

RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Raven O'Neil, pictured left, holds a bucket while her sister Harley Collee, pictured right, spills in some of the needles and drug paraphernalia they found while cleaning up the streets of Selkirk last Wednesday afternoon. The two sisters and their mother helped organize a needle cleanup effort last week after they noticed needles lying around in downtown Selkirk and near local schools and playgrounds. For a story, see Page 2.

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Group launches needle cleanup effort in Selkirk

By Lindsey Enns

Now that the snow is melting and signs of spring are starting to emerge, Harley Collee is seeing traces of a life she's trying to leave behind.

"It makes me not want to use again because it disgusts me how many needles are lying around. It makes me want to stay sober," said Harley, who will celebrate one year of sobriety on April 1 following several years of drug abuse. "Towards the end of my addiction I was throwing (needles) around and I feel bad for doing that because there are little babies around here."

Armed with a small yellow bucket, plastic gloves and a pair of tongs, the 24-year-old Selkirk resident was among a group of women combing the streets of downtown Selkirk along with schools and playgrounds for needles used for injection drugs last Wednesday afternoon.

Over the span of about an hour, the group of eight collected 15 needles, several water vials and a handful of small drug baggies, one of which appeared to still contain drugs.

The group of women, some of which are recovering drug users, say they are trying to help clean up and make the streets of Selkirk safer by picking up any needles or drug paraphernalia they find lying around the city.

Harley says since the Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority (IER-HA) launched a free needle exchange program in Selkirk she's noticed more needles laying around the city than ever before.

"Growing up here my whole life this is my first time seeing needles in



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS

ABOVE LEFT: Harley Collee searches for needles used for injection drugs in downtown Selkirk last Wednesday afternoon. ABOVE RIGHT: Karen Pruden holds up a picture of her niece, Kami, who died following a drug overdose a few years ago. Pruden said her niece is the reason she wanted to get involved with a needle cleanup effort a group of women helped launch in Selkirk last week. BELOW: Raven O'Neil, not pictured, holds a bucket containing a portion of the needles and drug paraphernalia a group of women found in downtown Selkirk last Wednesday afternoon.

Selkirk," she said. "They weren't lying around before."

The IERHA says since the program launched in July 2015 to January 2017 they have handed out more than 100,000 needles in Selkirk. Selkirk's site provides sterile needle kits to those living in Selkirk and surrounding areas.

The IERHA says those who take a kit are provided with education on safe needle disposal and are encouraged to bring their needles back.

Clean needles and other supplies can currently be picked up and exchanged on the second floor of the Selkirk Community Health Office

located at 237 Manitoba Ave. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. "It's important to

"It's important to note that needle distribution programs do not increase drug use in a community," a spokesperon for the IERHA stated in an email to the *Record* last week.

Continued on Page 10





Sagkeeng First Nation Archival footage to make its debut in Wahbung 1971 doc

By Maggie Wysocki

Nicole Magne says she felt like a detective while hunting for the lost footage needed to make "Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971," which premieres this week in Winnipeg.

"I kept following leads and going down little trails trying to find clues," Magne, the co-director of the documentary said.

Alongside her team at the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC), she spent months digging for the 45-year-old film.

What was on the mysterious reel? A 1971 meeting where Manitoba chiefs presented a position paper to then Minister of Indian Affairs Jean Chrétien. The paper is known as Wahbung. It was the Manitoba First Nation's response to the government's 1969 White Paper, which aimed to abolish the Indian Act.

"Wahbung was the vision Manitoba chiefs had for the future of the people," she said.

Magne finally located the archival footage in the care of Sagkeeng First Nation, she said.

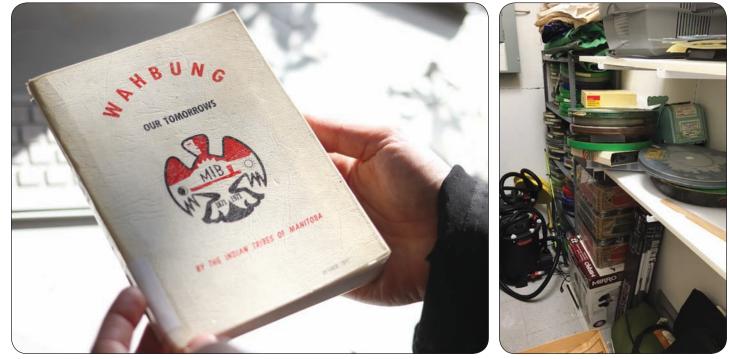
Although bits and pieces from the 16 millimetre reel were missing, Magne says the found-footage brings the documentary to the next level.

The footage and additional photos found along the way are featured throughout the new 22-minute film.

"Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971," covers the history of Wahbung, and pays tribute to the women who were involved in its creation.

Howard Burston, director of operations at MFNERC, says the documentary is important in recognizing the vision of Wahbung.

"This discussion has been going on for a long time," Burston said. "The positivity we see in those chiefs, watching them speak, gives us the strength to keep going."



RECORD PHOTOS BY MAGGIE WYSOCKI

ABOVE LEFT: "Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971" co-director, Nicole Magne says the documentary was inspired by Wahbung — a First Nation position paper calling for self-determination in response to the Canadian government in 1969. ABOVE RICHT: The film footage the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre spent months searching for was eventually uncovered in the archives of the Sagkeeng Heritage Centre in Sagkeeng First Nation.

A key element in self-determination is education, Burston says adding it's the way to keep First Nation traditions, beliefs and language alive.

"We need to set up that framework for these kids. Something that says, 'this is who we are, this is what we believe, this is what we need to know,"" he said.

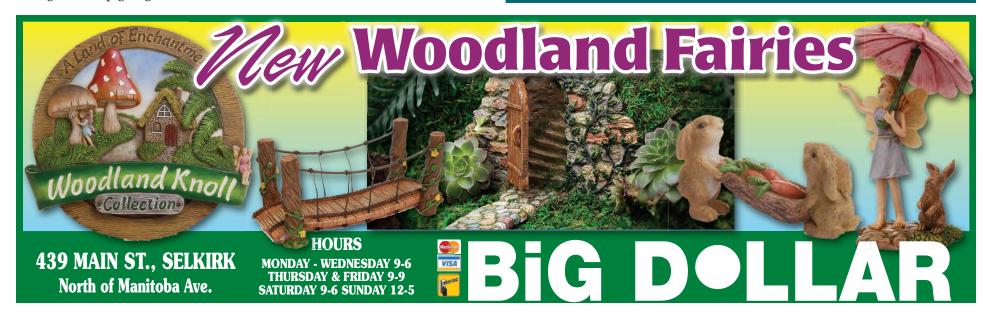
Accompanied by a teacher's guide, MFNERC hopes "Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971" will be taught in junior and high schools across Manitoba.

"Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971" premiers on Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at the University of Winnipeg. To reserve a spot for the free screening and panel discussion, visit ourtomorrowsfilm.com.



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New Peguis First Nation chief looks to turn their finances around

By Jeff Ward

Glenn Hudson has been named the new chief of Peguis First Nation after he earned 1,139 votes following the community's election last Friday.

Hudson is replacing former chief Cindy Spence who was elected in 2015 and was the first female chief for the First Nation.

Spence won over incumbent Glenn Hudson in 2015 after an eight-year reign.

Spence received 855 votes on Friday and said that she is proud of her accomplishments over the last two years and was happy to be elected as the community's first female chief.

Spence told *CBC News* that this wasn't the outcome she was looking for during this election.

"I sympathize with my supporters



GLENN HUDSON

and my community. We had a mission to make Peguis a better place and I

"WHEN I LEFT OFFICE WE HAD A \$12.8 MILLION DEFICIT, AND NOW IT'S OVER \$31 MILLION, SO THAT'S SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH, BUT WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN."

was only part way through that mandate," said Spence.

The former chief added that she plans to run again in the next election so that she can finish what she started in 2015.

Hudson said that he plans to fo-

cus on building a new personal care home but said that the First Nation's finances are also a big concern moving forward.

"When I left office we had a \$12.8 million deficit, and now it's over \$31 million, so that's something we're going to have to wrestle with, but we've done it before and we'll do it again," Hudson told *CBC News*.

The First Nation also elected Annette Spence-Meeches, Wade Sutherland, Glennis Sutherland and Mary Tyler-Bear as councillors.

Peguis First Nation is the largest First Nation community in Manitoba with a population of approximately 10,000 people of Ojibway and Cree descent. Approximately 1,000 Peguis members reside in Selkirk.

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2017 Canada Summer Games Manitoba Hydro Torch Relay set to stop in Gimli on July 15

By Patricia Barrett

The Manitoba Hydro Torch Relay for the 2017 Canada Summer Games will be stopping in Gimli on July 15 as part of the lead-up to the opening ceremonies in Winnipeg.

The Gimli Yacht Club is the host venue for the games' sailing competition.

The games' executive and its official co-hosts – Treaty 1 and Treaty 3 First Nations, and the Manitoba Métis Federation - notified Gimli council of the forthcoming visit.

"As a sponsor of the Torch Relay, Manitoba Hydro is working closely with 2017 Canada Summer Games staff to coordinate a relay route, choose community torchbearers, and host a town celebration at your Manitoba Hydro office," wrote the executive in a March 3 letter.

The torch will be lit in Ottawa on June 6 then travel to 11 communities. The relay begins in Steinbach then heads to Kenora (Ont.), Morden, Gil-

lam/Fox Lake Cree Nation, Thompson, The Pas/Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Dauphin, Gimli, Sagkeeng/ Great Falls and Brandon. It ends in Winnipeg on July 26 with a celebration at Manitoba Hydro Place. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for July 28.

The Gimli relay route encompasses Centre Street, Highway 9, North Fifth Avenue and First Avenue.

place in Gimli from July 27 to Aug. 4. Canada Summer Games.



RECORD FILE PHOTO

The Gimli Yacht Club is the host venue The sailing competition will take for the sailing competition for the



Donations help local doc build new church in Africa

By Teresa Carey

Dr. Habtu Demsas, a long-time family physician at the Selkirk Medical Centre, would like to extend his thanks to community and area members, as well as to Winnipeg's Eritrean community for helping to make a much-needed church and school in Eritrea, Africa a reality.

Demsas and his wife, Lettengus Nussur, spearheaded two fundraising socials in 2002 and 2004, which took place at the Selkirk Notre Dame Catholic Church where both of them are members. With about 200 people attending each time, the socials raised approximately \$14,000. After an additional \$12,000 was raised from other sources, the Kidane Mihret Church near Keren, Eritrea was finally able to be built.

"We want to thank all the people who participated and the people who helped to organize (the socials)," said Demsas, who was especially grateful for help from the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus in Selkirk, both of which threw themselves behind the cause by helping to sell tickets, and providing food and their time at the socials.

Demsas and Nussur, who moved to Canada in 1983, were both born inEritrea and were actively involved with the Catholic church there. They felt called to the task of seeing a church and school built there because they believe the Eritrean government was not doing much to help the people in the region. Demsas cited hindrances by the Eritrean government and lack of money as obstacles that delayed the project, but felt the church and school were vitally needed, so they



RECORD PHOTOS BY TERESA CAREY AND SUBMITTED

Dr. Habtu Demsas, a long-time doctor in Selkirk, stands outside of the Notre Dame Catholic Church in Selkirk where two fundraisers were held to help build a much-needed church and school, pictured above, in Eritrea, Africa. Demsas and his wife, who were both born in Eritrea, would like to thank Selkirk and area community members for helping them raise enough funds to make the project a reality.

were committed to seeing it through.

"The church there is everything," said Demsas. "When you have a church, you have health. When you build a church, the nuns come. It's the only place to get clothing sometimes. It's also an escape place during war."

Demsas explained the critical role the Catholic church plays in Eritrea.

People there rely on the church as a gathering place, a place of worship, and also as a place where early years education, relischooling gious and health care are provided.

But Demsas says he and his wife aren't quite finished yet.

"We continue to try to finance other needs, like chairs. Our future project would be to raise money for an ambulance for use around Keren. The ambulance will cost about USD\$50,000."

Demsas and his wife plan to hold more socials in the future, but likely in Winnipeg, which has a vibrant Eritrean community.

In addition to their attempt to help their community back home, Demsas and Nussur have also sponsored more than 200 refugees over the past 30 years.

"Our idea would be to help people wherever they are and not bring them here," said Demsas.





State of the Region Address Local leaders watching the spring melt closely



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS

Pictured from left to right: West St. Paul Mayor Bruce Henley, Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson, St. Clements Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn and St. Andrews Coun. Elmer Keryluk each took turns in front of the microphone during Selkirk Biz's eighth annual State of the Region Address at Gaffers in Lockport last Wednesday afternoon. To read about the province's March flood outlook, see Page 12.

By Lindsey Enns

The spring melt along with frozen ditches and culverts were top of mind for some local leaders during the Selkirk Biz's eighth annual State of the Region Address.

St. Andrews Coun. Elmer Keryluk, who filled in for St. Andrews Mayor George Pike, said their public works department is fully focused on the spring melt.

"We were able to clear our main drains of snow but this also created some problems with shallow ground freezing," Keryluk said during his address to community business leaders and local dignitaries at Gaffers in Lockport last Wednesday. "Culverts however are frozen throughout the RM and much steaming is needed, which is being done right now.

"We are receiving many calls regarding water not only sitting in the ditches but also in all the yards. We hope this does not result in overland flooding."

Keryluk added the RM is currently working on its 2017 budget as well as surfacing nearly 500 miles of roadways.

"At one time these were all gravel roads but now we are establishing hard surface roads in all wards of our RM especially in the residential ar-



eas," he said.

St. Clements Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn said they are currently working on drainage improvements throughout their community.

"We are hopeful that a drainage plan will be adopted and improvements made in certain areas before the end of the year," she said, adding they are also in the process of preparing for the spring melt. "Because of the rain, thawing and refreezing, some of the ditches are frozen solid and this has caused some concerns for the public works department regarding our equipment."

Fiebelkorn added the RM has had to rent equipment to remove thick ice that has built up in some ditches.

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson said it's an "exciting time" to be living in



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the City of Selkirk.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished but our eyes are focused on the road ahead because there are a lot of great things coming," Johannson said.

West St. Paul Mayor Bruce Henley said as the RM continues to grow at a rapid rate, they are working on fast tracking residen-

tial and business permits. Preliminary 2016 census data released by Statistics Canada shows that the population in West St. Paul grew by 8.8 per cent to 5,368 residents.

"Last year we

had an eight per cent increase in business permits and we also had an increase in our residential permits," Henley said, adding they have been able to turn a permit around for a single family dwelling in about eight to 10 days."That's huge when you're a builder ... previously it was anywhere between 20 to 40 days."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pesticide Control Program

Public Notice is hereby given that the Manitoba government intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Program during 2017 within the province roadway right of way. The Program is needed to control invasive plants and noxious weeds on road allowances within the Municipalities of:

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St. Laurent Rockwood St. Andrews Gimli Armstrong Fisher and Bifrost-Riverton and various locations in unorganized territories North of the Fisher and **Bifrost-Riverton** municipalities

Woodlands

The herbicides to be used: Dicamba, 2,4-D amine, 2,4-D Choline, Mecoprop, Amitrole, Aminopyralid, Metsulfuronmethyl, Diflufenzopyr, Picloram, Aminocyclopyrachlor, Chlorsurlfuron, Iron (as FeHEDTA), Glyphosate, Triclopyr, Clopyralid, Acetic Acid, LI 700, Non Ionic Surfactant, Flumioxazin and Indaziflm.

If you have comments or concerns the public may send written submissions to the specific control program within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Manitoba Sustainable Development Environmental Approval Branch Suite 160, 123 Main Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1A5



Selkink Record





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mirror. Its' driver circled around me, his door to mine. We rolled down our windows and a fellow with white face stubble, short grey hair, heavy dark eyebrows and set lips that didn't smile, almost quietly said, "We're try-

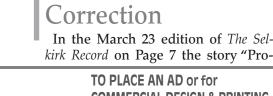
SPORTS REPORTER Brian Bowman

ADMINISTRATION





day even further out on Lake Winnipeg, I found two more brothers standing beside their truck using it for a wind break tending their ice fishing



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RECORD PHOTO BY ARNIE WEIDL

holes. They were Mat and Justin Bohemier from Lorette. Mat, a little slimmer than Justin said that he had sold his restaurant a few months ago and was now indulging in his favorite pastime, fishing. Justin, somewhat more reserved than Mat said one of his favorite places to go fishing in the summer was Flin Flon because now that the smelting plant is shut down, the

Set RED RIVER > CHALET BEACH > LAKE WINNIPEG

fishing is great. As I left them Mat observed with a smile that this had been an easy day on minnows because they hadn't had a bite yet. Keep trying fellas.

water is much cleaner and the trout

Just before they started ice breaking on the Red River I was driving on the ice by Sugar Island and noticed off to my left a young guy racing toward one of his ice fishing holes to claim a possible catch. I turned "old red" toward him, my interest peeking just as he slipped in a patch of water and started sliding on the side of his body to the hole like a baseball player trying to "steal" home plate. I stopped close to him and got out of the truck as his buddy came up laughing observing his partner lying in the water on the ice holding a landed fish high in the

nearby residents" should have read John Mackay, who lives along Taylor

> **TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?** Christy Brown, Distribution Mgr.: 204-467-5836

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Ice Fishing Association announces raffle winners Welcome good friends. I was well out on the ice on Lake Winnipeg's south end a couple of weeks ago when I came across an upscale ice shack with white shutters and an expensive door. A truck was beside it but both it and the shack were empty. My mind began to sift through various explanations and possible trouble when an



Derek Meech, left, and on the right Calyn Goodchild with some of their catch by Sugar Island on the Red

air.

Our athlete was Derek Meech and his friend, making fun of him, was Calyn Goodchild. When things settled down and we got to talking fish stories Derek remembered when they were shore fishing by their place on Eagle Lake in Ontario they heard of another friend who was a pilot with a plane attempting to take off and had a learning experience.

Apparently, he had tied some luggage by the rear rudder on one of the pontoons and one of the lashings got caught in the rudder's workings causing the plane to commence a great circle instead of going straight. The pilot thought to continue but the plane had other ideas and with the motor roaring decided to beach itself.

Lesson learned, if your plane is telling you something, pay attention.

Well, the Manitoba Ice Fishing Association had its raffle draw on Sunday and we're happy to announce Don Marchand of Winnipeg won the flasher, Dianna Kolkata of Beaconia won the portable ice shack and Perry Annuik of Ontario won the auger.

Congratulations folks! So-long anglers, see you soon.

Avenue in Selkirk. The incorrect name appeared in the previous story. The *Record* apologizes for the error.

posed housing development upsets



> CONTACT US By phone: **204-785-1618** fax: 204-467-2679

"I'm Dennis Sveinson and this is my brother, Glen," he motioned with his thumb at the chap sitting in the passenger seat. Glen who appeared a bit younger had longer darker hair trimmed and swept back. His face was more relaxed; calmer. I asked the guys

> ARNIE WEIDL

approaching truck filled my rear view

ing to find a spot where we can get

His friendly engaging tone was in

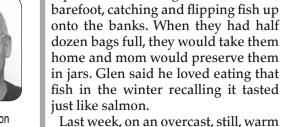
sharp contrast to his serious nature.

spring netting suckers in Watchorn

our shack across the ice break."

Georgia Campbell

if they could jump into my truck and maybe come up with a fishing story for us, which they did. They said there were nine kids in their family and grew up in Spearhill north of Ashern. Dennis remembered





Creek by Lake Manitoba. He said he PRODUCTION could still remember being up to his Debbie Strauss hips in the freezing ice cold water,

An Easter tradition



RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS Happy Thought School kindergarten students, some dressed up as superheroes for superhero day at their school in Pani Tymchuk's class, pictured second from left, gather around the Ukrainian paska bread they made for Easter last Wednesday morning.

Gov't launches cultural review for the first time in 25 years

Submitted

Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Rochelle Squires says the launch of a detailed cultural review will generate a more complete picture of the role culture plays in the Manitoba's unique identity.

"Forms of cultural expression that didn't exist 25 years ago are flourishing, while other cultural sectors are struggling to adapt to the impact of a digital world," said Squires, adding the industry has constantly evolved, but a far-reaching review has not been done in the past 25 years. "We want to hear not only from those working within the cultural sector but also from a wide cross-section of Manitobans as we work on re-shaping the way we deliver support and services to this important area."

Over the next three months, the province will host community meetings and forums and direct dialogue with cultural groups, arts organizations and all Manitobans who are passionate about this industry on what they'd like to see reflected in the new culture policy, the minister said.

The minister noted culture is an economic powerhouse for the Manitoba economy that creates thousands of jobs and represents nearly three percent of the province's gross domestic product (GDP). In 2015-16, the province provided \$59.7 million in grants, contributions and tax credits to the cultural and creative industries.

"Technological and social changes are rapidly transforming the manner by which arts and culture are created and consumed," said Squires. "Our supports for culture must evolve to reflect the modern realities. This review will address current pressures within the system, identify ways to become innovative, examine return on investment and seek out private sector and third-party partnerships to enhance the industries."

The review will examine what has worked well, and what can be improved upon through public engagement in key areas including arts, creative industries, heritage, libraries, Indigenous culture and cultural infrastructure.

Submissions can be made online, in-person at the public meetings, by email to imaginecreative@gov.mb.ca or by mail to:

Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office 6th floor, 213 Notre Dame Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1N3

The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2017. The government plans to share a summary of the responses later this fall, the minister noted.



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Selkirk Rotary celebrates 80 years of service to the community

On Saturday, April 8th, the Selkirk Rotary Club will be celebrating their 80th anniversa-

ry. Over the past 80 years Rotary has seen many changes. Founded in Chicago by businessman Paul Harris in February 1905, Rotary was a group for businessmen only who met weekly. In 1910 Rotary truly became an international organization by forming the first club out of the USA, in Winnipeg. Thirty-seven years later they branched out and the first club outside the city of Winnipeg was formed in Selkirk.

Since then, the biggest change that has happened is that women can now become members. Another change is Rotary does not have to meet weekly. The Selkirk club meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month and attendance is no longer compulsory. The club recognizes that peoples' lives today are busy with family coming first. However, the fellowship arrived from like-



Book Sale



Gaynor Family Library



Selkirk Rec Complex





Celebrating 75 Years

minded people remains true to the day Rotary was formed.

The Rotary Club is probably best known in Selkirk for their annual Lobsterfest. The club will be hosting their 25th annual event this year on Saturday, June 3. The proceeds raised at the event will go towards the purchase of an echocardiography machine for the new hospital in Selkirk.

Some of the past projects the Selkirk club has been a part of include the building of the Selkirk Pool in the park, the skateboard

park and the Rotary Manor for seniors (now known as the Fox Apartments). Rotary has also helped to fund the dialysis equipment at Selkirk General Hospital, the pool at Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive School and furnishings in the children's section at Gaynor Family Library. The Rotary Club has also provided annual scholarships at the high school and all junior highs within the division and from the onset of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Rotary has

been a vital

contributor to

the program

of providing a

book a month

to a child born

Hospital from

birth to age 5.

worldwide

scene, Rotary

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To mark the

anniversary

on April 8th,

Sinclair, for-

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student and

professor of

native studies

(department

head) at the

University

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On the

Selkirk

at



Skateboard Park



Skateboard Park



Jean Oliver takes a skatboard test drive!



Gordon Howard Seniors



Children of the dump mission

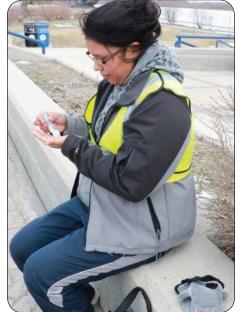
guest speaker at Selkirk Golf and Country Club. If anyone would like tickets to the event, please call Elaine Elliott at 204-482- 6741.

> NEEDLE CLEANUP, FROM PG. 2

"Needle distribution programs provide a non-judgmental safe environment where peers can access clean supplies and establish a trusting relationship with health care providers so that they can address their health and social needs."

The IERHA distributadded ing sterile needles helps prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis C, decrease emergency visits from infections, overdoses and helps connect clients with treatment options and education about safer drug use.

Harley, along with her mother



RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Harley Collee uses hand sanitizer to clean her hands at the Selkirk Waterfront during last Wednesday's needle cleanup. The group plans to meet every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Cheryl O'Neil and her sister Raven O'Neil said they wanted to start a needle cleanup effort to help make Selkirk's streets safer. The group now plans to meet every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to pick up any needles or drug paraphernalia they can find.

Raven, 21, who is also in recovery from drug addiction, said this is her way of giving back to her community.

Cheryl said watching both of her daughters get sober has been a blessing.

"I'm so proud," Cheryl said as tears filled her eyes. "I'm just thankful that they're alive, they're with me everyday and they're alive.

"When they were in their addiction, it was a struggle for me not knowing if they were going to call me alive or if I would have to go identify them."

Karen Pruden said she wanted to get involved with the cleanup effort in honour of her niece who overdosed and died a few years ago.

"I think Selkirk should get together and clean this up, keep everybody safe and be aware that there are people out there dealing with addictions," Pruden said.

The IERHA has provided the group with supplies to safely pick up needles, which they later drop off at the Selkirk Community Health Office so they can be properly disposed of.

Harley said her young daughter was the reason she decided she wanted to get clean.

"She's everything to me," she said. "I got into treatment on my own because I wanted to do it on my own.

"I love life now and I love giving back to the community." As for advice for those currently battling an addiction, Harley suggests they turn to their friends and family for help.

"They really love you, if you think they don't they do and they want the best for you," she said. "I had a hard time believing that when I was dealing with my problem and I turned to them and they helped me and they pointed me in the right direction."

Those seeking help can also contact the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba by calling 204-944-6200 or toll free at 1-866-638-2561.

Gov't replaces K-3 class size cap with early years initiative

By Lindsey Enns

The Pallister government has scrapped the kindergarten to Grade 3 Smaller Classes Initiative and is now giving school divisions more freedom to go above the previously mandated 20 student class size cap.

Education Minister Ian Wishart announced on March 14 that a new Early Years Education Initiative will replace the Smaller Classes Initiative, which the NDP government launched in 2011.

"Our government is empowering school divisions to choose the best practices in literacy and numeracy – practices that will allow Manitoba schools to strengthen the fundamentals of a quality education," Wishart stated in a release. "This important step will enhance early years education and improve student achievement across the province."

Beginning in 2017-18, Manitoba school divisions will be able to choose to either continue investing in smaller class sizes, make investments to improve literacy and numeracy, or a combination of the two.

Lord Selkirk School Division Supt. Scott Kwasnitza said the timing of this announcement wasn't ideal, since the school division had already finalized

its 2017-18 budget.

"It would have been much more helpful to have this information a long time ago but that wasn't possible so we make the best of the situation," Kwasnitza said, adding the LSSD plans to continue supporting smaller class sizes with the funding. "We have embraced the initiative over the past five years and we do appreciate that there would be some flexibility moving forward."

The NDP government launched the Smaller Classes Initiative in 2011 with a goal of having 90 per cent of kindergarten to Grade 3 class sizes at 20 or fewer students.

Wishart noted the new Early Years Enhancement Initiative will include an evaluation component to measure provincewide progress annually following a four-year implementation timeframe. Manitoba Education and Training will work in collaboration with school divisions and post-secondary partners, utilizing third-party expertise to evaluate the outcomes of teaching methods and enabling adjustments to be made based on performance results. The department will facilitate the sharing of best practices for improving student achievement among school divisions.

"There are many ways that we support learning in schools and one of them I think is smaller class sizes but there's a lot of other things," Kwasnitza said. "I think the key is to establish a strong community within the classroom and some of those things are hard to measure by research.

"Having that sense of belonging is enhanced when the class sizes are manageable."

In the fall of 2017, as part of the K-12

Framework for Continuous Improvement, school divisions will be required to set realistic and measurable targets for increasing student achievement in literacy and numeracy in their school division plans, Wishart said. The framework, introduced last May, requires school divisions to monitor and report annually on student progress which enables the province to track student achievement.



Hypnosis and Hilarity event coming to Selkirk April 8



SUBMITTED PHOTO Local hypnotist Matao, pictured above, is gearing up to do two shows in Selkirk for the third annual Hypnosis and Hilarity Event in support of the Manitoba

Heart and Stroke Foundation on April 8. This year's event is extra special to Matao as it marks the anniversary of his father's passing on April 6th, 2013 of a hemorrhagic stroke. Since then Matao has devoted himself to help create awareness for the Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation and to donate the event's proceeds in memory of his father Kenneth. To date. the event has raised more than \$2,000. This year will feature two live performances on Saturday, April 8. One will take place at 1:30 p.m. and another at 7:30 p.m. at the Selkirk Inn and Conference Centre (Smitty's Selkirk) located at 168 Main St. The doors will open one hour prior to show time and there will be rush seating. Tickets can be purchased online by visiting matao.ca, at Smitty's Restaurant in Selkirk or by calling 204-791-4295.

Flood risk remains moderate to major across Manitoba

Submitted

Levels of spring flooding continue to be dependent on future weather conditions, however, the risk of overland flooding is slightly reduced since the February outlook but it still remains moderate to major across the province.

"The province's Hydrologic Forecast Centre continues to monitor precipitation, spring melt and inflows from the northern United States and the Souris River basin to the west," Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen stated in a release last Friday. "At this time, the Souris River basin continues to be of concern while favourable weather conditions have eased expected flows in the Red River Basin. Based on the current outlook, the chance of closing PTH 75 during the spring runoff is low."

The potential for spring runoff is generally normal to above normal throughout all watersheds, with the exception of the Souris River basin which has above normal to well-above normal runoff potential. At this time, it is anticipated the province's major flood infrastructure, including the Red River Floodway and the Portage Diversion, would be activated under

Proper



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISD.CA

Pictured from left to right: Manitoba Infrastructure director, hydrologic forecasting and co-ordination, Fisaha Unduche, Infrastructure Minister Blaine Pedersen and Manitoba Infrastructure assistant deputy minister, water management and structures division, Doug McMahon present the province's March flood outlook during a press conference last Friday afternoon.

unfavourable weather conditions.

At this time, with unfavourable weather, the outlook suggests:

• watersheds in the southwestern region: major risk;

• Pembina River: moderate to major

risk;

- Roseau River: moderate to major risk;
- Assiniboine River: moderate to major risk;
- Eastern region and the Winnipeg

THE

GARDEN

GALS

River: major risk;

• Interlake region and the Fisher River: moderate risk;

• Red River: moderate risk;

• northern Manitoba/The Pas regions and the Saskatchewan, Carrot and Swan rivers: moderate risk.

At this time, forecasted flood levels for major rivers are as follows:

• the Red River from Emerson to the floodway inlet with normal weather levels would be similar to 2013, with unfavourable weather observed levels would be similar to 2010;

• with the benefit of floodway operations James Avenue 4.6m (15 feet) for favourable weather or 5.5m (18 feet) in unfavourable conditions.

Following a municipal tour of potentially affected areas throughout southwestern Manitoba, the minister noted the province plans and prepares for flood risk predicted with unfavourable weather conditions and the scenario of highest flood risk.

The province will provide daily flood information to municipalities once runoff commences which they can use to fine tune flood preparations.

More information is available online at gov.mb.ca/flooding.

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Local women come together for Gander Girls fundraising event

By Marlo Glass

Selkirk's Gander Girls Ducks Unlimited Committee hosted their 12th annual fundraising event last Friday.

Nearly 150 women gathered at the Selkirk Legion in superhero-themed costumes for an evening of dinner, drinks, and dancing to raise money for environmental and educational initiatives pioneered by Ducks Unlimited.

The evening was a true girl's night out, with the auctioneer and bartender being the only men in attendance.

"The funds raised go towards many projects in the Interlake area," says Lorie Fiddler, Gander Girls committee member. "Ducks Unlimited works with farmers preserving wetlands, and with schools providing educate to children. There are several conservation projects throughout the province."

Ducks Unlimited is dedicated to providing education about water and wetland conservation. In Canada, 80 acres of wetland are lost every

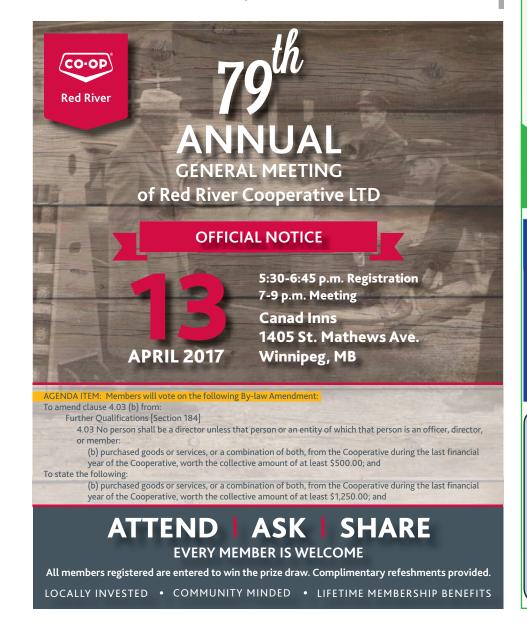
"THE FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS MANY PROJECTS IN THE INTERLAKE AREA."

day.

This event follows World Water Day, which was March 21. World Water Day raises awareness about the impact of wetlands on water filtration and quality.

While this year's numbers have not been officially tallied, this event has raised up to \$16,000 in previous years. The money raised has gone towards a scholarship for young women in the community who are pursuing environmental studies.

For more information on volunteering with Selkirk's Gander Girls, contact Lorie Fiddler at 204-481-0777.





Fun Fact: Jax is a Miniature Pinscher who loves to snuggle and be spoiled by all his family members.



Jax has won a prize pack from Canvasback Pet Supplies!

To submit your pet for the Pet of the Month 2017 contest, send a photo and a fun fact to: ads@selkirkrecord.ca



14 The Selkirk Record Thursday, March 30, 2017 Red River Basin Commission Saving Netley-Libau Marsh focus of 9th annual Fish Gala

By Teresa Carey

The Red River Basin Commission North Chapter hosted its ninth Annual Fish Gala gathering at the Sunova Center in West St. Paul last Thursday evening.

More than 240 people attended, making it the best attended fish dinner gala since the event's inception, according to organizers.

The guest list was a virtual who's who of government, business and conservation district leaders. It included representatives from all levels of government including MPs and MLAs, as well as municipal and city representatives from across Manitoba.

The evening was opened by Manitoba Minister of Sustainable Development, Cathy Cox. After dinner and presentations by lead scientists, the annual Red River Basin Commission North Chapter Award was handed out. This year's recipients were high school students Hunter Watson and Alyssa Lee who, in February, produced a dance show to raise awareness about the plight of our watersheds and raised funds for non-profit water education and water conservation organizations.

The theme for this year's gala was on saving the Netley-Libau Marsh. This important wetland area is located around the south of Lake Winnipeg with the Red River flowing through its centre. It spans 250 square kilome-



RECORD PHOTO BY TERESA CAREY

The more than 240 people in attendance at the Red River Basin Commission's Fish Gala learn about the benefits of dredging during the ninth annual event at the Sunova Centre in West St. Paul last Thursday evening.

tres and represents the largest coastal wetland in all of North America.

"Unless something is done, the marsh will be lost due to flooding," said Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, a scientist and associate professor with the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba.

Goldsborough, along with Dr. Richard Grosshans, senior research scientist at the International Institute for Sustainable Development, gave a joint presentation on the restoration of Netley Marsh by the means of dredging the Red River, a practice which had been done from 1884 to 1999. Together, they explained the history of the marsh and its importance to storing phosphorous, managing water flow and water quality, as well as its vital role in preserving wildlife

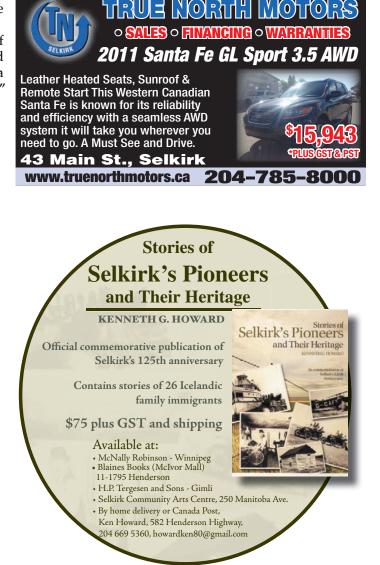
habitat and fish stocks in Lake Winnipeg. "The benefits of

dredging the Red River again is a win, win for all," said Steve Strang, Manitoba director of the Red River Basin Commission. "Less water going out the outlets as the siltation is filling into the channels means that up to 50 per cent or more of the Red River waters are forced through into the marsh which is now drowning out the marsh," Strang said. Strang noted other benefits to dredging, such reducing the chances of ice jam flooding and creating a travel channel for the fish coming up the river.

"As climate change comes, the ice roads will not be able to function as long and the need of transporting goods by boat is starting to look very attractive again," Strang said.

The Red River Basin Commission is an international organization that partners with stakeholders to support responsible stewardship in the Red River Basin. It works to raise awareness about land and water issues, resource management, providing research, education, and flood forecasting.

To learn more about the Red River Basin Commission and its goals, visit redriverbasincommission.org.





For your great support in our 2016/17 season

'Quilting sisters'

Dozens gather at retreat to create cozy works of art

By Laura Tutlies

One would not necessarily associate serious quilting in the same thought pattern as a casino. But for a few times a year you can spend three full days with like-minded people at South Beach Casino and Resort learning the art or honing your skills with fabric, thread and a sewing machine that purrs like a kitten.

In late February, 57 women and girls gathered at tables spread out over the ballroom at South Beach. And this wasn't their first time. These gals meet four or five times a year to complete their projects, start new ones and learn the secrets that have been passed down for centuries by women to whom creativity with fabric is not just a passion but a place of commitment and great contentment.

iitoba

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Sigga Schofield of Selkirk said she first realized her love of quilting when her and her husband lived Pinawa. "This is an old craft" Schofield said. "That started with flour sacks and leftover pieces or recycled fabric from dresses, gowns, shirts and curtain material. But in the end - it is art and every quilt is a journey."

Moving around with her husband who works for Manitoba Hydro gave Schofield the unexpected opportunity to learn how to quilt while connecting with a new community.

Quilting isn't just about the finished product. It is about bonding. Brenda Flett of Selkirk was with Schofield at the retreat. In addition to the three day affair at the casino, the two go to Matlock every Monday to Matlock Sew-N-Sew.

"We are quilting sisters," Flett said. "We see each other through tough

RECORD PHOTO BY LAURA TUTLIES

Jan Giesbrecht stops to smile for a photo while working on a quilt using her 1941 Singer sewing machine during a three-day guilting retreat at South Beach Casino and Resort in February.

times, in fact we may be better than sisters as we have turned our time together into good times no matter what is happening in the rest of the world."

Fran Friesen and Carol Nicol agree. The two friends sat side by side while clicking out the stiches on their personal creations. Continued on Page 17



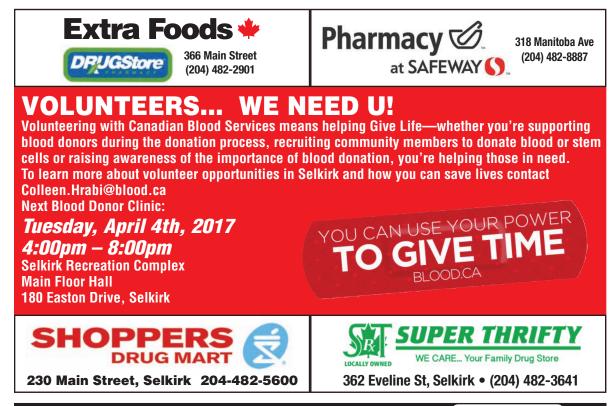


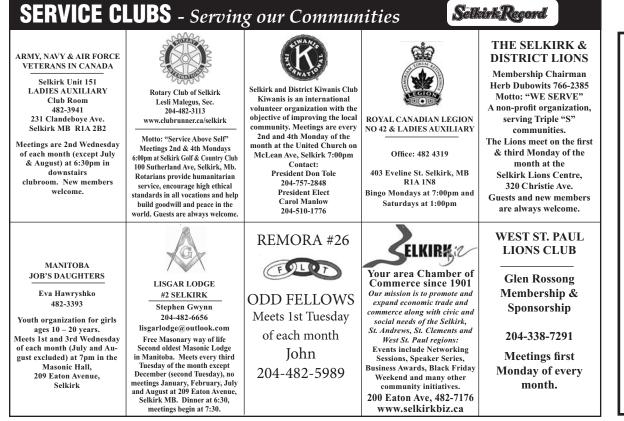
Head start students take to the rink



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Aboriginal Head Start Program students take a moment to pose for a picture during a skate at Selkirk's Memorial Arena in February. The program recently received a \$6,085 community grant from the Selkirk and District Community Foundation to purchase skating equipment and kitchen appliances.





Campaign encourages young Manitobans to bring their ID

Submitted

The Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba (LGA) has launched a public education campaign to encourage young adults living in rural Manitoba to bring identification (ID) when they visit bars, restaurants or liquor stores. The campaign also reminds staff in licensed establishments to check the ID of youthful-looking patrons.

"Checking ID is a matter of public safety," explains LGA CEO Rick Josephson, adding that all licensees are required by law to ask for ID from anyone who appears to be a minor.

The LGA says that unlike in cities, where the majority of patrons expect to be asked for ID in licensed establishments, inspectors have noted that those living in rural areas sometimes leave their ID at home.

"Rural bars and restaurants have a different dynamic than those in Winnipeg," said Coralee Dolyniuk, Executive Director of the Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association."In smaller towns, it can be awkward for servers or bartenders to ask for ID from patrons who are potentially friends, neighbors or family members."

Scott Jocelyn, president and CEO of the Manitoba Hotel Association said "we appreciate the LGA's efforts to help the public understand that if a patron appears to be a minor, liquor servers and salespeople need to verify their age by requesting ID. By asking for ID, our employees are just following the law."

The campaign features youthful-looking individuals and the tagline, we must ask for valid ID, even if we know you. It will run for six weeks and include billboards and posters predominately in rural Manitoba. Messages will also be featured online through social media and high-traffic websites oriented to young adults.

"This campaign is a great reminder to both licensees and their customers that you must always bring ID, no matter how old you are and no matter who you may know working in the licensed establishment," says Josephson.

For more information, visit LGAmanitoba.ca.



> QUILTING SISTERS, FROM PG. 15



RECORD PHOTO BY LAURA TUTLIES Laurie and Dawn Scarfe of Beausejour and Pinawa are mother and daughter who use the quilting retreat as a chance to spend quality time together.

It was a time to visit, share stories, exchange ideas and generally dedicate time to an art form that is finding it's place in our world of modern technology.

Quilting books, patterns and tricks of the trade are freely shared by the participants at the retreat.

"I couldn't figure out how to master a certain seam when a fellow quilter stepped up to my machine and showed me exactly what to do to create the finish I was looking for," said Velma, who would only give her first name.

Dianne Penner of Steinbach was

making a two-sided Minion quilt for her daughter who is a student at the University of Manitoba. Antje Dueck of Kleefeld was creating amazing table runners while Debbie Hopkins of Winnipeg was making a quilt for her four-month-old grandchild.

"My daughter-in-law is very fashion forward and at first resisted the idea of something as old-fashioned as a quilt, but I convinced her that I could create one that paid attention to the colours and textures that are part of her colour schemes," Hopkins said.

The room full of women was filled with laughter and the buzz of sewing



machines.

Organizer and owner of Oma's Quilt Shop in Grunthal, Adlena Boshman, has been running the retreats since 2008 after holding a workshop in Pinawa. That's when she and her fellow quilters hatched the idea of regular retreats where quilters could gather for a weekend focused on their craft with a little light entertainment in between. The casino provides a central gathering place for the women who collect from all parts of the province along with guests from Alberta

The Selkirk Record Thursday, March 30, 2017 **17** and Ontario.

For one quilter the three-day getaway was a Christmas gift from her mother who joined her at South Beach.

These quilters constantly display their work at fairs across the province. This summer there will be a Boreal Shores Art Tour on Aug. 19 to 20 on the Eastern side of Lake Winnipeg, sponsored by eastmantourism.ca.

You can expect to see some of the quilt retreat artistic work displayed.



Letters Selkirk's call for more personal care home beds not so simple

I would first like to know on what data Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson based his statement "Selkirk alone could use 150-200 more personal care home beds," which appeared in the story "City calls on PCs for more care home beds" in the Jan. 26, 2017 edition of the *Selkirk Record*.

What justification is there to build at least another two long-term care facilities in Selkirk?

Citing wait times for placement is easy finger-pointing - looking at wait time solutions...not so much.

The panel process first requires that the individual can no longer live on their own even with maximum Home Care services. Loss of independence, without a cataclysmic event, is gradual with every effort made to maintain the individual in their home setting. If the individual has ended up in hospital, the panel process will not begin until the person has plateaued (will not measurably benefit from further rehab). There is caution in identifying the plateau level since there is extremely limited adjunctive therapies at personal care homes compared to hospitals - weekly or less compared to 1-2 times daily at hospitals.

The assessment process for panel takes time with multiple disciplines identifying care needs. Failure to take this time will potentially deprive the individual of appropriate placement. Unfortunately, the delineation of physical versus psychological care needs is not always clear - placement in a PCH must consider the right mix in the population so as to provide the required level of care while minimizing the risk of injury from other residents.

Long-term care facilities staffed appropriately to manage more complex care needs - physical such as artificial feedings or psychological such as dementias - are few. This will extend time from panel to placement.

These issues are just the tip of the 'needs' iceberg.

The call for more PCH beds is a call for more staff - professional, allied and support. Physicians provide PCH coverage in addition to their practices; a nursing shortage exists and is growing; support services can be a daunting challenge to maintain.

The mayor's call for more care home beds is akin to Selkirk's citizens calling for more businesses to benefit the city's tax base and offset residential property tax increases.... not so simple, eh?

G. McKay RM of St. Andrews

Selkirk Steeltown Ford earns 2016 Diamond Club President's Award

Submitted

Steeltown Ford is among an elite group of Ford and Lincoln dealerships to be recognized as a 2016 Diamond Club President's Award winner by Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited.

The Diamond Club President's Award, one of Ford of Canada's highest dealership honours, is presented annually to dealerships who demonstrate outstanding achievement in sales and customer satisfaction.

For 2016, Ford of Canada is recognizing Ford and Lincoln dealers across the country for providing superior experience in sales, service and overall dealership experience.

"Our success is driven by our strong customer relationships and our ties to Selkirk," says Steeltown Ford Sales Dealer Principal, Jason Sargent. "We're proud to have earned the President's Award distinction every year since the beginning because it shows that our customers appreciate our team's commitment to service excellence."

Ford of Canada introduced The President's Award in 2000. Dealers become eligible through excellence in dealership operations and exceptional customer feedback through survey responses related to their sales and service satisfaction and overall dealership experience.

The Steeltown team is dedicated to Selkirk and supports a different local charity or cause each month through dealer-run fundraising initiatives, as well as organizing their own snowmobile fundraisers. Past recipients of fundraising efforts include Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, and The Huntington's Disease Society.

Steeltown Ford continues to support its community and customers into 2017.



corn chips

olives.

chips.

2 cups chopped tomato 3 green onions, sliced

Cowboy Caviar

1 avocado, peeled, pitted and cut into

1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed

1 can (6 ounces) large California Ripe Olives, drained and coarsely chopped

1/2 cup prepared vinaigrette dressing

In medium bowl, stir together tomato,

green onions, avocado, black beans and

Toss with dressing and serve with corn

SUNDAY NIGHT BINGO



Roasted pepper spinach and feta flatbreads

4 servings / 23 min Prep 15 min / Cook 8 min These toasty flatbreads create a super lunch - a little like pizza with a twist! Ingredients

1 cup (250 mL) unsalted cooked or drained rinsed canned chickpeas 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) baby spinach leaves, divided

1 small clove garlic

2 tbsp (25 mL) freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 tbsp (15 mL) tahini or other nut or seed butter

Pepper

1 roasted sweet red pepper (about 3/4 cup/175 mL strips)

Recipe courtesy of olive grower

Pablo Nerey

deveined

Servings: 6-8

1 pound rotini pasta

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

pepper, to taste

1 cup heavy cream

3 tablespoons chopped garlic

1 pound large shrimp, peeled and

4 6- to 8-inch (15 to 20 cm) whole

wheat pita breads 4 oz (120 g) lower fat feta cheese,

crumbled or 3 1/2 oz (100 g) HEART&[™] STROKE FOUNDATION regular feta cheese, crumbled

Directions Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). In a food processor, combine chickpeas, 1 cup (250 mL) of the spinach, garlic, lemon juice and tahini. Process until fairly smooth, adding 1 to 2 tsp (5 to 10 mL) water, if necessary, to make a spreadable hummus. Season to taste with pepper.

Pat roasted red pepper strips dry. Arrange pita breads on a large baking sheet or 2 sheets, as necessary. Spread with hummus, dividing equally. Arrange strips of roasted red pepper on top; sprinkle evenly with cheese. Bake for about 8 minutes or until pitas are toasted and toppings are hot.

Remove pitas from oven and sprinkle with remaining spinach.

Rotini with Shrimp and Olives

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for garnish

2 tablespoons prepared pesto

1 can (2.25 ounces) sliced California **Ripe Olives**

Bring large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook 8-10 minutes, or until al dente; drain well and set aside.

In large skillet, heat butter and olive oil over medium heat.

Add garlic and stir until golden, being careful not to burn.

Add shrimp to skillet and season with garlic salt and pepper. Cook about 5 minutes, or until shrimp are pink, stirring frequently.

Reduce heat to medium-low and add cream to skillet; simmer until thick. Add cooked pasta to sauce and stir in Parmesan cheese, pesto and olives. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.



Recipe courtesy of olive grower Natalie Jameson Servings: 8-10

Red Potato and Olive Salad



Recipe courtesy of olive grower Carolina Burreson Servings: 4-6 Dressing

1/2 cup olive oil

- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar

Salad

1/2 cup sliced California Ripe Olives, drained

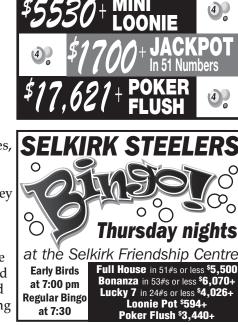
- 1/2 cup grape tomatoes, halved 1/4 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 1/2 pounds small red potatoes,

quartered and boiled until tender 1 jar (6 ounces) marinated artichoke

hearts, drained and coarsely chopped 1/4 medium red onion, thinly sliced In sealable jar, mix together dressing

ingredients and

refrigerate at least 4 hours. When ready to serve, place all salad ingredients in large bowl. Drizzle with dressing and toss lightly to coat.



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NETFLIX



Sportsærecreation INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN Steelers host season-ending awards night

Staff

The Selkirk Steelers held their annual season-ending awards dinner last weekend and several players skated away with some hardware.

Selkirk's most valuable player during the regular season award was shared by goaltender Hayden Dola and forward Jake Dudar.

Both players put up some pretty good numbers this past season. Dola posted a 29-15 regular-season record to go along with a 2.74 goals-against average and .914 save percentage.

And while Dola's job was to stop goals, Dudar excelled at scoring them. The veteran forward led the Steelers in goals scored (29) and points (67).

St. Andrews' Carter Barley was recognized as the Steelers' rookie of the year and was also selected as the winner of the club's citizen award.

Barley scored 12 goals and had 28 points in 54 regular-season games.

Barley's older brother, Connor, meanwhile, shared the Steelers' best local player award with Dallas Starodub.

Connor Barley finished third on the Steelers in goals (23) and was fourth in points (46) while Starodub had 14 goals and 32 points.

Selkirk's most improved player this past season was Nathan Halvorsen while Shannan McFadden was named the club's most inspirational.

The other awards went to Mark Wilson (Ironman), Ezra Hall (Most Gentlemanly), Liam Kroeker (Best Defensive Player) and Mark Wilson (Top Defenceman).

RECORD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Selkirk's most valuable player during the regular season award was shared by goaltender Hayden Dola, right photo, and forward Jake Dudar.

Local Canadian Tire generously donates to ringette association

By Brian Bowman

Selkirk Canadian Tire store owner Edgar Head is offering first-year ringette players a deal they can't refuse.

Head has generously offered to pay the registration cost for any first-year players' (aged four and up). This sponsorship is in place for the upcoming 2017-18 season and is available to all families new to the sport (regardless of income) and applies to all youth levels.

"He said he will pay the registration fees for any new applicants at any age who have not played ringette before," said Interlake Ringette Association president Roman Romaniw."It's quite a generous donation."

Although registration is covered under this particular sponsorship, equipment and any local club volunteer fees would not be.

Head had many great reasons to wanting to donate money for firstyear players' registration costs.

"I've seen other associations where the numbers have grown dramatically when they have allowed first- or second-year players on the ice for free," he said. "Once they get a taste for the sport, and the parents get exposed to the sport, it tends to grow.

"The idea of this donation is to get the kids out."

Ringette is an exciting sport that fosters lifelong friendships between players and coaches.

"My daughter is now in her fifth year playing and we moved from Ontario to here and she still has some really close friends that she met through ringette," Head explained. "The relationship that happens inside the dressing room is at least as important as to what happens on the ice."

Last season, the Interlake Ringette Association had 32 new players try ringette for the first time. The IRA is a governing body for all of the local clubs in the Interlake and has teams scattered across St. Andrews, Selkirk and Stonewall.

This past season, there were 166 players on 11 teams playing ringette

throughout the Interlake.

"It's pretty lined up compared to last year," Romaniw noted. "We've seen a little bit of growth."

The IRA is expected to host a "cometry-ringette" event in the fall, said Romaniw. Two similar events were held last year, one last spring in St. Andrews and another in Selkirk in the fall.

"It's a fun skate that is free for anyone who wants to come out and try ringette in a supportive environment," he said. "We will have some instructors come out and all (the players) have to do is come out with skates and helmets."

Jackson commits to Bison women's soccer program

By Brian Bowman

Veronica Jackson of St. Andrews is one of nine recruits that have committed to play for the University of Manitoba Bison women's soccer team for the 2017 season.

Jackson, a defender, will be joined at the University of Manitoba by defender/midfielder Emma Romanica, midfielder Holly Angus, midfielder Breanne Smith, midfielder Michaila Pilcher, midfielder/forward Hannah Treadway, forward Stephanie Friesen, forward Lauren Martens and goalkeeper Justina Jarmoszko.

Jackson, 18, a FC Northwest captain the last three seasons, is excited to join the Bison.



Steelers 12A3 earn silver in city final

Staff

The 12A3 Selkirk Steelers capped off amazing hockey season by earning the silver in the city finals.

Selkirk was defeated three games to one in their best-of-five final against the Norquay Knights.

Norquay won Game 1 by a 3-2 score but Selkirk battled back to win the next game 4-2. The Knights won the series, however, with wins of 5-3 and 6-2.

Selkirk started its playoffs with victories over St. Boniface (7-1) and Gateway (2-1), sending the Steelers to the A-side final against Norquay.

The first-place Knights won the game 5-3, placing Selkirk on the Bside.

During the Steelers' 20-game regular season, Selkirk finished second (one point out of first place) out of 13 teams with an impressive 17-2-1 record.

Selkirk scored 119 goals and only allowed 26 (their goals against was best in the division). Another highlight for the team was winning an Altona tournament in December.

Eagles fly high



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED The Northeast Eagles Bantam A1 hockey team recently won a Hockey Winnipeg Championship. Northeast defeated Team Orange of the Winnipeg Storm 2-1 in overtime in Game 5 of their best-of-five final. The Northeast Eagles are comprised of players from Selkirk, St. Andrews and East St. Paul. Back row, Terri Scott, (coach) Saije Catcheway, Olivia Zamrykut, Amy Carter, Alisa Kastes, Tannis Dawson, (coach) Katie Rebeck, Sarah Schroeder, Agnes Duhoux, Kaitlyn Tiede, Hunter Krahn, and Arthur Bignell (coach) Front row, Amy Maclaren, Julianna Baptiste, Kiera Dawson, Gabrielle Nemis, Isabella Pauls, Madison Mcivor, Madilyn Rebeck, and Brooke Smith (goalie).

> JACKSON COMMITS, FROM PG. 20

"I'm thrilled to play for the Bisons in the upcoming year," she said in a media release.

The 5-foot-10 standout defender has an impressive soccer resume. She has been on the provincial team (2014-16) and part of Team Manitoba at the Western Canada Games (2015). Jackson was also a member of the U18 MSA Champions (2014 - age advanced) and National Development Centre program from 2012-16.

Jackson also won the Scholar Athlete Award at Glenlawn Collegiate and was a flag bearer at FIFA Women's World Cup in 2015.

RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured, back row: coach Jeff Cudmore, Carter McCorrister, Matthew Kawiuk, Brody Milne, coach Jeremy Peebles, Ryland Dejong, Alex Kirton, Randon Hudson and coach Derik Milne; middle row, Lenae Peebles, Cordell Yarych, Zane Blackburde-Moore, Owen Cudmore, Joshua Evans, Michael Winkler; front row, Kieran Simpson and Owen Pollock. Missing from the photo is coach Kevin Dobrowolski and Bryce Dobrowolski.

Bantam city champs



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Bantam A1 Fishermen hockey team won the City Championship for the second consecutive year. In a hard-fought final series versus River East, which took four overtime games, the Fishermen were able to capture the championship in the sixth game.

Pictured, back row: Ross Penwarden (head coach), Luke Helgason (assistant coach), Mark Edmonds, Ethan De Groot, Matthew Donald, Ethan Blacksmith, Nicholas Hnatiuk-Nash, Ian Brooks (assistant coach) and Karson Koshelanyk. Penwarden

Front row: Austin Wasnie, Hunter Keller, Wyatt Whitwell, Evan Anderson, James Lee, Joshua Yeroschak, Jaden Kreviazuk, Matthew Brooks, Austin Zirk, and goalie Robert Mangnall.

Jackson is among a very talented group of players recruited by the Bisons for next season.

"I am really proud of our 2017 recruiting class," said Bison head coach Vanessa Martinez Lagunas."It is made of a great group of talented players who will strengthen our Bison team in every positional line. Each one of be entering their 13th season in 2017.

them will have a positive influence in the development of our program in the upcoming years.

"I am really excited to welcome them to the Bison family and help them to achieve their maximum potential on and off the field."

The Bison women's soccer team will



RECORD PHOTOS BY NATASHA TERSIGNI

Selkirk Judo Club athletes Matthew Parobec, on top, and Logan MacFarlane compete in the Male Under 16 category during the Balmoral Open last Saturday in Stonewall.

Selkirk Judo Club members win medals at Balmoral Open

Submitted by Brian Jones

Sixteen fighters from the Selkirk Judo Club competed at the Balmoral Open Judo Tournament at Stonewall Collegiate last Saturday.

The local club finished with four gold, five silver and five bronze medals.

"Our team did quite well in Stonewall," said Brian Jones, one of the Selkirk club's coaches. "We did find some items to improve on before the last tournament of the season, which is in Portage la Prairie in two weeks."

Winning gold medals were Sarah Ekosky (U14 Girls under 52 kg), Justin Ekosky (U18 Men under 73 kg), Damien Ekosky (U21 Men under 81 kg) and Jzraelyne Kopp (U14 Girls under 44 kg).

Silver medals went to Schaelyce Kopp (U18 under 57 kg), Aaron Haak (U18 Men under 81 kg), Brody Malinowski (U14 Boys under 60 kg), Bailey Malinowski (U18 Men under 73 kg) and Matthew Parobec (U16 Men under 50 kg).

Winning bronze medals were Danny Ekosky (U12 Boys under 50 kg), Logan MacFarlane (U16 Men under 50 kg), Lachlan Patton (U12 under 33 kg), Ryder Wilson (U12 under 33 kg) and Hannah Grobb (U12 over 55 kg).

Dunstone wins Mixed Provincial Curling Championship

Staff

Those who attended the Chicken Chef Mixed Provincial Curling Championship last weekend at the Stonewall Curling Club certainly got their money's worth.

The great weekend of curling action culminated in an exciting final as East St. Paul's Dean Dunstone edged Sean Grassie 5-4 in an extra end. Grassie took a 2-0 lead with a pair in the second end and then the two teams traded singles in the fourth and fifth.

Dunstone scored pair in the sixth to tie the score at 3-3 and then added a key steal of one in the seventh. With the hammer in the eighth, Grassie extended the game by scoring one.

Dunstone reached the final after

doubling Richard Muntain while Grassie took care of Kelly Marnoch. Both games finished with 6-3 scores.

Dunstone's rink included Natale Harding, Peter Nicholls, Renee Fletcher, fifth Matt Dunstone, and sixth Colleen Kilgallen.

Stonewall's Derek Dowsett's rink, meanwhile, finished the provincials with a 2-3 record. Dowsett lost to Muntain (8-3) and Marnoch (8-1) before defeating Sam Antila 11-6 and Colin Kurz 6-5.

Dowsett then was eliminated after a 6-3 loss to Ray Baker.

Sixteen teams competed to represent Manitoba at the 2018 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship, which will be held in Swan River from Nov. 12-18 of this year.

Rebels win Midget 'AA' title

By Brian Bowman

The Lord Selkirk/Seven Oaks Rebels Midget "AA" hockey team capped off a tremendous season by winning the Hockey Winnipeg championship.

The Rebels made quick work of the River East Marauders, sweeping their best-of-final in three games.

Lord Selkirk/Seven Oaks won games by scores of 5-3, 6-1, and 3-2.

"We knew we really had to be on our best behaviour and not retaliate," said Rebels' head coach Don Ingram. "In the regular season, we had a tendency to retaliate and get into penalty trouble. So we worked on that prior to the playoffs, taking the first shot and moving past it and it really worked wonders for the boys."

The Rebels trailed 2-0 in the third period of Game 3 but scored three unanswered goals for the wild comeback win.

"All year we had different guys step up," Ingram said. "And one of our defencemen (Brent Ingram) ended up getting a breakaway and put it in. That started the whole process and the boys got three goals late in the game."

Brady Thompson and Juliano Garcea also scored for the Rebels in the third. Garcea's goal was the game winner with about a minute remaining in the final frame.

The championship victory capped off an amazing season which saw the Rebels post a 25-1-2 record to claim top spot in league play.

"We had a fantastic regular season," Ingram stressed. "We had kids come from, I think, 10 different teams this year. So we really had an eclectic group and they really gelled as one. It was really amazing."

The Rebels then swept the APHA Rangers 3-0 in a semifinal series. Lord Selkirk won that series with dominating victories of 9-2, 7-2 and 4-1.

The Lord Selkirk/Seven Oaks Rebels' program is a joint effort between



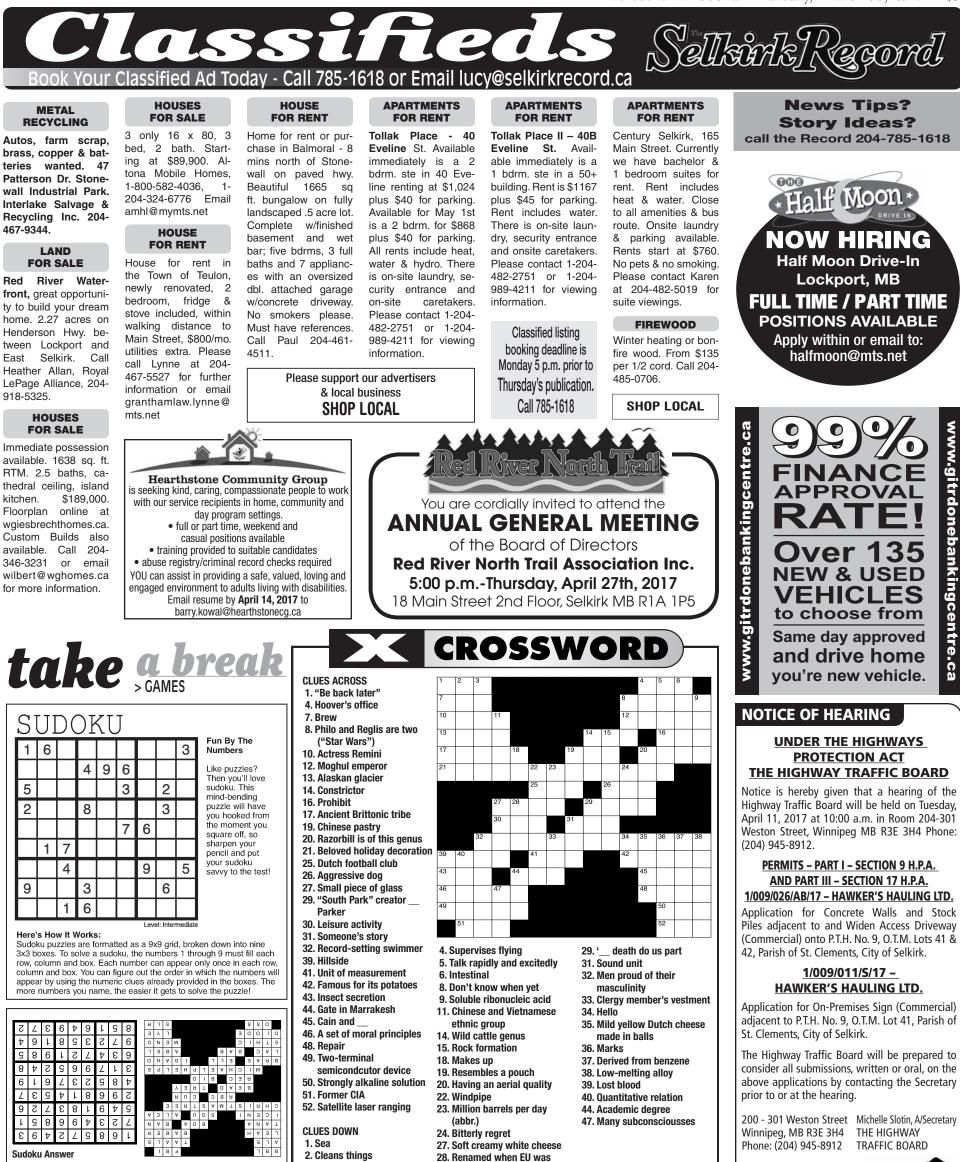
RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Back row, left to right, Don Ingram (head coach), Brandon Balmer, Brady Thompson, James Kulyk, Zac Parkinson, Brett Maclaren, Matteo Sinder, Christian Milgaard, Brett Williams, Austin Miele, Liam Smithson, Josh Poponick, Duncan Ingram, (assistant coach) and Paul Ploszay (assistant coach). Front row, left to right, Nicolas Zirk, Tyler Gerein, Matthew Klassen, Juliano Garcea, Braeden Hummel, Brent Ingram, and Jack Jehle. Missing from the picture is Tanner Chwartacki.

the two hockey associations. Midget teams are comprised players aged 15, 16, and 17 years old.

The Lord Selkirk players on the Rebels included Tyler Gerein, Zachary Parkinson, Josh Poponick, Brandon Balmer, Brett Maclaren, Christian Milgaard, Nicholas Zirk, Tanner Chwartacki, Braeden Hummel, Jack Jehle and James Kulyk.

"We had some fantastic hockey players from that area," said Ingram, who lives in West St. Paul. "It was a really good crew."



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UPCOMING **EVENTS**

The Spiritualist Church of the Light is hosting a fundraising "Metaphysical Encounters" on Sunday, April 23 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 Readings are p.m. \$10. 48 Holland Rd., Centre/West Sunova Rec Centre. St. Paul Call 204-390-6609 for more info.



4 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$5 per person. Assiniboia Downs, 3975 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Great selection, door prizes and free parking.

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OBITUAR William (Bill) Lance Rodko

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the Selkirk General Hospital, William (Bill) Rodko, aged 57 years,

In keeping with his wishes cremation has taken place and a celebration of his life will be held on

Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Gilbart Funeral Chapel, Selkirk, MB.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.

Full obituary to follow in Saturday's edition of the Free Press. Condolences may be left at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

BIRTHDAY

Happy 60th Birthday Lucy Kowalchuk

No one can believe That you are turning sixty It is impossible to judge That you are so elderly You keep the ball rolling With images and graphics And with your dry wit We can't keep up with your antics People who don't know you Would laugh if they were told That you have today Turned sixty years old -From all your friends

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ANNOUNCEMENT



James Begg June 3rd, 1952- March 29th, 2016 It broke our hearts to lose you, But you did not go alone; A part of us went with you, The day God took you home. If tears could build a stairway, And heartaches make a lane; We'd walk our way to heaven, And bring you back again. In life we loved you dearly, In death we love you still; In our hearts you hold a place No one could ever fill. - Love Kathy, Joleen, Jason, Kelly, Tony and grandkids

> Your memory will live forever Engraved within our hearts

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OBITUARY Jim Berry

It is with deep sadness we announce the sudden passing of our loving husband, father, papa and great papa, Jim Berry on March 25, 2017, peacefully in his home in Selkirk, MB.

Jim leaves to mourn his loving wife of 61 years Shirley (nee Parks); his children Len, Teri, Gord (Stacey) and Nadine; six grandchildren Rory, Koren, Kyle (Ruth), Nichol (Tim), Amanda, and Adam (Stefanie); great-grandchildren Gaven, Rylee, Zayla, Josh, Jasper, Justus and Kivah.

He was predeceased by his parents Thomas and Catherine; his daughter Shirley-Ann; his brothers David and Bill; sisters Winnfred (Bill) and Margret (Hermon) and son-in-law Craig Bell.

Jim was raised in Lockport and resided there for many years before moving to Selkirk. Jim will be forever missed by many nieces, nephews, friends, and special family members.

With Jim's wishes there will be a private gravesite service with family and close friends at a later date. Condolences may be left at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



Gilbart

Walter Skrupski Early in the morning of March 25, our dear Walter Skrupski passed away in Selkirk MB at the age of 87 years. He will always be remembered by his loving wife of almost 67

years, Adeline; and his devoted children, Reg (Anna), Barb, and Gerry (Melody). He is also survived by his brother Edward Skrupski; sister Lorna Hyde and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Nick Skrupski; mother Maria Gola (nee Klevanicz); brothers John Gola and Peter Skrupski.

Walter was born on June 18, 1929 in Prince Albert, SK. He grew up north of Tyndall MB and early in life he became an entrepreneur, running businesses in Garson and Selkirk. He was a generous and friendly businessman, doing his best to serve his customers. He believed in serving his community and was active in Selkirk's Town Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club.

Walter loved the outdoors and spent much time camping, fishing, boating and berry picking. He was also serious about his physical fitness and he ran his first full marathon on his 50th birthday. He would also cycle and cross country ski and he never missed a polka on the dance floor.

Walter loved people, especially his family, as he and Adeline would host many family dinners and parties. He was a regular at the local coffee shops and always had a joke or story to share. Sadly, for the past several years he has suffered from Alzheimer's but he still managed to convey his love in his own way. Special thanks to the staff members at Tudor House who went out of their way to provide care for Walter. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service to celebrate Walter's life will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the Gilbart Funeral Home in Selkirk, MB at 11:00 am.

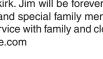
In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Terry Fox Foundation, CancerCare, or a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be left at www.gilbartfuneralhome.com

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.











of Libau, MB, passed away.

IN MEMORIAM



