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This Christmas Season



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A Magical Kick-off to the Holiday Season: Kids Carnival

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

The holiday season is upon us, and there's no better way to celebrate than with the delightful Kids Carnival, hosted by the Rivers and District Chamber of Commerce. This year's holiday celebration kick-off, held on Nov. 21, was a smashing success at the Rec Centre, bringing joy to kids and families alike on Friday afternoon. With a variety of fun activities lined up, it was the perfect way to usher in the festive spirit before heading out to watch the grand Santa Parade.

As families arrived at the Rec Centre, they were greeted by vibrant decorations that instantly captured the essence of the holiday season. The air was filled with laughter and excitement, setting the scene for an unforgettable afternoon. Kids of all ages eagerly lined up to participate in an array of carnival games, each designed to entertain and engage. From ring toss to hole in one, there was no shortage of laughter as participants cheered for their friends and family members trying their luck at the games.

One of the highlights of the event was undoubtedly the cookie decorating station. Children got creative as they crafted their own holiday masterpieces, turning ordinary cookies into colorful works of art. With an abundance of icing, sprinkles, and toppings, imaginations ran wild, and the delicious treats quickly became a favorite for both kids and parents. Plus, who could resist a sweet bite of a cookie they decorated themselves?

While the carnival games and cookie decorating were in full swing, families also enjoyed the thrill of public skating on the beautifully maintained ice rink. Gliding around the rink gave everyone an opportunity to show off their skating skills or simply partake in the fun. Laughter echoed as kids wobbled and twirled, and the sight of families skating hand-in-hand was a heartwarming reminder of the joys of the holiday season.

read more on the carnival on page 2...



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Kids craft station at the Carnival was a huge hit.

Inside...



RIVERS PARADE P16



AARON TYCOLES AWARDED P15



**Ho-Ho-Hope
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Large Artisan Market in Hamiota



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Shoppers pore over the many hand made. One-of-a-kind hand knitted little outfits make special gifts for a child in your life, they're a rarity. With about 30 vendors, most everything in Midwest Arts Centre in Hamiota is like that - unique. Preserves, placemats, leather moccasins, purses and essential oil infused tallow - all this and more - available in the art centre's Christmas market. In its final week now, the last couple of days to shop are Friday afternoon with the sale continuing through Saturday Nov. 29 at 4pm.

Kids Carnival and Santa photos

continued from page 1

Another enchanting aspect of the Kids Carnival was the opportunity to take free pictures with Santa Claus. The jolly old elf, with his timeless red suit and twinkling eyes, welcomed children with open arms, creating a magical moment for everyone involved. Parents captured the smiles and laughter as kids shared their holiday wishes, creating memories to be cherished for years to come.

For those feeling a bit chilly from hours of festivities, there were complimentary hot dogs and hot chocolate—a warm treat that hit the spot perfectly! Kids and adults alike indulged in the comforting food and drinks while sharing stories and laughs with friends and family. It was this sense of community, together with the spirit of giving and cheer, that made the afternoon even more special.

As the celebration came to a close, spirits were high



SUBMITTED PHOTO

These three young ones couldn't wait to meet Santa: Ella Waldner (8), Abigail Waldner (8mo), Santa, Leo Waldner (3).

with anticipation for the Santa Parade that would follow. The Kids Carnival undoubtedly set the stage for a magical evening of festivities that fostered a deep sense of community and joy.

Looking back at this year's celebration, we

can't help but feel excited for what next year holds. The Rivers and District Chamber of Commerce has once again outdone itself, bringing families together for an afternoon filled with joy, laughter, and holiday cheer.

BREAKFAST SAUSAGE CASSEROLE

Ingredients

- 1 lb ground pork sausage
- 1 tsp mustard powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 6 slices white bread, toasted and cut into cubes
- 8 ozs mild Cheddar cheese, shredded

Directions

1. Crumble sausage into a medium skillet. Cook over medium heat until evenly brown; drain.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together mustard powder, salt, eggs and milk. Add the sausage, bread cubes, and cheese, and stir to coat evenly.
3. Pour into a greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Cover, and chill in the refrigerator for 8 hours, or overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cover, and bake 45 to 60 mins.
5. Uncover, and reduce temperature to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Bake for an additional 30 minutes, or until set.
6. Serve hot and enjoy!



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10 - 3



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Saying goodbye



I have had to make many difficult decisions in my life; but the one I share with you today is by far the most difficult. For over 25 years, "Faithfully Yours" has appeared in this spot, first in The Neepawa Banner, and now in The Banner and Press. What began as a bi-weekly 400 word comment, soon became a 600 word weekly column.

Many of you pick up this paper each week and instantly look to these pages, to see what Ken Waddell, Rita Friesen and I have submitted. We are different people and we deal with different topics. But we care deeply about each other, about this community and about sharing local news in a format and with content that our readers can trust.

But we are all getting older, and for each of us, the time will come when we have to say "goodbye." My time has come. This will be the final time "Faithfully Yours" will appear in "The Banner and Press." It is time for me to say "goodbye."

I am sure you are all wondering why I have made

this decision and why now. Well, the answer is simple. I will celebrate my 75th birthday next July. I know—to many of you, 75 isn't old, but hear me out. My life has been a life of service—to God, to my employers and to those I love. Practicing good self care (see last week's column) has never been as high on my priority list as it ought to have been. Now my body is telling me that I need to slow down; and I need to listen to what my body is saying.

I have suffered total physical and emotional burn-out twice in my life. I do not want to go through that again. I have promised my wife (a 20-year stroke survivor) that I will do all within my power to ensure that she will never have to fear that one day, due to my lack of self-care, her primary care giver will need more care than she does.

I spend much of my time creating content—writing sermons, writing prayers, writing orders of service, writing columns, writing reports, and preparing slide shows for the sermon portion of Sunday services. The work is enjoyable and rewarding. But it is also emotionally draining, and as I get older, I find that recovery from a particularly draining day takes much longer than it used to. So I am listening to what my body is telling me and slowing down before it takes over and forces me to do so. This is the first of several steps I will be taking over the next few months.

Before I sign off, I want to thank Ken Waddell and the Staff at The Banner and Press for the incredible joy I have found in preparing and submitting these columns. Your trust, guidance and encouragement have been gifts for which I will be eternally grateful. I wish you well as you continue sharing local news with this community.

Finally, thanks to you, my readers. I am greatly humbled whenever I meet someone new who tells

me how helpful something I wrote has been. I will miss you all.

My Sunday worship leadership in Knox Church, Neepawa and McCreary United will continue for now. And I will gladly support and encourage those who are working diligently to help build healthy lives with healthy relationships in healthy homes, healthy communities, a healthy country and a healthy world.

Thank you for this incredible privilege. May God bless you all.

Notice to Residents

By Ken Waddell
RIVERS BANNER

On November 24, Riverdale Municipality posted the following notice.

"Due to a pump failure at our water treatment plant, we are asking residents to conserve water while we await repairs. Our team is working diligently to resume normal operations. Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter!"

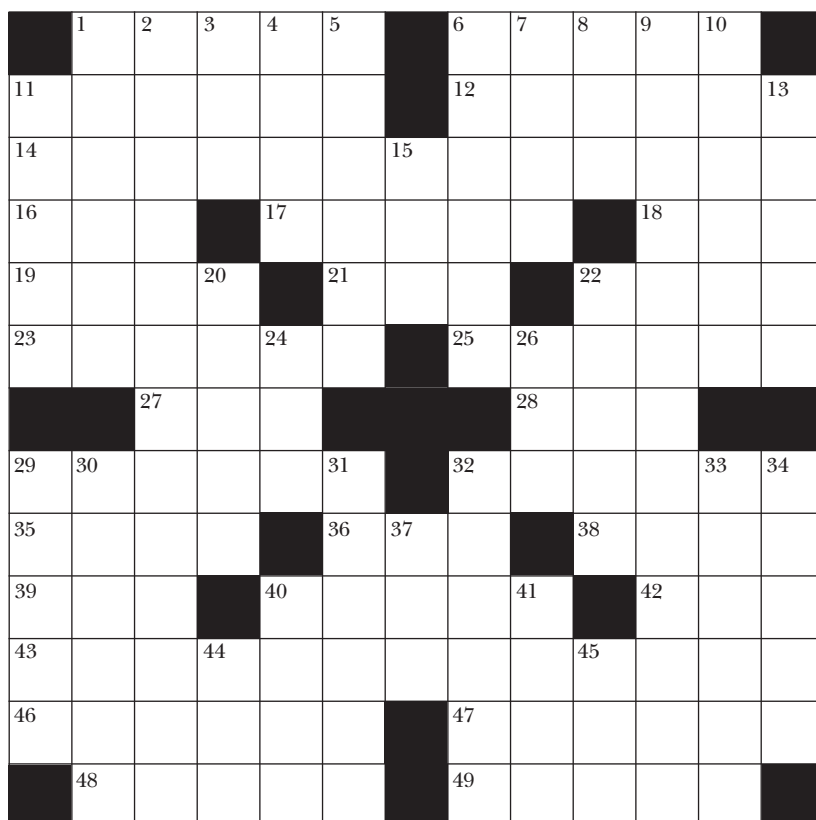
On Tuesday Nov. 25, just before the Rivers Banner went to print, the Municipal office said they are asking that the water filling station at Redfern's not be used.

The staff were hoping for an update about parts availability and repairs by mid-day Wednesday.

Locally created crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Hue, tint (American spelling)
- 6. Remains of a fallen tree
- 11. Harsh
- 12. Prairie oil seed
- 14. Decided in advance
- 16. ___ Lingus - Irish Airline
- 17. Dawn
- 18. Father, pop
- 19. Woodworking groove joint
- 21. Johnny ___ -Southern soldier (U.S. civil war)
- 22. Military home facility
- 23. One more than ten
- 25. Dragon killer
- 27. Dog's doc
- 28. Upper limb
- 29. Musical shows.
- 32. Crossword column
- 35. Superman's birth name and others same named
- 36. Mork's home planet
- 38. The Red Viking
- 39. The Speedwagon's company
- 40. Google's letter service
- 42. Near Death Experience acronym
- 43. Putting into order as in dictionary
- 46. Immoral and corrupt person (slang)
- 47. Style of dresses
- 48. September's flower
- 49. Wet and soft, mushy



Answers on page 11

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

DOWN

- 1. Breakfast food
- 2. Builds up too much
- 3. Went first
- 4. Mine outputs
- 5. Take back
- 6. Scours
- 7. Pat down
- 8. Prefix meaning one
- 9. Start of the work week (2wds)
- 10. Make happy
- 11. Pointed shovel
- 13. Venomous viper
- 15. 67 1/2 on a compass
- 20. Second tires - do ___
- 22. Ballet dancer's exercise rail
- 24. Airport abbreviation
- 26. Insect secretion from

- which shellac is made
- 29. Pod vegetable (plural)
- 30. A Spanish rice dish
- 31. Solemn and sober
- 32. Japanese dogs
- 33. First black actor to win Best actor Oscar - Poitier
- 34. Outboard motor bottoms
- 37. Canada's U.N. representative 2020-25
- 40. Look upon
- 41. Girl who adopted Stitch
- 44. Head wear

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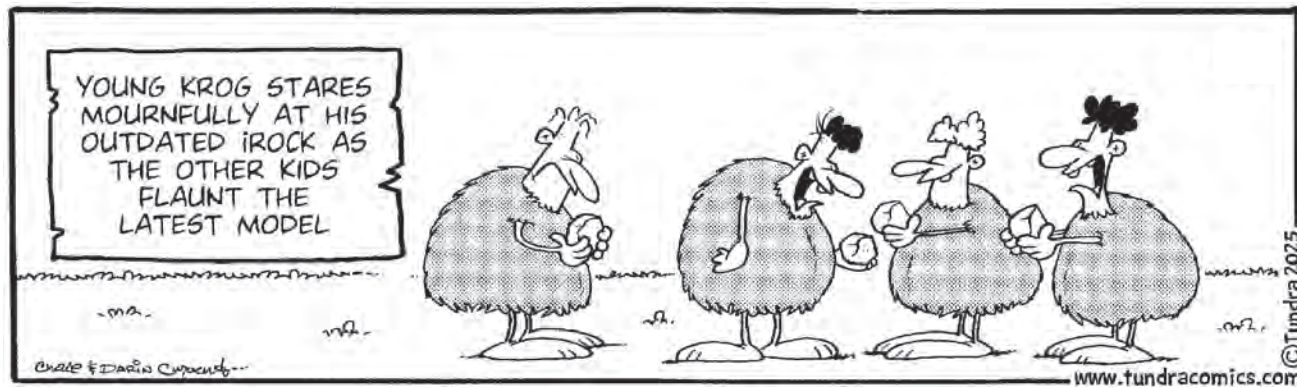
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



CBC and me...

The go to station for road trips has been CBC for decades. There are times when I listen to the talking one, and other times when classical music is the only sound- (other than my breathing) filling the space around me. Classical music has always been one of my favourite genres.

Country coming close to being my least fav! With the deep sounds of Beethoven, Chopin, Wagner, Hayden and Vivaldi, and then there's Bach and Mozart...the list goes on, with these sounds my mind refreshes and wanders. There are some composers that cause me to simply follow, that's refreshing. Some trigger deep core memories and that allows me to wander.

It was surprising that one of the movements from a Bach symphony took me way back to a long distance drive with one of my sons. Mark William was an observer of humans and human nature. He was an excellent mimic. At a stop light he observed another driver, across from us, picking their nose. "Going for the gold" he exclaimed. Remember he was young at the time, and human functions can be entertaining and hilarious. Mark William continued. "Stop light activity, watch for it." and he was right! Then he continued on topic, his grandfather was a master nose picker, an open pit miner....remember he was young at the time....these memories brought a smile and the opportunity to reflect on his humour and wit. With a bit of mimicry for added laughter.

There were a number of years when I took piano lessons, for my own enjoyment. The lesson excerpts from classical music scores had me practicing with delight and diligence. Some of the simpler fingering still there. One of my aunts is in her early nineties and music is one of her great gifts. When my sister and I visited her this summer, she is still playing and practicing a classical piece, the goal is to commit it to memory and have her performance critiqued by a professor of music from the university. May it be so. May her love of music continue to bring her comfort and peace. (She is a gifted musician, playing by ear or reading complicated scores. I asked her to play "I Know Whom I Have Believed", one of the songs I have chosen for my graduation service. She asked me to hum the first line, and so I did, in the pitch I am most comfortable with, and she, with just a moment's reflection, executed it perfectly. With a smile, she turned to me and said she had never played it in that key before! A wonderful memory.)

This summer as I was travelling to Gimli to meet my sister and her family, the CBC regular radio was my companion. It turns out that my sister had listened to the same station on her drive up. For a slightly different reason, her car radio had locked in CBC, and she had no choice! It does show it had been listened to before....That day we got to discuss the talk show, hosts and guests that we had both heard. CBC and me.

When to say yes or no

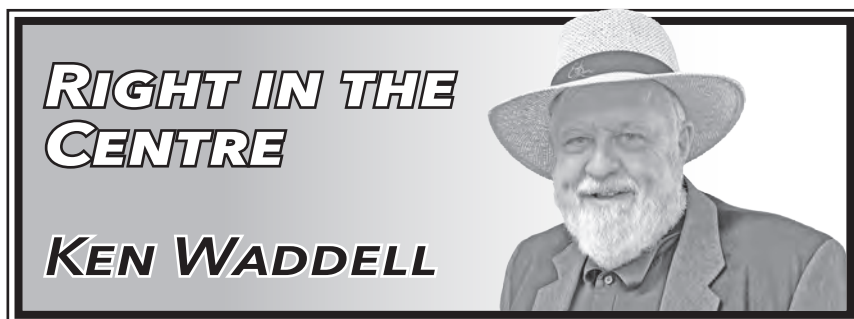
I am launching this week's column with the words of US Senator Marjorie Taylor Greene.

She announced last week that she was resigning from the US Senate, and as soon as she did so, she denied she was planning to launch a bid for the office of President of the United States. Whether she changes her mind or not, her statement and its inherent logic makes a lot of sense. Read through her words, and after that, I will write what I believe—that Greene is right about the US Presidential role, but unfortunately, her words resonate with a lot of other levels of politics.

Greene said, "running for President requires traveling all over the country, begging for donations all day, everyday to raise hundreds of millions of dollars, arguing political talking points everyday to the point of exhaustion, destroying your health and having no personal life in order to attempt to get enough votes to become President all to go to work into a system that refuses to fix any of America's problems. The fact that I'd have to go through all that but would be totally blocked from truly fixing anything is exactly why I would never do it."

Greene said she is "not motivated by power and titles," while arguing that the "Political Industrial Complex has destroyed our country and will never allow someone like me or you to rise to power and actually solve the crises that plague all of us."

I have been involved in all levels of politics for more than 40 years. I have run for office, held office, and observed dozens of politicians from school board members to municipal councillors, MLAs, MPs, Premiers and Prime Ministers. All those years of observation, participating, and



“ Big change, which are sometimes needed, are especially difficult to bring into reality. ”

reporting have led me to believe that Greene is somewhat correct. Regardless of how hard you try, how much you strive, how much you feel moved to serve and establish new solutions to challenges, it's very difficult to bring about significant change.

Big changes, which are sometimes needed, are especially difficult to bring into reality. Once a person is in office, they soon find out that they are bound by tradition and vested interests. Traditional systems are entrenched, and most people and most organizations don't like change. Sometimes it's fear, sometimes laziness, and sometimes it's simply stubbornly not wanting to do things differently.

But changes are needed, as Greene says to "actually solve the crises that plague all of us." We are all plagued with the need to change, all the while keeping the things that work in place so that chaos doesn't destroy us. It's a finely tuned skill to figure out what

needs to be held dearly and what needs to change.

While Marjorie Taylor Greene is in a somewhat forced transition time in her life, she will, in all likelihood, find a few things to do. So will most of us, and that's what keeps us going. We keep fine-tuning our daily routine so that we can get ahead. That is a truth that should never change, regardless of how old we are.

For all of us, and especially those in elected office, it's important to examine every decision and decide if there's a better way. My response is a resounding yes, there's always a better way to do things, to get through our day and to have an effect on our lives and the lives of those around us. Good enough is not good enough; excellence should always be the goal.

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.

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STAFF

Owner/Publisher/Editor
Micah Waddell

General Delivery
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SPORTS

JETS FLY PAST WAWANESA, DEFEAT FARMERS

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

Last Sunday night, after the Neepawa Farmers had battled back, Riley Boles delivered for the Rivers Jets as they grabbed another Tiger Hills Hockey League victory to remain undefeated.

On Nov. 21, the Rivers Jets cruised past the Wawanesa Jets 7-1. Two days later, on Nov. 23, the Farmers had come back to tie their game with the Jets 2-2 in the second period. Boles delivered the game winner in the third.

"We were on the power play and had a couple chances prior to the goal," Boles said. "Off a rebound, Layton Veitch picked up the puck and passed it over to Kayden Sutherland. He was looking to shoot off the pass from Veitch, but ended up giving me a little drop pass to the blue line for a one timer. The shot went off one of the Neepawa defencemen's skates and ended up sneaking in five-hole. It was a bit of a relief to have that one go in considering how well Neepawa's goalie was playing and come away with the win."

The Jets had led the host Farmers, 1-0, after a first period power play goal by Dylan Thiessen. Just about five minutes into the second period, Josh Burdett made it 2-0 for Rivers.

Between 9:23 and 10:26 of the period, the Farmers struck twice to tie things up. Cohen Kulbacki scored the first one and Garrett Remple the second. At the 13:16 mark in the third period, Boles scored on a power play. Luke DeCorby added an empty net goal with six seconds left to seal the 4-2 win for the Jets.

"You could sense a bit of worry on the bench after Neepawa scored the tying goal," Boles said. "We bounced back pretty well in the third period and didn't let it get us down too much and continued to play our game. We had a lucky bounce late in the game to go up 3-2. We fought hard to keep that lead late in the game and came home with the 4-2 win and to get ourselves ready for a hard battle Saturday against Killarney."



The Jets host the defending THHL champion Killarney Shamrocks on Nov. 29. As of Nov. 23, the Rivers team sported a league-leading 7-0-0-0 record. The Shamrocks also were perfect at 5-0-0-0.

Against the Farmers, Rivers goalie Riley Lamb stopped 18 shots. Nathan Braun turned away 53 for Neepawa.

In the battle of the THHL's Jets, the Rivers side won this "dogfight" handily. Rivers led 3-0 after the first period. Jesse Brown scored for Wawanesa to pull the hosts within two, 3-1, in the second period.

The Rivers Jets flew again in a feisty third period with four goals. There were 24 penalties called in the final frame. Lamb made 24 saves. Wawanesa's Sawyer Wiebe stopped 45 shots.

Captain Riley Shamray, a defenceman, led Rivers with five points. He had a goal and four assists. DeCorby scored twice and finished with three points. Also scoring for Rivers were Kaelen Huibers, Layton Veitch, Thiessen, and Jaxon Heaney. Owen Wareham recorded two assists.

WESTMAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

It has been a while since I updated the high school hockey league and the Hamiota Huskies. The delay was that I could not find who the goal scorers were, but now we are back as I found where exactly the stats are. Anyway, with that being said I will attempt to keep up on more regular basis. Their next game is December 1, so you will have to wait a bit as it will be a couple of weeks before they play many more games.

The Huskies sit in third place in league standings with 5 wins and only 1 loss. The Huskies defeated the Wildcats 4-3 in a shootout, followed by defeating the Renegades 6-1. The Huskies hot streak kept going as they defeated the Crocus Plains Plainsmen 6-4. Dauphin were the next opposition and the Huskies defeated the Clippers 3-1. In the next game the Huskies faced a hot goalie from Neepawa and lost 4-0, their first loss of the season. They quickly rebounded and defeated the Virden Golden Bears 8-6.

The Dauphin Clippers currently sit in first

place with 12 points and a 6 and 2 win, loss record. Next is the defending league champions the Vincent Massey Vikings who remain undefeated and have 10 points. Hamiota also has 10 points and sits in third with Russell.

Dexon Routledge from the Virden Golden Bears leads the league in scoring with 10 goals and 23 points in just 7 games.

Duncan Mclean leads the Huskies in scoring with 3 goals and 11 points. Aaron Roles has 7 goals and 9 points, and Sam Rivas has scored 4 times and has 8 points.

Next up for the Huskies is a game on December 1 when they will host the Minnedosa Chancellors. Should be a good one. Support your team, see ya at the rink!



REF MEMORIES

REF TO
WRITER

GERRY
NOLAN



When out on the ice officiating a game, sometimes you hear some things said that are just downright funny. Such was the case in a game between the Elkhorn Canadians and a visiting team who shall remain nameless as well as the player's name to protect them from any embarrassment. This was during a South West Hockey League game. So, this is what occurred during a stoppage of play.

Dennis Kyle who was a great hockey player as well as a great ball player and an even better person, was the man who used this situation to an advantage for his team.

On this particular night, I am assessing a penalty for tripping. Let us refer to the other player involved as Jack Tripper. Sounds original, right? Elkhorn was leading the game by a score of 4-1 at the time the infraction was called. The infraction happened right in front of the penalty box. My arm goes up to call, I blow the whistle and give the signal for tripping. Jack Tripper just looks at me, says nothing because it is a no doubt penalty. Jack is about to enter the penalty box when out of nowhere comes Dennis Kyle skating quickly toward me, and he is in a hurry. Denny said to me Gerry, don't call that penalty. I said I have to call the penalty; it was an obvious tripping penalty. Denny says yes, I know but please just let it go this one time. I said no I have to call the penalty. At this point Jack Tripper and Denny Kyle and I are all around the referee crease which would make us about three feet apart from each other. Denny repeats himself about not calling the penalty and so I say to Denny, Why do you not want me to call the penalty. Jack Tripper is also all ears on this as well. Denny replies that their power play is not working very well tonight but when Jack Tripper is on the ice we have scored all 4 of our goals while he is on the ice! If he stays on we will probably score some more goals. When Denny repeated his statement he had a smirk on his face. Well Jack Tripper was very upset at Dennis. For the rest of the night, Jack was off his game completely and I believe he was actually on the ice for six of the Elkhorn goals that night. Whenever the opportunity arose, Jack was chasing Dennis down, but never did catch him. What a line by Dennis and quick thinking as well to come up with that one liner!

After the game is over and both clubs have shaken hands, both teams as well as the officials are having a beer after the game up at the Elkhorn hotel. To everyone's surprise, here is Jack Tripper and Denny Kyle sitting at the same table having a beer. I believe Denny bought it for Jack and they were having a laugh about the whole thing.

This said a lot to all of us, you compete hard against one another for sixty minutes and then the buzzer goes to end the game. Time to visit and enjoy the evening and each other's company. Is that not the way it is supposed to be after a senior hockey league game? Everyone has to work the next day, senior hockey is a working man's hockey league. What a memory! Thanks, Denny, for giving me some great memories of not only that night but by the way you played the game. I was fortunate to watch Dennis play many times and he never disappointed me. We miss you, Dennis! One of the great men, who left us way too early!

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Join Riverdale's annual Christmas hamper drive

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

As the Christmas season approaches, the spirit of giving is in the air, and the Westman and Riverdale area community is bustling with excitement for its annual Christmas Cheer Hamper Drive. This wonderful initiative aims to support families and individuals within our community during the festive season, ensuring that everyone has a reason to celebrate.

The heart of the Christmas Cheer program lies in its mission to prioritize families with children, though applications from individuals and seniors are also welcomed. This inclusive approach reflects the community's commitment to supporting those in need, particularly during a time when the festivities can sometimes highlight feelings of loneliness or hardship.

In today's world, the rising cost of living has had a

significant impact on many families, making it incredibly difficult to manage regular expenses, let alone the extra costs associated with the holiday season. As a response, the Christmas Cheer program works diligently to create hampers filled with essential and festive items that bring joy and sustenance to the recipients. However, with elevated food prices, the organization is reaching out to the community for support. Your donations are crucial in helping us to provide as many items as possible in these hampers.

This year, the program is calling for a wide range of donations. In addition to non-perishable food items, we are also seeking new, unwrapped toys, winter outerwear, gift cards, and toiletry items. These contributions can make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve, providing not just food but also heartfelt gifts that brighten the holiday season.

To facilitate donation collection, there will be a dedicated table at the Jingle Bell Junction Legion

craft sale on Saturday, November 29th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We encourage everyone to drop by, enjoy the local crafts, and make a donation if they can.

For those directly benefiting from the program, please note that all applications for hampers must be referred through recognized social agencies or representatives. This includes organizations such as the Riverdale Food Bank, school liaison workers, church liaisons, and Prairie Mountain health workers. These referrals help ensure that assistance is given to those who truly need it. Deadline for applications is December 5th.

Mark your calendars! The delivery and pick-up of the hampers will take place on December 20th at Zion Church. This date is critical for preparing and distributing the hampers, so we encourage volunteers to assist in any way they can.

If you have any questions or require further information please contact Caroline 204-761-5080



From the prairies to the highland tour 204 - Part 13

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

Saturday, August 16 was a very special day in two ways, our visitor from London Andrea Tolton arrived at around 2 in the afternoon. Andrea is the youngest daughter of the late Claude and Shirley Tolton. Donald drove to meet her at the train station in Markinch. Andrea is a childhood friend of Brin and Devon. We were all looking forward to meeting her.

While Donald travelled to meet her, some of the men and Julie went fly fishing with James Barclay, Donald's cousin. The girls were doing yoga out on the lawn as it was a beautiful day. The other special event of the day was our (travel guru's) birthday. Yes, it was Devon's birthday! We planned more of a quiet day at our Ladywell house to celebrate Devon's

birthday. We planned a barbeque of hamburgers, sausage and oven roasted spuds and vegetables. We went to the store and brought cake and pink iced donuts for dessert. We would be celebrating another birthday the next day as well. Gerry and Eric did the barbequing while Celia and Leith did the cooking in the AGA oven. Supper was a (Canadian) summertime meal followed by a gift opening. Refreshments flowed to extremes that evening! Some were in bed early while others stayed up celebrating into the wee hours of the morning, like four o'clock. I was told there was singing and other activities going on with some humorous videos taken to be shown the next day. There was also a report of some of Princess Diane's hair resurfacing!

The next morning, after cleaning up the evidence from the night

before, the group was hastily getting some breakfast before we prepared for another special day. It was Freya's seventh birthday! Devon had planned a wonderful day for her and for the rest of the ladies for that matter.

After having a breakfast of pink donuts, and a flurry of gift opening for Freya the women of our merry band, donned their finest as they were off to have (High Tea) at St. Andrews. We were being treated to this honour at the golf course's elegant restaurant. After being seated at the perfectly set table and offered a free glass of champagne, Freya had her own non-alcoholic champagne served in a flute exactly the same as ours.

Plates of assorted finger sandwiches, tiered cake stands with yummy dainties, and specialty cups of tea were provided for us.

After indulging in



Freya on her birthday at St. Andrews

PHOTO BY DEVON CALDWELL

these delicacies, we met up with the men at another pub in the grounds where the men had lunch and the ladies

another drink. While the ladies were having (High Tea) the men were treated to a tour of St. Andrews golf course

courtesy of James Barclay. Next week I will share how the men spent their day while the ladies were having tea!

Farmers' Advocate



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The sun sets on the 2025 farming season



PHOTO BY JODI BAKER

This end of day, end of harvest scene was captured by Jodi Baker Photography. This sunset was seen by many readers as they drove by the harvest fields of western Manitoba. The harvest went well from an operational point of view and yields were reported to be mostly good. Those interested in purchasing this, or other works can learn more by checking out Jodi Baker Photography on Facebook or by contacting baker.jodi@icloud.com

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Farmers' Advocate



Manitoba Beef Producers: An update on the livestock services file

By Matthew Atkinson
MANITOBA BEEF PRODUCERS

Being not that many months away from the Manitoba Beef Producers' Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February, I thought I would both reflect upon the big discussion and decision around livestock inspection and give you an update on the progress since last year's AGM.

First off, I think it's important to say that in no way did we set out with an agenda to create an expansion of livestock inspection services in Manitoba. After hearing a lot of feedback from producers, marketers and lenders about lack of security around livestock ownership in Manitoba, we set forth to investigate what options were available. At this point, I would really like to acknowledge the great input we received from the other western provinces on how their systems worked, what they were happy with and what they would change.

Following a number of meet-

ings and conversations, the very strong and unanimous feedback we received was that inspection works, it provides value that far exceeds the cost of the service and, it needs to be province-wide and mandatory. We also learned about how many cattle in Manitoba on which an inspection fee is already being paid, with them being inspected after the sale is made when they are destined to go to one of the western provinces. Now that inspection fee may not always be directly seen by the Manitoba seller, however, it is being factored into the sale price. The unfortunate part is that it is not bringing value to that Manitoba producer, due to the fact there is currently no detailed legislative or regulatory framework over Manitoba-owned cattle should a question about ownership arise. With all the information we had before us, no matter how many different ideas we kept batting around between us, it kept pointing back to expanded inspection being the only real solution, especially

when inspection was already occurring on so many of these western-bound cattle.

We also looked long and hard at the designated roles within the RCMP – staff dedicated to investigating livestock-related crimes such as fraud and theft -- that British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan have. While this approach is very important, and something that we clearly need here in Manitoba, the feedback from the RCMP officers in those roles in all three provinces was clear: they cannot do their job without having a livestock inspection service to work with. Additionally, knowing that after many years of delay, the new federal livestock traceability regulations are likely coming into force very soon, we see the value that could be brought by having an inspection service doing a portion of the movement reporting on the producers' behalf.

Once MBP's board of directors reached this conclusion, we decided that due to the complex nature of the how and why we

got there, we felt the need to go beyond regular district meetings and hold some town hall-style meetings in some regions less covered by that year's district meetings. At these meetings producers had a chance to better understand what livestock inspection really means and to voice any concerns.

We appreciate everybody who came out and engaged in person, spoke to us for more information and came out to our February 2025 AGM, where we saw a resolution on livestock inspection carried with a strong majority.

As a refresher, that resolution stated as follows: "Therefore be it resolved to recommend that Manitoba Beef Producers now ask the Government of Manitoba to work with value chain members to take the necessary steps needed to implement mandatory livestock inspection in Manitoba, including: making required legislative and/or regulatory changes; working with the prospective delivery agent on a service agreement;

determining if funding can be secured to help offset the cost of an expanded inspection system; deciding whether an investment can be made to support the creation of a Livestock Investigations Unit; and, any other steps required to move this initiative forward in the most responsive, efficient and cost-effective manner."

Following the AGM, we formed a working group, with members of our MBP board, reps from the Manitoba Livestock Marketing Association, producers at large and, in a non-voting seat, a representative from Manitoba Agriculture. The Manitoba Livestock Inspection Working Group's job is to try and work through establishing expanded inspection services and therefore it is important we have the diverse industry representation we do have. This consists of commercial cow-calf, purebred, feedlots, auction marts and order buyers.

*Continued
on next page*



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Mandatory inspection services requested by Manitoba Beef Producers

Continued from previous page

The first big task before us has been looking into our existing provincial legislative and regulatory framework and what we would like updated versions of these to say when it comes to livestock inspection and key pieces such as demonstrating ownership of cattle. This is of course a lengthy and detailed process that is now handed off to the province for drafting of those pieces.

As noted, one of the other benefits livestock inspection can provide is movement reporting for the new traceability regulations, expected to come into force in the next couple of years. As part of that, it will be necessary to have complete records for livestock being transported, meaning manifests and animal transport records/transfer for care. Our goal in establishing mandatory inspection services in Manitoba is at the outset to go directly to a digital platform for inspectors inputting information, rather than face the slow and uphill battle some other provinces are experiencing as they transition from paper to a digital platform. Our hope is to have a digital manifest platform available for producers to use that would be

able to directly input that information, saving a lot of work and expense in the long-term. This of course is a lot easier and more valuable than a stack of paper records when issues arise and information needs to be looked back upon, such as during an animal disease investigation or if a suspected case of cattle theft or fraud has arisen.

At this point, the exact timeline to move to mandatory inspections is not yet known. As with all legislative or regulatory changes in Manitoba, these will be up for public comment and that is something we will see at some point and feedback from that can affect those timelines.

Regardless of a coming into force date, our hope, if possible, would be a few months of an education and awareness prior to inspection being fully enforced so that all members of the beef value chain can become aware of what is involved and their respective responsibilities. As always, MBP directors and staff want to hear from you on topics such as livestock inspection, so please feel free to reach out to discuss it more.

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CO-OP AGRO

Rivers and Area Community Foundation annual granting evening

By Donna Morken
RACF MEMBER

The Rivers and Area Community Foundation held their annual granting evening on Nov. 14th at 7pm at the Rivers Legion upper Hall. This year's theme was to wear your favorite sports team jersey and participate in sports trivia. The 50/50 was won by Norma VanDusen, with Suzan Ramsay winning the "big basket" and Donna Anderson winning the Surprise Basket.

Two scholarships were given out:

- Society of Friends of Rivers Collegiate Scholarship \$1,500.00 to Shayden Manz (presented by Jane Brown)
- Riverdale District Health Auxiliary Fund Scholarship. \$1,000.00 to Sarah Krahn (presented by Suzan Ramsay and Lynn Madden)

The very first round of Thomas Sill Fund grants were disbursed in March of this year with 11 grants being provided.

- Rivers Lions Club 50th Anniversary Project – Gazebo for the Kids Park – \$4,700
- Riverdale Golf and Country Club – Electrical Panel Project – \$2,000
- Rivers Firefighters Association – Hydraulic Ram Project – \$5,000
- Rivers Train Station Restoration Committee – Heritage Website – \$2,000 www.riversdaily-heritage.com
- Rivers Baseball Association – Stainless Steel Sink as part of the Canteen Completion Project – \$3,300
- Riverdale Community Development Corporation – Bench for the Toboggan Hill by Redfern's – \$1,300
- Clack's Family Heritage Museum – Mannequin Display – \$1,100
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #75 – Refurbishment of Exterior Legion Sign – \$1,500
- Rivers Train Station Restoration Committee – Historical Banners Platform Project

- \$1,600
- Prairie Crocus Library – Inventory Scanner – \$506.25
- Rivers United Church – Parking Wall / Planter Project – \$1,000

Our regular fall application event started on September 1st and we were able to provide over \$27,000. worth of financial support.

Directors Susan Citulsky, Jocelyn Beaver, Gerry Gourlay, and Lawrence McFarlane presented the grants along with the donor advised fund holders for specific grants. Unfortunately Directors Rod Veitch and Aaron Tycoles were unable to attend.

Each group receiving a grant spoke about their project.

- Riverdale Community Development Corporation – refurbishing the Wetland Centre of Excellence - accepted by Kelvin Lamb, Donna Morken - \$3,000.00
- Clack Family Heritage Museum – Security Cameras – accepted by Maxine Shamray and group \$1,500. Presented by the Foundation and the Bill and Helen Sibbald Fund representatives Charley Beaver, Raleigh Beaver and Donna Falkevitch, Director Lawrence McFarlane
- Rivers Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 75 Ladies Auxiliary – Veterans Banners Program accepted by Jane Brown - \$3,500.
- Riverdale Harvest Food Bank – a new freezer \$1,233 accepted by Megan Lelonde and Yvonne Crouch
- Rivers Skating Club – skating dress project – accepted by Alison Hamm \$1,000. Provided by the Lorrie Dyer Fund and presented by Ian Dyer and family.
- Friends of Rivers Lake – Kayak Dock accepted by Dave Falkevitch, Samantha Lepp, Ian Puppe \$1,200
- Rivers Legion Branch #75 – under counter glass dish washer \$3,500 accepted by Treasurer

- Valerie Collins
- Rivers Curling Club – New Ice Scraper \$3,750 accepted by President Charley Beaver
- Riverdale Firefighters Association – Extra Equipment for the Hydraulic Ram equipment \$1,500 accepted by Steve Hamm, Byron McMurchy, Brayden Johnson

Provided by: The Foundation and the Al & Donna Morken Emergency Services Fund presented by Director Susan Citulsky, Al and Donna Morken.

- Rivers Train Station Restoration Committee – Heritage Signage project accepted by Kelvin Lamb, Ian Puppe \$1,852.
- Oak River Legion Branch #150 – Building a cement walkway \$1,250 accepted by Diane Kuculym
- Rivers Comets Senior Baseball Club – Dugout and Sound System project \$3,750. accepted by Scott and Charley Beaver

Director Jocelyn Beaver kept us on our toes by leading the Sports Trivia, which Director Susan Citulsky had prepared. The Riverdale Early Learning Members provided information about the second daycare project they are working on. The latest information was given out, as they continue to move forward with the project.

To date the Rivers and Area Community Foundation has provided over \$350,000. towards projects within our community and area. One of our past Directors said "Remembering the past by Paying it Forward for the Future". The Foundation continues to develop that future in our community and area through the grants for various projects. Thank you to the volunteers that keep these groups moving forward and to the directors for volunteering their time, hard work and dedication, as we would not be here today without them.

The Riverdale Early Learning Members provided information about the second daycare project they are working on. The latest information was given out, as they continue to move forward with the project.

Oak River Legion Branch #150 Update

Submitted
OAK RIVER LEGION #150

The Oak River Legion Branch #150 has been busy during the last few weeks. On Friday, November 7th, 2025, several members of the Oak River Legion attended a Remembrance Service at the Oak River School. The branch has a Remembrance Day annual poster/poem competition and the Oak River School, the Oak River Colony School, and the Westview Colony School entered colored posters, black and white posters, and poems for the different age categories. A monetary award is given to all the students who enter the competition. The Branch's first placed winners from each of the categories are forwarded to our Zone for judging and if they win there they are forwarded to the District. First placed winners are then judged for our District, winners then move on to Provincial judging. All firsts move on to national judging. Members of the Branch handed out the prizes to the students in the Oak River School after the Remembrance Service at the school and then attended Westview Colony and Oak River Colony to hand out the prizes at those schools. First prize winners are as follows: Primary colour poster – Alyssa Oraschuk; Primary Black & White poster – Calvin Kleinsasser; Junior Colour poster – Erika Wurtz; Junior Black & White poster – Silas Kleinsasser; Intermediate Colour poster – Katarina Stahl; Intermediate Black & White Poster – Rachel Stahl; Senior Black & White poster – Kristian Stahl; Junior Poem – Maria Maendel; Intermediate poem – Jacobi Kleinsasser. Congratulations to all our winners! The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would like to thank the schools for enabling their students to take part in the competition and like to thank everyone who came out to the Oak River school to take part in the service.

The Oak River Ladies Auxiliary has a successful tea from 2-3:30 p.m. on Friday, November 7th, 2025. Raffles were held for two gift certificates and the two lucky winners were Brent and Wendy Burt.

On Sunday, November 9th, 2025, the Remembrance Service was held at the Oak River United Church at 9:00 a.m. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 was pleased to have in attendance 4 cadets from the 317 Strathclair Royal Canadian Air Cadets as well as our MLA Greg Nesbitt. Special thanks to Julie Hutton whom lead the service, pianist Allan Hyndman, bugle player Mark Humphries, and Bridget and Nate Stewart for placing the poppies. Comrade Bill Aaroe read the Honour Roll from the First and Second World Wars assisted by Sue Parker. Pinning on the poppies were Bridget and Nate Stewart. Mark Humphries played the Last Post. Following the service, Comrade Gerry Gourlay led the Legion members; the Legion Ladies Auxiliary; and the Cadets carried the wreaths to the cenotaph in front of the Oak River Memorial Hall. Wreaths were laid by Comrade Gerry Gourlay, MLA Greg Nesbitt; R. M. of Oakview Councillor Bill Aaroe and Comrade Kuculym. Refreshments and social time followed in the Memorial Hall.

On Friday, November 14th, 2025, several members of the Oak River Legion #150 attended the Rivers and Area Community Foundation awards evening in the Rivers Legion Hall. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would like to thank the Rivers and Area Community Foundation for their generous grant of \$1,250. to go towards the removal and replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Oak River Memorial Hall. The evening was enjoyed by all that attended.

The Royal Canadian Legion turns 100 in 2026, and the Dominion Executive Council and Provincial Commands have some exciting news to share starting January 5th, 2026. The Oak River Legion Branch #150 would love to have new members join our Legion so if you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact Comrade Ivy Heapy for more information.



Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

Jeremy Bray's appeal has been answered-for now

By Ken Waddell
RIVERS BANNER

This past week, a Rivers young man's health has been in the news again. Jeremy Bray's health has been reported previously in the Rivers Banner and in many other media outlets. Mr. Bray was informed recently that he would not be able to get the drug Risdiplam, sold under the brand name Evrysdi by Roche, the drug's manufacturer. Manitoba Health minister Uzoma Asagwara had convinced the company to provide it for free but the company recently said they couldn't supply it on that basis any longer. When Bray brought his case to the attention of the health

minister, Bray was terribly disappointed with the minister turning down his request.

On Tuesday, Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew says the province is reversing its decision and will ensure a 30-year-old battling a degenerative disease will keep receiving his life-sustaining treatment for at least another year.

Kinew said Tuesday he was "very moved" by news reports overnight about Jeremy Bray's disappointment after realizing his pleas for continued coverage hadn't changed the health minister's mind.

On Tuesday, CBC Manitoba reported, "We have some positive news to share with you and your family here today," Kinew told question

period on Tuesday afternoon, speaking directly to Bray.

"I'm happy to share with the House and all Manitobans that you are going to get this coverage, probably for another year, as we push to make sure the federal regulator does its job to gather the evidence."

Kinew said his government has been in touch with Roche and "some progress" has been made in the negotiations with the manufacturer.

The premier didn't immediately specify who would fund the interim treatment or whether that had been decided.

Public pressure has been brought to bear on this matter by numerous MPs and MLAs.



Jeremy, his laptop ready for the work day.

FILE PHOTO

CPR boomtown Oak Lake shines in new history release

Submitted by Ed Whitcomb
BY OAK LAKE NEWS

I'm probably your most prolific historian because I've just published my 15th history book. Its: *Acquiring the Canadian West: Why? How? And How Much?*, the story of how the young Dominion bought Rupert's Land (which didn't own it), provoked the Red River Resistance and the premature creation of Manitoba, tricked BC into joining, signed and then violated treaties with the First Nations (not including Sioux Valley who were regarded as refugees), built the longest railway in the world (over the wrong pass in the Rockies), and settled the prairies. The chapter on settlement explains how the survey system worked in and around Oak Lake. It was an incredible achievement, but for a number of reasons, most immigrants went to other countries and the prairies stagnated for the first three decades of Confederation.

Oak Lake is mentioned many times. In 1882, it was the base camp for the CPR's historic thrust across the prairies, with a population of 5,000. In the preface I explain growing up in a CPR town in the 1950s because I watched the crews maintain the tracks, knew how elevators worked, watched engines fill up with water and dump ash, met the local at 5:15 and saw the teamster deliver parcels to the stores on Main Street (including dad's drug store) and the postmaster take a wheelbarrow of mail to the Post Office. I did most of the jobs on various farms (milking cows by hand) and have been over most of the railway routes in Canada.

I wrote my first history essay in Grade 8, 1956, arguing that Louis Riel should be regarded as a Father of Confederation, and this book contains more information on him plus his picture on the front cover, beside Sir. John A. Macdonald. There are lots of maps and pictures and the graph of a

township explains how it was surveyed and settled. Nine professional historians helped prepare the book. For more information, contact me at 613-833-2414 or books@fromseatosea.com Writing it brought back many memories.

About:

Ed Whitcomb was raised in Oak Lake. By age 14 he had written his first history essay, won his first history prize, and adopted music, coin collecting, and traveling as hobbies.

He received a BA from the University of Manitoba in 1964, capturing the University silver medals in History and Economics, the Brandon College Faculty Prize and the Honour Society Award.

In 1966 he completed an MA at the University of Manitoba in Canadian and European History. He received a Ph.D. from the University of London, England in 1970, published by Duke University Press under the title *Napoleon's Diplomatic Service*.

After teaching History at universities in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Manitoba, he joined the Canadian Foreign Service. He served in Yugoslavia, Thailand, Indonesia and India, and spent 15 years as an international political and strategic analyst in the Privy Council Office. He retired in 2009 to work full time on promoting Canadian history and music.

Whitcomb has published dozens of books, articles and letters including histories of all 10 provinces.

He's compiled a book of 50 songs that mention Canadian people, places, culture and history for *The Great Canadian Songbook, Volume I*, published in December, 2006.

Since the 1950s Ed has played with numerous musical groups in Manitoba and Ontario and on his foreign postings.

In 2014, Ed was inducted into the Brandon University Wall of Fame.

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On the date and at the time and location described below, a PUBLIC HEARING will be held to receive representations from any persons who wish to make them in respect of the following matter:

BY-LAW NO. 2025-06

being an amendment to the Riverdale Municipality Zoning By-Law No. 2016-12.

HEARING LOCATION: **Riverdale Municipality Council Chambers
 670- 2nd Avenue – Box 520
 Rivers, Manitoba R0K 1X0**

DATE & TIME: **December 16, 2025 at 6:05 p.m.**

GENERAL INTENT OF BY-LAW No. 2025-06

That Table 5-11: ("I" Institutional Zone - Use & Bulk Requirements) be amended by adding Group Day Care as a Permitted Use within the Institutional Zone.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Laura Gill, Assistant Administrative Officer, Riverdale Municipality, Ph: 204-328-5300

A copy of this by-law can be inspected at the Municipal Office location noted above during normal office hours (8:30 to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.) Monday to Friday. Copies may be made, and extracts taken therefrom, upon request.

Any person may make a representation regarding by-law No 2025-06, either in person or in writing, at the public hearing.

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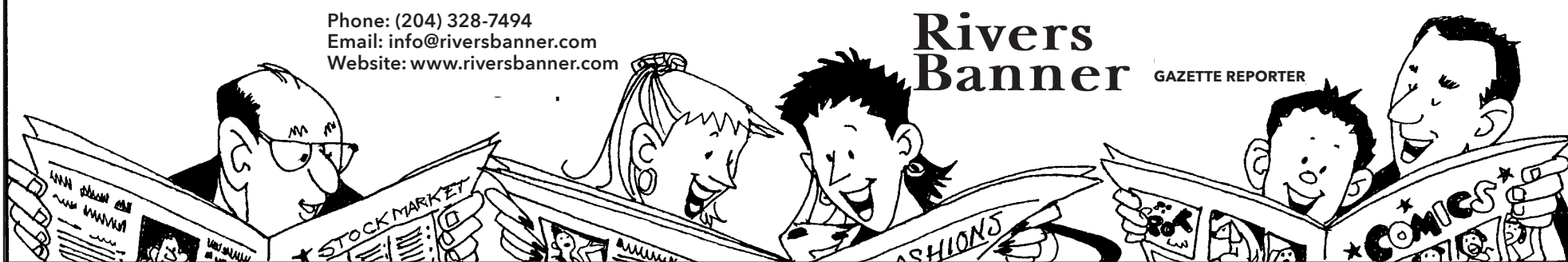
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SPORTS

RIVERS' AARON TYCOLES EARNS PROVINCIAL VOLUNTEER HONOUR

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

A crucial figure in Rivers baseball was recently honoured for his incredible dedication to the sport at a variety of levels.

Aaron Tycoles was the recipient of Baseball Manitoba's 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award. The award was presented at the Baseball Manitoba/ Baseball Canada Awards Banquet on Nov. 8 in Winnipeg.

"For the Rivers Baseball Association executive and Ryan Lamb to even nominate me means a lot," Tycoles said. "I have been involved in Baseball Manitoba for a long time, and to win the award and have my name appear on the list of winners means a lot, as I respect a lot of people that have won the award in the past."

His current involvement with the game can be linked to his baseball past. Tycoles was a member of the 2009-2013 Reston Rockets senior team that was inducted into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame. As well, he was also inducted into that prestigious institution as a member of the Tycoles family along with his dad Ross, mom Carol, brother Rory, and sister Amy Johnson.

"I am as active as I am because the game of baseball has given me so much," Tycoles said. "I have got to see a lot of Canada because of the game. I have made lifelong friends all over North America, and am lucky enough to be in the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame."

"To grow up in my

house, and see what my Dad did for Reston Minor Ball, I have gotten involved because I want kids in Rivers, and around the Midwest Region, to be lucky enough to have those opportunities. I see how much my kids love the game, and how the game has grown here and it keeps me energized to go to meetings and be at the park. I am tremendously proud of what the Rivers Baseball Association and the Rivers Comets have established here in the last 10 years since construction started on Comet Field in 2015."

Lamb, Rivers Minor Baseball's vice president, wrote a letter in support of Tycoles' nomination. In it, he stated, in part, that "When looking at the criteria for the award I could not think of a more deserving candidate. Aaron's dedication to growing the game of baseball in Rivers and in the Midwest region is evident by the countless hours he spends coaching ... Aaron's contribution to baseball goes further than the diamond as he serves on many boards and holds many positions to ensure the growth and sustainability of baseball in our area can continue to thrive for the years to come."

Dustin Asham was another supporter of Tycoles' candidacy for the award. He is Brandon Minor Baseball's high-performance director as well as the director of baseball operations at Triple Crown Sports.

"What makes Aaron stand out is not just the number of hats he wears, but the passion, energy,

and leadership he brings to each role," Asham said. "He is a driving force in creating opportunities for players, coaches, and families."

He also said, "Aaron's contributions are wide reaching, and the impact of his volunteer service can be felt across multiple organizations and age groups." At present, Tycoles is the president of Rivers Minor Ball, the Rivers Baseball Association and the senior South West Baseball League, in which the Comets compete. He also serves as the registrar, secretary/treasurer and governor of Midwest Minor Ball. Tycoles oversees all the regional programming, including the organization's AAA teams. He is on the Baseball Manitoba Rural (Zone 2) Committee and the AAA Baseball Committee. Tycoles served as the 13U Convenor for the AAA league this past summer. As well, he is the Triple Crown Sports Director of Operations.

"In addition to his administrative leadership, Aaron gives countless hours on the field as a coach and mentor," Asham said.

Last summer Tycoles coached the Rivers 13U team to the Tier 3 provincial championship, as well as being a key member of his home community's host committee. He was also the head coach of Midwest's 13U AAA team. Tycoles was an assistant coach for the Rivers 15U team. He is also a coach facilitator for Baseball Canada "ensuring that other coaches are supported and equipped to succeed," Asham said.



PHOTO BY PATTI HACAULT

Kevin Booker, Baseball Manitoba's Vice-President of High Performance, poses with Aaron Tycoles, the organization's Volunteer of the Year Award winner.

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A BRIGHT START TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

As the holiday season approaches, one particular event stands out in the town of Rivers—the annual Santa Parade. This cherished tradition took place this past Friday night, captivating locals and visitors alike with its festive spirit and vibrant displays. With approximately 20 creatively decorated entries, the streets of Rivers transformed into a winter wonderland, bringing joy to everyone who lined up to witness the festivities.

The parade was a feast for the eyes, featuring brightly lit floats that glimmered in the evening's mild weather.

Families, friends, and community members of all ages gathered along the streets, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the jolly figure of Santa Claus himself. Amidst the cheering and laughter, the atmosphere was electric, with sights and sounds that stirred feelings of nostalgia and excitement for the holiday season.

One of the standout entries this year was the unique curling rock costumes, which heralded the upcoming RWE Women of the Rings curling event set to take place at the end of December. This creative nod not only showcased local talent but also promoted a sense of community pride. Watching participants dressed in these whimsical costumes added an extra layer of fun to the parade, perfectly blending holiday cheer with a celebration of local sporting events.



Santa made his annual visit to Rivers Parade on Friday, November 21.

PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

As the parade progressed, the sounds of Christmas carols filled the air, harmonizing with the delightful jingling of bells. The unmistakable music of the season echoed through the streets, creating an ambiance that was both festive and heartwarming. It was impossible not to get swept up in the merriment as favorite holiday tunes resonated among the crowds, inviting everyone to join in with singing and clapping.

The success of Rivers' Santa Parade can be attributed not only to the enthralling floats and performances but also to the unwavering enthusiasm of the community. Families donned their festive attire, children waved, and smiles were abundant as attendees shared in the joy of the holiday spirit.

For many, the Santa Parade marks the official kickoff

of the holiday season. It is a time for community bonding, reflection, and joy. The event serves as a reminder of the importance of togetherness during the holidays. As Santa Claus made his grand appearance at the end of the parade, greeting excited children and waving to the crowd, the joy was palpable, marking the highlight of the evening.

Overall, the Rivers Santa Parade was a fantastic way to unite the community in celebration and joy. With mild weather providing the perfect backdrop, this year's event will be remembered as a bright start to the holiday season, filled with laughter, delight, and the warm embrace of the community. As thoughts turn toward gatherings, gifts, and goodwill, it's events like this that remind us of the true spirit of the holidays—togetherness, celebration, and joy.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
COMMUNITY CALENDAR					Nov 28	29
					Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm Kenton Legion 7pm Hamiota Hotel 7pm	Rivers Craft Christmas Sale
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am 	50 + Card Games 1pm 		50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Riverdale Harvest Food Bank 9:30 to 11:30am. Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm 	Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm Kenton Legion 7pm Hamiota Hotel 7pm	Rapid City Community Church Christmas Concert
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am 	50 + Card Games 1pm 	50 + Club Pool 1pm 	50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm 	Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50 + Floor Games 1pm 	Prairie Crocus Library Storytime in Rivers 10am Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm Kenton Legion 7pm Hamiota Hotel 7pm	