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Darlene Corbett looks forward to celebrating more Christmases with her great-grandchildren Blake and Wade Tully.

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Rosser resident expresses concern about access road closures

By Jennifer McFee

A Rosser resident is driving forward with concerns about access to the community, particularly for emergency vehicles.

In December, Bill Corbett phoned 911 when his 85-year-old mother was experiencing stroke symptoms. However, the ambulance had difficulty reaching his property, which is located just south of where Rosser Road meets the Perimeter.

The nearest access roads to his home were closed as part of the provincial project to revamp the Perimeter Highway. Access at Road 64N was closed in 2021, followed by access closure at Road 63N in November 2023. To access their home from the Perimeter, Corbett and his family now need to use Highway 221 or CentrePort Canada Way.

When he called 911, the rural dispatch put him through to the city dispatch due to his proximity to the city.

"We saw them driving up and down on the Perimeter Highway with their lights on, first going north, then going south, then coming back north, not knowing how to access it," he said.

"In the end, my wife drove out to the end of the service road at 221, met them and brought them in. In the interim, I got a call back from the dispatch asking if we were close to Prairie Dog Central and I said no, not really."

After he saw the ambulance driving up and down the Perimeter, he called 911 once again to provide more details about their whereabouts.

"It was a real procedure because I got the rural dispatch and they put me into the city dispatch. They wanted to know our address. Our legal address is Lot 13 and 14, NE 24 11 1E Rosser. I gave them that and asked if that was helpful. They said no," Corbett said.

"We are basically five minutes from Portage Avenue, but it took almost 45 minutes for them to get here from the initial call. It was a stroke, but we were lucky enough that they got to Health Sciences Centre, got the stroke drug and there were no ill effects. Everything worked out OK, but the next person might not be so lucky."

Larry Wandowich, CAO of the RM of Rosser, said

these closures of median crossings have also created some challenges for the local fire department.

"When the multiple median crossings closed on Highway 101, it made it more difficult for the RM of Rosser Fire Department to respond to certain accident scenes on the highway itself," he said.

"In addition, as our fire fighters are very aware of the closures off Highway 101 affecting routes to rural properties in the vicinity, they have changed their response routes to attend to emergencies. This, in some cases, has added additional response times."

For residents who need emergency services other than the local fire department, Wandowich said they've heard about a few cases where response times were slower due to the closures. The municipality communicates with the provincial government about these incidents.

"Even before the closures, ambulance and police response times rurally are sometimes hampered by those agencies trying to find certain civic addresses and the appropriate route to get there," he added.

A provincial government spokesperson said the Perimeter Highway plays a strategic role in the provincial economy by providing Manitoba's industries with access to inter-provincial and world markets.

"The province's ultimate goal is to upgrade the North and South Perimeter Highways — PTH 101 and PTH 100 — to a fully access-controlled freeway that supports Manitoba's international trade hub and serves an urban population that is expected to reach one million in the coming years," he said.

"Median closures and access removals along Perimeter Highway, including the access at Provincial Trunk Highway 101 with Road 63N and Road 64N, are part of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's strategy to upgrade the Perimeter Highway to freeway status."

The province's highest priority is safety, while also balancing the access needs of road users, the spokesperson added.

"Safety improvements on PTH 101 are recommended as a result of the 2018 South Perimeter Safety Review, which focused on addressing the



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

Darlene Corbett looks forward to celebrating more Christmases with her great-grandchildren Blake and Wade Tully.

access points and intersections where there is the greatest risk of severe collisions," he said.

"The study involved an analysis of collision and incident statistics for the Perimeter Highway as a whole but did not include a breakdown at each of the uncontrolled access points."

Temporary signs are in place to direct people to the appropriate intersections along the Perimeter as changes and upgrades take place.

"Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure has been working co-operatively with the RM of Rosser and first responders to address local concerns — including emergency services — regarding closures along Perimeter Highway," the spokesperson said.

A Shared Health spokesperson said that the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre (MTCC) — which receives, triages and dispatches all rural medical 911 calls in Manitoba — recently completed a mapping update of its computer-aided dispatch system that includes highway data from the provincial government as well as municipal road

Continued on page 5

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Hearts of gold, helping those living on the streets

By Jennifer McFee

For the past couple years, a pair of kind-hearted Teulon friends has been helping the less fortunate living on city streets — and they're once again spreading warmth to others on these chilly days.

Lois Proulx and Patty Kowalchuk routinely fill their vehicles with donated clothing, sandwiches, snacks and personal care items. Then they drive to downtown Winnipeg, park their vehicle and begin to hand out items to those in need.

Many other Teulon residents and businesses contribute to the cause, including Blue Skies Bakery. Friends, family members and folks from nearby towns also offer support.

The women say the people they meet on the streets are very grateful.

"They all have a story to why they live on the streets. It's not only people doing drugs; it's people that the system failed (slipped thru the cracks)," Proulx recently wrote on her Facebook page.

"Nothing happens overnight. It's a waiting game. And hopefully you find a place to stay or are dressed warm enough to survive the night. We do this from our hearts and we appreciate everything you give us to hand out."

Proulx and Kowalchuk are always on the lookout for donations. Items in demand include hoodies, jeans, mittens, toques, jackets, ski pants, clothing to layer, socks, boots and other footwear. Other useful items are peanut butter for sandwiches, water, blankets, sleeping bags, personal hygiene items and treats.

Nancy Hein (Kowalchuk's daughter) and Jennifer Hay



TRIBUNE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Friends Patty Kowalchuk, left, and Lois Proulx distribute donations to those on the streets.

(Proulx's daughter) both expressed pride in their moms' compassionate actions.

"Our moms have always had a passion to help people in need — from working as health-care aides, home care, EMS, volunteering in the community and more," Hein said.

Likewise, Hay shared similar sentiments about

the women's selfless project.

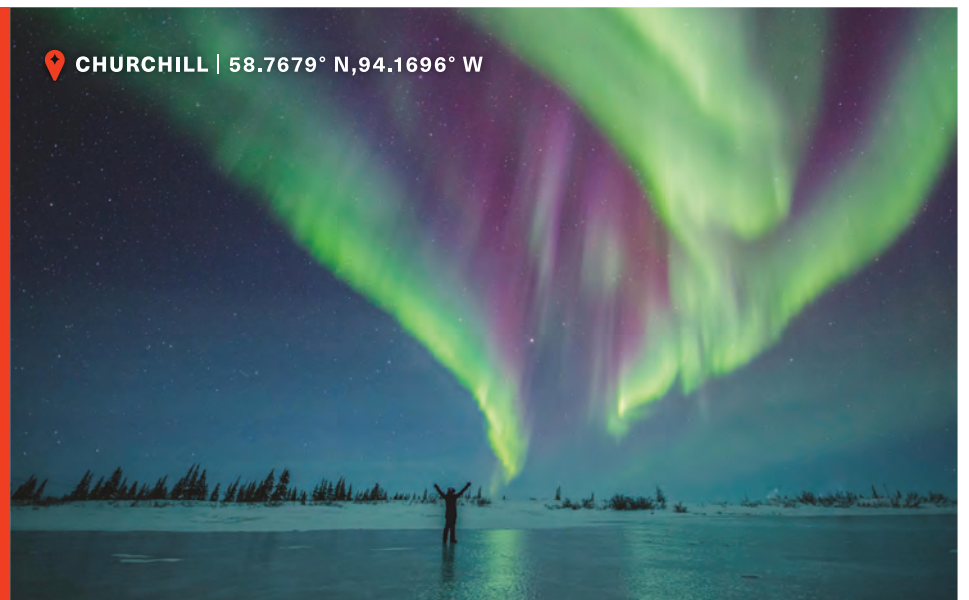
"They inspire many to be kind and to help others," she said. "We're proud of them."

If you have items you want to donate, please email loisjune40@hotmail.com, text or call 204-886-2655 or reach out to Lois Proulx or Patty Kowalchuk on Facebook.

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RM of Woodlands' first council meeting of 2024

Council indemnities receive first reading

By Autumn Fehr

The RM of Woodlands adopted its interim operating budget for 2024. Section 163 of the Municipal Act says that council may adopt an interim operating budget until council adopts the operating budget for the fiscal year. The province requires all municipalities to file a signed copy of the municipality's financial plan (adopting a budget) by May 15 of each year. As a part of the budget process, council will hold a public hearing, which will likely take place in April, said CAO Kaitlyn Griffith.

The interim operating budget is as follows:

- General Government Services - \$321,000
- Protective Services - \$112,000
- Transportation Services - \$712,000
- Environmental Health Services - \$85,000
- Public Health & Welfare Services - \$24,000
- Environmental Development Services - \$18,000
- Economic Development Services - \$65,000
- Recreation & Cultural Services - \$72,000
- Fiscal Services - \$193,500
- LUD of Warren - \$70,000
- Warren Utility Operating - \$137,000
- Woodlands Utility Operating - \$38,000
- Total Operating Requirements - \$1,847,500

Coun. Lorna Broadfoot was appointed as deputy reeve. The deputy reeve will act in place of the reeve when the reeve cannot carry out their powers, duties and functions. When the reeve is present, the deputy reeve acts in their regular role as councillor. Broadfoot will remain in the role of deputy reeve for the year.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

Council gave the first reading to a bylaw to set the indemnities, rate of compensation and expenses for council members and committees of council. The reeve will be paid \$1,337.72 monthly or \$16,052.64 annually for regular and special meetings. The deputy reeve will receive \$1,297.88 monthly or \$15,574.56 annually. Councillors, other than the reeve and deputy reeve, will be paid \$1,189.22 monthly or \$14,270.64 annually.

Each member of council shall receive remuneration while engaged in municipal business, including committee, board or public meetings, public hearings and responding to ratepayers concerns where there is more than one half-

hour involved, in the amount of \$25 per hour;

Each member of council shall receive remuneration while attending as a delegate at any convention, conference, seminar or district meeting as authorized by council, during

scheduled meeting, as follows:

(a) For a half day, four hours or less, \$100.

(b) For a full day, being eight hours or more, \$200 per day

Each member of Council shall receive remuneration for the time to travel from and return to their place of residence, with the exception of council meetings and Board of Revision, the amount of \$25 per hour.

Each member of council shall receive \$175 per month reimbursement for communication systems.

Council shall be provided with a health-care spending account in the amount of \$500 annually that shall not carry forward. This benefit is only payable and taxable upon usage and is covered entirely by the RM of Woodlands.

Each member of council shall receive \$0.60 per kilometre for each kilometre travelled while engaged in municipal business.

All expenses, including parking, meals and lodging, will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts.

Broadfoot requested a recorded vote before calling the question.

The RM of Woodlands council authorized the expenditure of up to \$2,000 to the Park150 committee for startup costs. The Park150 committee is a sub-committee of council, comprised of some councillors and some community members. The committee hopes to develop a new public park in the community of Woodlands in honour of the RM's 150th anniversary, which takes place in 2030. The allocated expenditure is due to anticipating costs associated with initial planning and exploratory costs, including surveying and permit application fees.

Council designated a tax sale year and has set a tax sale date. A tax sale is a legal process where a property is sold at a public auction due to unpaid taxes. The Municipal Act governs municipal tax sales. The act requires municipalities to designate a tax sale year, which means it must specify which year in which properties in arrears will be auctioned. For the 2024 tax sale, council has designated 2023 as the tax sale year, meaning properties with taxes owing from 2022 or prior will be up for auction if not paid by the tax sale date. For 2024, council has set the tax sale date as Oct. 9. This means that property owners have until Oct. 9 to pay their outstanding property taxes from 2022 or their properties will be sold at tax sale.

TAXervice Inc. was appointed to conduct tax sales for the RM of Woodlands, with Donna Zinkiew, general manager of TAXervice Inc., appointed tax sale manager for the RM. The RM of Woodlands hires the company to assist with the annual tax sale process. There is no cost to the municipality for these services, as the cost required for each property is applied to the taxes owed for that property. If the property is sold at a tax sale, the purchaser pays

the fees.

Council approved the destruction of certain municipal records under the Municipal Act for the retention and disposition of municipal records. A list of the records that will be destroyed by shredding can be found on the municipal website in the minutes for the regular meeting of council on Jan. 9, 2024.

Council authorized the municipal emergency coordinator (MEC) Lori Schellekens to attend the Manitoba Association of Municipal Emergency Coordinators - Municipal Emergency Coordinator Training Program module seven on Jan. 24, 2024, in St. Clements for \$225.

Council authorized the purchase of a replacement laptop and accessories for the municipal emergency coordinator for \$1,689.64 plus applicable taxes.

In the spring of 2023, Boonstra Farms relocated two approaches, without permits from the municipality. The approaches are located on roads 72N and 4W, on the portion of the driveway that adjoins the road — the part on the RM right-of-way crossing the ditch. The municipality advised them to obtain permits and correct the deficiencies in the approaches by Sept. 30, 2023, or the municipality would correct the work at Boonstra Farms' expense, per the bylaw. Boonstra Farms did not fix the deficiencies by the deadline, so the municipality performed the corrective work in October 2023. Costs for the work have not yet been finalized. The municipality is responsible for positive drainage in municipal ditches, so the work needs to be corrected. If the landowner does not do the work, the RM is responsible. The RM of Woodlands will invoice Boonstra Farms for the corrective work performed on the two non-permitted approaches but will not invoice them for the cost of the steel culvert used in the road 4W approach, as there would not have been a cost for it under a permitted culvert replacement — bylaw states that the RM is responsible for replacing failed culverts, like this one.



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MPI releases its top five attempted frauds for 2023

By Staff

Manitoba Public Insurance has released its top five attempted frauds for 2023.

The Crown corporation estimates that auto insurance fraud costs Manitobans more than \$50 million each year. The annual list is meant to raise awareness of this cost and shed some light on the work of the agency's Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

"Our experts in SIU investigate suspicious claims to give customers the peace of mind that the right claims are being paid for the right amount," said Satvir Jatana, MPI's chief customer officer. "This annual list showcases some of the most unique ways people attempt to commit fraud, and the techniques MPI's experts use to stop them, helping to save our ratepayers millions of dollars."

Last year, the SIU closed over 3,000 investigations, which resulted in claims savings of over \$10.5 million for customers.

Anyone with information about auto insurance fraud is encouraged to call the MPI TIPS Line toll-free 1-877-985-8477 or submit information online at mpi.mb.ca. All calls and reports are anonymous.

The top five frauds of 2023 include:

No. 1: Memory lapse

A customer opened a collision claim

for their vehicle but could not confirm what had occurred to cause the damage. They reported they were only made aware of the need for repairs when they went to an impound lot to obtain their belongings from the vehicle. They also denied consuming any alcohol, drugs or medication in the 12 hours before the incident.

Based on information received by MPI, the same vehicle was seen driving erratically, causing damage to property and colliding with another parked vehicle, nearly hitting a nearby pedestrian. There were also reports the driver was seen stumbling around after the collision and seemed impaired. Open drugs and alcohol were also seized from the vehicle by the police.

Upon being interviewed by SIU investigators, the driver maintained that they have no recollection of the incident, that they were not impaired and did not have any knowledge of how the damage to their vehicle occurred.

Based on the claimant making a false statement, the claim was denied. The estimated cost savings for ratepayers is over \$60,000.

No. 2: Need for speed

An insured individual reported a single-vehicle collision claim, alleging that they hit a bump in the road and

lost control of their luxury vehicle while travelling at the posted speed limit of 60 km/h. Unable to regain control, the driver said the car turned sideways and both of the driver's side

tires hit the curb.

An SIU investigation was initiated after it was discovered that the dam-

Continued on page 7

> CLOSURES, FROM PG. 2

data from rural municipalities.

"MTCC and ambulances within each provincial zone are aware of the changes to Perimeter Highway access that occurred last year and MTCC participated in meetings held during the initial consideration of changes to access/egress to/from the highway," said the spokesperson in an email.

"Occasionally, there are challenges with EMS finding addresses or incidents. In these cases, the dispatch centre would call back and ask for specific instructions to a property."

Erin Madden, communications officer for the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service (WFPS), said WFPS responds to emergencies of all types within the Perimeter Highway. They

also respond to some incidents on the Perimeter Highway.

"On rare occasions, we will respond to a call for service at the request of other agencies, which provide service outside of our jurisdiction. These may include fires, MVCs (motor vehicle collisions) or medical emergencies. In these circumstances, our responders do their best to find the addresses or locations not in their jurisdictions in a timely manner, using maps and working with dispatchers," she said.

"On occasion, there can be challenges in finding locations within and outside of Winnipeg due to construction, road closures or access changes. Maps used by WFPS responders are updated regularly to help alleviate potential challenges."

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Christopher Briney
Tina Fey

Coarse & Sexual Language **PG**

AT 7:30 pm
EACH NIGHT

The Beekeeper

Jason Statham
Jeremy Irons

Adult Accompaniment Under 14;
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People who experience mental illness do not need our help to die – they need our support to live

By Moira Wilson

On March 17, 2024, individuals in Canada whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness will become eligible for medical assistance in dying (MAiD) — unless the federal government decides not to go forward as planned.

As a parent, a medical professional and an advocate for human rights, we must put a stop to this inhumane policy. By legalizing MAiD for mental illness, Canada will further deviate from the practice of preventing suicide — for everyone.

While “assisted suicide” may be an unsettling term, I use it intentionally. It’s time that we reckon with the discomfort of reality. People with disabilities are now legally dying by suicide in Canada with assistance from MAiD providers, and this will become far more common with the availability of MAiD for mental illness.

Medical assistance in dying was, for the first five years, an option made available to people with a “grievous and irremediable medical condition” and a “reasonably foreseeable natural death.” Then, in 2021, Canada began to allow all eligible people labelled with a grievous and irremediable illness, disease or disability to die by MAiD.

The caveat was (and is) that people with a mental illness were to be “excluded” from MAiD as a solution to suffering associated with their mental illness. They are therefore “included” under the Criminal Code’s protection from suicide promotion and facilitation, which is a protection most Canadians enjoy. People with a mental illness currently remain eligible for MAiD if they have a co-occurring illness, disease or disability.

This mental illness “exclusion” will expire in March.

Research shows that recovery from mental illness is very difficult to predict. While mental illness can be treatment-resistant, it is impossible to predict the likelihood of improvement for a given person at a given time.

As the parent of a son with an intellectual disability, I have some experience with doctors predicting quality of life. This is a near-universal experience for parents of people with disabilities.

The nature of these early-diagnosis conversations can change your life-course and give or take away hope. I am thankful that my son’s doctor told us to never put limits on him, but others in my community were told that their child simply would not thrive (they later defied these predictions).

I have little faith in a medical professional’s ability to predict without bias what is scientifically known to be unpredictable.

As a medical professional myself, I am disappointed with Canada’s choice to pivot away from suicide-prevention — which was a key reason for legalizing MAiD in 2016. I’ve come face-to-face with suicide at various points throughout my career, including leading reviews of deaths by suicide in my community.

Because of this, I want to be clear not to overlook the “grievousness” of mental illness. Mental anguish paired with social stigma can be a lot for one person to hold. Many people expend precious energy into keeping themselves alive every single day.

This is exactly why, when a person wants to die, they don’t need to hear that their suffering warrants death. They don’t need their suicidal ide-



Moira Wilson

ation affirmed.

People who experience mental illness do not need help to die. They need support to live, to be heard, to be invested in, to have the conditions of their life improved upon and to be unconditionally valued. Even if — especially if — they may be “difficult” to work with.

Social determinants shape a person’s likelihood of acquiring a mental illness, their likelihood of accessing adequate and appropriate treatment for their mental illness, and the likelihood that their treatment will be successful.

Four out of five people with a mental health disability have at least one other type of disability, and over 40 per cent of people with an intellectual disability have a co-occurring mental health condition. Yet, our elected offi-

Continued on page 8

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TRIBUNE PHOTO BY RAEANN LEARMOND

An Alberta Clipper swept over Manitoba through the night of Jan. 10 and into the following day, dumping more than 15 centimetres of snow. Many school divisions throughout the province were closed on Thursday. School closures included Hanover School Division, Red River Valley School Division, Seine River School Division, Lord Selkirk School Division, Interlake School Division, Prairie Rose School Division and Sunrise School Division. Fifteen-year-old Carson Learmond spent part of his day off blowing snow for his family in Stonewall. An extreme cold warning was extended to most of Manitoba on Sunday. The extreme cold, combined with winds between 15 and 30 km/h, will result in temperatures that feel like -40 C to -55 C. Help the Tribune record the weather of the week and send in your photos of friends or family enjoying the outdoors. Email: news@stonewallteulontribune.ca

> MPI FRAUD, FROM PG. 5

age to the vehicle was too severe for the speed the driver declared they were going when they opened the claim. Data recovered from the car revealed that the driver was in fact travelling 181 km/h at the time of the collision.

The estimated savings of this denied claim is more than \$42,000, and the driver had their licence suspended.

No. 3: Lifting lies

While recovering from a collision, a claimant receiving benefits from MPI's Personal Injury Protection Plan reported that their neck, shoulder and arm pain as well as dizziness, nausea and headaches were so severe they were unable to work.

During evaluations, the individual noted that their injuries prevented them from walking or driving more than 30 minutes at a time and lifting more than five pounds.

An investigation was initiated, and surveillance revealed the customer performing a number of physical activities, including carrying a full water jug, which weighed over 40 pounds, shoveling snow, operating a wand pressure washer as well as lifting, carrying and loading a step ladder into their vehicle.

Additionally, the claimant was seen running after a garbage truck, shopping and driving a vehicle on several occasions with no indication of pain

or dizziness.

The claimant's entitlement to income replacement benefits ended because of the investigation, saving ratepayers more than \$57,000.

No. 4: Sneaky keys

An insured customer opened a total theft claim, reporting that they woke up to find their truck had been stolen overnight. They told MPI that two keys existed for the vehicle but one was missing. The known key was in their possession at the time of the theft and no one else had access to it.

The insurance for the vehicle was set to expire the day after the theft allegedly took place and the customer shared that they had already removed the licence plates and was not planning to renew the policy.

The individual also reported the theft to the police — but, conflictly, told them that they were only given one key when they purchased the vehicle. The police contacted SIU investigators to share their concerns after they recovered the truck the day after the customer said it was stolen and found that it had been involved in a single-vehicle collision rollover. There were no occupants — and no keys found in it.

A mechanical examination by SIU investigators revealed that two keys were programmed for the truck. The key that the customer turned in had been smashed and unable to be used in the investigation.

Tellingly, the examination also found that the truck ignition, column and immobilizer were intact — meaning that a programmed key was needed to start and run the truck. Data retrieved from the vehicle also showed that prior to the crash it was started with a programmed key.

The claim was denied based on the policyholder making a false statement, saving MPI ratepayers approximately \$43,600.

No. 5: Unsupervised driver

While opening a claim, an insured driver reported that after rear-ending a vehicle, they and their spouse, who they stated was a passenger at the time of the collision, stopped to exchange information with the other driver.

After further investigation and with the help of the statement from the other driver, it was revealed that the first driver was alone in their vehicle, despite licence restrictions requiring them to have a supervising driver with them at all times.

When asked to exchange information, the unsupervised driver had their spouse come to the scene to do so on their behalf. The couple denied any wrongdoing when questioned by SIU investigators and collision data was unable to support their accounts.

The claim was denied based on the policyholder making a false statement and the savings to MPI ratepayers was approximately \$10,200.

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Peace While Overwhelmed



It doesn't take long listening to the news, reading the paper, or talking to others about the state of our world before we can feel overwhelmed with all that's going on around us. Let me offer a few things to consider. First, be wise with how much time, energy, and information we consume. It's hard to process things on the other side of the world, especially things we can't control. Second, many people have experienced and lived through very challenging and difficult circumstances and most of the time we can't change or fix what they've experienced. Perhaps offering a listening ear and a compassionate heart is what they need in the moment. Thirdly, sometimes we deal with challenging situations, a difficult diagnosis, or heart-breaking news even within our own circles. On so many levels, life can quickly feel overwhelming and we are left feeling the weight and heaviness of the circumstances. In John 16:33 Jesus says, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." While I don't for a minute profess to know or understand the complexities of the many news items around us, nor the depth of the hurt people have lived through and deal with on a daily basis, I do know the One who has overcome the world. True peace in the midst of distress and suffering comes from Jesus. In John 17:3 Jesus also says, "This is the way to have eternal life—to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one You sent to earth." When we repent of our sins, ask Jesus to forgive us and then receive him as our personal Lord and Saviour, we also receive peace that passes all understanding. Peace even when the struggles are hard, peace when the news is overwhelming, and peace in the midst of trouble. If you haven't already, let me encourage you to consider Jesus and receive him into your life today.

Pastor Jo-Ann Porterfield
Alive Family Church
Stonewall, MB
alivefamilychurch.ca

Teulon celebrates new leadership in 2023 and anticipates growth for 2024

By Autumn Fehr

Last year was full of ups and downs for the Town of Teulon.

In 2023, a new council and mayor rang in the new year, forming a new dynamic, building on each other and what each member had to offer.

“Our elected council made the promise of a zero per cent increase to taxes. We budgeted and maintained cost control and reduced some of our projects,” said Teulon Mayor Todd Campbell.

“Ratepayers spoke about the community and how we needed to improve. Our newly elected council got involved and looked at our policies and procedures to help improve communication and involvement with our community groups.”

Campbell pointed out that council and administration are active in the community, listening to all the concerns and working to rectify them through policy changes. This is an on-

going process they are a part of.

Throughout 2023, council focused on critical areas where there was a need for improvement and growth: accessibility, reducing energy costs, infrastructure upgrades and data collection and staff administration. All of their work was centred around these pillars of community concern.

With its focus on accessibility, a new elevator was installed and commissioned in the Teulon-Rockwood Arena.

The town also continued LED upgrades in some of its facilities.

They finished the upgrades to its sewage lagoon and have an ongoing collection of data for its infrastructure, roads and sidewalks that is being compiled.

Campbell was also pleased that the town filled various vacant positions that complemented their departments.

“We have a diverse group of indi-

viduals that bring various skill sets within these departments that allow succession planning that is critical to the future of these departments. I am excited about the direction our team is taking us,” he said.

At the same time, most municipalities and businesses faced similar challenges, including rising costs in maintenance, fuel and materials.

Campbell notes that council continues to look at alternate solutions and vendors to reduce these costs without impacting its operations.

In 2024, many projects are in the works for budget deliberations, which will take place mid to late February, followed by approvals from the council and then a public forum open to the community. Some projects will focus on infrastructure, facilities, accessibility and energy improvements and green space initiatives.

Campbell noted that once budgets are finalized, council can better advise its intentions for specific, upcoming projects in the community for 2024.

“My hopes for 2024 I would like to see continued improvement in interactions with community groups, resolving their concerns and help-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Town of Teulon Mayor Todd Campbell

Ring in the new year



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The new year brought exciting changes for the Teulon-Rockwood Fire Department. Effective Jan. 1, 2024, Scott Skinner stepped into the role of fire chief from his position as deputy chief after Ryan Trombo resigned from the role. Trombo remains a member of the fire department. Pictured, left to right: Capt. Curtis Good, Deputy Chief Danny Hutchinson, Fire Chief Scott Skinner, Deputy Chief Sean McGill and Capt. Tyler Wilton.

> MENTAL ILLNESS, FROM PG. 6

cialists are pursuing MAiD for mental illness of their own accord and on their own rushed timeline.

How did we get here? At the recommendation of the Senate, elected officials made the hasty decision to go down the path of legalizing assisted suicide for people with a mental illness at a pre-determined date. They made this decision over the course of 29 days in 2021.

If no further action is taken, this

predetermined course of action will come into effect in March, with no new safeguards being added to the law. That leaves us, Canadians, in the unfortunate position of needing to ask elected officials to admit they made a mistake. Join me in encouraging them to do so.

Moira Wilson is the president of Inclusion Canada and the parent of an adult son with a disability. Mobile: 613-897-9276.

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- Ann Jillian

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New ICF fund supports local food banks

By Jennifer McFee

A new endowment fund will take a bite out of hunger by providing annual funds to local food banks.

The Nutrition Support Fund is a permanently endowed fund recently set up through the Interlake Community Foundation.

It all began when Stonewall resident Lloyd Jensen noticed that several community foundations in Manitoba have endowment funds designated to support their communities' food banks. He reached out to Tracy Holod, executive director of the Interlake Community Foundation, to find out if the local organization had any funds set up for this purpose.

Since there wasn't anything set up yet, Jensen asked Holod to set up a new fund, which will provide funding each year to Interlake Food Bank in Stonewall and the Teulon and District Food Bank and Services Inc.

"It has been widely reported that food bank usage is rising throughout the country. Supporting that need seemed to be a reasonable course of action. In the past, I have supported similar agencies in Winnipeg — mostly because they were more visible and easily accessible to donate to," Jensen said.

"This fund brings that support to a local setting and ensures that our support will continue on after we are gone. The perpetual grant is a fundamental premise to endowment funds. This fund is not meant to be in lieu of current ongoing donations to the food banks but rather an additional option for anyone that might be so inclined."

Both local food banks would wel-

come financial or food donations of any kind, he added.

"They are 100 per cent volunteer run, so it is also a means to attempt to show those volunteers that their participation is appreciated and supported," Jensen said.

"In reality, these people are doing all the work. This fund merely tries to help them do what they already do."

Since it's a designated fund through Interlake Community Foundation, Holod explained that its annual disbursement will go directly to both food banks.

"They do not have to apply for this disbursement, and as local registered charities, they are still able to apply for a community grant each year," Holod said.

"We typically disburse around four per cent of a fund's market value, ensuring that the donations will remain in the fund. This also means that as the fund grows, so will that annual disbursement. The food banks can use this amount in their annual budgets."

For Holod, she said it was a pleasure to help Jensen set up the fund.

"It will provide lasting support to a population of people here in the south Interlake that can use our help. We all need a helping hand from time to time," she said.

"I hope people will donate to this fund. Our local food banks support so many people, and having the public make donations will grow the fund so that the payouts will grow too."

Now that the fund is set up and accepting donations, Jensen is grateful to everyone who helped to make it

possible.

"A huge thanks to Amy at the Teulon Food Bank for spending an hour of her time educating me on their program. I like to do some background research to ensure that what I might do is not detrimental to an existing program," he said.

"As well, a thanks to Tracy and the Interlake Community Foundation for their management of these funds. And, lastly a personal thanks to Juliette and Merle Balsillie for their incredible donation within days of this fund being set up."

To donate to the cause, visit the Interlake Community Foundation's website at www.interlakefoundation.ca and find the heading called "Our Funds." Scroll through those funds until you see Nutrition Support Fund. Interlake Community Foundation can accept donations securely online through its partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation or by e-transfer or cheques payable to the Interlake Community Foundation, mailed to Box 1575, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED
Interlake Community Foundation chair Bob Beck, Merle Balsillie and Lloyd Jensen

tion.ca and find the heading called "Our Funds." Scroll through those funds until you see Nutrition Support Fund. Interlake Community Foundation can accept donations securely online through its partnership with the Winnipeg Foundation or by e-transfer or cheques payable to the Interlake Community Foundation, mailed to Box 1575, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0

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Rockwood reeve offers new year reflections

By Jennifer McFee

Looking back on 2023 in the RM of Rockwood, the municipality can find many successes to celebrate.

"I think our most notable success has been the growth in the municipality," said Rockwood Reeve Wes Taplin.

"During the past 11 months, we have seen \$22 million in permits across the communities in the RM of Rockwood."

At the same time, the RM also faced challenges last year that slowed down some projects.

"With 2023 being an election year, there was funding and grants promised and we find ourselves in a holding pattern until new government catches up. This has held up some projects that the new minister has to review and agree with. It has slowed that process considerably," Taplin said.

"Another challenge is the use of social media and the positives and negatives that arise from this platform. While it is an integral part of society, we all need to be cognizant of the con-

sequences of its uses."

Looking ahead in 2024, Taplin is keeping his eye on the growth and progress in Stony Mountain — in both residential and commercial realms.

"This community has seen major interest in the capital region, which is comprised of 18 municipalities that surround Winnipeg. Stony Mountain has become a focal point and an example for future development in all communities. We are very proud of this," he said.

"It does not come without challenges, some of which include obtaining provincial and federal funding, infrastructure, as well our own commitment as a municipality. All of this has to be balanced with all of the other communities in the municipality, which are experiencing their own change and growth."

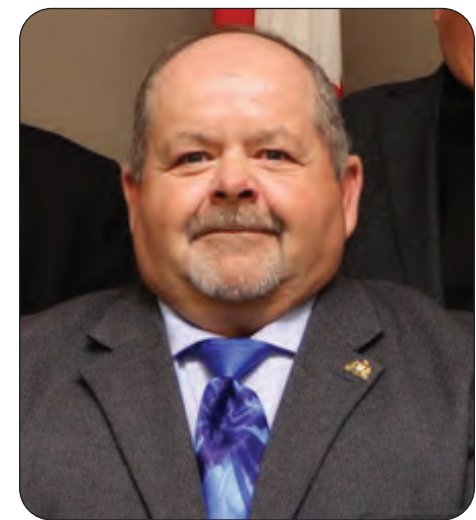
As he looks forward to the year ahead, Taplin shares his hopes for the community in 2024.

"My goal as part of the hard-working, dedicated team comprised of council, administration and staff is to continue with sustainable, positive growth for our municipality and region — the benefits of which, we believe, will be generational," he said.

He also noted that residents are welcome to reach out to council with any questions.

"What I would like to convey to our residents is that we, as council, are available and accessible 24-7. We strive to be accessible. We will endeavour to give you answers to your questions and provide knowledge and clarity to any issues. We will find the residents an answer," he said.

"Our council meetings are open to



Wes Taplin
RM of Rockwood reeve

the public — and we would love to see more residents in the gallery."

Now that 2023 has come to a close, Taplin offers a few reflections for the municipality and its residents.

"In the past year, we as a council have found ourselves challenged many times with issues both old and new. I am happy to add that we have jelled and are very focused on what is best for the municipality as a whole. Our council is comprised of seven very different personalities with strong and often times differing opinions. I am proud to say that, in the end, our decisions are the will of council and we can agree to disagree and move forward with optimism and respect," he said.

"I would like to add that, even though we as a council have the face of Rockwood, this machine would not run without the dedication and professionalism of our staff. We are fortunate to work with the best."

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Your FARM



Ukkö Robotics doing big things in agricultural world

By Ty Dilello

Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes' Ukkö Robotics is receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Manitoba government to better its innovative company as part of the Innovation Growth Program (IGP).

The Innovation Growth Program (IGP) is there to help commercialize their products and grow their business as the program provides cost-shared grants of up to \$100,000 to eligible Manitoba small and medium-sized enterprises to assist with the commercialization of innovative products or processes and accelerate growth.

Ukkö Robotics owners Daniel Badiou and Katrina Jean-LaFlamme are receiving the \$100,000 to commercialize their mobile monitored livestock shades and poultry micro barns that can move autonomously in pasture settings.

Badiou and Jean-LaFlamme were thrilled to learn that they have successfully secured the Innovation Growth Program from the Province of Manitoba.

"Ukkö Robotics specializes in automating the return of livestock to pasture," said Badiou. "Given the nature of our work, extensive research and development efforts are invested in creating new products for our farmer customers. Utilizing the grant to offset some of these costs will expedite the introduction of new products to the market."

Raised on a dairy farm near Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Badiou developed an unparalleled knowledge of agricultural machinery and animal farming from an early age. He continuously strived to learn more about the mechanical operation of agricultural machinery, finding solutions for problems and designing his own multi-purpose machines.

Badiou designed, developed and implemented an autonomous barn. He tested it on his own farm to better understand the needs of chicken farming and adapt his future machines.

Ukkö Robotics was launched in September 2016 with the goal of using technology to transform the traditional barn, making pasture-based farming more accessible. Partnering with



Ukkö Robotics owners Daniel Badiou and Katrina Jean-LaFlamme.

mechanical engineer Katrina Jean-LaFlamme, Ukkö specializes in manufacturing an all-in-one autonomous barn that falls under the company's ROVA Series.

ROVA provides farmers and aspiring farmers with never-before-seen flexibility, allowing individuals to raise their animals on pasture while having the same benefits as most



TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY DANIEL BADIOU

Ukkö Robotics out of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes have recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Manitoba government to help out with its company that produces autonomous barn.

high-tech barns.

In 2021, Ukkö Robotics first launched its flagship product, the ROVABARN PRO, and has since experienced exponential year-over-year growth.

"Our primary customers are farmers engaged in pastured poultry farming, aiming to scale their operations without increasing labour demands," said Badiou. "Our units reduce the labour required for raising true pasture-raised poultry by 90 per cent. The

ROVABARN autonomously moves birds to fresh pasture multiple times a day, handles automatic feeding and watering, provides automatic ventilation and is solar-powered, with connectivity to smartphones. Our barns are operational across provinces in Canada and in certain states in the United States. Additionally, we are in the process of sending our first batch

Continued on page 13



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Stonewall council news in brief

By Jennifer McFee

The Town of Stonewall will host a public hearing on Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. at town hall to present the special service proposal.

This proposal identifies urban services outside the general mill rate to be levied against specific roll numbers with the town's nine original quarter-sections.

The special services plan identifies specific services that are not being provided to residents or property within the annexed lands or for which alternative funding arrangements have been made.

As part of the discussions about the recent annexation and transition of land use from agricultural and rural to urban, the annexed lands would not pay for urban services they weren't receiving or that are compensated through an alternative funding arrangement.

More information is available on the Town of Stonewall website at www.stonewall.ca.

IN OTHER COUNCIL NEWS:

Stonewall residents should be aware of their snow zone and the residential snow clearing program. Vehicles will be ticketed and towed at the owner's expense if they don't comply. More info is available on the town's website and Facebook page.

Council approved the joint purchase of a new RAM 3500 four-wheel-drive crew truck from Gauthier Chrysler Dodge Jeep for the Stone-

wall Rockwood Fire Department on a 50/50 basis with the RM of Rockwood. The total cost is \$75,268.00 plus tax.

Council appointed Mike Dola as the municipal noxious weeds inspector for the town.

Council accepted a proposal from Crosier Kilgour for professional engineering services related to the restoration of the north heritage kiln at Quarry Park.

Council accepted a \$3,425 quote from Isaac & Denchuk Manitoba Land Surveyors Ltd. for preliminary field work on a topographic survey in relation to the proposal being developed to renovate Town Hall.

Representatives from WSP discussed with council a review of the development plan as well as plans for drinking water and wastewater.

Council gave second and third readings to an amended bylaw regarding the licensing and regulating of a raffle lottery.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw that provides for the regulation and control of animals within town limits.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw regarding the prevention and control of fires within the town.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw regarding

the parking and storing of derelict vehicles.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw regarding the regulation and control of firearms in town.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw to establish and maintain proper lot grades in town.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw to regulate and prohibit noise nuisance.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw for the purpose of controlling, regulating or prohibition the removal of topsoil from lands within the town. The bylaw also prescribes measures to be taken for land that has topsoil removed.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw to maintain properties and regulate nuisances, abandoned or unsightly properties.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw that establishes criteria and guidelines for the installation or construction of residential driveways onto public streets.

Council gave second and third readings to a bylaw to establish a policy and standards for the construction of private approaches and installation of culverts in the annexed areas of the town.

Council set the 2023 tax sale date for Nov. 6, 2024.

University students to provide input on Main Street revitalization

By Jennifer McFee

A group of University of Manitoba students will share their thoughts on ways to revitalize Stonewall's main drag.

From Jan. 19 to 21, the landscape architecture students will be staying at the Heritage Arts Centre.

"Municipal emergency co-ordinator Dennis Peterson will be setting up at the centre as if the students were displaced persons in an emergency situation," said Marilisa Voth, corporate services manager for the Town of Stonewall.

"So while they are here in Stonewall, they will be volunteering to participate in a training exercise as evacuees for the town's emergency response volunteers. This is in addition to the course work they will be doing for their university program."

The theme for their course is "Emergent Futures," so their project will create a long-term landscape design vision for Main Street, while also keeping the town's strategic plan in mind.

"One of the benefits to the town is that the students will be providing council with information that will help to inform planning and decision making for the revitalization of Main Street," Voth said.

Council identified several key goals when they were going through the process to develop the new strategic plan. One of these goals is to create a supportive environment to attract and retain businesses. Another goal is to enhance Main Street as a community hub for commercial and retail services.

"Looking at ways to revitalize Stonewall's Main Street using urban landscape design is one way to accomplish this important goal," she added.

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> UKKO ROBOTICS, FROM PG. 11

of units overseas this year.”

Ukkö Robotics has much more in the works going forward as they are developing the capability of the ROV-ABARN to bring smaller livestock to pasture.

“In the near future, we plan to initiate testing for larger animals such as cattle and sheep. Furthermore, we are working on introducing a micro ROV-

ABARN model designed for modern homesteaders, accommodating up to 12 hens, which we anticipate will be popular on many farms and acreages.”

For more information about the Innovation Growth Program, including details on how to apply, please visit <https://gov.mb.ca/jec/busdev/financial/igp/index.html>.



The ROVABARN autonomously moves birds to fresh pasture multiple times a day, handles automatic feeding and watering, provides automatic ventilation and is solar-powered, with connectivity to smartphones.

Community library coming to St. Laurent

By Becca Myskiw

St. Laurent may not have a community library, but residents are working to change that one book at a time.

St. Laurent recreation director Tammy Hiebert first saw the need for a library three years ago. She put up a small library outside the town’s welcome centre and noticed more and more books showing up. Then, when a local teacher retired, she donated all of her books to the Rural Municipality of St. Laurent, and Hiebert knew just what to do with them.

She started by purchasing bookshelves for the welcome centre’s coffee room and lined each with the donated books.

Now the community library is located in the recreation centre, and with the extra space, Hiebert is looking for more bookshelves and books — to donate yours, contact her at fld.recdirector@mymts.net.

“Obviously, the need is there,” she said. “If we can, why not make it accessible for our residents?”

Also with the library are non-perishable food items for residents in need. Hiebert needs shelves for this too, and she’s hoping people will have some to donate.

“I see the need for kids and adults to be reading more,” she said, noting that, currently, community members have to leave the area to borrow books. By having some available right in St. Laurent, fewer people will have to leave the community as often.

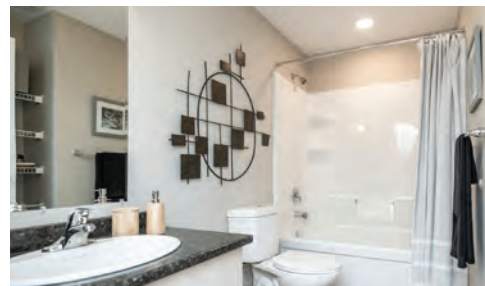
Anyone is welcome to borrow books from the inventory at the recreation centre. Hiebert just asks that the books are taken care of and returned so other people can read them.

Reading strengthens brain activity, boosts communication skills, helps self-exploration, entertains, enhances creativity and imagination and strengthens focus and concentration. There are countless benefits from reading, especially for children with developing brains.

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|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
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| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| 25 3pm - 6pm | 26 3pm - 6pm | 27 10am - 4pm |

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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

U18 AAA male Lightning pound the Parkland Rangers

By Brian Bowman

The U18 AAA male Interlake Lightning pounded the Parkland Rangers 7-1 on Sunday afternoon in Teulon.

Ian Buors led Interlake with a hat trick and an assist while Talon Hogg, Morgan Waddell, Mason Bernier, and Blake Farthing also tallied.

Waddell and Jeremy Kawiuk each finished the game with three assists.

Cade Legaarden was the lone Parkland player to put the puck past Lightning goaltender Alex Myers.

Saturday evening saw Interlake get blanked 4-0 on home ice by the Pembina Valley Hawks.

Ryder Wolfe scored for the Hawks in the first period and then Cade McCallum, Liam Goertzen and Lane Apperley tallied in the third.

Interlake, now 19-9-2, will head to Brandon this weekend to battle the Wheat Kings on Saturday (3 p.m.) and Sunday (noon).

In U18 AAA Female Hockey League action, the Interlake Lightning was edged 2-1 in a shootout by the Pembina Valley Hawks in Morden last

Sunday.

Georgia O'Neill scored a second-period goal for the Lightning.

Emma Durand potted a first-period goal for the Hawks.

Interlake goaltender Rachel Hall-dorson was fantastic between the pipes, making 52 saves.

On Saturday, the Lightning defeated the Yellowhead Chiefs 2-1 in Stonewall.

Delainey Rigaux led Interlake with a goal and an assist while Vayda Rigaux also tallied.

Yellowhead's goal was scored by Kirby Gray.

Jane Sugimoto made 33 saves for the win.

Interlake will hit the road for three games this week, beginning Wednesday (7:15 p.m.) when they take on the Winnipeg Ice at the Hockey For All Centre.

The Lightning will play the Westman Wildcats on Saturday (7:30 p.m.) and then the Yellowhead Chiefs Sunday (2:30 p.m.) in Shoal Lake.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The Lightning's Brooke Cyr and the Hawks' Ava Dalebozik battle for puck possession.

Rams win Winkler invitational hockey tournament

By Brian Bowman

The Collège Stonewall Collegiate Rams won the Winkler hockey tournament after whipping the CNMPT Tigers 7-2 in the championship game last Saturday.

Stonewall started the tournament with a 6-2 win over Carman/St. Claude and then the Rams beat the Kildonan East Reivers 7-2.

Last Wednesday, the Rams gave the first-place St. Paul's Crusaders a really good battle in league play.

But St. Paul's broke the game open with third-period goals from Holden Zemplak and Connor Allison in a 4-1 road win.

The Crusaders' Sam Monnin and the Rams' Evan Reimer traded first-period goals and then St. Paul's Chris Hermann tallied in the second.

Stonewall will host the Selkirk Royals on Wednesday and then play the Garden City Gophers next Monday at the Seven Oaks Sportsplex. Puck drop for both games is 4 p.m.

The Warren Collegiate Wildcats, meanwhile, lost 5-1 to Murdoch MacKay Collegiate in Winnipeg last Wednesday.

Owen Shymko scored a second-period goal for the Wildcats on the power play.

Leonardo Phelps (three), Tyson Pruden and Keith Baldwin replied for the winners.

Warren played Pierre Elliott Trudeau on Monday



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY NIKKI MATTSON

The Collège Stonewall Collegiate Rams won the Winkler Invitational Tournament last weekend after defeating the CNMPT Tigers 7-2 in the championship game. Pictured, front row: Jackson Vandersteen, Russell Watts and Hunter Manning. Middle row: Brent Leschyon (coach), Noah Chartrand, Justin Braid, Adam Newcombe, Evan Reimer, Matt Hawryluk, Evan Roy, Logan Meier and Liam Butcher. Back row: Brett Nespor (coach), Evan McMurtry, Evan Deprez, Logan MacDuff, Wade Byle, Foxx Domansky, Travis McKay, Gavin Holod, Tyler Persoage, Curtis De Pena (coach) and Tyler Ammeter (coach).

but no score was available.

The Wildcats will take on the Windsor Park Roy-

als Friday (4 p.m.) at the Glenwood Community Centre Rink.

Mercs split pair of close SEMHL weekend games

By Brian Bowman

The Warren Mercs played a pair of good SEMHL teams last weekend and earned a split.

Last Friday, Warren was edged 2-1 by the third-place Red River Wild.

Dexter Kuczek scored for the Mercs while Daniel Taillefer and Justin Baudry replied for the Wild.

On Saturday, the Mercs defeated the Ste. Anne Aces 3-2 in Warren.

Brett Brooks, Kuczek and Chase Faulkner scored for Warren. Kuczek leads Warren in goals (19) and points (37).

Jordan DePape and Brenden Walker answered for the Aces.

Merc's goaltender Mitch Adamyk stopped 33 Ste. Anne shots for the win.

The Mercs, now 12-2 and in second place, are two points behind the Aces with a game in hand.

Warren will visit the Notre Dame Hawks on Saturday. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JO-ANNE PROCTER

Mercs' goaltender Mitch Adamyk made 33 saves in Warren's 3-2 win against the St. Anne Aces last Saturday.

Jets double Riels in MMJHL action

By Brian Bowman

The Stonewall Jets doubled the St. Boniface Riels 4-2 on Sunday afternoon in Winnipeg.

Payton Bateman led Stonewall with a pair of goals while Cohen Cheung and Rylan Slatcher also tallied.

The Jets' Kaden Stewart had three assists in the game and Karson King added a pair of helpers.

Nathan Burzynski and Matthew Trott scored for St. Boniface.

Dylan Leclair made 28 saves for the win.

Last Friday, the Jets were defeated 5-2 by the Transcona Railer Express in Stonewall.

Bateman and Jordan Gray scored for the Jets in the second period.

Evan Chudley tallied for Transcona in the first period and then Ryder McLure, Trey Sellen, Colton Pakoo and Kaden Bruchanski scored in the middle frame.

Stonewall will visit the first-place St. James Jr. Canucks on Friday (7:30 p.m.) and then host the Pembina Valley Twisters Sunday (8 p.m.).

Morden is ready for the Scotties Tournament of Hearts

By Lorne Stelmach

Excitement is building for when the top female curlers from across Manitoba arrive in Morden for the 2024 Morden Scotties Tournament of Hearts next week.

CurlManitoba executive director Craig Baker anticipates Morden will be putting on a great week for the curlers and fans alike.

"I think it's going to be a phenomenal event down there ... and it's always exciting to see an arena transform into a curling club for a week," said Baker.

"It looks like they've had some great support. It looks like the community is behind it," he continued. "Any community we end up in down there, we get tremendous support. ... It shows the desire of the fans to be there."

"The biggest thing is, when we come into a community like Morden, we kind of become the show. We don't get lost, and the community rallies behind it," he added. "We see the community support and what they do to make it special. ... There's that desire for it and there's the support for it."

Teams arrive a day ahead of the competition, which runs Jan. 24-28. Twelve teams will be playing in the round robin Wednesday to Friday, with three draws daily. The elimination playoff round then goes Saturday and Sunday.

Activities start Tuesday evening with a banquet for the teams and sponsors at the Access Event Centre.

Saturday evening features a social with live music for anybody who wants to attend. It's \$10 a ticket, and they will be available at the door if there's room.

Organizing committee chairperson Ernie Epp said last week that everything was in place and there have been good ticket sales so far.

"Sales of tickets are going really well. CurlManitoba stated last month already that our sales are really good in comparison to what they normally see, so that's thrilling for us."

"We expect to see a fair number of people, and I think part of what helps is there's one team that's fairly local," Epp said in reference to the Carman foursome skipped by Shaela Hayward.

The excitement built even further Monday when the volunteers came to pick up their clothing and materials, Epp noted.

"It will be the first time that about 200 of us are all together, and I was really looking forward to it. It was exciting."

And he paid tribute to the volunteers and other supporters who have really rallied to make the championship a success.

"Morden is a community where volunteering is second nature to a pret-

ty big percentage of the population," Epp said. "It was a little of here's what we need to do, and off they go, and they will make Morden look good."

"It's important for me that we recognize all of the volunteers and how tremendous it is that there are people willing to help out," he continued. "And the business community and what they have done for sponsorship. We've exceeded our target with corporate sponsorship with fundraising, so that's been a phenomenal thing."

"There's response still happening," Epp added, noting the Morden Chamber of Commerce sent a notice out to its members encouraging them to decorate and help make the week special. "I'm hoping that there's a whole bunch more businesses who are going to be sharing that excitement."

Five of the top 20 teams on the women's Canadian team rankings (CTRS) will compete at the Scotties.

The top seed status went to the rink skipped by Kaitlyn Lawes (Selena Njegovan, Jocelyn Peterman, Kristin MacCuish). Currently ranked CTRS #4, Lawes and her Fort Rouge team finished second in the preliminary round a year ago with a 7-1 record but lost the semi-final to Abby Ackland.

The second seed is CTRS #8 Kate Cameron (Meghan Walter, Taylor McDonald, Mackenzie Elias). Walter and Elias were half of the Ackland Scotties

playoff team a year ago.

The third seed is CTRS #9 Jolene Campbell, who returns to the Manitoba Scotties after a disappointing first appearance a year ago with Chelsea Carey. She and teammate Rachel Erickson have joined forces with Abby Ackland and Sara Oliver, the other half of last year's finalist team.

The #4 and #5 seed positions go respectively to CTRS #14 Beth Peterson (Jenna Loder, Katherine Doerksen, Melissa Kurz, Kelsey Rocque) and CTRS #20 Kristy Watling (Laura Burtnyk, Emily Deschenes, Sarah Pyke). Peterson's Assiniboine Memorial team had a 5-3 record a year ago. Watling and her East St. Paul team won the Scotties berth bonspiel and a strong local bonspiel showing placed them at the top of the MCT rankings.

Two other Manitoba teams, also ranked in the top three of the Canadian team rankings, have already qualified for the national Scotties in Calgary in February. Kerri Einerson's defending champions currently occupy the CTRS #3 spot, while wild card entry Jennifer Jones is currently CTRS #2.

More information can be found online at morden2024.ca, where you can purchase tickets for specific draws, certain days or the whole event.

Lightning 50/50 draw reached \$125,055

By Brian Bowman

For the first time ever, Interlake Lightning teams joined forces to run an online 50/50.

Each of the seven Lightning teams had a fundraising goal. Individuals simply chose a specific Interlake Lightning team that they wanted to benefit from their purchase.

"The U17 team did this last year and

it was successful for the team," said Tanya Swanson. "I was approached by a parent to see if I was interested in helping do this for all of the teams. I worked with Jason Cassils and we worked together on this."

The fundraiser started in November, was made Jan. 9, and reached a whopping \$125,055. That's a lot of cash.

"The amount (raised) was so much

fun to watch it grow," Swanson said. "We actually broke a record for sales in a 24-hour period that the platform has ever seen. It was very exciting."

Teams will use the money raised for a variety of reasons.

Stacey Goodwill was the lucky winner and there is a good possibility that the 50/50 will be done again next year.

"I think due to the success, it is something that we are absolutely going to consider for next year," Swan-

son said. "A special thanks to everyone who supported the 50/50 - all of the teams, parents, and family members that shared their links. That's the reason it was so successful."

Teams that benefited from the fundraiser included U13 AA female (\$23,865), U15 AAA male (\$22,970), U15 AAA female (\$21,880), U15 AAA male (\$16,055), U17 AAA male (\$11,340), U18 AAA female (\$10,130) and U15 AA male (\$8,985).

U15 AAA Interlake Lightning drop trio of games

By Brian Bowman

Goal scoring was a problem for the U15 AAA Interlake Lightning last weekend.

Interlake scored just three goals in three games which resulted in a trio of losses.

Interlake wrapped up the weekend with a 3-1 loss to the Winnipeg Wild Red at the Hockey For All Centre.

After a scoreless first period, Winnipeg's William Thompson and Noah Alexander (power play) scored in the second before Ben Chapman tallied in the third.

Interlake's Jacob Keck closed out the scoring with a power-play goal in the final frame.

On Saturday, the Lightning were bounced 5-1 by the Winnipeg Bruins Black at the Hockey For All Centre.

Despite firing 22 shots at Lightning goaltender Owen Coe in the first period, the Bruins Black could only muster a 1-0 lead on a power-play goal by Ethan Walterson.

Will Owens, with a pair, and Walterson scored in the second before Interlake's Hudson Sigurdson tallied late in the second.

Walterson completed his hat trick by scoring with the man advantage in the third.

Last Friday, Interlake was beaten 8-1 by the Winnipeg Bruins Gold.

Tavyn Sigurdson scored a second-period goal for the Lightning.

Winnipeg, which built period leads of 4-0 and 5-1, received goals from Tyden Lafournaise (six), Dryden Fourgere and Aidan Sitarz.

Interlake (5-22) will not play another league game until Jan. 27 when they take on the Central Plains Capitals in Portage la Prairie. Puck drop is 4:30 p.m.

In U17 AAA play, the Interlake Lightning were defeated 7-1 by the Central Plains Capitals on Saturday.

Peyton Thiessen scored Interlake's lone goal on the power play in the second period.

Capitals' goals were scored by Tegan Fehr (two), Tyler Kendall, Campbell Park, Connor Braun, Luca Tornato and Ryder Delaquis.

Last Friday, Interlake was beaten 5-3 by the Brandon Wheat Kings.

The Wheat Kings grabbed a 3-0 lead 13:48 into the game on goals from Drew Young, Ethan Stanley and Konner MacKay.

Interlake's Dominick Collins responded with a goal in the opening frame.

The second period saw the Lightning's Ty Sadowski and Avery Jones score, sandwiched around Wheat Kings' goals by Roan Michalchuk and Drew Young.

The Lightning's upcoming schedule was not posted on the league website at press time.

Tourney champions



TRIBUNE PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Warren U11A team was undefeated at their home tournament over the weekend. Their hard work and determination brought them to victory against the Mitchell Mustangs 6-3 in the finals. The Mercs defeated Ile De Chene 14-1, River East 8-5 and Selkirk 10-0 to advance to the finals. Pictured left to right, coaches Harrison Kuzmik, Ryan Tully, Elliott Tully; back row, Jocelyn Hueging, Myers Hueging, Eli Tully, Aidan Murdock, Brayden Hueging; front row, Brody Tully, Kashtin Kuzmik, Evan Hutchinson, Owen Balan, Adrian Sinclair and goaltender Davis Lambert.



Stonewall Jets Player Profile

#15 Brody Stovin

Defence

Come out to support the Jets



UPCOMING GAMES

Stonewall Jets at St. James Jr. Canucks
Friday, January 19
7:30 p.m. at Ab MacDonald Arena

Pembina Valley Twisters at Stonewall Jets
Sunday, January 21
8 p.m. at VMSC

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> GAME

SUDOKU

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| 2 | | 9 | | | | | 8 |
| 8 | | | | 2 | 7 | | 4 |
| | | | | 9 | | 1 | |

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Here's How It Works:

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

HELP WANTED - SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Stonewall law firm requires a university student, commencing May 1 to August 31, 2024. The applicant must be comfortable dealing with the public. Typing and computer knowledge of "Word" is required.

Kindly forward resume in confidence to:

Grantham Law Offices, Box 1400,
Stonewall, Manitoba R0C 2Z0,
Attention: Doug Grantham or
email to lynnet@granthamlaw.ca.



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The Town of Teulon invites quotes for the supply of flowers.

Detailed requirements may be viewed on our website www.teulon.ca or by contacting our office during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 9:00 – 4:30 p.m.)

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Quotes will be received on or before 12 noon on Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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For Further Information please contact the office at 204-886-2314

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SCRAP METAL

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF: The Estate of Gail Margaret Ross, late of Woodlands, in Manitoba, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, P.O. Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0 on or before the 21st day of February, 2024. DATED at Stonewall, Manitoba this 10th day of January, 2024. **GRANTHAM LAW OFFICES** Solicitors for the Executrix

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF: The Estate of Patricia Mary Ellen Kotelko, late of Stonewall, in Manitoba, deceased. All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, P.O. Box 1400, Stonewall, Manitoba, R0C 2Z0 on or before the 21st day of February, 2024. DATED at Stonewall, Manitoba this 10th day of January, 2024. **GRANTHAM LAW OFFICES** Solicitors for the Executor

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

SALE OF FARMLAND

154.34 acres of farmland in the RM of Woodlands - SE 17-15-3W. Highest tender or any tender not necessarily accepted. Offers must exclude GST or any other levies which may be payable by the purchaser. Purchaser must rely on their own research and inspection of the property. Ten (10) percent of the purchase price is to accompany the tender and be made payable to MLT Aikins LLP, 30th Floor - 360 Main Street, Winnipeg, R3C 4G1, attention Martin Minuk (ph: 204-957-4697, email: mminuk@mltaikins.com), and Dianna Hall (ph: 204-957-4797, email: dhall@mltaikins.com). Deadline for receipt of offers is January 30, 2024.

Announcements

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ANNIVERSARY



Wishing this couple a
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BIRTHDAY



Happy 1st Birthday Bronx!
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-Love always,
Grandpa, Baba,
Aunty Aimee, Uncle Michael,
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BIRTHDAY



Happy 1st Birthday Bronx Nagy!
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-Love Mom, Dad,
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IN MEMORIAM



Byron Morton
March 17, 1944 – January 20, 2014
May the winds of love blow softly,
And whisper so you can hear;
We'll forever love and miss you,
And wish that you were here.
For all that life has given us,
And all that's left to do;
We'll know no great treasure,
Than the days we had with you.

-Lovingly remembered by
Rita and family

Don't forget to send your special
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Stonewall Teulon
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**TOWN OF STONEWALL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REGARDING SPECIAL
SERVICE PLAN #2-2023**

TO IDENTIFY URBAN SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE
GENERAL MILL RATE TO BE LEVIED AGAINST A SET OF
SPECIFIC ROLL NUMBERS WITHIN THE NINE ORIGINAL
QUARTER SECTIONS OF THE TOWN OF STONEWALL

The Council of the Town of Stonewall has scheduled a
public hearing at Town Hall, 293 Main Street, Stonewall
on the **31st day of January, 2024 at 6:00 PM** to present
the **special service proposal** which can be viewed on the
Town of Stonewall website at www.stonewall.ca

A written objection may be filed with the Chief
Administrative Officer, at the Town Office via email to info@stonewall.ca
prior to the commencement of the hearing.
At the hearing, Council will hear any potential taxpayer
who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or
register an objection to the special service proposal.

All objections, written or verbal, must be filed prior to the
adjournment of the hearing and must include the name,
address, and property description of the person filing the
objection and the grounds of their objection.

Dated at the Town of Stonewall this 3rd day of January
A.D. 2024 and issued pursuant to Section 318 of The
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Wally R. Melnyk
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Stonewall
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OBITUARY



Rick Arnason

February 27, 1955 - January 4, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Richard Steven Arnason, at St Albert, Alberta.

Rick is survived by siblings Ron (Liz), Ted (Grace), Gerry (Doris), Ellen (Art) Henry, and Laurie. Also, daughter Krystal (Dale) Mangan, grandchildren Mya and Jake, sons Kurtis and Kolin.

Predeceased by parents, Steve and Lara Arnason, sister Pat (Ralph) Tanchak.

Rick was an amazing brother, uncle and friend to many - he was fun and funny and well loved.

A celebration of his life will be held in Lundar, MB at later date.

OBITUARY



Doug Freeman

Sadly, on January 13, 2024 Doug Freeman succumbed to his illness.

He leaves to mourn wife Sharon, daughter Amy (Michael), and other children Angie and Shane, sisters Deb (Detlef), Helen and Bobbie, brothers George (Laurie) and Reg, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by parents Robert and Sylvia, sisters Julie and Karen and brothers Bill and Chuck.

Doug had many jobs throughout his life. His longest served at Black Cat Blades (Amsco Cast Products) where he retired after 41 years of service. Doug enjoyed hunting, fishing, billiards, darts and getting together with his numerous friends and family. Doug was a huge football fan (New England Patriots - before, during and after the Belichick/Brady dynasty) and loved watching and attending the

Winnipeg Blue Bomber games.

Thank you to Dr. Graham (Doug enjoyed your visits and the laughs), the kind and compassionate staff at the Dr. Evelyn Memorial Hospital, Lisa, Vera and all of the great friends and family who have surrounded us with love and made his last days more bearable. We appreciate the outpouring of love, food and support from all of our friends and family during this difficult time.

Per Doug's wishes, there will be no formal service held. The family will have a private interment in the future.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to CancerCare.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Leslie Nicole Goresky (Mann)

July 25, 1960 - January 10, 2024

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Leslie Nicole Goresky, age 63 years, on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg.

Leslie leaves to mourn her loving husband Gord of 42 years, her daughter Pamela (Donald), her son Nicholas (Nicole); her precious grandchildren Dallas, Bronsen, Sadie and Andi; her mother Tova Mann; her sister Dawn (Steve); her brother Grant (David); and her numerous sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. She will also be dearly missed by her two dogs Gibson and Cooper.

Leslie was predeceased by her father, George Mann and sister Pam Mann.

Leslie was born in Grandview, MB. on July 25, 1960. Leslie had a passion for music, crafts, art and she had a love for animals.

Leslie and Gord started dating in 1981 and were married April 30, 1983. They built a beautiful home near the Goresky farm, where they raised their two children.

Leslie loved to sit by the water and fish, and cherished the memories she made travelling with the Stonewall Carillons and Chorus, her trip with her husband Gord to Europe, and also her numerous trips to Mexico.

We hope Mom you are sitting by the ocean, fishing with a mango daiquiri in hand, singing away with your beautiful voice.

In respect to Leslie's wishes, there will be no funeral.

In lieu of flowers, her family asks for donations to be made to the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation and the Winnipeg Humane Society.

Leslie's family would like to thank the Stonewall Hospital, Stars Air Ambulance and the incredible MICU staff at the Health Sciences Centre for all their fantastic care during this very difficult time.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Lori Ann Steinthorson

October 26, 1957 - January 9, 2024

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Lori Steinthorson at Teulon Memorial Hospital.

She is now united with her parents Lloyd and Marjorie and infant son Christopher and friend and step mom Edith.

Lori is survived by her son Jordan and Sarah; sister Elaine; step siblings Dawn, Brad, Kathy, Stephen and Laurie; grandchildren Kaelene and Emma; her extended family LauraLee, Glenn, Hunter, Shirley and Ken Chezick.

Lori enjoyed life to the fullest. She loved long scenic drives especially with Stephen and Dawn. Often, she would take that opportunity to fulfill her other passion of photography. She loved kayaking, camping, horseback riding and belonged to local horse clubs when she lived in Balmoral. Lori fell in love with the Jets and could always be heard screaming at the television with her good friend Glenn. She was a true social butterfly. Especially with the LGBTQ+ community. She was an absolute mentor for all youth and elders in this community. She had a very positive influence for all her friends and family often known to empower people with her influence.

Lori's last career path was with Gerdau Steel in Selkirk. Throughout her life she has taken many continuing education courses at Red River and many more with Larson Management Inc to help with her employment in Alberta until she was diagnosed with cancer. She won that battle. She was a known fighter for her health. Kidney disease with years of dialysis and finally a kidney transplant 23 years ago. In last year or so she has been fighting again with heart disease, strokes, and onset Alzheimer's.

We would like to thank the staff at Stonewall Hospital and Teulon Hospital for the care that was given to Lori.

Flowers gratefully declined, if so desired donations can be given to Kidney foundation or to a charity of your choice.

In keeping with Lori's request no funeral service will take place.



204-886-0404

OBITUARY



Thomas Frank Mozdzen

December 17, 1952 - January 11, 2024

Suddenly, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, Thomas Frank Mozdzen, 71 passed away. Tom's remarkable life and unforgettable personality will be memorialized on Saturday, January 20th, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gimli Lakeview Hotel in Gimli, Manitoba.

Tom leaves to mourn his wife of almost 49 years, Karen; four children, Mathew (Jennifer), Ian (Jorge), Shauna, and Kirby (Aaron); six grandchildren, Jillian, Christian, Victoria, Slayde, Aliya, and Sienna; siblings Roy, Bob, Marie, Jean and Margaret; mother-in-law Élmeria, siblings-in-law Tracy, Darlene and David; with many other relatives; and countless friends wherever in the world Tom went.

Tom was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Dorothy, brother Ernie and father-in-law, David Roberts.

Tom was born December 17, 1952 in McCreary, Manitoba and his family moved to a farm in Stonewall when he was young. Tom contributed to the growth of the family farm, graduated from high school in Stonewall, worked for various companies, and received an Agricultural Diploma from the University of Manitoba in 1976.

Tom was a force of nature, and raised up an immense farm operation over the course of four decades with Karen and their children. Tom was never shy to strike up a conversation and could win over anyone, anywhere at anytime with his charm, bold authenticity and playful sense of humour.

A jack-of-all trades, Tom could build, repair, modify or maintain anything in the house and in the shop. Tom's final creation was a GORGEOUS backyard sandy beach into the waters of Lake Winnipeg at the home he shared with his devoted wife, Karen.

Tom was passionate about family, especially his six wonderful grandchildren who he spent immense time with being the best Papa. He loved visiting people and places, exchanging ideas, learning new things, cutting good deals and spreading his singular kind of joy everywhere he went.

Tom also forged a strong bond with nature over the course of his all-too-short life; Tom was experienced in agriculture, hunting and fishing and had recently discovered the beauty of kayaking.

Tom will be missed immensely.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the Gimli Lakeview Resort.



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