

RIVERS BANNER

Local People. Local Stories.

GAZETTE-REPORTER

Serving the Rivers, Rapid City, Forrest, Kenton, Oak River, Hamiota and Oak Lake areas for 116 years



**Ho-Ho-Hope
You Know
How Much We
Appreciate
Your Business**

**We will be closed
from Dec 20 - Jan 4
for the holidays.
No newspapers on
Dec 26 or Jan 2.**

Rivers Banner

riversbanner@outlook.com
www.riversbanner.com
431-351-1628

Rivers Lions Club Hosts Annual Christmas Dinner for Seniors



The Lions Club served up a delicious Christmas Supper to the seniors in Rivers on Saturday, December 13.

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

In a heartwarming community tradition, the Rivers Lions Club has once again opened its doors, delivering a wonderful Christmas dinner to seniors in Rivers on Saturday, Dec. 13. Despite the brutally cold weather that accompanied the holiday season, the club successfully hosted its annual turkey dinner, which has become a cherished event for many locals.

After six long years of takeout and delivery only due to health and safety concerns, 2025 marked a significant return to the beloved sit-down dinner format held in the spacious Legion hall. This year, the Lions Club served a remarkable 75-80 guests in the hall, while an additional 69 dinners were either delivered or picked up by seniors who preferred to enjoy their festive meal in the comfort of their own homes.

The dinner featured a classic menu of turkey with all the traditional trimmings, ensuring that guests enjoyed a feast that reflected the season's spirit of giving and community togetherness. While the meal is offered free of charge, the Lions Club always welcomes donations,

which are essential for continuing this generous initiative year after year.

Adding an extra touch of magic to the gathering, Santa Claus made a surprise visit to the diners in the hall. His cheerful presence brought smiles and laughter, embodying the true essence of the holiday spirit. Seniors delighted in sharing their holiday wishes and receiving warm greetings from Santa, making the evening not just a meal but an unforgettable experience.

The Rivers Lions Club is committed to keeping this tradition alive for many years to come. Their dedication extends beyond providing meals; it represents a commitment to nourishing the spirit of the community. Events like this foster connections between generations, strengthen community bonds, and remind everyone of the importance of looking out for one another, especially during the holiday season.

The success of this year's Christmas supper reflects the hard work and selfless spirit of the many volunteers from the Rivers Lions Club. Their efforts ensure that seniors, who often face isolation during the holidays,

have the opportunity to enjoy the company of others and partake in a festive meal. The planning and preparation involved—from shopping for ingredients to cooking, serving, and cleaning—demonstrate the club's unwavering commitment to their community.

Feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive. Many seniors expressed heartfelt gratitude for the meal, the warm atmosphere, and the chance to reconnect with friends and neighbors. Such feedback not only highlights the importance of the event but also encourages the Rivers Lions Club to continue their efforts in support of the town's seniors.

As the holiday season wraps up, the Rivers Lions Club looks forward to future gatherings and efforts that reinforce the spirit of compassion and community. The memories created during this year's Christmas dinner will linger long after the last dish was cleared, serving as a testament to the power of community and the importance of caring for one another.

Merry Christmas to all, and here's to more seasons of joy, laughter, and togetherness in the years to come!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

ROLAND WEIR
Really & Appraisal

Unit 30B 1015 26th St. Brandon, MB.
admin@rolandweir.ca • www.rolandweir.ca

204-727-7100



Merry Christmas
From all of us at
R C HAIRSTYLING

Theresa Blaauwijk
Hairstylist/Owner
RAPID CITY, MB
204-826-2974



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
RIVERS AND AREA
LIONS CLUB



**Wishing You & Yours a
Good Old-Fashioned
Merry Christmas!**

From the unmistakable
scent of fresh-baked
cookies to the festive
twinkle of the tree, we
hope your Christmas
season is filled with your
favorite time-honored
traditions and shared
with loved ones.

**From executive, staff
and members of
Royal Canadian
Legion
Branch No. 75,
Rivers**



Season's GREETINGS

Thanks for your
support this past year.
Bright wishes
to you now and
in the year ahead.



Whelpton ELECTRIC Ltd.
Residential & Commercial
Farm Wiring & Trenching
Brandon - Rivers
204-761-2192



COLLEEN ROBBINS
MLA FOR
SPRUCE WOODS

Contact@colleen-robbins.ca
204-717-7000
3-811-18th St
Brandon, MB
R7A 7S1

MERRY CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



HOLIDAY MAZE

Help the star reach the Christmas tree!

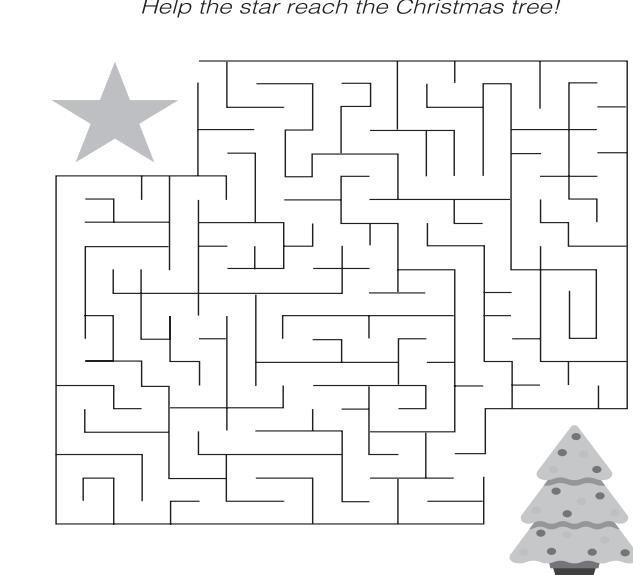
P	E	I	K	R	U	U	S	R	S	H	T	A	E	R	W	M	H	E	T
A	E	P	S	U	W	E	V	C	V	P	V	C	R	C	C	C	G	A	T
E	S	C	A	R	O	L	S	O	R	H	B	R	E	O	R	P	U	O	V
V	W	S	Y	S	N	E	L	O	R	B	H	B	E	U	M	T	B	S	K
E	F	S	U	N	F	A	E	R	T	E	M	M	H	C	S	P	N	E	C
R	D	T	R	M	A	M	I	I	A	E	L	C	D	A	K	F	A	R	F
G	P	B	T	N	I	B	S	O	C	K	R	T	D	W	A	Y	W	N	G
R	N	A	G	N	P	Y	U	E	D	A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

ANGEL
BIRTH
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
CHURCH
COMPANY

DECEMBER
DINING
EVERGREEN
FRIENDS
GARLAND
GIFTS

GREETING CARD
HOLLY
MAGICAL
MANGER
MERRIMENT
MISTLETOE

REMINISCE
ROAST
STAR
TRAVEL
TREE SKIRT
WREATHS



RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10 a.m.
Children's Church during the message
Bible Study - Thursdays 7:30 p.m.

JESUS IS LORD



447 Edward Street Rivers

The real story of Santa Claus: The saint behind the red suit

Submitted

By CATHOLICS ONLINE CLASSES

You see Santa Claus everywhere today...in shops, in movies, on Christmas cards. But what many people do not know is this:

- Santa Claus was once a real Catholic bishop.
- His name was St. Nicholas of Myra.
- And his life was more amazing than any Christmas story.

Let's go back to where it all began...

The young boy who loved the poor

Nicholas was born in the 3rd century to a rich Christian family. But tragedy struck, he lost both parents at a young age. Instead of using their wealth for himself, he became famous for secretly giving to the poor. He would slip money into homes at night... leave coins in shoes... and help people without ever being seen. This is where the tradition began of:

- Secret gifts.
- Gifts in stockings.
- Gifts in shoes.

Nicholas gave, not to be praised, but because he believed this, "If God has blessed me, someone else must smile."

The night he saved three girls

One of the most famous stories is this: A poor father had three daughters. They were old enough to marry, but he had no money for their dowries. In those days, it meant ruin. Nicholas heard this and came quietly at night. He dropped a bag of gold through their window. The next night, he did it again. The third time, the father stayed awake to see the giver. Nicholas tried to run—he wanted to stay hidden, but the father caught him and cried. Nicholas said only, "Thank God, not me." That love is what the world calls today... Santa Claus.

The bishop who defended the faith

Nicholas later became the Bishop of Myra. He was gentle to the poor, but bold when defending the truth.

During the Council of Nicaea (325 AD), he stood against the false teachings that denied Jesus' full divin-

ity. Many Catholics never know this, Santa Claus was at Nicaea defending the Creed. The same man who gave gifts to children also protected the Church with courage.

Miracles, mercy, and a heart like Christ

Stories of Nicholas' miracles spread everywhere:

- saving sailors during storms,
- rescuing kidnapped children,
- defending innocent people from execution,
- feeding a starving town during famine.

People saw in him the compassion of Jesus Himself. His charity was not a legend. It was his lifestyle.

How 'Saint Nicholas' became 'Santa Claus'

As the centuries passed, his story was told across Europe. In Germany, he was called Sankt Nikolaus, in Holland, Sinterklaas, when Dutch settlers went to America, the name became Santa Claus.

The red suit came later. The beard grew longer. The sleigh, the reindeer, the North Pole, all added by culture. But behind all these decorations is a real man, a bishop, a saint, a defender of the poor, a lover of Jesus Christ.

What the world forgot

Today, Santa Claus is everywhere. But the world often hides the truth. The original Santa is a Catholic saint, St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra.

His life teaches us that charity without noise, kindness without reward, faith without fear and love without limits.

He is not just a figure for children. He is a model for every Christian.

So, the next time you see Santa Claus, remember this, It began with a boy who cared for the poor. It grew with a



ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA

bishop who defended the truth. It continues with a saint whose love changed the world. Santa Claus did not start in the North Pole. He started in the heart of a man who knew Jesus. And his message remains, "Where there is a need, be a gift."

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Christmas is a time to take action

In a world that seems to be filled with trouble, poverty and war, I think it's important to do all we can to change what we can. The Serenity Prayer pretty much sums it up. The Serenity prayer says, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the difference."

I grieve for all the people who are so badly affected by war and poverty. I pray and hope and wish for an end to war and hatred and violence. In addition to the prayers, hopes and wishes, we can do all within our power and circle of influence to make as many positive changes as we can control.

Go back a few lines and re-read the Serenity Prayer above and let those words wash over you. Most of us will not be called upon to end war and poverty in far-away lands but we are being called upon every day to have the "Courage to change the things I can".

Here's some suggestions to ponder.

Go to church, a mosque, a temple or synagogue. Don't get hung up on what the name on the building is, get hung up on what they teach and believe.

Maybe you haven't ever been to a church, or it's been a long time or your parents or grandparents used to go to church. Check out the churches in your area. No, they aren't perfect. Or if they are, they won't be after you start attending. (Don't take offence at that, it's a joke).

Here's another joke for you. If you won't go to a church because of all the hypocrites that attend there, make sure you aren't putting a hypocrite between you and God because that means they are closer to God than

RIGHT IN THE CENTRE

KEN WADDELL



you are.

I think we all admire our ancestors to some extent. Every people group known to Canada has a background of establishing a place of worship. First Nations, Red River Metis, every settler group that has come to Western Canada (and that includes First Nations albeit they arrived a lot earlier than others) all set up a system and place of worship.

We all should be participating in and supporting what we believe in.

Here is another idea. As a society,

we have taken a number of things out of our daily experience. Our public schools have taken away Bible readings and repeating the Lord's prayer. I can somewhat understand that we have many different beliefs but why can't we sing O'Canada and God save the King? Sporting events do better than many other venues with anthems than the schools do. If people can't sing O'Canada or God save the King, maybe they shouldn't be in Canada. I get it. Canada has lots of faults and so does King Charles, I know that. But, Canada has done fairly well by us all and as much as we complain about Canada, our King and the British system of parliament, is there some other place you would rather live? To that I say, don't let the door hit you where the Good Lord split you on your way out the door.

I firmly believe it is incumbent on us all to do more for God and Country. If you believe, as I do, that Canada is slipping as a country, then I implore you to reflect at this time as to what more you can do.

At this Christmas Season we must remain thankful to God for his provision and mercy. Christmas is a great time to think upon God and his Son Jesus.

We are born, we live and then we die. God is good through it all and it is incumbent upon us all to live in His blessing and pass it along whenever and wherever we can.

May God bless you and yours this season and in the year ahead!

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this column are the writer's personal views and are not to be taken as being the view of the newspaper staff.

HOMEBODIES

RITA FRIESEN



Traditions!

Pa in Fiddler on the Roof, belts out 'Tradition' and then with dialogue and song explores some of the common practices of his village. The roles were clearly defined, the requirements for eating, dressing, sleeping and working all stemmed from traditions. He asks 'how did it get started?' and with a shrug and a chuckle admits 'I don't know!'. That can be said for many, if not most, of the traditions we carry forth.

The Christmas tree should not be set up or decorated until the Saturday evening before the First Sunday of Advent, a law according to Ed. I understood that a bit when we cut and hauled in a live tree. But then, the tree was required to stay until at least the sixth of January. With falling needles it made more sense to get it up earlier and take it down right after New Year's - at the latest! Tradition won, until the decision of when to put up the tree rested solely on my shoulders. And this year, I have chosen not to put a tree up at all.

Scratch tradition! A custom that developed under my reign was blue lights, on the tree and around the home. Blue, for me, is a peaceful, tranquil colour, calling me home. I have put that custom away as well. The blue LED lights on a tree bother my head, just like fluorescent lights do.

There are no lights on the outside of my home either. After downsizing and estate tidying I don't want one more thing for anyone to look after. My grandson assures that putting up the lights- and they would have to be in a perfectly straight line- is not a problem, and then taking them down, whenever- would also not be a problem. I am now challenged to think through why I don't want them or come up with better excuses/ reasons!

Christmas Baking! Now there's a tradition I can embrace. I have made the fruit cake, it has ripened, I have sampled, and all is well. I made a family favourite, date filled oatmeal cookies, the kind you roll out and sandwich when cool. I was thrilled to have my great grand think they were good enough to have a second (I don't make them huge) and I smile to think that this tradition may go another generation. I used to make many sugar cookies, in many shapes and with attention to decorating. I've not been moved that far...yet.

And then there is the music. One must have carols playing softly in the background. Not so much anymore. Music was a major (get the pun?) part of our family life. There were concerts to practice for and preparations for programs at care homes, there was singing for pleasure. Several times I have selected holiday music and too quickly become distracted. So, I don't need background noise. I will enjoy every concert and service I attend.

Start a new tradition, enjoy an old one. And when asked 'how did it get started?' it's okay to reply 'I don't know'. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Rivers Banner

Est. 1908

204- 328-7494
www.riversbanner.com

Circulation: 2,200

Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$76 in Manitoba, \$85 elsewhere in Canada

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40012782

General Manager
 Jessica Coulter

Members
 of:



PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
 AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 12
 PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

Rivers Banner does not guarantee publication of any submitted articles or pictures. Such submissions, if printed, will appear at the discretion of the managing editor or publisher and only when time and space permit.
 We are not responsible for fax and e-mail transmissions which are not confirmed either in person or by phone.



Funded by the Government of Canada
 Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



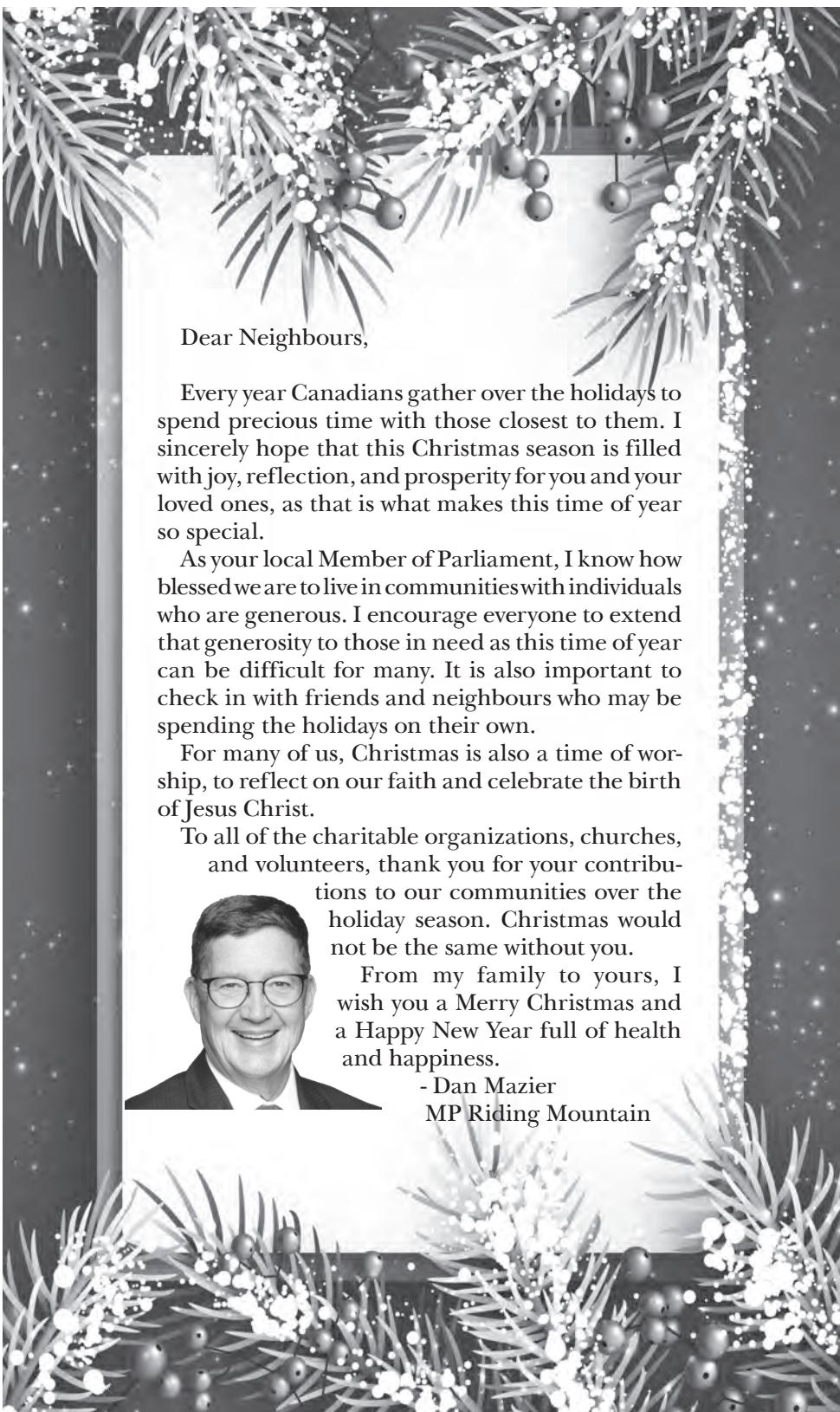
STAFF

Owner/Publisher/Editor
 Micah Waddell

General Manager
 Jessica Coulter

Members
 of:





Dear Neighbours,

Every year Canadians gather over the holidays to spend precious time with those closest to them. I sincerely hope that this Christmas season is filled with joy, reflection, and prosperity for you and your loved ones, as that is what makes this time of year so special.

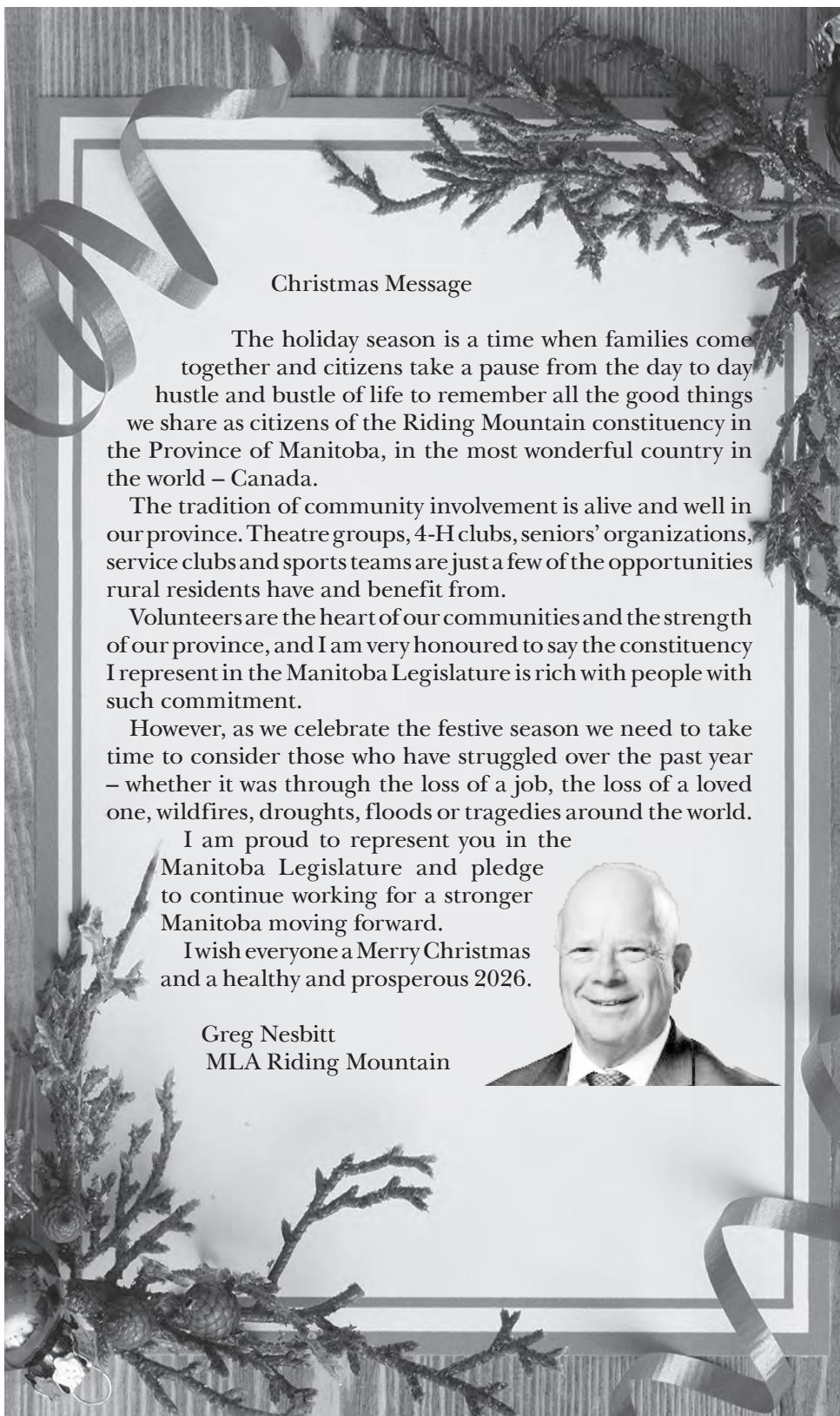
As your local Member of Parliament, I know how blessed we are to live in communities with individuals who are generous. I encourage everyone to extend that generosity to those in need as this time of year can be difficult for many. It is also important to check in with friends and neighbours who may be spending the holidays on their own.

For many of us, Christmas is also a time of worship, to reflect on our faith and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

To all of the charitable organizations, churches, and volunteers, thank you for your contributions to our communities over the holiday season. Christmas would not be the same without you.

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of health and happiness.

- Dan Mazier
MP Riding Mountain



Christmas Message

The holiday season is a time when families come together and citizens take a pause from the day to day hustle and bustle of life to remember all the good things we share as citizens of the Riding Mountain constituency in the Province of Manitoba, in the most wonderful country in the world – Canada.

The tradition of community involvement is alive and well in our province. Theatre groups, 4-H clubs, seniors' organizations, service clubs and sports teams are just a few of the opportunities rural residents have and benefit from.

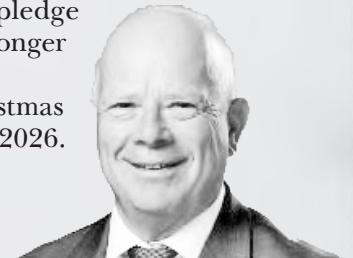
Volunteers are the heart of our communities and the strength of our province, and I am very honoured to say the constituency I represent in the Manitoba Legislature is rich with people with such commitment.

However, as we celebrate the festive season we need to take time to consider those who have struggled over the past year – whether it was through the loss of a job, the loss of a loved one, wildfires, droughts, floods or tragedies around the world.

I am proud to represent you in the Manitoba Legislature and pledge to continue working for a stronger Manitoba moving forward.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026.

Greg Nesbitt
MLA Riding Mountain



Merry Christmas

May your holiday season be bright with joy and happiness!

From all of us at

SPRINGLAND
MFG.

Rivers

Phone 204-328-7358

REJOICE IN HIS LOVE.
And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth. Luke 1:14

Sending our warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season. Thank you to everyone who supported us this past year. We are looking forward to an incredible 2026. Merry Christmas from the entire family at

EST. 1989

MR. T & SON

—SERVICES—

IF MAN MADE IT, WE FIX IT
OAK RIVER, MANITOBA PHONE 204.566.2341

HOLIDAY HOURS

We are going to be closed over Christmas.
Closed Wednesday, December 24th and open regular hours beginning Monday, January 5th.

Season's Greetings

from the members and executive of

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch No. 75
Ladies Auxiliary

He is the Gift

This year the theme for our annual Christmas Concert was "He is the gift".

But for many, whoever is this "He", is a mystery.

But before delving into that, we need to explore the essence of the word "gift".

Usually, a gift is something that is offered freely without strings attached. Also, in order to have a gift, there must be a giver and a recipient.

First, who is the giver in this case? The Holy Scriptures refer to God as the giver who offered His son to mankind to be the saviour of humanity. What caused humanity to need to be saved? And from what?

We need to return to the beginning when God spoke the Garden of Eden into existence. He then created Adam and Eve and their responsibility was to care for the garden. But there was one caveat; they could eat of any of the fruit of the garden except the tree of life and the knowledge of good and evil located in the middle of Eden—if they did they would surely die.

But Satan, the great deceiver and a fallen angel, convinced Eve she could eat of the forbidden fruit because if they did, they would be like gods themselves. Eve fell for the lie and convinced Adam to eat as well. God expelled them from the garden as a consequence of their sin—now called the original sin—and they were forced to work for their food for the rest of their lives.

At some point about 2000 years ago, seeing sin rampant in the whole world, God decided that He would give humanity an opportunity to be redeemed from their sin and ultimately inherit heaven upon death.

He decided to send His son in human form to be born of a virgin (Mary) on this earth. It was a boy and as instructed by an angel who spoke to Mary and Joseph, her husband, they named him Jesus.

This Jesus grew up to be a great teacher and became the saviour of the world that God has given. Many hated Him and in his early thirties, he was condemned to die on a cross by the Roman governors of the day. He took upon himself the sin of the world that whosoever choose Him will go to heaven when they die.

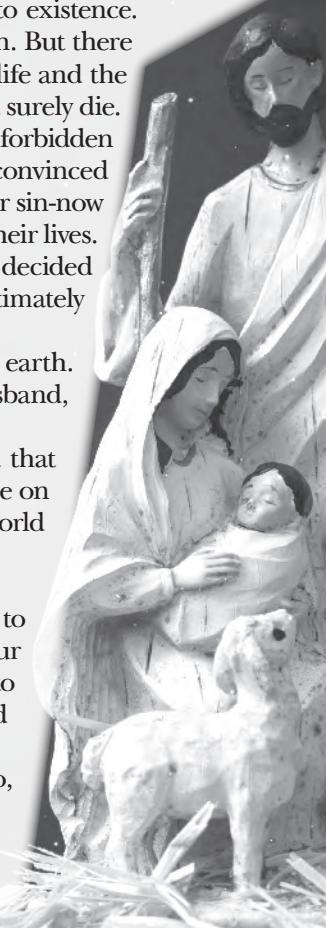
Now enters the receiving part.

To receive the promised gift of eternal life in heaven after our death, we need to do a simple act of faith—ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. There is no cost, no test to pass nor endless conditions or tasks to perform to earn or buy your way into heaven. Just receive the gift that God promised in the form of Jesus.

This Christmas season would be a great time, for all who have not already done so, to accept that gift of salvation that comes with accepting Jesus in their life.

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2026 from all at Rapid City Community Church.

Denis Rondeau



Christmas and its True Meaning

Christmas is indeed here; looking at the residences here in Hamiota, the glittering lights and the snow makes up for a postcard pretty Canadian winter wonderland.

You may want to ask yourself: what would be Christmas for me this year? Would it be food and new gadgets that you gift yourself? Would it be a vacation to warmer climes to escape the winter chill of Manitoba? Would it be simply just like last year; home and just having a good day of break and rest.

But look around, of all that is happening around us—the world is in a turmoil, the crisis, difficulty, problems, and fear, that the true message of Christmas which translates to hope and joy. But sadly, the message of Christmas has been terribly twisted and misunderstood for many years. Some think of business profits, shopping, gifts, the jolly Santa Claus, and ensuing celebration, like the ones mentioned above. Others think only of Bethlehem, of the star in the sky, shepherds in the field, and angels singing. And you may ask: "Where is this Prince of Peace in a world filled with so much pain and discord? It has been said time again that beyond Christmas gathering visits and reunions, there is a deeper meaning of Christmas that we have forgotten: the very reason why we are having this celebration.

The real Christmas message goes far deeper. Christmas heralds the entrance of God into human history. It is the embodiment of hope in a hopeless world that breaks into the possibility of a new life. That Jesus Christ is born, the Saviour that will save us from our misdirected and flawed priorities; the Saviour is being presented to us, introduced to us so that in our forgetfulness and selfishness, we would know the real message of Christmas.

And what better time to reflect, because this season allows us to personally reflect and celebrate Christmas in a new way; maybe discover something that we have been missing all along. That family is more important than food, relationships are to be treasured, conflicts are to be healed. That we are to reconcile with those whom we hate and despise, restore broken relationships, and find the core of forgiveness is mercy.

Your Christmas this year might look different to previous years if we take seriously the deeper meaning of Christmas. It becomes an invitation to a new life, a new possibility, a radical departure of our old self to a new one. The message of Christmas becomes crystal clear when a radical change in the way we relate to each other takes root, and grows into real and palpable change.

And yes, if we take into our hearts the real reason for the season, we will look at things with a new pair of eyes, we will feel the presence and guidance of God in Christ, we will feel that someone is with us, that we are not alone, deep in our hearts is the assurance that God is present with us. For God's love is for everyone and you are not alone—that kind of love, joy and hope that goes over and beyond anything else is the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!!!

Rev. Noel Suministrado
Hamiota United Church ~ Advent 2025

*Thinking of you
at Christmas*

*May the spirit of Christmas fill
your heart and home with peace,
joy and contentment.*

**RM of
Oakview**

**Oak River and Rapid City offices close
Noon December 24th 2025
Reopen January 5th 2026**



**PEACE
be with you**

*May the company of loved ones and
treasured memories bring you peace
as you celebrate Christmas this year.*

*May the new year bring continued
peace, joy, and happiness.*

**From all of us at
Campbell
Flowers and Gifts**

AND
Campbell
Funeral Home

**24 2nd St SE, Hamiota
204-764-2744**

**www.campbellfuneralhome.ca
www.campbellflowers.ca**



Season's Greetings

The holiday season is now upon us, a wondrous time of celebration, goodwill to our fellow citizens and thoughtful reflections on the year gone by.

With neighbourhoods and businesses aglow with colourful decorations, our province's renowned community spirit is bright, beautiful and further enhanced at this time of year. Manitoba's multiculturalism is also on full display at this time of year, with holiday traditions from around the world joyfully reflected in cuisine, decorations, and seasonal events in all parts of our province.

Our renowned community spirit is further demonstrated through a variety of creative events and charitable endeavours, each helping to ensure that everyone feels the warmth of our welcoming and caring provincial community. I encourage everyone to support the many wonderful organizations dedicated to providing a hand up to Manitobans in need with the same empathy and generosity that has consistently made our province one of the most giving places in Canada.

As the King's representative in Manitoba, I am pleased to extend vice-regal greetings to all citizens for a safe and happy holiday season. May the wonders of this special time inspire us all to demonstrate kindness and compassion to all, not only seasonally, but all year-round. Every good deed is another subtle reminder of how fortunate we are to call this great province 'home.'

The Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

A Christmas Message

As the Christmas season approaches, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Christmas is a time of joy, love, and togetherness, and I hope your home is filled with all these wonderful things. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace and happiness, and may you create beautiful memories that will last a lifetime.

This time of year, is perfect for reflecting on the blessings we have received and the people who make our lives special. I want to especially send good cheer to all the Spruce Woods constituents.

Let's spread joy and goodwill, reaching out to those who may need a little extra cheer this season. A simple act of kindness can make a world of difference. Let's cherish these moments and look forward to creating even more in the coming year, always keeping the meaning of Christmas, the birth of God's son at the center of our hearts.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May your days be filled with laughter, warmth, and love.

Here's to a wonderful festive season and a bright and prosperous year ahead.

MLA Colleen Robbins
Spruce Woods

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Season's Greetings! Thank you for your continued support and business, you truly make our year merry and bright! We look forward to serving you in the upcoming year. From our families to yours, wishing you a healthy and happy 2026!

Leann, Chris, Jackie, Lana, Amanda, Shelley, Marieke, Emery, Hailey, Val, Abbey, Tamara, Landon and Beau.

SUPER THRIFTY

DRUG MARTS

WE CARE . . . YOUR FAMILY DRUG STORE

RIVERS
ST
LOCALLY OWNED

www.superthrifty.com

HOLIDAY HOURS

DECEMBER 24:	9:30AM – 4:00PM
DECEMBER 25:	CLOSED
DECEMBER 26:	CLOSED
DECEMBER 31:	9:30AM – 5:00PM
JANUARY 1:	CLOSED

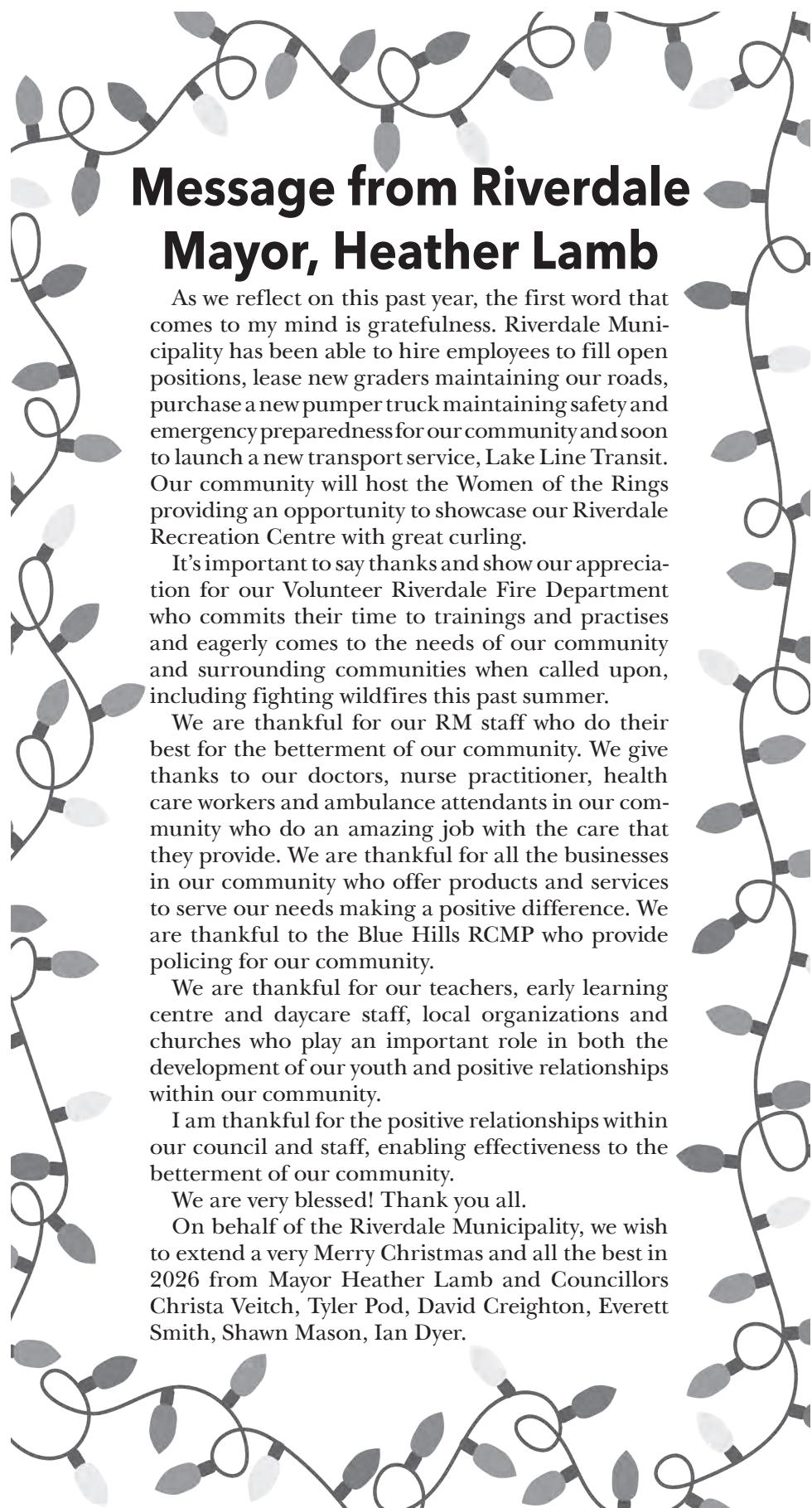
**GREETINGS OF
HOLIDAY CHEER**

*Merry Christmas and many thanks
for your patronage in 2025.
Best wishes for 2026.*

From management and staff of

Gill's
PLUMBING & HEATING

Phone 204-328-7728
Cell 204-761-7877



Message from Riverdale Mayor, Heather Lamb

As we reflect on this past year, the first word that comes to my mind is gratefulness. Riverdale Municipality has been able to hire employees to fill open positions, lease new graders maintaining our roads, purchase a new pumper truck maintaining safety and emergency preparedness for our community and soon to launch a new transport service, Lake Line Transit. Our community will host the Women of the Rings providing an opportunity to showcase our Riverdale Recreation Centre with great curling.

It's important to say thanks and show our appreciation for our Volunteer Riverdale Fire Department who commits their time to trainings and practises and eagerly comes to the needs of our community and surrounding communities when called upon, including fighting wildfires this past summer.

We are thankful for our RM staff who do their best for the betterment of our community. We give thanks to our doctors, nurse practitioner, health care workers and ambulance attendants in our community who do an amazing job with the care that they provide. We are thankful for all the businesses in our community who offer products and services to serve our needs making a positive difference. We are thankful to the Blue Hills RCMP who provide policing for our community.

We are thankful for our teachers, early learning centre and daycare staff, local organizations and churches who play an important role in both the development of our youth and positive relationships within our community.

I am thankful for the positive relationships within our council and staff, enabling effectiveness to the betterment of our community.

We are very blessed! Thank you all.

On behalf of the Riverdale Municipality, we wish to extend a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2026 from Mayor Heather Lamb and Councillors Christa Veitch, Tyler Pod, David Creighton, Everett Smith, Shawn Mason, Ian Dyer.

Magic or Miracle?

"Leopards will lie down with young goats. Wolves will rest with lambs; calves and lions will eat together ... cows and bears will share the same pasture; little children will put their hands in the den of vipers and not be hurt. Nothing harmful will take place on God's holy mountain." (Isaiah 12:6-9a)

Sounds like an ad for a Walt Disney movie, doesn't it? Only by a good character casting a magic spell could this happen. But these words are from the Bible, spoken by Isaiah, one of God's prophets. The Bible doesn't deal in magic. Isaiah is not describing a magical scene. He is describing a scene of God's action in the world. And God's action is never magic. It is a miracle.

Isaiah's scene on God's holy mountain is a picture of God's re-creation – of God's coming to earth. Magic would be God crashing into our world, destroying everything and everyone that was not what he wanted. Miracle is God coming among us in His Son, Jesus Christ, revealing how much God loves us, offering forgiveness, embracing us as His beloved children, and giving us the grace and power to treat each other as His family.

Sadly, Christmas has become a celebration of magic – something for children to enjoy like they would enjoy a cartoon-type of movie. But the truth about Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who gives us the grace and power to replace violence with compassion, to crowd out prejudice with understanding, to overcome fear with faith, to transform enemies into brothers and sisters.

Christmas reminds us that all things are possible, not by some magic spell, but by each of us opening our hearts and lives to the presence and power of the God who came to us in a manger, who died for us on a cross, and who rose to live among us and with us, changing us into people who see ourselves and all people as God's beloved children.

And that is not magic. It is God's wondrous miracle.

Rivers United Church will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent with a service at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 21st. Christmas Eve is a very special time in our church. A Carol Sing will begin at 7 pm, followed by Christmas Eve worship at 7:30. This service traditionally concludes with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight – a perfect way to feel the beauty of Christmas. There will be no services at Rivers United on December 28th or January 4th; services resume on January 11th, when we will also welcome the Sunday School children.

Rev. Glenna Beauchamp
Rivers United Church



Cherish the past & present

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you Peace,
the gladness of Christmas give you Hope
and the warmth of Christmas grant you Love.*

Memories

*Michelle, Scott, Lawana, Kerri, Josh,
and Krystal of Memories Chapel hope
you will take the time to enjoy all
this holiday season has to offer.*

**Memories
Chapel**
Cherish the Memories



Letters To Santa

From Oak River Elementary School

Dear Santa,
I would really love a glow in the dark super sword.
- Barrick, Grade 1

Dear Santa,
I want a smart watch.
- Maddox, Grade 1

Dear Santa,
I would like a tool kit.
- Mason, Grade 1

Dear Santa,
I would like a Christmas Dress.
- Kennedy, Grade 2

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy mini-fridge surprise filled with erasers.
- Anna, Grade 2

Dear Santa,
I want slippers.
- Alyssa, Grade 3

Dear Santa,
I would like a great Pyrenees puppy.
- Islamee, Grade 4

Dear Santa,
I would like an Aphmau figurine.
- Aurelia, Grade 4

Dear Santa,
I would love some books.
- Sienna, Grade 4

Dear Santa,
Could I please have some diamond art.
- Jessa, Grade 5

Dear Santa,
I would like a heated blanket.
- Lennon, Grade 5

Dear Santa,
I would like a mystery mini.
- Liam, Grade 5

Dear Santa,
I would like a twitch hockey stick.
- Lawson, Grade 6

Dear Santa,
I would like a bean bag chair.
- Camrynn, Grade 6

Dear Santa,
This year I would like earrings.
- Bridget, Grade 6

Dear Santa,
I would like earrings for Christmas.
- Brooklyn, Grade 6




CurlManitoba

WOMEN OF THE RINGS

RIVERS 2026

PRESENTED BY **CASE IH**

DECEMBER 31 TO JANUARY 4
RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

TICKET INFORMATION

- Week long passes
Early Bird \$125 Now - Dec 21
GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT
Regular Price \$150 Dec 22 - 30
- Day passes available at the door
\$40 - whole day
\$20 - evening draw
\$150 - week pass at the door

**TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT THESE LOCATIONS**

- Westoba Credit Union, Rivers
- Rivers Home Hardware, Rivers
- Rivers Super Thrifty, Rivers
- Waymor Agencies, Rivers
- Rolling Spokes, Brandon

Or by contacting any committee members
or call Donna F. at 204-724-4232

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

NEW YEAR'S EVE SOCIAL

DECEMBER 31, 2025
RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE
RIVERS, MANITOBA
9:00 PM - 1:00 AM

HOSTED BY
RIVERS CURLING CLUB

FEATURING LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY
“THE NEW”
HIGHWAY 25
“REPaved”

SCAN TO RESERVE TICKETS



\$20 NO MINORS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This year Oak River School entertained us by presenting A Christmas Carol with Ester Scrooge (played by Camrynn Shachtay) and the ghosts of Christmas Past (played by Jessa Miller), Christmas Present (played by Lennon Peters) and Christmas Future (played by Islamae Froese). Directed by Jacky Schoonbaert and Trinity Miller they take us though this classic tale watching Mrs. Scrooge's heart turn soft and realize the error of her rigid ways. Camrynn Shachtay uses humour in some places to keep the audience engaged in the play adding a different level from the classic story of Scrooge. The students did a great job entertaining the audience with their singing of the Christmas Carols and skilled acting. With just a small school of 16 kids, all students and staff worked tirelessly to put on a great production of a Christmas Carol. Scene changes were filled with jokes from Bridget Stewart, Brooklyn Stewart, and Liam Wood, our narrators of the story, and the musical stylings of Lennon Peters, Jessa Miller, Anna Wood, and Auri Hodges playing piano and Islamae Froese playing guitar. Thank you to Christine Paddock for coming into our school and teaching the kids, and being available to assist them during both performances today. After the performance, Santa came for a visit with a treat for all the kids, those that were in the play as well as the ones that had come to see the performance.

Students singing: Back row left to right: Lawson Froese, Lennon Peters, Camrynn Shachtay, Jessa Miller, Auri Hodges, Liam Wood; Middle row left to right: Sienna Reid, Brooklyn Stewart, Bridget Stewart, Islamae Froese, Alyssa Oraschuk, Liam Wood; Front row left to right: Maddox Oraschuk, Anna Wood, Barrick Hodges, Kennedy Reid, Mason Oraschuk

Christmas through the eyes a child



PHOTO BY KAYCE & LYNN COUNTRYSIDE STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY
Theodore Fordyce, 1.5 years old from Kenton, MB.
Parents, Kendall Prettie and Adam Fordyce.



HOLIDAYS HOLIDAYS

livingstone OUTDOOR

SPAS • SAUNAS • GARDEN CENTRE • GIFT SHOP

1610 Byng Ave. Brandon, MB • (204) 578-5131 livingstoneOUTDOOR.com

MERRY Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR

350 TRANS-CANADA HWY #1 WWW.FOURSEASONSSALES.COM 1-888-934-4444

HOLIDAY HOURS
CLOSING AT NOON on
DEC 24TH -
REOPENING
JAN 5TH

WISHING YOU GOOD
HEALTH, GOOD FORTUNE &
TREEMENDOUS HAPPINESS

Rivers
1H
Home
hardware
building centre

FROM ALL THE STAFF AT
RIVERS HOME HARDWARE
BUILDING CENTRE

BOX 430, RIVERS, MB R0K 1X0
T 204-328-7570 F 204-328-5339

O Night Divine

May the warm light of our Saviour's love illuminate your path at the holidays and all year.

We value the gifts of your friendship and patronage, and we wish you a blessed and joyous season.

Merry Christmas from all the staff at

Phone 204-724-6870 or [E-mail alepp@redlinetransport.ca](mailto:alepp@redlinetransport.ca)

A Note Of Thanks
To Our Loyal Patrons
At Christmas

Wishing you a holiday that overflows with love, happiness, friendship and good fortune. Thanks for hanging in there with us this year. We truly appreciate your business!

From Jim, Richard and staff of

Jim Hillis Trailer Sales
4 miles west of Brandon on Hwy. 1 then 2.5 miles north on PR 270

204-728-7207
204-729-7455 (cell)



Christmas at Hamiota Library



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Christmas at Hamiota Library on Dec. 6 where a total of 104 visitors dropped in. Children, parents and grandparents came together with 12 volunteers who guided four crafts that afternoon between 1-4pm. Cookies were decorated along with other crafts and of course, Letters to Santa made their way to the Post Office. Librarian Gwen Argue said this was one of the largest Christmas crowds. Hot dogs and juice were on the menu too.

Anne's Favourite Cranberry Fluff

Anne Davison: This is a favourite creamy and possibly tart dish (depending upon how much sugar you add). Serve as a side dish or a dessert item.

Ingredients:

- 1 bag fresh cranberries
- 8 ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 to 1 cup granulated sugar (to taste)
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream

Directions:

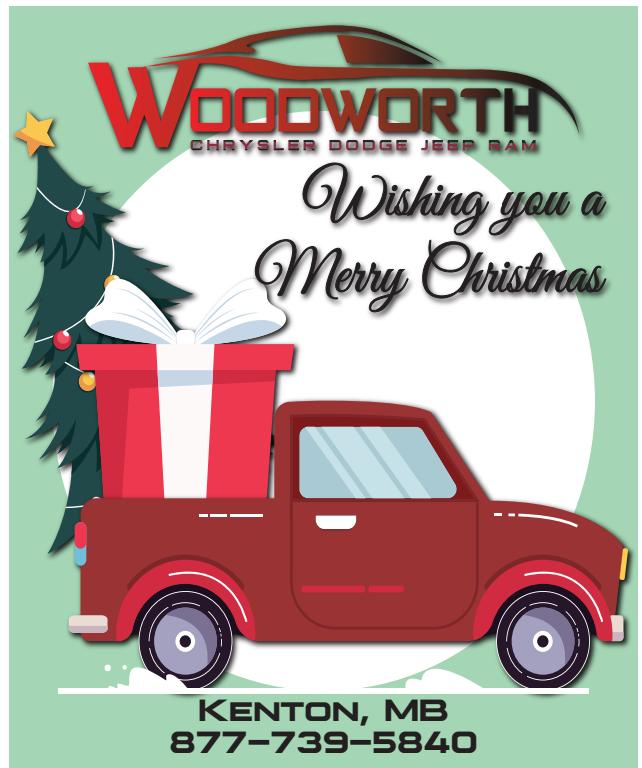
1. Chop Cranberries: Pulse cranberries in a food processor and pulse until finely chopped, but not mushy.
2. Marinate: Pour cranberries into large bowl, stir in sugar and pineapple, mix well. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour.
3. Whip Cream: In medium bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Pour in the cream and whip until stiff peaks form
4. Combine: Drain some of the juice from the cranberry mixture. Fold the whipped cream mixture into the salad. Fold in marshmallows.
5. Chill: 3-4 hours/overnight, before serving.

Notes:

Garnish: Mint leaves

Make Ahead: The cranberry pineapple mixture can be made ahead and stored in the fridge for a few days. The entire salad could be made 1 day before serving.

Store: Leftover cranberry marshmallow salad may be stored covered in the fridge up to 3 days.



Dale's Favourite Moose Farts

Ingredients

1/4 cup butter, melted
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 can sweetened condensed milk (300 ml in Canada, 14 oz in the US)
1 1/2 cups dried coconut (fine or medium cut)
Additional graham cracker crumbs, for rolling

Directions

1. Combine the Wet Ingredients: In a large mixing bowl, blend the melted butter, sweetened condensed milk, and vanilla extract until smooth.
2. Add the Dry Ingredients: Stir in the graham cracker crumbs, dried coconut, and chocolate chips. Mix well until evenly combined.
3. Chill the Mixture: Cover the bowl and refrigerate for about 1 hour, or until the mixture firms up enough to handle.
4. Shape into Balls: Scoop out small portions of the mixture and roll into 1 1/4-inch balls.
5. Coat each ball by rolling it in additional graham cracker crumbs.
6. Chill and Store: Place the rolled balls on a tray and chill until fully firm. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to serve.



Robin's Favourite Cracker Candy

Ingredients

1 cup (227g) unsalted or salted butter
1 cup (220g) packed light or dark brown sugar
40 salted saltine crackers about 1 sleeve
1 pkg (270g-300g) milk or semi-sweet chocolate chips
additional toppings like nuts, candy, or sprinkles (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Line a large baking sheet with heavy duty aluminum foil (if using regular foil, spray with non-stick cooking spray for easy removal). Spread the crackers out on the foil in a single layer and fold up the edges of the foil to box in the crackers. Set aside.
2. In a medium saucepan, melt the butter and brown sugar over medium heat on the stovetop. Bring to a rolling boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and continue to boil for 5 minutes (set a timer), stirring frequently. Quickly pour over the crackers and spread to cover completely.
3. Bake for 5 minutes in the oven. Turn off heat. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle the chocolate chips on top.
4. Let stand for 1-2 minutes or until the chocolate starts to look shiny and is soft enough spread evenly over the toffee. If the chocolate is still not warm enough to spread after 4 minutes, place it back in the oven for a minute to help soften it.
5. Top with any additional toppings if desired.
6. Chill in the refrigerator for about 1-2 hours to harden. Peel away the foil and break into pieces.



Christine's Favourite Potatoes Extraordinaire

Christine Waddell: It's a family favourite at least for 15 years (probably more). Wonder to make ahead, in the morning or even the day before. It can be frozen as well.

Ingredients

5 lbs. Potatoes (Yukon Gold)
1 cup Sour cream
Garlic salt to taste optional
1/4 tsp Pepper
1/4 cup Butter or margarine, softened (Butter's better)

8 oz. Cream cheese, softened
1 tbsp Onion salt
1 tsp Salt
Butter and paprika for garnish

Directions

1. Cook potatoes until tender. Drain. Mash well.
2. Add cream cheese in pieces. Add sour cream, cup butter, onion salt, garlic salt, salt and pepper.
3. Beat until smooth and fluffy. Scrape into 2-quart (2L.) casserole.
4. Dot with butter sprinkle with paprika. Reheat at 350 F until heated through.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL REALTOR®

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to help my clients find the homes where they create cherished memories and spend the most meaningful moments with their loved ones. May your home be filled with warmth, laughter, and love during this special time of year.



Ken Kirk

REALTOR®

204-764-2904

kenkirk@royallepage.ca

SERVING HAMIOTA & SURROUNDING AREAS

ROYAL LEPAGE
Martin-Liberty Realty
Independently owned and operated

Season's Greetings

from the team at



MWM
ENVIRONMENTAL

(204) 483-3986 ~ MWMEnviro.ca ~ Admin@MWMEnviro.ca

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

From the crew at



204-328-7112 or 204-729-7770

SPORTS

RAMS VARSITY GIRLS PLACE SECOND AT PROVINCIALS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rivers Collegiate Institute varsity girls volleyball team placed second at the A provincial championship.

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

Hard work and dedication paid off for the Rivers Collegiate Institute varsity girls volleyball team.

In late November, the squad finished second at the Provincial A Volleyball Championship. RCI hosted both the girls and boys A provincials at Brandon University. The silver medal finish capped off a successful season for the varsity girls Rams team.

"This team was very committed," coach Jeff Maxwell said. "They started in August and practiced three times a week, and went to seven tournaments over three months. They also played in the Zone 7 varsity girls volleyball league."

The RCI team won a tournament in Baldur and made it to the finals of three others. Maxwell said, "This team supported each other all season long and committed to our goals."

At the provincial tournament, the Rams were 4-0 in pool play. They defeated Ste. Rose 25-18, 24-26, 15-12; Elm Creek 25-17, 25-20; Hamiota 22-25, 25-21, 15-12; and Miami 25-18, 25-19.

In the quarterfinals, RCI ousted Wawanesa 25-20, 25-19. The Rams took on Gilbert Plains in the semifinals and were able to come out on top 21-25, 25-14, 17-15.

"Our team had played in tough three-set matches multiple times this season and also at provincials, so the team was confident in their chance for success,"

Maxwell said.

In the finals, RCI battled Morweena Christian School of Arborg. The Raptors won 25-21, 25-11.

"It was one of the largest crowds I have seen at an A girls provincial final," Maxwell said. "The Morweena team played at a very high level throughout the final."

RCI's Annika Schmidt distinguished herself at the provincial tournament. The libero was named a Provincial All-Star and received the Players Choice award. Maxwell said she is one of the best liberos in the province. He praised her for her competitiveness and her hard work in developing her skills.

Schmidt was one of three Grade 12 players on the Rams this season. The others were Meadow Chiborak and Jillian Hamm, who was chosen as a Provincial All-Star.

"Meadow has played on the varsity team for all four years of her high school career like Annika," Maxwell said. "She has developed into a great volleyball player. Both Jillian and Meadow have been willing to play different positions during the course of their high school volleyball career. They have always put the team first and have been positive role models for our younger players."

This season's team included Nova Bourdin, Jackie Chen, Meadow Chiborak, Summer Gillis, Jillian Hamm, Chloe Kent, Serena Lelonde, Stella Roulette, Annika Schmidt, Jillian Schoonbaert, Bekah

Smith, and Zoe Thomson. Charley Harness was an assistant coach.

Varsity Boys

The RCI varsity boys team also competed at the A provincials in Brandon. The Rams battled the province's best and went 0-4.

"We played some very strong teams, but we also had some of our best volleyball of the season," head coach Melody Stewart said. "This group of guys have a really fun dynamic and can bring great energy to the court."

The Rams mixed veterans and newcomers this season. Stewart said her Grade 12 players - Kody Dziver, Logan Freeman, and Rainn Paddock were "great teammates and role models."

"We had three new play-

ers this season and the team developed significantly since the end of August when we first started practicing," the coach said.

She noted, "We may not have won many games but,

as a group, they were very invested in learning and improving, and they were a pleasure to coach."

The Rams included Devon Brown, Preston Cords, Kody Dziver, Kayden Elliott,

Logan Freeman, Duncan McLean, Corbin Munz, Rainn Paddock, Sam Rivas-Banos, Kodi Schwartz, and Nathan Stewart. Wendy Harder and Weston Harder were assistant coaches.



In the spirit of the season, we'd like to extend our best wishes for a holiday that's filled with harmony, contentment and joy.

Thank you for your business and we look forward to serving you in 2025!

From all of us at:

Redfern
FARM SERVICES

Rivers, Phone 204-328-5325

joy to the world

FROM ALL OF US AT



KROEGER
BACKHOE SERVICES
LTD.

TYSON: 204-761-8765 ~ JAKE: 204-761-0900
KEITH 204-724-3213, Kim and Lynn
kroegerbackhoe@gmail.com ~ kroegerbackhoe.ca
Box 838 ~ RIVERS, MB ~ R0K 1X0



BoILER WORKS
PLUMBING & HEATING
A division of Kroeger Backhoe Services Ltd.



From the prairies to the Highlands Tour 204 part 16

By Gerry Nolan

RIVERS BANNER

Such a sad day, as it is our last day in this beautiful country. We had to say goodbye to Andrea Tolton as well as she was catching the train back to London.

We had planned to go to the William Wallace Monument situated at Abbey Craig just outside Sterling. The monument has approximately 246 steps up to the top of the tower, so after taking a vote to climb or not to climb, it was a unanimous decision to not climb! The previous workout at Edinburgh had been enough for all of us, so we drove to West Lothian where Midhope Castle, known as Lallybroch to Outlander fans, is a semi-derelict sixteenth century tower house. We didn't venture on the tour as visitors are not allowed inside. Instead we gazed from a distance and admired the architecture, brought some mementos, then boarded the bus and headed to Linlithgow for lunch. We dined at the Bridge restaurant. It sits at Linlithgow bridge near the Linlithgow palace, which was built in the sixteenth century as a coaching inn.

After lunch we boarded the bus and headed back to Falkland for our last extended happy hour and dinner at the Coventry Restaurant.

Our group was splitting up the next morning as Eric and Shane were going to Norway and Donald and Devon were heading to Mallorca Spain. The rest of the group were coming back to Canada.

With the Twentieth of August arriving the next day, meant we had to pack, have a quick breakfast, leftover



PHOTO BY CELIA NOLAN

Midhope Castle.

food disposed of and the re-cycling, which proved to be quite an ordeal and be ready to leave at 8 A.M.

The drive to Edinburgh was a quiet one as we were all reflecting on our journey together. Having to say goodbye to not only Scotland but also to our Tour 204 family, left all of us teary eyed.

Arriving at Edinburgh we exited the bus for the last time. There were farewell hugs to the four who were continuing on to further adventures, as the rest of us with tears in our eyes proceeded to find our departure gate. What an emotional goodbye to Donald and Devon, Shane and Eric and Scotland.

Next year will be our final account of our Tour 204 holiday!

Something rotten in Ottawa

By Gerry Nolan

RIVERS BANNER

Something stinks in Ottawa, I mean really stinks! Michael Ma crossed the floor from the Conservative party to the Liberal party. Now the last time I checked, Ma was voted in as a Conservative, not as a Liberal, therefore in my mind should not be allowed to do that as his constituents voted him in as a Conservative.

Perhaps, Michael Ma should be punted back to where he came from, Hong Kong, where he was born. Maybe take the rest of the Liberals with him!

The Liberal party has been courting Conservative members of parliament for months. Tim Hodgson did the courting as he represents the riding of Markham-Unionville. These 2 men have business connections and have worked together at the executive level. Do you smell anything rotting yet?

What did the Liberals offer him? Money, party status, what was it? We will never know the truth from the lying Liberal party.

The Liberal party won the election with a minority government, then that is how they should be operating. Currently they are paying off, bribing, consorting and are guilty of mischief in an attempt to gain a majority party. Is it not odd that the Prime Minister and his party can get away with this and the people of Canada stand back and let it happen. Mind Boggling!

Mark Carney, the Prime Minister of Canada is smiling ear to ear with these hypocrites who were Conservatives cross over to well, it could be hell!

Not so long ago Chris Barber and Tamara Lich the leaders of the FREEDOM convoy spent time in jail and are now spending 12 months at home with 5 hours leave from their homes per week followed by a 6 month curfew. Digest that one folks! They also have to do 100 hours of community service. The mental abuse the Crown caused these individuals is huge, as the Crown wanted them to serve 8- and 7-year jail sentences respectively. They were also charged with counselling others to disobey court

orders, initiated by the government. The Government also froze their bank accounts and took away their right to earn a living by the house arrest ruling. Call it what you may?

The Liberal party is crooked, that is fact! We are in for some sad, sad times in Canada with this leadership.

I do hope Michael Ma, the conservative traitor when he goes back to Markham to his home, life will be anything but pleasurable for him.

Vince Lombardi, the great head coach of the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League once said, If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything. Michael Ma stood up for the Conservative party and won his riding, now he has fallen into the Liberals lap!



Quilt Show

Join Us at the Quilt exhibit by Christine Waddell at Virden's Historic Train Station (Arts Mosaic).

January 5 to 30
Trunk show and official opening 1:00,
Thursday, January 8.



Merry Christmas

FROM:
JESS, TARYN & STAFF
AT

Fountain Tire

1866 - 18th Street North, Brandon, MB R7A 1A5
204-725-1523 www.fountaintire.com



filled with best wishes

Thank you to our customers for your support in 2025. We wish you and your family a safe and healthy Holiday Season and looking forward to serving you in 2026.

**WAY-MOR
AGENCIES LTD.**

Rivers and Oak River

**YULETIDE
GREETINGS**

*to the young and
young-at-heart!*

We send you our very
warmest wishes for a truly
delightful holiday season.

**Rivers/Rapid City
Senior Services
Incorporated**

Board and co-ordinator,
SHERRY WIEBE
204-412-0484
rrcssi19@gmail.com
Find us at Zion Church!
(2nd Ave., Rivers)

SPORTS

McNISH IMPRESSES AS ACC ROOKIE

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

River's Payton McNish loves nothing more than pounding down a big kill.

In her first season playing for the Assiniboine Community College women's volleyball team, the daughter of Dana and Kenzie has already delivered several key kills for the Cougars. The left side hitter is fifth in the Manitoba Colleges Athletic Conference with an average of 2.32 kills per set.

"It's such an adrenaline rush," McNish said of making a big kill. "The whole team gets hyped after, and they should because it takes a full team effort to make it happen."

This season, McNish is second on her Brandon-based school squad in kills per set and points per set (2.8). She tops the team and is second in the MCAC in hitting percentage at .306. Defensively, McNish is third on the Cougars in digs per set with a 2.21 average, which places her fourth in the conference.

"Payton would probably be the first-half rookie of the term (if there were one)," ACC head coach Kevin Neufeld wrote in an email interview. "She has a high contact, hits good angles, and is increasing her shot options. Her serve receive has been among the best on our team."

The veteran coach also praised McNish for working hard. Neufeld said she is an excellent teammate and is very coachable. McNish has enjoyed playing for ACC.

"I love my team! The girls are super supportive of each other, and we have the best coaching staff around," she said. "I feel I have learnt so much from my coaches already this season. It's constant knowledge in a really fun environment."

Off the court, McNish is in her first year of ACC's social service worker program. She said, "This program interests me because I enjoy helping people and being able to support them when they are going through a difficult time." She would like to earn a bachelor's degree in social work.

RIVERS TRIO HONOURED FOR VOLLEYBALL EXCELLENCE

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

Volleyball Manitoba recently honoured three Rivers residents for their achievements this past season.

Rivers Collegiate Institute's Annika Schmidt was named a Graduating All-Star. Ken Tait was recognized as the Rural Referee of the Year. RCI varsity girls head coach Jeff Maxwell was selected as the A Girls High School Coach of the Year. The trio was honoured at the 2025 Grad All-Star Banquet in Winnipeg on Dec. 6, which was followed by all-star matches at the University of Winnipeg.

Annika Schmidt

Being named a Graduating All-Star was one of a number of honours Schmidt received this season. These included being named to the A Provincials All-Star Team and receiving the Players Choice award at provincials. Schmidt helped her squad place second at the provincial tournament.

"Annika is a libero, which is a defensive specialist. It is a tough position to play because you are always trying to make the ball better for other people and you don't get to serve or hit the ball," Maxwell said. "She is one of the strongest liberos in the province and has spent four years working on her skills. On top of her strong skills, she is one of the most competitive people I have coached."

Ken Tait

Tait always loved volleyball when he was in school. After graduation, he started refereeing the sport at RCI to help out, as he said, "at that time, there were not many people refereeing volleyball."

He started in about 1982. Tait spent some seasons

At Rivers Collegiate Institute, McNish played a variety of sports. In addition to volleyball, she was involved in high school rugby sevens for four seasons, rugby 15s for two, and basketball for a year. In 2021, she was Baseball Manitoba's Female Player of the Year.

McNish started playing volleyball in Grade 10 at RCI. She said, "It's where I first learned I loved the game. The early morning practices and road trips to tournaments with my friends and teammates are some memories I will have forever."

In 2024, McNish helped RCI to a third-place finish at the A girls provincial tournament. She was a provincial tournament all-star. Wherever McNish has played, she has had the backing of her parents.

"Their support has been huge," she said. "My mom and I have put a lot of miles on over the years, through all my high school and club seasons. They have always showed up to cheer me on, if one couldn't be there in person they were watching the live stream."

away from refereeing due to work commitments and, for five to six years, coached his children in volleyball. After his offspring graduated, he returned to refereeing. Regarding his recent award, Tait said:

"The referee of the year awards are presented to the rural and urban referee who best exemplifies leadership, dedication and commitment to the high school volleyball season."

"Being recognized for this award is very rewarding, knowing that our work and commitment is appreciated by others."

Tait works mainly at the high school and club volleyball levels. He also has been a referee's assistant (linesperson) at Brandon University matches. When asked what is the most challenging call to make in volleyball, Tait said:

"In high school volleyball, we normally referee ourselves throughout the year, until provincials come along, then we referee with two people. At times, it is a challenge to watch everything that is going on and being able to make the correct call. The sport now has become so much quicker and it is hard to see everything by yourself."

Jeff Maxwell

Maxwell led RCI to the silver medals at the A provincial tournament, which the school also hosted in Brandon. Regarding being named the A Girls High School Coach of the Year, Maxwell said:

"It is always nice to be recognized by your peers. It has been great to see this team and program grow over the last four years. Making it to the finals, hosting provincials and winning the Coach of the Year was a great way to recognize the hard work of everyone involved in the program."



PHOTO BY ACC COUGARS

Assiniboine Community College's Payton McNish bumps the ball.

Greetings of Joy & Goodwill
From
204-566-2385

OAK RIVER QUICK FREEZE LTD

MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR
Hunt, Miller & Co. LLP

Rivers, MB ~ 204-727-8471

Merry
Christmas
& **Best**
Wishes

Thank you for the patronage over the last year. We look forward to serving you in the new year.

Stewart Endeavours

Phone 204-365-0086 ~ Rivers, MB

Peace On Earth

It may be cold outside, but our hearts are warmed by the thoughts of the many good people we've had the privilege to meet and serve. Merry Christmas and sincere thanks to all of you.

From Eric, Marnie and the team at

Jshenry
Seeds

SPORTS

JETS FALL TO OIL KINGS, GET READY FOR TWO GAMES THIS WEEK

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

The Rivers Jets have faced turbulent skies, of late, that they hope will help them fly in the playoffs.

Over a three-week period, the senior team took on a trio of squads ranked along with them in the top four of the Tiger Hills Hockey League at the time of the games. Playing top teams during that stretch will hopefully benefit the Jets as they seek a THHL title. On Dec. 12, the Jets fell on the road to the Virden Oil Kings, 6-3. The Rivers team led 3-1 partway through the second period.

"We, for sure, let that one slip out of our fingers," Jets coach Ryan Lamb said. "Up 3-1, we have to find a way to close that down. But, we have to flush it and get ready to go for both games this weekend."

It was only the Jets' second loss of the season. Rivers enters this week with an 8-2-0-0 record. The Jets host the Wawanesa Jets on Dec. 19 and the Souris Elks on Dec. 20. That wraps up the 2025 portion of their schedule. The Jets fell 4-1 to top-ranked Killarney on Nov. 29. On Dec. 5, they defeated previously unbeaten Minnedosa 4-2.

On Dec. 12, Luke DeCorby opened the scoring to stake the Jets to a 1-0 lead with a first period power-play

goal. In the final three minutes of the period, Virden equalized with a power-play goal of its own.

In the second session, Jackson Keeble and DeCorby scored to put the Jets up 3-1. Jaxon Heeney and Riley Shamray each had two assists. In the final 10 minutes of the second period, Virden scored twice to tie things up at 3-3.

In the third period, the Oil Kings scored three times. The final one was scored shorthanded into an empty net.

Rivers goalie Riley Lamb made 20 saves. Duncan Padock stopped 18 shots for Virden. Brad Bowles led Virden with three goals and four points.

Through Dec. 12, DeCorby was second in the THHL with 23 points in nine games. He was tied for third in the league with 11 goals. DeCorby was tied for fourth in 12 assists. Shamray, a defenceman, was tied for second in the THHL with 14 assists. Kaelen Huibers was tied for sixth in the league in goals with nine in 10 games. Lamb placed fifth in the THHL with a 2.25 goals against average.

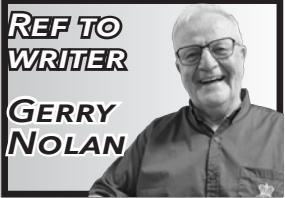
silent. After a few moments Frederick was helped off the ice and taken to the hospital. Turns out he was okay, thank goodness. It was just a freak play where something went bad.

Chris Hunt from Kenton, James Ramsey from Cardale were a couple of other players who were hurt. Some players quit playing for risk of injury because they knew they had to go to work the next day. I think there were players who were on unemployment insurance for the winter that did not care if someone got hurt or not. Because they did not have to work, I felt they were playing chippy hockey.

I am sure there were also a lot of guys who played hurt, went to work hurt. As an official, I had my share of injuries to work through because I was going to work as well.

I did some evaluating of officials over the years and one question I always asked, are players in the games you officiate getting hurt? If they are, you better take stock of what penalties you are calling. Nobody is making a living playing the game, let's all get home safely. Nothing wrong with a good hard hit, that is part of the game but keep it within the rules.

REF MEMORIES



REF TO
WRITER
**GERRY
NOLAN**

A couple of incidents that occurred while I was officiating a game were severe injuries. I saw a player break his leg, another player get a concussion from a hit as well as a separated shoulder

injury. Officiating mostly senior hockey, I always had injuries in the back of my mind as these guys have to go to work the next day!

One night in Elkhorn, Troy Frederick had fallen down going forward and ended up in the direct path of a shot taken by Hal Haight from Cartwright. Hal could really fire the puck. Hal takes a slapshot which was blocked by Frederick. He ducked his head down and the shot hit him on the back of his neck. Frederick was yelling in extreme pain, the play just stopped and the Elkhorn arena went

NORTH CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The North Central Hockey League, like some other senior hockey leagues, is now defunct. The league was formed back in 1958, and the first league president was Bruce Knight of Decker Manitoba. It seemed that every town had a local senior hockey team and it was a great way to keep your local rink open as well as visit with friends and neighbours. Communication was rather limited back in those days. I remember when the league had 15 or 16 teams. Communities created a team hoping you would create life-long friends.

In the North Central area only Virden, Rivers and Minnedosa have a team and they play in the only senior league left around here the Tiger Hills Hockey League.

I thought I would share the past league Champions of the North Central Hockey League. If you played on one of these Championship teams, I invite you to contact me and share your story of the time your team was league Champion. How was the game played back in the years gone differently from today's game?

So here we go, the first teams to win the Championship were the Rossburn Hornets in 1958, Minnedosa Jets in 1959, Cardale Cougars in 1960. Elphinstone Legionnaires in 1961, CJATC Rivers 1962, Shoal Lake Bisons 1963, Elphinstone Legionnaires 1964, Cardale Cougars

1965. Elphinstone Legionnaires in 1966, 1967 and 1968, Birtle Bruins 1969, Angusville Flyers in 1970, Foxwarren Falcons in 1971, McCauley Tigers 1972 and 1973, Rivers in 1974, Kenton Cougars 1975, Elkhorn Canadians 1976, Angusville Flyers 1977. In 1978, 1979, 1980 Elkhorn Canadians, Angusville Flyers 1981, Rossburn Hornets 1982, St. Lazare Outlaws 1983, Shoal Lake Eagles 1984, Foxwarren Falcons 1985, Sioux Valley Dakotas 1986, Shoal Lake Eagles 1987, Sioux Valley Dakotas 1988 and 1989. St. Lazare Outlaws 1990, Foxwarren Falcons 1991, Roblin North Stars 1992, Russell Rams 1993, Foxwarren Falcons 1994, Russell Rams 1995, and 1996. Miniota Night Hawks 1997, Oak Lake Icemen 1998, McCreary Mustangs 1999.

Miniota Night Hawks 2000, then Foxwarren Falcons won 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Roblin North Stars 2008. Grandview Comets 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks 2013 and 2014. Grandview Comets 2015, Moosomin Rangers 2016, Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks 2017, Grandview Comets in 2018. Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks were league Champions in 2019, 2020 and 2022. COVID-19 shut down the league in 2021.

The league folded in 2023. Many players played in this great league for a number of years and were the sole entertainment for many through the winter. Sadly, all



Celebrate
the
Birth of Christ

At this time of reflection, we give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings we enjoy, including the gift of your friendship.
Merry Christmas!

To all our Riverdale
friends, from
**Warren and Maggie
Smallwood**

Hope your
holiday is
built to order!

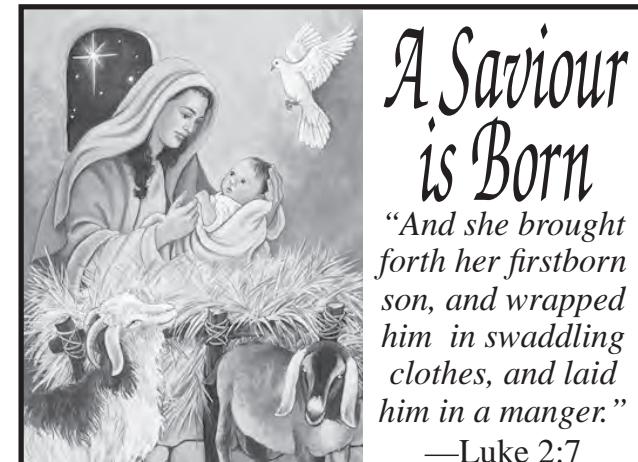


RAMSAY
CONSTRUCTION
fine carpentry & building construction
Rivers: 204-761-5580

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

HI-WAY // /
COLLISION 1984

204-764-2451



**A Saviour
is Born**

"And she brought
forth her firstborn
son, and wrapped
him in swaddling
clothes, and laid
him in a manger."

—Luke 2:7

May you keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart all year round. We are thankful for your continued support and we look forward to serving you in the new year.

Best wishes from Heather and Larry,

Hair Dynamics

we have are our memories as we watched our favourite team compete to become League Champions. If you have a story or a memory of a story you would like to share about your championship season or any story on the old North Central Hockey League, please Email me gerry.hawks0@gmail.com I will be anticipating some great stories to share within our Rivers Banner and Virden Empire Advance region!

CLASSIFIEDS

Tender

Land for Sale by Tender

RM of Riverdale
Rivers, Manitoba approx. total of 847
cultivated acres for rent.

Consisting of:
SW 22-12-22 field 102.5 acres
SE 22-12-22 field 92.2 acres
NW 24-12W1 field 47.6 acres
SW 24-12-22 field 22.6 acres
SE 24-12-22 field 257.3 acres
NE 24-12-22 field 94.2 acres
NE 24-12-22 field 11.3 acres
N 1/2 19-12-21 field 238.3 acres

- Aeration bins and bins
- 3 year term, will consider longer
term

Tenders to be submitted by January,
2026

Highest tender not necessarily
accepted.

Please e-mail tenders to:
marianneparvais@gmail.com or by
Mail: Box 85, Holland, MB, R0G 0X0

Thank-you

Thank-you

Our deepest gratitude and
appreciation to Dr. Mandeep
Dhaliwal for the comprehensive,
conscientious, respectful and diligent
care of our beloved father Jack
Pryzner. You helped him maintain
and enjoy a high quality of
life and the independence he
desired to the end of his life. Much
gratitude also to the stellar laboratory personnel at
the Rivers Health Clinic who interacted with him in
such kind and competent ways. Please take care of
yourselves as well as you care for others.

Ruth and Michael Pryzner and family

Wanted

TURN YOUR STASH INTO CASH!!!



Now buying GOLD,
SILVER & PLATINUM.
Buying old Jewelry,
Broken Jewelry, Bullion,
Bars, Ingots, Wafers,
Nuggets, Gold dust,
Dental Gold, Coins,
Coin Collections,
Numismatics, Sterling
Silverware & more!
Estate liquidations of
Precious Metals.

I PAY CASH!

Covering Winnipeg & Rural
Manitoba. I drive to you!
CALL ME NOW!!
TODD: 1-204-904-9705



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

MANITOBA DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28-30, 2026

Central Canada's largest
Conference with speakers
from across North America,
group and breakout sessions.
A conference for emergency
preparedness professionals
and planners, First Nation
communities, first
responders, elected officials,
safety officers, business
health professionals and
policy makers.
manitobadmc.com

What happens when you
don't advertise?
VERY LITTLE.

Help Wanted

ARTS ADMINISTRATOR JOB POSTING

Organization: Mid-West Arts Council (MWAC)
Job Type: Part-Time (20 hours per week, set office hours M, W, F from 12:00-3:00pm, hours remain flexible)
Rate of Pay: Negotiable, depending on experience

Position Summary: Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Arts Administrator is responsible for the operational, administrative, and financial management of the organization. The Arts Administrator oversees planning, coordination, and implementation of arts programming, marketing, and community outreach initiatives, and plays a key role in fundraising, budgeting, and partnership development.

Key Responsibilities: Administrative & Office Management, Program Coordination, Marketing & Networking, Fundraising & Grant Writing, Board & Committee Support

- Experience with QuickBooks Online and Microsoft Suite. Canva, Square Space, and Studio Director program experience considered an asset.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with a small team.

The Mid-West Arts Council (MWAC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting appreciation for and involvement in the visual, performing, and literary arts throughout the Mid-West region. MWAC develops and delivers diverse, high-quality programming designed to enrich the cultural life of the communities it serves.



For full position listing of responsibilities and duties,
please see www.midwestarts council.com
Please send your resume to Celia Nolan:
scrapquilter53@gmail.com

For Sale



**CASH FOR COINS,
JEWELRY, GOLD,
SILVER &
PLATINUM!**
**BUYING ALL
COIN COLLECTIONS
Big & Small.**
Also Numismatics,
Rare Coins, Sets,
Gold & Silver coins,
Nuggets, Sterling sets,
Old money, ROYAL
CANADIAN MINT,
FRANKLIN MINT, US
MINT, Silver Dollars,
World sets etc.

CALL TODD NOW!
Ph: 204 - 904 - 9705
I COME TO YOU!

Manitoba Community Newspaper Association Province Wide Classifieds

NOTICES

Advertisements and statements
contained herein are the sole
responsibility of the persons
or entities that post the advertisement,
and the Manitoba
Community Newspapers Association
and membership do
not make any warranty as to
the accuracy, completeness,
truthfulness or reliability of such
advertisements. For greater
information on advertising
conditions, please consult the
Association's Blanket Advertising
Conditions on our website at
www.mcna.com.

URGENT PRESS RELEASES

- Have a newsworthy item to
announce? An exciting change
in operations? Though we
cannot guarantee publication,
MCNA will get the information
into the right hands for ONLY

\$35.00 + GST/HST. Call MCNA
(204) 947-1691 for more information.
See www.mcna.com

under the "Types of Advertising"
tab for more details.

Have an On-line business?
Need CLASS 1 DRIVERS?
Are you SELLING LAND?
HAVING AN EVENT? Let us

help you book a blanket classified ad! Advertise! You will
be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+
homes in Manitoba. Please Call

THIS NEWSPAPER NOW to
book, or call MCNA at (204)
947-1691 for more details or to
book ads. Take advantage of our
great pricing! MCNA-Manitoba
Community Newspapers
Association. www.mcna.com

**PROPERTY FOR SALE /
ACREAGE FOR SALE**

Have 20 acres & 1,500 sq.

ft. House for Sale, 3 miles
West of Brandon. Immediate
possession. Should be worth
\$650,000.00. Will take cows on
trade. 204-723-0083 anytime.

Announcement



Power Builder Advertising WORKS!

• GET SEEN by over
360,000 Manitoba
Homes!

• Use your LOGO!

• Create instant top of
mind awareness

• Showcase your info,
business, product,
job, announcements
or event

• We format it, to
make it look great!

• Starting at \$339.00
(includes 45 lines of
space)

• The ads blanket the
province and run in
MCNA's 31 Manitoba
community
newspapers

• Very cost effective
means of getting
your message out to
the widest possible
audience

Contact this newspaper
NOW or MCNA at
204.947.1691 or email
classified@mcna.com

www.mcna.com

PCs Call for External Review Into Manitoba Wildfire Preparedness Following Repeat NDP Mismanagement

Submitted
BY PC CAUCUS MEDIA

Following a pattern of negligence by the Kineew government leading up to one of the worst wildfire seasons in Manitoba, Progressive Conservatives are calling for a long-overdue external review into the province's lack of wildfire preparedness.

"Manitoba experienced one of its worst wildfire seasons in history this summer, and the province should have been more prepared," said Riding Mountain MLA Greg Nesbitt, PC Critic for Environment. "This is not about politics. Two Manitobans lost their lives. Thousands were displaced. We cannot afford to let that happen again."

Immediately upon taking office in 2023, Premier Wab Kinew declined to follow through on urgent plans approved by the previous PC government to conduct an external review of Manitoba's wildfire preparedness.

Documents recently obtained by the media now show that the NDP government conducted nothing more than internal wildfire response assessments that consisted

of only "meeting notes and verbal discussion" with no written recommendations about ways to improve future planning and operating procedures.

PCs are demanding that the province conduct a thorough external review before the 2026 wildfire season to identify any shortcomings that exist within the wildfire service. To ensure full transparency, Opposition and independent MLAs must also be kept privy throughout the review process, added Nesbitt.

"Having visited northern First Nations and communities, I've seen firsthand how much of northern Manitoba lacks crucial resources to mitigate the spread of wildfires," said Nesbitt, who previously served as PC Minister of Natural Resources. "That's why I authorized the review as minister. I am completely shocked that the NDP cancelled it."

Between 2024 and 2025, the Kineew government has cut Manitoba's emergency expenditures budget by \$50 million, or 50%, as well as slashing the province's emergency management budget by \$1.1 million.

Liberal Government conceals deal after funding antisemitic speaker

Submitted
BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF CA

On Dec. 11, from Ottawa, Ont. Rachael Thomas, Conservative Shadow Minister for Canadian Identity and Culture, and Melissa Lantsman, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, released the following statement:

"Conservatives are shocked and disgusted by the Liberal government's decision to conceal the details of a secret settlement with Laith Marouf. Marouf is a raging antisemite who was awarded \$122,661 by the Liberals as part of Canadian Heritage's Anti-Racism Program to deliver anti-racism lectures.

"While receiving this significant amount from taxpayers, Marouf published vile antisemitic statements, including calling Jewish people 'loud-mouthed bags of human feces,' and even fantasized about shooting Jewish people.

"It was only after pressure from Conservatives that the Liberal government agreed to end their funding to Marouf and recover the taxpayer money he'd been given.

"Granting Marouf this money

was a massive failure by the Liberals, and recovering the funds was the very least they could do to address the harm done to the Jewish community from this blatant misuse of taxpayer dollars.

"But now, through a written inquiry from Conservatives, we have learned that the Liberal government secretly struck a deal with Marouf and are refusing to make the details public. The Liberals failed to deliver on their promise and are trying to hide it from Canadians.

"At a time when antisemitism is rising across Canada, the government's secrecy only deepens the hurt felt by the Jewish community and further erodes public trust. If the Liberals truly believe in combating hate, they must release the full details of this settlement and explain why they are protecting Laith Marouf.

"Conservatives will continue demanding transparency, accountability, and a full explanation for how this government allowed taxpayer dollars to be funnelled to someone who spread hatred and violence – then chose to cover it up. Canada deserves better."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

YOUR LOCAL MARKETPLACE FOR GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

ALLIANCE ACCOUNTING GROUP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS INC.

Hamiota Brandon Birtle
Killarney Pilot Mound Deloraine

Hamiota—71 Maple Ave E 204-764-2544
Brandon—Unit E 2425 Victoria Ave 1-888-726-1995

www.allianceaccounting.ca

Brockie Donovan
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
Serving Rivers and area since 1915.

Phone 204-727-0694
www.brockiedonovan.com

Hamiota's
Campbell Funeral Home
204-764-2744
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Dwayne Campbell
Brittany MacLellan

Gill's PLUMBING & HEATING
RIVERS, MB. 328-7728

- Residential
- Commercial
- HVAC Installations
- Licensed Gas Fitting
- 24hr Emergency Service
- Repair & Maintenance
- Septic Truck Service
- Duct Cleaning

Hunt, Miller & Co. LLP
Robert D. Harrison, Lawyer
Phone 204-727-8491 or 204-328-7540
(Thursdays, 2-5 p.m.) for appointments.

HOMES | ACREAGES | CABINS | FARMS | COMMERCIAL
ROYAL LEPAGE
Martin-Liberty Realty
Your Trusted Local Realtor®
Ken Kirk
REALTOR® 204-764-2904
kenkirk@royallepage.ca
Serving Hamiota & Surrounding Areas

KROEGER BACKHOE SERVICES LTD.
Rivers, MB R0K 1X0 204-761-8765
kroegerbackhoe@gmail.com

- Development Services
- Pond & Dugouts
- Drive/Lane Construction
- Basements
- Excavation
- Laser Ditching & Drainage
- Septic Systems
- Gravel & Trucking
- Demolition
- Snow Removal

Memories Chapel
FUNERALS CREMATION RECEPTIONS
Cherish the Memories
locally owned and operated
330 - 18th Street North, Brandon, MB R7A 7P3
204.727.0330
memorieschapel.com

Redfern FARM SERVICES LTD.
• Feed • Seed
• Fertilizer • Herbicide
• Hardware
• Custom Application
We Stay Ahead In Our Field So You Can Stay Ahead In Yours
Agronomy & Service

REDLINE TRANSPORT
RIVERS, MB

204-724-6870
280 Taylor Road
Rivers, MB R0K 1X0
www.redlinetransport.ca
alepp@redlinetransport.ca

Stewart Endeavors
Gravel - Sand - Stone - End Dump/Belly Dump Services - Excavating
stewartend2015@gmail.com
204-365-0086
Alex Stewart
Box 916,
Rivers MB, R0K1X0

THE BLANCHARD HOTEL, LOUNGE, AND RESTAURANT
Fraenkische Stuben
German - Bavarian Cuisine
Ph. 204.566.2131
Mon. - Tues. CLOSED ~ VENDOR OPEN DURING BUSINESS HOURS
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY OPEN FROM 10am - 10pm, SUNDAY 2pm - 9pm
BREAKFAST WED. - SAT. FROM 10am - 2pm
OAK RIVER, MB

WAY-MOR AGENCIES LTD.

RIVERS OFFICE:
MON - FRI: 9:00 TO 5:00
(CLOSED 12-1pm)
SAT: 9:00 TO 12:00
201 MAIN ST., RIVERS, MB
(204) 328-7540

OAK RIVER OFFICE:
TUES - FRI: 10:00 TO 3:00
16 COCHRANE ST.
OAK RIVER, MB
(204) 566-2490

GET AN INSURANCE QUOTE
BEST CHOICE REAL ESTATE BROKER

Whelpton ELECTRIC Ltd.

- Residential & Commercial
- Farm Wiring & Trenching

Brandon - Rivers
204-761-2192

Does Facebook support local?
Has your organization ever called up Facebook and asked them for a donation to your cause? Local business rely on local support to exist.
Shop local today.



Submitted
METRO CREATIVE

Christmas celebrations span the globe. According to a 2025 report from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, there are roughly 2.6 billion Christians worldwide, a figure that undoubtedly contributes to the popularity of Christmas. Christianity continues to have the most adherents of any religion in the world, and the Christian population is expected to top three billion before 2050.

Christians bring unique

Unique Christmas traditions around the world

cultural touches to their Christmas celebrations each year. Celebrations vary widely, and here's a look at some notable Christmas traditions across the globe.

Yule Goat

The Yule Goat is a Christmas tradition in Sweden. The goat is believed to be an invisible spirit that ensures that Yule preparations are done correctly. A popular theory connects the goat to the Norse god Thor, who rode a chariot pulled by two goats.

Krampus

While many people celebrate the benevolence of Santa Claus, some celebrate a much grumpier

alter-ego of sort. Krampus is a man-goat, half-demon monster who punishes misbehaving children at Christmastime, says Britannica. He is the evil companion of St. Nicholas, and is believed to have originated in Germany. His name comes from the German word "krampen," which means, "claw."

Christmas chicken

Christmas Eve is a popular romantic occasion for couples and families in Japan. In addition to gift-giving and a romance, many people choose to feast on a meal of KFC fried chicken and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Roller-skating to Mass

In the city of Caracas, Venezuela, it's customary for Christmas Eve cele-

brants to roller skate to early morning Mass. Known as "Misa de Aguinaldo," these special church services take place on the days leading up to Christmas, with the most festive held on December 24. On this day, the streets of Caracas are closed to automobiles, enabling revelers to cheerfully skate to church.

Mummering

In Newfoundland, Canada, celebrants known as mummers dress in elaborate disguises featuring mismatched clothing and whimsical accessories. The mummers obscure their identities and visit neighbors' homes during the 12 days of Christmas, performing songs, skits or dances while others attempt to guess their

identities.

Las Posadas

In some Hispanic regions, including Mexico, participants reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem through vibrant processions. They travel from house to house, singing traditional songs and requesting shelter only to be turned away until they reach a final home or church that will symbolically welcome them in.

Spiderweb decorations

Individuals in Ukraine decorate their Christmas trees with artificial spider webs. This tradition is inspired by a tale of a poor widow and her children who didn't have money for tree ornaments. Upon waking up on Christmas morning, they found their

tree covered in sparkling, shimmering spider webs that resembled tinsel. Aspider had spun the beautiful display as thanks for finding shelter and warmth in the family's humble abode. Today's spider webs symbolize unexpected blessings and gratitude.

Plenty of unique touches set Christmastime celebrations apart across the globe.



FUELING YOUR TRIP HOME

Happy Holidays From



Heritage

Search locations and get up to date Holiday Hours on the Co-op app



Riverdale Municipality

MAYOR: Heather Lamb

COUNCILLORS: David Creighton, Everett Smith, Christa Veitch, Shawn Mason, Tyler Pod, Ian Dyer

ADMINISTRATION: Marci Quane, Laura Gill, Jena Ratz, Lindsay Arseneau

MUNICIPAL WORKS: Darrel Link, Jeff Worth, Mark Freeman, Derek Kolesar, Ian Brennan, David Dickenson, Jason Verboom, Byron McMurachy, Steven Hay

RIVERDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE: Christine Walker, Mel Gross, Jen Howarth

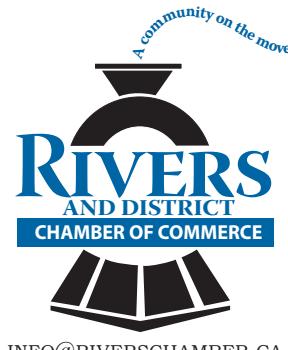
WASTE DISPOSAL SITE ATTENDANT: Norm Johnson



From all the members of your hometown business district:

Thanks for supporting local this year.

We'll see you all in 2026!



INFO@RIVERSCHAMBER.CA



A brief history of Christmas trees

Towering evergreen trees adorned in lights and other trinkets are a focal point of the holiday season. Christmas trees are placed in prominent locations in homes, typically in front of a large picture window or in the corners of large entryways. These awe-inspiring trees beckon people to inspect all of the ornaments and often are the first thing people envision when thinking of holiday decor. The tradition of the Christmas tree is believed to have begun in Germany in the sixteenth century. However, the National Christmas Tree Association says there may be earlier references to Christmas trees in other parts of the world as well. The first written record of a decorated Christmas tree comes from Riga, Latvia, in 1510. Men of a local merchant's guild decorated the tree with roses and then set fire to it. The rose was considered a symbol of the Virgin Mary. In the sixteenth century in Alsace, France, trees were sold in the marketplace and brought home and set up undecorated. Laws limited the size to "eight shoe lengths" or slightly more than four feet. Early German Christmas trees were adorned with apples, a holdover from earlier traditions when evergreen boughs hung with apples were used as props in miracle plays. These plays took place in churches on December 24, which was Adam & Eve's Day in the early Christian calendar. Evergreens have long been symbolic of life during the cold months of winter, calling to mind the promise of spring to come. Various cultures, including early Christians, featured trees during winter solstice celebrations. Some historians believe Martin Luther, a Protestant reformer who might have been inspired by stars in the night, was responsible for adding lighted candles to the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree was introduced to the United States by German settlers in the 1800s. Soon after those settlers' arrival, trees began to be sold commercially. President Franklin Pierce is credited with having the first Christmas tree at the White House. Today, Christmas trees are wildly popular, with the American Christmas Tree Association reporting that 94 percent of U.S. consumers plan to display one.



MAY YOUR DAYS BE

Merry & Bright

THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR

Greg Nesbitt

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Riding Mountain Constituency



Constituency Office: #7 - 515 - 4th Avenue P.O. Box 100 Shoal Lake, MB ROJ1Z0

Phone (204) 759-3313 Toll Free 1-844-877-7767

E-mail gregnesbittmla@mymts.net

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Rivers Banner is closed for the holidays</i>						<i>Rivers Banner is closed for the holidays</i>
Memory Tree Lighting in Oak River 6:00pm						
28	29	30	31		1	2
<i>Rivers Banner is closed for the holidays</i>					<i>Rivers Banner is closed for the holidays</i>	3