of the Credit Union will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. CDT via virtual means, for the following purposes:

1. 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report
2. Board of Directors Report
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Director Elections Voting Results

All eligible members wishing to participate in the AGM are required to register online at [www.accesscu.ca](http://www.accesscu.ca) prior to April 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. CDT. Instructions for voting processes and how to ask questions will be displayed on the screen commencing at 6:45 p.m. CDT. These instructions will also be reviewed at the opening of the meeting.

More information can be found at: [www.accesscu.ca](http://www.accesscu.ca).

DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026  
ACCESS CREDIT UNION LIMITED  
By Order of the Board of Directors



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*Selkirk Record*

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



### Full-Time Grocery Department Lead Teulon Bigway

We're looking to hire a hardworking and reliable individual to join our team. Full-time position, including some Saturdays.

**Responsibilities include:** Lead hand duties, Placing and receiving orders, Stocking merchandise, Inventory control, Working closely with staff and customers

Applicants must be able to lift up to 50 lbs and work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

**Competitive salary with health benefits.**

Experience not required — willing to train the right person.

**For more information or to apply, please send your resume to:**

[TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com](mailto:TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com)

**Subject line:** Employment – Grocery



## INVITATION TO TENDER

### Gravel Haul 2026

The Municipality of Alexander is inviting tenders for the hauling and placing of an approximate combined total of 20,000 tonnes of traffic gravel upon specified roadways within the municipality (tonnes may increase due to weather related road conditions). Work will commence as soon as possible after the end of road restrictions.

Please visit [www.rmalexander.com](http://www.rmalexander.com) for complete details and to view the tender package.

Sealed tenders must be received by:  
**noon on Thursday, April 2, 2026.**

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### WILBERT GIESBRECHT HOMES

**Celebrating over 40 years of building quality RTMs.**

Check out our website for floorplans.

Custom builds also available.

Taking orders for delivery Summer 2026.

Phone: 204-346-3231  
[www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca](http://www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca)

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**Estate of Dennis Jones**  
Vintage & Collectible Toys  
**Consignments Welcome!**  
Tues, Mar. 10 @ 7:00 PM

**Estate & Moving**  
Wed., Mar. 11 @ 7:00 PM

**Estate & Moving**  
Wed., Mar. 18 @ 7:00 PM

**McSherryAuction.com**  
204-467-1858  
or 204-886-7027  
[mcsherrytld@gmail.com](mailto:mcsherrytld@gmail.com)



## RM OF WEST ST. PAUL PUBLIC NOTICE

### Proposed Municipal Pesticide Use Program

Public notice is hereby given that the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026, as necessary:

1. To control Noxious Weeds on both private and public property using Par III (with Mecoprop, Banvel VM, Spreader Sticker) and Fiesta.
2. To control all vegetation on gravel boulevards, fence lines, parking lots, storage areas, lift station compounds and other municipal property as required using Roundup (with Trillion) and Finalsan.
3. To control adult mosquitoes and canker worms along streets and lanes, in Municipal Parks using DeltaGard 20EW.

The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026, to September 30, 2026. The duration of each program will vary within this period, depending on weather conditions and pest population levels.

All of the pesticides used and procedures followed will be according to federally approved label recommendations and Manitoba Department of Agriculture pest control recommendations.

The public may send written submissions within 15 days of publication of this notice to:

**Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6**

Any individual opposed to the use of any or all of the above mentioned pesticides, on or adjacent to their property, may so register, in writing to the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul, specifying which program is opposed.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2026.

**Jeffrey J.A. Simpson, B. Comm, MBA**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RM of West St. Paul  
3550 Main Street  
West St. Paul, MB R4A 5A3

## PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER

749 Strathnaver Avenue

SUBJECT/SUJET:

- Type: 65m self support tower / tour autoportante
  - Location address: 749 Strathnaver Avenue
  - (Coordinates/Coordonnées: 50.141550, -96.898253)
  - Legal Description / Description légale: DESC 2-9-1578
  - Facility / Installation: The facility will comprise a proposed 15m x 15m compound. / L'installation comprendra un complexe proposé de 15 mx 15 m.
  - Site: The structure will accommodate initial and future loading for all cellular providers, and additional fixed wireless equipment as required. / La structure peut accueillir le chargement initial et futur de tous les fournisseurs de services cellulaires, ainsi que de l'équipement supplémentaire sans fil fixe, au besoin.
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) is the governing body for this type of installation and can be contacted at: / Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada (ISDE) est l'organisme directeur de ce type d'installation et peut être contacté à l'adresse suivante:

ISED - Manitoba District Office / Bureau de district du Manitoba  
400 St. Mary Avenue, 4th floor  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K5  
Tel: 1-800-665-3421 or 204-984-4257  
Fax: 204-984-6045  
Email: [spectrumwinnipeg-winnipeg@ised-isde.gc.ca](mailto:spectrumwinnipeg-winnipeg@ised-isde.gc.ca)

**ANY PERSON** may make a written submission to the individuals listed below no later than 5pm (ET) on **Monday, April 6th, 2026**. Please reference the site code **TOWM049** in your correspondence. / **TOUTE PERSONNE** peut faire une soumission écrite aux personnes mentionnées ci-dessous au plus tard à 17:00 le **lundi 6 avril 2026**. Veuillez indiquer le code de référence du site, **TOWM049** dans votre correspondance.

Further information may also be obtained through the following contact: / De plus amples informations peuvent également être obtenues auprès du contact suivant:

**APPLICANT CONTACT / CONTACT DU DEMANDEUR**  
SLI Towers Inc.  
146 Thirtieth Street, Suite 100  
Etobicoke, ON, M8W 3C4  
T: (437) 425-3982  
E: [municipal@slitowers.ca](mailto:municipal@slitowers.ca)

SITE LOCATION MAP / PLAN DE LOCALISATION DU SITE



Tower location shown with the star / Emplacement de la tour indiqué par l'étoile

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**Express Your Thanks**  
WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE  
**Selkirk Record**  
Call 785-1618 or email [lucy@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:lucy@selkirkrecord.ca)

The Selkirk Record Classified booking deadline is Monday at 4 p.m. prior to Thursday's publication  
Please Call 204-785-1618

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**CALL ME NOW!!**  
**TODD: 1-204-904-9705**



**RM OF WEST ST. PAUL PUBLIC NOTICE**

**REGARDING THE 2026 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 2026 at a public hearing at the Municipal Office, 3550 Main Street in the RM of West St. Paul on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00pm.**

Persons wishing to view the municipality's financial plan may view the documents during the regular office hours of the municipal office at 3550 Main Street, West St. Paul, Manitoba or on the municipal website at [www.weststpaul.com](http://www.weststpaul.com)

Dated this 5th day of March, 2026.

**Jeffrey J.A. Simpson, B. Comm, MBA**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
RM of West St. Paul



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Invites Applications For Chief Administrative Officer**

For complete advertisement and position profile please visit [rmaxalexander.com](http://rmaxalexander.com)

The position will remain open until filled



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Invites Applications For Manager Of Public Works And Utilities**

For complete advertisement and position profile please visit [rmaxalexander.com](http://rmaxalexander.com)

The position will remain open until filled

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

RM of East St. Paul

Under authority of The Planning Act, the municipal Council will hold a public hearing at the time and location listed below to hear from those who wish to speak in support or objection, or to ask questions. For more info on how to register for the public hearing please contact the municipality at 204-668-8112

**Tuesday**  
**March 24th, 2026**  
**5:30 PM**

**Council Chambers,**  
**3021 Birds Hill Rd,**  
**RM of East St. Paul, MB**

*Note: property owners are responsible for notifying "tenants"*

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**Application File:** BL 2026-06  
**Applicant:** McGowan Russell Group  
**Property Location:** 3200 De Vries Ave and No address (located on Maxwell King Dr), ESP  
Roll #: 21200, 22600  
Legal: CT2918083/1, CT2636024/1 respectively



**Application Purpose:**  
To amend the R.M. of East St. Paul Zoning By-law No. 2009-04 by partially rezoning the subject property **multi-zoned** as "DR" Development Reserve and "R1-10" - Single Housing Dwelling Zones **into** "I"- Institutional Zone to allow the Personal Care Homes development.

Current Zone of Zoning By-law	Proposed Zone by Applicant
"DR" Development Reserve and "R1-10" - Single Housing Dwelling Zones	"I"- Institutional Zone.

A copy of the above-noted proposal and supporting material is available on the Red River Planning District website at <https://www.redriverplanning.com/hearings.php> or by contacting the Red River Planning District in person during normal business hours Monday to Friday at 2978 Birds Hill Road, East St. Paul, by phone at 204 669-8880, or by email at [info@rrpd.ca](mailto:info@rrpd.ca)



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

R.M. of West St. Paul

Under authority of The Planning Act, the municipal Council will hold a public hearing at the time and location listed below to hear from those who wish to speak in support or objection, or to ask questions. For more info on how to register for the public hearing please contact the municipality at 204-338-0306. If not attending, written letters of support or opposition will only be accepted if received before 3pm on the day of the hearing.

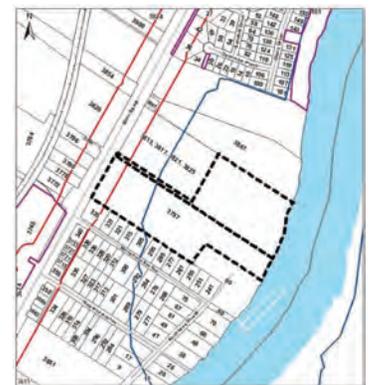
**Thursday**  
**April 9th, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**  
**3550 Main Street**  
**R.M. of West St. Paul, MB**

*Note: property owners are responsible for notifying "tenants"*

**APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**Application File:** By-law No. 2026-01 "P"  
**Applicant:** Landmark Planning & Design Inc.  
**Property Location:** Main Street, West St. Paul  
Roll # 52000, 52700  
Legal: \*RL23/24/25-PA-3922



**Application Purpose:**  
The applicant proposes to amend the R.M. of West St. Paul Zoning By-law No. 2/99P by rezoning the subject lands from "A4" Agricultural - 4 acre parcel Zone to "RS" Serviced Residential Zone.

Current Zoning	Zoning Proposed by Applicant
"A4" Agricultural - 4 acre parcel Zone	Re-Zoning to: "RS" Serviced Residential Zone

A copy of the above-noted proposal and supporting material is available on the Red River Planning District website at <https://www.redriverplanning.com/hearings.php> or by contacting the Red River Planning District in person during normal business hours Monday to Friday at 2978 Birds Hill Road, East St. Paul, by phone at 204 669-8880, or by email at [info@rrpd.ca](mailto:info@rrpd.ca)



# Announcements *The Selkirk Record*

## take a break > GAMES

### SUDOKU

			9	5	7		4	
	6					3		
2								5
		2						8
			3	6	9	2		
6					1			
			8		6			
1							4	
3				2	5			

Level: Intermediate

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

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!

7	1	8	5	2	4	6	9	3
5	9	4	3	6	7	8	2	1
3	2	6	9	1	8	7	4	5
9	3	5	1	8	2	4	7	6
4	7	2	9	6	3	8	1	5
6	8	1	4	7	5	2	3	9
1	5	7	3	8	6	9	4	2
8	6	3	2	4	1	5	9	7
2	4	7	6	5	3	9	1	8

Sudoku Answer

Don't Forget Your Loved Ones

WITH AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
IN THE

Call 785-1618 or  
email [lucy@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:lucy@selkirkrecord.ca)



#### ANNOUNCEMENT

##### BIRTHDAY



Happy 100th Birthday  
Helen Wasney  
March 5, 1926  
Don't count your candles,  
Count your blessings.  
-Love your family and friends

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

##### BIRTHDAY



Happy 80th Birthday  
Nanny  
on March 6th  
-Love you, Dylan

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

##### PET IN MEMORIAM



Spanky  
January 31, 1996 - March 5, 2011  
In my lonely hours of thinking  
Thoughts of you are always near;  
I who loved you, sadly miss you,  
As it dawns another year.  
-Love and miss you dearly  
Mommy

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

##### IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of  
Joseph Frank Smolinski  
April 24, 1941 - March 6, 2021  
Thank you for all the love and wonderful  
memories you gave us.  
Forever loved and missed  
-Pat, Bill and Desiree,  
Richard and Linda

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# Announcements *The Selkirk Record*

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## OBITUARY



**Wanda Mae Hardwick**  
February 25, 2026

Wanda Mae Hardwick, 73 years young, beloved wife, mother, grandma, great-grandma, sister, auntie and friend to many, passed away surrounded by love and peace.

Wanda Mae was born January 16, 1953 in Selkirk, Manitoba. She was the eldest daughter of seven and sister to 10 brothers. Mom married her one and only love, Bob Hardwick, May 29, 1971, and they shared a life of true devotion. Together they had three children, Roberta, Rob (Tikena) and Roy (Wendy), with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mom/Wanda will be remembered for her hard work ethics, zest for life, and that smile and infectious laugh that you could hear anywhere. Most of all, serving her one and only Lord Jesus Christ.

Wanda Mae will be incredibly missed by all who knew and loved her. It's not good-bye, it's see you later. We will meet again.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Friends and family are invited to visit Wanda Mae's memorial page at [www.interlakecremation.ca](http://www.interlakecremation.ca), where memories and condolences may be shared.

Arrangements entrusted to:  **Interlake Cremation & Memorial Services**  
204.482.1040

## OBITUARY



**Herbert John Recksiedler**

On February 21st, 2026, just two days before his 76th birthday, Herb unexpectedly passed away at home where he lived with Mom, Dad, and Donna for most of his life.

He will be missed by his sisters Bonny Toews and Donna Recksiedler, brothers Arther (Valerie) and Richard (Anna) Recksiedler, numerous nieces, nephews, great, great-great nieces and nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents Jeanne and William Recksiedler, nephew Kyle, brothers-in-law Greg Swain and John Toews.

Most of his working life was at Grand Beach Provincial Park as a labourer, doing whatever was assigned to him. After retirement he became the primary caregiver for his aging parents and handicap sister. He was very kind-hearted and tried to help anyone who asked for his assistance. He will be missed.

Funeral service was held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Gilbert Funeral Chapel in Selkirk, Mb. The service will be recorded and can be viewed on his obituary on Gilbert's website. Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## OBITUARY



**Irene Katherine Howanyk**

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my beloved wife, Irene Katherine Howanyk, on February 23, 2026 at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre at the age of 67 years.

Irene will be deeply missed by her husband of 38 years, Keith Howanyk; mother Kathy Schoffner; sister Melinda (Don) Bihun; brother Robert (Maria) Schoffner; nieces and nephews, Ashley and Brendan Bihun, Koen, Annika and Mattia Schoffner.

She was predeceased by her father Edward Schoffner.

Irene was born and raised in Winnipeg. She was proud of her roots and the community that she shared. She attended Edmund Partridge School and West Kildonan Collegiate. Irene went on to pursue her education at Red River College in Marketing. Through dedication and hard work, she built a meaningful career where she was respected for her compassion, integrity and strong work ethic. Irene took great pride in everything she did and touched the lives of many through her hard work. Irene loved her job at Mars Wrigley and the great people that she worked with.

Irene met Keith at Kildonan Park in 1976 and started dating almost immediately. On May 7, 1988 they got married and moved to Lockport where they resided together until her passing. Irene enjoyed spending plenty of time with Keith at Lee River boating and time spent with great neighbors and friends. Together they went on numerous trips to Mexico and various other places.

Funeral Services are pending.

Irene will be very sadly missed by her husband Keith and family. Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## OBITUARY



**Holly Monkman**

December 15, 1961 – February 27, 2026

Holly passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 27, 2026 with her family at her side after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

She was predeceased by her father Harry, grandmothers Margaret and Alvina, papa Bill, father-in-law Gerald, sister-in-law Brenda and her uncle Kim, as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband Floyd of 41 years. As well, she leaves her children Kara (Jason), Sean, Chad (Staci). She is survived by her grandchildren: Kacey (Chasy), Kaytlynn (Tyler), Brielle, Asher, Reece and Harlyn as well as two great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 11:00 a.m. at Sobering Funeral Chapel, 1035 Park Avenue E., Beausejour. Full obituary available at [www.soberingfuneralchapel.com](http://www.soberingfuneralchapel.com)

**Sobering**  
FUNERAL CHAPEL  
& CREMATORIUM

Beausejour  
(204) 268-3510 or MB Toll Free 1-877-776-2220  
Tributes to: [www.soberingfuneralchapel.com](http://www.soberingfuneralchapel.com)

## OBITUARY



**Wanda Corrine Freeman**  
September 25, 1964 – February 19, 2026

With heavy hearts, we announce that Wanda passed away with family by her side at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre after a courageous battle with cancer.

She was predeceased by her parents, K. Ronald Pungy and Hazel Freeman, and her soulmate, Don Goletz.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter Ashley (Remi); son Austin (Faith); sisters Crystal and Pamela (Jon), nieces and nephews Anthony (Kristen), Chiron, Gabriel, Ciana, Isabella, and Josephyna; extended family and friends; and her beloved fur baby, Sandy.

Wanda was often the life of the party. She was fiercely competitive and always down for a game of Crib, Yahtzee, or Scrabble—usually with a drink in hand and her favorite tunes playing. Always quick

witted and with a joke ready to go - she always had to get the last word in. She loved her children and family unconditionally and would do anything in her power for them.

Cremation has taken place, and a service will be held at a later date.

Rest in Peace Wanda, Mom, "Mouse"

We love you and will miss you.

Friends and family are invited to visit Wanda's memorial page at [www.interlakecremation.ca](http://www.interlakecremation.ca), where memories and condolences may be shared.

Arrangements entrusted to:  **Interlake Cremation & Memorial Services**  
204.482.1040

## OBITUARY



**Stanislaw (Stan) Stopa**

Stanislaw (Stan) Stopa was born April 28, 1961 and fell asleep in the Lord February 25, 2026.

Stan was born in Poland to Marian and Irena Stopa but was raised by his maternal grandparents Jozef and Paraskiewva Wolanowski.

Stan met Halina in 1979 and they were married in 1982. They were blessed with two sons, Rafal and Dariusz. They all immigrated to Canada in 1989.

Stan worked many jobs during his lifetime, including roofing, mining and Healthcare Aide. Stan attended Red River College while working as a Healthcare Aide at St. Boniface Hospital, Holy Family and Luther Nursing Homes. He completed both Electrical and Power Engineering Certificates and was employed by many northern mines including Thompson and Bissett, Yukon and Greenland.

Stan is survived by his loving wife of 43 years Halina; sons Rafal and Derek. He is also survived by Rafal's children Bryce, Blake, Alexa and Wyatt and Derek's children Carter and Nikki who he was helping to raise. He is also survived by three sisters and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews all in Poland.

Stan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will be Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Rossdale, 530 Donald Road, Lockport, MB, R1A 3K4.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Blessed Virgin Mary Church Rossdale or Rossdale Ukrainian Dance School.

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

Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



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## SELKIRK MARKET WATCH



**9**  
# homes sold



**\$327,333**  
avg sales price



**- 3.4%**  
avg sales price change\*

JAN 1/26 - MAR 2/26 stats for Single Family Attached, Single Family Detached, & Townhouse properties in Real Estate Zone R14. \*over previous year.



**41 Tom Prince Dr, St Andrews**  
\$79,900 - 2 ACRE LOT!

PEACEFULLY PERFECT 2 acre lot with 200' of frontage. READY TO BUILD but with no timeline to build. Join the GROWING community of Petersfield with all its great amenities

### FEATURE OF THE WEEK! | 733 MCLEAN AVENUE, SELKIRK | \$324,900



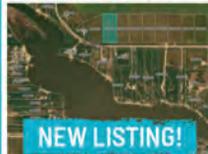
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3 BED, 1 BATH BNG!



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733 McLean Ave  
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2 ACRE LOT!



**NEW LISTING!**  
41 Tom Prince Dr  
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2 ACRE LOT!



45 Tom Prince Dr  
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\$79,900

READY TO BUILD!



49 Tom Prince Dr  
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2 ACRE LOT!



53 Tom Prince Dr  
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5 ACRES, TREED!



0 Hall Road  
Petersfield  
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78' X 197' LOT!



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2.19 ACRES, TREED!



2 Fuller Road  
East Selkirk  
\$109,900

2.2 ACRES, TREED!



6 Fuller Road  
East Selkirk  
\$109,900

2.2 ACRES, TREED!



7 Fuller Road  
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2.2 ACRES, TREED!



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LOT 16	LOT 17	LOT 18	LOT 19	LOT 20	LOT 21	LOT 22	LOT 23	LOT 24	LOT 25	LOT 26	LOT 27	LOT 28	LOT 29	LOT 30	LOT 31	LOT 32
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