

# The Selkirk Record

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

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## It's a jukebox musical



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

It was a packed house at Christ Church in Selkirk for Octavia Choir's jukebox musical. This year's performance of Camp Wanna-go-back had residents laughing and tapping as they watched one of our local choral groups flow through some new numbers and old favourites. See more photos from the event inside.

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# PASS holds graduation, acknowledges hard work of students

Students encouraged by local leaders, elders, and peers

By Katelyn Boulanger

The Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School (LSRCSS) held its annual Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS) graduation last week where grade 12 students were able to reflect on their time at LSRCSS and look to their bright futures to come.

The ceremony started with the grand entry of the students and dignitaries led by Keynote Speaker and Métis Elder Henry Hall.

MCs Camira Chapman and Drayden Normand then took to the stage to thank everyone for coming to the event and introduce Elder Ruth Christie who performed the opening prayer.

A Welcoming Song was performed by Marlena Muir and a land acknowledgement followed.

LSRCSS Principal Darcy Nazimek then came to the stage to welcome everyone to the event and acknowledge the hard work of the grads and the people who worked hard to put on this event for them.



PASS 2024 Dr. Elder Ruth Christie Gold Medallion Award recipient- Morgan Ginther.

"This group leaving us this year is just incredible. Thank you very much for making this year successful," he said.

Next up to acknowledge our graduates was Lord Selkirk School Division



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER  
2024 PASS valedictorians Tyson Prince and Milla Fenske.

Continued on page 3



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> PASS GRAD, FROM PG. 2

Superintendent Jerret Long who congratulated the grads on their accomplishments.

"Increasingly we have seen our students excel in all aspects of school life. From a cultural perspective, the actions of our young people promote an understanding and appreciation amongst all students. Our students are the changemakers for the future. That is very exciting," said Long.

Jacqueline Bercier, Cultural Proficiency Lead Teacher in Lord Selkirk School Division and PASS Chairperson, then addressed students telling them how proud she was of the group.

"I would like to give special recognition to our graduates who are here today, as they're the ones who are going to be making the changes within our communities. They are the ones who are going to become the mentors for our next generation, so, on behalf of PASS and all of our community. Congratulations!" she said.

Keynote speaker Henry Hall then came to the stage. Residents and students who have gone to the high school will recognize Hall as he always greets students and visitors to the high school with a smile.

He explained that because of his job

he gets to see students coming into the school every day and the people that they become in their time at LSRCSS.

"Every week, every month, every year, I've watched them and they do not give up easily. They persevere when confronted by obstacles. I watch that happens. Their passion to succeed inspires them to follow through and to reach the goals that they set for themselves. To me, this describes that these young students are only one thing and that's true role models," he said.

He also had a specific message for this year's graduates.

"It's been such a pleasure. The last three years getting to know each and every one of you guys. It's been so much fun for me to share my cultural knowledge with you guys and I hope that my teachings have helped you find your way. I've seen some of you come into the school, very quiet and very timid and not knowing who you are; looking at searching for that identity. It's like walking into a dark room and not knowing what's in there, 'Am I going to fall am I going to trip over something? I can't see where I'm going. I have no leadership. I'm on my

Continued on page 4



Marlena Muir.



Henry Hall.

RECORD PHOTOS BY  
KATELYN BOULANGER

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### > PASS GRAD, FROM PG. 3

own.' But you know what? There's no dark room now. You made it through that. You made it through to the other side. Now you sit in lightness. Now look at you guys, three years in and you're graduating. You're looking beautiful, and handsome. You guys are leaving here today with your identity. You all know who you are. And I'm so proud to be able to share that with you guys. As Aboriginal people, we come with a lot of labels, some good, some not so good and you have managed to build a healthy relationship within yourselves. This gives you the strength now that you're going to need to continue in your next journey because it doesn't end here today. This is just the beginning. There'll be many professions that you can embark on — doctor, nurse, lawyer, law enforcement, one of you could be the next Prime Minister of Canada. You've got it in you, you've got what it takes to become anything you want to become. Hey, you may even become a teacher," he said.

Time was then taken to acknowledge some of the mentors and leaders who have helped to teach and support these PASS graduates throughout their educational journey. Educator Steve Richard was honoured with the Visionary Leadership award. In addition, Educator Leslie Loutit was ac-

knowledged as an active community member and supporter of Indigenous youth and Educator Steve Grahame was honoured for his educational leadership with Indigenous youth.

Morgan Ginther was presented with the PASS 2024 Dr. Elder Ruth Christie Gold Medallion Award. This award is given to a student who is involved in the community, is proud of their identity, and is a hub for Indigenous culture and in her speech she did just that.

"Our theme this year is inspiring the next generation. I would like to say to the younger kids here, always be proud of who you are and of your culture no matter what anyone else says," said Ginther.

2024 PASS valedictorians Milla Fenske and Tyson Prince then came to the stage to deliver their valedictorian speeches.

"High school was a huge learning experience for me. As I became a better student each year, schools taught me to balance everything throughout my life," said Prince.

He continued discussing what he had learned and thanking those in our community.

Fenske also spoke talking about PASS and how it enriched

her education.

"I'm sure everybody's heard the phrase, 'it takes a village' and that couldn't be more correct. As Indigenous youth, I acknowledge our Elders, our Knowledge Keepers, the entire PASS community and, of course, our parents, without whom we would have nobody to show us the way and nobody willing to help us as we go. Having someone to look up to is unbelievably important and we need to

thank them for [helping us] along our journey. With our graduation, we will now become the inspiration for the ones who come after us. I would like to thank all the teachers, facilitators, volunteers and parents, we wouldn't be here without you today," said Fenske.

Drumming the Honour Song then took place for graduates who stood up and took part in a shaking of hands to end the event.



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

The event's grand entry.



PASS graduates of 2024.

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# The Marine Museum of Manitoba celebrates 50 years with opening ceremony

50 years ago a goal of preserving Manitoba's marine history was born

By Katelyn Boulanger

Fifty years ago, in 1974, GPS technology may not have yet launched, but the residents in our area were right on track when they first began preserving our marine heritage for future generations. In honour of the 50th anniversary of the Marine Museum of Manitoba, the museum held a grand opening event last weekend.

Duane Nicol CAO of the City of Selkirk and chair of the Marine Museum of Manitoba Board of Directors welcomed everyone to the event and discussed the history of the museum.

He said that the first record of the marine museum as an idea goes back to a letter from May of 1970, then four years later on May 19, 1974, the museum opened for the first time.

The museum at that time was just the S.S. Keenora which was bought and moved from the estuary to be turned into the first part of the museum. Since then, a lot has changed and the museum, which now includes six ships at the entrance to Selkirk Park, is part of our cultural landscape.

"You can see the impact this museum has had on us. It has been an epicentre for culture and heritage in Manitoba for 50 years and has been a source of local pride for just as long. I want to thank our founders, the people who risked it all with money, with time and energy," said Nicol.

Residents should know that the Marine Museum of Manitoba has re-launched its membership program as

Continued on page 6



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Above: The ribbon cutting at the Marine Museum of Manitoba grand opening. Below: Bezan (right) presenting a commemorative plaque to Nordal (left) and Nicol.



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### > MARINE MUSEUM OF MANITOBA, FROM PG. 5

part of its 50th anniversary celebration and plans to host many fun local events that residents can attend this year. Keep up with them online at <https://www.facebook.com/marine-museumofmanitoba/>.

Glen Simard Minister of sports, culture and heritage then spoke commending the Marine Museum of Manitoba for its efforts saying that he was excited to see that the museum was shipshape.

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson then came and spoke about the importance of preserving history and the efforts that are being made currently to preserve it for future generations. He also thanked the team at the museum for their hard work.

"I want to start by saying thank you to Shay [Nordal] and her team. What you are doing is completely necessary and so important," said Johannson.

Local MP James Bezan then declared this anniversary a momentous occasion where we have to pay tribute to those pioneers who set the

course for developing this iconic museum.

"This is critical to plan for the future as Mayor Larry was saying. You have to remember your past to understand how you got to the present and that's the only way that you can actually do positive planning for the future. So, these museums, this preservation of our shared history, up and down the Red River and into Lake Winnipeg, is something that we have to continue to fight to preserve and make sure that ships that are here are well taken care of and always have the door open to access this incredible collection. Every time I come here with family or am here for events, this is a place that just kind of blows me away," he said.

He then presented Shay Nordal and Duane Nicol with a plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Marine Museum of Manitoba.

Our local MLA Richard Perchotte also came up to say a few words about recognizing our past. As his first member's statement in the leg-

islature, he actually took the time to recognize Shay Nordal and the Marine Museum of Manitoba for their work in our community.

"If you don't preserve your heritage and your history, you're going to lose it," said Perchotte.

He then also commemorated the Marine Museum of Manitoba with a plaque to mark the occasion.

The celebration ended with an official ribbon cutting and the grand opening of the museum this year.



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Above: Larry Johannson speaking to the crowd at the museum's grand opening. Below: Nicol acknowledging the hard work of the original Marine Museum of Manitoba Board.



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# All residents are welcome to come and experience the Highland Gathering

Eat some haggis, listen to some bagpipes and learn about some of our region's historical people

By Katelyn Boulanger

The 56th annual Manitoba Highland Gathering will take place at Legacy Park and the East Selkirk Recreation Centre on June 22 and 23. All residents are welcome, regardless of if you have Scottish heritage, to experience the jam-packed day of culture, fun and learning at this event.

The Manitoba Highland Gathering is a community event put on by a non-profit group that supports our local Scottish cultural heritage and wants to promote these traditions in our community. They do this by putting on an event with many different activities for residents to explore.

"There're things for dads, there're things for moms and things for kids. There're also family things," said Joyce Neyedly, event organizer for the Manitoba Highland Gathering.

Neyedly said that the event kicks off on Saturday morning with an opening ceremony that residents won't want to miss. Drums and pipes will welcome residents before opening speeches and a salute to this year's Honourary Chieftain Inspector Chris Lambert.

From there, residents will be able to check out a medley of activities. There will be Scottish event championships in longsword, broadsword, highland dance and pipe and drums and, of course, the younger members of our region can compete in the Wee Folk activities. There will be reenactment areas which include many historical times including the Jacobite encampment, a medieval live enactment, a Viking reenactment group from Gimli, the 1812-1850 period is represented by Manitoba Living History and the Barony of Castel Rouge will be there giving residents a chance to have their photo taken on the throne. The 31st paddling championship will take place as a nod to our area's marine history. There will be a Scottish market and Red Lion Scottish food

booths (and also Canadian fare for those who don't have a taste for Scottish cuisine). Those wanting to enrich their education can stop by the clan booths or visit the Manitoba Gaelic interpreter. The animals are getting in on the fun too with a Westie Walk taking place on Saturday, sheep shearing and one of the event highlights will be the highland coo (cow). There will also be live entertainment, Scottish dancing and much more.

Neyedly believes that it's important to have events like this in our community in order to keep up traditions.

"It promotes our Scottish culture but it also promotes our Manitoba Scottish culture. It's important because these are all traditions that have been happening since time began," explained Neyedly.

She said that from Viking culture all the way to modern times the different aspects of the highland gathering connect to different aspects of history. The highland games harken back to a time when fighters had to train for battle and the bagpipes, for instance, would have at one point been used not just to play music but as a long-distance communication tool.

As for Neyedly's favourite part of the event, having been born in Scotland she has a hard time choosing.

"I just love it all. My goal is to promote our Scottish culture and heritage," she said.

For residents who are interested in attending this event, you can learn more on the Manitoba Highland Gathering website at <https://manitobahighlandgathering.org/>. Tickets to this event are \$10 for a child's ticket (5-12), \$15 for an adult's ticket (13-65), \$10 for a senior's ticket (65+) and \$35 for a family ticket for a single day. There are also deals on two-day tickets for those wanting to see all of the fun.

"Just come out and have fun, and enjoy your Scottish roots, or enjoy



RECORD FILE PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Photos from last year's Manitoba Highland Gathering.



learning about Scottish roots, Scottish culture, music, animals and food. We have so many people that love the pipes and love the Scottish traditions and it is a very good time," said Neyedly.

## The Selkirk Record

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## Province encourages aquatic invasive species prevention as part of summer plans

### Watercraft inspection program operational and residents reminded to clean water gear

Submitted by the government of Manitoba

During open water season, Manitobans are reminded to remain vigilant and do their part to protect the province's water bodies from aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Prevention is the most effective, practical and cost-effective approach to managing AIS. All water users play an important role in preventing the introduction and spread of AIS such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels, spiny waterflea, flowering rush and water lettuce.

To prevent the spread of AIS, water users are required to clean, drain and dry watercraft and water-related equipment when removing them from a waterbody. Water users must also adhere to prescribed decontamination requirements when operating in AIS control zones.

These sequential clean, drain and dry steps are legally required for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft, including power boats, jet skis, sailboats, standup paddle boards, canoes and kayaks, as well as all water-related equipment including:

- watercraft trailers;
- fishing gear;
- water pumps;
- personal flotation devices including life jackets;
- paddles and anchors;
- beach toys (such as sand pails and shovels);
- floating devices and inflatables (such as tubes, rafts, water mats and hunting decoys); and
- scuba and snorkeling gear.

The annual watercraft inspection program is in operation, with six stations open and more opening in the coming weeks.

Inspection stations help water users to be compliant with AIS requirements. Anyone transporting motorized or non-motorized watercraft over land must stop at all open watercraft inspection stations along their route. Failure to stop at an open watercraft inspection station can result in a \$672 fine. It is important to remember to remove the watercraft drain plug when transporting watercraft over land. The fine for not removing the plug is \$237.

Float plane operators are reminded when pumping out a plane's floats and pontoons to place water in a container and deposit it on land so it does not enter a water body. The fine for depositing or releasing AIS in Manitoba is \$2,542.

For more information on AIS, including locations and hours of watercraft inspection stations, a list of control zones and details on decontamination requirements, visit [www.manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://www.manitoba.ca/StopAIS).

Before purchasing aquatic plants, algae and animals online, ensure they are not designated as AIS and prohibited from possession in Manitoba. Aquatic hobbyists are also reminded to never release the contents of an aquarium, water garden or pond, including plants, animals or the water itself, into water bodies, storm sewers, toilets or drains. This can introduce new invasive species, parasites and diseases, which can have negative consequences on native flora and fauna.

For more information on the Don't Let it Loose program, visit [www.manitoba.ca/stopais/spread/dont-let-it-loose.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/spread/dont-let-it-loose.html).

## Gypsumville RCMP lay numerous charges after robbery

By Lana Meier

Gypsumville RCMP responded to a report of a male having been shot with an airsoft gun on Highway 6, located near Strong Lake at approximately 8:55 a.m. on May 22.

As the officers were en route, it was reported that some Manitoba Hydro employees had stopped at the scene and provided first aid to the victim, kept him warm and placed numerous traffic cones in order to provide emergency services personnel a clearly marked area to safely work in due to the heavy volume of traffic.

Officers arrived on scene and located

a 27-year-old male, from Winnipeg, with a non-life-threatening injury that required medical aid. The victim was transported to hospital, where he was treated and released.

Investigators have learned that the 27-year-old male was contacted by a friend of his, an 18-year-old female, whose vehicle needed a boost on Highway 6. The victim, along with another 27-year-old male, attended the scene and assisted in getting the vehicle started.

Once the vehicle was started, two males exited from the vehicle which had just been boosted, both armed

with airsoft firearms, and demanded money and cellphones from the two victims.

The victims entered their own vehicle and attempted to back away from the scene and while doing so were shot at by both suspects, injuring the one victim. No property had been taken.

The 18-year-old female, along with the two males, entered their vehicle and fled the scene.

Officers from nearby detachments, along with assistance from the Emer-

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#### EDITORIAL

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#### TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?

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

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# Selkirk-born artist exhibiting artwork in Toronto gallery

## Lori Ferguson's art reaches new audience at Art Interiors Gallery

By Katelyn Boulanger

It's not every day that a Selkirk-born artist's work is recognized in a gallery outside of the province but recently Lori Ferguson has seen some of her art make its way to the Art Interiors Gallery in Toronto, Ont.

She said that the collaboration that led to her work being shown in Toronto came about because they reached out to her on social media.

"There was a gallery in Toronto. It's called Art Interiors Gallery. They actually discovered my work on Instagram, and reached out to me, and had an exhibition that was happening, and asked if I'd be interested in submitting some work," said Ferguson.

Ferguson grew up in Selkirk and lived in our community for many years.

"Growing up in Selkirk, I attended the High School and arts was the first thing I ever wanted to do," she said.

Ferguson explained that the beginning of her journey as an artist started with Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School's commercial arts program.

From there she was discouraged from choosing art as a career being told it was impractical but despite going down a different route, she continued to take art classes until about five years ago when she made a change.

"I just really thought, you know, I always wanted to do art in a more serious way. It just happened that I looked at the *Selkirk Record* at the time, and there was a little ad for the Interlake Juried Art Show," said Ferguson.

From there, she was encouraged as one of the pieces that she entered into the show received a first-place ribbon.

At that time, she was doing work with collage but now has transitioned

to mostly oil painting. She describes her art now as a bit of a reflection of herself.

"There's a lot of movement in my work and energy that comes through. As an artist, I think everything is kind of in some way, a self-portrait, even if you're not painting yourself, it's how you see yourself and it's how you see the world. For me, life is moving and changing and never stagnant and so there's always movement and energy in the work I produce," said Ferguson.

She's lately been getting inspiration for her work from connecting with objects in her own life.

"I've just started to paint, lately, in the last year or so, still life work. I'm painting the most ridiculous things like, Tabasco sauce bottles, and tea cups and things. I'm really loving it because they were my items and I felt connected to them and then I started to realize that other people connected to them, and people really loved them," she said.

Her advice to artists beginning their art journey in our community is to always continue to try to improve themselves and make art that they enjoy.

"Your style has to express yourself, it has to be authentic to you. You have to paint what you're passionate about because it's just not sustainable otherwise. Trying to please other people doesn't work in the long run," said Ferguson.

You can check out Ferguson's art online at her website <http://lorifergusonart.com/>. She also regularly posts on her Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/lorifergusonart/> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/lorifergusonart>.



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lori Ferguson with one of her energetic pieces.



## ROTARY CLUB OF SELKIRK

The Rotary Club of Selkirk thanks the following businesses and individuals for their donations to our 31st Annual Lobsterfest held on May 25, 2024:

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It was an evening filled with fun and fellowship as the community gathered to celebrate the 31st Annual Rotary Lobsterfest. Thank you for your support and mark your calendars for May 31, 2025!! See you next year!

### > RCMP, FROM PG. 8

gency Response Team (ERT), were contacted as the suspect vehicle was reported to be driving south on Highway 6 at a high rate of speed.

The suspect vehicle was subsequently abandoned in a field with the two male suspects fleeing on foot. The 18-year-old female remained near her vehicle and called 911 as she was unaware of the planned robbery.

With the assistance of Police Service Dog Jolt, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) and ERT, the two male suspects were tracked into a wooded area and arrested without

incident.

The two males, a 17-year-old from Selkirk and a 16-year-old from Winnipeg, were remanded into custody on charges including Assault Causing Bodily Harm, Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Flight from Police, Robbery, Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose and Discharge Air Gun with Intent to Wound.

The 18-year-old female was later released without charge.

Gypsumville RCMP continue to investigate.

# Octavia choir hits a high note




RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER


Our local Octavia Choir put on their annual jukebox musical last weekend. The musical, which included classics like a rendition of Ring of Fire popularised by Johnny Cash and The Lion Sleeps Tonight which is well known from Disney's movie The Lion King, Marine Museum of Manitoba was the story of a group of campers who came together for a reunion at Camp Wanna-go-back. Written by Millie Lewis with conductor work by Carrie Schellenberg Wilson, the performance struck a cord with audiences as well as they packed Christ Church Anglican in Selkirk.



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# Annual parade calls out for more volunteers, float entries

Selkirk Biz is looking for volunteers and applications for floats are open

The Selkirk Biz Annual Parade is back for another year on Saturday, July 13, and the community is invited to apply to have a float.

"It's a nice summer activity for the community to take part in," said Alice Skalesky, executive director of Selkirk Biz.

All types of floats are welcome — in the past, there have been classic vehicles, tractors, decorated vehicles and horses.

Skalesky said last year, one stand-out entry were horses and ponies dressed up as unicorns.

"It was absolutely amazing," she said, adding that it seemed to be a crowd and board favourite.

The entry fee for a float is \$52.50 for non-profits or community groups, \$105 for Selkirk Biz members and \$157.50 for non-members. More information and the application form are available on the Selkirk Biz website (selkirkbiz.ca).

"People are paying to have their floats in the parade, so I think it's

good to use it as advertisement for their business as well," Skalesky said.

During the parade, those with floats can hand out (not throw) candy, flyers and coupons, and Skalesky said often the most interesting entries have music, costumes and dancing.

Spectators are reminded to not litter or leave behind garbage.

Selkirk Biz also has a call out for volunteers for the parade. Volunteers are needed to stand in certain locations to make sure the barricades are in the right spot and spectators are in designated areas to ensure safety. Those interested in volunteering can contact Selkirk Biz at info@selkirkbiz.ca or 204-482-7176.

This year's parade will follow a new route for spectators. Starting at Manitoba Avenue, the parade will travel southbound down Main Street and disperse at Moody Avenue instead of doing a loop back to Manitoba Avenue.

In previous years, people weren't able to access the businesses along

the route. This new route won't affect businesses in the same way, Skalesky says.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. on July 13.



RECORD FILE PHOTO KATELYN BOULANGER

The Selkirk Biz parade is back on July 13. Pictured: The citizen of the year float from a previous Selkirk Biz parade.

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# Survivor's Hope's SARAH program receives funding

## Hard work and advocacy demonstrates the need to keep program in community

By Katelyn Boulanger

Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre has received some good news. After the federal budget came out and their Sexual Assault Recovery and Healing (SARAH) program did not receive its anticipated funding, they worked hard to fundraise and spread awareness for the need for this program. On May 30, the Department of Justice Canada made the announcement that SARAH would indeed remain funded and be able to continue to support victims and survivors of sexualized violence in Manitoba.

Survivor's Hope is a sexual assault and violence resource centre. They provide support through prevention programs and acute care services but their SARAH program is the only program that they offer that provides healing to people after they've experienced violence.

The SARAH program provides 24/7 crisis support, long-term counselling, support groups, advocacy, and referrals to those affected by sexual vio-

lence in Interlake-Eastern Manitoba.

The good news for this program continues as the grant will continue to provide support for SARAH through 2027. This funding comes from the Department of Justice Canada's Victims Fund, which supports projects that improve access to services for victims and survivors of crime.

Coral Kendel the executive director for Survivor's Hope was glad to learn of this new funding.

"When we learned that the Department of Justice was restoring funding to the SARAH counselling program, it was a huge sense of relief and reassurance that our voices were heard and the needs of survivors in rural Manitoba were being considered by our Government. This allows us to refocus on working alongside survivors of sexualized violence and planning further healing opportunities for the future," she said.

After learning that the program was in danger, our community came together through advocacy and fund-



RECORD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The community came together to support both sexual assault survivor's as well as advocate for the need for the SARAH program in our community.

raising which was able to allow the program to continue. An emergency grant from Manitoba Justice also helped them continue services so that there was no gap in programming.

Kendel would like to thank everyone who contributed to the continuation of this program.

"We cannot thank the communities around us enough for how immediately they stepped forward to use their collective power to stand up

against injustice and make sure survivors knew they were valued, believed, and supported. All of the letters sent, phone calls, e-mails, donations, and shares on social media were instrumental in making this happen and it is not going unnoticed," said Kendel.

If you would like to learn more about Survivor's Hope and their services, check them out online at <https://survivors-hope.ca/>. If you are in an emergency situation, call 911.

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# Citizen input needed for Community Safety and Well Being Plan

Submitted by the City of Selkirk

Selkirk is one of 11 communities selected to participate in the Government of Manitoba's Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) Pilot Project. As such, the city will be developing and implementing a local CSWB plan and is seeking resident input to inform this process.

Developing a comprehensive and successful community safety and well-being plan requires input from the local community. This project will involve several community engagement approaches, beginning with a CSWB resident survey, which will be available for residents to complete until July 31 at 4 p.m. The survey asks about several aspects of community safety and well-being and no sign-up is required.

"This will be a community plan and we will need the community to build it," said Kristy Hill, Selkirk's Director of Protective Services.

"People who complete the survey will be shaping the plan and a better future for Selkirk."

In 2022, Justice Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced the Manitoba Government would invest \$1.4 million into the pilot program, aimed at helping communities take steps to reduce crime, promote safety, and enhance well-being.

"Research shows that community safety and well-being planning supports a collaborative approach to addressing local priority risks to safety and well-being by establishing programs and strategies in four planning areas including social development, prevention, risk intervention, and incident response," Goertzen said.

"This proactive planning process can help communities reduce crime and other risks using evidenced-based responses that address unique local circumstances and the needs of residents."

The province has hired the Canadian

Centre for Safer Communities (CCFSC) formerly the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, as the lead consultant for the project and they are working with Selkirk's steering committee which consists of representatives from the RCMP, START, Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation, IERHA Mental Health, Manitoba Housing and Families, City of Selkirk, Lord Selkirk School Division, Manitoba Harm Reduction Network, along with members of the community.

The city and the steering committee have been working to identify what programs and best practices already exist as well as system gaps and ways all stakeholders can work together to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Hill says the city has several existing programs aimed at making the city safer including graffiti removal, a year-round service that responds to calls of graffiti from public and private property. The city also uses environmental design strategies, like strategic lighting and vegetation when doing infrastructure work to act as a deterrent to crime.

City staff also include cleanups, as needed, during their day-to-day activities and the city has events like spring clean-up to dispose of larger items. There are also focused plans for repeat problem areas throughout the city.

"The city's involvement in the provincial Community Safety and Well-being Pilot Project underscores its commitment to enhancing community safety and well-being," Hill said.

"The aim is for a safer, healthier, and more inclusive city that fosters pride and a sense of belonging amongst its residents."

The CSWB survey, which was developed by CCFSC and customized for Selkirk, has 61 questions, but Hill says for the plan to have teeth it needs

to be developed with citizen responses in mind.

"Yes, it's long, but it's also detailed and vital to the success of this plan," she said.

"We want people to have their say and we want to know how people perceive community safety. We want to hear from people with a variety of perspectives and experiences.

She says it will be available on the city's website and there will be hard copies at locations throughout the city. Teams will also head out into the community to meet with people and help them complete the survey if needed.

There are a variety of questions meant to understand participants' views on their physical and mental health, how safe they feel in their own neighbourhood, concern with the likelihood of various crimes occurring to them personally, and whether they've been the victim of various crimes as well as questions about substance use, relationships with their community, etc. The survey also includes questions about access to recreation, arts, and health care.

In addition to seeking feedback from adults in the CSWB planning process, Daryl Loeppky, Principal at École Selkirk Junior High, and the Lord Selkirk School Division's representative on

the steering committee, says engaging students in the survey and creating the plan isn't just a good idea, it's crucial to the plan being a true representation of the community.

"Students, I know it sounds like a cliché, but students are not only the future of Selkirk they are currently an active part of the community, and they have a unique perspective on safety and wellbeing. I think it would be remiss not to gather their thoughts and opinions on the matter," Loeppky said.

"Students under 18 can't vote for city councillors, but they can certainly have a say here in terms of where in town opportunities are to improve safety, where there are opportunities for recreation or opportunities to improve things that we haven't considered."

The school division has a captive audience inside the classroom, so that's the easy part, Loeppky says, but he's confident the committee, guided by CCFSC's expertise, will go beyond school walls to reach more young people.

"The consultant has a history of engaging youth," he said.

He can envision trips to the skateboard park or Youth for Christ, meet-

Continued on page 14

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# St. Clements Activity Centre open house



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The St. Clements Activity Centre open house took place last week and residents were able to learn a lot about the future plans for the site that already has trails, many trees, a playground and a peace pole donated by our local Rotarians. This project is underway and the multi-step plan created by St. Clements aims to create a multi-use recreation facility in the community along with an outdoor space that people will be able to enjoy. You can learn more about this project at <https://rmofstclements.com/st-clements-activity-centre-and-park/>. Pictured: Brenden Collins, St. Clements's Recreation Manager and CAO Deepak Joshi at the open house.

The Huntington Society Manitoba Chapter would like to sincerely **THANK Westside Powersports** for their longstanding and continued support of the Huntington Cause. Westside donated a highend Polaris helmet for the top fundraiser prize in our 2024 HD500!



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## > COMMUNITY SAFETY, FROM PG. 13

ing young people where they congregate, to ensure as many as possible have an opportunity to take part.

"I do think kids feel empowered when they have a voice and certainly when they have a say in the community they live in," Loepky said.

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"I think ultimately the goal of this project is to reduce young people's exposure to the justice system or the health system, quite frankly, in its most rudimentary sense. The less kids that we have in contact with the justice system or the health system the better."

This reflects just one of the ways the city is taking steps to increase survey response rates and broaden the perspectives of those who complete it. All community members are encouraged to consider completing the survey so their input can inform Selkirk's CSWB plan.

The survey went live on June 3 online at [MySelkirk.ca/CommunitySafety](http://MySelkirk.ca/CommunitySafety). Hard copies are available at the civic office at 200 Eaton Avenue and the following locations or organizations:

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# Lake Manitoba First Nation unveils new women's shelter

By Becca Myskiw

Lake Manitoba First Nation officially has a brand-new women's shelter.

The new shelter officially opened on May 14 as announced by Bison Modular, the construction company. Bison Modular builds premium modular homes for First Nations and Indigenous communities, offering layouts for single families, multiple families, and community buildings. In short, a modular home is a house that is built off-site, typically in a factory.

Last November, Bison Modular unveiled a brand-new transitional home in Lake Manitoba First Nation. The supportive, temporary accommodations bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent housing while offering structure, supervision, mental health and addiction support, life skills, and education. The one in Lake Manitoba First Nation is similar to the new women's shelter, built with

materials that stand strong against all weather conditions and are resistant to fire, rot, and mould.

Lake Manitoba First Nation's women's shelter is the first in Canada to have those resistant qualities. The almost 7,000 sq. ft. building was unveiled in a special ceremony in early May with Chief Cornell McLean, Council, Elders, and community members in attendance.

"As an Indigenous-owned and focused organization, Bison Modular Homes was honoured to partner with Lake Manitoba's Chief and Council to create the women's shelter to provide a comfortable, safe, and welcoming place to attend," said Shane Prevost, vice president of Bison Modular.

The entire project cost around \$3.9 million once done, and was 100 per cent funded by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The shelter has an accessible ramp to



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The women's shelter can house up to 30 women and children at a time.



Bison Modular Homes recently completed a women's shelter in Lake Manitoba First Nation.

the entrance along with stairs, bringing people into a gorgeous communal area with 18-foot vaulted ceilings. The main foyer is just one building of six, each connected to make the entire shelter. Complete with a dining area, entertainment area, accessible bathrooms, and spacious living suites, the shelter can house up to 30 women and children requiring a safe place to stay at a time.

"This allows women and children a safe space away from abuse or domestic violence," said Kale Brereton, marketing manager for Bison Modular. "It allows mothers and their children a safe space in their community."

Brereton noted women's shelters are needed everywhere across Canada,

not just in Lake Manitoba First Nation. According to Statistics Canada, six in 10 Indigenous women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and Indigenous women are more likely to experience some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime than non-Indigenous women. Four in 10 Indigenous women experience physical abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, compared to one in four non-Indigenous women.

Women's shelters provide a safe place for women and children experiencing this violence to stay. Each operates differently, but almost all also offer programming and support for those staying.

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# The War Amps Commemoration of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy

## The Lasting Legacy of War Amputees

On June 6, 1944, a pivotal moment unfolded as thousands of Canadian soldiers stormed Juno Beach in Normandy, in the heavily German-fortified coast of France. As the world prepares to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, The War Amps pays homage to the Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice during the invasion, and the resilience of those who returned home severely wounded, many missing limbs.

These were young men from small towns and the inner cities embodying the true spirit of citizen soldiers during the Second World War. Driven by patriotism, adventure, or simply a sense of duty, they enlisted

with the Canadian Army, unaware that they would become the vanguard of the allied invasion of Europe.

Among them were individuals like Ron Reid, Gavin Hickey, Bob Ross, Jim Parsons, Bill Neil and Dave Ingram.

Ron Reid, of Torbay, Newfoundland, suffered severe injuries upon landing on Juno Beach. Amidst relentless enemy machine gun and mortar fire, he lost his left leg above the knee.

Gavin Hickey, hailing from Durham Centre, New Brunswick, was a mere 19 years old when his regiment stormed Juno Beach. Wounded during the battle for Carpique, he lost his left leg below the knee and his left hand.

Bob Ross of Niagara Falls, Ontario, was injured during heavy enemy shelling at the Battle of Hill 195, resulting in the loss of his



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# celebrates the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Normandy

leg above the knee. Many years later, he reflected on his experience and shared, "It was an ordeal. I don't think I would do it again because maybe I couldn't come back the next time."

Jim Parsons, a local of Sherbrooke, Quebec, landed on Juno Beach on D-Day and fought his way inland. Later that year, he lost his left hand and forearm due to an injury. He received a Mention in Dispatches for his bravery in hauling his troop commander out of a burning tank despite having a badly shattered arm.

Bill Neil, from Winnipeg, and Dave Ingram, of Edmonton, Alberta, were also severely injured during the invasion. Neil, wounded in the Battle of Falaise when his armoured car was hit, lost his left arm above the elbow. Ingram lost his left leg above the knee and part of his right heel after stepping on a landmine

during a sniper patrol.

When they returned to Canada, these brave soldiers became members of The War Amps, which was started by amputee veterans returning from the First World War to help each other adapt to their new reality as amputees.

Rob Larman, a Senior Advisor at The War Amps and a leg amputee himself, said, "In the Battle of Normandy, many Canadians died or suffered wounds they had to carry for the rest of their lives. As we mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, it's important that we never forget."

The War Amps award-winning Military Heritage documentary - Juno Beach (2 minutes) offers a glimpse of Canada's D-Day contribution and can be found on their YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rj6qDSG5NkI>

**REPORTED THIS PAGE**



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# Interlake Tourism Association enhancing shared passion for tourism

By Patricia Barrett

The Interlake Tourism Association is on track this year to further enhance tourism opportunities for its membership, which includes municipalities, businesses and non-profit groups.

The ITA's community engagement coordinator Samantha Hampton organized the association's annual general meeting (AGM) on May 23 at Johnson Hall in the Waterfront Centre in Gimli where the board presented highlights from last year's initiatives and tourism strategies for the year ahead.

About 50 people from across the Interlake enjoyed a full course dinner from Mad Dash Catering and the dulcet tones of local pianist Ginny Parent.

Gimli's deputy mayor and councillor Kurt Reichert brought greetings from the municipality, thanked the ITA for promoting Interlake communities and providing consistent support, and said it was an honour to see



ITA president Devan McCoubrey.

people united by a "shared passion" for enhancing tourism across the Interlake.

"Today's event is an opportunity for us to come together, share ideas and establish new partnerships that will strengthen tourism in our individual communities. It's also a chance to reflect and share in the successes we have all had over the last year," said Reichert.

Gimli is very proud of its summer tourism and the continued growth of its winter tourism, he said, and is appreciative of the



RECORD PHOTOS BY PATRICIA BARRETT

Red River North Tourism members with Town of Stonewall deputy mayor Peter Bullivant.

volunteers and staff behind all the events, which bring economic benefits to the community.

"We have recently started collecting data on visitors to our community through an economic impact survey, so hopefully at next year's [ITA] AGM, we'll be able to share some of what our local economy benefits from – the many events and festivals that we see here year-round," said Reichert.

The ITA is a vital resource that promotes events, festivals, beaches, nature walks, food and accommodations, historical sites, museums and more across the Interlake region, provides a regional voice in the tourism industry and provides training and networking opportunities to its members. It also distributes grants that help its members promote the unique attractions in their respective communities. The association collaborates

with Travel Manitoba, Community Futures East Interlake and a number of local tourism organizations to help drive visitors to the region.

ITA president Devan McCoubrey, who is the assistant chief administrative officer for the RM of Grahamdale, provided the land acknowledgement and oversaw the AGM, which included a review of finances and an auditor's report.

Marketing manager Melissa Van Soelen said the vision and mission of the ITA are to make the Interlake a tourism destination of choice and entice visitors by "sharing our stories and showcasing the passion of our people."

The ITA can help its membership – which grew by 5 per cent last year – showcase their region by using the resources and training offered by the association.

"We are always open to new ideas for training. If there's something within the tourism industry that you want to put forward or something we can help you with in terms of marketing or promotion or working on your social media, including making some fancy posts, we can help you with that," said Van Soelen.

ITA made great progress over the past year with print and digital marketing strategies, social media campaigns and contests, she said. It also provided significant exposure for many of its members through Winnipeg-based CIAO Magazine and participated in trade shows.

Sixty per cent of the ITA membership actively participated in initiatives. The ITA assisted eight members with grant funding for expanded tourism opportunities last year and produced a comprehensive ITA Travel Guide with 10,000 copies delivered to over



Attendees were challenged to put together a puzzle for a prize package from Hecla Resort.

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## > INTERLAKE TOURISM, FROM PG. 18

40 locations, and which also provided visitors with an interactive experience while planning their Interlake visit.

The ITA plans to expand its marketing initiatives this year with social media advertising aimed at specific demographics, enhanced and engaging content to showcase the region's tourism offerings and the production of video interviews and tours.

ITA community engagement coordinator Samantha Hampton, who is also chair of the Gimli Chamber of Commerce, spoke about initiatives to bolster ITA members' tourism initiatives. One of the initiatives she created was Interlake Connections, which brings together people to discuss tourism challenges and ideas. The first session was held in Riverton with 40 attendees and the ITA will be holding another one in Stonewall.

"This event not only showcases what we have to offer as an association, but it also brings like-minded people together to provide them a chance to talk about their struggles, wins and to find ways that we can collectively collaborate," said Hampton.

The ITA is currently considering the idea of holding a fall tourism summit to bring together tourism stakeholders from different sectors, government and academics, said Hampton. ITA will also be focusing on strengthening municipal partnerships.

"What I've noticed is that our municipal partners aren't utilizing their memberships to their full benefit. I spent the last few months looking at this and I don't know if there's a lack of awareness or if people are busy. Maybe we need to come out to your municipality and get you all at a table to talk about this and make goals or a to-do list," said Hampton. "I hear from our membership all the time and if we're not hearing from you,

start calling us. We do have plans to strengthen connections with our municipal partners through knowledge-sharing in person and tailored support."

The AGM included nominations to the ITA's executive board. They are as follows: President Devan McCoubrey from the RM of Grahamdale. Past president Jacques Bourgeois from Oak Hammock Marsh. First vice president Marilyn Williams from Red River North Tourism. Second vice president Kelly Kimball from the Town of Stonewall. Treasurer Michale Hepples from the Town of Teulon. And secretary Angela Emms from the RM of Rosser.

Members at large are as follows: Vanessa Figus from the City of Selkirk. Riley Malinowski from the City of Selkirk. Justin Fiebelkorn from the RM of St. Andrews. Allan Sulyma tourism clerk from the RM of Gimli. Lisa Shaw from KALS Vacation Rentals. And Kristin MacCary from Interlake Brewing Co. in Gimli.

For more information about the Interlake Tourism Association, visit online [interlaketourism.com](http://interlaketourism.com), call (204) 322-5378 or visit ITA on Facebook and other social media platforms.



Kristin MacCary from Interlake Brewing in Gimli joined the ITA board.



Susan and Peter Holfeuer of the Gimli Ice Festival were congratulated for earning a Travel Manitoba award earlier this year for outstanding contributions to tourism.



Gimli deputy mayor Kurt Reichert.



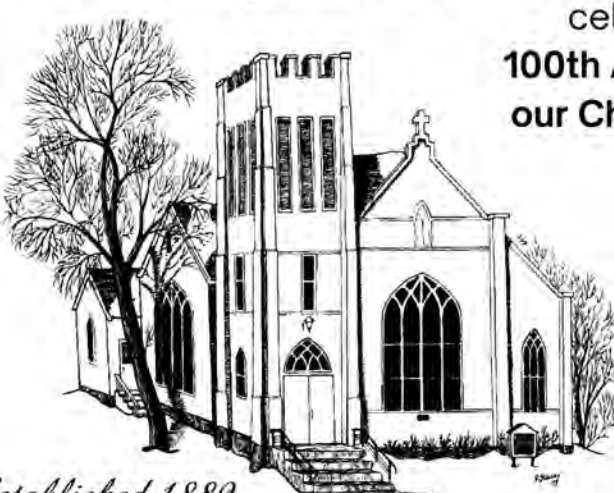
ITA community engagement coordinator Samantha Hampton.



ITA marketing manager Melissa Van Soelen.

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# The Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba Brings Back Teddy Bears' Picnic

By Raegan Hedley

On Sept. 18, the Teddy Bears' Picnic will take place at Assiniboine Park for the first time since 2019. The free event, organized by the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, went virtual in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by high-volume pediatric RSV seasons.

"The Teddy Bears' Picnic is one of those institutions in our community. The number one question we've had since 2019 is about when the Teddy Bears' Picnic is coming back," said Stefano Grande, President and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. "COVID just really devastated a lot of events. It's taken time to rebound."

"Our frontline staff were so busy just taking care of kids in our emergency rooms, in our hospital, and our researchers have been busy, but we're refreshed and ready to welcome back the tens of thousands of kids that hopefully will be creating some new memories."

Part of what makes the Teddy Bears' Picnic so special is that it was started by volunteers over 35 years ago and is still run by hundreds of volunteers. Frontline staff from HSC Children's Hospital volunteer at the Dr. Goodbear Clinic, and researchers volunteer at the I Want to be a Scientist tent put on by the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM).

"I have children, and sometimes bringing kids to the hospital during routine visits or moments of crisis can be scary for them, and it's even scarier if your child doesn't speak English. This event brings our hospital and our research institutes to the front steps of our community. The Dr. Goodbear



Cheery frontline staff volunteers at the Dr. Goodbear Clinic at the 2019 Teddy Bears' Picnic.

Clinic demystifies how kids are triaged and gives them a front-row seat into how procedures like x-rays are used. And the I Want to be a Scientist tent shows kids science can be fun and hopefully inspires them to be scientists one day."

New this year: A tent showcasing how philanthropy has led to advances like the Travis Price Children's Heart Centre, diagnostic laboratories, play spaces and accelerated research.

"We have a very special tent, which represents the generosity of our community over the last four and a half to five years, which has led to incredible health improvements," said Grande.

One of this year's volunteers is Shay Edgeworth from East St. Paul. Edgeworth has been volunteering in the playroom at the HSC Children's Hospital since October 2023. She is currently studying sciences at the University of Manitoba and plans to pursue a medical career.

"I wanted the exposure to the hospital setting... I love being with kids, and I know that I really care about kids and other people, but you never know how you're going to feel being in the hospital setting. But being a playroom volunteer, I feel very happy to come all the time, and I feel really grateful to have these patient interactions and make their day a little bit more fun



RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Kids enjoying the I Want to be a Scientist tent by Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CHRIM) at the 2019 Teddy Bears' Picnic.



Frontline staff giving stuffed animals checkups for everything from broken arms to headaches at the Dr. Goodbear Clinic at the 2019 Teddy Bears' Picnic.

or exciting," said Edgeworth.

This will be her first time volunteering and attending the Teddy Bears' Picnic in person.

"I've enjoyed my experience at the hospital and I've liked being with the kids and interacting and just making their day a bit more fun in the hospital...the purpose of the Teddy Bears' Picnic is so important to make kids feel more comfortable and safe in the hospital setting and also help them understand the care being provided," said Edgeworth.

Grande said so many of the volunteer stories connect back to children.

"The last event I attended was my first as CEO, and I wanted to learn more about why people were volunteering. And there's a good number of volunteers who were a little bit older. Some have volunteered for over 30 years," said Grande. "And when you start digging a little bit more about why? There's always a personal story about how their child was saved by the hospital, or how they always en-

joy bringing their kids to the picnic. There were stories about children who are no longer with us, and this is the way that their parents are giving back."

Grande said this event is only possible due to the generosity of volunteers and sponsors, such as the presenting sponsor, Humphrey Window and Door Systems.

Whether you accompany a child and their teddy bear or volunteer, the Teddy Bears' Picnic is a day of fun and learning for everyone.

"I feel like I've learned a lot from the other healthcare workers I've come in contact with at the hospital, but I've also learned a lot from the kids," said Edgeworth. "It's shocking how resilient these kids can be, and they've honestly shown so much perseverance throughout their care at the hospital."

Visit [goodbear.ca/TeddyBearsPicnic](http://goodbear.ca/TeddyBearsPicnic) if you're interested in volunteering.

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# Ready-to-move nightmare for Sandy Hook couple

By Patricia Barrett

A retired Sandy Hook couple never expected to be living in a trailer for several weeks at a stretch after their ready-to-move “dream home” arrived from a Winnipeg-based building company about 22 months ago with multiple deficiencies.

Alison Dery said she and her husband were forced to pack up their belongings and move their furniture at least four times since they took possession of the new home in July 2022 in order to have the deficiencies dealt with by the company. They were forced to live in a rented trailer outside their home while subcontractors from Winnipeg failed to rectify many problems.

The company, which is not being named, builds RTMs, provides other services and is a member of the Manitoba Home Builders’ Association. It will be referred to as the “RTM building company” for the purposes of this article.

Alison Dery said she’s speaking out about their “RTM nightmare” to encourage potential RTM homebuyers to “use their voice” and to “push back” against sub-par work. In their case, the RTM building company tried to get them to accept deficiencies, downplayed them by saying they were “not that bad,” said they were not visible from two feet away and employed other tactics to wear them down.

“People should be aware that you’ll have deficiencies in a new build whether it’s an on-site build or a ready-to-move house. It’s inevitable, but not to the degree we had. And they want you to be complacent, they want you to say it’s okay and accept substandard work. My whole point is that when you’re complacent and don’t use your voice to say this is not acceptable and this needs to be repaired, they get away with it,” said Dery, who has emails and photographic evidence of their 22-month ordeal. “We had to push back all the time. It was not easy to get the repairs done.”

After being in the Interlake for several years on a seasonal basis, Dery said she and her husband wanted to permanently live in the area. They purchased a lot in Sandy Hook and prepared the site (foundation, well, septic tank, etc.) for the arrival of the RTM they purchased during the COVID pandemic.

“We’re retired and this was our dream retirement home,” said Dery. “We had never purchased a new home before. What we were hoping to have as our dream home ended up being a



RECORD PHOTOS BY ALISON DERY

The RTM being delivered to Sandy Hook.

complete and total nightmare.”

Prior to the RTM’s delivery, Dery said she and her husband had a walk-through of the 1,500-square-foot home that was built at the RTM company’s Winnipeg site. At that time, she pointed out a number of interior deficiencies that needed to be fixed. When the home arrived in Sandy Hook, they weren’t fixed and they discovered a “multitude” of other deficiencies.

They included a cracked 12-foot-high vaulted ceiling; door casing (trim around the door) that was damaged and painted over to disguise it; framing for pocket doors (doors that slide in between walls) that had been installed crookedly and prevented the doors from closing; warped and damaged doors; framing for a closet door installed crookedly; mismatched hardware installed on some doors; frames for front and side doors installed incorrectly, preventing the doors from closing properly and failing to stop drafts; patio doors that would open only about 5 inches; unsealed shower and tub enclosures; paint splatters on the floors; flooring that heaved and bubbled and was misaligned; and failure to provide two coats of paint.

“When you buy a new RTM, they just come with an interior primer coat. If you want it painted with a colour, you pay extra for that,” said Dery. “We paid to have the interior completely painted and we didn’t get the two coats of paint we paid for. It was very obvious they skimmed on the paint, doing a basic coat. That’s



The shower was left unsealed.

not what we paid for.”

The installation of the flooring was done so poorly that there were “ridges and bubbling and tears that had been glued,” as well a failure to transition the pattern of the floor from a hallway into a bedroom so that it looked “horrendous.”

The flooring company the RTM building company sent out said it couldn’t remove the flooring and had to install new flooring on top of it.

“They were going to charge us for this. Both [the RTM building company and the flooring company] said this would be of cost to us and wanted us to pay \$2,500. And I said, ‘Do you think I’m going to pay for your mistakes? Not happening,’” said Dery. “They were probably thinking, ‘Oh,



Bubbling flooring and lack of transition to a bedroom.

little old lady with grey hair here.’ It was very much being spoken down to.”

There were other concerns that added to a constant level of “stress and emotion and frustration,” said Dery, such as “gobs” of drywall mudding applied during repairs that made deficiencies worse; spot painting during repairs that didn’t blend in with the rest of the wall; the discovery of contractors’ garbage (Tim Hortons coffee cups, newspapers, sawdust etc.) behind a panel that was being replaced in the island countertop in the kitchen; the constant cleaning up after subcontractors sent out by the RTM building company; the repeated packing up and moving out as repairs

Continued on page 24

# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Cellentani Caprese Pasta Salad

4 tablespoons lemon juice  
8 basil leaves, julienned  
2 cups small mozzarella cheese balls, halved  
salt, to taste  
black pepper, to taste

Bring large pot of water to boil. Cook pasta according to package directions and drain. Drizzle pasta with 1 tablespoon olive oil and place on sheet tray to cool. Set aside.

In large bowl, combine tomatoes, lemon juice, basil, remaining olive oil and cheese. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Add pasta and stir.

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Servings: 7

1 box Barilla Protein+ Cellentani pasta  
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided  
2 pints grape tomatoes, mixed color, halved



## Linguine with Zucchini Carbonara

1 cup Pecorino Romano cheese, grated, divided  
1/2 cup milk  
salt, to taste  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
1 medium zucchini, julienned  
1 box Barilla Linguine  
1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped  
black pepper, to taste

Bring large pot of water to boil. In bowl, mix egg yolks, 1/3 cup Pecorino Romano cheese and milk. Season with salt, to taste. Set aside.

In large skillet, heat olive oil and cook zucchini.

Cook pasta according to package directions. Reserve 1/2 cup cooking water.

Mix pasta in pan with zucchini. Add egg yolk mixture and 2 tablespoons cooking water. Combine well.

Add remaining cheese and mint; mix. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Prep time: 5 minutes  
Cook time: 10 minutes  
Servings: 8  
5 egg yolks

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## Ask the money lady

Dear Money Lady Readers,

Today's column came from a conversation with one of my ATML Partners, Ana Cruz in Burlington, Ontario. Ana is a mortgage agent in Halton and shared a story about a good friend of hers who was able to reduce her mortgage and shed years off her amortization. Something we should all consider doing, especially due to the higher lending rates.

Here's what Ana said: "In 2019, I reworked a mortgage for a friend who was buying out her partner with a new mortgage of \$380,000. Let's call this friend, Karen (not her real name and she did give me permission to share this story). In order to qualify, Karen would have to take a 30-year mortgage with monthly payments at \$1,597. For the first year of Karen's five-year mortgage term, she didn't do very much other than move to accelerate biweekly payments. Now, you may think accelerated biweekly payments are a small change, but let me explain, this small move from \$1,597 monthly to \$798 biweekly means Karen could shave off 3 years of her mortgage and saved close to \$9,000. The next year Karen increased her payments by 15%, (\$120 bi-weekly) and made lumps sum payments of \$3,000 every quarter towards her mortgage. After 5 years, upon her mortgage renewal, Karen's mortgage balance was \$312,575 with an amortization of 11.8 years. If she had only made her monthly payments on her original 30-year mortgage, she would have had a renewal balance of \$337,668, and her amortization would be 25 years. Instead, by making a few simple changes and extra lump sum payments she had saved thousands of dollars in interest and reduced her overall amortization by 13 years."

This is a great success story and one we can all do so simply. Often times we stick with the payment structure our banker or broker give us when we sign a new mortgage. We fit this payment into our lifestyle and don't think about it anymore. Of course, this is to the benefit of the lender, not the borrower. Canadian mortgages are calculated "semi-annually, not in advance," which means they are broken into two interest calculations with all banks working on a calendar year. So as of January 1, your interest is calculated



Christine Ibbotson

based on the payment selection you chose, and interest is laid down over the first 6 months. On July 1, the mortgage balance is reviewed again, and interest is calculated on the remaining balance, based on your payment selection, until December 31. This is a basic analogy but demonstrates how Canadian banks calculate interest semi-annually. Obviously, the best payment selection to reduce the amount of overall mortgage interest would be accelerated weekly, and the best time to do your lump sum payments would be in November-December or May-June. Most banks provide on-line mortgage calculators for you to work out different payment options. At the very least, try to line up your amortization on your mortgage with the year you plan to retire since you want to make sure you are debt-free at retirement. For example, if you are 45 years old and want to retire at 60, then your mortgage amortization should be no more than 15 years. If you are able to manage the payments with an amortization to match your retirement, then push it a little more and go with accelerated weekly payments. After a while this payment should fit into your new monthly budget but be careful not to stretch your cashflow too much. Paying off debt, especially a big mortgage, is a tremendous accomplishment, one that we should all strive for sooner rather than later.

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author, Finance Writer, National Radio Host, and now on CTV Morning Live, and CTV News @6 syndicated across Canada. Send your questions through her website at [ask-themoneylady.ca](http://ask-themoneylady.ca)

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# EAL coach shares the powerful horse-human connection

By Emma McGill

Sixteen years ago, Beatrix Strebel and her husband left their home in Switzerland and settled in Manitoba. Upon finding a peaceful property near Gimli, Strebel had no idea where her passion for horses would take her. All she was certain of was her desire to have a few horses of her own.

Strebel's equestrian journey began at the age of 12 with formal riding lessons. By 16, she had enrolled in a riding school and received traditional instruction in both dressage and jumping. She eagerly took part in shows and competitions during this time. At 21, she acquired her first horse, a Dutch warmblood named Apple King.

During her time in Switzerland, Strebel competed in English riding and gave it her all. However, she later discovered a preference for quieter pursuits when it came to horses.

After receiving her certification from the Association of Swiss Horse Professionals, Strebel utilized her education in unexpected ways. Her passion for teaching riding was discovered when she began receiving requests from clients. With Classical Equitation, she offers lessons for all levels and even teaches unique skills such as vaulting (a form of gymnastics on horseback). Additionally, Strebel offers horse therapy, also known as Equine Assisted Learning.

"I focused on the riding school a lot, and as an addition I started with the EAL," shared Strebel. "Before, I basically did EAL all the time but was not aware of it. I got different tools through getting certified and I am now using them more often."

Strebel has been practicing Equine Assisted Therapy (EAL) since becoming certified in 2018. This unique approach involves interactions between horses and humans, with a focus on personal healing and self-reflection. She continues to expand her knowledge through her program and shares her expertise by helping others learn.

"EAL is not about learning to ride, it's about connection with the horse," said Strebel. "The way I do it, it's basically teaching horsemanship skills. If someone wants to add on after that, it's a good

foundation for learning how to ride."

Horses provide opportunities for connections with animals that most people cannot find just anywhere; they are highly sensitive creatures who respond to emotion and body language. They have their own distinct personalities. "The horse which feels it is needed steps up. That's kind of the magical thing about it."

Any horse can be a therapy horse; there are horses that show up all the time for every client, and some horses only show up once in a while for a specific client. There are currently seven horses at Classical Equitation that work with clients doing EAL.

EAL is a valuable resource for individuals seeking assistance and offers a wide range of advantages, such as increased self-assurance and better communication abilities.

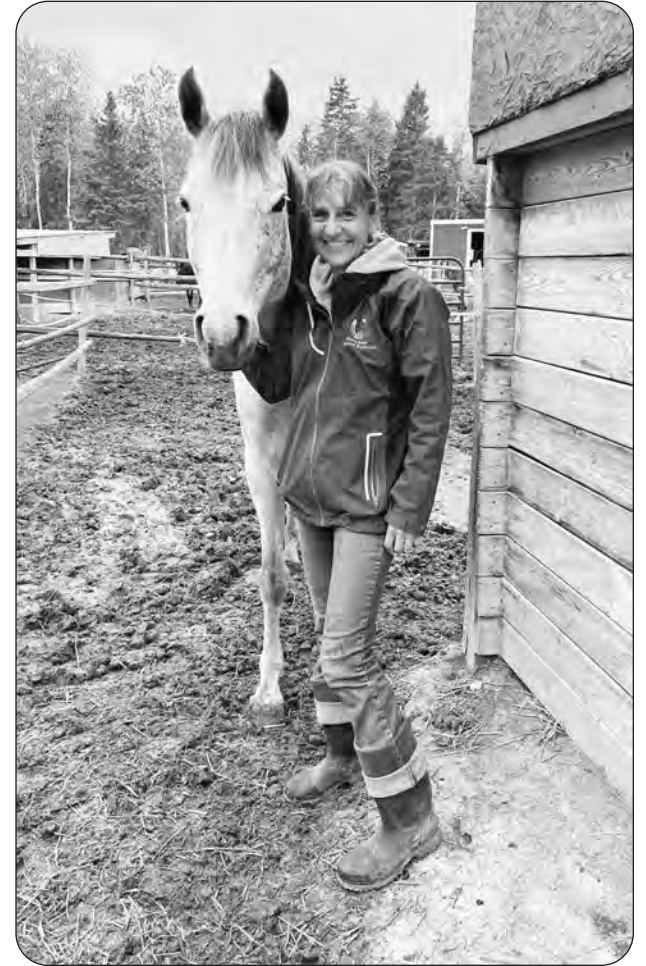
"The focus is on the client who is very often working through something in their life. For children, it is teaching life skills and setting boundaries through working with horses. There is so much to it," said Strebel.

"I think the key is to get people out and to let them know what it is. We often go back to one on one sessions so then the client really gets what they personally need. It's very individual to everyone's needs."

Strebel's job is to be a facilitator, especially for the one-on-one sessions that clients start out with. If she sees a horse reacting to something, she can point it out and ask questions. She guides the conversation. When working with the horses, she aims for the clients to be outside as much as possible, but when weather or activity do not permit, there is an alternative arena to go to.

Each session depends on the client. Strebel always starts by guiding clients through those one and one sessions with the horse and they go from there. Some clients get a lot out of standing and spending time with the horse, and others set a goal and do exercises with poles and cones on the ground. Strebel has long term clients and those that only come a few times. It always depends on the client's needs.

It is often more children than adults that come to



RECORD PHOTOS BY EMMA MCGILL

Beatrix Strebel is a certified horseback riding instructor with over 30 years of experience as well as a certified Equine Assisted Personal Development Coach.

Strebel as clients of EAL, but the program is open to anyone and everyone. There are so many life skills to be learned and self reflection to be had through the power of horses.

Strebel became certified through EAL Canada, which is coming to Classical Equitation next month to hold a course. Those that have signed up will be trained to get certified, and Strebel is looking forward to hosting. EAL Canada hosts courses like this across Canada.

This summer, Classical Equitation will also be hosting day camps for kids, spots for which are still open. These camps will be half days and will include horsemanship, groundwork, and riding lessons. Anyone interested in signing up can call Strebel at (204)-641-4268 or email [trix@classicalequitation.ca](mailto:trix@classicalequitation.ca).

Strebel also offers workshops, women's retreats, and 6-8 week camps. These opportunities can be accessed through Hailey's Way, a Gimli-based charity dedicated to empowering local youth through programming and assistance.

"My reason for getting into EAL was being able to help people through difficult times. It's a tool for me," said Strebel, who focuses on teaching horsemanship. "It opened a door to access knowledge of how to help people through that horse-human connection. The whole idea is basically to open up a conversation. I don't often even get to know what a client takes from a session. All those little things they pick up that they need, they have for themselves."



> **READY-TO-MOVE MESS, FROM PG. 21**

dragged on; and the coup de grace: a drywall subcontractor with no ladder or scaffolding coming to ostensibly fix their 12-foot-high vaulted ceiling.

"I asked him, 'How you plan on doing this work? He said he thought he could borrow our ladder. We have a six-foot ladder. How can you do a vaulted ceiling on that? The [RTM building company] downplayed this when I contacted them, saying he knows what he's doing," said Dery. "When I went in to check on him later, he was standing on top of my fridge working on the drywall above the cupboards. I yelled at him to get off my fridge. He said, 'I'm not hurting it.' I said get off now."

The painters that were sent out by the RTM building company told Dery they couldn't paint because the drywall repairs were deplorable.

It became apparent the RTM building company had "no quality control" process and no "screening" of subcontractors, she said.

"The subcontractors the company sent out here weren't skilled enough to do these repairs. For our vaulted ceiling, for instance, different subcontractors had to be sent out because each one of them defaced it, damaged it and made it worse," said Dery. "I documented everything that happened in this house because there were so many problems."

Fed up with the inept subcontractors the RTM building company kept sending them, Dery said she asked – and this was long after their one-year warranty to fix any deficiencies had expired – that she be allowed to hire Gimli-area subcontractors to fix the outstanding deficiencies. She herself obtained quotes from a drywalling and a painting company and submitted them to the RTM building company.

"I said to the company's project manager in January 2024, after we had already gone through multiple tradespeople and the work was absolutely horrendous, that we're done. We need to get people who know what they're doing to come in and do the work. We can't move into and settle into our new home yet because we're always packing up and moving out," she said. "I told him I want trades from here to do the final interior work on the drywall and painting, and that they'd have to pay for it because if I have to get a lawyer and fight it that way, I will."

She said she also got the RTM building company to cover the cost of their rental trailer.

She expects their Gimli-area contractors to be finished the repairs by the beginning of June. And she has nothing but glowing accolades for how

they were able to restore their home.

"Our drywall person had to fix multiple problems in the front part of the house that had been defaced by the other subcontractors. They had lost the straight line of the vaulted ceiling," said Dery. "Our Gimli-area guy had to repair that and said ... there were three different layers of real shoddy work there. He did an amazing job and it proved to me that the work can be done properly; you just need the right person."

How potential RTM homebuyers can prevent the same thing from happening to them is unclear, but it's important that people stand firm, demand that deficiencies be addressed and document everything with emails, letters and photos, said Dery.

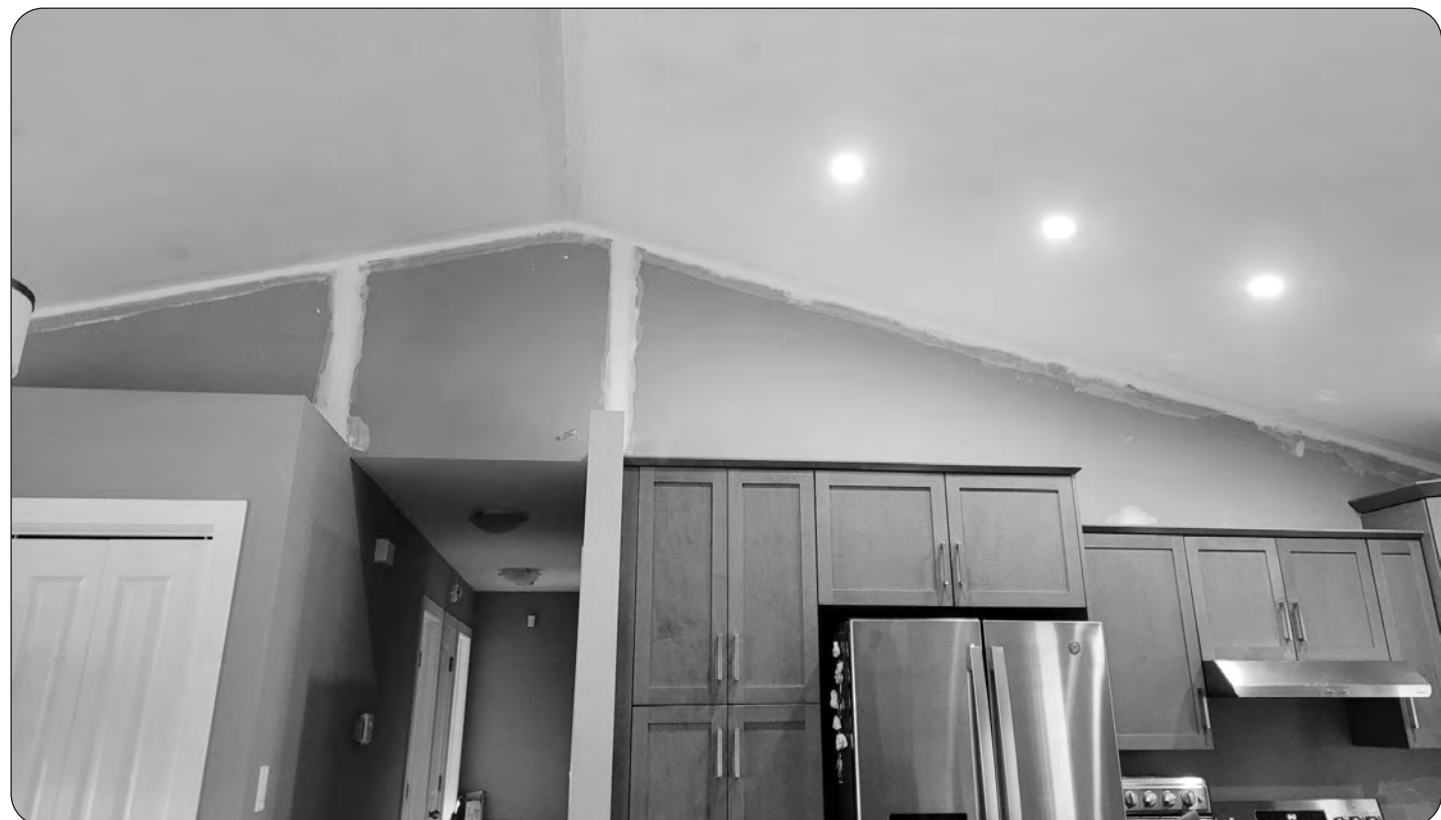
She and her husband did their homework before buying by checking out other RTM builders, including some in the Interlake, before settling on their chosen company.

"When we went to [the RTM building company] in Winnipeg, we met with the sales person and asked all the questions we should have," said Dery. "I now call their answers sugar-coated bullshit. They said how they have all the best crews and so forth. They made everything sound so good. And we didn't decide immediately on them; we still went to different builders and they all seemed good. It wasn't that we had a terrible vibe from anybody else, but we decided to go with this Winnipeg company. We regret it 100 per cent."

Despite the extensive issues with the interior of their home, Dery said she is confident the structure of the house and the exterior finishing are sound.



One of the doors that wouldn't close properly.



Repairs to the vaulted ceiling and walls.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Legendary Penner continues to defy Father Time

Lettelier farmer captured first two races of Manitoba Motocross season

By Jeremiah Knight

Motocross is said to be a young man's sport.

Don't tell that to Josh Penner, the 38-year-old who has continued to defy Father Time and grow his legacy as one of the best racers to come from Manitoba.

The grain farmer from Lettelier (about 15 kilometres north of the U.S. border) is off to a blistering start in the Manitoba Motocross season, winning the first two races of the campaign in Brandon and Grunthal, fields that are made up of mostly 20-somethings.

"I put a lot of work in the offseason and I got a new bike this year, a Honda from Westside (Powersports in Selkirk), and it's really been comfortable for me so I had a lot of confidence coming in this year and it seems to be working out just fine," Penner said recently.

"My younger career, when I was their age, I got a lot of injuries and a lot of things didn't go my way and I fell like I had a rough career in the beginning, so, now that things are going my way it feels like I kind of deserve this, you know?"

Penner has been entrenched in the

sport since his dad took him to watch a race as a nine year old. The youngster was immediately hooked and began racing competitively by 11.

He's certainly paid his dues along the way in the form of many losses, crashes and injuries owing to a reckless driving style.

In recent years, however, Penner has become a model of consistency on the local scene. A strict diet and training regimen, which is comprised of 90 minutes of exercise each day after he tends to his farm, has kept his best races in front of him en route to three provincial pro championship titles.

In fact, Penner asserted he's in the best shape of his life and that he's never been faster.

"What drives me is to keep challenging myself and seeing what more I can do. I feel smarter on the bike now throughout all the years of experience that I know my limits and I know where I can get better so I'm always trying to improve each year," he said.

"It makes me happy knowing I can still beat the younger kids coming up, the guys that are supposed to be winning. I makes you feel good."

Chris Mellen has been one of Penner's biggest supporters since he took up the sport. Penner's dedication to motocross is unlike anything Mellen has seen, he said, and a big reason why he's sustained success locally and at events in the U.S.

Mellen shared a story about a then-21-year-old Penner who one winter committed to changing his diet and



RECORD PHOTOS BY ADAM ORVIS

After an inconsistent start to his career, Josh Penner has grown into a local legend in Manitoba's motocross scene as a three-time provincial champion and X Games competitor.

get in the best shape possible.

He shed 40 pounds that winter and hasn't looked back.

"That's what he needed to do to get to that next level," Mellen said. "He definitely knew the commitment it would take end went full speed ahead, and since that day he hasn't stopped training — the guy's a beast."

The legend of Penner grew in 2016 when he became the first Manitoban to compete at the Winter X Games, which he did in the snowmobile freestyle. He did so again at the 2017 X Games, while continuing to train for motocross.

"Josh does not know the word 'Quit,'" Mellen continued, "and there's not a thing he does that isn't 100 per cent. Josh rides his dirt bike in Manitoba all winter. No one else on earth does this type of stuff. It's

not just a local thing, he is a freak of nature when it comes to how hard he trains to be able to put his body through what he can over and over again at a high level.

"It's pretty rare. This is a young man's sport. You get beat up. It's not if you get hurt, it's when and how bad."

Which has kept Penner in the moment as he tries to ride this string of success as long as possible. The Manitoba Motocross circuit has six races remaining until the season concludes in September.

His goal is simple: "Just stay on two wheels and keep staying consistent," he said. "I don't have to win them all that's for sure. If I can keep placing in the top three that'll be fine."

To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

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Cook for the Selkirk Lion's Centre Congregate meal program is required immediately. Must plan and prepare meals for approx. 14-20/day. Food Handlers Certificate, Criminal Record Check, own transportation and previous related experience required. Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 4.5 hrs. Mon.-Fri. Wages depend on experience. Email resumes to [slionscenter@gmail.com](mailto:slionscenter@gmail.com)

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**ARENA OPERATOR for the GARSON COMMUNITY ARENA**  
Location: Garson, MB. RM of Brokenhead  
Term: September 9, 2024 to March 31, 2025  
**THE OPPORTUNITY**  
The Garson Community Rink Facility Inc. is seeking an independent contractor to fill the role of Arena Operator for the 2024/25 season  
Request for Proposal document is available online at [www.garsonarena.com](http://www.garsonarena.com)  
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Submissions will be accepted until 4:00 pm on July 19, 2024  
For more information, contact Kristopher Maranchuk at 204-268-3312 or email [garsonarenamb@gmail.com](mailto:garsonarenamb@gmail.com)

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**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**  
**TENDER 2024-04**  
**Whistler Hollow Playground and Park**  
The Rural Municipality of West St. Paul is seeking tenders from qualified bidders for the development of the Whistler Hollow Playground and Park.  
Specifications and Tender packages including submission documents are available online at [www.weststpaul.com](http://www.weststpaul.com).  
Sealed submissions clearly marked "Tender 2024-04 - Whistler Hollow Playground and Park" will be received by the undersigned at the address below until 11:00am on June 20, 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.  
The Municipality retains the right to reject the lowest or any bid if it does not meet the needs of the Municipality.  
All inquiries related to the Tender should be directed to Rick Friesen, Public Works Manager by e-mail [rfriesen@weststpaul.com](mailto:rfriesen@weststpaul.com) or by phone 204-334-0092.  
Mr. Dave Wardrop, CAO  
Rural Municipality of West St. Paul  
3550 Main Street  
West St. Paul, MB R4A 5A3

**ONLINE ONLY FARM AUCTION SALE For Deborah and the late Herb Robinson, Arborg, MB**  
Sale starts online: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.  
Closes: Soft close starting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2024  
To register: go to: [www.apro.bid](http://www.apro.bid) (Bidding site)  
Over 300 lot items for sale - J.D. 7210 w/J.D. 710 Snow bucket, power quad, right hand reverse, 7891 hrs showing; Ford 7840 MFWA Tractor w/Allied 795 loader, bucket & bale fork J.D. Turbo 7720 Combine, hydrostatic, Dicky John 1055 grain monitor, airflow sieve, variable spd pickup, 3161 hrs showing; D7F Caterpillar, running; HN 1475 Haybine 16ft, 2300 series; J.D. 4020 w/J.D. 148 Loader; J.D. 4010, series 3720.  
Land sale: 76.06 acres, located at Parcel A, Plan 41143 WTLO, in SE ¼ 7-22-2 EPM, Title #1914607  
List also includes a full line of haying, seeding and cattle equipment, tools, shop and mink farm items.  
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Viewing by appointment only Tuesday, June 11th & Wednesday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.  
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**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. ANDREWS**  
**APPOINTMENTS TO THE MUNICIPALITY'S BOARD OF REVISION**  
The RM of St. Andrews is seeking three (3) Individuals to serve as Citizen Members on its Board of Revision for a three-year term beginning in 2024.  
Appointments will be made with a view to engage knowledgeable, professional, managerial and other persons who have an understanding of Assessment in residential and/or commercial applications.  
Canadian citizens who are entitled to vote in Manitoba Municipal elections are eligible to apply. For information about the position duties please refer to: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/mfas/pubs/mmo/board\\_revision\\_guide.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/mfas/pubs/mmo/board_revision_guide.pdf)  
The 2024 Board of Revision is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 13th, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.** to deal with the 2024 Real, Business, and Personal Property Rolls and the Added Taxes.  
Resumes must be received by the undersigned no later than **June 21, 2024.**  
**Brent Olynyk**  
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The building and land known as 26 Lewin Lane, West St. Paul, Manitoba, as described in Certificate of Title No. 3208551/1 will be sold at auction on Wednesday, the 3rd day of July, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. by teleconference. There will be no in-person attendees at the auction. In order to participate you must pre-register at least 24 hours prior to the auction by contacting Jasmine Pascual at [jpascual@darcydeacon.com](mailto:jpascual@darcydeacon.com) or 204-318-2236.

The Vendor under Power of Sale is informed that on the property there situate a family home of approximately 1,929 square feet, more or less. The Vendor is further advised that the home contains a living room, kitchen, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. There is no further information known as the property is currently occupied.

**REALTY TAXES:** The realty taxes with respect to the said land are paid in full to December 31, 2023. The property is sold subject to taxes and penalties accruing after that date. Any outstanding water, sewer and utility account(s) for the current and prior years, whether or not added to the tax account at any time, are the responsibility of the purchaser.

**PRIOR CHARGES:** Caveat No's. 189462/1, 5181815/1 and 5181824/1 and Easement No's. 48800091/1, 4924764/1, 5181817/1 and 5181818/1

**TERMS:** Deposit in the amount of \$104,680.00 by way of bank draft, certified cheque or cash (to a maximum amount of \$7,500.00) and the balance according to auction sale conditions.

The building and land are to be sold subject to a RESERVE BID to be announced prior to the sale.

The auction sale will be conducted pursuant to an Order for Sale issued by the District Registrar. Certain parties may be prohibited from purchasing the property, including but not limited to, parties who by virtue of their employment or relation to a person involved in the sale process would have special knowledge of the circumstances pertaining to the sale. For more information and a list of prohibited purchasers please visit: [www.teranetmanitoba.ca](http://www.teranetmanitoba.ca).

For further information, a copy of the Auction Sale Conditions or to pre-register for the auction, please contact:

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The Anglican Parish of St. Clements Fathers Day Pork Dinner Sat. June 15/24 at 5 p.m. St. Clements Parish Hall 1178 River RD, St. Andrews, MB. For Tickets contact St. Clements Office at 204-482-9486, Jen Konwalchuk at 1-204-334-2792.

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The Cemetery Committee would like to remind families of Loved Ones Buried at the cemetery of the following: Headstone and Concrete Grave covers- the maintenance is the responsibility of family. We give notice that any Headstone or Grave Covers that are deemed unsafe will be removed if not attended to. Charges may apply.

**Thank You - Cemetery Committee**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**GRADUATION**



**Krista Sigvaldason**  
 Congratulations on your Graduation from Medicine as a Doctor. We are so very proud of you and wish you all the best in your 'Residency' and future.  
 -Love always,  
 Mom, Dad and family

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Myrtle Johanson**  
 Mom, Nana, Great-Nana  
 September 26, 1923 - June 11, 2014  
 Our homes have little treasures, You gave us over the years; Every time we touch them, We feel your presence near.  
 -Loved and missed,  
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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**BIRTHDAY**



**Happy Birthday**  
**George McKenzie**  
 90 Years Young on June 9th  
 A strong, hardworking man who farmed all his life and who still enjoys working outside on his tractors and mowing the grass... if you see him, honk as you go by!  
 -Cheers on your big day from your friends and family

**OBITUARY**



**Nigel Barling Wills**  
 Peacefully, on Sunday, May 26, 2024, Nigel Barling Wills, aged 70 years, passed away at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre. Nigel was born in Essex, England, on June 28, 1953 to Bill and Rose Wills. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife of 50 years, Cindy; his children Michael (Angela), Brenda (Adrian), and Sean (Lindsay); and grandchildren Brody, Bailey, Mikhaila, Makayla, Valentina, and Ethan. Nigel's quick wit, kindness, generosity, and positivity will be missed by many including his brothers Stephen (Kath), Richard (Shelley), and Paul, his brother-in-law Martin (Pat) and beloved nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.  
 Nigel moved to Selkirk in 1957 when his family immigrated to Canada to start a new life and pursue new opportunities. He began working for Manitoba Hydro when he was 17 years old and retired 40 years later in 2010 from Manitoba Hydro International (MHI), a subsidiary that he helped to build and grow. He was pulled out of retirement twice to retake the helm of MHI while they sought a suitable successor. He loved his work and enjoyed helping others and sharing his knowledge and expertise in all corners of the globe. Nigel took great pride in the work of MHI and the positive impact he and the team had on energy systems in developing countries around the world. He continued to work as an independent contractor and finished his last consulting job in 2023.  
 Outside of work, Nigel liked to camp, canoe, fish, and build things. He built three beautiful family homes over the years in East Selkirk, Seven Sisters Falls, and the R.M. of Brokenhead. He loved spending time with his wife, family and friends at their lake property in Manigotagan - their "happy place". He was a very dedicated, supportive, hardworking, and loving husband, father and grandfather who provided sage advice and guidance when asked and was always very proud of his children and grandchildren's accomplishments. He was always up for a challenge or good debate, and was a positive influence in the lives of many. His strength, resilience, grace, optimism, and determination in the face of a very rare disease, MSA, that he had in his final years was truly remarkable and admirable. We will all miss his great sense of humour, his intellect, and his amazing ability to fix just about anything.  
 Rest easy Captain, you've earned it.  
 In keeping with his wishes, cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in the Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk, MB. The service will be livestreamed on the Gilbert Funeral Home website.  
 Memorial donations in Nigel's name may be made to the Gordon Howard Centre, 384 Eveline St, Selkirk, MB, R1A 1N3.  
 Tributes: [www.gilbartfuneralhome.com](http://www.gilbartfuneralhome.com)

Gilbert Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



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