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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

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**Reaching all the high notes**

RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Singers, musicians, poetry performers and more joined a variety of visual artists at the five day Selkirk & District Arts Festival last week. It was an amazing display of local talent. Pictured: Kai Emmers, who won both a Songbird Award and The Greatest Showman Award at the festival.

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# Thank you Rotary!



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The Gaynor Family Regional Library has a lot to celebrate as the Rotary Club of Selkirk made good on its commitment to support the upcoming library renovation, which includes the creation of a new and much larger children's area. The Rotary Club has officially donated \$150,000, which will mean current and future kids in our area will have a lot more literary resources and programming options. Pictured: Erin Nosal, Chair of the Library Board (third from right), accepting the cheque from Lesli Malegus, President of Selkirk Rotary (fourth from left). With Ken Kuryliw, Library Director (fifth from left) and members of the Selkirk Rotary.

# THANK YOU

The Selkirk Youth Dart League would like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 42 for their generous commitment of funding and space. The Legion makes it possible to operate and engage local youth.



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# Easton Place doctor earns Physician Emeritus Award

By Jennifer McFee

A longtime physician is earning accolades for his contributions throughout his medical career.

Dr. Anthony Anozie is this year's recipient of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Physician Emeritus Award.

Physician colleagues and community members had the chance to nominate recently retired or reduced-practice physicians who have provided

exemplary service and expertise to their community.

With more than 35 years of experience as a physician, Dr. Anozie has worked in the U.K., Australia and Canada with a general surgery specialization. Currently, he is based out of Easton Place Clinic, which earned an award from Selkirk Biz in 2023 for the best new business.

Dr. Peter Cho, surgical co-lead for IERHA, nominated Dr. Anozie to recognize his distinguished career dedicated to patient care, education and collegial leadership.

"Serving the community since 1997, Dr. Anozie has consistently demonstrated clinical excellence alongside a gentle and respectful demeanour," Dr. Cho said in his nomination submission.

"He is deeply well regarded by colleagues, trainees and patients and has long fostered a culture of collaboration within the surgical community. His immense experience and knowledge have made him a trusted resource and mentor to many."

Dr. Cho noted that Dr. Anozie has also trained and guided numerous general surgeons over the years and is widely respected as a thoughtful and effective teacher.

"His commitment to mentorship and teamwork has left a lasting impact on those who have worked with him and on the quality of care delivered within the community," Dr. Cho said.

"Dr. Anozie's career reflects the values of service, professionalism and mentorship that the Physician Emeritus Award seeks to recognize. He is most deserving of this honour."

Dr. Anozie said he feels humbled

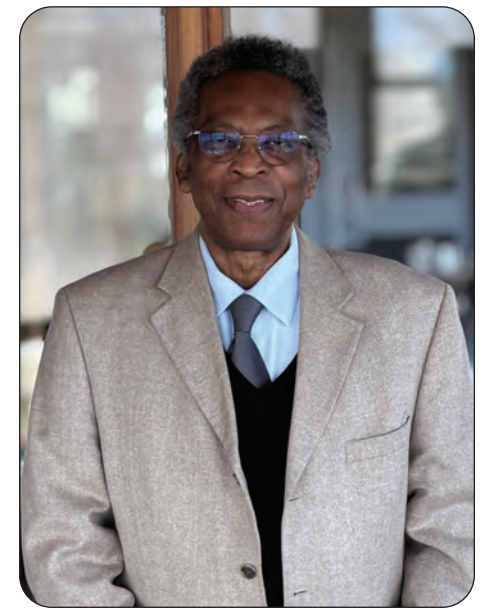


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Dr. Anthony Anozie is this year's recipient of Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's Physician Emeritus Award.

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Dr. Anozie said he feels humbled

Continued on page 8

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# If you like live music and hilarious comedic antics, check out Octavia Choir's jukebox musical

The Book Club will be on May 1, and 3 at Good Shepard Lutheran Church

By Katelyn Boulanger

Octavia Choir is well known in our community for its annual jukebox musical performances, which are written and performed by the choir and combine choral singing with a play that strings together all the songs into a comedic and fun event. In addition, proceeds from the event support Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, so it's really an event to see.

"It's a play intertwined with music and laughter," said Octavia Choir's Co-Chair Debbie Kelly.

Irene Way wrote this year's play, which combines traditional playwriting with the musical component.

"We do it for fun, and we're training our vocals to present beautiful music. We build the play around the music," said Way.

This year, the group has chosen to name their jukebox musical *The Book Club*, and it follows a book club where, instead of talking about a book they are reading, this week, the group's host introduces a story of her own. As she reads, the boundaries between the reader and story dissolve, and we get to see the story of Laura, who has just moved to a prairie town by the Red River. Laura faces her fear of growing old alone and has a series of chance encounters on a mysteriously busy riverside bench as she rediscovers herself.

Way explained that she was inspired by her book club that meets up at Gaynor Family Regional Library monthly. She is friends with the members of the book club and knows that they are a group of strong, wise,



RECORD FILE PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Don't miss out on Octavia Choir's latest Jukebok Musical, *The Book Club*. Pictured: Last year's Jukebox musical was an Eastcoast kitchen party extravaganza.

amazing people, each with a story of courage and resilience that brought them to where they are now. Though the play isn't based on any person's story specifically, Way wanted to incorporate the idea of people's past and future stories into the play.

"When I saw the songs were all love songs, I thought, 'Well, okay, that's got to be broadened quite a bit.' So (we include) love of family, love of country, love of friends, love of fun, love of animals, and love of nature connecting the songs to these women and their stories and what brought them where they are today," explained Way.

The play is put on by Octavia Choir, and in addition to Kelly and Way adding their talents Conductor Carrie Schellenberg-Wilson, Director Debbie Kostyk and Accompanist Sheldon Joyal have brought their talents to this production.

Continued on page 6



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> OCTAVIA CHOIR, FROM PG. 5

Attendees can expect a variety of music at this musical with genres that everyone will recognize.

"There's everything from barber-shop to modern pop, and anything in between. Most of the songs that we do sing, people will be familiar with, and as we go through the dialogue of the play, there are little clues as far as what the next song might be. We al-

ways use a key line of the song to move us into the song. It's interesting to watch people's reactions," said Kelly.

They didn't want to give it all away, but 'What the world needs now is Love', 'Hooked on a Feeling', and 'Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy' are likely to make an appearance.

This musical is something that the whole family can

enjoy. There might be some wine drinking in the play, seeing as it's based around a book club, but the content is appropriate for all viewers.

The musical takes place on May 1 at 7 p.m. and again on May 3 at 2 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 Sawchuk Drive, in Selkirk. Annual attendees will notice that they've expanded the show with two performances to choose from this year.

"Last year we did one performance, and we were sold out with people

asking for tickets at the door, and we had to actually turn people away. So, this year we're doing two performances. The first on May 1 and one on the 3rd. Anybody who may work in Selkirk and wants to take the show in before they go home on Friday (can attend the evening performance) and the Sunday afternoon is a great option, especially for families to come," said Kelly.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 from any choir member, at the door, by calling 204-481-1155 or by emailing [octavialadieschoir@gmail.com](mailto:octavialadieschoir@gmail.com). It is recommended that you get your tickets early if possible, as this is a very well-attended event.

In addition to the play, there will be a 50/50 draw, and proceeds from both the musical and the draw will go to Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Selkirk.

They chose the soup kitchen because of the impact that it has on our community.

"I think the soup kitchen is more than just people going to have a meal. It's for the community. It does a lot of outreach support, and it serves all kinds of people for all kinds of things (beyond just food). That's why we chose to support it, because they do so much good in the community," said Kelly.

If you'd like to watch a musical that's going to be fun and support a great cause, mark Octavia Choir's Jukebox Musical in your calendar.

"It's a nice couple of hours. Get out to see something light-hearted, fun, and get away from the chaos of the world that's going on right now. Totally just immerse yourself in something different," said Kelly.

Also, if you're someone who'd be interested in learning more about Octavia Choir or participating, this is their end of year performance, but follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574519004347> to keep up with everything that they're up to and when sign ups will be open again. .

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**Your Flake or Mine?**

By Playwright Jack Sharkey  
Directed by Shannon Dubé

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# East Selkirk Fire Department hosts Wildfire Preparedness Seminar

## Learning about keeping our community safe and prepared this summer

By Katelyn Boulanger

The East Selkirk Fire Department is prepared to do its part to keep our community safe from wildfires this upcoming summer season, but they also want residents to know that they can also take steps to keep their homes and communities safe from these fires. To make our community better informed about wildfires, FireSmart principles, home preparedness, evacuation planning, construction of emergency kits, and practical steps to protect our families and properties, the fire department hosted a Wildfire Preparedness Seminar last week.

"This all came about, obviously, from last year with our Libau Marsh Fires. We were out here for four straight days, 24/7, putting out everything. We had eight fire departments in total, including ourselves, over the four days, helping us extinguish everything, plus the air attack on and off with helicopters and stuff. It was quite an event, as most of you know, so we wanted to try and give you info on stuff that you guys can do in your yards and to protect your residences," said East Selkirk Fire Hall Chief Kevin Zacharkiw, opening the seminar.

Zacharkiw explained that in those fires, they lost a lot of land but didn't lose any primary residences. This was a reasonably positive outcome, as the fire department's goal is to keep people safe and properties intact.

Zacharkiw then introduced Delilah Bergen, Fire Prevention and Communications Coordinator for Manitoba Wildfire Service and Derrick Reykdal, East Selkirk Fire Hall's Deputy Fire Chief, who teamed up to present to the crowd and answer questions about being prepared for wildfire season.

"We have always had wildfires, and we always will. We've done a really great job over the last 80 to 100 years to suppress wildfires, and in a lot of ways, that's kind of brought us to the point where we are right now, where we have these massive fires near communities where we really can't do anything," said Bergen.

She explained that sometimes even waterbombers can't reach wildfires because of the intensity of them do to the massive overload of fuel that's accumulated. Bergen also discussed how wildfires can be good for forests in rejuvenating the soil and native species.

"But we definitely don't want them in our communities or near, so we

need to learn to live with them, and that's really where FireSmart comes in handy," she said.

Bergen then explained how wildfires can turn disastrous in the right conditions, which is called the wildfire disaster sequence. It's when topography, the weather, and the right fuels combine with an ignition event, such as lightning strikes or human-involved ignition. This can lead to rapid spread, and if it occurs near a place with people, it can turn into a disaster.

Bergen says that despite the intense wildfire season in Manitoba last year, we still have a lot of fuel in our grasslands and forests in the province.

She then started to talk about FireSmart, which is a national program that has been around for 30 years but is just seeing more interest in Manitoba.

"It is based on how we can build resilience in our neighbourhoods and in our homes that are at risk of wildfires," she said.

FireSmart is more than just managing the plant life in your yard; it's based on education, emergency planning, vegetation management, legislation, development, interagency cooperation, and cross-training, which all come together to make people safer.

"Fire moves very quickly. If you have a lot of dense forest, fine fuels is where you're going to get your ignition. So, if you have any embers or any way that manipulates these smouldering embers, that's where (the fires are) likely going to start. Weather, wind, precipitation and relative humidity are going to play a huge factor, which we can't control, but just being aware of what you are burning? When are you burning? How are you burning? When we have hot, dry weather, a lot of people are surprised. They think they're fine burning brush or their fields and then realize it doesn't take much for one wind shift, and then it can be out of control," said Bergen.

Embers from a fire can be carried up to two kilometres away and ignite more fuel sources. However, if homes don't ignite, they don't burn.

Bergen then discussed how it's best to start making your home fire resistant, starting close to your home and moving outwards. Close to your home is the most urgent area to improve and should be free of materials that could ignite in a wildfire. Cleaning roofs and gutters as well as using rock instead of mulch around your home are ways to reduce fuel, and



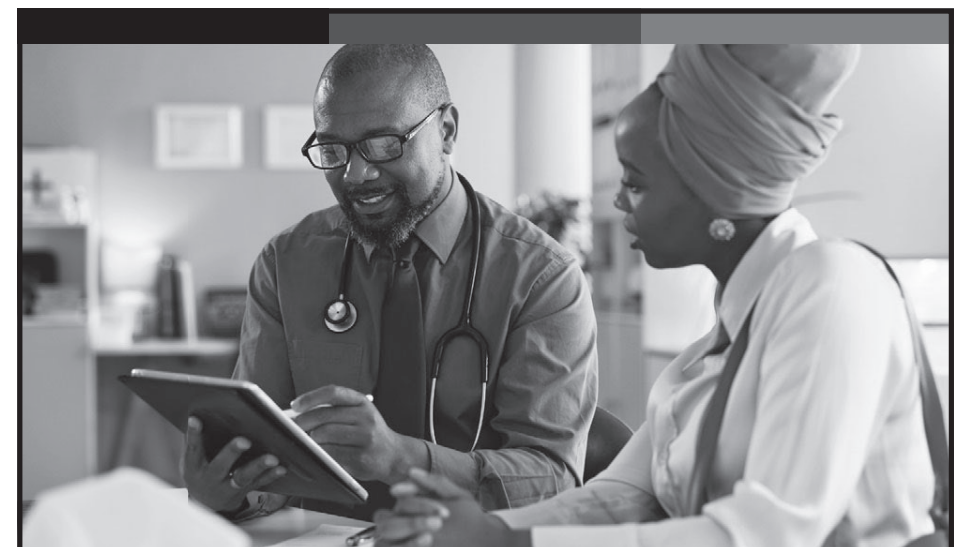
RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Delilah Bergen, Fire Prevention and Communications Coordinator for Manitoba Wildfire Service presenting.

having fire-resistant roofing and siding is also important. A fire safety consideration might also be putting a metal gate between your wooden fence and house to reduce a fire's

ability to make its way to the home if the fence catches on fire. You can also consider fire-resistant vegetation in this area, which ends about 10 meters

Continued on page 8



## 90 new doctors in rural Manitoba.

With 90 new rural doctors and a plan to recruit even more, Budget 2026 is re-opening ERs and making rural health care better.

[Manitoba.ca/Budget2026](http://Manitoba.ca/Budget2026)





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## Selkirk RCMP recovers motorcycle stolen from East St. Paul

Motorcycle found thanks to intuition of a homeowner that something wasn't right

By Katelyn Boulanger

Selkirk RCMP received a report of a suspicious person, outside a residence, on Highway 8 in St Andrews on April 15.

Police say that the suspect told the property owner the motorcycle had broken down and asked to park it at

their residence with the intention of picking it up later. The property owner feeling something wasn't right and called the RCMP.

The RCMP then immediately determined that the motorcycle was reported stolen from the RM of East St

Paul on June 16, 2025.

Officers were already on the scene when less than 20 minutes later the suspect, a 45-year-old male from the RM of St Andrews returned to the property to retrieve the motorcycle.

The suspect was arrested, without incident, for possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

Selkirk RCMP continue to investigate.

### > DR. ANOZIE, FROM PG. 4

and appreciative to be this year's award recipient.

"Highlights of my career include practising all over the Interlake and up north as an itinerant surgeon. What I like best is meeting people and sometimes making them well," he said.

"I'd like to thank the people of the Interlake for welcoming me into their

community."

Dr. Scott Gregoire, Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's vice-president of medical services and chief medical officer, expressed appreciation for Dr. Anozie's contributions.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Anozie, predominately in my role as a radiologist, and his skill,

professionalism and collegiality have always been exceptional," Dr. Gregoire said.

"He is deeply respected by his colleagues and consistently brings a thoughtful, collaborative approach to patient care."

Dr. Anozie received his award at Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority's annual spring physician dinner on April 14 at the Selkirk Golf and Country Club.

### > WILDFIRE SEMINAR, FROM PG. 7

out from your home.

The next most important zone goes to 30 meters out. There you should reduce hazards by thinning and pruning evergreen trees, regularly cleaning up fallen branches, dead grass, and pine needles to eliminate surface fuels. The third zone goes from the second to 100m from your home, and thinning and pruning are also effective in this area, but creating space between trees and flammable vegetation to create a fire break can influence how a wildfire approaches your home.

"Maintenance is a big one. So, unfortunately, it's not just a one-time thing. Every spring, you need to revisit and keep your plants healthy, check to see

what kind of branches landed in your area, and remove them," said Bergen.

She then discussed some plants that are more flammable and some better alternatives, which you can learn more about at the FireSmart website, before discussing how there are grant opportunities that communities can apply for to make community areas more fire resistant.

FireSmart also has many educational resources online that people can access that discuss in depth changes that can be made to make your home more resistant to wildfire.

"FireSmart 101, is about a 45 minute course you can take on your own. It just kind of outlines basically what I'm talking about, but in a little more

depth. And then, if you want to take it a step further and be an ambassador, it's kind of a funny word, but if you want to learn more about it and speak to your community, you can take level one. These are all free," said Bergen.

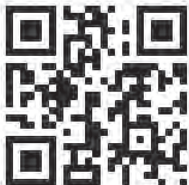
The presentation wrapped up with Reykdal discussing how the East Selkirk Fire Department tackles wildfires. They do so with preserving people and structures in mind, and they need to use resources wisely and deploy them to areas where they can do the most good.

The seminar concluded with a question and answer session.

To check out FireSmart resources online, visit <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>.

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TROUBLE WITH PAPER DELIVERY?

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

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# Red River North Tourism hosts AGM updating region on tourism

## RRNT Tourism President Lois Wales celebrates ten years of service

By Katelyn Boulanger

It was a great night at the Red River North Tourism (RRNT) Annual General Meeting on March 26 when the region got a positive update on tourism in the region, and RRNT President Lois Wales was celebrated for ten years of service in the region.

The meeting started with Wales giving a welcome and introductions before the approval of the agenda and minutes for the previous AGM, which was followed by her president's message.

Wales started with the positive that tourism is one of the province's leading industries, generating three per cent of Manitoba's GDP and has unlimited potential for growth.

"The flow-through effects of tourism revenue mean that a portion of every dollar spent by a visitor ends up in the hands of a secondary business and contributes to the development of the community. We know that investment in tourism results in a near immediate return - not just in visitors' spending but in job creation and community vitality," said Wales.

She also acknowledged that economic, political and geopolitical instability will likely impact travel and its outlook. Some of that may mean that tourists decide to save their pennies and travel closer to home, but she

warned that the industry should anticipate disruption.

"Tourism still presents unprecedented economic opportunity, but now tourism outlooks are aimed at two potential futures: one of adaptation, developing increased opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment in communities and one of continuation, staying the course, building on opportunity, tempered by capacity constraints such as availability of tourism products, accommodation, and labour," said Wales.

She explained that tourism revenue for both Canada and Manitoba was up last year and that investments in tourism are being made by both the federal and provincial governments.

"People are looking for hands-on experiences in smaller communities through historical, wellness, culinary, and cultural tourism. There is a rapidly growing demand for Indigenous tourism programs. We recognize these emerging trends present an opportunity not to be missed," said Wales.

As for RRNT, they're always busy. Recently, they took on some community engagement that revealed some key findings.

"It is clear that stronger communication of the contribution of tourism to

Continued on page 15



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Lois Wales has been the President of RRNT for ten years.



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER

Williams speaking at the 2026 RRNT AGM.

An advertisement for EnerGuide Home Evaluation. It features a photograph of a woman relaxing on a sofa with her feet up. The text reads: "COMFORT ISN'T A GUESSING GAME WITH AN ENERGUIDE HOME EVALUATION".

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# Local authors Trinity Cunningham and Sharlene Yarish publishing books this week

## Mother and daughter both publishing

By Katelyn Boulanger

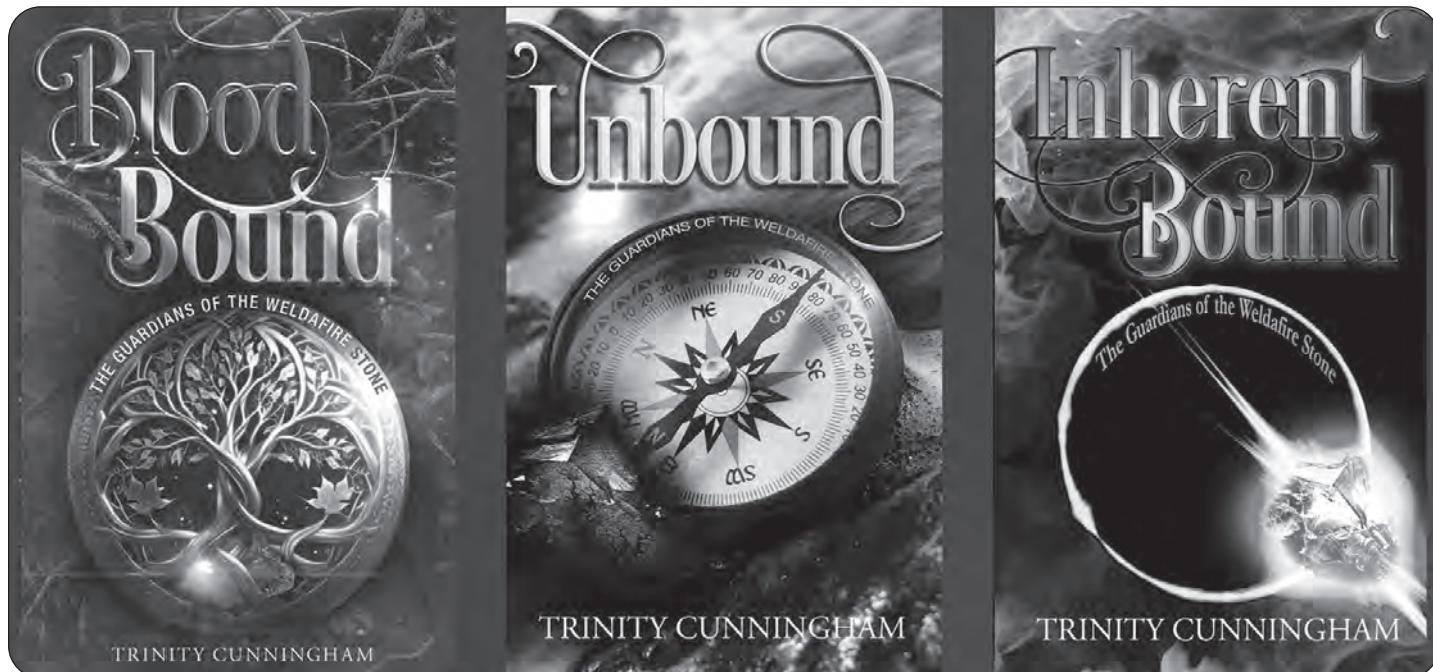
Mothers and their daughters often do things together, but this local duo have found a pretty original activity to do as a pair. Local authors Trinity Cunningham and Sharlene Yarish are both publishing books this week. Mother Sharlene Yarish is the author of the *Hobbledy Gobbledy* children's book series and will be coming out with another children's book, *Ready, Set, Fly*. While daughter Trinity Cunningham, author of *The Guardians of the Weldafire Stone* fantasy series, will be coming out with the third book in the trilogy, *Inherent Bound*.

Cunningham's book, though the third book in the series, is actually a prequel to the other two books.

"The series is about a magical stone that indwells the life of this country, is the source of magic for a certain group of people, and requires guardians to protect it from outside forces that would try to steal it or take it for its magic. That's kind of the premise of the series," said Cunningham.

In each book of the series, the story follows a different guardian on their adventure, but this book is different because it's the story before the guardians.

Cunningham hopes that the people who enjoyed the first two books will



Cunningham's *The Guardians of the Weldafire Stone* fantasy series.

RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

also enjoy this third book and feel what she's been working towards.

"I really hope that the theme becomes apparent in the third book. There is an overarching theme throughout the series, even though the books follow different characters and they don't necessarily seem related. I hope that (this third book) kind of binds them together to make the theme evident," she said.

Cunningham didn't start creating her epic fantasy world from nowhere. She credits her creative family for inspiring her from a young age.

"I always did writing in other contexts. I did songwriting, and I journaled a lot. I started studying screenwriting at one point, and I actually wrote a few very, very rough draft screenplays that were good practice for storytelling, but will never see the light of day. Obviously, my mom's a writer as well, so I grew up with the creativity aspect being prevalent, with both my parents being songwriters and musicians as well," she said.

She explained that with that background, she embraced her love of details and world building and out came *The Guardians of the Weldafire Stone* series, which has been her epic quest since 2020.

Cunningham feels that anyone who enjoys epic fantasy

Continued on page 11



Author Trinity Cunningham.

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"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward."  
 (Isaiah 58:8)

> LOCAL AUTHORS PUBLISH BOOKS, FROM PG. 10

books will likely enjoy this series, but that it's not a hard fantasy series to get into, so newer fantasy readers will also likely enjoy the story.

"(The world is) very parallel to ours. So it's, I hope, easy to picture and imagine," she said.

Her first two books are available to purchase online through Amazon, Google Books, Apple Books, and in person in Selkirk at the Cozy Fox and WishMe. This newest book will be published on April 25, and so should be available online immediately and in person shortly after. She will also be having an April 25 book launch at Chapters Polo Fest from 12 to 4 p.m. at 695 Empress Street in Winnipeg.

As for what's next for Cunningham, she will be continuing to write despite this series coming to an end.

"I have a few short stories that I'm writing for the moment. I'm kind of needing a little bit of a palette cleanser from fantasy and writing in this world. So, I'm writing some smaller projects. I'm part of a couple of different projects and writing groups where we have stuff going on, and then I do have some stuff planned down the road, another fantasy novel, a sci-fi novel, and just seeing what each season brings," Cunningham said.

Yarish recommends that you pick up a copy of Cunningham's books because they transport you to another place and time.

"There's so much detail, like when you're reading the book, the world comes alive because of all the details that she puts in. And you really can see yourself in that, in that environment," she said.

As for Yarish, she writes for a different audience altogether, but her story will also bring some joy to its readers.



Author Sharlene Yarish.

Her book is *Ready, Set, Fly* and follows a wingnut on a grand adventure and is also the third book she's written.

She explained that her inspiration to write the book was her granddaughter's, Brooklyn Yarish's, high school graduation, though the book is appropriate for younger children.

"It was a graduation gift for her as she launches into the world. 'There's so much ahead of you. Buckle up, get ready for a wild and crazy ride,' is one of the pages. And, because she was going into digital media and illustration and art, I hired her to illustrate the book," said Yarish.

*Ready, Set, Fly* will be available for purchase by May 1.

Yarish says that her journey as an author is much like her daughter's, as she's been writing since she was young as well.

"When I was very young, I wrote poetry. It's funny how my brain thinks in rhyme, which my family all laughed at me for. But yeah, rhyming has been a part of how I think and how I see things. From poetry, I did go to songwriting, and I've always had either children's songs or children's stories in my head. It's a way that I feel like I can impart values to kids at a young age. My first book, *Hobbledy, Gobbledy*, focuses on empathy, compassion, and how things aren't always as they seem. And when kids remember things in rhyme, they can relate to them and go back to them, and I guess my hope is that I can impart these values in them at a very young age," said Yarish.

In addition to this book being a great novelty present for the graduates in your life that you want to send a touching message to, Yarish says this book is something many younger kids might also enjoy because of the message that you can do anything that you want to do if you work hard and dream big.

She recommends parents with kids ages two to seven check out this story, as she's noticed the younger kids enjoy the rhyming. She's read her stories to kids in our local elementary schools before, and older kids understand the message of the story and connect with it.

As for purchasing your copy of *Ready, Set, Fly*, Yarish is often found



Written by Sharlene Yarish  
Illustrated by Brooklyn Yarish

RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Yarish's Ready, Set, Fly.

at local markets where you can grab a copy of the book from the author herself. Locally, it's also going to be available in WishMe and at the Cozy Fox. Online, you can check it out on Amazon.

As for what's next for Yarish, she's not slowing down.

"I have a couple more lessons that *Hobbledy* has to learn. The whole idea is to bring those values in. So, I'm kind of looking to get him back on that track. I have a new character who, again, has challenges that I'm hoping the kids can relate to and learn from," she said.

Cunningham loves her mom's

books because of the values that are present, and with two of her three kids being a great age for the books, it's something the family can enjoy.

"I love the values and the lessons that are there, and it really is a fun way to tell the story and get it across to the kids in a way they can understand," she said.

If you want to catch up with either of these authors in person, they will be at The Big Beausejour Book Sale in the author's alley, May 1-3, at the Beausejour Sportsplex.

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# Selkirk & District Arts Festival shows off multitude of talent



RECORD PHOTOS BY KATELYN BOULANGER

The Selkirk & District Arts Festival was once again a symphony of talent and a crescendo of creativity. Performers in spoken word poetry, song, and music competed alongside visual artists who put forward sculptures, paintings, crafting and more. The featured artist of the evening was Iris Vitt, who is a creative powerhouse showing off decades of Métis beadwork, knitting, cross-stitch, and more. Other winners from the week of performances included: Carson Reimer winning the Doreen Laing Award; Kaitlyn Sidorov with the Maria Jones Memorial Award; Rising Star Awards going to Oaklyn Andrews, Shawn Vincent Quidilig, and Yeva Tsarenko; The Greatest Showman Award in Memory of Gordon Ray Anderson going to Kai Emmers; the Junior Piano Award going to Airynn Emmers; the Senior Piano Award went to Hayden Hirst; a Humber College Alumni Jazz Award went to Airynn Emmersand, another to Danielle Famoso; the Band Ensemble Award went to the LSRCSS Jazz Improv band; the Lois Bergen Memorial award went to Hayden Hirst; and, Songbird Awards went to Iain Farquharson, and Kai Emmers. Photos from the gala event on the final day of performances.



# Access CU reports on a year of growth, change

By Lorne Stelmach

The past year was both a busy one and a year of transition for the Access Credit Union, and that was a theme in the presentations offered last week as part of the financial institution's online annual general meeting.

One significant talking point in both the presentations and question and answer session that followed centred around amalgamations and recent branch closures.

In the greater southern region, it included the Sanford branch closing and consolidating with the new Kenaston Crossing location in Winnipeg, the Plum Coulee branch closing and consolidating with Winkler, and the Emerson branch closing and consolidating with Altona.

"Sometimes these benefits are not as visible on a day to day basis as they are behind the scenes," board chairperson Curt Letkeman said in addressing a question on the benefits of closures and amalgamations.

He cited an example from a number of years ago where previous amalgamations at that time were found to be saving the credit union \$5 million a year in operational costs.

"So we are seeing benefits. They are sometimes not necessarily visible to members, but we do, when we talk about rates and trying to be the most competitive," he said. "We talk also about what we are able to do in communities, and a lot of the community support would be challenging for small credit unions if they were not a part of a larger, stronger organization such as Access.

"The size allows us to weather some

storms," he added. "On occasion, there's been some financial difficulties in certain communities and certain businesses that, had they been on their own, this credit union may not have been able to sustain some of those things."

"While our branch network is evolving, our commitment to serving members in those communities remains strong," president and CEO Myrna Wiebe noted in her report. "Collaboration, transparency and accountability will continue to guide our decisions as we work to deliver sustainable value for our members and clients."

Wiebe emphasized that Access remained focused on strengthening its balance sheet, managing risk responsibly, and ensuring sustainable growth for the credit union.

"Both our loan and deposit portfolios achieved meaningful gains, supported by disciplined lending practices and strong member engagement. Operational efficiencies and strategic investments further enhanced our overall financial stability," she stated.

"Our loan portfolio delivered a strong performance this year, reflecting disciplined growth and continued demand across our markets. Total loans reached \$12.4 billion, supported by \$12.0 billion in deposits and a solid balance sheet with total assets of \$14.1 billion," Peter said. "This strength translated into net income of \$76.1 million and a gross operating margin of \$113.5 million."

Wiebe's report covered a lot of ground, starting with her succeeding Larry Davey in stepping into the role of president and chief executive offi-

cer in September.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead at a moment that is so pivotal to advancing our purpose, supporting our members, our communities and our employees," she said. "The strategic priorities established by our board of directors centre on enhancing the member and client experience, supporting community well-being, creating opportunities to add value for members and fostering employee growth and development."

Wiebe emphasized Access remains committed to delivering exceptional service and strengthening the trust their members place in the credit union.

"Over the past year, we continued to enhance the member experience by listening closely, responding quickly and designing solutions that reflect our members' evolving needs," she said.

"Several new online banking features were introduced to enhance convenience and control for members including CRA Direct Deposit, which allows members to select their deposit account directly through online banking," Wiebe noted, adding there was also "debit card management, enabling members to lock or block debit cards to prevent unauthorized use, and Aviso wealth investment integration, which lets members view their Aviso wealth investment accounts within online and mobile banking."

And with the ever-changing cybersecurity threats, Wiebe said they remain focused on safety.

"We have increased and enhanced monitoring systems, expanded ad-

ditional authentication layers and increased investment in education and protection against emerging threats," she said. "We also launched a 24-hour fraud emergency support, giving members access to help whenever they need it. At the same time, we are in the early stages of leveraging the use of artificial intelligence to assist in operational efficiencies and support members more effectively."

Her report also acknowledged that some members experienced technology-related challenges over the past year. Wiebe said they are committed to addressing these issues.

"Our focus is on improving the stability, reliability and overall performance of our online and mobile banking platform."

Another point of emphasis was the credit union's commitment to giving back to and investing in their communities.

It was noted that they contributed over \$2.1 million to local initiatives in 2025. Access employees also recorded more than 18,000 volunteer hours and raised \$150,971 through the Jeans for Charity program.

In addition, a partnership with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers continued to create impact through the Tackle Your Finances Like a Pro program, helping students across Manitoba build confidence in money management through financial literacy education. They also raised \$116,182.90 for Ronald McDonald House and Katie Cares charities through the Access charity golf tournament.

Wiebe emphasized the importance

Continued on page 18



SCREENSHOT

From left: Access Credit Union board chair Curt Lekeman, CEO and president Myrna Wiebe, and chief financial officer Leanna Bessant at the financial institution's online AGM last week.

# Selkirk & District Ukrainian School of Dance wins big



**RECORD PHOTOS SUBMITTED**

The Selkirk & District Ukrainian School of Dance performed at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival at the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Center in Winnipeg from April 9 to 11. The school had 15 entries, and the dancers finished the weekend with 11 golds and 4 silvers. If you would like to see the dancers in action, the performing ensemble, Fialka, will be attending the PFE Showcase Competition in Saskatoon from April 24 to 26. The school's season will conclude with an annual year-end recital at MBCI in Winnipeg on Sat. May 9 at 1 p.m.

➤ **RED RIVER NORTH TOURISM AGM, FROM PG. 9**

the local economy and its future potential is needed. RRNT will focus on increasing awareness of the economic value of tourism with area businesses and other organizations, encouraging and facilitating joint promotions," she said.

Wales also mentioned women-owned businesses being of interest to tourists, the Indigenous learning activities being consistently filled to capacity at Holiday Alley, and culinary opportunities like Holiday Alley's Soup Cook-off, where people don't experience fine dining but visitors savour the unique menu a community's cultural composition offers as areas that they have seen interest in.

Wales then spoke about the future of RRNT in 2026.

"We continue to support our membership by exploring new promotional opportunities, contributing to print materials and enhancing our social media presence," she said.

She then mentioned the many activities that RRNT does to bring people

into the region that are also great fun for area residents to enjoy, such as Holliday Alley, Holiday Yards of the Season, the Garden & Art Tour, and the downtown Selkirk mural tours.

"As you know, since 2016, RRNT, through the Kennedy House Renewal Committee, has advocated for the refurbishment and reopening of the historic Kennedy House. After a decade of communications, proposals and meetings with ministers, our efforts have been acknowledged and successful," said Wales.

Kennedy House will, with any luck, be open in the coming months, but an official date has not been announced as of press time.

"In 2026, Red River North tourism will focus on broadening the reach of our promotions, engaging regional Businesses and service providers to develop appealing and sustainable tourism products and addressing financial obstacles to growth. If we are to expand our market, we need attractions and programs to promote this, which requires product development and willingness for the community to invest in new ideas. We are grateful for the continuing support of our shareholders and program partners, sponsors and especially our volunteers," said Wales at the conclusion of her report.

She was followed by Marilyn Williams, secretary at RRNT, who presented the RRNT tourism marketing report. A full breakdown of the report is available on RRNT's website.

"Our goals for 2026, because you need to see what we're doing and how we're doing it, we want you to be able to partner with us in marketing initiatives and even let you steal the key

ideas for your own programs," said Williams.

To that end, they have updated their website to be even more user-friendly with the explore page seeing information remain current, as well as additional information about parking and washrooms being added.

"These additions will help people unfamiliar with our region," she ex-

plained.

With this and improvements to their search engine optimization and additional marketing of the Garden and Art Tour, RRNT saw the number of visitors to their website shoot up compared to 2024.

"Now let's talk social media. Things got a little wild this year. Facebook

Continued on page 16



RECORD PHOTO BY KATELYN BOULANGER Muir speaking about all the hard work that Wales has done in our region while acknowledging her ten years of leadership of RRNT.

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> RED RIVER NORTH TOURISM AGM, FROM PG. 15

and Instagram both grew in followers, interactions and views," she said.

Their Instagram views doubled, but their Facebook had a moment, reaching 1.4 million views, more than triple compared to 2024, with half of those coming in the last three months of the year. This is great as it means more people know about the great things happening in our region.

"Overall, 2025 was a really strong

year for marketing. More people are finding us, engaging with us, and, more importantly, visiting the region," said Williams in conclusion.

RRNT Treasurer Jim Pelletier then came to the stage to give the treasurer's report. It was positive, and financial statements were circulated to all members.

Next, three new directors were appointed to the RRNT Board. Ashley

Meilleur, Danielle Gagnon, and Trish Chyborak will be joining the team.

Joining the executive are Darlene McArdle and Sandra Strang.

Finally, Williams acknowledged the dedicated decade of work of RRNT's President Lois Wales and invited Shirley Muir to say a few words about Wales.

"She has been doing this for a very, very long time, and I'm incredibly impressed when I stand here tonight and hear all the progress that has happened with RRNT because 15 years

ago, when we were in this room together, this was not the same story," said Muir. She also recounted the many ways and events that Wales has generously volunteered her time for, which are far too numerous to mention all of, but include Homes for the Holidays, the Senior's Games and more.

Wales then came up and thanked the many people who have helped her along the way, humbly saying the president of an organization is only as good as the people who work with her.

"(WALES) HAS BEEN DOING THIS FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME, AND I'M INCREDIBLY IMPRESSED WHEN I STAND HERE TONIGHT AND HEAR ALL THE PROGRESS THAT HAS HAPPENED WITH RRNT BECAUSE 15 YEARS AGO, WHEN WE WERE IN THIS ROOM TOGETHER, THIS WAS NOT THE SAME STORY,"



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Darlene McArdle speaking at the RRNT AGM.



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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



RED RIVER CO-OP FOOD STORE

## Seared Strip Loin with Linguini

Pat steak dry and season generously with kosher salt. Heat grill pan or grill to medium-high heat. Grill steak until medium-rare (135-140 F), turning halfway through cooking, about 8 minutes total. Set aside.

Bring large pot of salted water to boil. Cook linguini according to package instructions. Reserve 1 cup pasta water before draining linguini in colander.

In same pasta pot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Cook fennel, red pepper flakes and 1 teaspoon kosher salt over medium heat, stirring, until fennel is tender, 5-6 minutes. Add chopped olives, garlic and orange zest. Stir in orange juice and stir to combine. Set aside.

Return drained linguini to pot. Crumble goat cheese on top and add reserved pasta water. Stir until pasta is evenly coated.

Serve with slices of steak on top and garnish with fresh parsley.

- Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 30 minutes
- 1 Niman Ranch Strip Loin Steak (6-8 ounces)
  - 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional to taste, divided
  - 1 box (16 ounces) linguini
  - 1 tablespoon olive oil
  - 2 cups chopped fennel
  - 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes
  - 1/3 cup chopped Castelvetrano (green) olives
  - 2 cloves garlic, chopped
  - 1 orange, zest and juice only
  - 1 goat cheese log (4 ounces)
  - 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley, for garnish
  - pepper, to taste



## The Classic

- 1 tablespoon butter, softened
  - 2 slices white bread
  - 2 slices Borden Extra Sharp Melts
  - 2 slices Borden American Singles
- Heat skillet or griddle over medium heat.

Spread butter on one side of each slice bread.

Place cheese slices on unbuttered side of bread. Top with other slice of bread with butter facing upward.

Place sandwich on skillet or griddle and cook 3-4 minutes on each side. Using spatula, lightly press sandwich down gently while cooking to melt cheese better.

Remove from skillet or griddle and slice in half.

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- Bonanza - \$7,555**  
in 52 numbers
- Jackpot - \$2,500**  
in 51 numbers

# Eight sustainable careers young people should consider

By News Canada

Making long-term career plans can be a daunting process, especially for someone just starting out. With so many options to apply your skills and talents, consider the many industries in this country advancing sustainable solutions.

Canada is home to dynamic, growing sectors that contribute to sustainability. Here are some of the energy and natural resource industries that are looking for new employees:

**Mining and critical minerals.** Canada has been a leader in the global mining and minerals industry for decades. Today, the sector is becoming more sustainable: mitigating environmental harm from old mines, adopting green mining practices and adapting water management, to name a few changes.

**Nuclear energy and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG).** These are two key energy sources for Canada, given our rich uranium and natural gas deposits. Both require advanced technology and trained specialists to manage risks and access them sustainably. Wages in the nuclear sector are as much as 30 per cent higher than other jobs in the same community.

**Renewable electricity.** Electricity generation from wind, water and solar sources is a fast-growing sector in Canada. There are career opportunities in every aspect of renewable energy, from developing technology to building and installing systems, as well as planning and management required for those projects. Electricity sector jobs come with competitive wages and attractive benefits, even for entry-level workers.

**Forestry.** Responsible forest management is more than laws and policies. It requires skilled workers, from technicians and millwrights working in sustainable lumber, to arborists monitoring and managing forests' health.

**Transportation.** Electric vehicle (EV) technology is making Canada's transportation sector more sustainable and lowering emissions. There are multiple opportunities in the construction and maintenance of EVs and energy storage systems, as well as for operators, bringing essential goods to communities across the country.

**Construction, energy efficiency and green buildings.** Throughout Canada, there are construction or renovation projects to reduce buildings' environmental impact. This means job opportunities in designing and constructing new buildings, as well as projects to retrofit existing structures.

**Carbon management.** This emerging sector is key to Canada's net-zero emissions goals. It includes a variety of connected technologies and initiatives to capture, store or make use of carbon dioxide. It's a diverse sector generating a wide range of career opportunities, from facility and field operators, geologists and data analysts, to instrumentation technicians and regulatory affairs professionals.

**Climate adaptation and environmental management.** Effectively adapting to climate change requires skills, knowledge and talent from a wide range of sectors and disciplines, including Indigenous guardians and environmental data and mapping specialists. This area of work will continue to grow and evolve and presents an opportunity to build a career that helps protect Canada's future.

**Practical skilled trades education,** such as an apprenticeship, can prepare you to make the most of these opportunities. Choosing a career in advancing sustainability in Canada can contribute to the country's future while building your own. Learn more at [canada.ca/sustainablejobs](http://canada.ca/sustainablejobs).  
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> ACCESS CREDIT UNION, FROM PG. 13

of Access CU staff, who continue to be the driving force behind the organization's success.

"We expanded learning and leadership development opportunities to support career growth and promote employee engagement. We were also proud to be one of Manitoba's top employers for the 11th consecutive

year, a testament to the dedication of our more than 925 employees and our commitment to creating a workplace where people feel supported and empowered."

She concluded with the thought that "as we move into the year ahead, our focus is clear: to build on our strong

foundation, embrace innovation and pursue excellence in everything we do. We will continue to respond thoughtfully to market changes, enhance our products and services and invest in our technology and talent. This includes making thoughtful and sometimes difficult decisions so that we can continue to invest in our strategic priorities."

Meanwhile, on behalf of the board,

Letskeman touched on their strong financial position as well as their continued commitment to serving their communities.

"From a business standpoint, 2025 was another year of strong growth for Access," he said.

He highlighted the focused funding grant, which awarded \$25,000 to 10 Manitoba schools to enhance nutrition and wellness programs, and noted Access overall was able to support more than 1,080 organizations across Manitoba in "enhancing the commitment to the communities in which we all live."

He concluded with a reference to operational changes, including the branch closures.

"We have made some difficult decisions which affect some of our smaller communities. We know the closure of a local branch is disappointing and for some members deeply personal. A branch isn't just a building. It's part of how people connect with Access Credit Union and their community," he said. "While our physical footprint is changing, our commitment to the community is not. We will continue to invest in local initiatives, support community events and organizations and remain active partners in places where our members call home."

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**April OFFSITE Consignment Sale**

Viewing: April 12th -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 22nd, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

**April ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale**

Viewing: April 13 -16th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 16th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 23, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, April 24th & Saturday April 25th from 9 AM to 5 PM

**April ONSITE Week 3 Consignment Sale**

Viewing: April 27th -30th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: April 30th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on May 6th, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Thursday, May 7th & Friday May 8th from 9 AM to 5 PM



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# Your Community of St. Andrews



## “Why Growth Matters in St. Andrews”



*“I look forward to future progress in our municipality for the benefit of all residents”*

*– Mayor Sul*

### Message From the Mayor

Development and growth are critical for a municipality to thrive. Statistics Canada population estimate for 2025 indicates the RM of St. Andrews has decreased by 0.93% over the last 10 years. Being at a negative growth rate and being stagnant in the last number of years, without development and growth makes it unsustainable. Growth leads to income through tax dollars and those monies can be used to increase services provided. When the Rural Municipality raises money through development it keeps taxes at an affordable rate, when inflation and expenses continue to rise.

Through a focus on development and growth, we have established partnerships with key stakeholders to drive expansion and position the municipality for long-term success. For example, the recent Gaynor family library expansion was a regional application, with St. Clements, Selkirk and Dunnottar. Partnership like this shows when everyone works together great things can be accomplished.

Council is often required to make difficult decisions. This Council strongly believes in transparency. While the ward system is used for election purposes, once elected, all members of Council must act in the best interest of the municipality as a whole. Every decision requires a vote from all seven elected officials—not solely the mayor.

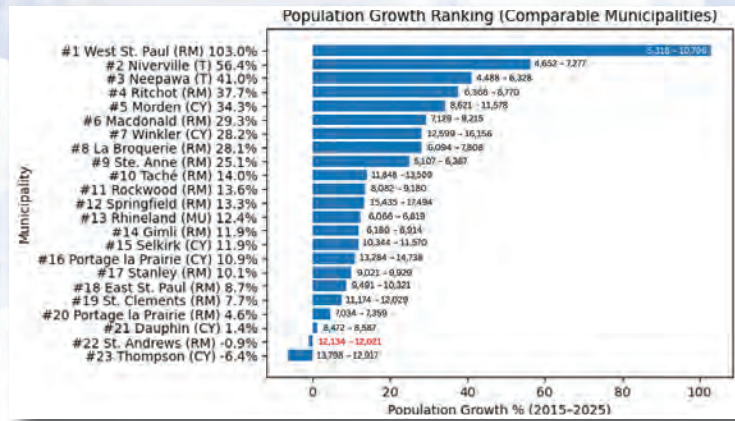




# Your Community

## “The Cost of Standing Still”

The population of the RM of St. Andrews has decreased from 12,134 to 12,021 during the 2015 to 2025 period stated by Statistics Canada 2025 Census. During this time, neighbouring municipalities have shown consistent population growth, with some experiencing increase of more than 50% due to their future-focused outlook. If we do not create opportunities for people to live and invest in our municipality we cannot grow, and without growth we cannot sustain the services and quality of life our residents expect.



### Loss of Jobs and Business Investment

St. Andrews is not keeping pace with surrounding municipalities. According to Statistics Canada, the RM has an estimated population decline of 0.93%. Some statistics suggest the RM of St. Andrews ranks approximately 22nd out of 23 comparably sized municipalities in terms of population growth, with only Thompson ranking lower. Growth plays a critical role in supporting business activity and community development. Without it, attracting new businesses, retaining jobs, and encouraging investment becomes a challenge. This can lead to residents commuting to neighbouring municipalities for employment, reducing opportunities within our own community. Limited commercial development also impacts the municipal tax base. Commercial properties contribute through higher tax rates, and without this growth, the financial portion shifts onto residential taxpayers. The RM of St. Andrews is responsible for maintaining 764 KM of roads. Without additional development to support this revenue, this may lead to reducing the frequency of maintenance such as grading, snow clearing, or the alternative of increasing the costs for taxpayers.

Growth is not just about numbers, it's about maintaining our services, supporting our residents and securing the future for our community. By planning for housing, encouraging economic development and supporting growth, we are taking steps to ensure St. Andrews remains strong and sustainable for years to come.

### Loss of Funding and Grants

Many funding programs are tied to population growth, development readiness and per capita measures. Municipalities that are growing are more competitive for grants while those with a declining number face reduced eligibility. This impacts how much funding we can bring into St. Andrews and how much we can contribute towards infrastructure, and services within the community.

### Higher Costs for Residents

When population growth slows or declines the tax base does not expand. Other municipalities are growing and spreading the cost of infrastructure and services across more residents. In St. Andrews, those same costs, such as roads, drainage, emergency services, and facilities, must be covered by the same or fewer taxpayers, increasing the financial pressure on residents

### Less for our Youth and Future Generations

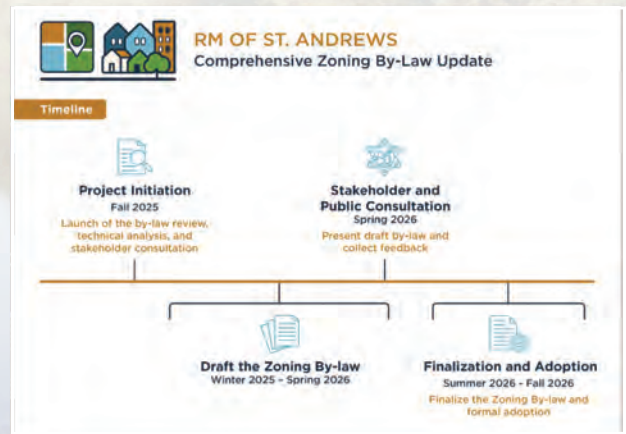
Lower growth limits the number of new families moving into the community, which impacts long-term sustainability for schools, recreation programs and youth services. Without new housing and development, we are not attracting the next generation. This leads to fewer sports registrations, cancelled programs, and reduced student enrollment in local schools. Over time, residents will be forced to travel to surrounding municipalities for activities and opportunities.

### Losing the Services We Rely On

Municipal services are directly tied to population and funding. Without growth, and without the development that supports it, it becomes more difficult to maintain current service levels. This can result in fewer programs, reduced local services, and residents needing to rely on other municipalities. It decreases local demand, which can lead to small and local businesses struggling to remain open or having to close their doors.

### Zoning By-Law Update

The RM of St. Andrew's Zoning By-Law was originally adopted in 2002 and now all member municipalities of Red River Planning District are currently undertaking an update to the Zoning-By-Law to better reflect current provincial legislation, the Red River Planning District Development Plan, and the evolving needs of the community. This update aims to modernize regulations, make the by-law easier to use, and support growth while protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Key goals include encouraging a wider range of housing options and affordability, supporting local economic development, and streamlining development processes to reduce administrative barriers. Overall, the updated by-law is intended to help ensure St. Andrews remains a vibrant, and livable community for current and future residents.



# City of St. Andrews



## The Road Ahead

Our Public Works department plays a critical role in supporting the growth and day-to-day function of our municipality. With a total of 764km of roads, including 131 km of paved roads, 139 km of mud roads, and 493 km of gravel roads, maintaining this is no small task. Developing along our existing road infrastructure helps us make better use of the roads we already have, rather than building new ones. This approach helps lower costs for taxpayers.

## “Partnering for Community Growth”



## Gaynor Library Expansion

On March 10, 2026, the Province of Manitoba announced a \$600,000 investment toward the expansion of the Gaynor Family Regional Library. The announcement was made alongside Premier Wab Kinew and Municipal and Northern Relations Minister Glen Simard.

Mayor Joy Sul noted that the RM of St. Andrews was proud to support the project by submitting the grant application on behalf of the library.

“The RM of St. Andrews recognizes that regional partnerships deliver strong results for communities, and we are grateful for these important partnerships”. “As we look ahead, it’s worth remembering that for many children, a library is the first place they discover that their future can be bigger than they ever imagined.” said Mayor Sul.



## Red River Metis Tree Nursery

The Red River Métis Tree Nursery, located just north of Selkirk in the RM of St. Andrews, represents an important step forward for the region. Developed by the Manitoba Métis Federation with support from Canada’s 2 billion Trees program, the 14-acre facility will produce millions of tree seedlings for reforestation, shoreline restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, shelterbelts, edible forests, and other community-focused programs.

The RM of St. Andrews supports initiatives like the tree nursery that strengthen local ecosystems and contribute to long-term climate resilience. Once fully operational, the facility is expected to produce up to 10 million seedlings annually while creating jobs, training opportunities, and educational programs.

This project will enhance natural landscapes, support local agriculture and conservation efforts, and benefit residents through improved green spaces, stronger habitats, and a healthier environment for future generations.





# Your Community of St. Andrews

## Little Infinity Child Care Centre Opens in St. Andrews

On March 24, 2025, the Infinity Women Secretariat (IWS), an affiliate of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) – the National Government of the Red River Métis – celebrated the grand opening of the Little Infinity Child Care Centre in St. Andrews. Mayor Joy Sul had the honour of participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



The centre was created to support Red River Métis women and their families by providing high-quality, culturally rooted early learning and childcare. Programs are thoughtfully designed to nurture the “whole child,” with a Red River Métis-focused curriculum delivered by well-trained staff in a culturally safe and supportive environment.

The St. Andrews location marks the first of three centres planned by IWS, making this grand opening a particularly meaningful milestone for the organization and the community. This new facility will provide valuable childcare opportunities for local families while helping preserve and celebrate Métis culture, language, and traditions.



## Soccer Development at Liss Road

The RM of St. Andrews, in partnership with AK Soccer Academy, is developing approximately 10 acres of recreational land at 160 Liss Road. The project includes an indoor training facility for the academy and several outdoor soccer fields, including a tournament-style bowl, available for shared recreational use.

The development responds to the growing demand for youth soccer in the region and limited field availability during peak seasons. With the current soccer fields at St. Andrews Airport expected to close after 2027 due to airport expansion and safety considerations, the Liss Road site will help ensure continued access to quality soccer facilities for local athletes and fam-



ilies.

The updated plan includes three full-size municipal soccer fields, doubling the capacity currently available at the airport site. The location is also envisioned as part of a larger 80-acre recreational area that may include walking trails, pathways, and additional green space for community use.

Through this public-private partnership, AK Soccer Academy has already invested approximately \$1.36 million in site improvements, infrastructure, and equipment. If approved, the first two municipal fields are expected to be ready by 2027, with a third anticipated in 2028.

This project represents an exciting step toward expanding recreational opportunities for residents of the RM of St. Andrews.

## “Planning for the Future”

### – Closing Message from our Mayor

As your Mayor I continue to be honored you have placed your trust and faith in me to represent you. I am grateful for the continued support I have from residents in the RM, a home area that I love and want to support with all my heart. In this term the hiring of CAO, Brent Olynyk who is highly respected has been a very positive move by council. He has been successful in putting together a great new management team. This leads to work being done that is fair to all residents and assessed by professionals. Our CAO walked into some inherited and unfortunate situations that are being corrected, some taking more time than others and I thank our residents for their patience.

*We look forward to sharing any, and all opportunities that arise with residents for the betterment of the community.*

– Mayor Sul





## These local organizations are always looking for volunteers:

Selkirk Legion Branch 42  
Selkirk ANAF Legion  
Selkirk Food Bank  
Growing Years  
Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen  
Twice Over Clothing  
Gordon Howard Senior Centre  
Lord Selkirk School Division

Inclusion Selkirk  
Daily Bread Soup Kitchen  
Huddle Selkirk  
Selkirk Services to Seniors  
City of Selkirk  
Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority  
Selkirk Habitat for Humanity Chapter  
Selkirk Judo Club

Selkirk Steelers  
Selkirk Fishermen  
Selkirk Biz & the Selkirk Biz Summer Parade  
Night of Lights Christmas Parade  
Selkirk Community Arts Centre  
Selkirk House of Economy Inc.  
Local Churches, sports organizations  
and many others

Thank you  
Volunteers

To all the volunteers who give their time, energy, and care – thank you. The RM of St. Clements is grateful for the dedication and heart you bring to our community. Whether you help during emergencies support events, serve on committees, or quietly assist your neighbours, your efforts make a difference. You are the heart of our community, and we appreciate everything you do.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING ST. CLEMENTS A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE



# Be the change



**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK • April 19 to 25, 2026**

## The ripple effect of volunteer work

National Volunteer Week (NVW), celebrated from April 19 to 25, 2026, shines a spotlight on the power of giving back. This year's celebration aligns with the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. Under the theme "Ignite Volunteerism," the campaign encourages Canadians to find personal ways to serve while contributing to a stronger, more connected society.

Beyond the immediate impact, every act of service creates a ripple effect, helping shape lasting change.

### Waves of change

Here are just a few ways your volunteering can make a lasting impact.

- **Inspire others.** When you volunteer, you lead by example. Your family, friends and colleagues may see what you're doing and feel motivated to get involved themselves. One person's commitment can spark a chain reaction of generosity and kindness.
- **Strengthen your community.** Volunteers help address local needs, build relationships and create networks of support. Communities with strong volunteer engagement tend to be more resilient, connected and better equipped to face challenges together.



- **Empower yourself.** Volunteering inspires personal growth. It helps you build confidence, develop new skills and deepen empathy. Volunteers often carry these benefits into their workplaces, schools and neighbourhoods, further amplifying their impact.

This National Volunteer Week is a reminder that even small acts of service matter. When people come together, positive change multiplies. Join the movement and #IgniteVolunteerism in your community today!

**Jeff Wharton**  
 MLA for  
 Red River North  
 rrnorthca@mymts.net  
 Phone  
**204-641-2107**

*Thank You, Volunteers!*  
 We appreciate your contributions to our community.



**David Thorne**

- Member of the Rotary Club of Selkirk since 2017, Club President for 3 years.
- Member of the Selkirk & District Community Foundation since 2020. Held roles of Director, Vice Chair and Chair of the Board.
- Meals on Wheels.
- Soccer Coach in Selkirk
- Aide de Camp for the Lieutenant Governor
- Beavers and Cub Scouts leader



**Rodney Olson**  
 Selkirk Judo Club Volunteer

- Over 16 years as a coach and volunteer
- A coaches during the regular season and at annual summer camps;
- Coaches club athletes at local competitions;
- Volunteers at many events including the Selkirk Open Judo Tournament;
- Referee the annual fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity
- Long-time club volunteer working traffic control for the City of Selkirk's Canada Day celebration.



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Cathy Martinuk, Lorna Nohlgren & Janice Bailey  
 Volunteer at the Gordon Howard Centre

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*Volunteers are the true high rollers of kindness*





# Ignite Volunteerism

A year-long, nation-building celebration

International Volunteer Year is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the power of civic participation and renew Canada's culture of volunteering.

Ignite Volunteerism is a year-long effort to elevate the role of civic participation, rebuild volunteer infrastructure, and celebrate volunteer stories.

At its core, Ignite Volunteerism means inspiring Canadians to reconnect with their communities through acts of

service, civic action, and mutual support. The campaign responds to a decline in formal volunteering by inviting people from all backgrounds to "Find Your Thing" – discovering personal ways to contribute, whether through local events, grassroots initiatives, or ongoing volunteer commitments.

The Ignite Volunteerism campaign will serve as a celebration of Canada's volunteers while inspiring a new generation of participation—creating a stronger, more resilient, and inclusive Canada for everyone.

We are re-igniting the culture of volunteerism in Canada. Join us!

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!**



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Front row: Doreen Szczerski, Renee Danchuk and Winston McLeod  
Back row: Karen Harris and Colin Way  
Above are members of the Selkirk Lions Club Hot Meals Program and Craft Sales Crew.

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# Be the change



## Every Moment Matters

### How volunteering can keep seniors active and engaged



Volunteering is a great way for seniors to stay active and engaged with their community. It can also provide physical, mental and social benefits.

#### Physical benefits

Many volunteer opportunities involve physical activity, such as serving meals at a soup kitchen, walking dogs at a shelter or gardening at a community park. This can help seniors maintain their physical fitness and reduce their risk of developing chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

#### Mental benefits

Volunteering can help keep seniors mentally active and engaged. It can provide them with a sense of purpose and meaning, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness. Volunteering can also help improve cognitive function and reduce the risk of developing dementia.

#### Social benefits

Volunteering is a great way for seniors to meet new people and socialize with others. It can help them build friendships and feel connected to their community. Volunteering can also help to reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

#### How to get involved

If you're a senior looking for a way to get involved, there are a few resources that can help you find opportunities:

- Your local volunteer centre
- Your local library or community centre
- Your place of worship
- Online volunteer matching websites



**Richard Perchotte**  
 MLA for Selkirk  
 rich.perchotte@gmail.com  
 Phone 204-481-4677

It's our **Big Hearted Volunteers** that make this a better place to be.

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**HWY 44 - LOCKPORT**

*Council would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy, and passion to our community.*

Rural Municipality of **ST. ANDREWS**

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**Kyle Still** volunteers for the local Selkirk Bear Clan, The St. Andrews Ag Society and the Triple S Fair and Rodeo  
**Isabel Disbrowe** volunteers for the local Selkirk Bear Clan and the Selkirk Steelers

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 366 Main Street, Selkirk Town Plaza

*Thank you*

*We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible volunteers whose kindness and time make all the difference.*

**WE TRULY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**

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 3550 Main Street, West St. Paul  
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# Selkirk Development Plan Open House



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

The City of Selkirk hosted a public open house last week at Memorial Hall. The come and go event saw a small crowd show up to learn about the process that is being undertaken to update Selkirk's development plan. In 2022, the City of Selkirk left the Red River Planning District and brought planning and building permitting services in-house. This update to Selkirk's development plan will tailor the document to the City of Selkirk specifically, and update policies to meet current local and provincial legislative requirements and standards. A presentation outlining the steps in updating the development plan, as well as what is proposed in the updated plan, was available at the event and is viewable online at [https://www.myselkirk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Selkirk-DP\\_April-2026-Open-House-Boards-WEB.pdf](https://www.myselkirk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Selkirk-DP_April-2026-Open-House-Boards-WEB.pdf). You can also learn more about the development plan and get answers to frequently asked questions at <https://www.myselkirk.ca/city-services/planninganddevelopment/developmentplanupdate/>.

## Walks unite communities in dementia support

Registration now open for provincewide Alzheimer's walks

By Haley Cvar

Communities across the province are preparing to step up in support of families affected by dementia as the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba hosts its annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's throughout May and June.

The walk, the Society's largest annual fundraiser, brings together par-

ticipants of all ages to raise funds and awareness while supporting people living with dementia, as well as their families, friends and care partners.

"It's one of my favourite days because of the strong sense of community — you really feel like you're a part of something," said CEO Erin Crawford. "It's also just a lot of fun. There's music, activities for the kids and so much laughter and love. You'll leave feeling uplifted."

Walks are scheduled in several Manitoba communities, including Selkirk on June 4, Steinbach on June 7, Gimli on June 12, Altona on June 17, Portage

la Prairie on June 18 and Darlingford on June 20. Brandon will host its walk earlier, on May 27.

Funds raised through the events help the Alzheimer Society continue offering critical services, including one-on-one support, education sessions, support groups and dementia-friendly programming aimed at helping individuals and families live well with the disease.

For participants like Gary Garbutt, the walk holds deep personal meaning. Garbutt, who walks with his team "Gary's Groupies," said the event has become one of the most im-

portant days of the year for him and his wife, Barb.

"It's inspiring," he said. "You see all those people, and you think, 'wow, there's a lot of support out there.'"

Organizers encourage participants to register as individuals or teams, begin fundraising and share their reasons for walking with their networks. The event also serves as an opportunity to connect with others who understand the challenges of dementia and to show support for those navigating the journey.

Visit [alzheimer.mb.ca](http://alzheimer.mb.ca) to learn more about the Walk and to register.

# Farmers invited to share what's working in new Manitoba wellness study

By Annaliese Meier

With flood risk rising in parts of the Interlake and ongoing pressures from input costs, labour shortages and unpredictable weather, a new Manitoba study is looking to farmers themselves for answers on what supports mental wellness in agriculture.

Researchers with the Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health at Brandon University are inviting farmers and agricultural service providers across the region to take part in interviews and focus groups aimed at identifying what is already working in farm communities.

The project takes a strengths-based approach — focusing not only on challenges, but on the tools, supports and strategies producers are already using to manage stress and maintain well-being.

“This research is about listening to farmers and ag service providers and learning from what’s already working,” said Tracy Young, research facilitator with the Centre. “Hearing directly from farmers and those who support them is key to shaping meaningful approaches to wellness.”

Young said the study grew out of her experience working directly with producers and farm families.

“Over the last number of years in my work as a mental health clinician in agriculture, I’ve become increasingly familiar with the industry hardships and the risks to mental health for farmers and farm families,” she said. “At the same time, I’ve also seen the importance of reminding people of their purpose — their connection to the land, the animals and the work they do.

“We hear so much about the downside. Why not take a closer look at the good — the positive, the strengths in farming — and what works to keep the industry growing and thriving?”

Farm families continue to navigate long hours, financial uncertainty and the increasing complexity of modern agriculture, all of which can take a toll on mental health. In regions like the Interlake, those pressures are often compounded by weather-related concerns such as flooding and delayed





## Wanted: Voices From the Field

### Farmers & Ag Service Providers Needed for Manitoba Study

#### What Works: A Strength-Based Approach to Farmer Wellness



#### WHY JOIN?

- By sharing your strengths, strategies, and stories of success, you can help grow a culture rooted in resilience and grounded in real farm experience
- Together we can harvest hope and create meaningful solutions and supports for farmers of the future

#### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Farmers, Adult Farm Family Members, or Farm Employees
- Ag Service Providers

#### GET INVOLVED

To participate or get more info, contact:  
204-571-8532  
or  
CCSRMH@brandonu.ca  
or  
Scan the QR Code



#### WHAT'S INVOLVED?

**Farmers:**

- In-person interview at location of your choosing
- Honorarium provided
- 60-90 minutes

**Ag Service Providers:**

- Join a focus group to discuss farm strengths, strategies, supports and wellness
- Refreshments provided
- 60-90 minutes
- Brandon, Carman, Russell

From Soil to Soul: What Works for Farmer Wellness This Project is approved by BUREC #23638

seasons.

Young said the study is not ignoring those realities, but instead aims to highlight resilience within the industry.

“We’re not intending to overlook the pressures farmers are facing,” she said. “We want to gather the voices of strength and hope and help raise them up, so the industry can be reminded of the promise that agriculture still holds.”

In practical terms, the strengths-based approach means focusing on what is already helping farmers cope and succeed.

“We want to know what’s working for you — what brought you strength, what gave you purpose, how you keep going and who supports you,”

Young said. “From there, we can build on those ideas and develop tools that are truly relevant to the industry.”

The study will collect stories from both farmers and agricultural service providers, with the goal of identifying supports that can be expanded and shared more widely.

Those insights will be compiled into narratives that highlight resilience in agriculture and used to develop tools and resources for producers in Manitoba and beyond, in partnership with the Do More Agriculture Foundation.

Young said participation from farmers across rural Manitoba is critical to the success of the project.

“Everyone’s voice is important. Everyone has a story to tell that could help someone else,” she said. “Ag-

riculture can be isolating at times, and if this study can help share that strength across the miles, that alone is a reason to take part.”

Farmers, farm employees, family members and agricultural service providers are all encouraged to participate.

Participants are being asked to share their experiences, wellness strategies and perspectives on what supports mental health within the agriculture sector.

More information about the study and how to participate is available online at: [youngt@brandonu.ca](mailto:youngt@brandonu.ca) or by contacting Tracy Young – Principal Investigator for the project at 204-571-8532.

## Interlake-Eastern Regional Health honours 368 volunteers

By Haley Cvar, with files from IERHA

National Volunteer Week runs April 19 to 26, and this year Interlake-Eastern Health is recognizing 368 people across the region who volunteer their time in health facilities and programs that impact many individuals and families.

Holly Typliski, a fourth-year University of Manitoba student, volunteers once a week in the dialysis unit at Selkirk Regional Health Centre.

“I started volunteering at the front door to the hospital, and that was a great way to interact with all kinds of people. It also exposed me to differ-

ent departments across the hospital that I could potentially volunteer in,” she said. “No one wants to be at the hospital, so by being a friendly, familiar face they see every week, I try to make them feel safe and comfortable while they are here. The best part is having conversations with patients

while they are receiving treatment and hopefully making their day a little better by providing that support.”

Typliski said her experience in a health-care setting is helping prepare her for a future career in the

Continued on page 29

> IERHA VOLUNTEERS, FROM PG. 28

field. She is completing a Bachelor of Health Sciences in the interdisciplinary health program and plans to pursue a master's degree to become a physician assistant. She also works part time as a research assistant at St. Boniface Research Centre.

Marline Wruck and her friend Henrietta began volunteering by singing with patients at Pinawa Hospital in 2018. They paused their visits in 2020 and recently returned in mid-January 2026, bringing music back to the hospital.

"The joy, conversations and care for one another is what brings us back," Wruck said. "Many of the patients are in the hospital for a long time, and the days can get very long. I've heard that since COVID, many of the volunteers who once came to the hospital have not returned."

Melody Horn, who lives east of Lac du Bonnet, volunteers at the local personal care home, running bingo and assisting with family events at least once a week for nearly three years.

"I try to make people smile, laugh and enjoy themselves. I also do the same and find myself enjoying it just as much," she said. "I go before the game starts to talk to residents and get them excited to play. I also enjoy helping out at special family events. Volunteering brings me joy."

Anyone interested in assisting with the recreation department is invited to contact regional recreation man-

ager Lori Martin at [lmartin@ierha.ca](mailto:lmartin@ierha.ca).

The palliative care program is seeking volunteers for Camp Stepping Stones, an annual grief camp for children held at Camp Arnes from May 29 to 31. Those interested can contact Lorraine Schmidt, Interlake-Eastern RHA volunteer coordinator, at [lschmidt@ierha.ca](mailto:lschmidt@ierha.ca) or call 1-855-494-7369.

From April 8 to June 3, the spiritual care program is offering a Spirit of Caring training course every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Participants who complete the training are eligible to become spiritual health volunteers in the region. To register, contact Ferdinand Funk, regional spiritual health services coordinator, at 204-461-3414 or [ffunk@ierha.ca](mailto:ffunk@ierha.ca) by April 6.

Interlake-Eastern Health's recreation, palliative care and spiritual care programs are all seeking volunteers. Opportunities include friendly visiting, reading, leading activities and crafts, assisting with mealtimes, helping with transportation and more. Additional roles are available in some health facilities and with community partners, such as seniors resource councils.

More information about volunteer opportunities is available at [www.ierha.ca](http://www.ierha.ca) under About Us > Community Involvement > Volunteer Opportunities.

## We want to hear from you

*Letters to the editor - If you wish to comment on anything you read in the newspaper, or if you wish to comment on any concern affecting Selkirk and surrounding communities, write a letter to the editor. We welcome diverse views and opinions.*

### Why You Should Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing a letter to the editor is one of the most efficient ways of reaching large audiences. The *Selkirk Record* has an approximate readership of 37,368 readers weekly.

Readers also include members of local government, who we may want to reach. Frequent letters about a certain topic will convey that a sizable group of people care about it.

A letter to the editor is a very short piece of writing, meaning that you don't need to invest an inordinate amount of time in it. Shoot for less than 300 words.

### Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor

Connect your letter to a specific article, op-ed, or topic recently covered by the newspaper.

Structure your letter in three parts:

- Refute or promote a certain

claim made previously, provide reasons for your stance, and then suggest what needs to happen now.

- Write from your own perspective and show how the topic relates to your local community.
- If you have expertise in the topic you're writing about, let the readers know.

If you're trying to convince a government representative, refer to them by their full name (it'll be more likely to make it to their desk).

Stick to a single point. Have more points to make? Write more letters. Be respectful – don't attack anyone when expressing your concerns.

Letters must include your name, your location, and a telephone number where you can be reached. Please keep letters to 300 words or less.

The *Selkirk Record* reserves the right to edit letters for length, content and/or taste as well as the right to refuse publication of any letter.

We look forward to your submission: [news@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:news@selkirkrecord.ca)

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Westlake Classic shifts to Warren for finale weekend

The classic will continue with the same format in Warren, featuring a development camp followed by five-on-five exhibition games on both days

By Kieran Reimer

The first annual Westlake Classic will shift to Access Credit Union Arena in Warren next weekend for the second half of the four-game exhibition series, April 25-26.

The classic features two teams made up of U18-aged girls, one hailing from southwest Manitoba and the other from the Interlake.

The event debuted April 11-12 at the Waskada and Area Recreational Centre. The two sides also shared the ice ahead of each game through a development camp led by Interlake coaches Sam Strassburger and Kelsey McHolm.

"They packed the rink in Waskada to watch this exhibition series, and we had lots of parents and families coming up and just saying to us what a great idea it was and how much they appreciated the opportunity. We're really, really happy with the outcome of it. It's been great," said Kasey Riddell.

Riddell, vice-director of Interlake Minor Hockey on the girls' side, is

also one of the event's creators.

He, along with Neil Franklin of Deloraine, planned the classic as a way to give girls graduating from the U15 level a taste of U18 hockey.

He said the rosters include players from AAA through to single-A and high school programs.

"We wanted to try to give girls an opportunity or taste of what U18 AAA hockey might be like," said Riddell. "We opened it up to girls graduating from U15 AAA into the U18 AAA program or into that U18 age level. There weren't a lot of those girls, so we opened it up to Interlake girls who played on the U18 AAA team, and then the next wave was girls who played high school hockey and AA hockey."

The classic will continue with the

same format in Warren, featuring a development camp followed by five-on-five exhibition games on both days.

"We're hoping that it'll gain some momentum and ideally, in another year, it would be open to girls graduating into U18 if we had the numbers or interest," said Riddell. "The goal is to grow it and provide an opportunity for Interlake girls to get a taste of U18 hockey."

Games at Access Credit Union Arena are scheduled for Saturday, April 25 at 3:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

Festivities will include a 50-50 draw and silent auction, with the bar open Saturday. Tickets are \$5 each.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Fishermen awards banquet honours graduates, names new captain

By Kieran Reimer

At last Thursday's team awards banquet at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, Fishermen defenceman Gaven Berry was named team captain for the 2026-27 season.

2025-26 captain Dawson Bergagnini, now a graduate of the team, created a "passing of the torch" moment when he called Berry forward to receive his updated jersey with a "C" stitched on the front, in front of teammates and family members in attendance.

"It's just the way he plays the game," said Fishermen head coach Chris Poponick. "It's heart and soul every time. He's passionate about it, he works hard in practice, and he just has that ability to do things and people will follow him. He gets intense at the right moments. He's not afraid to bark at someone if they're not pulling their weight, but he does it in the right way, so we just felt that he's the next guy."

Berry now enters the back half of his Capital Region Junior Hockey League career, with his first two full seasons complete and two more years of eligibility remaining.

He has played 87 games in the league, combining regular season and playoffs, following a high school career where he also wore a letter for the Lord Selkirk Royals.

He said he hopes to follow the lead of Bergagnini and Kyle Folhoffer, the two captains who preceded him over the past two seasons.

Berry also expressed excitement upon hearing Poponick plans to return to the Fishermen bench in 2026-27.

Poponick guided the team to a CRJHL finals appearance in 2025-26 after posting a 17-10-0-1-2 record in the regular season, including a 10-game winning streak to start the year.

In his 26 years with the team, he has coached the Fishermen to multiple championship victories, most recently in the 2022-23 season.

"He said he was going to retire at the end of the season," said Berry. "We lost to La Broquerie in that finals game and he was all choked up, and you never know if it might be his last time on the bench. I told him, 'It's not going to be your last time because we are going to win next year.'"

The Fishermen will look to do so with a majority of their roster eligible to return.

Aside from six graduates — Bergag-



Forward Zach Gallinger (middle) was named the recipient of the Fishermen's Top Scorer Award after leading the club with 33 points (10 goals, 23 assists) in the 2025-26 regular season.



Gaven Berry (left) was named captain of the Selkirk Fishermen on Thursday, proceeding now graduated captain Dawson Bergagnini.

nini, Ty Johnson, Logan Saluk, Zach Gallinger, Ryan Dupont and Izzy Aime — Poponick will be able to run it back with a group that is highly motivated after falling short in the finals.

The graduates' departures, however, will leave a void in the locker room that will be difficult to replace.

"It's super tough leaving those glue guys, especially all those vets," said goaltender Jonny Enns-Demchuk. "They've been a part of the team for many years. They know what it takes to prepare for games like that and for seasons, so it's going to be super tough."

Thursday night's banquet also saw



RECORD PHOTOS BY KIERAN REIMER

Fishermen graduates received their jerseys at the conclusion of their junior careers, marking the end of their time with the 2025-26 Selkirk Fishermen and recognizing the team's six graduating players. Pictured (back row, left to right): Tyndall Fontaine, Izzy Aime, Jason Vitt, Ryan Dupont, Ty Johnson, Chris Poponick, Dawson Bergagnini, Zach Gallinger, Logan Saluk and Josh Poponick; front: Michael Singleton.



Forward Connor Bruyere (middle) was presented the the Top Playoff Performer and Mark Hendry Memorial Rookie of the Year Awards by Chris Poponick (left) and Josh Poponick.

team awards presented to players for their accomplishments and contributions during the past season.

Gallinger, who led the team with 33 points, received the Top Scorer Award, one of 11 honours handed out.

### AWARD WINNERS:

- Top Scorer: Zach Gallinger
- Top Playoff Performer: Connor Bruyere, Jonny Enns-Demchuk
- Most Improved Player: Zach Lemire
- McMillan Family Scholastic Award: Ryan Dupont
- Wayne Fey Memorial Award



Goaltender Jonny Enns-Demchuk (middle) was named the recipient of both the Top Playoff Performer and Player of the Game Awards.

(Leadership, Ability and Sportsmanship): Ty Johnson

- Carl Makara Memorial Top Defenceman: Gaven Berry
- Mark Hendry Memorial Rookie of the Year: Connor Bruyere, Drake Vermeulen
- Fred Epps Memorial Manager's Award (Team Dedication — On and Off Ice): Izzy Aime
- Ernie Malis Memorial Coaches Award (Inspirational Leadership and Ability): Dawson Bergagnini
- Player of the Game Awards: Jonny Enns-Demchuk
- Blood and Guts — Anything for the Team: Gaven Berry

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Trophy tour brings World Cup fever to Manitoba

By Kieran Reimer

A once-in-a-lifetime moment is set for this June as the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Canada for the first time.

Vancouver and Toronto will host matches, while 14 additional cities across the United States and Mexico will welcome the world's top soccer nations.

Although no games will be played in Manitoba, the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola is ensuring fans across the country can still be part of the experience.

Last Monday, Manitoba got its chance to welcome the original FIFA World Cup Trophy at Memorial Park in Winnipeg, where thousands gathered to view soccer's most coveted prize — a 13.6-pound trophy made of 18-karat gold.

"We know the sport is growing rapidly in Canada, and Winnipeg has a strong, vibrant community of fans who are deeply connected to the game," said Diana Brenchley, director of brand partnerships and sports marketing at Coca-Cola Canada.

"Bringing the Trophy Tour here is about celebrating that passion and giving fans a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the original FIFA World Cup Trophy up close. It's all part of our commitment, as a long-standing FIFA partner, to make the tournament feel truly national and accessible to fans from coast to coast."

Attendees also took part in Coca-Cola and FUZE Iced Tea tastings, a Northern Super League photobooth, prize giveaways and other interactive activities.

Former Canadian national team members Desiree Scott and Diana Matheson were among those in attendance, along with Scott Gillingham, who participated in the on-stage trophy reveal.

Winnipeg marked the third of seven Canadian stops on the tour, following visits to Calgary and Vancouver. The tour will continue through several U.S. Midwest cities before returning to Canada in May with stops in Montreal (May 22), Halifax (May 23), Ottawa (May 24), and Toronto (May 25-26).

Globally, the trophy has already travelled to dozens of cities, with North America serving as the final leg



The FIFA World Cup Trophy, made of 18-karat gold and weighing 13.6 pounds, will be awarded at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, running June 11 to July 19 across North America.

of the 75-stop tour.

"The response has been incredible so far, in Canada and around the world," said Brenchley. "Thousands of fans come out to be part of the experience, and in Winnipeg, we were preparing to welcome just over 8,000 fans. Even in our short time here, you can feel how excited people are — not just to see the trophy, but to be part of something bigger."

Another highlight for fans was the appearance of 2002 World Cup champion Roque Júnior, who has joined each of the Canadian stops to help unveil the trophy.

The 49-year-old former defender from Santa Rita do Sapucaí, Brazil, received loud cheers as he took to the outdoor stage.

Monday marked his first visit to Winnipeg, where he experienced typical Manitoba spring weather.

"It's cold, but what I saw in Vancouver and Calgary and here is I think the people like the football," said Junior. "I saw a lot of people with spirit of the World Cup. This is good — it's good for Canada, will be good for the World Cup. A lot of people will come to Canada to see the World Cup, and this is a big opportunity for the country to host the most important football event in the world."

Junior said opportunities like the Trophy Tour didn't exist when he was growing up, making it especially meaningful for young fans today.

He recalled first watching the tour-



PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

Brazilian World Cup champion Roque Júnior reveals the FIFA World Cup Trophy during the FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola at Memorial Park in Winnipeg last Monday. The stop was one of 75 on the global tour and the third in Canada.

name at age 10 during the 1986 World Cup, when Argentina won the title. He also remembered travelling with his father to São Paulo, where he met former Brazilian national team player Luís Antônio Corrêa da Costa, known as Müller — a moment that helped shape his dream.

"I was, I think, nine or eight years old," said Junior. "For me, it was a big pleasure. I remember that until today, and that helped me to dream. I looked at him and said, 'Oh, maybe one day I can do the same thing that he did.'"

"I hope I can inspire some young people to look to the future and maybe want to play football. This is part of life."

Junior added he is encouraged by

the growth of soccer in Canada, noting the national teams were not as prominent during his playing career.

Canada is currently ranked No. 30 in the FIFA men's world rankings and ninth in the women's rankings.

At the 2026 tournament, Canada's men's team is set to compete in Group B alongside Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar and Switzerland in the expanded 48-team format.

The top two teams from each group, along with the eight best third-place finishers, will advance to the knockout stage.

The tournament runs from June 11 to July 19, with Canada opening against Bosnia and Herzegovina on June 12 at Toronto's BMO Field.



217 Clandeboye Ave., Selkirk

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

Booking Deadline  
**Mondays at 4 p.m.**

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



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Team Kurz wins provincial title seven years after split

By Kieran Reimer

Team Colin Kurz are Mixed Open Provincial champions once again after a 9-4 victory over Team Pearson in the tournament final on April 12 at Pembina Curling Club.

After not playing together for seven years, it was almost like they had never been apart.

They showed no rust and made minimal mistakes en route to an undefeated tournament, which sees them qualify for the 2026 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship in November.

"It's like we never skipped a beat. Our first game we won in six ends, and then our second game, we won by two, but yeah there was definitely more missed shots along the way this time around versus last time, but honestly it was kind of like we didn't miss a beat," said Team Kurz lead Sara (Oliver) Krym.

The 29-year-old, born and raised in Marquette, along with West St. Paul's Brendan Bilawka, make up Team Kurz's Interlake representation, with Colin Kurz and Meghan Walter both hailing from Winnipeg.

Before last weekend, their 2019 World Mixed Curling Championship-winning season was the last time they hit the sheet together as members of the same team.

Between work, university and starting families, each pursued their respective men's and women's championships, which proved successful.

Krym and Walter went on to play in the 2023 Scotties Tournament of Hearts before recently retiring from the women's game.

Kurz also retired on the men's side, making Bilawka the only active curler of the group. He is currently part of Braden Calvert's men's squad that competed at the 2026 Montana's Brier just a few weeks ago.

Team Kurz's idea to reunite for mixed provincials came about one month before the registration deadline.

Krym said they didn't even have time to practise together before the tournament.

That, however, caused no problems as they came out strong with a 10-3 win over Team Jonasson in their opener on April 9.

"I think the chemistry aids a lot in it for sure," said Krym. "We can all have fun out there but also be competitive. A lot of it is natural talent, in all honesty, but I think the chemistry is a huge part of it because I feel like even when there are missed shots or missed opportunities, we're not getting down on each other."

Team Kurz followed up their opening win with two more A Event victories over Teams Irwin and Calvert to enter the playoff round as the top seed.

There, they met Team Calvert once again, narrowly eliminating them 6-5 thanks to a three-point seventh end.

They then blanked Team Chambers in the semifinal before the championship meeting with Team Pearson.

Tied 4-4 through six ends, Team Kurz stunned Team Pearson with a five-point seventh end to seal the championship victory.

By virtue of the win, Team Kurz members will receive Team Manitoba jackets, a championship plaque and a trip to Woodstock,



RECORD PHOTO BY CONNIE LALIBERTE

Team Kurz defeated Team Pearson 9-4 to win the Mixed Open Provincial Championship on April 12 at Pembina Curling Club. Their triumph earns them a berth to the 2026 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship from Nov. 8-14 in Woodstock, P.E.I. Pictured left to right: Colin Kurz, Meghan Walter, Brendan Bilawka, Sara (Oliver) Krym.

P.E.I., from Nov. 8-14 for the 2026 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship.

There, they will try to capture their second national title in what will also be their second appearance at nationals.

"I just think it was an amazing experience the first time around, and now with maybe a little bit more experi-

ence going in, I think it's just going to be a great time," said Krym.

"It's always such a fun environment. Usually the teams we play against, it's slightly different than the competitive women's circuit, and it's a bit more fun, I would say, so it's just a great environment to be in."

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A young entrepreneur starting out?

Please share your story ideas at [news@selkirkrecord.ca](mailto:news@selkirkrecord.ca) Phone 204-485-3337

# The Selkirk Record

## To see more photos of your favourite Interlake Athletes

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### CONSTRUCTION

Decks, exterior, stairs repair. Replace ramps. Keith 204-785-3740.

### LAND FOR SALE

160 ACRES AGRICULTURAL FARMLAND FOR SALE. One whole quarter section of prime land with good yields, drainage, no trees, no stones. Located in R.M. of St. Andrews, Mb. Section NW23 14 3E between Oak Hammock Marsh and Hwy 8. Serious inquiries only! Ph: 204-482-7351 leave message.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Tollak 2 is a 55 plus bldg. with river view 2 bedroom apts. available. Central air, F/S, DW & microwave; large storage area off the kitchen and a balcony; utilities and parking extra. Call the onsite office 204-482-2751 for AVAILABILITY.

1 bedroom apt. down town Selkirk, S Steal apl... fridge, stove, dishwasher, microwave, granite counters, hardwood floors, washer, dryer. \$1195/mo. 204-482-7297.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Farview Place in Teulon has 1 & 2 bedroom suites available for \$921 to \$1088 per month. Includes hydro, water, Valley Fiber TV/Phone/Internet. This 55+ Seniors independent living cooperative housing building is 5 storeys and has an elevator, paid outdoor parking, 4 laundry rooms, exercise room, lounge for family gatherings and events, fridge & stove in each suite. Local amenities include grocery store, post office, Shoppers Drug Mart, Access Credit Union, medical clinic, several restaurants & small shops. Please contact Andrea at 204-886-2760 or farviewplace1989@gmail.com for more information.

### MISCELLANEOUS

April 25 & April 26, 2026, DUGALD GUN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW AT SPRINGFIELD CURLING CLUB. FROM WINNIPEG, 10 MILES EAST ON DUGALD RD, OR 5 MILES NORTH OF HWY #1 ON HWY #206. BUY-SELL-TRADE. OPEN SATURDAY 10 A.M. - 5 P.M, SUNDAY 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. FOR INFO PHONE SHERYL 204-250-8766 OR CORNELIUS 204-242-2320.

### WANTED

Private collector looking to buy firearms. Complete collections, ammunition and hunting related items. Licensed and insured. Cash buyer. Also offering gunsmithing services. Call or text 204-297-9223.

Firearms wanted. Looking for all unwanted firearms. Fully licensed for both non-restricted and restricted. Anywhere from individual items to estates. Cash buyer, paying top dollar. Please call or text Adam at 204-795-2850.

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

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Now Hiring: Full-Time Bakery Team Member Teulon Bigway

Teulon Bigway is seeking a reliable and organized individual to join our bakery team in a full-time role. This position is ideal for someone who enjoys working in a fast-paced, early-morning environment and takes pride in keeping operations running smoothly.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with bakery production and daily operations
- Organizing workspace and maintaining cleanliness standards
- Supply ordering and inventory management
- Supporting a positive and efficient team environment

#### Qualifications:

- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Reliable, punctual, and able to work early mornings
- Team-oriented with good communication skills
- Previous bakery or retail experience is an asset, but willing to train the right candidate

If you're passionate about baking and enjoy both hands-on work and keeping things organized behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply by email: [TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com](mailto:TeulonBigWay@hotmail.com)  
Subject line: Bakery Position



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CITY OF  
**Selkirk**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Regarding the 2026 Financial Plan and all Reserve Funds

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

**The Council Chambers  
200 Eaton Avenue  
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm**

to present the 2026 Financial Plan and amendments to all city reserve funds

At the Public Hearing, Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan and reserve fund amendments. A written objection may be filed with the Chief Administrative Officer at 200 Eaton Avenue, Selkirk, MB, R1A 0W6 prior to the Public Hearing.

Copies of the 2026 Draft Financial Plan and The City of Selkirk Sustainable Financial Reserves By-law are available at the Municipal Office at 200 Eaton Avenue during regular business hours Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on the City of Selkirk's website [MySelkirk.ca/FinancialPlan](http://MySelkirk.ca/FinancialPlan). Those without access to online services are asked to call CitizenSupport at 204-785-4900.

Dated at the City of Selkirk this 17th day of April, 2026, and issued in accordance with Section 162(2) of *The Municipal Act*.

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

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Darwin Chesley, Super Thrifty Pharmacy  
362 Eveline St., Selkirk, MB R1A 1N3

Call Darwin: 204-482-4469  
or email:  
[darwin.chesley@superthrifty.com](mailto:darwin.chesley@superthrifty.com)



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## RM OF WEST ST. PAUL NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

### OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council:  
**Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026**

For the office of councillor:  
**Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026**

at the RM of West St. Paul office, 3550 Main Street, West St. Paul, Manitoba, Monday through Friday during the hours of 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO, Helene Gowryluk, by phone at 204-338-0306, by fax at 204-334-9362 or email at [elections@weststpaul.com](mailto:elections@weststpaul.com).

Dated at West St. Paul, Manitoba on the 23rd day of April, A.D., 2026.

Helene Gowryluk  
Senior Election Official  
Rural Municipality of West St. Paul

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any  
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call the Record  
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**WANTED**  
Senior (55+) male Slo-pitch players to play once or twice a week during the day. Call or Text Derrick 204-485-0130.

**WANTED**  
WANTED: Buying estates, contents of homes, farms, barns, sheds, garages, etc. Buying most anything old & interesting! TEXT/PHONE: 204-918-1607. Junkies Estate, Salvage, Antiques & Oddities.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**  
Grand Marais Recreation Association AGM & Elections: Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 1 p.m. To join the Board of Directions, applicants must: submit written registration and desired position to <[grandmaraisrecreation@gmail.com](mailto:grandmaraisrecreation@gmail.com)> by April 30, 2026; hold a valid GMRC Membership for at least two months before election day; be a resident with a primary address in East Beaches and be in good standing; consent to and pass a criminal records check. Memberships are available every Tuesday from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Rec Centre. Positions open for re-election: Secretary, President, and Directors. To vote or run, you must have a valid GMRA membership purchased a minimum of two months before the election date (one membership = one vote).

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

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## RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CLEMENTS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### REGARDING THE INTENTION TO GIVE THIRD READING TO A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE EXISTING WARD BOUNDARIES

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 87(4) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements intends to give third reading to a by-law to amend the existing ward boundaries for the purpose of holding a municipal election.

The third reading of the by-law is scheduled to be given at the next regular meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Copies of the by-law to amend the existing ward boundaries for the purpose of holding a municipal election are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours (Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.) of the municipal office located at 1043 Kittson Road, East Selkirk, MB.

Deepak Joshi  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Rural Municipality of St. Clements  
Ph: 204-482-3300  
Email: [info@rmofstclements.com](mailto:info@rmofstclements.com)



### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF YVONNE BLANCHE THOMPSON, late of the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased. ALL claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices at 183 Main Street, Selkirk, Manitoba, R1A 1R5, on or before the 3rd day of June, 2026. DATED at the City of Selkirk, in Manitoba, this 16th day of April, 2026.

PKF LAWYERS  
Eric S. Freedman, Solicitor for the Executor

### NOTICES

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## RM OF ST. ANDREWS NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period as noted below, before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations by appointment:

For the office of Head of Council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of Councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at this email or telephone number:

e: [seo@rmofstandrews.com](mailto:seo@rmofstandrews.com)  
p: 204-738-6096

Marilyn Williams  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
RM of St. Andrews  
PO Box 130  
500 Railway Avenue  
Clandeboye MB R0C 0P0

Dated: 15 April 2026 at St. Andrews, Manitoba

## RM OF ST. ANDREWS PUBLIC NOTICE Additions to the Voters List and/or Personal Security Protection Requests

In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), the RM of St. Andrews Voters List is open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the Local Authority of the RM of St. Andrews may have their name added to the Voters List, or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have their name and address obscured from the Voters List.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. That person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, by mail, email, or in person by appointment, to:

Marilyn Williams  
Senior Election Official (SEO)  
RM of St. Andrews  
Phone: 204-738-6096  
E-mail: [seo@rmofstandrews.com](mailto:seo@rmofstandrews.com)  
PO Box 130  
500 Railway Avenue  
Clandeboye MB R0C 0P0

The next Municipal General Election takes place in October 28, 2026.

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**RIDE DAY Saturday May 30, 2026**

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## take a break > GAMES

### SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

Level: Intermediate

**Here's How It Works:**

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

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

Sudoku Answer

E	E	R	R	R	E	E	T	V
S	C	R	E	E	G	V	V	M
S	U	O	V	L	I	N	N	B
D	H	E	D	E	H	V	V	B
R	O	T	A	V	A	R	V	V
V	I	S	E	N	M	V	S	D
O	R	P	P	A	P	R	E	T
S	E	I	T	I	N	E	M	A
U	E	L	G	E	T	I	S	U
I	O	I	G	V	A	N	N	S
M	V	N	R	V	E	R	G	E
L	F	L	U	L	E	V	A	T

Crossword Answer

## X CROSSWORD

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. Roman monetary unit
8. Will Ferrell holiday film
11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
13. Error-related negativity
14. Volcanic crater
15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
16. True market value
17. Italian term for exchange rate
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Children's craft supply
22. Extra benefits
25. In an early way
30. A judge has one
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. Tractor unit
33. Defunct supercomputer developer
38. Promotional materials
41. A forgetful state
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Clergy's vestment
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"
59. Nigerian governmental area
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Places to hang things
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10			
11				12				13			14			
15								16			17			
	18				19			20			21			
				22	23				24					
25	26	27	28	29										
30							31							
32									33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42				
					43				44					
	45	46	47											
48						49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63						64		

4. Romanian river
5. Communication
6. Stoats
7. Showcases
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. Large African antelope
14. Three are particularly notable
19. Meet one's needs
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape a surface

34. Green vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Capital of Brazilian city
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN personality Kimes
44. One who moves slowly
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave by coating
54. North Carolina university
58. Midway between south and southeast

# Announcements *The Selkirk Record*

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Theodorus De Boer**  
 April 25, 2025 marks a year without you and it's hard to believe it's been that long. You have been greatly missed. Your playful, youthful energy has been greatly missed not only in the family but in the Selkirk community. He had brought laughs to everyone till his final breath. The De Boer family hopes to carry his energy down for generations.  
 -Love your wife Christine; children Theo/Lani, Shaun/Andrea, Tara; grandchildren Skylar, Austin, Natasha, Luquitas; great-grandchildren Aubby/Axtyn; brothers/sister Adrain, Willie, Hanneke; good friends Larry and MaryAnne, Gary and Lynn, and Doug and Mary, and Nonie; dogs Willow, Luna and Bella

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**In loving memory of Edward W.J. Obirek**  
 May 2nd, 1931 - April 25th, 2025  
 Until We Meet Again  
 We think about you always,  
 We talk about you still;  
 You have never been forgotten,  
 And you never will.  
 We hold you close within our hearts,  
 And there you will remain;  
 To walk and guide us through our lives,  
 Until we meet again.  
 God has you in His keeping.  
 We have you in our hearts.  
 -Wife, Dor;  
 Son, Sheldon

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**In memory of my only son Garth Randall Gislason**  
 who passed away on April 29, 2019  
**Myrna Gislason** who passed away on January 19, 2017  
 Also in memory of loved ones  
**Arthur Gislason - 1968**  
**Arni Gislason - 1994**  
**Inga Gislason - 1993**  
**Baby John - 1961**  
 Always remembered, Never forgotten.  
 -With loving memories,  
 John

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Myrna Stamm-Babisky**  
 April 19, 1936 - April 27, 2025  
 In loving memory of our dear Mom/Nanny, one year since you left us.  
 You are deeply missed every day and forever loved.  
 Your melody plays on in our hearts always.  
 -Love,  
 Wendy, Garth and family  
 and Janice and family

**OBITUARY**



**Wanda Mae Hardwick (nee Bird)**  
 January 16, 1953 - February 25, 2026  
 It is with profound sadness and happiness that we announce the passing of Wanda, who has gone to be with her Lord and Saviour at 73 years young.  
 Wanda leaves behind her husband Bob of 55 years, daughter Roberta, Rob (Tikena) and Roy (Wendy). She has eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. As well as her brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, whom she loved so much.  
 We would like to thank the staff at the Selkirk Hospital for their kindness, care and compassion in caring for Wanda. Also, a big thank you to her sisters, Karen and Merle Bird, for being there with her the whole time.  
 As per wishes, cremation has taken place, and a celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 479 Eveline St.

Arrangements entrusted to:  
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## OBITUARY



**Adam Markwart**

On April 7th, 2026 we lost our beloved Adam at the age of 31. Adam leaves to mourn him his parents, Elaine and Roy Markwart, his siblings Sarah Rogers (Mike Rogers), nephews Eric (Shyanne), Braedan (Lex), Isaac, and niece Ava, and Rebekah Taylor (Ed Taylor), nephew Darrion, and nieces Olivia and Emily, his cherished children Aubrey and Bjorn Markwart, Lenae, Grace, Beckham, and Legacy Peebles, as well as the love of his life Ashley King, along with countless aunts, uncles, and cousins. Adam was predeceased by his grandparents, Marie and Albert Geurts, and Herbert and Doris Markwart, his uncles Joe Willard, Ed Swirsky, Greg Gilbert, and Russ Markwart, and his cousins Dylan David, Cheryl Weiss, and Jade Markwart. We take peace in knowing that he is with those loved ones again in the arms of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

Adam blessed his family as a late edition in October of 1994. He was a firecracker from the start, full of energy and life. Once Adam learned to talk, he started and never stopped. He had so much to tell us all, often while running laps around the living room to burn off the abundance of energy he had. As a toddler and young child, he could memorize commercials, lines from movies, facts about fighter jets, and would change into multiple costumes a day, playing make believe games for hours. Once he could walk, he was impossible to put down for a nap, so we would often find him napping in amongst his toys when he couldn't hold sleep at bay any longer.

Adam had many interests and explored those interests with passion; learning everything about them and seeking to excel in them. He showed promise as a young athlete, entering Tae-kwon-do at the age of six, and blowing everyone away with his flexibility and easy movements. Adam played hockey for the East Selkirk Sabres as a young child and continued to play until high school. As soon as he was old enough Adam signed up for Cadets, wore his uniform proudly, and dove into learning everything he could about army infantry. He also developed a love of dirt-biking as well as going on motorcycle rides with his father.

At the age of 11, Adam picked up guitar and immediately revealed himself to be a true protégé with a natural ear. He was a Bonafide lead guitarist and could listen to a song on the radio once, then pick up his guitar and play it. Adam enjoyed playing Rugby in high school and graduated at the age of 17, making his family proud.

After an unexpected turn in his early adulthood, Adam worked hard to re-take control of his life; going to Red River College to pursue a career as a sheet metal worker. During that same period, he entered a serious relationship with Taylor Johnson, and welcomed his beautiful daughter, Aubrey, in 2018.

In 2020, Adam met the love of his life, Ashley. The pair fell madly in love, quickly blending their families together. Ashley was Adam's home, his safety-haven, and his greatest love aside from his children. When Ashley and her children entered Adam's life, he was determined to love her children as his own and felt proud to be a father-figure to them. In 2022, Adam and Ashley completed their family by welcoming their son, Bjorn.

It was in fatherhood that Adam found his greatest purpose. During his most difficult times, Adam's children could bring forth a joy in his eyes that was incomparable. Whether it was a family outing to the Pumpkin Patch or simply sitting on the couch watching one of his favourite movies, Adam's love for his family was present.

Throughout his life, Adam loved to make others laugh, even if it meant doing or saying something outrageous. If you didn't hear what he'd said, and only heard him laugh, you could tell how inappropriate it was based upon the sort of chortle that followed. Adam never lost his playful spirit, often wielding his light sabres in the living room, or putting on his wolf fur to showcase his love for everything Viking.

Adam will be missed beyond measure, his memories cherished and his children adored in his absence.

A memorial service will be held at Gilbert's Funeral Home in Selkirk on May 1st at 11:00 a.m. "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast." - 1 Peter 5:10.

## OBITUARY



**Randall Westman**

It is with shattered hearts that we announce the tragic passing of Randall Westman on April 15, 2026.

Randy was born in Winnipeg on April 5, 1950. He shared 55 years of marriage with his loving and devoted wife, Wanda—a partnership that remained at the center of his life.

Randy is survived by his wife, Wanda; sons, Steven and Scott, and their families; and daughter, Stacey, and her husband, Eslam. His greatest joy came from his family, especially his granddaughter Braxton and her partner, Hayden, and her son, his beloved great-grandson Hendrix, who was truly the apple of his eye. The love he had for his great-grandson Hendrix was something truly special, and it will be carried in our hearts forever.

While life's paths led to distance in some relationships, Randy's love for his family was always present in his own way.

A hardworking and respected business owner, Randy took great pride in everything he accomplished. His dedication, strength, and presence will be deeply missed.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

We miss you so much already Papa, we can still hear your laughter in everything that Hendrix does. We love you forever and ever.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## OBITUARY



**Zenon Gawron**

January 9, 1954 - March 27, 2026

Zen Gawron of St. Andrews passed away, leaving behind a life marked by curiosity, wit, and deep devotion to family.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife Irene; his children Vladimir, Yvan, Valentina, Alexei, and Laressa and their families; and his sister Donna and nephew Lucas.

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Zen graduated as valedictorian and earned a BA Hon, History award at UofM. In his early years, he traveled through Europe and Northern Africa, shaping a lifelong curiosity about the world. He later worked on the DEW Line in the Arctic and went on to careers in Archives, Web development, and public service with the NDP caucus at the Legislature.

He was devoted to his family and will be remembered for his intelligence, quiet wit, and the steady, thoughtful life he built and

shared with those he loved.

Celebration of Life: April 25 in the Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre, Winnipeg, MB from 1-3 p.m.

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

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**Shirley Edginton**

April 30, 1938 - January 5, 2026

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held on Sunday, May 17th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., at the Little Britain United Church Hall (5879 Hwy 9, Lockport, MB). A short formal program will begin at 2:00 p.m.

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### FEATURE OF THE WEEK! | 727 EDITH AVENUE, PETERSFIELD | \$539,900



It's All At Edith! Breathtaking design & craftsmanship define this stunning 1,671 SF bungalow built in 2023. 2.27 acre lot in commuter-friendly Petersfield with creek access & potential for future subdivision. Front entry w/ample closet space welcomes you into bright, open-concept living areas. Show-stopping kitchen feat beautiful island w/built-in wine racks, seating & storage, quartz counters, undermount sink, under-cabinet lighting, pot filler & sleek black S/S Whirlpool appliances. Dining area offers sliding glass doors to covered back deck, perfect for BBQs & entertaining. Spacious, sun-filled living rm w/vault ceiling. Primary bedrm w/walk-thru closet & 5pc ensuite w/double sinks. 2 more well-sized bedrms. 4pc bath & convenient main fir laundry. Front & back covered decks, built on piles, 4' ICF crawl space. Immaculate 2025-built 32'x36' insulated, heated 2DT grg fit w/flr drain, 10' ceilings, 9' grg doors w/quiet openers & birch plywood walls. 120 trees planted & pre-approved additional lot at the rear, there's incredible future potential. Close to beaches, amenities & endless opportunities for outdoor fun like fishing, boating, quadding & snowmobiling. Come embrace "Creek Life" in Petersfield!

<p><b>MODERN BI-LEVEL!</b></p> <p><b>OPEN HOUSE SAT, APR 25<sup>TH</sup> 12-2PM!</b> 11 Fox Run Kleefeld \$359,900</p>	<p><b>START HERE!</b></p> <p>322 Phyllis Ave Selkirk \$249,900</p>	<p><b>COUNTRY LIFE!</b></p> <p>727 Edith Ave Petersfield \$539,900</p>	<p><b>CHARMING CONDO!</b></p> <p>9-716 Corydon Ave Winnipeg \$149,900</p>	<p><b>1,236 SQ FT BI-LEVEL!</b></p> <p>905 Vaughan Ave Selkirk \$424,900</p>	<p><b>78' X 197' LOT!</b></p> <p>128 Autumnwood Dr Gimli \$69,900</p>	<p><b>DUNARA DELIGHT!</b></p> <p>403 Dunara Ave Petersfield \$289,900</p>	<p><b>CREEK LIFE LIVING!</b></p> <p>73 Tom Prince Dr Petersfield \$79,900</p>
<p><b>80' X 166' LOT!</b></p> <p>81 Harry Waytiuk Dr East Selkirk \$128,900</p>	<p><b>ZONED C2!</b></p> <p>206 Dufferin Ave Selkirk \$189,900</p>	<p><b>TREED LOT!</b></p> <p>16 Greening Ave Libau \$49,900</p>	<p><b>BUILD IN PETERSFIELD</b></p> <p>201 Dunara Ave Petersfield \$79,900</p>	<p><b>5 ACRE TREED LOT!</b></p> <p>0 Hall Road Petersfield \$149,900</p>	<p><b>2 ACRE LOTS!</b> Build Now or Build Later in Peaceful Petersfield</p> <p>41 Tom Prince Dr \$79,900 45 Tom Prince Dr \$79,900 49 Tom Prince Dr \$79,900 53 Tom Prince Dr \$79,900</p>	<p><b>ST B INVESTMENT!</b></p> <p><b>PENDING!</b> 188 Dollard Blvd St Boniface, Wpg \$249,900</p>	<p><b>3 BED, 1 BATH BNG!</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b> 733 McLean Ave Selkirk \$289,900</p>

**HERITAGE GROVE ESTATES**  
Building Lots & Executive Homes

Build your dream home in East Selkirk!

- 2.19+ acre lots
- build now or build later
- East Selkirk School catchment area
- just minutes to Highway 59 & Selkirk
- 30 minutes to the Perimeter

lots starting at **\$109,900** \*applicable GST

**GP GATEWAY PROJECTS** | CUSTOM HOME BUILDER

- lots of plans to choose from
- 9+ months to build

homes starting at **\$579,900** including lot & GST

<p><b>WHISKEY JACK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,735 sq ft</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• 2.5 baths</li> </ul>	<p><b>GOLD FINCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,420 sq ft</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 baths</li> </ul>	<p><b>CARDINAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,711 sq ft</li> <li>• 4 bedrooms</li> <li>• 2.5 baths</li> </ul>	<p><b>BLUE HERON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,484 sq ft</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms</li> <li>• 2 baths</li> </ul>
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LOT 3

LOT 4

LOT 5

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