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# RIVERS BANNER

GAZETTE-REPORTER

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## Flowers and burgers on a bright sunny day Rapid City 4-H Fundraiser



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Rapid City 4-H members served up a BBQ lunch. Braxtyn Usnier, Swayzie Bootsman, Ryler van Meijl, Jessa Switzer with help from little brother Daxen, a future 4-H member.

By Jessica Coulter  
RIVERS BANNER

On Saturday, May 10, the Rapid City 4-H Beef Club hosted a fundraising BBQ lunch at Walker's Greenhouse. Each year for the past few years, Walker's Greenhouse has hosted a fundraising group at the Greenhouse in May. Kendra Walker knows she has a fair bit of traffic at her greenhouse every May and wants to help these groups with their fundraisers by having them at her location during her busiest time.

The 4-H club sold over 90 burgers and 4 dozen hot dogs from

11am to 2pm. Funds raised from the day will go towards fees, club events, and the annual achievement day.

The club's achievement day is in conjunction with the Rapid City Ag Society Fair on June 21. The club will also compete at Neepawa & Area Fat Stock Show & Sale on July 2 in Neepawa.

In addition to the burgers and dogs, people were able to purchase different slices of pie, which were made by Henry's Meats.

"We would like to thank Heritage Co-op and Rapid City & District Co-op for their donations to our BBQ," says Kendra Bootsman, 4-H Leader.

*Inside...*



**HEARTWARMING  
MOTHER'S DAY  
TEA P7**



**ENTER TO WIN  
TICKETS TO  
WRESTLING P12**

## Our New Partners

Roy Johnston TDS congratulates **Renae Baker**, **Suzette Golden-Greenwood** and **Alyson Vercaigne** on their admission to the partnership.

**ROY JOHNSTON** TDS





# Artists in the school project: Hamiota



PHOTOS BY CELIA NOLAN

Mr. Coughlin's Grade 5 class also used recyclables to make gym games for Earth Day

By Gerry Nolan  
RIVERS BANNER

**H**amiota Elementary School held a “Gallery Walk” on Tuesday April 29 to celebrate the completion of their Manitoba Arts Council school project. Their topic was the Hamiota Trash Talk! This recognizes reused and renewed items, creating art out of recyclables.

Students were proud to show friends and family their many art projects, all using recycled elements.

The Community collected buttons, bottle caps, beads, boards and all sorts of odds and ends that Hamiota Students, with imagination and creativity, used to create beautiful art pictures.

The projects all helped students to learn curriculum concepts through hands-on creativity like the grade 1 class whose project was, beads in a barrel that had students sculpted Canadian animals and create their habitat in recycled coffee cans, like the polar bear home.

Mr. Coughlin's grade 5 class also used recyclables for gym games on Earth Day!

The grade 4 class made a beautiful peep show, in shoe boxes that were a delightful bit of art magic, helping students to learn about animal habitat.

This is wonderful work that is being done by the Hamiota Elementary students under the guidance of instructor Joan Trott!



The projects all helped students learn curriculum concepts through hands-on creativity like the Grade 1's “Beds in a Barrel” that had students sculpt Canadian animals and created their habitat in recycled coffee cans, like this polar bear's home.



Grade 4's made beautiful “peep shows” in shoe boxes that were a delightful bit of art magic as students learned about animal habitats.

## GRILLED ASPARAGUS

### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds

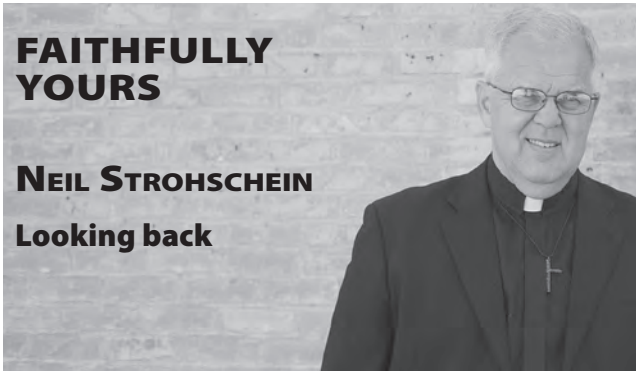
### Directions:

1. Preheat grill for high heat.
2. In a bowl, oil, butter, garlic, salt and pepper. Place asparagus in the bowl and toss to coat.
3. Lightly oil a fine-mesh grill grate. Place asparagus on grate, and cook 8 minutes, until tender but firm. Garnish with sesame seeds to serve.



The community collected buttons, bottle caps, beads, boards, and all sorts of odds and ends that Hamiota students, with imagination and creativity, used to create beautiful art pieces.





In two months, I will celebrate another birthday. Birthdays used to be days I welcomed; because with each successive birthday, I was granted new privileges. For example, birthday number 16 allowed me to get an Alberta Driver's License. Birthday number 18 meant I had the right to vote. It also meant that I could leave home, get a place of my own (if I chose to do so) and do all those other things a legal adult can do.

Birthday number 19 wasn't nearly as joyful. It was a day to look back on the previous year, celebrate achievements, acknowledge mistakes and identify changes I needed to make that would help me grow in my ability to think, speak and act as a responsible citizen, a productive employee and a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

I have done that every year since. Some birthdays have been days for joyful celebration. Some have been painful and filled with regret. Today,

as another birthday draws near, I marvel at all of the changes I have seen in my lifetime.

As I write these words, I am looking at the screen of a home computer. To my left is a smart phone that can do almost as much as this computer. On my wrist is a watch that monitors my heart rate, counts the steps I take each day, tells me how long I slept the previous night and reminds me of a pending appointment or task I need to complete. Modern technology makes it easy to communicate with family and friends; and enables us to watch events that happen on the other side of the world in real time. Few of these things were available to us when I celebrated birthday number 19.

But these modern benefits, as good as they are, often reveal evil and sinister elements in society. For every truthful and factual news item we see online, there is at least one filled with exaggerations, assumptions and outright lies. Anyone living anywhere in the world can become the victim of a smear campaign, online bullying or identity theft. And although modern technology is making our world seem smaller by the day, recent acts by foreign governments and our own have built walls of economic, social and political separation between countries that were once good neighbours and even better friends.

These recent developments have had a significant impact on how I view the world in which I live. I will address this topic in detail next week.

But they have also reminded me of one significant truth. Everything in our world may be changing at

a rapid pace, but one thing remains constant. My faith (and I hope yours as well) is in a God who never changes, in Jesus Christ who is the same, yesterday, today and forever, and in the Holy Spirit who is as real and present among us today as he has always been. One God, three persons, three in one, ever three and ever one.

In those times when I feel the grip of anxiety and despair (and I have had my share of them this past year), it is comforting to know that God has not abandoned us. He has not left us here to flounder around on our own. He is before us, beside us, behind us and hovers over us at all times. And if we will allow him to do so, he will come to live inside of us and to give us his everlasting peace.

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# From last weeks front page

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E E S S E N T I A L B L L L W  
C G F L N W R E S T L I N G L  
J D V D K Z T M C M D L G P M

### Word Bank

- |               |            |               |                |
|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. power      | 4. dessert | 7. tea        | 10. candles    |
| 2. liberation | 5. noticed | 8. charitable | 11. delightful |
| 3. essential  | 6. hosts   | 9. wrestling  | 12. tickets    |

# Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



## PC Leadership races- a review

The Manitoba Progressive Conservative (PC) Party has historically struggled over a number of issues include organizational structure and leadership. This column deals with the leadership issue.

Over my lifetime, there have been a number of PC Party of Manitoba Leadership races. I was too young to really remember how the election of Duff Roblin unfolded as it was in 1954 when I was only about six years old.

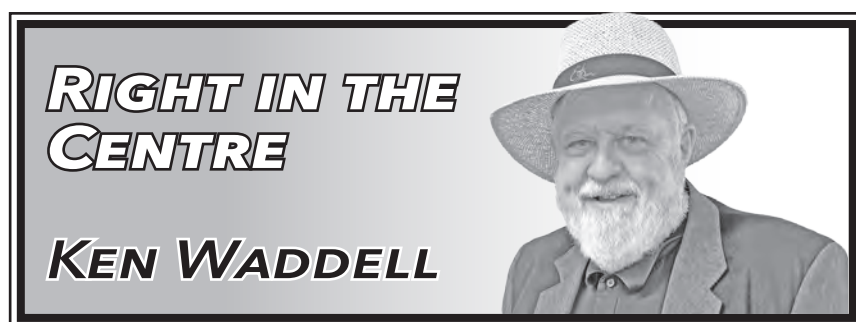
When Roblin resigned in 1967, a leadership race was declared and Walter Weir of Minnedosa won against Sterling Lyon, Dr. George Johnson and Stewart McLean. It was a delegate selection convention with 466 votes cast in the first round of voting. It was hotly contested as I witnessed the convention having been recruited by Dr. Johnson's daughter, Janice, later to become Senator Johnson. Janice and I sat on the University of Manitoba Student Council (UMSU) together. Walter Weir was defeated in the 1969 provincial election by Ed Schreyer and the first NDP government in Manitoba. A leadership convention was held in 1971 where Sidney Spivak defeated Harry Enns in a delegated convention by 261 votes to 251. A total of 476 votes.

In 1975, another delegated convention was held where Sterling Lyon defeated Sydney Spivak 264-207, a total of 471 votes.

The 1983 leadership convention was delegated as well. It was a hotly contested event where on the first ballot Gary Filmon received 261 votes, Brian Ransom got 217 and Clayton Manness got 71.

The 2000 leadership convention gave Stuart Murray the leadership by acclamation as Darren Praznik withdrew from the race earlier.

The 2006 leadership convention was the first one-member-one vote



“ The 2006 leadership convention was the first one-member-one-vote leadership election. ”

leadership election. This concept had been presented and debated at numerous AGMs and the process was finally adopted for the 2006 leadership race. The results were Hugh McFadyen 6,091 votes, Ron Schuler 1,953 and Ken Waddell 1,069.

Brian Pallister was acclaimed in the 2012 leadership race.

The 2021 leadership race was also hotly contested with Heather Stefanson winning 8,405 votes to Shelley Glover at 8,042. Disagreement extended past voting day as Glover's team contested the results in court but the court did not find in her favour.

The 2025 PC Manitoba leadership race was won by Obby Khan with 2,198.8 points over Wally Daudrich 2,163.2 points.

The 2025 leadership race used a weighted points per constituency system and while Khan won on points, Daudrich received 45 more total votes. The weighted system is similar to what has been used in the Conservative Party of Canada leadership races. The process has been highly debated with detractors saying

it distorts a true one-member-one vote system. Proponents say it allows for better regional representation so as to avoid larger membership ridings from overwhelming the vote. I believe the system came about in the federal party level (CPC) at the insistence of former PC leader Peter MacKay when the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada merged with the Canadian Alliance Party (formerly Reform Party of Canada).

The one-member-one-vote system makes accessibility to voting much easier for all members. Many people are challenged financially or by location to travel to a delegate selection meeting or even more, to a leadership convention.

Going forward, there needs to be many discussions among PC Manitoba members and other people about the leadership selection issue and organizational issues.

*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



# A mother heart...

Some things change, and some things never change. Here are words that I penned decades ago and re-lived this month.

“ I marvel at a mother heart. Not necessarily a mother's heart, for that's exclusive. I've witnessed a mother heart in many who have never borne a child, and unfortunately some mothers lack one. This capacity to love, and to feel hurt is inexhaustible.

There are unexplained manifestations of this condition. It is the feeling of bursting with pride and embarrassment when our five year old gets up on stage and lisps out their lines while hitching a skirt around their elbows or picking and scratching, depending on the gender of the child! Geniuses, all of them. A half laugh and a catch at tears when our loved ones achieve a goal and receive public acclaim- a part of them is us. Sometimes this sensation can be frightening in the very intensity of emotion. A first solo date. But that's just a prelude to the farewell of college or pass the Kleenex- a wedding.

Be the child male or female, we know so well the dangers, the hard work and the joys that await them. And we can never adequately prepare them for all of life. No wonder we choke! They flub, we suffer. They do well, we exalt. Our heart beats for life for us, but with life for them. There is no impassive observance of their comings and goings. We feel it all. Some incidents probably hurt us more and longer than them.

I've wondered on occasion, if I'll outgrow this affliction. I've wondered too if I want to. It is indeed a fine and wondrous misery. I witnessed a touching scene and it indicated that this may truly be a chronic and lifelong malady. I watched a mother's reaction as her son sang in a duet at church. Suddenly she sat a little straighter, her head nodding approval and her feet keeping time with the music. You could see the message in her very demeanour, “that's my boy!”. What struck me most was that her ‘boy’ was in his late forties, and she was nearly eighty. So, no, we don't recover!

With retrospection I conclude that this primal urge is a well thought out Divine Plan. It certainly works.”

Now I am almost eighty. The child on stage was/is a great grandchild. Almost four years old, she participated with her dance class, on the stage, at the Roxie. Two great grandparents, two grandpas and a ‘nana’, an auntie and a cousin, and auntie with her friend, and another auntie, and an great auntie were all there to cheer her on and applaud until our hands hurt! I was amazed at how my throat closed and my eyes leaked as this wee lass, shy by nature, followed instructions and almost enjoyed her time on stage. This throat closure and leaking eyes comes often. Pride in the consideration my family shows to each other, the love and consideration they extend to me. I know that I'm not alone with this mother heart malady, and that's a wonderful gift to humanity.

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Circulation: 2,200

Yearly Subscription Rates (excluding taxes): \$52.03 in Manitoba, \$59.08 elsewhere in Canada

Canadian Publications Mail Sales Product Agreement #40012782

STAFF

Owner/Publisher/Editor  
Micah Waddell

Sales/Media  
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Members  
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PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
AD DEADLINE: MONDAY 12  
PM PRIOR TO ISSUE DATE

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# Growing Heirlooms - Part I

Submitted

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Much of what we commonly grow in the garden are hybrid plants. The seeds from hybrids should not be saved as what is grown from that saved seed will not necessarily become the expected plant. Hybrid seeds result from what is considered a terminal cross as the two parent plants that were crossed resulted in the production of a seed that is superior to the parent plants in some way. These plants that are grown from the hybrid seed are often faster growing, with more colour or bigger fruit or simply better disease resistance. However, if you save the seed from these hybrid plants, the seed will not produce a plant or a product that is the same as what you grew.

However, if you grow heirloom or heritage plants—that heirloom seed can be saved and planted year after year. Although they are naturally pollinated, they will produce seeds that are “true” and thus when collecting this seed, you will have the opportunity to grow a plant that is very similar to the parent plant. When a seed is described as “coming true”, it will grow, flower, and produce fruit that looks like the parent plants. Seed that does not ‘come true’ will often be seed that has two different parents from the same plant family. For example, green beans will cross-pollinate with yellow beans resulting in beans that can be either green or yellow or some combination of both colours. When planting a garden to use for seed production, remember that it is important to plant single varieties of those plants you plan to save seed from. Planting only non-hybrid green beans will mean that you will have green bean seeds that will produce true green beans the following year. Keep in mind that if your neighbour is growing vegetables, there can also be cross-pollination between their varieties of vegetables and yours. Maybe you can partner with each other and each grow different types of vegetables but then share



SUBMITTED PHOTO

the produce. You'll have double the garden space, more vegetables and new friends for life.

There are many good reasons to grow heirlooms. There is something quite romantic to growing plants whose seeds have been passed down through the generations. It pleases me to be able to grow a plant that is almost identical to those plants my grandparents grew. Although these plants are naturally pollinated by wind, insects or other means, the characteristics of heirloom plants have developed naturally over a long period of time and thus, their characteristics are stable so your harvest will be what you expect. Over time, these plants have developed growth habits specific to certain climates and resistance to common disease issues so are definitely another reason to grow heirlooms. Another extremely important reason to grow heirlooms is by doing this

you are helping to maintain plant diversity and ensuring that we do not lose valuable traits. Heirlooms have unique flavours, enhanced nutritional benefits with the added bonus of preserving and sharing seeds.

Therefore, if your goal this growing season is to grow at least some heirlooms and save your own seed, then it is important for you to plant seed that is considered heirloom or heritage in nature. Do some research, or ensure you do not miss this series of articles on growing heirlooms.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

# Mothers Day

By Gerry Nolan

RIVERS BANNER

Last weekend was the time to celebrate Mothers Day. The highest calling in the world is being a MOM. They do not get the credit they deserve. Much is expected from a mom and all the work they do to run a household.

My mom, who passed away a number of years ago, was a very special person. My mom had a lot of talent. She baked the best bread in the world. She made the best meals, especially at harvest time, with all the fresh vegetables and, of course, pies! I cannot recall my mom ever complaining, she just did all she could to make a wonderful home.

Mom also played the piano and there were many times that I remember my dad saying, Edna, can you play the piano for a while. On the piano Mom could make that thing sing. She played for weddings, churches and concerts. Of course that meant extra times of practice. Jim Edwards and Russ Gurr were a couple of gentlemen who sang locally for concerts. She also

played for my cousin and I when we sang at school concerts.

Mom played the piano wherever and whenever she could. She was so talented.

Mom also worked at the Co-op in Kenton for a few years. Mom always seemed to have a smile on her face and her kids and dad were her greatest joy.

This past weekend is a reminder of the special role that mothers play in our lives. In this day and age, Mom's work outside the home just to make ends meet. They organize household routines and do the running with the kids. I guess what I am trying to say is thank your mom for just being Mom. Everyday be thankful for your mom and show them that with actions, not just words. As I said, the highest calling in the world in my opinion is a mom! Love her, help her, respect her and give her a break, God knows she deserves it!

Thank you to my mom for everything you ever did for me, wish I could hear your voice one more time. Happy Mothers Day to all you Moms, I hope you all got spoiled with something fantastic on Sunday!

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# Fire on Highway 250



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

On Thursday, May 8, grassfires sprang up all over the country. Riverdale Fire Department was called to one near the Assiniboine River on Hwy. 250, close to Deerboine Colony. Riverdale Fire Chief, Jim Duthie, in a phone interview with the Rivers Banner, said, "It was just south of the bridge on 250. It started along Road 460. It was burning very hot and was even jumping across the sloughs. A few hydro poles were burned off." Duthie said he wanted to thank the Alexander Fire Department, Deerboine Colony and several farmers who came out to fight the fire.

## Digital wellness

### How to stay sane in a world full of screens

**PUBLISHED AUTHOR, HOLISTIC WELLNESS CERTIFIED HYPNOTIST (C.H.)**

**MARIE EVELYNE GINGRAS**

Let us be honest. How many times have you checked your phone today? Five? Ten? Fifty? Maybe you lost count somewhere between hitting snooze and scrolling through your morning notifications. You are not alone. These days, we are glued to our screens like it is our full-time job, and it is starting to take a toll on our minds, bodies, and even our happiness. That is where digital wellness comes in. It is a way to keep tech in your life without letting it take over.

So, what is digital wellness? It is not about tossing your phone in the ocean or swearing off social media forever. It is about finding balance. It is about using tech in ways that actually add to your life instead of draining your energy. Think of it like digital self-care: taking steps to protect your mental and physical health while still staying connected.

Let us start with the basics: screen time. Did you know the average person now spends over seven hours a day staring at screens? That is more than a full workday spent scrolling, clicking, and swiping. And while some screen time is totally necessary for work, school, or keeping in touch with friends and family, too much of it can leave you feeling fried. Your eyes burn, your neck aches, and your brain feels like mush.

One easy fix? The 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. It is a simple way to give your eyes a break and reset your focus. And while you are at it, stand up, stretch, and move around. Your body will thank you, and so will your mind.

Next up is all the social media. Ah, the endless scroll. One minute you are just checking a message, and the next, you are three months deep into your old high school friend's vacation photos. Social media can be a great way to stay connected, but it can also be a breeding ground for comparison traps and self-doubt. Seeing everyone's highlight reel can make you feel like your life is not measuring

up, even though you know it is all filtered and curated.

So, how do you keep social media from messing with your head? Curate your feed. Unfollow accounts that stress you out, mute the ones that bring you down, and follow people who make you feel good. Or take it a step further and do a social media detox for a day, a weekend, or even just a few hours without scrolling. You might be surprised how much more relaxed you feel when you are not constantly checking in.

Now, let us talk about digital boundaries. Ever feel like you are always "on"? Answering texts, emails, and DMs at all hours? Setting some screen-free times can be a game-changer. Maybe it is a phone-free morning walk or a tech-free dinner where you actually talk to your family without the distraction of notifications. Or maybe it is just putting your phone on Do Not Disturb for an hour before bed to wind down without the glow of a screen.

And then there is the whole privacy and security angle. If you are sharing every moment of your life online, it is easy to forget that not everyone has good intentions. Take a minute to lock down your digital space. Update your passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and think twice before posting personal info like your location or vacation plans. Your future self will thank you.

Finally, let us talk about work-life balance. Working from home has blurred the lines between work and personal time. You check your work email at dinner, respond to a message at midnight, and suddenly, your whole life is one big workday. Creating clear boundaries like shutting down your work laptop at a set time or keeping your phone out of the bedroom can help you reclaim your downtime and actually relax.

Digital wellness is not about giving up tech. It is about using it in ways that make you feel good, not overwhelmed. It is about taking control of your screen time, curating your social media feed, and setting boundaries that protect your peace of mind. Because at the end of the day, the best moments are the ones you are actually present for with no screens required.

So, what is one small change you could make today to feel more balanced and less burned out? Maybe it is a phone-free walk, a digital detox Sunday, or just taking a few deep breaths before diving back into your inbox. Whatever it is, your mind, body, and eyes will thank you.

# Manitoba upgrading firefighting with three new waterbombers

**Submitted**  
By MB GOVERNMENT

The Manitoba government is taking proactive steps to manage and suppress wildfires in the province by upgrading its fleet of water bomber aircraft with three new DH Canadaair-515 Firefighter aircraft, Premier Wab Kinew and Natural Resources Minister Ian Bushie announced last week.

These water bombers won't be in service for about six years at the earliest prediction.

"Upgrading our fleet with these three new DHC-515 Firefighter water bombers reflects our commitment to ensure that our front-line firefighters have the tools they need to protect Manitobans," said Kinew. "We're protecting the people of Manitoba along with their communities, property and valued forests from the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in a manner that aligns with our Canada-first approach by ensuring these aircrafts are made in Canada."

The new aircraft will contain upgrades that ensure crew safety and will improve wildfire suppression efforts through updated navigation systems, increased tank capacity and more fuel-efficient engines, noted the premier, adding the first water bomber is expected to join the fleet for the 2031 fire season and the other two are expected to be added in 2032.

"Water bombers are an integral aircraft for managing and suppressing wildfires, and a fully functioning fleet of aircraft is required to protect Manitoba communities, property and forests from the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires," said Bushie.

"The purchase of the three new 515 water bombers is a monumental commitment by the Province of Manitoba," said Earl Simmons, executive director, Manitoba Conservation and Wildfire Service. "These aircraft will bolster the province's fleet of air attack aircraft, which is critical to keeping Manitobans safe as we continue to see increases in wildfire frequency, intensity and season length."

Additional investments to support firefighting services include \$6.7 million toward new and more responsive firefighting equipment and systems, as well as \$1.1 million over four years for a new weather information system, wildfire mapping and reporting systems. The provincial commitment to firefighters is also reflected in a doubling of the volunteer firefighters and volunteer search and rescue tax credits, which will increase to \$6,000 from \$3,000.

As of April 25, there's been 23 fires in Manitoba, all attributed to human cause. Most were suppressed with nine fires still burning but under control in Manitoba as of Friday.

For more information about Manitoba's wildfire activities, visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/wildfire/index.html).

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## Immaculate Conception Parish hosts a heartwarming Mother's Day Tea



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

Pie, tea and sandwiches, yum, yum.

**By Carolyn Phillips**  
RIVERS BANNER

Springtime brings a sense of renewal, and at the Immaculate Conception Parish, it is also the season when families come together to celebrate one of life's most cherished roles: motherhood. This year, the parish community organized a delightful annual Mother's Day tea that proved to be another resounding success. With an entry fee of just \$5, attendees were treated to a charming afternoon filled with delicious refreshments and engaging activities, all set in the welcoming atmosphere of the church basement.

The menu for the day was filled with an assortment of delightful offerings. Attendees enjoyed freshly made sandwiches, crisp pickles, and an assortment of dainties, complemented by a variety of beverages. This modest yet satisfying spread made for perfect tea-time fare, encouraging laughter and conversation among friends and fellow parishioners. The ambiance was warm and inviting, with decorations that celebrated both the joy of motherhood and the beauty of spring.

One of the highlights

of the event was the penny raffle, where friends and members of the congregation came together to donate an impressive range of items. These contributions added a wonderful layer of excitement to the afternoon, allowing attendees to try their luck while supporting the parish. Raffle tickets for boxes of grocery goodies and a beautifully curated spring basket were eagerly purchased, enhancing the festive spirit of the gathering.

The turnout for this year's Mother's Day tea was remarkable, underscoring the strength of community bonds within the parish. Many attendees shared their favourite stories and gave heartfelt tributes to their mothers and mother figures, filling the room with love and joy. It was an occasion that honoured not just mothers, but also the community that supports them.

The funds raised during the tea will play a crucial role in addressing the ever-growing costs faced by the parish, including insurance and utilities. Events such as this are vital for maintaining the church's operations and ensuring that it continues to be a place

of hope and connection for all.

As the chairs were put away and the last remnants of sandwiches were consumed, a sense of camaraderie lingered in the air. Attendees left not just with full bellies but with full hearts, already anticipating the next gathering.

Looking ahead, the community is eager for the annual St. Nicholas tea, scheduled to take place later in November. This upcoming event promises to be another delightful opportunity for fellowship and celebration within the parish. Organizers are hard at work, preparing to create a warm and inviting atmosphere similar to what was experienced during the Mother's Day tea.

In summary, the Immaculate Conception Parish's Mother's Day tea was not only a fundraiser but a heartwarming celebration of community, love, and togetherness. It exemplifies how the simple act of gathering over tea and treats can nurture relationships, evoke cherished memories, and bolster the spirit of giving within the parish. Stay tuned for updates on future events and be part of this vibrant community!

## Supporting those in need: Riverdale Palliative Care's community impact



PHOTO BY CAROLYN PHILLIPS

The crowd enjoyed a delicious chili lunch on Saturday May 10.

**By Carolyn Phillips**  
RIVERS BANNER

In our increasingly complex world, the need for compassionate care and support for individuals facing serious illnesses has never been more important. Riverdale Palliative Care stands at the forefront of providing this critical assistance, delivering not only physical pain management but also emotional and spiritual support for patients and their families. Their mission emphasizes a holistic approach that seeks to address the multifaceted challenges of serious illness, ensuring that no one has to navigate this journey alone.

One of the organization's significant contributions to the community is their commitment to raising awareness and resources through various events. The recent Hike for Hospice Palliative Care is a prime example of their dedication to fostering community connections while highlighting the importance of palliative support. This event aims not only to bring individuals together for a worthy cause but also to educate participants about the invaluable services offered by Riverdale Palliative Care.

The organization also recognizes the vital role families play in the care

process, which is why they offer respite support. These services allow family members to take a much-needed break, knowing their loved ones are in compassionate hands. Volunteers at Riverdale Palliative Care are critical to this mission, as they dedicate countless hours to provide companionship and emotional support to patients, as well as to educate the community on the importance of palliative care.

On Saturday, May 10, Riverdale Palliative Care hosted a delightful Chili Luncheon complemented by a pie and bake sale, raising funds for Camp Bridges. This unique camp experience caters to children aged 7-15 in Manitoba who are grappling with the grief of losing someone significant in their lives. Camp Bridges offers a safe space for these children to express their feelings, forge connections, and find comfort in shared experiences, highlighting the importance of peer support in the healing process.

The success of events like the Chili Luncheon would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the dedicated volunteers. Their work behind the scenes, from preparing the meal to organizing the bake sale, showcases a remarkable commitment to serving the community. Volunteers are the heart of Riverdale

Palliative Care; they bring joy and companionship to patients while also playing an essential role in creating awareness about palliative care throughout the community.

Moreover, Riverdale Palliative Care runs a Volunteer Education and Training Program, which equips individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality care and support. This initiative not only enhances the capacity of the organization but also empowers community members to participate actively in meaningful ways.

In conclusion, Riverdale Palliative Care represents more than a service; it epitomizes community spirit and compassion. From their pain management services to emotional and spiritual support, they strive to improve the quality of life for patients and their families. Events like the Chili Luncheon illuminate the organization's unwavering dedication to both patients and the families they serve, as well as their commitment to instilling hope and healing in the community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers at Riverdale Palliative Care—your generosity of time and spirit have made a significant impact in the lives of many, and you are truly appreciated.

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[www.riversbanner.com](http://www.riversbanner.com)



# Church celebrates century of worship



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

Hamiota United Church choir: (back l-r) Bob Trott, Ken Smith, Kevin Salmi, Rob Johnson, Joan Trott; (front l-r) Heather Sheane, Vicki Smith, Sarah Salmi (keyboard), Jan Dixon, Janice Fortune and Faye Bridge; Rev. Noel Suministrado at the pulpit.

By Anne Davison  
RIVERS BANNER

Spirits were high on Sunday morning, May 11 in Hamiota United Church as they celebrated 100 years of church union that created the United Church of Canada when an act of Parliament unified the Congregationalist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. Both historically significant and unique, the Hamiota church's continuity is especially meaningful as they continue to worship in the same building that stood at the time of union. It was June 10 when the United Church of Canada held their inaugural church service marking a new beginning. Hamiota's worship service on Sunday, May 11,

guided by Rev. Noel Suministrado incorporated an historical account by Ken and Vicki Smith woven throughout the regular morning service. "As most of you will know," said Ken, "the Presbyterian church building was built during 1914 and was opened for service the first Sunday of December in 1914. While there have been upgrades through the decades, Hamiota United Church that we are worshipping in this morning is the same basic structure of 1914." He added, "All we can do is thank those members who have maintained, through the grace of God, this wonderful sanctuary in which we worship. The great love of our Father still lives here inside of us." Of the many firsts for the

United Church, the ordination of a female minister came in 1936. Janice Norrie told of how women became recognized for roles beyond preparing delicious food for church and community life. She said, "There is no doubt that women have always been given credit for food prepared and the money raised because of their efforts (particularly from fowl suppers). "For Hamiota United Church, it would be 60 years from the time of union until the first woman, Rev. Dawn Ballantyne-Dixon, was hired in a time-and-a-half pairing with her husband, Rev. Jack Ballantyne-Dixon. Several women ministers followed over the years." It was 1968, with the

introduction of the Executive Council structure, when Hamiota chose to include women as session members. Jan Dixon, still active in the church, served as the first woman chairperson of the Executive Council in 2001. Norrie said, "Vicki Smith has been Chair of Council since 2017 to the present." Vicki Smith spoke of "many new emerging communities of faith in the United Church of Canada, reflecting the more diverse nature of Canadian society. In Hamiota, (with) a growing Filipino congregation,

and the presence of Rev. Suministrado and his wife Veronica, who were born in the Philippines, are part of this change. They have brought a new perspective to our congregation, and a bridge between cultures." Rev. Suministrado is the first Filipino minister in a town where many Filipino families have settled to join the workforce, some to become business owners within the last 25 years. Music was a big part of the morning service and included the Sunday School choir led by Joan Trott. Congregational and choir

anthems included music from Voices United hymnal, along with traditional gospel music. A men's trio of sacred medleys by Rob Johnson, Kevin Salmi and Ken Smith was a toe tapper, and later, Ken's sweet alto saxophone was accompanied by Sarah on piano. The service was followed by fellowship around sandwiches and celebratory anniversary cake. Mel Dixon, now the longest running church member and his wife Jan were honoured to cut the cake.

# Manitoba RCMP make significant stolen property recovery



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Stolen trailer.



Stolen equipment.

**Submitted**  
By MANITOBA RCMP

On May 7, 2025, at approximately 6:30 pm, Brandon RCMP were notified of stolen property in the community of Wheatland. RCMP officers from Carberry, Souris, and Brandon detachments began an investigation that led to execute a search warrant on a property in the community. Officers were able to locate upwards of \$45,000 worth of stolen property that included John Deere equipment, and an enclosed trailer believed to be stolen out of Steinbach.

While officers were on the property, the male suspect drove by and a traffic stop was conducted. A 42-year-old male from Wheatland was arrested without incident. Christopher Bell was charged with the following:

- Possession of Property Obtained by Crime over \$5000 x3
- Weapons Possession Contrary to Order x4
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose x2

Bell was released and will appear in a Brandon court on May 26, 2025. The investigation continues.

## SENIORS' ADVOCATE



The Manitoba Legislative Assembly is accepting resumes for the newly established position of Seniors' Advocate. This appointment is for a five-year term and, upon review, may be renewed for a further five years.

The Seniors' Advocate is an independent, non-partisan, officer of the Legislative Assembly whose mandate is to identify, review and analyze systemic concerns important to the lives of Manitoba seniors aged 65 years or older receiving any seniors' services as defined under *The Seniors' Advocate Act*, and to collaborate with seniors' organizations and those who provide services to seniors to address systemic issues faced by seniors. The Seniors' Advocate will consider whether individual matters indicate systemic issues when referring such matters to the appropriate body for complaint, inquiry or investigation.

The Seniors' Advocate reports to the Assembly as a whole, with an informal reporting relationship to the Speaker. The Seniors' Advocate is the chief executive of the office and holds ultimate responsibility for its operations in its entirety.

Working under *The Seniors' Advocate Act*, and with support from the Legislative Assembly Administration branch, the incumbent will be responsible for establishing the Office of the Seniors' Advocate, including, but not limited to, identifying operational goals and priorities, office space needs, staffing and budget requirements.

- ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:**
- A post-secondary degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. public administration, public policy, mediation/dispute resolution, health care, social sciences). An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.
  - Demonstrated experience providing executive leadership with exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to build positive, collaborate relationships.
  - Demonstrated experience establishing and/or managing a professional office including hiring staff, managing budgets, overseeing operations and setting strategic direction.
  - A proven record of identifying, reviewing and analyzing systemic problems or concerns.
  - Highly developed oral and written communication skills, including the ability to present complex issues and recommendations.
  - Demonstrated experience working effectively with communities and groups that experience racism or discrimination and experience developing initiatives to advance reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples.
  - Demonstrated experience dealing with governments, government agencies, health authorities and local authorities who deliver services to seniors.
  - Demonstrated experience exercising sound judgment and working independently.

- DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**
- Experience promoting awareness of the availability of seniors' services in Manitoba.
  - A sound understanding of the non-partisan role of an officer of the Legislative Assembly.

The successful candidate must possess a valid driver's license and be willing to travel extensively throughout Manitoba. The successful applicant will be subject to Criminal Record and Adult Abuse Registry checks.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Obituary

IN LOVING MEMORY  
WILMA MAXINE RADFORD (NEE TENNANT)  
APRIL 28, 1931 – MAY 7, 2025



Maxine Radford passed away peacefully at her residence, Hillcrest Place Personal Care Home in Brandon, MB on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at the age of 94.

A generous, loving wife, mother and friend, Maxine was predeceased by her husband Ronald Radford and her youngest son, Gerald Radford.

She leaves behind two sons Laurie (wife Miriam) and Douglas (wife Cindy), two grandchildren, Mikaela and Kesia, and many beloved nephews and nieces.

We will all think of her and miss her dearly.

She was laid to rest beside her husband Ron Radford at the Neepawa Cemetery.

Friends and family who wish to may make a donation in memory of Maxine may do so to the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba-Westman Region, 437-9th Street, Brandon, MB R7A 4A9.



## Tender



### R.M. of Oakview GRAVEL HAULING TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Oakview is accepting tenders for the hauling of 10,000 cubic yards of gravel to the Municipal stockpile.

Sealed tenders clearly marked with "Stockpile Hauling" will be received until Thursday, May 22nd, 2025, at 12:00pm.

All tenders must be submitted using the form provided in the Stockpile Hauling Tender section on our website or obtained from our office. Submissions must adhere to the specified requirements and be enclosed in a sealed envelope.  
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### EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Learning and laughter with WI

### Submitted

BY DIANNE KOWALCHUK

Wow! Where does the time go? How true it is that as we get older, "Time and Good Friends" become more valuable! This was the Thought for the Day at the recent meeting of the Rivers Women's Institute (WI) held on May 9, 2025. Yes, WI meetings include a Thought for the Day! This might be old-fashioned, but the sentiments are so very much appreciated! WI has survived all these years by mixing the best parts of the traditional meetings of the past with some fun and laughter-filled activities. A good example of this would be the roll call from our last meeting: each member answered the roll call by donating food items for Riverdale Harvest and by showing or describing a kitchen gadget. My, what a lively discussion we had on that topic! The short business portion of the meeting included two important donations -- \$100 for a Grad Award at Rivers Collegiate and a \$100 donation to Camp Bridges. Members also indicated that they were planning to support the

Palliative Care fundraiser with baking. Rivers WI is very appreciative of the work of the Rivers Palliative Care Committee.

The program for the May meeting focused on Riverdale Harvest, and we were pleased to welcome Tammy Dyck and Marilyn Halliday as our guest speakers. As a founding member of the foodbank when it first began in 2003, Rivers WI continues to support the foodbank at its monthly meetings. Tammy, as Riverdale Harvest Chairperson, spoke ably and easily about the work of the foodbank and the need for such a program in this community. If anyone needs food to adequately feed themselves or their families, please go to the Zion Church on the 2nd and 4th Thursday morning of every month. The only information you need to give is your name and your Manitoba Health Card number. You will not be vetted or judged in any way. Right now, the foodbank does not have the money or the supplies to be open every week as in the past. Riverdale Harvest receives no government funding. Anything it receives by way of donations from businesses and individuals is

greatly appreciated and wisely used. Thanks to Tammy and Marilyn for their information. It is important for us to remember that not all people have good fortune, and that there is always a way to help others.

We always have good meetings at WI! I don't remember the last time there was a dud! When we gathered in April, we watched a video from an expert on "better sleep". This led to a discussion about how each of us might achieve a better sleep and thence, a better, happier day. The March meeting was another learning experience when we welcomed Kim Richardson, owner of Lucky Break Ranch (located just south of Rivers), to speak about her life journey, her business, and her horse friends.

The next WI event will be our June Tour. On Wednesday, June 11, we will travel as a group to Minnedosa to visit the bison and the Heritage Village, followed by lunch and other sightseeing. If you would like to join us, call Jean (328-7546) or Dianne (328-7690). The next regular meeting of Rivers WI will be held on Friday, September 12, in the Common Room at Kiwanis Courts. The program will feature a speaker from Rivers Rehab and some chair exercises. Sounds like fun!



Paper Run - 2nd stop Oak River

By Gerry Nolan  
RIVERS BANNER

My second stop on the paper route is the village of Oak River. Oak River has a lot of special memories for me. When I was 16 or so, we were always at the dances in

the summertime in the old Oak River Arena. That was the place I saw the Guess Who. The cost was 5 dollars which was a lot of coin back in those days but was worth every penny. They always seem to come up with great bands to play

there. Peaches and Herb also played in Oak River. Of course, being young and well just up for some fun, the first stop may have been the Hotel for some go-go juice for the evening. When I drop the papers off at the Blanchard,

well, there are some memories of good times. The people I meet are friendly and always up for a chat about the latest goings-on around the neighbourhood. One piece of advice I received one day as the paper was a little small was that one of our particular staff could use longer words to make the paper big-

ger. I still get a chuckle out of that, thanks Doug! Like most small villages, we are all trying to hang on to as long as we can. Oak River has a beautiful Arena and Ball Park. They also have a great daycare and school. Oak River Quick Freeze is on Main Street and is a top-notch business to get your meat

cut and wrapped. The Co-op store and the garage are filled with friendly people who one can share a part of their day with. Oak River is a small but very beautiful community to stop in and have a look around. It is well worth the stop. Take a drive and take a look around this great little village.

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# SPORTS

## SWBL PREVIEW

By Robin Wark  
RIVERS BANNER

The boys of summer are ready to take to the diamond.

The senior South West Baseball League starts next week. The Rivers Comets open their campaign by hosting the Oak River Dodgers on May 21. The Hamiota Red Sox start their season on May 25 when they play in Reston. Oak River's first home game is on May 23 when they host the Brandon-based GW Vacuum Truck Service Young Guns. The Red Sox's first home game is June 8 versus the Deloraine Royals.

The SWBL looks a bit different this season. The Elkhorn Expos have taken a leave of absence. Souris is back after a few years away. The Young Guns and RFNOW Cardinals join from the now defunct Andrew Agencies Senior AA Baseball League. The Boissevain Centennials have claimed the SWBL crown the past three seasons.



**Rivers Comets**  
The Comets finished the

2024 regular season tied for second with an 11-5 record. Due to the tiebreaker formula, the 11-5 Deloraine Royals received the second seed. The Royals beat the Comets, 3-2, in their best-of-five league semifinal series.

Among Rivers regulars, Owen Wareham led the way with a .491 batting average, 27 runs batted in, and three home runs last season. Scott Beever was the Comets' ace pitcher. He led the team with seven wins, 46 innings pitched and 82 strikeouts. He has a 2.43 earned run average.



### Oak River Dodgers

With a 7-8 record, the Dodgers finished fifth in 2024 and just missed the playoffs. Duncan Paddock and Ty Paddock each had 12 runs batted in to pace the team. Among Dodgers with 11 or more at bats, Duncan Paddock led the squad with a .439 batting average. Riley Shamray threw a team-high 30.32 innings and had a 2.54 earned run average.

The Dodgers return everyone off that squad. As well, they have added Dylan Schroeder, Mitch Battersby and Kaden Rozdeba. The first two hail from Brandon.

Rozdeba is back with the Dodgers after a summer away. He played this spring for Valley City (N.D.) State University. Coach Derek Shamray said the Dodgers "should be able to hit the ball and field well and the pitching will be a lot by committee."



### Hamiota Red Sox

The Red Sox were 5-11 in the SWBL regular season. The team hosted and won the Senior A provincial championships. The Red Sox's Brady Waddell said the team's strengths are its baseball sense, experience, and the way the players all get along.

Last season Waddell had team bests of three wins and a 2.86 ERA. Jeff Knight batted .417 to lead regulars. Justin Knight drove in a team high 13 runs.

All but a couple of players are back from that team, Waddell said. To that core, the team has added three former Expos. The versatile Mike Stevenson, a definite leader, played on the Red Sox' provincial title team last summer. Strong hitting Colby Walker and workhorse pitcher Tyler Wood will also join the team. The Red Sox also hope to have some young talented players in the lineup as their schedules allow.

## REF MEMORIES

REF TO  
WRITER  
**GERRY  
NOLAN**



In this edition I would like to talk about a fellow official who I learned a great deal from as a person and a fellow official. Randy Kalynuk is someone I met when he was playing hockey for the Angusville Flyers of the North Central Hockey League. He was a real good defenseman who also played with the Brandon University Bobcats as well with the Virden Oil Kings of the Southwest Hockey League. Randy was a strong skater who not only played his position well but had a great low shot which was great for rebounds, deflections and tip ins.

After his playing days, Randy became an official and was one of the best! Personally, I liked working games with him. We always had fun out there and maybe brought the best out of each other. The more I used him, as I was referee in chief of the North Central

League, was for the better. As a referee, Randy could tell me to watch a particular instance on the ice where there may be issues arise. He always had your back. He was a great linesman as well.

People used to say Randy yelled a lot on the ice. Perry his brother would say to him, "Goph do not yell so loud". Randy would reply, "I am not yelling." Randy was a gym teacher, I think he had to talk loud or yell to get the students attention, as it is noisy in a gym.

I saw Randy work some big-time pressure hockey games. He was consistent, approachable and refereed like a pro. One penalty he did not let go was the cheap shots that could cause a problem. He would diffuse the situation quickly. One of my favourite memories working with Goph was if a player was getting a penalty and was not happy

and became disrespectful or cussing him he would give the player a way out by simply saying, "Pardon me?" If a player would repeat what he said, or started in on something new, it was either a 2-minute minor or misconduct.

Randy always had a handle on the game, the games he refereed never got out of control. Was he perfect? No! But he would talk out any situation that had occurred, learned from it and moved on. He cared about the game and player safety.

Another thing he did well was reading the play and would adjust his positioning accordingly.

Over the years, Randy and I had some real good conversations about officiating and situations that we both faced from time to time. We did not always agree with one another but what is that old saying, Iron sharpens Iron! I know there is a ton of respect for one another. As I said earlier, I loved working with him, it was a great pleasure for me to work with him!

Randy Kalynuk one of my 3 top officials that I could send to do a tough game and know it was in good hands. Thanks for the memories Goph and here is to many more.



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