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The Selkirk Record

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2016

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Whipping up a Santa 'stache

RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Lord Selkirk School Division (LSSD) board trustee Heather Hogg, pictured left, uses a can of whipped cream to recreate a Santa Claus beard on LSSD Supt. Scott Kwasnitza as school board vice-chair Jean Oliver, pictured centre, looks on during a Breakfast with Santa event at Ruth Hooker School last Friday morning. For another photo from the event, see page 7.

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'This is a movement'

New First Nations school board will lead to better funding for students

By Dave Baxter

Rhonda Michaud is already excited for what the next school year will bring for students living in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON) following the creation of the Manitoba First Nations school board.

"This is huge and the most important thing is this will really benefit the students," Michaud, the principal of Sergeant Tommy Prince School, which sits along Highway 59 in BON, said last Friday. "This will allow the teachers to plan better and have more resources available, and our kids are going to have far more opportunities."

Michaud was among the hundreds who gathered at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg last Friday to witness the official signing for the creation of the Manitoba First Nations school board led by Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett.

The school board is the first of its kind in Canada and will include 13 schools in 12 Manitoba First Nations including BON.

The board will be operated completely by Manitoba First Nations, with the province having no jurisdiction over it, and funding from the Federal Government will go directly to the First Nations school board.

Michaud said she believes new opportunities will open up to students once the board begins operating in time for the 2017-18 school year.

"There will be a better funding model and more control over decision making," she said. "We can have more land-based and cultural education, we can bring Ojibway language teachers into the school, and we can bring in elders."

She also wants to create a new sci-

ence lab at the school, and allow students to take part in more extra-curricular programs in subjects such as art, music and sports.

Prior to last Friday's signing, BON director of education Kevin Kipling said that he and others have been working towards creating a First Nations school board for nearly five years.

"This is a historic moment," Kipling said. "This is First Nations band operated schools coming together and collaborating formally."

He said the new agreement will see funding for First Nations schools in the 12 communities increase dramatically.

"Right now our funding is still stuck in the 80s," he said.

BON currently receives roughly \$6,000 per student per year but under the new school board and funding model, that will increase to nearly \$17,000, Kipling said.

Kipling also believes more resources will come to the school in BON, as well as "much-needed" building upgrades, and the opportunity for students to take part in extra-curricular activities and field trips.

"The children deserve this. This is a movement," he said.

Twelve representatives from 12 First Nations communities signed the agreement last Friday. Chief Jim Bear was on hand to sign it on behalf of BON.

In total 13 schools with approximately 3,000 students from 12 Manitoba First Nations communities will be run by the First Nations school board.

The agreement will also allow other Manitoba First Nations communities to apply to join the school board for the start of the 2018-19 school year.



RECORD PHOTO BY DAVE BAXTER
Brokenhead Ojibway Nations Chief Jim Bear, pictured bottom right, was one of 12 signatories who signed the agreement for the creation of the new First Nations school board last Friday.

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Friendship centre hosts annual Christmas lunch

By Lindsey Enns

Olive Lillie may not remember the very first Christmas luncheon she attended at the Selkirk Friendship Centre, but she admits the annual gathering has turned into one of her favourite holiday traditions.

With a plate of warm turkey, potatoes and vegetables sitting in front of her, Lillie reminisced about the history behind the local friendship centre's holiday gathering and how it's become a great opportunity to bring the community together.

"It's just meeting everybody, seeing everybody, my old friends ... and everyone is so joyful," Lillie said with a smile during the event last Wednesday afternoon. "It's great for everybody from the surrounding districts to come together.

"It's for everybody. Everyone is welcome."

The 86-year-old, who is a lifetime member of the local friendship centre, helped organize their very first Christmas lunch many years ago.

"I don't recall the number of years ago that it's been but it's been an awful long time," she said with a smile. "We used to have lunches at Memorial Hall and then we started here at the small side of the building before this addition was here."

Robin Nishibata, the centre's executive director, said every year donations made by community members, businesses and organizers help them host the annual Christmas lunch.

Countless volunteers also help prepare all of the food and serve it the day of.

"All our turkeys are donated, most of the food is donated ... so it doesn't cost us a lot to do and it's just a good Christmas thing to do," she said, adding the centre has received so much support from the community over the years.

She added it's important the centre



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS
 ABOVE LEFT: Linda Smith of Selkirk holds six-week-old Nevaeh Smith-Fontaine during the Christmas lunch event at the Selkirk Friendship Centre last Wednesday afternoon. ABOVE RIGHT: Elders get served a turkey dinner with all the fixings at the Selkirk Friendship Centre last Wednesday. Nearly 200 community and area members gathered for this year's event.

puts on the annual event for those who wouldn't normally have a big Christmas dinner.

"When it started it was for seniors and singles and then we changed it to community and everyone is welcome," she said.

Nearly 200 people gathered for this year's luncheon.

Nishibata added the annual gathering is also a great opportunity to get the community's elders and youth together.

"That's why we changed it to the community dinner," she said. "And then we get our youth to come out and volunteer."



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BIG DOLLAR

RCMP remind anglers to stay safe out on the ice

By Dave Baxter

Ice fishing and snowmobiling season has officially arrived across the Tri-S area, but local RCMP officers want to remind residents how they can stay safe when they venture out onto the ice.

"There is no fish in the world that is worth risking your life for," Selkirk RCMP Cst. Jim Dao said.

Dao knows that rows of ice fishing shacks will soon begin popping up on the Red River near Selkirk, and on other Manitoba waterways.

He said anyone that goes out on the ice should first know what the ice conditions are, and never head out on the ice blindly.

"Check with a local tackle shop for ice thickness suitability and find out if it is safe for human traffic or for vehicles to drive on," he said. "Keep in mind that fast moving water underneath may change ice conditions without notice."

Dao added there are ways that those who go out on the ice can distribute their weight.

"Use a sled to carry your gear instead of backpacks so that the weight is spread across the ice and does not weigh you down if you happen to go through the ice," he said. "Stay away from open water and areas of ice jams as this would mean that the integrity of the ice may have been compromised."

Dao also cautioned that residents



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS

RCMP would like to remind ice fishers and snowmobilers to be safe while venturing out onto the ice this season.

"THERE IS NO FISH IN THE WORLD THAT IS WORTH RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR."

should never head out on the ice alone.

"Try not to go fishing alone," he said. "There's a greater chance of being able to summon for help in an emergency if there is more than one of you."

Dao knows that colder temperatures also means vehicles including trucks and snowmobiles will start heading out onto the ice.

Dao said those in vehicles or on snowmobiles should always know what kind of ice they are about to head out on, and should first consider walking to their destination beforehand if possible.

"Driving vehicles onto the ice greatly increases the risk factor due to its weight. Try walking across instead to your ice fishing spot," he said.

The snoman.mb.ca website states that ice should be a minimum of six inches thick for it to be safe for snowmobiles to head out.

RCMP officers in Manitoba have been forced to deal with a number of incidents involving snowmobiles this month, including one that ended in

tragedy.

On Dec. 1, a 51-year-old teacher from Nelson House went missing and was later found dead when his snowmobile went through ice near Nelson House.

On Dec. 10, Treherne RCMP rescued two men that had got lost snowmobiling on trails in Spruce Woods Provincial Park.


RCMP said the men were located after being lost for more than six hours in -35C temperatures, but they survived "because they were prepared."

Both men were dressed for the weather and were able to start a fire, RCMP said.

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RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Pictured from left to right: Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson, Ronald McDonald and Selkirk McDonald's owner Barry Bruce were on hand to cut a big red ribbon to officially reopen the Selkirk McDonald's located along Main Street after weeks of construction last Saturday afternoon.

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Curl for the Cure to raise funds for cancer research

Selkirk Curling Club to host 2nd annual event on Feb. 4

By Dave Baxter

Shayne Merritt still remembers the emotions he felt after successfully pulling off the first ever Curl for the Cure event in Selkirk last winter.

"I was at a complete loss for words," Merritt said, while sitting at the Selkirk Curling Club recently. "It was amazing just how much support I received and how well it went."

The 18-year-old from Lockport will now host the second annual Curl for the Cure open bonspiel on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Selkirk Curling Club located at 381 Jemima St. in Selkirk. All proceeds from the event will go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Merritt, a life-long curler, decided to host the event last year because he has, in many ways been personally touched by cancer, and has watched people close to him bravely fight the disease.

"My curling coach from high school fell ill with cancer, and my cousin is currently fighting brain cancer," he said. "And my neighbour and my grandma have also fell ill with cancer, so it's something I have seen affect a lot of people."

When Merritt ran last year's event he did it as a project for his global is-



RECORD PHOTO BY DAVE BAXTER

Shayne Merritt threw some rocks at the Selkirk Curling Club recently while preparing to host the second annual Curl for the Cure event, which will take place at the Selkirk Curling Club on Saturday, Feb. 4.

sues class at the Comp, and he said he received a perfect grade for the project.

He is now in his first year of university, but said he wanted to make sure the event stayed alive.

"I hope to keep this going year after year," he said. "We had great support last year and I really wanted to continue it this year."

Last year's Curl for the Cure event raised more than \$8,500 for the Canadian Cancer Society, and Merritt said

he hopes to raise more than \$10,000 at this year's event.

The Curl for the Cure open bonspiel asks teams of four to register by contacting Merritt at 204-757-4929 or via email at shayne123423@hotmail.com before Feb. 1.

The event will also feature a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

The cost for a team to enter is \$120 and Merritt said he expects more than 30 teams to take part this year, up from the 20 teams that took part in 2015.

Individuals can also register for \$30 per person and no previous curling experience is required.

Merritt said since starting the event he has come to realize all the important work the Canadian Cancer Society does.

"It's trying to find a cure, but it's also helping so much with all the other supports that they provide," he said. "There are so many different ways they help people."

Merritt said teams and individuals who register will get pledge forms and can raise money on behalf of their teams that will also go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

He also is looking for businesses and individuals to donate silent auction prizes.

"We had 35 prizes last year donated from community members, businesses and even from total strangers," he said.

Merritt is also currently selling paper curling rocks for \$2 each at the Lockport Wave Hair Salon at 5759 Highway 9 in Lockport and all proceeds from sales will also go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Those who purchase a rock can write a name on it of someone affected by cancer, or a message to someone dealing with cancer, he said.

A paper rock sale Merritt recently held at Harry's Foods in St. Andrews raised more than \$500.

RCMP release first round of Holiday Checkstop Program stats

Staff

Week one of the RCMP's Holiday Checkstop Program resulted in 25

people being charged with impaired driving.

According to the RCMP, last week more than 3,000 vehicles were checked as part of the annual holi-

day program across Manitoba.

Between Dec. 2 and Dec. 12, 3,774 vehicles were checked across Manitoba during 86 Checkstops, 33 people were charged with a Criminal Code Impaired Driving offence (all alcohol related), the highest blood/alcohol reading reported was 350 mgs% (0.350) and there were 14 alcohol-related and two drug-related tiered administrative roadside sus-

pensions.

Other stats from week one of the 2016-17 program included 662 other traffic-related provincial statute (Highway Traffic Act) charges laid, 15 Liquor & Gaming Control Act (LGCA) offences and eight other Criminal Code driving offences.

There was also one traffic-related fatality during the past week near Wabowden. The cause is still under investigation, according to RCMP.

Last year during week one, there was one traffic-related fatality.

Merry Christmas

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Water Tower Wonderland



RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Equine Elegance was on hand to give community members a ride around town during the City of Selkirk's Water Tower Wonderland event last Saturday afternoon. The event also featured a skate with Santa and mascots and free hot chocolate.

Pictures with Santa Claus



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Potter family of Selkirk takes pictures with Santa during a Breakfast with Santa event at Ruth Hooker School last Friday morning.

Taking a trip to Mexico




RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Nadine Demery, pictured right, of Selkirk is going on a trip to Mexico this winter after winning the Gaynor Family Regional Library's community raffle. Director of library services Ken Kuryliw, pictured left, picked the winning ticket during the draw on Dec. 9.

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Bombardier comes to the rescue

Seasons greetings everyone! This is our time of year when we share love in all its' ways as well as helping others in need. It reveals the best in us. The stories that have been given to us this week I think are fine examples of that.

Jim Zagozewski told me of an experience he had about this time years ago when he and friends were ice fishing off Sandy Bar by Riverton. 5 guys on 3 sleds came by their ice shack lost asking for directions to make landfall because it was starting to blow.

Jim showed them what direction to go using his GPS. The group climbed back on their sleds and disappeared into the growing storm. Soon Jim looking out the window once back in his shack realized they were in a white-out situation. He couldn't see 10' away. His gang loaded their gear into their bombardier and were about to head for shore and home when out of the vial of blinding snow the men on the sleds reappeared.

They had become totally lost and had gone around in a gigantic circle. Worse, some of them were not dressed for a storm on the ice of Lake Winnipeg. One was wearing running shoes.

Jims' bombardier was packed to the roof but they made room for the chap in running shoes whose feet were badly frozen. Then away they went in a convoy, Jim in his bombardier leading using his GPS with the sleders following. The bombardier bounced viciously over ice crack pileups that couldn't be seen in the storm. Soon the early darkness of the winter night covered them. The small lights of the bombardier seemed frail against the wind driven blizzard but Jim faithfully drove according to his GPS. Then abruptly through the swirling maze the shore popped up right in front of them. Tensions eased as everyone busied themselves loading the sleds onto trailers.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

John Klassen, pictured left, and son Kyle Klassen with some of their pickerel catch by Sugar Island on the Red.

Lastly the chap with the frozen feet had to be carried to his friends' truck for a trip to the hospital. Jim, you and your friends did just fine; we're proud of you!

A few days ago I was on the ice of the Red River, which is about a foot thick now, by Sugar Island downstream of Selkirk. I walked from one portable ice shack to the next passing the time with our fellow anglers and it seemed everyone couldn't get over how many pickerel they were catching!

Later out on the flat snow pack I saw 2 men putting their gear into a toboggan, obviously quitting for the day, so I trudged over to them asking how they had made out.

These very pleasant fellows John Klassen and his son Kyle from Oak Bluff quickly held up some of their catch which I took a picture of. I then asked if they had a fishing story for us and after thinking for a moment they remembered an unusual happening.

Last summer they were boat fishing on the Winnipeg River. There was another boat maybe a half dozen boat lengths away from them and apparently those anglers had enough fish-

ing and started pulling in their lines. The driver started the motor and gunned it. What he hadn't remembered was that the anchor was still out.

The boat shot forward but the anchor stayed right where it was! As the rope tightened like a thick rubber band the anchor decided to come free. Like a torpedo! It tore from the water with "whosh" slamming into the side of the boat at the water line sounding like a thunder clap.

John and Kyle sat in their boat eyes and mouths wide open in shock staring at a situation that could have had a lot worse ending. They took a minute to regain their composure then idled over to see what they could do to help.

We continued talking and John and Kyle mentioned that they belonged to an organization called the Manitoba Pioneer Camp at Shoal Lake where they take disadvantaged kids for some fishing every so often. Jim, John and Kyle, these are their stories and I think it shows they have the spirit of helping others all year round.

So, to all of you my fine fishing friends, best wishes and bye for now.

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Best Buddies helping students form friendships

By Lindsey Enns

A new program at the Comp is helping bring students together.

The Best Buddies program, which is an international program and Selkirk started its chapter in September, pairs students with intellectual and physical disabilities with other students from the school to participate in all kinds of social activities.

Resource teacher Erica Benstead-Teerhuis, who helped introduce the program at the school along with guidance counsellor Esther Van De Walle, said the goal of the program is just to bring students together and help them form friendships.

"Everybody should have a friend and everybody should experience being a teenager," Benstead-Teerhuis said. "It's just to give kids experiences."

"The high school experience is what you make it ... any opportunity is a good opportunity and Best Buddies definitely lends itself to a good opportunity."

She added the program is also helping students living with disabilities become a bigger part of the local high school.

"This gives students a chance to be a part of something," she said. "Even though they may have an intellectual or physical disability they have many abilities and sometimes socially it's hard."

Benstead-Teerhuis said currently 24 students take part in the Best Buddies program and the group continues to grow. They meet every Thursday during the lunch hour and students are also encouraged to spend time together outside of that one hour per week.

Benstead-Teerhuis said they kicked off the program's launch at the school with a meet and greet and since then they have gone out for lunch several times, make crafts together and spend lots of time talking. Last Thursday the students were busy making Christmas trees out of Styrofoam cups and practising their Christmas carols that they were going to perform at Tudor House the next day.

"The kids just get together and



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS

ABOVE LEFT: Comp resource teacher Erica Benstead-Teerhuis shares a laugh with Grade 10 student Victoria Veenstra during the Best Buddies program meet up last Thursday afternoon. ABOVE RIGHT: Grade 10 student Shiloh Fiddler, pictured left, and Grade 12 student Heaven Geller work on their Christmas tree craft last Thursday.

be high school students," she said.

Esther Van De Walle said the program is also helping students strengthen their social and life skills.

"To get out into the community and do different activities has definitely been a highlight," she said. "Those kids are getting a real sense of service ... it's out of the goodness of their heart."

"These are the kind of kids that are going to be out there making a difference in communities and outside of school."

Grade 12 student Abby Dehn, who has been involved with the program since the beginning said it's helping bring students living with disabilities to the forefront.

"I like that we're bringing them outside and building connections with

them," Dehn said. "Now when I see some of them that I didn't know before in the hallway I'll smile and say 'hi' and it'll light up their faces and I think those connections are really important."

Benstead-Teerhuis said she hopes

the program continues to grow throughout the Lord Selkirk School Division.

"I'd love to see it grow," she said. "There's many schools in Manitoba that have a Best Buddies program and it's proven to be a success."

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BY BRETT
MITCHELL

ABOVE
AND LEFT:
Daerwood
School
students
perform during
their Christmas
concert last
Thursday
afternoon.



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL
TOP RIGHT AND ABOVE: William
S. Patterson School students
perform during their Christmas
concert last Wednesday.

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Selkirk

Support pours in for YFC following robbery

By Dave Baxter

Ryan Galashan still can't believe the way that residents have rallied behind the Youth for Christ (YFC) Selkirk organization and offered to lend a helping hand during a difficult time.

"It is just unbelievable the support we have received since people heard about what happened," YFC Selkirk director Ryan Galashan said last Thursday. "I had no idea that something like this could turn into something so positive."

On Dec. 10 around 1:35 a.m. the YFC Selkirk building located at 426 Clan-deboye Ave. in Selkirk was broken into.

Thieves allegedly made off with about \$1,000 worth of combined cash and goods including two Xbox 360 video game machines, pool balls and some canteen items.

Since the organization shared their story about the theft on both social media and through the local media, Galashan said countless people have come forward to offer to help out.

YFC Selkirk has now also set up a GoFundMe campaign with the purpose of raising \$3,000 to get new security equipment set up in their building.

As of last Thursday evening the campaign was sitting at \$215 after being active for about two days.

The GoFundMe page can be found online by visiting gofundme.com/yfc-selkirk-keep-it-secure.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local youth are seen playing video games recently at the Selkirk Youth for Christ Selkirk building. The centre was broken into on Dec. 10 and about \$1,000 worth of goods and cash were stolen.

selkirk-keep-it-secure.

"We have had people even offer their own personal Xbox machines or to go and buy one for us," Galashan said.

He said before the theft the centre had two Xbox machines that could be used by youth, but because of donations they will now have the capacity to set up four machines.

"We even had one total stranger walk in the door and just give us his Xbox, and he didn't want accolades, he just wanted to help."

Galashan said YFC Selkirk workers were feeling "frustrated" and "discouraged" after the thefts, but he says now the generosity of many in the public has lifted their spirits.

"This has been so encouraging to the staff here," he said.

Along with donations, Galashan said YFC Selkirk has also received a number of phone calls and messages offering encouragement and thanking them for what they do for the community.

"We've even had kid's grandmas call

us up and talk to us about the youth in Selkirk and the needs, and how they appreciate what we are doing," he said.

YFC Selkirk youth worker Dion Peterson told the *Record* earlier this month that YFC Selkirk offers "a safe comfortable environment where youth and teens are free to express themselves and have somebody to genuinely care and listen."

Youth who go to the centre can play video games, play pool and have lunch through their canteen lunch programs, and they offer junior high, alpha and high school drop in programs.

Galashan doesn't want the recent theft to be a black eye on the City of Selkirk.

"I cautioned my staff about what they said publicly and that it didn't sound overly negative on Selkirk," he said. "We love Selkirk and we see that good future in Selkirk, and we are working with youth towards that good future."

Anyone that wants to make a donation to YFC Selkirk can also call them directly at 204-482-3435.

RCMP are investigating the Dec. 10 incident and anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call Selkirk RCMP at 204-482-1222 or contact Crime Stoppers at 204-786-TIPS (8477).

Selkirk Steelers goalies team up to help Nova House

By Dave Baxter

They are known in Selkirk for stopping pucks on the ice, but two local hockey stars recently used their skills to lend a helping hand to a local organization.

Selkirk Steelers goaltenders Brett Friesen and Hayden Dola both took time away from the ice on Dec. 14 to help the Selkirk Nova House women's shelter do the big job of setting up for the annual Christmas party, which took place on Dec. 15.

"I feel it's important, as it gives our team an opportunity to give back to the community as a thank you for their support," Friesen said.

The women's shelter holds their annual Christmas party for clients and their children at the Selkirk United Church, meaning they have to move Christmas gifts, decoration and other items for the party from their shelter to the church.

Both Friesen and Dola went back and forth between the buildings moving items for Nova House, and also

helped them get set up inside the Selkirk United Church.

"I believe they really appreciated our help," Friesen said. "We hope that we made the day a lot easier on all of them."

Dola said he gets a personal sense of satisfaction when he knows he has helped others.

"I think volunteering in the community is a great thing to do," Dola said.

"The people here really appreciate it, and if you can take some time out of your day to help out others you really feel like you've done

a great thing, especially around the holidays."

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City collects public input for outdoor Parks Strategy

By Dave Baxter

Michael Sykes would like to see a lot more residents walking, running and biking in the City of Selkirk.

"I would like to see an active transportation trails network set up in the city," the 66-year-old Selkirk resident said. "With a trails system people of all ages could use trails to get around within the city and be able to commute to all of the wonderful locations and landmarks in the city."

Sykes was one of about 25 residents who took part in the City of Selkirk's Parks and Trails Open Public Forum on Dec. 8 at the Selkirk Rec Centre.

The forum saw residents give their input to city representatives on what they would like to see in terms of recreation options and improvements in the city.

The city said they will use the input they received from residents to "add their voices to what will become a Parks Strategy for Selkirk's outdoor spaces."

Sykes said he believes an active transportation network in the city would be beneficial for a number of reasons.

"I think there are a lot of wonderful attractions here in Selkirk," he said. "We've got the waterfront, and the Gaynor Library and beautiful parks and wildlife areas, but people should not always feel they need to drive."

He said a series of trails where residents could walk, run, and cycle, or even snowshoe or cross country ski in the winter would make Selkirk a healthier community.

"It's about trying to get people out there getting active and taking advantage of what we have here," he said.

He also thinks a trails system would give parents more opportunities to be active with their children.

During the forum residents were asked to come up with five main themes they thought should be addressed.

Active transportation, Selkirk Park,

safety, winter use, and partnerships were the five themes that residents wanted to discuss.

Some residents said they don't feel safe when using certain trails or parks in Selkirk especially in the evening, and that is why Selkirk RCMP Cst. Jim Dao was invited to speak with residents at the forum.

"We want to be here and be part of this conversation to talk about ways that safety can be improved," Dao said. "For us part of it is just being visible in the parks, and letting people know it's safe to go there and enjoy themselves."

Dao also said the RCMP wants to educate residents about what they can do to make sure others feel safe in city parks and trails.

"We get calls about reckless driving in the park or even impaired driving, so it's about continually educating the public," he said "And sometimes we have to go right to the schools to talk to young people."

Selkirk CAO Duane Nicol said one

of the city's top priorities moving forward is improving recreation and he said they want to make sure "residents have their say."

He said Selkirk would benefit from more and improved recreation options.

"It's about choices and people base where they want to live by imagining what it would be like to live in that community," Nicol said.

Selkirk's director of culture, recreation and green transportation Chris Carruthers said that the city has been working on their Parks Strategy for about a year and has consulted the public in a number of ways including with a parks survey that was released back in September.

Carruthers said the survey revealed that "people are really pleased with the direction the city is taking with parks and outdoor spaces, but they'd also like to see improvements to Selkirk Park, their neighbourhood parks and the trail system."

Recreation Strategy a bold step forward for Selkirk, mayor says

Submitted

Selkirk Council adopted its Recreation Strategy during the Nov. 14 city council meeting and will use it as the guiding document for all things recreational in the city in the years to come.

The document will serve as an overall master strategy that will prioritize capital projects and define the direction of recreational and cultural life in Selkirk in the future. The strategy also establishes a municipal recreation philosophy for the City and community and recreational organizations to follow.

Mayor Larry Johannson said the Recreation Strategy is a bold step forward for the city as it looks to continue the working relationship it has with all the groups and organizations, made

up predominantly of hard-working volunteers, that provide sports and recreation in Selkirk.

"This strategy looks at everything that goes on in the Rec Complex, in the old Arena, on the soccer fields and baseball diamonds and considers what we do well and what we need to improve on," Johannson said.

Brady Clark, the city's manager of cultural and recreational programs, said the city contracted Scatcliff + Miller + Murray to develop the Recreation Strategy and over the course of the last year they looked at the city's internal structures as they relate to recreation and engaged the public users of recreational facilities in the city, to determine their needs as well. An online survey was conducted, user

groups were contacted for input and an open house was held in November 2015.

The strategy takes into account facilities the City owns, like the Rec Complex and Selkirk Arena or Barn, as well as fields for soccer, baseball and football, along with other facilities, not owned by the City, but where recreation occurs.

Clark said the city's situation in some ways is unique because rather than having a community club or centre, where many or all activities are located, Selkirk's facilities are spread throughout the city.

Chris Carruthers, the city's director of culture, recreation and green transportation, said the recreation Strategy looks at more than sports in the city,

but arts and culture as well and while recommendations in those areas are made, a strategy specific to arts and culture will also be developed. In fact, several other strategies will emerge from the overall Recreation Strategy.

"The Recreation Strategy is the pinnacle. Other strategies, including one for arts and culture, another for parks, which is currently in the works, and others for pools, athletic fields and arenas, will evolve out of this document," Carruthers said.

The strategy makes 19 recommendations and identifies a capital plan expenditure of \$35-\$40 million, both implemented in phases over the next 25 years.

Continued on page 15

The Selkirk Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee would like to wish you a happy holiday season!

Stay tuned in 2017 for upcoming workshops and member information.

For more information contact Doreen 204-482-4679



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T'was a month before Christmas, in Perfect Scents House
 Elves were decked out, including the mouse
 Decorations were hung by the chimney with care
 Getting ready for visitors who soon would be there

Balls, bobbles and dishes were set in their place
 'Til nothing but Christmas had any space
 Now finally this house was beautifully done
 But for Homes for the Holidays, there wasn't just one

Southward to Selkirk, at Krista's Family Home
 Decorations were shining like new polished chrome
 A shimmering vision, all brilliant and bright
 Radiant adornments to light up the night

The Gwen Fox Gallery was getting ready as well
 Preparing its salon for visitors to dwell
 And what to their wondering eyes would they see
 But striking artwork and a Victorian tea

And as we took leave, then what should appear
 But the Holiday Bus to take us from here
 The trip to the next stop wasn't too long
 As carollers onboard all burst out in song

Just a short hop away, on Cloverdale Road
 Stands a log homestead, a rustic abode
 Natural woodwork and metals forged in fire
 A timeless display that can't help but inspire

Across the Red River, what did we spy
 A pair of church spires that reached to the sky
 The Ukrainian church was so serene
 And inside there stood a Nativity scene

Elves were also at work at an old-time cafe
 The Riverside Grill, another stop on the way
 Garlands adorned the place travellers would meet
 For hot refreshments and a holiday treat

A proud Metis flag hung above Gramma's dwelling
 Inside, quirky ornaments were really quite telling
 This older house was decorated with flair
 Looking up, you'd see snowflakes floating in air

The Gingerbread House was setting its scene
 Getting bedecked in bright red and green
 In every corner it was not hard to find
 Some unusual trees, all one of a kind

The old stone Church is where history resides
 The Fire Heart Women drum inside
 This church of Chief Peguis and settlers of old
 Has fires still stoked to keep out the cold

Carels' Home was alive with many holiday dreams
 Nutcracker, woodland and Victorian themes
 Three floors of wonder that visitors would see
 Ornaments, treasures and so many trees

The many volunteer elves were all set
 Delivering their greatest fundraising event yet
 For these three days, they'd worked long indeed
 So there'll be Homes for All for those in need.

— By *George Stephenson... With a tip of the hat to Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)*

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Hamper drive helps local family celebrate Christmas

By Lindsey Enns

A single father of four says he was surprised his family was chosen to receive groceries for a full turkey dinner and gifts for all of his children as part of this year's Selkirk Christmas Hamper Drive.

He said without help from the hamper drive, he wasn't sure if they were going to be able to have Christmas dinner.

The Langlois family of Selkirk was among the 367 families and individuals in need that received a Christmas hamper this year.

"We're very grateful, thank you so much," the local man, who asked not to be named, said when he was presented with his family's Christmas hamper goodies last Friday morning.

Dressed up in a pink and black striped dress, his two-year-old daughter Amara Langlois couldn't hide her excitement as she checked out some of her gifts included with the hamper.

As a way of giving back to the community, *Selkirk Record* staff teamed up this year to provide the family with various gifts for all four children, which includes a two-year-old girl, a six-year-old boy and girl as well as a



RECORD PHOTOS BY LINDSEY ENNS

ABOVE LEFT: Two-year-old Amara Langlois smiles while her father gives her a little tickle last Friday morning. The Selkirk family was among the 367 families and individuals in need that received a Christmas Hamper through the Selkirk Christmas Hamper Drive this month. ABOVE RIGHT: Amara checks out some of the gifts she received as part of her family's Christmas hamper last Friday.

12-year-old boy. The family was also provided with a long list of groceries to prepare a full turkey dinner.

For the second year, the hamper drive was being run by Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen and volunteers helped hand out hampers to those liv-

ing within City of Selkirk limits.

One of the hamper drive's organizers, René Gauthier said they were able to make sure everyone who registered for a hamper this year received one thanks to several local businesses, organizations and schools.

Gauthier added he wanted to thank all of the volunteers and those who donated for making this year's hamper drive another success.

By last Friday afternoon, he said only four more hampers needed to be delivered.

Selkirk Biz elects 2017 board of directors

By Lindsey Enns

Selkirk Biz welcomed some new and returning officers and directors during their 114th elections and annual general meeting last week.

Selkirk's Brett Mitchell will serve as the Selkirk Biz's president for a second term beginning in January 2017.

Mitchell, who is part owner of the *Selkirk Record*, was named the local chamber commerce's 2017 president by acclamation during the organization's annual gathering at Benjamin's Gourmet Foods last Thursday evening.

Joining Mitchell is first vice-president Sylvia Magyar-Brambilla of Noventis Credit Union and second vice-president Jenifer Bilsky of the Selkirk Journal along with roughly 16 other board members with ties to various local and area businesses and organizations.

During last Thursday's gathering, Mitchell said he plans to continue building off of the successful year the biz had in 2016.

"The initiatives we're looking at new for 2017 .. is replacing the old cheque program with a gift card. We're hoping to complete that prior to summer of 2017," Mitchell said, adding they hope to continue improving their website, selkirkbiz.ca next year.



RECORD PHOTO BY LINDSEY ENNS

Incoming 2017 Selkirk Biz president Brett Mitchell speaks during the biz's 114th elections and annual general meeting in Selkirk last Thursday evening.

"We're all working together. It's such a great time to be living in this community ... I just hope this momentum can continue."

Selkirk Mayor Larry Johannson, who was on hand to swear-in the 2017 officers said the Selkirk Biz has helped bring all kinds of people to Selkirk and area.

"The parade is second to none, we

have Black Friday which has been such a success," Johannson said. "What a great community we have, this community and surrounding communities, that builds communities."

Selkirk Biz, the area's Chamber of Commerce, represents more than 200 businesses from St. Andrews, St. Clements, West St. Paul and the City of Selkirk.

> REC STRATEGY, FROM PG. 12

The strategy sets out a plan for recreation over the long-term, and the City will continue to study what is in the best interest of its residents and create long-term financial plans to ensure all capital projects are feasible.

The recommendations are wide ranging and include tactics to fund recreation, attract more volunteers, include active transportation in city planning and build new facilities.

Some of the major recommendations are the development of a second arena at the Rec Complex and decommissioning and repurposing of the Barn, developing a multi-purpose facility/community hall and an all-season park pavilion in Selkirk Park. A recreation advisory committee, consisting of members of stakeholder groups, will be formed.

The strategy will be integrated into other city planning, such as street work and renewal, which will consider active transportation moving forward.

The strategy will be reviewed every year and will undergo a thorough community review every five years.

get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS

THE Marketplace
AT SELKIRK

Cabbage Roll Casserole



2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil
1 medium onion, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 lb (500 g) extra lean ground sirloin
1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt

1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground black pepper
2 cups (500 mL) chopped cabbage
1 can (796 mL/28 oz) diced tomatoes
3/4 cup (175 mL) long grain brown rice

1 cup (250 mL) sodium-reduced vegetable or beef broth
In large skillet with lid, heat canola oil over medium. Sauté onions and garlic about 5 minutes.

Add ground beef. Brown about 5 minutes over medium-high heat. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Add cabbage, tomatoes, rice and broth and stir well. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low simmer, cover and cook for 30 minutes or until rice is tender. If preferred instead, after bringing mixture to a boil, bake in oven-proof skillet with lid in 180 °C (350 °F) oven for about 40 minutes.

Herb-Roasted Garnet Sweet Potatoes



3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves, minced
1 teaspoon minced fresh sage
1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano

3 medium garnet sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1¼-inch dice

Kosher salt

1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Spray a large roasting pan with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine the olive oil and herbs. Add the sweet potato dice to the mixture, and use your fingers to coat them well. Season with salt to taste.

2. Transfer the mixture to the prepared roasting pan. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes, until your desired consistency is reached, whether you want them a bit firm or fork-tender.

Edible Tip: A good alternate variety to Garnets are Red Jewels, which are easy to come by at both farmers' markets and local grocers. Look for a deep, bright color, and be sure to cook them fairly quickly after purchase. Unlike potatoes, sweet potatoes do not store very well.

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The Selkirk Record



Meatball and Vegetable Stew

8 oz (227 g) ground extra lean veal
8 oz (227 g) ground extra lean beef or pork
1/3 cup (75 mL) dry bread crumbs
1/3 cup (75 mL) salsa
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh parsley
1 tsp (5 mL) Worcestershire sauce
2 1/2 cups (625 mL) sodium reduced beef broth

1 pkg (227 g) mushrooms, sliced
1 small onion, chopped
1 cup (250 mL) baby carrots
1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped celery
2 cloves garlic, minced
3 tbsp (45 mL) cornstarch
3 tbsp (45 mL) water
Hot pepper sauce (optional)
Directions

In a large bowl, combine veal, beef, breadcrumbs, salsa, parsley and Worcestershire. Roll mixture into 1 inch (2.5 cm) meatballs and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in 180° C (350° F) oven for about 15 minutes or until no longer pink inside.

Meanwhile, in soup pot, combine broth, mushrooms, onion, carrots, celery and garlic; cover and bring to a boil over medium heat. Uncover and simmer for 5 minutes. Add meatballs and stir to combine. Whisk together cornstarch and water; stirring into broth. Cook for about 2 minutes or until slightly thickened.

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Women's health campaign helps raise over \$3K for Nova House

Submitted

With the combined efforts of Shoppers Drug Mart, its store teams and customers, the Growing Women's Health fundraising campaign helped raise more than \$3,691 for Nova House in Selkirk.

With more than 1,300 Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix stores across Canada participating in the four-week campaign, the 15th annual Growing Women's Health campaign will provide support to more than 500 Canadian women's health charities. National in scope yet locally based, the Growing Women's Health campaign offers patients, customers and

employees the opportunity to donate directly to charitable organizations to ensure that resources and programming are available to meet the needs of Canadian women. In Selkirk, the donations by local Shoppers Drug Mart customers and employees will benefit Nova House.

Nova House is a shelter for abused women and children in the Interlake region of Manitoba. The local shelter provides temporary shelter, counseling, support groups, and referral to community resources for women and their children. Interim housing is also available for women and children to use until they become independent.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Selkirk Shoppers Drug Mart staff members present Nova House executive director Anna Pazdzierski with a cheque for more than \$3,691 as part of the Growing Women's Health fundraising campaign.



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INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Steelers grab five of six road points last weekend

By Brian Bowman

Playing three road games in three nights is never easy.

But the Selkirk Steelers made it look pretty easy by earning five out of a possible six points in Manitoba Junior Hockey League action last weekend.

Selkirk wrapped up an impressive road trip with a 3-2 overtime loss to the Kings in Dauphin on Sunday.

Matthew Greening scored the game-winning goal at 3:13 of overtime, beating Steelers' goaltender Landon Poiron. Poiron played well in his first start as a Steeler, making 31 saves.

Cole McCartan gave Selkirk a 2-1 lead at 4:35 of the third period but Dauphin's Grady Hobbs tied the score at 13:43 as the puck barely trickled over the goal line.

After a scoreless first period, the Kings' Daniel Chartrand and Steelers' forward Shannan McFadden, who continues to play well, traded second-period goals.

On Saturday, Selkirk defeated the Swan Valley Stampeders 3-0 as Hayden Dola made 27 saves for his third shutout of the season. It was the second time that Dola has shut out Swan Valley this season.

"I thought the majority of our shots against were from the outside," said Steelers' head coach Dustin Hughes after the game. "And there were a couple of breakdowns where Dola was Dola and he made a couple of big saves."

Jake Dudar scored a first-period power-play goal for the Steelers and then Ezra Hall continued his strong play, making it 2-0 in the second.

"(Ezra) is really starting to come along offensively," Hughes said. "And, to be honest with you, I expect him to continue to get better."

Nathan Hillis then added an empty-net goal at 18:50 of the third.

Selkirk outshot Swan Valley 33-27, including 12-1 in the first period. As the shots would indicate, Selkirk played very well defensively in the first period.

Selkirk started their busy weekend last Friday with an exciting 5-4 shootout win over the Natives in Neepawa.

Dudar was the only player from six shooters to score in the shootout.

McFadden and Dallas Starodub tallied for the Steelers in the first period and then Connor Barley made it 4-1 with pair of goals in the second period.

But Neepawa came back with goals late in the second period by Zach Johnson and Justin Metcalf before the Natives tied the score at 4-4 with a power-play goal by Skyler Thorsteinson at 18:29 of the third.

Ashton Anderson tallied for Neepawa late in the opening period.

Dola made 48 saves for the Steelers in regulation time, according to the MJHL website.

On Dec. 13, the Steelers defeated Dauphin 4-1 at the MTS Iceplex as part of the MJHL Showcase.

Connor Barley scored twice again to lead Selkirk to the win. Hillis and Liam Kroeker also scored for Selkirk while Keaton Leininger replied with a second-period goal for Dauphin.

Selkirk outshot Dauphin 31-20 as Dola earned the win.

The Steelers, now 21-10-2, hosted the OCN Blizzard this past Tuesday but no score was available at press time. Selkirk will then wrap up play in 2016 with a weekend series with the Blues.

The teams will clash Dec. 30 at the MTS Iceplex (7 p.m.) and then go at it again the next night in Selkirk on New Year's Eve. That game will have a special 4:30 p.m. start time.



RECORD PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

The Steelers' Hayden Dola earned the 4-1 win against the Dauphin Kings at the MJHL Showcase on Dec. 13.

Selkirk hosts qualifiers



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Carl German's East St. Paul Curling Club rink won the Strathcona Trust Senior Men's Interlake Regional qualifier last weekend in Selkirk with a 5-1 win over Selkirk Curling Club's Garry Dola. German's rink includes Ray McDougall, Wayne Sobering and Brian Cox. German and McDougall won the 2002 Canadian Senior Men's Cup.

Royals busy on the ice before the holiday break



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Selkirk Royals' Wes Hoydalo (11) moves the puck up ice against Sturgeon Heights during WSHL action last week. Hoydalo had an assist in Selkirk's 3-1 home win.

By Brian Bowman

The Selkirk Royals have been a busy bunch recently.

And it had nothing to do with last-minute Christmas shopping.

Selkirk played four games in an eight-day span before they get a lengthy holiday break from league play.

The Royals wrap up play in 2016 with a home game today against the Oak Park Raiders in East Selkirk. Puck drop is 3:45 p.m.

This past Monday, Selkirk battled the St. John's Ravenscourt Eagles in Winnipeg. No score from that game, however, was available at press time.

On Dec. 14, the Royals doubled the Kelvin Clippers 4-2 in Winnipeg. After a scoreless first period, Selkirk received second-period goals from Jordan Simko, Wes Hoydalo, and Reece Tessier.

Connor Spratt then sealed the win with an empty-net goal with five seconds remaining in the game.

Hoydalo and Logan Artimowich each had two assists for the winners. Brady Hrymak earned the win in goal.

Max Fisher scored both Kelvin goals in the second period.

The previous day, Selkirk defeated Sturgeon Heights 3-1 at the Rec Complex.

Jacob Cressman gave the Huskies a 1-0 first-period lead but the Royals' Evan Bedard tied the score at 1-1 in the second.

The third period saw Selkirk take its first lead with a pair of goals from Spratt. His second goal went into an empty net with 12 seconds remaining in the game.

Austin DeBoer earned the victory in goal for Selkirk.

Selkirk, which is in sole possession of fifth-place in the Platinum Promotions Division standings, won't resume league play until Jan. 13 when they play the St. Paul's Crusaders at the MTS Iceplex.

Game time is 4:30 p.m.

Kilgallen heading to Scotties

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RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

East St. Paul Curling Club's Colleen Kilgallen rink, which includes Kim Link, Renee Fletcher, and Karen Fallis, won the Scotties Interlake Regional Qualifier last weekend in Selkirk. Kilgallen defeated East St. Paul's Kristy Watling 7-3 in the final.

sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Royal girls' split hockey games last week

By Brian Bowman

Playing two games in a 24-hour period is not an easy thing to do.

The Selkirk Royals girls' hockey team found that out the hard way last week.

After the Royals blanked the Westwood Warriors 5-0 last Thursday, Selkirk was then stopped 3-1 by the Jeanne Sauve Olympiens the following day.

Jeanne Sauve snapped a 1-1 third-period tie with goals from Abby Martens and Brooke Collins. Collins also tallied in the first period to open the game's scoring.

Cassidy Ilchena scored Selkirk's goal in the first period, assisted by Kaitie Seed.

In the win over Westwood, Jazmyn-Rae Desjarlais had a great game, scoring three times while adding an assist.

Seed and Brooke Johnstone scored Selkirk's other goals. Courtney Sorokopud-Jones finished the game with two assists.

Jodi Clifton made 20 saves for the well-earned shutout.

Selkirk hosted the Oak Park Raiders this past Monday but no score was available at press time. Heading into that game, the Royals had 17 points to occupy sole possession of fourth place in the WWHSHL's CTV Division.

Shaftesbury leads the division with 22 points, one point ahead of St. Mary's and two in front of Vincent Massey.

The Royals will now be off for the holidays and won't play a league game again until Jan. 11 when it hosts Jeanne Sauve in East Selkirk. Game time is 4 p.m.



RECORD PHOTOS BY BRETT MITCHELL

The Selkirk Royals, which split a pair of WWHSHL games last week, now occupy fourth place in the division standings. Selkirk Royals' captain Courtney Sorokopud-Jones looks to make a play against Jeanne Sauve last Friday in Winnipeg. Selkirk lost the game 3-1.



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sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

Fishermen lead South Division at holiday break

By Brian Bowman

The holiday break will be a festive one for the Selkirk Fishermen.

Selkirk will be able to enjoy the holidays after a convincing 8-2 victory over the Lundar Falcons at the Selkirk Rec Complex on Sunday afternoon.

Milan Horanski and Talon Kelly each led the winners with a pair of goals while Mike Smiley, Griffin Steeves, Kale Ilchena, and Coel Forsyth also tallied.

Jack Clinton and Mason Medeiros replied for Lundar. Travis Schalk earned the win in goal.

Last Friday, the Fishermen blasted the hapless Norway House North Stars 11-0 at the Rec Complex. The outcome in this one was never in jeopardy as Selkirk took period leads of 2-0 and 4-0 before exploding for seven third-period goals.

Dane Derewianchuk had a four-point game for Selkirk with a goal and three assists while Horanski and Kelly each had two goals and an assist.

Forsyth (two), Gordie Longbottom, Brayden Kowalchuk, Dylan Painchaud-Niemi, and Trayton Smith also scored for Selkirk.

Longbottom and Griffin Steeves each had three-point games.

Riley Bannerman made a meagre 13 saves for the shutout as Selkirk outshot the visitors by a whopping 73-13 margin. Bannerman goes into the break with a 9-2 record, a fantastic 1.36 goals-against average, and a very impressive .946 save percentage.

Selkirk, now 16-6 and in first place in



RECORD PHOTO BY BRETT MITCHELL

Talon Kelly scored twice to lead the Fishermen to an 8-2 win over Lundar on Sunday in Selkirk.

the South Division standings with 32 points, will resume league play Jan. 6 when it plays the Warriors in St. Malo. St. Malo (15-4-0-1) is a point back

of Selkirk for top spot in the division with two games in hand.

Two days later, the Fishermen will host the OCN Storm, who lead the

North Division standings by a large margin over Cross Lake, for a 2:30 p.m. matchup.

Royals finish 2-3 at varsity boys' Neelin tournament

By Brian Bowman

It's been a rough start to the season for the Selkirk Royals varsity boys' basketball team.

The varsity boys finished with a 2-3 record at a 16-team Neelin tournament in Brandon, which began last Thursday and wrapped up Saturday.

After finishing with a 2-1 record in Tier 2 pool play, Selkirk lost a pair of playoff games to St. John's Ravenscourt (88-73) and then Steinbach Christian (71-52).

In pool play, the Royals defeated Swan Valley (54-52) and Yorkton Sacred Heart 52-42. The Royals lost 68-45 to Vincent Massey from Brandon.

Meanwhile, Selkirk started its KPAC Tier 2 season opener with a tough 64-63 road loss to Transcona on Dec. 12. The Royals began the fourth quarter trailing by as many as 14 points and almost pulled off the comeback.

Goodbrandson said the Royals are a young team this season with just three players with varsity experience.

Selkirk continued on the road last night with a game at Murdoch MacKay. No score, however, was available at press time.

Today, the Royals will play St. Anne in front of an expected large East Selkirk Middle School crowd of students. Game time is 1 p.m.

In varsity girls' play, Selkirk finished with a 2-2 record at a Pembina Trails Bison Classic tournament in Winnipeg.

The Royals defeated Kildonan East

53-42 in the 13th-place game on Saturday. Earlier, Selkirk beat Kelvin 50-22.

Selkirk started the tournament with a 65-37 loss to Fort Richmond and then was defeated 46-39 by Crocus Plains.

The Royals began league play this past Monday with a road game against Garden City and then visited Miles Mac last night.

No scores from either game were available at press time.

Owners of proposed fish processing plant intend to improve fishers' lives

By Patricia Barrett

The former president and CEO of the federally run Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which sells fish on behalf of Manitoba's commercial fishers, announced Dec. 15 his intention to build a fish processing plant in Gimli.

Donald Salkeld, who was for reasons unknown placed on administrative leave by the FFMC in March, established a company called Northern Walleye Inc. and has partnered with American company Schafer Fisheries from Illinois.

"He [Shafer] understands the potential of Manitoba fish and he understands the market in the world," said Salkeld to about 30 people at the Lakeview Resort after Gimli MLA Jeff Wharton introduced him. "He does business in over 20 countries in the world."

The provincial Conservatives announced in August they intend to cut ties with Freshwater next year and let fishers navigate the open market on their own. Since then, a few fish plant operators have expressed interest in setting up shop.

Salkeld said he and Schafer want to make things better for Manitoba's fishers.

"Mike Schafer's 40 years of experience in the fish processing business, he understands that end of it very well," said Salkeld, "and I think we are going to make a good partnership and help the fishers here in Manitoba improve your lives. That's our intent."

Salkeld said the Northern Walleye plant will have a "limited capacity."

"You get into the plant by delivering your fish to [it]," he said. "You come at a later date when we are at full capacity, we are not going to move anybody out that's been there." (After the announcement, Salkeld said the plant's capacity will be 5 million kilograms).

The plant will deal only with fresh fish.

"Mike Schafer and myself, we intend to market your fish throughout the world with the highest quality that it deserves," said Salkeld. "We don't intend to be in the frozen fish business; we intend to be in the fresh fish business."

In 2014 the U.S. Food & Drug Administration sent Schafer Fisheries a warning letter dated Feb. 6, stating it had found "serious violations" of a food safety act.

"Accordingly, your fish franks, fish salsami and gefilte fish are adulterated in that they have been prepared, packed, or held under unsanitary conditions, whereby they may have been rendered injurious to health," wrote District Director Scott J. MacIntire.

Clostridium botulinum growth and toxin formation are a hazard likely to occur in the products, he added, and that the FDA could seize them or sus-

pend operation of the company.

In 2015 fire gutted the Schafer Fisheries' plant, according to an Apr. 25 article in the Clinton Herald. A fish smoker became too hot and ignited nearby plastic sheeting.

The Gimli plant "will be built in two or three stages" with an opening target date of September 2017, according to a Statement From Owners of Northern Walleye Inc., which was provided to the media during the announcement. "Processing will be done at our plant in Illinois until the new facility is operational."

"A lot of you have worked with Don at Freshwater...and understand the integrity and transparency that Don and Mike will bring to the industry again, the struggles that most fishers had concerns with [sic] Freshwater over the years," said Wharton before he introduced Gimli's mayor.

Mayor Randy Woroniuk said the RM sees the fish plant as a "tremendous opportunity" for both the town and the fishers, but said he would also welcome a processing facility.

"I would like to see a value-added fish plant brought into the community," he said, "where species that are not traditionally utilised would be canned or [made into] frozen fish sticks. It increases the opportunity for employment, and it also increases the money that goes to commercial fishers."

Further to fish waste, the mayor said Iceland's sole fish plant uses every part of a fish, right down to its skeleton, which is dried and sold to Africa. That earns fishers more money.

After the announcement, Woroniuk said Northern Walleye has yet to present the RM with a business plan. In the Sep. 29 edition of the Express, the mayor said the RM had entered into a "gentleman's agreement" with Salkeld and set aside 11 acres of land at the Industrial Park for his plant if/when he delivers a formal plan.

Gimli Coun. Thora Palson, who attended the announcement, said fishers' face a challenge when it comes to their earnings partly because of the nature of their product.

"The real problem is that you're working with a very perishable commodity. You don't have a product that can be stored until prices go up or down," she said. "The product has to be out of their hands in 24 hours. It has to be marketed within a very short time frame."

The plant announcement garnered mix reaction among the fishers in attendance.

Baldi Johannesson, a Lake Winnipeg fisher since 1977, said he's happy to see an open market on the way.

"It's probably the best thing that's come along in 50 years," said Johannesson. "We have freedom of choice, freedom of marketing. I'll quote [fisher]

David Olson: I'll say this is something fishermen all over Canada have except for...2,000 fishermen in Manitoba [that] are locked into the [FFMC] system."

Johannesson said fishing had been his primary occupation for most of his career, but he has had to "work out" for the past 15 years in order to supplement his FFMC pay packet.

He said he's not sure whether he'll get a better price from a fish company as opposed to FFMC, but having access to a plant in Gimli will save him transportation costs. He has to drive to FFMC's plant in Selkirk to deliver his catch.

Johannesson cited issues with the operation of FFMC – particularly the sales end of the corporation.

"Their sales team is absolutely horrible. I don't think they've had a new customer now for the last 10 years. They've haven't really developed any... big customers. They've got a few niche contracts like tullibee roe and stuff like that, but as far as selling our pickerel, they've failed."

Johannesson said fishers who are adamant about staying with Freshwater are suffering from "Stockholm Syndrome," a psychological survival strategy whereby a hostage develops sympathetic feelings for his/her captor.

"And another thing that hasn't been mentioned, too," said Johannesson, "is that pickerel is driving the marketing board. That's how they pay for everything. We're subsidising all these other lower quality species."

Although the name of Salkeld's plant refers exclusively to walleye (also known as pickerel), the businessman said after the announcement, "We're going to take all species of fish."

A source who did not want to be identified said the waste of under-utilised species is the industry's "dirty secret." Species that don't fetch the prices walleye does are tossed back (dead) into the water or left to rot on the ice.

"Freshwater has a price list. Pickerel pays you the most, then whitefish or tullibee or sauger. If I bring 10 boxes of pickerel, I'm getting top dollar. If I bring 10 boxes of whitefish, I'm making half. So I throw out all my whitefish and I only bring in pickerel. Everybody knows this, but it's kind of a dirty secret."

The source said the industry has to find ways to utilise perfectly good species such as sauger, tullibee, sucker, drum and northern pike.

Whether a fish plant(s) can help correct that imbalance in the system is yet to be seen.

"The advantage to [under-utilised species] is they're off-quota fish," said the source. "So you can bring in as much as you want and it doesn't affect your quota. That's an incentive to catch off-quota fish."

Hecla fisher Ivan Grimolfson, who was fishing long before the creation of FFMC, said he sees the establishment of fish companies as "going backwards" and does not believe competition between plants will positively impact fishers' wages.

"I can't see it because that's what we had before. And it just didn't work. That's why we had Freshwater set up," he said. "They say everything has changed [now], but fishing is still the same. And the companies are going to be the same. And the crooks are going to be the same."

As to the limited capacity of the proposed Gimli plant, Grimolfson said Freshwater never has to expand. "They've taken every pound of fish we can give them."

Lake Winnipeg fisher Chris Kristjanson said he counted the fishers among the 28 people in the room and found eight, including himself.

"I think...the commercial fishery is very poorly represented at this meeting here today," said Kristjanson. "And it shows because of the short notice we were given. We have to have a cross-section of grassroots fishermen. I can't...say, 'Donald, I think you should do this. Donald, I think you should do that.' We have to have representatives from our grassroots fishermen in this area."

He and fisher Kris Isfeld wondered why Salkeld's announcement hadn't been publicised, saying they had gotten wind of it through word-of-mouth a few hours before it got underway at 3 p.m.

Both are sceptical of whether the open market will benefit all fishers.

Isfeld said he has made several attempts to get Sustainable Development Minister Cathy Cox to meet with him and the fishers he represents to discuss the opt-out and other fisheries issues.

It's unknown what percentage of Manitoba's commercial fishers had asked the Conservative government to cut ties with Freshwater.

In 2015 Salkeld himself, as president and CEO of FFMC, painted a rosy picture of the corporation with which he's now intending to compete.

In FFMC's 2015 Annual Report, Salkeld wrote that sales revenue "increased by 3.5 per cent from \$68.5 million in 2013/14 to \$71 million in 2014/15." The corporation processed 15.3 million kilograms of fish during the 2014/15 fiscal year and "initial payments to fishers have been increasing annually since 2010."

The report goes on to state that fishers' total returns for the 2014/15 fiscal year were at a "five-year high of \$29.5 million" despite Russian trade sanctions.

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<p>104 S. Dominique Drive \$98,800</p>	<p>58 Pine Ave, Tyndall \$329,900</p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>1 Harry Waytiuk Dr, East Selkirk \$125,000 1 Catherine Waytiuk Dr, East Selkirk \$140,000 14 Harry Waytiuk Dr, East Selkirk \$130,000 4 Catherine Waytiuk Dr, East Selkirk \$150,000 0 First Ave - Sandy Hook \$49,000 0 Ferry Road St. Clements \$122,000 71 Vincent Rd. Building Lot \$107,500 NEW 20 Acres Libau Call for info \$26,000</p>
<p>205 Dorchester \$179,900</p>	<p>461 B Henry Road \$495,000</p>	<p>COMMERCIAL</p> <p>Commercial Lease - Flex Space East Selkirk \$14 sq ft Commercial Lease - Service Station East Selkirk \$14 sq ft Commercial Lease - Restaurant Selkirk \$79,000 153 Lily Ave Zoned M1 \$110,000 129 Lily Ave \$129,000 502 Greenwood RENOVATED BUILDING \$449,000 Profitable Garage in Selkirk \$755,000 66 Acre MI Development \$980,000 1753 Fairway Road Netley Creek Golf Course \$2,999,000 New Bowlers Restaurant & Lounge \$549,900 Southbeach Collision Gimil, MB Turnkey - Profitable Call for Details \$249,000 311 Grassie Blvd Completed Subdivision \$385,000 200 IXL CRESE SOLD \$79,900</p>
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BIRTHDAY



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 December 23rd
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All the best for many years to come.
 -Mom, Jennie; sisters, Margaret and Kathy;
 brother-in-law, Vince;
 and all your friends and relatives

ANNOUNCEMENT

ENGAGEMENT



Balharry - Hardwick
 Michelle Balharry and Rob Hardwick are thrilled to announce their engagement. They are excited for their journey together as they plan for a wedding in the future.

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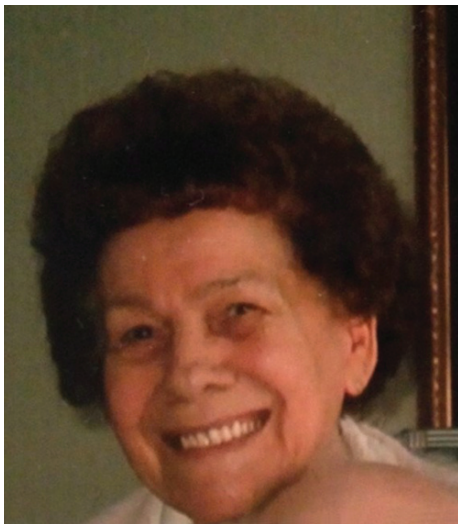
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ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



**In Loving Memory
of Lucille Cook
who passed away December 23, 2015**

Once upon a time,
An angel held my hand;
She wiped away my tears,
And helped me understand.
Her love was unconditional,
Always by our side,
When no one else would listen;
In her we could confide.
She saw the light in everyone,
And gave with no regrets;
Always from her heart,
Let us not forget.
Angels come in many forms,
For me it is my mother;
With love I cannot say in words,
There'll never be another.
Mom/Granny a year has passed and there is
not a day that goes by when we don't think
of you.

Love You More
-Your family

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM

**Marlene Domenco
In memory of my dear friend Marlene
who passed away on Christmas Eve, 2011**

We share so many memories,
Happy times of yesterday;
And to say how much I miss you,
I could never find a way.
Although you've walked through Heaven's
door,
We are never far apart;
For every time I think of you,
You're right here in my heart.
-Always remembered and sadly missed
by your pal, Gloria

*Your memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts*

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



**In loving memory of
Scott Wazney
September 16, 2016**

It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone;
A part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.
If tears could build a stairway,
And heartaches make a lane;
We'd walk our way to heaven,
And bring you back again.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still;
In our hearts you hold a place,
No one could ever fill.
Merry Christmas in Heaven, My Dear Scott.
-Love, Mary Ann, Jacob and Salvador
Mom and Dad, Carla, Darin and family

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM



**Darryl Garry Wazney
January 13, 1964 - October 23, 2011**
In loving memory of our dear son and father
It's been five years since you left us.
It seems like yesterday.
But you are always in our thoughts
And forever in our hearts.
(Merry Christmas to you, Darryl)
-Love, Mom, Conn, Tyler, Brendan
Carla, Darin and family,
Mary Ann and family

OBITUARY

**Margaret Ann (Peggy) Kirkness
(nee Freeman)
August 11, 1948 - December 12, 2016**



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend at the age of 68 years at the Selkirk General Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

Peggy was predeceased by her parents Harry and Bonnie Freeman; in-laws Jim and Betty Kirkness; sister-in-law Marybelle Moore; brother-in-law Lawrence Jablonski and numerous aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her husband James (Jim); son Christopher (Elaine); daughter Angela; three grandsons Kyle, Kelly and Christian; brothers George (Kathy), Bob, Ronald (Hazel), Rick (Marce), Gary (Darlene) and Rod (Maria); sisters, Betty Hawrysh, Gerri Jablonski and Tannis (Randy) Barker; brother-in-law Jim Moore as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

Peggy was born and raised in Old England where she was a member of St. Clements Church and served many committees. Peggy was also a member of Army and Navy and Air Force Ladies Auxiliary, Unit 151.

Mom could always be counted on to get the job (any job) done! She spent countless hours volunteering at many fundraisers and functions in the community.

Mom also enjoyed many years of camping throughout the province and most recently at Morden Meadows. Gallivanting to Saturday morning garage sales and long weekend road trips were her favorite past times. Above all else mom loved to spend time with her family and friends. Our mom was well known as "Auntie Peggy" by many children who attended her day care over the last forty plus years.

The family would like to thank all of the health care professionals who were involved in her care and also Archdeacon Godfrey Mawejje.

In keeping with Peggy's wishes, cremation has taken place and a Celebration of her life will be held in the summer. Details will follow at the time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Clements Church Memorial Fund.

Gilbart Funeral Home, Selkirk in care of arrangements.
www.gilbartfuneralhome.com



ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM

**Sam DePaulo
March 22, 1962 - December 21, 2014**

You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide;
And though we cannot see you,
You're always at our side.
-Love your family

ANNOUNCEMENT

IN MEMORIAM

**Sam DePaulo
March 22, 1962 - December 21, 2014
To Daddio**

Two years have passed,
Since our flag was at half mass.
I hear your voice, when I need to make a
choice,
When I have a fear, It is you I hear.
I no longer shed a tear,
Because I can feel you near.
The words you have said,
Are stuck in my head.
They make much more sense,
It overwhelmed me, so intense.
I know what to do, to make it through.
Thank you for your wisdom,
I can now build my own kingdom.
-Love your daughter, Tammy

Don't forget to send your special wishes to your friends and family.

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