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SPECIAL FIREFIGHTERS ISSUE

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Bingo success brings joy to Riverdale Personal Care Home residents



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Tables were full with 66 enthusiastic bingo players at the Rivers Legion on Saturday, October 18, for an afternoon of Bingo.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

What a fabulous day it was at the Rivers Legion Saturday! The air filled with laughter and excitement as residents and guests gathered for a delightful afternoon of lunch and merchandise bingo in support of the Riverdale Personal Care Home. This event not only sparked joy among participants but also served a deeper purpose: to enrich the lives of the 20 residents in care.

The turnout was extraordinary, with a remarkable 66 people coming together to participate. Among them were three brave and spirited residents who joined in on the fun, showcasing their competitive spirits as they vied for a range of exciting merchandise prizes. The enthusiastic atmosphere was palpable as players marked their cards, hoping for that winning combination to call out, "Bingo!"

Each of the three residents in attendance left with prizes, adding to the day's overall joy and thrill. Seeing familiar faces light up as they claimed their winnings was a heartwarming reminder of the importance of community and connection. Events like these are not just about winning; they foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie among participants, particularly for the residents who often seek engaging activities and social interaction.

The success of this bingo event transcended mere entertainment; it was a vital step toward raising much-needed funds. Through ticket sales and generous donations, Riverdale Personal Care Home gained resources to enhance its programs for residents. With the money raised, the home can look forward to providing enriching activities, outings,

and improvements, all aimed at creating a more enjoyable living experience for its residents.

This event would not have been possible without the dedicated support of volunteers, generous donors, and participants who purchased bingo cards. Their contributions made a significant difference, showcasing the power of community spirit. The collaborative efforts displayed not only reflect a commitment to the residents' well-being but also signify a shared enthusiasm for creating enriching experiences.

Looking ahead, the organizers are already brimming with ideas for future bingo adventures. The success of the recent event has sparked hopes of making it a regular affair, allowing residents and community members to bond over friendly competition continually. Each game played is a chance to strengthen ties, bringing laughter and warmth to the halls of Riverdale Personal Care Home.

As those who attended can attest, the sound of victory, the thrill of the game, and the joy of community forged unforgettable memories that day. The smiles, the laughter, and the sense of oneness were the real prizes, reminding everyone that companionship and shared experiences are the key to a vibrant atmosphere.

In closing, heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who contributed in any way—be it through donations, volunteering time, or simply joining in for a round of bingo. Your support is invaluable and ensures that Riverdale Personal Care Home remains a lively, engaging place for its residents. We hope to see many more bingo adventures unfold in the future, solidifying the bonds of friendship and community that are vital for everyone involved.

Inside...



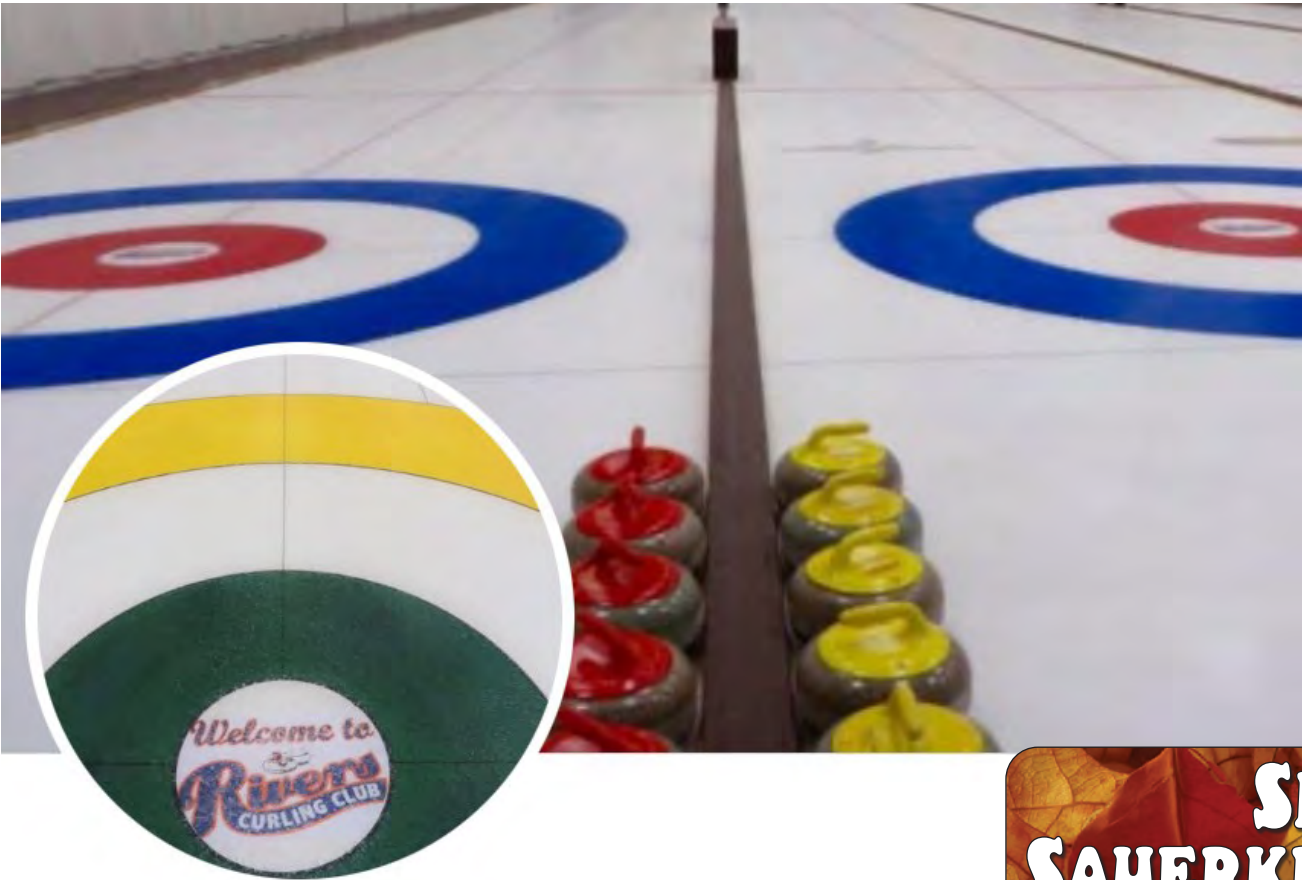
**THANK-YOU
FIREFIGHTERS**
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HAUNTED
FOREST**
P16

Discover the Rivers Curling Club

A community hub for curling enthusiasts



By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

Nestled in the heart of Riverdale, at 101 Main St, the Rivers Curling Club is more than just a place to play - it's a vibrant community hub that brings together curling enthusiasts of all ages. With its four sheets of artificial ice, the club caters to a diverse range of curling leagues and encourages players to enjoy the sport while building friendships.

The facilities at Rivers Curling Club have been specifically designed to accommodate both seasoned curlers and newcomers. Downstairs, members can find change rooms and a licensed facility, ensuring they have all the comforts they need after a thrilling game. For those looking to unwind post-match, the upstairs licensed club room offers an ideal viewing area. Here, players and spectators can relax, cheer, and enjoy beverages while watching the action unfold on the ice.

The Rivers Curling Club organizes weekly leagues that cater to everyone. On Monday afternoons, ladies can join the ladies' curling league, with a focus on

skill development and camaraderie. The evenings are reserved for the men, who gather for spirited competition. Tuesday afternoons are dedicated to senior curling, a friendly league that fosters inclusivity and enjoyment among older participants. Meanwhile, the younger generation can join the junior curling league on Tuesday evenings, ensuring a bright future for the sport. Thursdays bring about the excitement of the two-person league—perfect for friends looking to team up and have fun.

An essential aspect of the leagues is the bonspiels that take place

throughout the season, making curling even more exciting. These events are open to anyone wishing to form a team and compete, showcasing the spirit of friendly rivalry that curling is known for. The club's commitment to community engagement is truly evident through these events, as they attract participants from near and far.

2026 RME Provincial
In an exciting development for the Rivers Curling Club and the surrounding community, the club is thrilled to announce that it will be hosting the 2026 RME Provincial Women's Curl-

ing Championship! This prestigious event is a significant opportunity, bringing together top curlers and providing a platform to showcase their skills and the sport itself. To make this exciting event a success, the club is seeking enthusiastic volunteers. If you would like to get involved, whether it be through helping with event organization or offering support during the championship, please reach out via email at volunteer.rmecurling2026@gmail.com.

As we prepare for the championship, it is a fantastic time to become part of the Rivers Curling Club

family. Whether you're a seasoned curler or someone interested in learning the sport, there's a place for you here. The club is dedicated to fostering a welcoming environment where everyone can enjoy curling, make new friends, and participate in fantastic community events.

The Rivers Curling Club is not just a venue for curling; it's a place where bonds are formed, skills are honed, and the community thrives. Whether you're curling or supporting from the sidelines, we invite you to join us at the club and be part of something special!

SLOW COOKER SAUERKRAUT AND SAUSAGE

Ingredients

- 1 (20 ounce) can sauerkraut
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1-1/2 pounds bratwurst sausages
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1/2 cup water, or as needed (Optional)

Directions

1. Mix sauerkraut and brown sugar together in a medium bowl.
2. Pour sauerkraut mixture into a slow cooker; arrange sausages and onion over top. Cook on High for 2 hours. Check for dryness, adding water as necessary.
3. Reduce the heat to Low and cook for 2 more hours.



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From the ground up



It officially opened on June 30, 1968. At 626 ft., it was the tallest structure in the City of Calgary, Alberta. It isn't any more. It took 15 months to complete. It cost \$3.5 million (roughly \$32.5 million today). It is one of only four free standing towers in Canada. The others are the CN Tower in Toronto, the Skylon Tower at Niagara Falls, and the Olympic Stadium tower in Montreal. All are impressive structures, engineered to stand tall and strong in all kinds of weather for many decades to come.

What is the secret to their strength, stability and

durability? In the case of the Calgary Tower, it comes from something that those visiting it will never see. The tower weighs 10,884 metric tonnes, of which 60 percent is below ground. Its base is anchored into bedrock 50 ft. below ground level. That, the width of the base and its weight ensure that it can withstand winds of up to 161 kmph, thanks to the foundation on which it is built.

A few months ago, I watched a YouTube time lapse of a major house renovation. The house was quite old, but was in remarkable condition for its age. Its frame was sound. Its electrical and heating systems had been upgraded to current standards. New, energy efficient windows replaced the old single panes that had been there for years. Insulation had been added, and the beautifully decorated woodwork had been restored.

But it was in danger of collapse. Its foundation was crumbling and its owners knew that it was only a matter of time until the foundation would break and the whole house would implode. So they took immediate action to save their home.

They hired a contractor who understood the problem and knew what to do. Huge beams were placed

at strategic locations under the house's frame. Then, the house was slowly jacked up and placed securely on blocks. Small excavators with jack hammers removed the old foundation one piece at a time. When everything was removed, a firm base was prepared and new footings and walls were poured. Once the cement had cured, the house was lowered until it rested on the new foundation. Now, with a solid foundation beneath it, that house could stand for many more years. The entire process took several months to complete. The time lapse video showed it all in less than 15 minutes.

In the past few months, we have heard many of our leaders talk about the need to build a new Canada, or a new Manitoba. We hear a lot about new programs, new ways of making decisions, new initiatives and new government priorities; which, in my view, are little more than renovations to a building that has been standing since Confederation.

But sadly, no one talks about the foundations on which the building stands. Maybe its time we did. Maybe its time we went back in our history—way back to the beginning of time, to discover three foundation stones on which all of human society was built—freedom, family and faith.

That we would discuss them now is no accident. They are the values for which those we honor on Remembrance Day fought and in some cases died to defend. Over the next three weeks, we will explore these values, one at a time and consider ways by which they can be incorporated into our lives and shared with others.

Firefighter Special Issue

E A U J D D G N V A F I R E K
G B B Y J K V S T R O N G Y R
A U T R O D X L J L Q R S A V
R P N Y A M W A Y I R C S X O
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A K I Y H K W Y S R K S B N F
C N B I Z A Q E D F W M I E R

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. alarm | 2. hero | 3. chief | 4. engine |
| 5. marshal | 6. ladder | 7. fire | 8. courage |
| 9. strong | 10. fearless | 11. bravery | 12. volunteer |
| 13. selfless | 14. resilient | | |

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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Sometimes it's too little, too late

I was thinking about municipal politics recently and pondered for a moment about how young I was when I first became aware of municipal affairs. I know it was in the early 1950s and I would have been about 7 years old. During a particularly heavy snow year, the roads to town in the RM of Victoria were blocked for several weeks. My dad had a "school van" route and had to switch from a 1952 International truck to a horse drawn old-fashioned school van for several weeks.

I am not sure if that wintery ordeal was the instigation for my dad to visit a neighbour to encourage him to run for reeve but I distinctly remember the condition of roads, especially in winter was a major problem. Dad, and some neighbours thought that Fred Harrison would make a good reeve and hoped that he could convince the RM of Victoria to have bigger and better equipment to grade the roads in summer and plow the roads in winter. It was my first example of seeing that the most important level of politics in Manitoba is municipal.

Fast forward by about 70 years and my memory bank is full of events where municipal affairs have affected our daily lives and livelihood.

As an adult, I have now lived in two RMs and the Town of Neepawa. I have attended countless council meetings as a taxpayer and newspaper editor. I also served as mayor of Neepawa from 1998-2002 and from 2012 to 2014. I have seen municipal successes, struggles and a few disasters. In my first term as mayor of Neepawa, I was in the council chair when the Neepawa water treatment plant failed completely. That was about five days of stress, expense and finally, a solution.

The biggest current issue, dare I say crisis, in the coverage area for our three papers at Virden, Rivers and Neepawa is the evolving issue of water quality and supply at Virden. Virden's water

supplies are running low and an emergency well drilling project is underway to try to avoid a full scale water shortage crisis. Back in the day, the Virden council received well-intended advice that a new well would supply lots of water and do away with the arsenic level issue. That said, the arsenic level was never very high, but it was above legislated limits and as everyone would assume, having any arsenic in drinking water isn't a good feeling.

I don't think any council or officials can be blamed for the current crisis but it has happened and is being addressed and to that, I say good on Virden Council.

There may have been an earlier solution and what has been suggested is that the RM of Wallace-Woodworth reportedly had better water and in good supply. I don't know if that is so. Maybe Virden and Wallace-Woodworth should have worked together on a regional system.

My personal opinion is that the biggest problem we have in rural Manitoba is a lack of cooperation between municipal entities. Before anyone gets too upset with that statement, please note I said it's my personal opinion but it is an opinion based on many years of municipal experience and observation.

Back around 2010 or so, the NDP Greg Selinger government decided to "enforce" amalgamation. It didn't go all that well as there was severe distrust between municipalities and government and also between municipalities. For

over a 100 years towns and RMs had been competing to stay alive, to achieve levels of service and at the same time, watch populations dwindle as farms got larger, many RMs and towns shrank. Forced amalgamation was not popular. That said, several amalgamations took place across Manitoba and in our newspaper coverage area.

Personally I think RMs and Towns should amalgamate. Long gone are the days when as one reeve said long ago, the government should just leave us alone as all we need to worry about is plowing the roads in winter and grading the roads in the summer.

Towns, villages and RMs all have to deal with much more than roads. There are challenges with water supply and distribution, sewage treatment and disposal, garbage and recycling, health care facilities and much more.

I am told there are over 20 CAO vacancies in Manitoba. Maybe we have to pay CAOs more money. Municipal politics has become too complicated, expensive and risky to stick with what I would call the more casual approach of the past.

It's rare that any major municipal project comes in under a half million dollars nowadays. The Virden water repair will be that high and it costs over \$100,000 to simply pave a block of street let alone install or replace water and sewer pipes.

We owe all our councillors and staff a vote of thanks but that doesn't include sticking with outdated practices.

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



Fruit cake revisited, 20 years later

Those who know me well will find this difficult to believe - I was studying a cook book. Not reading it for pleasure, for that's absurd on many levels, but studying as if I was preparing for a quiz, like I had a major exam coming up. "Easily Made Christmas Cakes and Fruit Cakes" page 51 of the old "A Guide to Good Cooking, compiled by the makers of Five Roses Flour", copyright 1938.

Oh, it's not the first fruit cake I've ever made, but it is the first one in almost two decades, and I got to choose from three hand written recipes. I chose the dark cake, not two cups of molasses dark, just one tablespoon dark. It was a separate shopping trip to pick up the ingredients. My basic kitchen shelves do not hold two pounds of raisins, one pound of currants, half a pound of slivered almonds, three quarters of a pound of mixed peel nor one pound of glace cherries! It did contain the cinnamon, the molasses, the nutmeg and the allspice - not the mace so I chose to forgo it! On hand was a pound of butter and eight eggs.

The night before baking I carefully cut the brown paper to fit the three sizes of pans. And called my sister to see if she double or triple layers the paper, remembering faintly that our mother used three. She only uses one, so I was down for that. Then I pre-mixed all my fruits, one recipe said that would allow the flavours to blend. And called my sister to see if I should dust them with flour so they remain separate. Again, thinking that was something we used to do. She said no, and I rejoiced.

Mixing day and I enlisted the strong arm of my grandson. It gets to be heavy work! The wooden spoon did not bend or break, and we took turns adding the eggs to the flour, and the fruit to the batter. A slow oven....how slow?? One book said 325 degrees, another said two fifty. And called my sister to double check the temperature. She said try three hundred. And so I did. I did check on line to see which shelf level was recommended, and the middle won.

The littlest cake was brown and firm in about an hour, the other two more than twice that long. It could have been a shorter time if I hadn't opened the oven so frequently to check on colour and firmness!

So, out of the oven, cooled and ready to store. And, I called my sister to see how she stores her, and read the cookbook again. She said that after they are cool wrap in tin foil, then plastic and store in a tin or a plastic container in a cool, dark place. And so I will!

Some major changes in baking the cake this time compared to the last time. One thing is the price. All I can say is that it better be good! And second, the time was when my sister might have asked me for some input, and now I rely on her!

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From the prairies to the highlands tour 204 - part 8

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Our next stop was a boat ride at Loch Ness. We boarded the van and were on our way for another fun-filled day. We had been staying in Dornoch at The Eagle, so we had a roll call and boarded the van, again under the capable hands of our driver Donald Caldwell. This was one of the only days we had cloudy skies with some rain, but that was not about to dampen our spirits as we set out to see Nessie.

When we arrived, we went to the Clansman Hotel Harbour where we had a quick look in the gift shop, then we were ushered to the boat.

Loch Ness is in the heart of the highlands. This location is stunningly beautiful. As we got onto the boat, we learned that Loch Ness is one of the largest lakes in Scotland and the whole of Great Britain. The water is 755 feet deep and it stretches over 23 miles. The shoreline is dotted with trees; this is the highlands. Up on one of the hillsides is a white house on a farm site on the side of the hill. It was

so amazing to see. Celia claimed this as her place she would live. I am all for it too! Man, it was a sight to behold, beautiful!

Loch Ness is a large freshwater loch in the highlands. It takes its name from the River Ness which flows from the northern end of Scotland. It is best known or claimed to have sightings of Cryptozoological Loch Ness Monster. There have been more than a thousand sightings of the creature dwelling in the Loch. The earliest sighting was in the 6th century. In 1934 a photograph depicted what appeared to be a long-necked creature rising out of the water. This became one of the most famous and controversial images associated with Nessie.

Over the years, countless eyewitness accounts have described Nessie as a creature with a long serpent neck and a hump in its back. There is no conclusive evidence ever produced to definitely confirm its existence, and so the mystery goes on.

Out on the water, we arrive at the magnificently situated Urquhart castle on the shores of Loch



Urquhart castle on the shores of Loch Ness.

PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Ness. This location has some of the most dramatic chapters in Scottish history.

Urquhart castle offers a spectacular vantage point for a panoramic view of the Loch. As you approach the shoreline, you get the idea of the location being a huge defensive advantage during times of attacks by its enemies.

It is built high up on an edge of a cliff. Looking down from the castle you could stop any potential attack from the enemy.

This was such a beautiful location in all of Scotland. With our boat ride over it was back to the gift shop, a very crowded one

at that, where gifts were purchased and then like Willie Nelson said, on the road again!

We headed back to Dornoch. We freshened up after our day's excursion and went to the Dornoch Castle where Donald and Devon were staying. The rest of the crew were staying at The Eagle. We went for supper at the castle and right across the street is the

Dornoch Cathedral built in the 13th century. This is where Madonna was married in the year 2000.

The Dornoch castle was built in 1500 and has been a hotel since 1947. It is in the centre of Dornoch. It was originally built for the bishops of Caithness but was later held by the Earl of Sutherland.

One of the most interesting features was a tiny

pub within the walls of the castle. The entrance was all stone, and you had to bend over so you did not hit your head on the top of the stone door.

You may have noted the reference to the Sutherland whiskey and the Earl of Sutherland. Two of our travellers, Chris and Les are both Sutherland, and next week you will learn of the Sutherland Castle.

Riverdale Council Recap October 7, 2025

By Laura Gill
RIVERDALE MUN. AAO

Riverdale Council met on October 7th with Mayor Lamb and all councillors present.

Council approved Variation Order 2025-06 for Todd and Rachel Gill at 84 Saulteaux Lane, allowing adjustments to front, side, and rear setbacks to accommodate a new build on a permanent foundation.

The "Rivers-Daly Fire Department" officially became the Riverdale Fire Department, with all records, signage, and agreements updated accordingly.

Council adopted the Lake Line Transit Advisory Committee Policy as the Lake Line Transit service returns to the community.

Financial business included approval of accounts totaling \$195,980.86, Collabria credit card statements, financial statements for June–August, and the August bank reconciliation.

Council also gave 2nd and 3rd reading to the waste transfer station tipping fee by-law. These changes will be implemented in January 2026.

In other business, Council endorsed a grant application to the Manitoba GRO Fund for rehabilitation of 15 municipal bridges.

The meeting concluded at 9:20 p.m., with Mayor Lamb highlighting the success of the Sekine Mural unveiling.



NOT THE GAME

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Rivers United Church hosts successful takeout turkey fall supper

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

On October 19, 2025, the Rivers United Church opened its doors for a heartwarming community event—the annual takeout turkey fall supper. This cherished tradition welcomed friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy a delicious meal while supporting local charitable causes. With the fall season in full swing, it was the perfect opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the spirit of giving.

This year, a total of 150 meals were prepared, showcasing the church's commitment to serving its members and the surrounding community. Reservations were required by October 18, allowing the organizers to ensure that every meal was freshly made and ready for pick-up at designated time slots. Guests could pick up their meals starting at 4:30 PM, with pick-up available in convenient 15-minute intervals. This arrangement not only minimized wait times but also fostered a safe and organized environment for attendees.

Each meal was sold for \$20, a modest price considering the quality of the food and the cause it supported. The hearty turkey dinner included all the traditional fixings: savory stuffing, creamy mashed potatoes, rich gravy, and seasonal vegetables, capped off with a slice of homemade dessert. These meals offered a comforting and indulgent taste of fall, perfect for those looking for a warm meal without the hassle of cooking.

Proceeds from the fall supper were directed to two important local organizations—Riverdale Harvest, the local food bank, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Both entities work tirelessly to combat food insecurity in the community and beyond, providing essential resources to those in need. By dining at the Rivers United Church fall supper, patrons



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Amazing meal of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies and homemade desserts.

not only enjoyed a delicious meal but also contributed to a greater cause, ensuring that local families have access to the nutrition they require.

Community events like the fall supper are vital in fostering connections among residents and encouraging philanthropic efforts. The Rivers United Church has been a pillar of support in the community, offering various programs and events throughout the year. This fall supper was a wonderful example of how food can bring people together and make a difference in the lives of others.

As the sun set on the day of the fall supper, the success of the event was evident not just in the number of meals sold but in the sense of community felt by all who participated. The Rivers United Church continues to be a beacon of hope and generosity in the area, and the fall supper was yet another opportunity to demonstrate that commitment.

Plans for next year's fall supper are already in the works, and the church is eager to welcome even more community members to join in this beloved tradition. Whether you were able to participate this year or are looking for ways to get involved in the future, there's no doubt that the Rivers United Church's fall supper will continue to be a cherished gathering for years to come.

NEW FACES JOIN JETS FOR THHL SEASON

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

After a strong 2024-2025 campaign, the new-look Rivers Jets are looking to fly to success in the Tiger Hills Hockey League this coming season.

The senior hockey team is slated to open the new campaign at home on Oct. 25 against Neepawa. The Jets and the THHL will both look a bit different this season. The Wawanesa Jets are back in the league after a one-year leave of absence. Also, the Sandy Bay Flying Feathermen have joined the loop. Both squads will compete in the THHL East Division against Rivers, Carberry, MacGregor, Minnedosa, and Neepawa. Teams will play their divisional opponent twice and against non-divisional opponents once. However, the THHL standings will show all 14 teams, and the top 12 will make the postseason.

Last season, the Jets flew to a 13-3-0-0 record. That was the third-best mark in the league. In the THHL playoffs, Rivers fell to the Killarney Shamrocks in the Tiger Hills Hockey League's Eastern Division final series.

"Last year's playoffs were a great experience for the team, the organization, and the community, unfortunately the injuries caused us to run out of gas at the end of the season," Jets president Aaron Tycoles said.

The Jets return arguably the league's top goaltender in Riley Lamb. He was 8-2-0-0 last season with a 1.79 goals against average and a .933 save percentage. The team's top scorer, Riley Shamray, a defenceman, is also back. He had 29 points, including seven goals, in 14 games.

The team lost a number of players – especially up front. Josh Elmes, Jaxon Elmes and Kayden Sutherland have joined the Moosomin Rangers of the Big Six Hockey League. With the Russell Rams restarting and joining the Sask East Hockey League, Joben Smith, Adam Robidoux, Bo Tibbats, and Kale Bomback have moved to that squad. Brock Paddock, who Tycoles described as "one of our anchors," has decided to step away from the team. Jets forward Josh Belcher is injured to start the season.

Former Rivers Minor Hockey player Owen Wareham will suit up for his hometown team. He won a Manitoba Junior Hockey League championship in 2022 with the Dauphin Kings. The next season Wareham was a MJHL First Team All-Star. He played for the University of Manitoba the past two years.

The Jets have also added Carson Smith and Brett Melnyk. They played high school hockey for the co-op that includes Rivers and Hamiota.

In addition, two Brandon products with junior hockey experience will join. Kaelen Huibers played three years for the Chilliwack (B.C.) Jets of the Pacific Junior Hockey League. Braeden Clarke spent time in the Superior International Junior Hockey League (Sioux Outlook Bombers), the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League (100 Mile House Wranglers), and the Capital Region Junior Hockey League (Beausejour Comets).

All of the changes mean the Jets will try to succeed in a different way.

"With the loss of some players in the top nine forward groups, we will need to rely on playing strong defence and Riley Lamb in net early in the season to help win some low scoring games as our young players get their feet wet in senior hockey," Tycoles said.

Taming the fire: Fun and holistic ways to beat heartburn

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC
WELLNESS CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST C.H.
MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Let us face it. A few things ruin a good meal faster than that fiery feeling rising in your chest. Heartburn can make even the most delicious dinner feel like a regret-filled science experiment. But before you reach for the chalky tablets, let us discuss some holistic, natural, and surprisingly fun ways to cool that inner volcano.

First, let us start with how you eat, not just what is on your plate. Picture your stomach as a patient little campfire. It burns best when fed slowly and gently. When we scarf down food like we are in an eating contest, we overload the flame and end up with a

flare-up. So, chew like you mean it. Put your fork down between bites and taste your food. Pretend you are at a five-star restaurant even if you are eating Tuesday leftovers.

Next up: posture. After a meal, resist the urge to flop onto the couch like a satisfied seal. Lying down too soon invites acid to sneak back up your throat. Instead, sit up straight or go for a gentle walk. Even a stroll to the mailbox helps gravity do its job. Think of it as your digestive system's version of teamwork.

Now, about what is on your plate; your spicy buffalo wings, fried goodies, and triple-shot lattes might

be part of the problem. But the good news is that heartburn does not mean you have to live on bland food forever. Add cooling foods like cucumber, melon, or aloe juice to balance the heat. And when it comes to drinks, swap that coffee for a peppermint tea with honey. Peppermint soothes the digestive muscles, and honey adds a sweet coating that feels heavenly when acid strikes.

If heartburn hits anyway, a few quick natural fixes can work wonders. Try a warm glass of water with a pinch of baking soda to neutralize acid or sip on ginger tea to calm your stomach. Chewing fennel seeds or a little papaya after a meal can also help but just make sure you do not mistake the fennel for confetti at your next dinner party!

One superstar worth mentioning is chaga mushroom. This earthy wonder is loaded with antioxidants

and helps soothe inflammation in the digestive tract. You can enjoy it as a tea or add a spoonful of powdered chaga to smoothies. It also helps balance stomach acidity naturally. Think of chaga as nature's way of saying, "I've got your gut."

And we cannot forget stress. Your mind and your stomach are best friends and when one gets upset, the other tends to follow. Try deep breathing, meditation, or tapping on your wrist at the Pericardium 6 point to calm the nerves.

Finally, a bedtime reminder: eat early, sleep slightly elevated, and let your food settle before you dream. Your stomach will thank you in the morning.

Heartburn might feel dramatic, but with a few mindful tweaks, a little chaga, and some humour, you can keep the fire where it belongs, warming your heart, not your throat.

FIREFIGHTERS ARE OUR HEROES

Thanking our local firefighters
for their service, sacrifice and
dedication for protecting our
community!



RAPID CITY FIREFIGHTERS

Chief Ryan English, Deputy Chief Tom English,
Captain Nathan Switzer,
Training Officer/Captain Kelly
Sawyer, Jackie English, Chanel
Duthie, Trena Moore, Micheal
Sigvaldason, Nathan Bootsman,
Curtis Citulsky, Ian Barclay,
Jesse Campbell, Jesse Williams,
Doug Finlay



OAK RIVER FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief: Jim Kuculym, Members: David Bullock
(Deputy), Vern Davidson, Dallas Davidson, Allan
Reid, Steve Reid, Justin Black, Greg Black, Scott
Recksiedler, Shane Burt, Shawn
Patterson, Bob Turnbull, Gerald
Kuculym, Randy Kuculym, Jordon
Arsenaut, Cody Sedgwick, David
Bouchard

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For your dedication
and bravery.

We appreciate all
that you do!



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for your continued commitment in
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Left to Right: Richard Brown, Nathan Lenting, Sean Hammond, Jim Duthie, Robbie Brown, Jeff Worth, Darren Frederick, Josh Tait, Byron McMurachy, Steve Hamm, Dave Creighton, Cory Sedgwick, Tyler Pod, Brendan Mills, Brayden Johnston, Kevin Waldner, Erin Lok, top row Ryan McClellan, Missing Gage Wood, Koraleigh Brown, Josh Currah

WHAT TO DO IF THERE'S A FIRE:

- If you hear a fire alarm, get outside immediately and stay outside.
- Once you are outside, call 911 or get help from a neighbor.
- If your clothes are on fire, stop, drop and roll until the fire is out.
- Fall and crawl to escape a fire. Breathing is easier if you stay low to the ground.



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Others run to them.

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Firefighters



HAMIOTA FIREFIGHTERS

Left to Right: Sean Schweitzer, Chris Sutherland, Bill Feschuk, Shawn Patterson, Dallas Skayman, Ron Dale, Jennifer Andrew, Jay Antonio, Dwayne Campbell, Josh Currah. Firefighters not in photo: Blaine Lee, Blaine Colli, Randy Kirk, Jonathan Adair, Tammie McConnell



KENTON FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief: Chris Routledge, Michael Draper, Andrew Hunt, Dean Brooker, Cameron Hodgins, Tyler Routledge, Bruce Sangster, David Logan, Doug Roseveare, Lane Routledge, Matthew Williams, Tyler Bond, Donald Caldwell, Brad Nixon, Warren Hunter, Trent Alexander, Diana MacDonald, Owen Routledge, Charlie Airey, Easton Slimmon, Ethan Nixon, Jonathan Kroeker, Garrett Kent, Brett Hemrica



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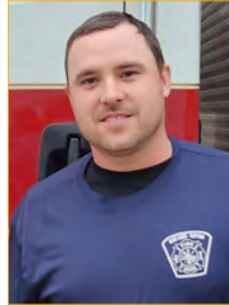
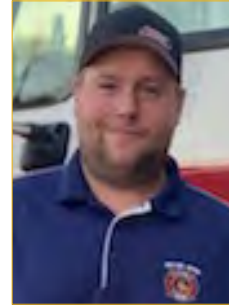
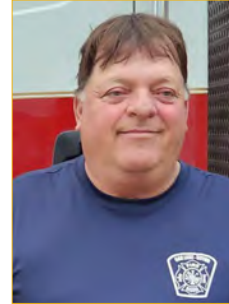
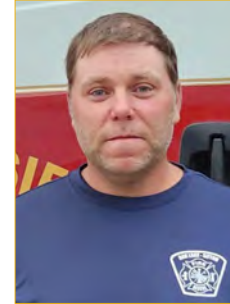
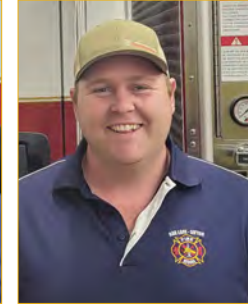
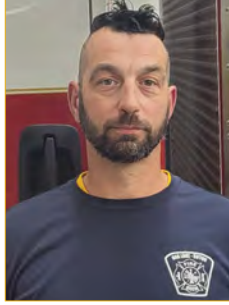
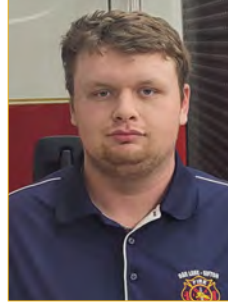
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HAMIOTA MINOR HOCKEY SEASON HAS KICKED



Hamiota Minor Hockey season has kicked off this week, gearing up for another season. Currently a conditioning camp is underway with the players from all ages hitting the ice. Through the grapevine I have heard that Ty Lewis, a former Brandon Wheat King has been taking part and putting the players through their paces.

The President of Hamiota Minor Hockey for the 2025-26 season is Sarah Ramsey. Secretary is Dave Rawlings, Registrar is Jenna Gardner. Also, the Treasurer is Kristi Argue, Equipment Manager is Henry Wilson. Ryan Carter is the player development rep and social media rep is Karen Kirk. Referee-in-chief is Danton Hintz. This is the list of your executives for the upcoming season.

Breakfast Club runs every Wednesday starting October 29 from 7:15 -8:00am followed by breakfast.

This is a free program to Hamiota Minor Hockey players U9 and up. For more details contact Ryan Carter at 204-851-1898. Thank you to the sponsors. Rawlings home hardware, yellowhead grassroots program.

Now some dates for everyone to mark on the calendar. These are the Hamiota Minor Hockey Tournament dates. This is your chance to get out to



There were 36 kids out on the ice excited to play hockey.

PHOTO BY BRIN THORNITT

the rink, have a rink burger, yum yum, and watch your favourite Husky hockey player and cheer them on. It also is a great time to renew acquaintances and make new friends.

- So here we go.
- November 15 is U13 tournament female division
 - November 16 is U13 tournament
 - November 29 is U9 tournament
 - December 6 is U7 tournament
 - December 13 and 14 is U 11 tournament female division
 - January 2-4 is U11 tournament of champions
 - January 17-18 is U15 tournament

- January 24-25 is U15 female tournament
- There also may be other special events held and of course it all depends on the weather.
- High School hockey is also underway, and the Huskies will depend on your support as well. Their first home game in Westman High School play is October 26 at 4:15pm.
- To all the players, coaches, managers and fans, my hope is you first and foremost have fun playing the game. Win as many as you can and form some lifelong friendships. This will make the season all worthwhile and will bring you lots of joy. Let the games begin!



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Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, & clamshell containers



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Lions Fish Fry feeds Hamiota



Some of the first of what would be about 300 customers, the Hamilton family gets take-out at Hamiota Lions Fish-fry.



Preparing to feed the community, Hamiota Lions Club members Dialyn Obenita and Easter Fortaleza are at work in Hamiota Community Hall.

PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

UMPIRE MEMORIES



The game I will refer to was between the Hamiota Huskies and the Melita Bisons southwest hockey league played in the old Hamiota arena. The old rink had no glass around the boards, which meant the fans were right on top of you and leaning over the boards, it was awesome back in the day, not like today. The only thing back then was the lighting was not that great, sorta dark compared to the rinks today.

Melita Bisons were in Hamiota to play the Huskies, this was early in the season. Maybe it was even exhibition hockey, which I really disliked doing because it tended to get rough because players were not in shape.

The first period there was a lot of energy to say the least and both teams were flying up and down the ice. There was lots of hitting, but it did not take long for gloves and elbows to rise and, of course, some players who were not used to getting hit much were taking their share of bumps. Then the chippy play started which led to a couple of fisticuffs. A steady stream of players were heading to the penalty box and neither team seemed to be concerned that this was happening. Both teams had full benches so, what the heck, more body space on the bench.

When the first fight broke out, I was yelling for players to go to their respective benches. This was a new rule that season and Brian Franklin had told the officials to really crack down on this in the exhibition games, so players would know when the regular season began. This was the way it was going to be officiated. If you did not go to where the referee instructed you, there would be game misconducts assessed.

A fight breaks out after some collisions along the boards and a player from each team gets at it. I am yelling at the players to go to their respective benches. Nobody is going to their benches and others are pushing and shoving and telling each other how they are going to beat them up etc. etc. I am sure you get the picture! There were already 3 or 4 players in the penalty box and I just did not see the sense of putting 8 other players in the penalty box. After the linesmen had escorted the 2 original players who were fighting off the ice, I assessed a Game Misconduct penalty to the hard of hearing 8 players. I figured the benches would not be so crowded and it would take the silly rough stuff out of the game.

Now none of the players were very happy about leaving the game via Game Misconducts. Gordie Lyall was standing by the blue line where I was standing watching the parade of players leaving the ice surface. Gordie said, "Gerry, what did you give them for penalties?" I told Gordie I had given them all game misconducts for not going to their players' bench. He just laughed and said I would have done the same thing!

Brad Oliver from Melita was especially unhappy about being kicked out of the game as I think he had a score to settle with a Hamiota player. Brad was cursing at me and said he would have started fighting if he knew I was going to assess him a Game Misconduct. I said to him, so you're saying you didn't hear me yelling to go to the benches? He said, "Yes I heard you." I said you have no excuse then for not going to your player's box. I also said and maybe I should not have, but I said if you fight like you listen you would have come out second in that too. He is skating away and about 20 feet away stops and turns back and gives me the what for statement. I said look at the bright side, you get all the hot water you want and maybe the coldest beer of the night.

The old Hamiota rink holds some really special memories of hockey games played there and of some of the crazy things that took place in the old barn. I am sure this will not be the last time I will have an article about the old Hamiota arena!

TORONTO BLUE JAYS HAVE HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The Toronto Blue Jays have had a great season. They finished first in the American baseball season and thus have home field advantage for the playoffs.

We have all seen the highs and the lows that any team can go through at any given time during the course of a long season. The Blue Jay success has been based on solid defense and the fact they put the ball in play. They just do not strike out very much at all. You can not get on base by striking out, so cut down the swing and get base hits.

Canadians have been rejoicing in the victories and are hoping for another World Series appearance. Toronto will face Seattle in game six tonight as of this writing.

The shocking thing about the coverage on the Blue Jays team is after they won the division, then defeated the New York Yankees is the language they were allowed on public television. Sportsnet and even CBC news carries live interviews and the language we hear is awful. I would copy all the things they say, but I will not.

If your children are watching this, I am sure they will figure it is acceptable to speak in front of a microphone using the same foul language. If professionals say it, why can't I? It's acceptable on television so why not in the school, in the playground, in the classroom, in the hallway? Where does it end? Can it be stopped? People talk smack as well, even publicly! Any consequences for this? Does not appear so!

Maybe post game interviews should be monitored, a time delay. They did to Don Cherry, and he was not swearing. Again, we feed the minds that what is taking place is acceptable. Well, it is not!

There is a time and a place for such talk, we used to call it the barnyard talk. Apparently, the barn has moved to public television for all to hear from the Blue Jay Manager and his players, who by the way have not yet captured the World Series Championship. Times aren't like they used to be, are they?

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice

R.M. of Oakview PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING BY-LAW NO. 2025-9



A BY-LAW TO EFFECT THE RELOCATION OF CORNELL AVENUE EAST

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Oakview at its regular meeting in the Council Chamber, 10 Cochrane Street, Oak River, MB on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. will present By-Law No. 2025-9, a by-law to effect the Relocation of Cornell Avenue East and to close and transfer portions of the closed road as follows:

(a) Parcels A and C, to the Rural Municipality of Oakview;

(b) Parcel B, to Jay Orest Woloski and Jodi Nicole Woloski.

The purpose of the hearing is to allow any interested person to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection.

Copies of the proposed by-law are available on our website at www.rmfoakview.ca or upon request at the municipal office, at 435 3rd Avenue, Rapid City during regular business hours. Questions and remarks may also be directed by letter to our Chief Administrative Officer or through our email address at info@rmfoakview.ca.

Dated at the RM of Oakview this 9th day of October, 2025 and issued pursuant to Section 290(2) of The Municipal Act.

Mark Humphries
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Oakview
Phone: (204) 566-2146

Donations

Rolling Dale Enterprises

DONATIONS:

Rolling Dale is accepting donations from the community for their Thrift Store. Donations can be brought to our store Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM or dropped off at the back of the building (533 2nd Avenue) in the white bin after hours.

Please note that we do not sell the following items:
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Thank-you

On Sunday October 18th we had our merchandise bingo which was so successful. From the volunteers to the donations to the support from the community we just want to say thank you for giving us the opportunity to enrich the residents quality of life through recreational activities.

Thank you again!

From The Riverdale
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Help Wanted

Rolling Dale Enterprises

HELP WANTED:

Rolling Dale Enterprises is looking for someone to deliver the Brandon Sun to Rivers customers on Saturdays starting October 25, 2025

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With over 50 members, the Westman Youth Choir fills Hamiota United Church with three beautiful numbers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

“A wonderful group of young people” filled the Hamiota United Church with their music and vibrancy on Sunday, Oct. 19. Guest vocalists, Westman Youth Choir sang three special numbers in the church service. Cadie Huberdeau was the Hamiota singer among the 50+ choir. Hamiota’s Barb Brown organized the youth choir visit.

Tshela Moya, a combination of beautiful traditional South African praise songs was one of three beautiful numbers. Translated the song says:
Pour down spirit, pour down spirit, pour down the Holy Spirit
Lord, Messiah, pour down the Holy Spirit
Eyes are piercing like bows/spears as they fight for the Lord
Here I am... I have arrived
Stevie Wonder’s “Higher Ground” was another thrilling

number.
Following their special numbers, during the church service, WMYC joined from the pews making Beethoven’s “Joyful Joyful” resound in the beautiful sanctuary.
“The church was smiling,” noted Joan Trott, a member of the church’s own choir.
She said that the WMYC were “polite and well spoken” noting their appreciation for the simple lunch of soup and sandwiches following the service.

In my opinion RE: Hockey



I used to watch a lot of hockey and of course Hockey Night in Canada. After they fired Don Cherry, I will not watch much Hockey night in Canada and, of course, Ron Mclean comes on I hit the mute button. I do watch the Winnipeg Jets and the Chicago Black Hawks.
Saturday afternoon, I turned on the television and there on SportsNet was the game between the Florida Panthers and the Buffalo Sabres. It was 1-0 for Buffalo so I thought I would watch some of the game, the first game I have watched this season.
There seemed at times to be some chippy play and there were some penalties called. In the second period of the game, Buffalo defenseman, Rasmus Dahlin crosschecked Florida forward Brad Marchand from behind and knocked him down to the ice. No penalty called. This occurred inside the Florida defensive end zone. Brad Marchand gets up off the ice and is skating to the other side of the ice when Rasmus Dahlin comes at Brad Marchand again and there is a collision only this time, Brad Marchand skates over to Rasmus Dahlin and begins throwing punches with his gloves on. The only penalty called on the play is Brad Marchand for roughing. Now for the tantrum. On the way to the penalty box, Brad Marchand picks up the Rasmus Dahlin helmet and takes it to the penalty box with him. Once in the penalty box Brad Marchand rips off the plastic part of the helmet where the chin strap does up and then throws the helmet back on the ice. The linesman picks up the helmet and takes it to the Buffalo Sabres players bench, where an equipment

staff member will fix the helmet.
In all of this, Brad Marchand receives a 2-minute minor for roughing. Now if you have read the account of this play, what would the penalties be?
Rasmus Dahlin should have been assessed a 2-minute penalty for cross checking Brad Marchand and a 2-minute minor for roughing. Brad Marchand should have received a penalty for ripping the helmet apart, be it a minor or a game misconduct. Brad Marchand did not receive any kind of a penalty for this, a temper tantrum. The National Hockey League Referees for this game allowed him to have his tantrum with no penalty.
Brad Marchand, what an outstanding example you are to all the youth hockey players who play hockey? To the

referees of this match, what an outstanding performance of not issuing a call, you cowards? A professional having a melt down like a little kid is disgusting! This is also on the National Hockey League Officials who let this crap go on game after game. Brad Marchand’s childish act will undoubtedly be copied by some youngsters who may have watched you do it, or watch sports centre because the media will play it up as something great.
I really like Brad Marchand as a player, but after yesterday maybe not so much. I shut the game off and you know as I get older, I just do not see the reason to watch this. I also have not watched the National football league as their officiating is biased and frankly disgusting, just like the National Hockey Leagues officials!

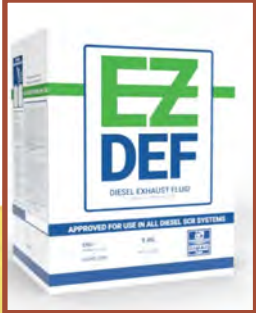
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PHOTOS BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

The Pumpkin Patch is full of pumpkins just ready to be picked and carved into Jack-o-Lanterns.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

As the sun sets and darkness blankets the landscape, the eerie beauty of Lucky Break Ranch Haunted Forest unfolds. Nestled in the heart of nature, this inviting location transforms each fall into an exhilarating experience filled with thrills, chills, and delightful autumn activities for the whole family. The atmosphere at the ranch crackles with anticipation as adventurous souls navigate the winding paths where the woods seem to whisper their name. It's a realm alive with the sound of rustling leaves and playful shadows that dance just out of sight. Kim Richardson, the heart

and soul behind the haunted experience, has promised a unforgettable journey into the depths of fear and fun. This year, the spooky adventure stretched over an impressive kilometre, showcasing the artistry and creativity of the dedicated team of 15 to 20 volunteers, each playing a crucial role in breathing life into the ghostly legends of the ranch. Those brave enough to venture into the haunted forest will encounter spine-tingling scenes filled with vividly portrayed characters that will have you on the edge of your seat. But the fear doesn't overshadow the joy at Lucky Break Ranch. The Pumpkin Patch, bursting with vibrant pumpkins, invites families to pluck their perfect seasonal pick.

As laughter echoes through the air, patrons can take part in a series of carnival games, allowing for friendly competition while relishing in the autumn spirit. For the creative minds in attendance, there are opportunities to showcase their artistic flair through pumpkin carving and face painting. Families with younger children or those who prefer a gentler experience don't have to fear for their safety. The ranch provides designated no-scare hours from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., where guests can stroll through the enchanting decorations without encountering the live action that defines its haunted essence. During these hours, children can enjoy free pony rides and engage in face painting, creating cherished memories that last beyond Halloween. As twilight descends and the thrill of the haunt beckons, scare hours commence at 7:30 p.m., running until 10 p.m. The buzz of excitement among guests is palpable as they gather to experience the electrifying atmosphere that the haunted forest promises. For those who wish to captivate their senses beyond the scares, the ranch also hosts an outdoor movie night—a perfect way to unwind in the glow of autumn. Each year, Lucky Break Ranch Haunted Forest artfully balances chilling thrills with wholesome family fun, ensuring that every visitor leaves with a story to tell. The last night, usually a high-energy finale, draws in crowds eager to experience the forest one last time before it goes dark for another season. If you are in search of a fantastic autumn outing that blends fright with fun, make your way to Lucky Break Ranch Haunted Forest. The spirits may be restless, but the memories you create here will remain unforgettable. One of the most unforgettable parts of the Haunted Forest is knowing the funds raised go to support Cancer Care Manitoba, Alzheimers Association of Manitoba and the Riverdale Harvest food bank in Rivers. Whether you are a brave adventurer ready to face the unknown or a family seeking festive cheer, Lucky Break Ranch has something for everyone. Set your calendar for next season, gather your loved ones, brace yourself for a night of laughter and screams, and make sure not to miss out before the forest falls silent once more!

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct 24

Kenton Legion
Fall Supper

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

25

Rivers Legion
Dinner & Auction
Fundraiser 5pm

26

Rivers Legion
Bingo 11:30am

27

50 + Card
Games
1pm

28

Rivers Legion
Hall Flu Clinic 2-6pm

50 + Club
Pool 1pm

29

50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

30

Rivers Legion
Cribbage 7pm

50 + Floor
Games
1pm

31

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

Nov 1

2

Oak River
Fall Supper

Rivers Legion
Bingo 11:30am

3

50 + Card
Games
1pm

4

Rivers Legion
Hall Flu Clinic 2-6pm

RIVERDALE
Council Meeting

50 + Club
Pool 1pm

5

50 + Club
Cribbage 1pm

6

Riverdale Harvest
Food Bank
9:30 to 11:30am.

Rivers Legion
Cribbage 7pm

50 + Floor
Games
1pm

7

Oak River
Ladies Auxiliary
Tea 2-3:30pm

Rapid City Valley
View Senior Centre
Flu Clinic 12-4:30pm

Prairie Crocus Library
Storytime in
Rivers 10am

Chase the Ace
Rivers Legion 7pm
Kenton Legion 7pm
Hamiota Hotel 7pm

8

Farmers' Advocate



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On a clear day...!



PHOTO BY ROB WADDELL

On a clear day, you can see forever. For motorists and hikers that ascend the Riding Mountain escarpment, fall is a great time of year to take in one of the best views in Manitoba. Even on into mid October there were lots of colour to see and warm weather to enjoy.



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Together we grow: local farmers contribute to Canadian Foodgrain Bank

By Joshua Jackson
FARMERS' ADOVCATE

A group of farmers in the Beautiful Plains region is making a difference worldwide one harvest at a time.

As the harvest in the region is drawing to a close, some farmers in the area are taking off the last of their crops for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFB).

Locally, the Whitemud Growing Project began in 2013, after Jake Hamm purchased some land near Plumas and started planting a crop of corn as well as a crop of wheat, thanks to donated land. The project has continued to expand in the region thanks to eager farmers and local Hutterite Colonies stepping up to donate.

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger. The Foodgrains Bank sells donated Canadian grain and uses the proceeds to buy food locally in developing countries, which is then distributed during crises or used for long-term development projects. Through the Federal Government, the CFB leverages donations from individuals, churches and businesses, up to a ratio of 4:1 for food assistance in the developing world—up to \$25 million each year.

Volunteer Representative Jake Hamm said he's proud of the work that's been done for the CFB in the area, as well as the number of volunteers who contribute.

"It's a big harvest, especially with the matching funds from the federal government," he said. "It's nice to be provided a vehicle where others could jump in and add



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Farmers from various parts of the region continue to produce grain for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Grain is harvested and sold to raise funds to invest in development projects around the world. The Canadian government matches the funds 4:1. Pictured here are several area farmers.

to it, and they have added to it big time. So, it's really appreciated."

One of their big hauls of grain comes from 136 Acres of land that are cultivated north of Gladstone. It marks a unique project for the local chapter of the CFB, as the lands were donated by a local lawyer who has since passed away.

"This year, we had wheat on it. With dry weather and heat, the wheat wasn't terrific. It was 40-plus bushels per acre this year, which was marketed directly to Parrish and Heimbecker in Gladstone. They made room for us right off the elevator, so we don't have to store it."

Other contributors in the Whitemud Growing Project included Odessa Colony and the Spring Hill Colony, which

harvested 106 Acres of canola, averaging 59 bushels per acre. Riverdale Colony had 50 acres of canola, while Riverside Colony also delivered a load of wheat, and the Odessa Colony and Pine Creek Colonies brought in some wheat as well, which they delivered directly.

There is also a CFB growing project in Austin, split between the MB Agricultural Museum and the Austin Heritage Harvest Growing Project.

Hamm noted there will be more deliveries being made as the season winds down, and the local project is hitting a huge milestone.

"This year, we will hit 2 million dollars that we have sent in from the White Mud growing project with this surrounding support," he said. "It's amazing what we can do collectively. One person alone couldn't do it, but collectively, we can. When you get the matching government grant, you can feed a lot of people."

According to its website, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank started in 1974, after Canadian farmers were harvesting a bumper crop at the same time that families in Bangladesh were facing famine. This grassroots initiative to send Canadian grain to people in need was the catalyst for nearly 50 years of humanitarian efforts.

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Farmers' Advocate

Memories in agriculture: growing registered seed

By Casper Wehrhahn
FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Note: This history piece was written using information culminated from the Canadian Seed Growers Association, and the book 'History of Riding Mountain and Area'.

The Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) has a history spanning 121 years. Founded in 1904, it was formed to pursue crop improvements in Canada.

The Manitoba Branch of the CSGA kickstarted in 1922, when a man named M. P. Mountain, of Solsgirth, was elected as its president.

However, there are strong local bonds to the CSGA as well. One example of those bonds is Tom W. Spafford, of Riding Mountain.

Spafford became a registered seed grower in 1934, when he grew his first registered seed crop. His dedication to growing crops with registered seed throughout the years since then led him to becoming an "elite stock" grower.

According to 'History of Riding Mountain and Area', elite stock is obtained from "breeder seed"—seed that is of the highest status and used as the 'parent seed' to produce all other classes of pedigreed seed. This breeder seed is developed by the Department of Agriculture.

To this day, breeder seed



PHOTOS FROM HISTORY OF RIDING MOUNTAIN AND AREA
Ken, Gordon and Tom Spafford, of the Riding Mountain area, at Tom Spafford's registered seed plot. Inset: A close-up of Tom Spafford, pictured in 1967. He was at his Registered Neepawa Wheat plot for this photo.

is still sown, usually with a drill, in plots of an acre or two in size.

Space is also left between every six rows in order to allow for by-hand removal of any undesirable plants.

In particular, the re-

moval of these plants, formally known as 'roguing', included "bearded and semi-bearded off types, abnoxious weeds, wild oats

and speltoids". When the crop is harvested, the progeny is kept separate and is later cleaned for the next year's "foundation crop".

and speltoids".

Inspectors also check the plots row by row, and can "pass or fail" the plot depending how many undesirable plants are found.

When the crop is harvested, the progeny is kept separate and is later cleaned for the next year's "foundation crop".

The Spaffords did their seed cleaning on the farm with a fan-milling mill and Carter disc until 1950, when they moved their equipment to a building in Riding Mountain.

The Spaffords cleaned and shipped thousands of bushels of Selkirk wheat. Manitou, Neepawa, and Rodney and Harmon Oats were also processed by the Spaffords.

Tom Spafford also served as president of the CSGA's Manitoba Branch. His term of service was from 1953 to 1955. Also in 1953, Spafford was recognized with the Robertson Associate Award—a commendation given to seed growers for distinguished.

Note: Gordon Spafford also became a seed grower in the early 60s. Like his father, he also became an elite seed grower, producing and cleaning many varieties of wheat, and some oats.

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Manitoba farmers racing to finish harvest

Staff Written
FARMERS' ADOVCATE

The latest crop report from the Province shows that around 93 per cent of the crops have now been harvested.

Cereal Crop Specialist Anne Kirk, who compiled the most recent report, noted that there was some strong momentum out in fields before the arrival of wet weather slowed things down.

"We had pretty good progress, [though] we did have more precipitation over the weekend, so that put a pause on harvest operations, but earlier in the week, we did have some good progress," said Kirk.

In terms of specific crops, cereal and canola harvests are essentially complete, with soybeans



PHOTO BY JODI BAKER PHOTOGRAPHY

From dawn until dusk, farmers across the region have been out in the fields attempting to complete the harvesting of crops. Pictured: Jodi Baker recently captured this striking image which encapsulates that effort. These types of images and more are for purchase and can be found online at Jodi Baker Photography.

sitting around 90 per cent. Meanwhile, grain corn was at 42 per cent and sunflowers were near 20 per cent harvested.

"The crops that are left to come off are a little bit of canola, some flax, soy-

beans, sunflowers, grain corn, and silage corn," stated Kirk.

For cereal yields, Kirk noted that they have been solid across much of the province, though conditions varied depending on

rainfall.

"For spring wheat, we're looking at about 60 bushels or just higher per acre on average, depending on the region. We did have some higher yields ranging from about 70 to 90 bushels per acre in areas that got more favourable growing conditions during the season."

Oat yields ranged from 110 to 130 bushels per acre, while barley came in between 65 and 110 bushels per acre.

Recent moisture and wind in some parts of the province has created some challenges for farmers in the final stretch. But despite those issues, most producers are satisfied with how the season turned out.

"I think in general, farmers are fairly happy with their crop," Kirk said. "Some of the pockets that were really dry during the growing season do have quite a bit lower yields, and people that weren't able to get their crops off in a timely manner would be less happy with their harvest. But I think in general, things look pretty good."

Kirk also noted that winter cereal planting is complete and crops are establishing well with the majority of winter cereals at the three-leaf stage.



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Farmers' Advocate

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association honoured with National Water Canada Award

Submitted
MFGA MEDIA RELEASE

Manitoba Forage & Grassland Association (MFGA) is the first-ever Water Canada Awards winner of the Early Adopter or Innovation Partnership award. The MFGA Aquanty Model created by Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association and Aquanty Inc., delivers Canada's first digital twin of the Assiniboine Basin to help farmers and communities adapt to extreme weather.

Mike Duguid, MFGA chair, said the award is a huge honour for all MFGA board members and staff that have worked on the model over the years, showcasing the leadership ability of MFGA to work with farmers and farm groups to key in on water management via the model and forecasting tool as well as the important role and potential of forages and grasslands in future climate change scenarios and resilience, especially around water. Duguid tipped his hat to the outstanding ongoing partnership with Aquanty and the partnerships with Assiniboine West, Pembina Valley, Souris River and Redboine Watershed Districts as well as the Rolling River First Nations/AWWD and Swan Lake First Nations/PVWD collaborations as well as the original funders at AAFC and the Province of Manitoba.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. Steven Frey (Aquanty), Mike Duguid (MFGA Chair), Duncan Morrison (MFGA ex director) and Dr. Andre Erler (Aquanty) celebrate MFGA Aquanty Model's win at 16th annual Water Canada Awards Oct. 16 in Toronto.

MFGA zeros in on Province's net zero plans for Regen Ag

Submitted
MFGA MEDIA RELEASE

The Manitoba government has unveiled Manitoba's Path to Net Zero, a strategy guided by the Indigenous teachings of gathering manoomin (wild rice)—a bold plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen communities and build a resilient, low-carbon economy that benefits all Manitobans, Premier Wab Kinew and Environment and Climate

Change Minister Mike Moyes announced earlier this month.

Of special interest to MFGA audiences, the strategy includes sector-based opportunities around sustainable agriculture, including key initiatives around the advancement of regenerative agriculture and BMPs. For more information and to view the full roadmap, visit <https://manitoba.ca/netzero/>

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Memories in Agriculture: the Circle C Calf Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BEAUTIFUL PLAINS MUSEUM

This photograph from Manitoba's agricultural history features the Circle C Calf Club. This calf club was based in the Beautiful Plains area, and was one of many calf clubs that could be found throughout Manitoba back in the day. This particular photo is dated to the 1940s.

Pictured in the back row, from left to right, are: Peden Connell, Clarence Minkus, Merr Simon, Don Conrod, and Archie McNair.

Middle row: Joyce Campbell, Jean McNair, Verla Simon, Jean Connell, and Mary Lindsay.

Front row: Shirley Wilkinson and Clarence Wilkinson.

If anyone has further information, please email Casper at the Neepawa Banner & Press via newsroom@neepawapress.com.

Thank you for reading the Farmers' Advocate!

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Farmers' Advocate

Province extends rent freeze for agricultural crown lands

Media Release

MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

The Manitoba government is extending the rent freeze for Agricultural Crown Lands (ACL) forage leases into the 2026 growing season, continuing its commitment to making life more affordable for producers. Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn announced.

"Manitoba producers are the backbone of the provincial economy and our government is committed to keeping life affordable for the hard-working Manitobans who put food on our tables," said Kostyshyn. "Continuing this rent freeze provides financial stability for producers and reflects our commitment to affordability."

The current rate of \$3.66 per animal unit months remains the lowest ACL rental rate in Western Canada.

"This announcement is a relief for Crown land users and gives us some certainty after a year of severe challenges," said Brent Benson, cattle producer. "From extreme weather to the uncertainty of trade markets and feed supplies, some producers struggled to keep their family ranches operational without having to make decisions that could affect their sustainability or viability. We look forward to working with the Manitoba government as we move toward a system of fair and predictable rental rates as well as policies that encourage young producers to enter the industry, an important component to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the family ranch."

The ACL program supports approximately 1,750 leaseholders across Manitoba who rely on Crown lands for grazing, haying and cropping activities. These lands are a vital public asset, supporting the livestock sector, advancing sustainable land use, and respecting treaty and Indigenous rights, the minister noted.

Alongside the rate freeze,

the Manitoba government has launched the first phase of a public engagement process to help shape the future of the ACL program. Through an online survey on EngageMB, Manitobans can provide feedback on three areas:

lease allocation methods, limits on the total amount of land a single leaseholder can hold, and renewal options for modern leases.

"Manitoba Beef Producers appreciates the consultations about various aspects of the Agricultural Crown Lands Leasing Program to ensure it is responsive to the needs of

the cattle sector," said Matthew Atkinson, president, Manitoba Beef Producers. "We strongly encourage beef producers to make their views known during this important engagement process as it will help shape the future of the program."

This survey represents the first phase of public engagement in the ACL program

review. Feedback gathered will help inform proposed regulatory updates and program improvements. Further consultation with stakeholders, including leaseholders and Indigenous communities, will follow before final decisions are made, the minister said.

Feedback collected through the survey and

consultations will inform final program adjustments and regulatory updates, anticipated for implementation in 2027, the minister added.

Manitobans interested in sharing their views are encouraged to visit <https://engagemb.ca/ag-crown-lands> to complete the survey by Nov. 24.

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