



Gazette-Reporter
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The Sheriff comes to town

ByBanner Staff
Rivers Banner

From winning Canadian curling championships to representing his country on the international stage, Matt Dunstone has plenty of stories to share with guests at the Rivers Curling Club's Sportsman's Dinner.

Dunstone captured his first Brier title in 2026 before skipping Canada to a silver medal at the world men's curling championship. He also has two Canadian junior championships and two world junior bronze medals. Dunstone is looking forward to speaking at the dinner on Nov. 27 at the Riverdale Community Centre.

"I'm going to be able to tell my story of growing up as a Winnipegger and a Manitoban and share my experiences," he said. "Obviously, Rivers, you know, is a place that is close to my heart just given the (junior) provincial title that we won there in 2016. There's some history there as well, so obviously, it's exciting to be able to come to Rivers to be able to share my life inside and outside of curling."

The Rivers Curling Club is selling 225 tickets for the Sportsman's Dinner and expects them to sell out fast. Dunstone is definitely a draw.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Matt Dunstone is the guest speaker at the Rivers Curling Club's Sportsman's Dinner.

"Matty is a strong favourite in our curling world," T.Waite said. "The fact that he secured his second junior Manitoba championship here in Rivers in 2016 makes him very popular with Rivers and area curling enthusiasts."

The event benefits the club and the community. T.Waite said, "Financial support allows our club to help keep curling accessible for youth through to seniors by maintaining affordable programming, maintaining our facilities and equipment while planning for improvements and future growth."

Read about the Sportsman's Dinner on page 2...

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Sportsman's Dinner

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T.Waite also noted that "financial support to our curling club has a direct benefit to our community's overall health." For example, a portion of the proceeds from the club's Women of the Rings event was recently donated to community clubs that helped make the event a success.

Dunstone, who has been nicknamed "The Sheriff," is proud to hail from Manitoba. His 2013 and 2016 national junior title squads, both of which won world junior bronze medals, were inducted earlier this year into the Manitoba Curling Hall of Fame.

"To have grown up in that atmosphere and to have now represented such a recognizable and great curling province, you feel awfully privileged to have had that opportunity and to be able to have this opportunity to even talk about the sport that I love," he said.

Dunstone said curling is part "in the DNA of our family." His father, Dean, curled competitively and his grandparents, Jim and Carol Dunstone, won the 1980 Canadian Mixed Curling Championship. Erin Pincott, Dunstone's partner, is the third for Selena Njegovan's Winnipeg-based rink.

"As the people of Rivers will see, I'm not a very large human, so hockey was never in the cards," Dunstone said. "It's kind of always been curling through and through and just fell in love with the sport. … The family has supported that dream of mine."

His family has been there for him through both the successes and disappointments of his career. Dunstone suffered losses in the 2023 and 2025 Brier finals. He said he was able to use those experiences and "in those big moments at the Brier, just tapping into the experiences you had prior."

Last season, in St. John's, N.L., Dunstone's Manitoba rink defeated Kevin Koe's Alberta team 6-3 to win his first Brier title.

"Winning the Brier has always been my dream," he said. "As a curler, to have that in the back of your mind that that piece has been accomplished, you do a lot of reflecting and just trying to sort out what's next. It's difficult, because it's just like you've worked, I know in my case 25-ish years, to get that moment. And then that moment has come and now it's like, 'OK, well, I guess we got to go do it again.' And that's sort of the expectation. It's just funny how over time, expectations change."

One of those expectations Dunstone has for himself is to represent Canada. Last season, he guided his rink to a second-place finish at the World Men's Curling Championship, losing to Sweden in the final in Ogden, Utah.

"It was pretty much 10 years removed from representing Canada, so, it felt like a century. You know, 10 years too long. Obviously, that's an experience you want to have every year, and I think in a country like Canada it's not super realistic … So obviously, you don't take it for granted. … Coming up that one game short gives us a reason to get back on the horse this summer and want to do one game better at the World Championship."

Dunstone's rink looks a little different this season, with E.J. Harnden stepping away from competitive curling and Mark Nichols joining the team. Nichols, a six-time Brier champion and 2006 Olympic gold medallist, previously played third for Brad Gushue.

"Having the monkey off the back and winning an event of major magnitude … it feels like the chains are off a little bit, we can play a little bit more free now. And, obviously we have a new teammate now with E.J. retiring. Mark has been an awesome addition. Just trying to figure out ways and how we make it all fit and make that work to get back to the level that our team has been performing at the last thousand days or so."

While the local club's Sportsman's Dinner is not an annual event, it has a history of bringing in high-profile curlers as guest speakers, including Guy Hemmings, Jennifer Jones' 2014 Olympic rink, Sam Richardson, Randy Dutaime, Jill Officer and most recently, Kaitlyn Lawes.

On the ice, the club has hosted the 2020 Manitoba Scotties Tournament of Hearts, as the women's provincial championship was known at the time, as well as the 2007 junior men's championship, the men's and women's junior championships in 2016, the senior men's and women's championships in 2019, the Golden Gals championship and the men's masters championship. The club would also like to host the Bunge Championship, Manitoba's men's provincial curling championship, in the near future.

WWI Trench Cake

Ingredients

- 8 oz/225g plain flour
- 4 oz/110g margarine
- 3 oz/75g currants
- 2 teaspoons cocoa
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 oz/75g brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1/4 pint milk
- Suggested extra flavourings – nutmeg ginger, grated lemon zest.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Grease and line a small cake tin (about 15-16 cm)
3. Rub the margarine into the flour
4. Add the dry ingredients and mix well.
5. Dissolve the baking soda in the vinegar and milk
6. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and beat well
7. Pour into the tin
8. Bake in a moderate oven for about 1 hour. The original recipe says 2 hours, but ours was done in one.



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Hosted by: Rivers Curling Club
Featuring Matt Dunstone
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- 2026 World Curling Championship Silver Medalist
- Two-time Canadian Junior Champion
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- Won his 2016 Provincial Junior Championship in Rivers

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Christmas Cheer vs. Food Bank, understanding their unique roles in community support

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner

As the holiday season approaches, many communities are reminded of the importance of generosity and support for those in need. Among the various programs and initiatives, Christmas Cheer and food banks play distinctive yet complementary roles in addressing food insecurity. Understanding their differences can help individuals and organizations contribute effectively to their communities.

Riverdale Harvest Food Bank is crucial in the fight against chronic food insecurity, operating year-round to provide essential nutritional support. It operates on a bi-weekly, ensuring that families have access to a consistent supply of food. Clients typically register with the food bank and receive boxes or bags filled with pantry staples, fresh produce, and dairy products tailored to their needs. They focus primarily on alleviating hunger and providing immediate grocery support to households facing financial challenges.

Food banks rely on community donations and fundraising efforts throughout the year. They engage local businesses and individuals to contribute both food and monetary donations. This ensures that they can maintain their operations and continue to support the ever-growing number of individuals and families who turn to them for help. Volunteers often play a vital role in the day-to-day operations of food banks, helping sort, pack, and distribute food to those who need it most.

Rivers Christmas Cheer: Festive Support for the Holidays

While food banks offer essential year-round help, Christmas Cheer programs exist to bring joy and dignity to low-income families during the festive season. The objective is to ensure that families do not feel forgotten during this special time of year. Christmas Cheer initiatives focus on creating comprehensive holiday hampers that not only include festive grocery items—like hams and other special meal trimmings—but also toys, books, and gifts for children.

The work involved in the Christmas Cheer program is particularly heartwarming. Local community groups and volunteers come together to pack holiday food hampers and gift boxes, aiming to meet the individual needs of families. Organizations gather funds through local business sponsorships and community campaigns. They also collect physical donations of toys and food to fill these holiday hampers, creating a more holistic outreach for families in crisis.

For families and individuals facing financial strain due to job loss, rising costs of living, or other hardships, applying for help from either of these services is essential. In the case of Christmas Cheer, the Rivers Christmas Cheer program accepts referrals from November 2 through November 27. Application forms can be filled out at the Riverdale Harvest Food Bank on designated dates, or interested individuals can reach out to River's Christmas Cheer chairperson Carolyn Phillips at 204-761-5080 for more information.

This past spring, the Manitoba government decided that the $500,000 proceeds from the sales of US liquor would be donated to Christmas Cheer and Foodbank boards. Out of the $125,000 allotted to rural boards, the Rivers Christmas Cheer received $279. We filled 43 hampers last year. Food costs have escalated tremendously.

We will be collecting donations during the Legion Craft Sale Nov 14.

The combination of dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and committed community members makes it possible for both Christmas Cheer and food banks to make a real difference in the lives of those who most need it. As the holiday season draws near, let us remember the importance of supporting these programs to foster hope, dignity, and joy for everyone in our communities. Together, we can make a significant impact on combating food insecurity and spreading holiday cheer.

Rivers is ready to sleigh the season

By Beth McConnell
Rivers Banner



FILE PHOTO

Ella Waldner (8), Abigail Waldner (8mo), Santa, Leo Waldner (3) took their picture with Santa last year, 2025, at the Rivers Christmas Day event.

The holiday spirit will be shining brightly in Rivers on Friday, November 20, 2026, as the Rivers and District Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Holiday Celebrations at the Riverdale Community Centre.

Families and residents of all ages are invited to take part in an afternoon and evening filled with festive activities, entertainment and community spirit. The celebration begins at 2pm with games and activities provided by Prairie Bounce & Slide Premium Events, along with a variety of kids' crafts, including cookie decorating sponsored by Heritage Co-op.

Children will also have the opportunity to visit with Santa from 3pm to 6:30 pm. Organizers encourage families to bring their own cameras to capture special holiday memories. A free community skate will take place from 4pm to 5:30pm, providing another opportunity for families to enjoy the season together.

Following the afternoon activities, guests can enjoy a free hotdog and beverage from 6pm to 7pm before turning their attention to one of the evening's highlights. Parade participants will line up at the elementary school beginning at 6:30pm, with the popular "Light It Up" Parade getting underway at 7pm.

The event serves as a celebration of the holiday season and a chance for residents to come together as a community. Organized by the Rivers and District Chamber of Commerce, the festivities promise an afternoon and evening of fun, community and Christmas celebrations for all.

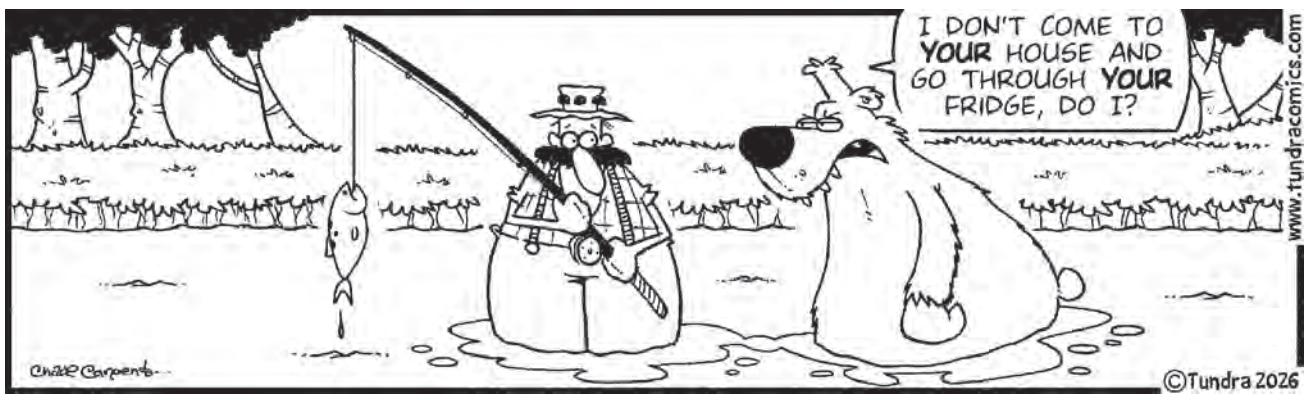


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JESUS IS LORD



Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Remembrance Day: A personal view



I used to know a few World War I veterans. I knew a lot of WWII vets including my Dad and four uncles. My brother was a Korean War veteran. Amazingly, there are still some of the WWll vets still alive. If you know one or get to meet one, be sure to say thank-you. You may think the world is in bad shape and you are correct. But without the efforts and sacrifice of our veterans, the world would be a lot worse.

This week, in all three of our family-owned papers, we pay tribute to our veterans. Wear a poppy, attend a Remembrance Day Service, breathe a prayer of thanks for their service and sacrifice.

My family obviously has a military background. My father came to Canada as a child in 1913 and the family settled in Montreal. Around 1917 they moved to a little stony farm at Christieville, Quebec and then to Winnipeg. One of Dad's brothers passed away at eight years of age. The four surviving sons, along with their parents all ended up in Winnipeg. Dad got married after doing whatever jobs were available across Western Canada and beyond.

Dad and Mum got married in 1932 and moved to an 80 acre farm at Muir, Manitoba (south of Gladstone). They struggled on the farm, as did many families in the 1930s. With two sons born during the Muir farm years, and with the outbreak of WWll, Dad decided to join the Army. He signed up with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles June 13, 1940. He was discharged on October 11, 1945, one day after his birthday. He was 33 when he joined up and 38 at discharge.

The years in between didn't take the expected path to military service. He rose to the rank of Staff Seargent but all based in administrative service in the army, mostly in Winnipeg.

He had suffered from Chronic Bronchitis and ear drum injuries from an early age. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles trained at Shilo and Dad's service record show he was hospitalized there. When he transferred to Debert, Nova Scotia, he took sick again and was hospitalized from from January 22 to May 3, 1941. He was sent home to Winnipeg. He served for a total of 64 months, fully trained infantry soldier, served in infantry for nine months. Later he took a CLES course as a blacksmith and welder. His papers note, he does not feel that his army services as a Postal Sorter and Post Office Superintendent have fitted him for any civilian occupation which he would like. "I am going to go back to full-time farming. When I find a farm I want to buy, I shall apply for V.L.A. Assistance."

It was further noted, "Pleasant, sincere man of 38, stocky build. With the exception of his army service, and 3 1/2 years employment in Winnipeg, as a steam fitter's helper, Waddell has been employed since leaving school at farming, operating his own dairy farm for seven years prior to enlistment. In view of this, his plan to return to full-time farming is sound. His wife and sons are also anxious to get back to a farm. He has not yet found the farm he would like to buy, and because of this, must obtain employment during the winter in order to support his family. He feels he will have little difficulty getting work at Canada Packers, where he was employed for some time as a steam fitter's helper, and for whom he worked nights for a month in 1944. Failing this, he will seek employment at any industrial work commensurate with his physical condition."

The family did find a farm at Holland, Manitoba in 1946 and stayed in the community for 40 years.



Pictured here is John Waddell with his two older sons, John and Donald. The third son, editor Ken Waddell was born eight years later.



Lest we forget...

The official wearing of the poppy this year is October 24 to Nov 11. It was just a few years ago that I realized that the symbol of courage and sacrifice was not to be worn after the eleventh day of the eleventh month, unless for a special service or event. The crimson poppy may be placed on a cenotaph, or at the gravesite of a veteran, stored appropriately or disposed of with dignity.

Perhaps it is my age, or my stage of life, but the poppy proudly worn, or the Canadian flag at half mast, moves me deeply. Never in my memory have I felt so thankful for this country, my country. It pains me when I hear words of blatant disrespect, see acts of violence and blatant disrespect, when there seems to be a discontent with the freedoms we take so for granted.

I think back to an old timer in the Riding Mountain hills. He came from 'the old country'. He had been in conflict, at war for his country and then a captive. He came willingly to Canada, and loved the country. When he heard anyone complaining about all the rules and regulations, the injustices - real and perceived- he would offer to send that person back to his country of origin and see if they really had anything to complain about! No one, to my knowledge, ever took him up on that.

"And the larks, still bravely singing fly, scarce heard amid the guns below.'-a line from "In Flanders Fields" by a Canadian physician serving in W.W.1, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae (a poem many of us learned in school) took on a deep meaning for me when a friend and I visited Auschwitz. We had just completed the tour, coming out through a courtyard that had been used by the firing squads. The entire tour was beyond sobering, beyond understanding, beyond comprehension. We stepped away from the reminders and remainders of horror, into a clear and sunny day, and overhead we heard the songbirds, delighting in life and the day. "And the larks, still bravely singing, fly…"

There is good and beauty…

There is another portion of poetry that speaks to me in this season of remembrance. " Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings:".....concluding with "Put out my hand and touched the face of God." These lines are written by an eighteen year old John Gillespie Magee (1922-1941), a member of the

Royal Canadian Air Force. He lost his life over Britain. The enthusiasm of youth, the wonder of flight, a recognition of the Divine, and a willingness to serve. I am humbled.

I honour those who served, here at home and in far away countries. I honour those who serve, here at home and far away. My heart connects with the countless women whose lives were also forever changed by the wars and violence. And the children…There is much to be deeply grateful for. There is still more work to be done but we cannot forget the cost - the lives lost and altered- that give us this foundation to build on.

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Canada

Teaching the next generation to remember



Every year on November 11, Canadians pause for two minutes to remember the men and women who served and sacrificed for our country. We wear poppies, attend ceremonies, and observe moments of silence in honour of those who fought in wars that shaped the freedoms we enjoy today.

For many children, however, the world wars can seem distant. The stories of soldiers landing on beaches, serving in trenches, or flying overseas happened decades before they were born. As time passes, it can become more challenging to help younger generations understand why Remembrance Day remains so important. Yet in many ways, the importance of remembrance has never been greater.

We live in a time when war continues to affect communities around the world. Every day, news reports show the realities faced by families living in conflict zones. Children are growing up amid uncertainty, and service members continue to put their lives on the line to protect others, maintain peace, and defend freedoms.

This reality provides an opportunity for parents, teachers, and communities to help children understand that Remembrance Day is not only about looking back at history. It is also about recognizing the courage, sacrifice, and service that continue today.

The freedoms many Canadians experience every day were not given freely. They were earned through the sacrifices of countless individuals who believed in protecting future generations. Many never came home. Others returned carrying physical and emotional scars that would remain with them for the rest of their lives. These sacrifices deserve to be remembered, not only out of respect for those who served, but because they remind us of the true cost of freedom. Especially now, as elections wrap up, knowing those men and women fought for your right to do exactly that.

Teaching children about Remembrance Day does not mean exposing them to the horrors of war. Instead, it means helping them understand values such as courage, service, sacrifice, compassion, and gratitude. It means helping them recognize that behind every uniform is a person who left family, friends, and the comforts of home to answer a call to serve.

It also means encouraging conversations about peace. Remembrance Day is not a celebration of war. Rather, it is a reminder of why peace matters and why conflicts should never be taken lightly. By understanding the sacrifices made in the past and those still being made today, children can develop a deeper appreciation for the peaceful communities in which they live.

Many schools continue to play an important role in keeping these lessons alive through assemblies, presentations, poems, and visits from veterans. Community ceremonies provide additional opportunities for young people to see firsthand how generations come together to show respect and gratitude.

Parents can help reinforce these lessons by sharing family stories, attending local ceremonies, or simply taking a moment to explain why Canadians wear poppies each November. Even small conversations can leave lasting impressions.

As the years pass, the number of veterans from Canada's major conflicts continues to decline. The responsibility of keeping their stories alive increasingly falls to the next generation. That responsibility begins with education and understanding.

In today's world, where conflict remains a reality for many people, teaching children about Remembrance Day is about more than remembering the past. It is about helping them understand the value of freedom, the cost of defending it, and the importance of striving for peace.

When we teach our children to remember, we ensure that the sacrifices of yesterday are never forgotten and that the lessons they left behind continue to guide us into the future.

A century ago



Norwegian Chemical engineer Erik Rotheim received the first patent for an aerosol dispenser spray.

In November 1926, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King moved aggressively to secure Canada's independence on the world stage.

There were three major political milestones defined this month. The Balfour Declaration and full autonomy (November 15-22). Prime Minister Mackenzie King attended the Imperial Conference in London. There, the Balfour report was adopted, officially declaring Canada and other British Dominions completely autonomous, equal in status and no longer subordinated to the United Kingdom.

The Balfour Declaration of 1926 (The Constitutional Document). This was the declaration that fundamentally transformed the British Empire and shaped Canadian Independence.

It was a document issued at the 1926 Imperial Conference in London. It formally declared that Great Britain and its self-governing Dominions which included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Irish Free State and Newfoundland were constitutionally equal in status. It stated that they were autonomous communities in no way subordinated to one another and freely associated under a shared allegiance to the British Crown.

It was drafted by a committee chaired by Arthur Balfour, hence the Balfour Declaration. The push for independence came heavily from Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and South African Prime Minister J.B.M. Hertzog.

Why does it matter? It laid the groundwork for the 1931 Statute of Westminster, effectively creating the modern British Commonwealth and giving Canada complete legal control over its own domestic foreign affairs.

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SPORTS

Jets beat Elks for first win of the season

By Robin Wark
Empire-Advance

The Rivers Jets split their games last weekend.

The Jets lost 5-2 in their home opener to the Hartney Blues on Oct. 30. The team rebounded to defeat the Souris Elks 5-3 on the road on Oct. 31. Rivers entered this week with a 1-2-0-0 record.

The Jets visit Deloraine on Nov. 6, host Virden on Nov. 12 and travel to Wawanesa on Nov. 14.

On Halloween, the Jets weren't spooked when the Elks mounted a comeback. In Souris, Layton Veitch opened the scoring and the Elks answered. Jaxon Heeney and Luke DeCorby each scored to give the Jets a 3-1 lead at the first intermission. DeCorby's goal came on the power play. In the second period, a shorthanded marker pulled Souris within one at 3-2. The Elks scored with about nine minutes gone in the third period to tie the game at 3-3.

Owen Wareham scored twice to power the Jets to the victory. Riley Boles and Kaelen Huibers assisted on the game-winning goal. Wareham added an unassisted empty-netter in the last minute.

"I think both of those goals happened because other guys did their job well," Wareham said. "They won their battles and got to pucks first. On our fourth goal, the forwards did a good job of getting to the puck first and moving it up quickly, which gave me a lot more time to move. And then they were able to get back to the front of the net and get a screen on the shot. The empty netter just came down to a big faceoff win with everyone doing their job to win their battles and I just got lucky that it bounced out to me."

Wareham, Huibers, Heeney, DeCorby and Riley Shamray each recorded two points. Jets goaltender Layne Anderson stopped 22 shots. Brady Edmunds made 51 saves for Souris. Callum Fortin and Avery Kirkup each had a goal and an assist for the Elks.

Wareham scored both of the Jets' goals in their home loss to Hartney. The Blues led 1-0 after the first period. Wareham tied the game 1-1 just over five minutes into the second period, but the Blues scored four times in the frame to take a 5-1 lead into the second intermission. One of their goals came on the power play.

Wareham scored a power-play goal of his own in the third. Layne Anderson made 25 saves for the Jets, while Justin Holder stopped 26 shots for Hartney. Taylor Wells led Hartney with a goal and two assists. Former Jets player Ty Paddock (2018-19) also scored for the Blues.

Rivers U13 fought Virden to the very end



PHOTO BY MIKE WADDELL

Rivers U13 hosted Virden on November 1 and after a hard fought game managed to overcome Virden 4-3. The winning goal came late in the third period.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

Rivers third goal, game tying goal by Rivers in the U13 game Nov. 1.

U11 Minor Hockey



On Saturday, October 31, my wife and I went to Rivers to watch a U11 hockey game with Hamiota competing against Rivers. It was the first game of the season for Hamiota, so we went to watch the game and in particular, Bowen Thornitt.

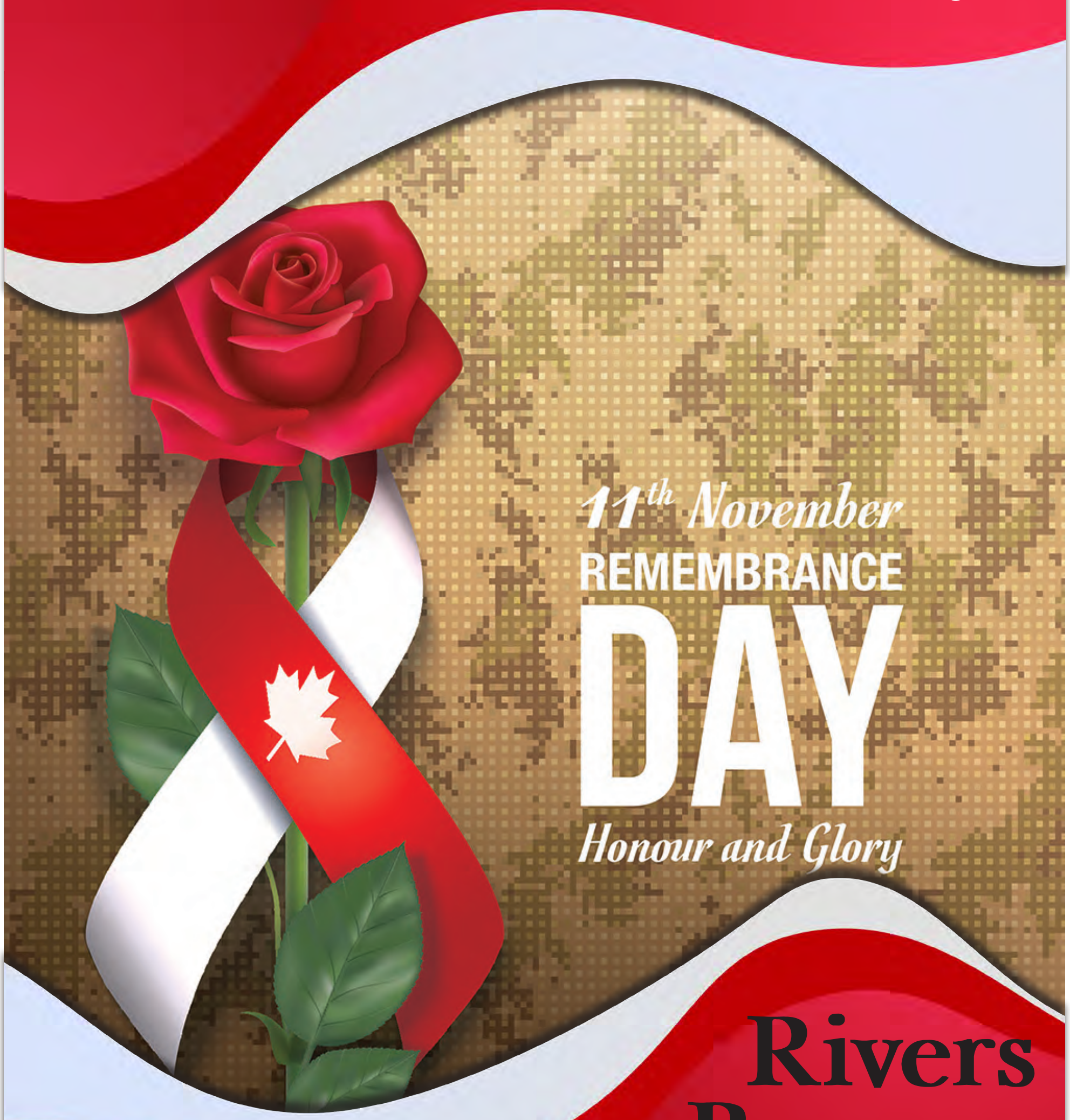
It was a very entertaining game played by both teams. There are some really good players on both teams, some that are not only strong skaters but can really handle the puck.

What I want to draw your attention to be the officiating in the game. Two young men from Rivers were officiating the game. Unfortunately, I do not know their names. One of the officials was older, thus a senior referee and a younger official. They called an excellent game! Not that there were not some mistakes but nevertheless they did a great job.

The younger official, who has possibly not done many games I think, whistled the play down for an offside, but it was not offside. The thing that really impressed me was that before the face-off took place the senior official who had seen the play took the time to go over to the younger official and talk to him about the call. The senior official did this very professionally in my view. Teaching, but also encouraging the younger official. I noticed as the game went on the younger official gained confidence and was not afraid to blow his whistle to call an offside or a penalty. The younger official obviously received the instruction from the senior official and applied it to the contest. This is how officials become a team, working together to learn and grow.

In a day and age where it is hard to get people to officiate hockey games it was very refreshing to see these young men working together. Do officials make mistakes? Yes, they do. How many mistakes do hockey teams make in a game? Lots! Anyway, to the two young men that officiated the game, great job! As I was driving out of the parking lot in Rivers I noticed the Senior official. I rolled down my window and told him they had done a great job. He had a big smile and said thank you! Next time you are at a game, encourage these young officials and thank them for giving their time and effort. Without them there are no games! Keep it going guys!

Remembrance Day



Rivers Banner

Special Edition

Honouring & Remembering CANADA'S VETERANS

Private David Airth



David Airth was born on 21 April 1883 in Arbroath Scotland to William and Jane Ann Airth. He immigrated to Canada, leaving Glasgow on 19 June 1905, arriving in Montreal with a final destination of Brandon Manitoba. He took up farming in the McConnell district with his older brother, Alex.

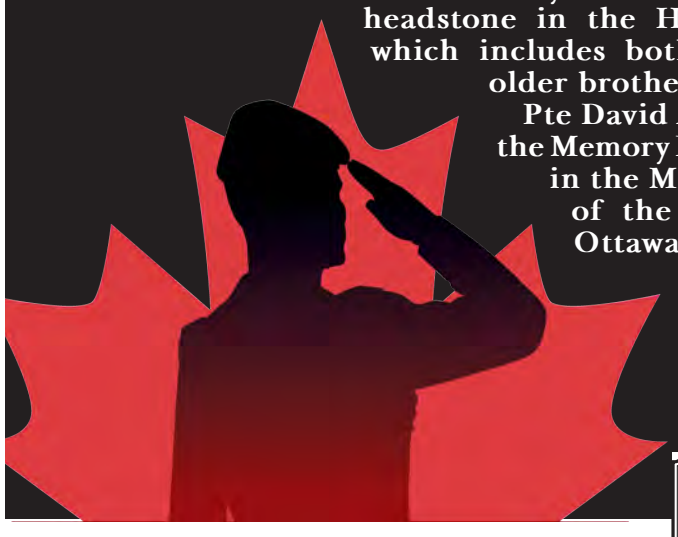
David enlisted in Brandon on 30 Oct. 1915, joining the 13th Field Battalion, Canadian Infantry. He left Canada on 24 April 1916 arriving in England on 5 May 1916. He arrived in France on 6 July 1916 and left for the field on 13 July 1916, joining his unit on 16 July 1916.

Pte David Airth fought at The Somme, and like many other Canadians, was killed in action on 5 September 1916. He was 33 years of age.

There is no known grave overseas for Pte David Airth. "His name, as it is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial. Over 11,000 fallen Canadians having no known place of burial in France, are honoured on the memorial. May they never be forgotten."

The family in Scotland, placed a headstone in the Hamiota cemetery which includes both David and his older brother Alex.

Pte David Airth is named in the Memory Book which is held in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa. He is on page 45 and this page will be turned to on February 5,6 and 7, 2027.



Private George Nelson Porteous



George Porteous was born on 6 April 1896 at Cypress River Manitoba to Abraham and Priscilla Porteous. They farmed near Rivers Manitoba. George enlisted on 25 January,1917 in Winnipeg and joined the 5th Battalion, later transferring to the 250th Battalion and then the 249th Battalion.

Pte Porteous embarked Halifax on 13 Feb 1918 aboard the HMT Saxonia, arriving in Liverpool England on 4 March 1918. He was taken on strength with the 15th Canadian Reserve Battalion then went overseas on 1 June 1918 with the 5th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Forces, arriving in France on 3 June 1918. He joined his field unit on 8 August 1918.

Pte George Porteous died of wounds whilst standing near the entrance of his billet at Gouy, France, on 13 October 1918, an enemy shell exploded a few feet away, a piece of shrapnel wounding him in the abdomen. He died the same day at No. 2 Canadian Field Ambulance.

His death is recognized in the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Pas de Calais, France, grave II. E. 13. His family headstone near Rivers Manitoba reads: In affectionate memory of Pte George Nelson Porteous No. 1072186 - 5th Battalion CEF, who died in France Oct 13, 1918 aged 23 years 6 months 8 days. He died for freedom.

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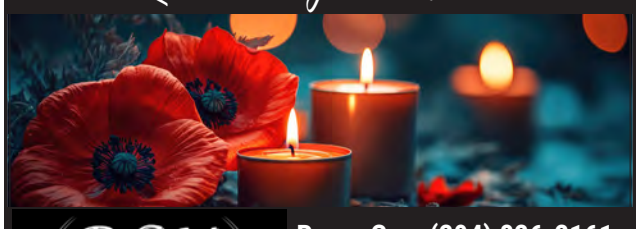
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Honouring & Remembering CANADA'S VETERANS

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

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Oak Lake - Oak Lake Community Hall service at 10:30am

Kenton - Kenton Memorial Hall service at 10:45am



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Honouring & Remembering
CANADA'S VETERANS

Jim Waun serves in the Cold War



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim Waun in Germany during NATO training exercises, East Germany is in the background, beyond The Wall.

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

As an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces, Jim Waun once held Queen Elizabeth's limousine door open for her. Now retired and living in Hamiota, Jim has had several interesting careers including 15 years of military service during the later Cold War years.

Jim has travelled the world participating in NATO war training and served on a destroyer monitoring Russian nuclear submarines.

Visiting with Jim in his Hamiota kitchen he tells of following his father's footsteps into the Canadian Armed Forces. His dad had joined up shortly after the Korean War ended in 1953.

Born in Toronto, Jim's dad eventually served in Cold Lake, Alta. where he worked on CF-104 Starfighters as a mechanic. The CF-104 entered Canadian service in March 1962. Originally designed as a supersonic interceptor aircraft, it was used primarily for low-level strike and reconnaissance by the RCAF.

Jim's father died of a heart attack at the age of 39. Jim was 12. The family mother moved to Coquitlam B.C. where Jim was educated. As a kid, the cadet corps was an important part of his youth. It prepared him for what would come next.

He became a Reservist at 17 and about a year after graduation Jim joined the Canadian Armed Forces which included all three divisions – navy, army and air force. He began training at CFB Cornwallis in Nova Scotia (now closed).

After 11 weeks of basic training and six months of trades training the young private became a supply technician.

Canadian Infantry

He was deployed with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Regiment to West Germany and other parts of Europe. "I was there for four years, and we did lots of exercises all over Europe… You'd see a convoy of all these army trucks rolling down the highway.

"They're not using live ammunition. They're not killing anybody, but you're learning what to expect if there actually were attacks coming - the planes are coming, so the radar is all live."

The dawn of the nuclear arms race during the Second World War left a dark shadow over the world and none felt it more than NATO troops in training.

"Every time you were out on an exercise like that, near the end of the exercise, there was a nuclear attack."

They had to scramble into protective gear – training in equipment that was hard to put on, and really hard to breathe and work in.

Jim became a corporal in the army before becoming a seaman.

"When I got posted back to Canada, I requested to go to sea."

This meant training in Halifax for shipboard before being posted to the HMCS Yukon harboured at Victoria, B.C..

"I did several tours out of Victoria. We were in Australia twice and a Japan trip once."

The Canadian Navy spent time working with the Americans out of San Diego, a home base for the US Navy, and the HMCS Yukon was also stationed in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, a huge nuclear submarine base.

Jim became a Master Seaman, which in the Army would be a master corporal. "You're basically told what needs to happen, and you're the one who has to make sure that it happens."

"When you go to Australia, you always stop in Fiji and some of the other places along the way, Tonga. But most of our job wasn't always on those long cruises."

This meant many weeks at sea, not a life for a married man, but Jim was single.

Protecting Canada's West Coast

"The majority of our job was sailing up and down the West Coast of Canada, because the Cold War was still on, and even though most people didn't know it, there was always Russian submarines just off the coast of Vancouver with nuclear warheads on board."

The threat was real and the cost – unimaginable and the Canadian destroyer was ready for the ultimate challenge.

"Our job was to just follow them back and forth. And they were always there. Nobody knows how close to the end of the world we came during the Cold War."

"If they ever launched a nuclear missile, not that we could stop it, but we'd be able to warn the shore. And then we would attack the submarine."

It was a time that called for cool heads because attacking a sub with nuclear warheads would certainly be a death mission. But it never came to that.

Asked how he handled that tense reconnaissance mission, he said, "It was just the job. Protecting Canada. They had to have somebody knowing exactly where these vessels were."

Cadets prepared him

Jim grew into the rigors of army life, handling weaponry and finally facing the ultimate threat.

He said, "Cadets had prepared me for some basic stuff. And then in the reserves, got used to following orders and doing drills."

After his post as a seaman, Jim was sent to CFB Shilo Horse Infantry where he ended his career. "I was 14 years regular service and counting the reserves, I was just about 16 years."

A pension comes after 20 years but Jim had personal reasons for taking his release.

He attended Brandon University and became a Psychiatric Nurse. When a position opened in Swan River, Jim stepped into a role of responsibility looking after three care homes.

"The doctors started to rely on me, because I did lots of extra training on the psych meds and how they interact with other medications." In total he put in 25 years serving geriatric patients.

In Brandon, he met Glenda, the love of his life, whom he recently lost. Jim Waun has good memories of his military days and of recent years. With his medical training, he was able to care for Glenda in her final years. He lived a life of service.

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SPOOKTACULAR NIGHT AT THE HALLOWEEN HOWL

By Carolyn Phillips
Rivers Banner

Friday night buzzed with excitement at Rivers Legion as ghouls, goblins, and all manner of creatures descended upon the annual Halloween Howl. The atmosphere was electric, filled with laughter, spooky decorations, and the tantalizing aroma of delicious food. From the moment guests stepped through the door, they were transported into a Halloween wonderland that catered to all senses.

The culinary offerings were amazing this year. The menu featured mouthwatering burgers that were juicy and perfectly grilled, paired with a refreshing pasta salad that took the edge off the chill in the air. Guests also outdid themselves by bringing a plethora of fun and creative appetizers that delighted everyone. Among the standout dishes were the eerie "witches fingers," which were cleverly crafted to look both delicious and a little spooky, and spidery cookies that were a hit with everyone. For those looking for something heartier, little puff pastry sausage ghosts added a whimsical touch to the spread.

As the sun set and darkness enveloped the legion hall, the festivities came alive with exciting drink specials that had everyone raising their glasses in cheer. Notably, the Jello shot syringes were a massive hit, adding a playful twist to the beverage offerings. With each sip, laughter echoed through the hall, creating an atmosphere filled with joy and camaraderie.

Costumes were the highlight of the night, and attendees went all out. From the chilling sight of a scary clown to the hilariously inventive Kid 'Duck' Rock, creativity flowed freely. Pirates swaggered in, scarecrows stood guard, and vampires prowled the floor, showcasing their ghoulish spirit. The effort that each guest put into their costumes did not go unnoticed, and a special costume contest added an exciting competitive edge to the evening.

Three judges carefully evaluated the many costumes, trying to determine who would take home the coveted prizes. This year's competition was fierce! Ultimately, first place was awarded to the charismatic Norma Jean Ventnor, who stunned everyone with her outrageous "Crazy Ostrich" ensemble. The audience roared with applause for her inventive design and spirited performance.

Second place went to the enchanting witchy twins, Valerie Collins and Wendy Peters, who charmed everyone with their synchronized spellbinding looks. A very close third place was awarded to the dynamic duo of Courtney and Jan Raupers, who brought the classic tale to life as Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf. Their playful interaction captured the hearts of all present.



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Val Collins, Wendy Peters, Courtney and Jan Raupers, and Norma Jean Ventnor the Ostrich.

Special mention must be made of the three sneaky amigos who cleverly kept their identities under wraps until it was time to leave. Their surprise reveal left everyone chuckling—what a great twist to the night!

None of this would have been possible without the splendid service provided by Cinderella and Tinkerbell, whose smiles and drink making skills helped make the night enjoyable for everyone.

As the evening wrapped up, heartfelt thanks were shared with all who attended. The Halloween Howl was not just a party; it was a community gathering that brought together friends old and new. With great memories made and spooky fun had by all, everyone left with a sense of anticipation for next year's celebration. Until then, happy hauntings!

Manitoba Government delivers on affordability, health care and stronger protections for Manitobans

Third session of 43rd legislature concludes

Submitted
By Manitoba Government

The third session of the 43rd Manitoba legislature concluded today, marking another period of significant progress on the Manitoba government's priorities to make life more affordable, strengthen health care, enact stronger protections for Manitobans and build a stronger economy, government house leader Nahanni Fontaine announced today.

"Since forming government, we've been focused on rebuilding health care, making life more affordable and making communities safer," said Fontaine. "This session we continued that work with new legislation to keep costs low for renters, help lower hydro bills and create stronger protections for workers and people who have experienced intimate partner violence. There's more work to do, but we're proud of the progress we've made together."

Throughout the session, the Manitoba government introduced more than 50 bills aimed at making life more affordable, growing the economy, improving health care and implementing stronger protections for Manitobans, Fontaine noted.

Key legislation in this sitting included:

- implementing stronger protections for renters facing unfair rent increases;
- removing the requirement for cannabis stores to have window coverings, making it safer for employees;
- using revenue from a new levy on crypto operations and data centres to reduce residential hydro rates by approximately $50 per year; and
- making it easier for survivors to pursue justice by removing limitations on the tort of intimate partner violence.

Other legislative changes included:

- new affordability measures including eliminating the provincial sales tax on all grocery store food items and the largest expansion of rent control in decades;
- new steps to address unfair and predatory pricing practices in grocery stores and other retail settings to help lower food costs;
- new protections against the non-consensual distribution of intimate images to protect women and children;
- new measures to remove pepper spray from retail shelves and improve public safety;
- new measures to improve breast cancer screening and early detection; and
- new measures to improve labour mobility for skilled tradespeople.

The fourth session of the 43rd Manitoba legislature will begin with a new throne speech on Nov. 17.

Winnipeg Jets



The Winnipeg Jets are in big trouble. They have lost nine in a row and after watching the game today and the complete lack of effort from especially the veterans, maybe it is time to go in a different direction. Their penalty kill and power play were ranked 22 in the league and today only became worse as they surrendered a short-handed goal in the first period which would end up being the game winner.

The team today had one great scoring chance. That's it! That's a horrible result for a professional team.

What ails the Jets? Well lack of compete would be one of the obvious answers! The defense is too small to clear anyone from the front of the net and the forwards are not picking up anyone either. Lazy penalties are not helping out either. It seems like the puck is a hot potato that no one wants to hold on to. Next up is Montreal and that may well be loss number 10 on Tuesday.

Kyle Connor is the only forward that can actually score and he was the Jets best forward on Sunday. Connor has 11 goals and has accounted for 32 percent of the Jets scoring. Cole Perfetti has six goals, Mark Scheifele has 2 goals, Gabriel Vilardi has 1 as does Moran Barron. Adam Lowry has 2 goals, and Neil Pionk has 3 tallies. A bunch of players have 1 goal. The Jets lost 11 in a row last year and are getting dangerously close to that number again and the season is just a month old.

What is the solution? Should you fire the General Manager? Do you fire the Coach? Do you play the kids from the Manitoba Mooso the Jets farm team?

Do you get rid of the veterans? What to do? Maybe Hellebuyck was right to want out of Winnipeg! Then there is who, do you hire as GM and Coach. Well, I have a coach picked, John Tortelli would be at least entertaining. Bruce Cassidy is available.

The next worry if you are the Jets owner is how many people are going to shell out a lot of money for a ticket to watch what we have seen from the Jets recently? Sad to say, but there is always next year. Play the kids and see what happens.

Amber – a fossil we can wear

Submitted
By Patricia Hanbidge



Amber jewelry is found all around the world. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Amber is a wonderful jewelry for gardeners and stewards of the earth! As we approach the holiday season, I hope these articles will help you in your quest to find the perfect gift for yourself or for someone special in your life. Amber is that beautiful warm looking mostly golden coloured, almost living like jewelry! It is actually ancient plant resin that has metamorphosed into a very hard, plastic-like polymer during a process that took – only a few million years! It is not formed from sap but rather plant resin that can drip or ooze from the tree. Sap is the compound that circulates through the vascular system of plants while resin is a semi-solid organic substance that is secreted in pockets or cells in the surface cells of the plant.

The amber itself is lovely to wear but it is especially unique when there are some added elements! It is often the case that insects get trapped in the sticky sap-like substance and then are forever preserved in this amber transparent tomb! It can trap other debris such as seeds, leaves and feathers as well! Think back to the movie "Jurassic Park" which was based on finding blood-sucking insects that had feasted on the dinosaurs of the day and then drowning in a pool of sticky resin! So, what kind of plant provides this sticky resin compound known as a terpene plant resin? These terpenoid parts of the resin evaporate and dissipate under the natural conditions in the forest and become fossilized compounds in the sediments and soils. It does take millions of years and involves a progressive oxidation and polymerization of the natural compounds to form what we call amber!

The very beautiful amber produced in the Dominican Republic (and depicted in the movie) comes from the fossilized resin of an extinct leguminous tree (Hymenaea protera) which is the ancient ancestor of the present day West Indian locust or "guapinol" (Hymenaea courbaril). This is a very large canopy tree of the tropical rain forest area. Studies have been done to determine that the resin from this tree currently growing in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Columbia and Brazil shows distinct similarities to the ancient amber.

In Mexico and Central America, there is copal which is a honey like pitch locally used for incense and varnish. However, the amber deposits of the Baltic region are the most valuable, the oldest and are closely related to the resins of the broad-leaf conifers of the Araucariaceae family. In fact, in New Zealand, there is a broad-leaf living araucariad forest that produces copious amounts of resin that once formed a thriving industry for very durable varnishes and linoleum. Forests such as these likely flourished in the Baltic region 60 million years ago!

During most of the Mesozoic time period, it was gymnosperms or evergreens that dominated the land vegetation. It has been traced that some of the amber land plants were likely conifers during this period and include species like Norfolk Pine, Monkey Puzzle and Kauri Pine and perhaps some of the ancient cedars, cypresses and junipers.

More historical documents show that most neotropical amber was formed after the demise of the dinosaurs (sorry "Jurassic Park"). However, there are deposits of amber in the Baltic region, in the Eastern USA and even Alaska that date back to the Jurassic Periods.

Regardless of when amber was actually deposited and began that long fossilization process – today we are graced with enjoying amber in a plethora of jewelry today. What a blessing!

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

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Riverdale Municipality

STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL RESULTS

I, the undersigned, the senior election official in the local authority, certify that below is an accurate summary of the votes counted for each candidate in respect of this election.

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES

FOR MAYOR

Names of Candidates	Number of Votes Given
Dyer, Ian	ACCLAIMED

FOR COUNCILLORS

Names of Candidates	Number of Votes Given
Veitch, Christa	369 Elected
Smith, Everett	356 Elected
Dreveski, Bonnie	317 Elected
Beever, Jocelyn	308 Elected
Mason, Shawn	296 Elected
Gill, Mark	294 Elected
Brennan, Ashley	219 Not Elected

I also certify that 2 ballot papers were declined, rejected, spoiled or taken from the voting station.

Dated at Rivers this 28th day of October, 2026.

Marci Quane Elected
Senior Election Official

FORM 31 [Subsection 116(5)]

Hamiota Municipality

STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL RESULTS

I, the undersigned, the senior election official in the local authority, certify that below is an accurate summary of the votes counted for each candidate in respect of this election.

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES

FOR MAYOR

Names of Candidates	Number of Votes Given
Andrew, Jennifer	142
Lints, Randy	236
Mollard, Tom	135

FOR COUNCILLORS

Names of Candidates	Number of Votes Given
Brethour, Ed	293
Gray, Ross	387
Harrison, Cal	432
Kirk, Les	271
Lawn, Kenneth	244
Routledge, Lance	326
Tiller, Kelvin	306
Tolton, Ryan	296

I also certify that 11 ballot papers were declined, rejected, spoiled or taken from the voting station.

Dated at Hamiota Municipality this 28th day of October, 2026.

Armi Adair
Senior Election Official

Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY
THOMAS KORITAR
NOVEMBER 29, 1948 - OCTOBER 14, 2026



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Tom in Vernon, British Columbia, on October 14th, 2026, at the age of 77.

Tom was born on November 29th, 1948 in Montreal Quebec to Karoly and Mary Koritar. He leaves behind to mourn his wife, Debra and his son Braden along with many cherished close extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by his beloved son Jarad, niece Kristen, nephew Michael, his parents, brother Danny and sister Judy.

Tom grew up in Montreal, joining the Navy at the age of 17 where his lifelong love of all things water began. His service took him around the world with ports in Portugal, England, Germany, Denmark, and Belgium. After leaving the Navy in 1973, he moved to Manitoba where he began his career as a power engineer and refrigeration air conditioning mechanic with Brandon General Hospital, later retiring from the Capital Planning Department there in 2003. He continued working at Brandon University in management before fully retiring in 2011.

Tom married Deb in 1987 and after living for a few years in Brandon, they moved to Lake Wahtopanah in Rivers, Manitoba where together they raised their two sons. Tom built two homes on the lake in addition to spending countless hours fishing, hunting, skidooing, sailing and boating.

With a generous sprit Tom was always more than willing to serve where he saw a need. Over the years he gave his time as Cub Leader and served on numerous committees including Friends of Rivers Lake, Aspen Trail, Rivers Hospital Foundation and in later years the Vernon Yacht Club and the Seasons Strata Council.

Beyond his career and community work, Tom will be remembered for his remarkable ability to build and fix anything. Tom was always the first one called when friends and family needed a hand with a complex project. He loved and cared for his family and friends over the years with warmth, dedication, generosity, humour and, of course, with his ever - present toolbox that was with him wherever he went.

Tom will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

A Celebration of Tom's life will take place at a later date.

Coming Events

RIVERS COLLEGIATE FALL SUPPER

November 15, 2026 (Sunday)
4:30 - 7:00 pm
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Bill Aaroe



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Ladies Curling Club Fashion Show a fun fundraiser



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

The line up of models includes Alana Kent, Shelly Heaman, Rebecca Thompson, Dialyn Yecyec, Karen Houck, Heather Shane, Janice Fortune, Faye Bridge, Roxy Espenell and Jeannine Skayman.

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

Hamiota Ladies Curling Club Fashion Show was a great place to pick up fashion tips, see what's new for '26 and at the end of the event, maybe even purchase an outfit.

Curling club emcee Penny Dixon welcomed the crowd and introduced fashion show commentator Sam Cluett, proprietor of Samantha's Boutique: The Trendy store With the Pink Door.

Samantha's Boutique, a ladies' clothing store located in Elkhorn, is a full-service flower shop that also carries giftware.

Cluett was thrilled to be asked back for a second year and said, "Being able to take our boutique on the road is a great opportunity to meet new people in new communities." She added, "The goal is always to display fashion for all women – different body types, women of all ages and women of different styles. I strongly believe that if you like it, you can wear it. Our goal is also to help you find pieces you will reach for again and again."

The store has served other small towns with fashion shows in St. Lazare and this year a show in Melita as well.

In preparation for their Sunday show in Hamiota the models visited Elkhorn to pick out their own fashions to wear. They also had first dibs in purchasing them following the show.

Guests saw over 30 outfits as models walked the runway in three different sets of clothing before lining up in their favourite outfits at the close of the show.

During two breaks, a bar and an amazing array of hors d'oeuvres were available. Door prizes included homemade preserves, a beautiful craft and a $50 gift card for Samantha's Boutique.

Following the show, shoppers browsed a rack of clothing and décor pieces.







Westman artists a fantastic gallery show



Hamiota's art gallery features Arts West Travelling Gallery pieces. A pamphlet in the gallery (open three days per week) gives insight into the art. Some is for sale.



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

"Party Line" by Kerri Wilson, collage style done in acrylic & UV resin.

By Anne Davison
Rivers Banner

Arts West 47th Travelling Gallery will grace Hamiota's Heritage Arts Centre for another week, ending on Nov. 14 in Hamiota.

These 20 pieces on display from across Westman are spectacular, each in their own way. Animal life figures largely in several pieces.

Hamiota art club has four pieces in this show.

Kerri Wilson has a thoroughly unique piece named 'Party Line' which has comedy painted in beautiful colours. Of note, if you browse the gallery, Kerri included herself as the canary who is listening in.

Elaine Rawlings' piece 'Oh Grandmother' is comical, inspired by a photo of her year-old granddaughter dressed as Little Red Riding Hood and – you guessed it – a family dog as the Big Bad Wolf.

Miniota people will recognize Rawlings other entry, 'In the Valley'. The beautiful historic fieldstone home is in the style of Elaine's 'Rural Ruins' pieces.

Kenton's Mary Lowe captures winter with a polar bear as central but as the painting's name indicates, there's much more to her 'Mum in the Moon' (love the British spelling of Mum too) - so look for that!

The gallery has travelled throughout southwestern Manitoba this fall, with Virden the host before the juried art came to Hamiota.

The show will move on throughout early winter and after a Christmas break, it will be featured in Rivers Library in January and Rapid City Library late January to mid-February. Then to Minnedosa, Neepawa, Carberry and end the show in Brandon in April.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Nov 6 Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	7
8 Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	9 50 + Card Games 1pm	10 50 + Club Pool 1pm	11 REMEMBRANCE DAY LEST WE FORGET	12 Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	13 Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	14 Rivers Christmas Craft Show
15 Rivers Collegiate Fall Supper 4:30 - 7:00 pm Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	16 50 + Card Games 1pm	17 Riverdale municipality Council Meeting 50 + Club Pool 1pm	18 50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm	19 Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	20 RIVERS AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS Riverdale Community Centre	21 Immaculate Conception Parish Christmas Tea 1:30 - 3:00pm