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The Rollin' into Rivers Festival 2026

LITTLE OBIE MAKES A COME BACK



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

Little Obie came from the Calgary Stampede with Engineers Jamieson Kessels and Prabath Weththasinghe to return to Rivers for another great year at the Rollin' into Rivers Festival on July 5. Anyone and everyone had a chance to take a ride around the town of Rivers on the Little Obie train and learn about train and railway safety. CN Police Officer Vern Novalkowski was there to hand out information and answer any questions on train safety at the start and finish line for the Little Obie rides. The ride took approximately 15 minutes to complete. Pictured above is the train returning to the station (parking lot of the new CN Bunkhouse) carrying a crew of excited families enjoying the ride. If you look closely, you will see Sprucewoods MLA Colleen Robbins (Rivers is part of her constituency) sitting right in the middle. Colleen Robbins said, "I was excited to come out to Rivers today to have a chance to ride on CN's Little Obie train." They had 287 children and adults in a 5 hour span. Little Obie was only able to be in Rivers for one day. The Rivers Train Station Restoration and Heritage Committee were very fortunate in their application to make this happen again.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rivers Game and Fish had two floats in the parade; Ron Taylor's pontoon boat filled with a party! And the Arseneau's vehicle and trailer with some of our 3-D archery targets pictured here. Everyone on the floats had a blast.



Rivers is fortunate to be the home of Prairie Bounce and Slide operations. There was a lot of activity and laughter at the fairgrounds as children clambered and slid in such a safe environment.

Inside...



KENTON CANADA DAY

P2



HAMIOTA AROUND THE WORLD

P12

Kenton 4-H serves pancake breakfast on Canada Day



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

The 4-H crew members served the hungry crowd, pancakes, fruit, sausage and back bacon.

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Each year, the Kenton Kraftsmen 4-H crew get up early on Canada Day to make the breakfast to fuel the community so they will be ready to conquer the full day of fun events happening all around the town.

The griddles are set outside the hall door where volunteer parents and 4-H kids work hard to cook up giant fluffy pancakes, and mouthwatering back bacon and sausage. In the newly renovated hall kitchen, more



PHOTO BY DALE DAVISON

Bubbly entertainment in Kenton's park on Canada Day after breakfast.

4-H crew and volunteer parents were keeping the coffee brewing, juice poured and cutting up fresh flavourful watermelon and cantaloupe to go with the meal.

There were members of the team also running around clearing plates and cleaning tables to keep everything neat and tidy the whole morning.

The breakfast saw a huge increase this year in attendance with 250 people coming in to enjoy it. That was an increase from last year when they had only 190 people. The event could not have happened without the help of Wheat City Seeds, Valleyview Co-op and P & H Milling Group.

Kenton Lions Annual Car Rally was a ton of fun



By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Every Canada Day the Kenton Lions Club comes up with this crazy car rally that takes people all over the countryside, it has been South, North, West and this year was East and South of Kenton. Because of the current conditions of the roads, the club was careful to avoid any 'turkey trails'.

The Rally comes with a questionnaire with 43 questions for everyone to try and answer while out on the drive. Some of these questions include scrambled names stapled to posts along the way as you can see in the photos.

There are also check points where you can check in with various Lions members and have a chance to play pick a playing card from a deck of cards at each location. The goal is to get a decent poker hand by the time you get back to the Kenton Memorial Hall for your last card.

Winner of the car rally quiz was Sheldon Rapley. Poker hand winners were: first Robert Stevenson, second Ainsley Smith and third Jack Roseveare.

The whole journey is a lot of fun and gives everyone a chance to see more of the beautiful landscape we have all around us here in Kenton, Manitoba, Canada on Canada Day. The rolling hills, the green valleys and all the breathtaking creeks and wildlife along the way are worth taking the drive. The Car Rally adds to the adventure and fun of the day!

EASY PASTA SALAD

Ingredients

- 3 cups uncooked fusilli pasta
- 2 heaping cups halved cherry tomatoes
- 1-1/2 cups cooked chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups arugula
- 1 cup Persian cucumbers, sliced into thin half moons
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- 1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts
- Dressing
 - 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
 - 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
 - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 - 3 garlic cloves, minced
 - 1 teaspoon herbes de Provence or dried Italian seasoning,
 - 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
 - 3/4 teaspoon sea salt

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Prepare the pasta according to the package directions, or until slightly past al dente.
2. Meanwhile, make the dressing. In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, mustard, garlic, herbes de Provence, red pepper flakes, and salt. (Note: the dressing will have a strong flavor, it'll mellow once it coats all of the pasta salad ingredients).
3. Drain the pasta, toss it with a little olive oil (so that it doesn't stick together) and let it cool to room temp. Transfer to a large bowl with the tomatoes, chickpeas, arugula, cucumbers, feta cheese, basil, parsley, mint, and pine nuts. Pour the dressing and toss to coat. Season to taste with more lemon, salt, pepper, and/or a drizzle of olive oil, if desired, and serve.



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Leo Carlsson contract in the National Hockey League

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

The Philadelphia Flyers have turned the National Hockey League on its head with the most ridiculous offer sheet that has ever been put forward in NHL history.

Leo Carlsson signed the offer sheet with the Flyers at an average annual value of 18 million dollars a season. Leo currently plays with the Anaheim Ducks. Anaheim has until this Friday to match the offer or lose him to the Flyers. Leo will be the highest paid player in the entire NHL. The contract is comprised of a huge signing bonus meaning it will be virtually buyout proof. Here are the bonuses broken down season by season. This is a 5-year deal that has been offered to Carlsson.

First year, bonus money only 19.95 million. Second season 18.1 million. Third season 17.05 million. Fourth season 15.2 million and in season number five 15 million. These are the yearly signing bonus payments. Now for his yearly salary. First season 850,000. Second season 900,000. Third season 950,000. Fourth season 1 million and season 5 is also 1 million dollars.

Leo Carlsson received this offer from the Philadelphia Flyers after scoring 29 goals and 38 assists for 67 points and was a plus 4. In 3 seasons in the NHL Carlsson has scored 61 goals and 80 assists for 141 points. It is hard to believe that Carlsson will be paid more than Connor McDavid, Nathan McKinnon, Cale Makar and Sidney Crosby.

Great for Leo Carlsson, the question now is who is the next player to surpass this contract and will other teams now follow suit and sign players to ridiculous amounts of money. The NHL salaries are getting as crazy as the other professional leagues. How much will it cost you to go and see an NHL game? The money to pay these players has to come from somewhere and I am thinking it will be the fans who will be paying a steep price to watch our game!

Yogi-isms



Yogi Berra, Hall of Fame back catcher of the New York Yankees, was a great professional baseball player. He played in 2120 games. He had 7555 plate appearances. Yogi hit 358 home runs and batted in 1430 base runners. All this and he was a man of small stature. Yogi Berra won 10 World Series Championships as a player and won 3 more as a coach or manager. This is the all-time Major Baseball League Championships ever won.

There was another side to Yogi. Yogi Berra 'isms' are legendary, paradoxical and witty. They are famed for their nonsensical logic that actually makes perfect sense. The most famous of these quotes include, "It ain't over till it's over," Yogi said this in 1961 when the New York Yankees came from behind to win the American League Pennant and played in the World Series against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"It's deja vu all over again," Yogi said this after Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris hit back-to-back home runs.

Baseball is 90 percent mental, the other half physical. A classic take on the pressure of the game. "When you come to a fork in the road, take it," this was Yogi's famous and surprisingly practical directions to his home in New Jersey.

You can observe a lot by watching. A simple lesson in paying attention.

Last one, "The future ain't what it used to be," Yogi Berra's philosophical observation on how times have changed.

Yogi Berra was one of my favorite ball players and I just loved his humor! Rest in peace Yogi, and thanks for the memories!

Old Sayings: Dog Days of Summer

By Gerry Nolan
RIVERS BANNER

What are the Dog Days of Summer? We have all heard the phrase, but what does it really mean? Where did it originate? Well, glad you asked!

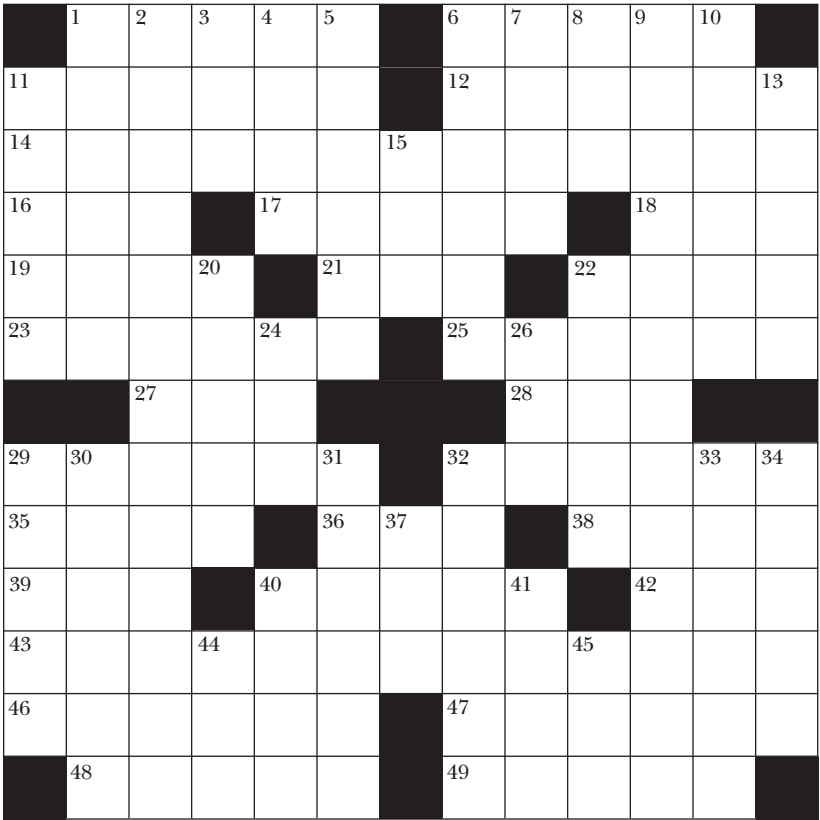
July 3 officially marks the beginning of the Dog Days of Summer, a period when the northern hemisphere typically experiences its warmest weather. The phrase has nothing to do with our canine companions.

This period stretches from July 3 to August 11, historically coinciding with the helical rising of the star system Sirius known as the "Dog Star"! Sirius is associated with heat, drought, thunderstorms, fever and bad luck. Just look around Manitoba these days to see if it fits the description? The ancient Greeks linked this time to midsummer when Sirius was visible in the morning sky alongside the sun. When they observed this celestial event, they knew it was time for sweltering heat and all that comes with it.

In baseball, the Dog Days of Summer describe the gruelling midsummer stretch from July through August. It marks the hottest, most humid period of the season when baseball players face the mental and physical fatigue after grinding through a long hot summer. It is even tougher for teams that are not in the playoff hunt and sometimes the tempers flare and we see the old bench clearing brawls. The heat is upon us, enjoy it while you can, summer is not that long!

Locally created crossword

- Across
- 1. Manner, technique
 - 6. Deposit at the river's mouth
 - 11. Apply butter to bread
 - 12. Encrypt
 - 14. Drywall sheets
 - 16. John in Scotland
 - 17. Discharges radiation
 - 18. It is contraction
 - 19. Fluid filled sac
 - 21. In the past
 - 22. Over, finished
 - 23. Catches sight of
 - 25. Equips a ship again
 - 27. RN's lesser trained coworker
 - 28. Use to be
 - 29. Makes usable for a new purpose
 - 32. Turns to water again
 - 35. Refuse to admit
 - 36. Highest card
 - 38. Sailing
 - 39. Cheerios ingredient (singular)
 - 40. Religious groups such as Waco's David Koresh
 - 42. Owns
 - 43. Before taking a pension
 - 46. Long angry speech
 - 47. Spoken
 - 48. Portrayer of Jamie Regan (Blue Bloods)
 - 49. Every day



Answers on page 10

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

- 6. Person owing money
- 7. Adam and Eve's grandson
- 8. Initials of WWI French general
- 9. Three coloured cat
- 10. Totalling
- 11. It adds zest to food
- 13. 19th letters
- 15. Ready a ship
- 20. Inclined to overturn, unsteady
- 22. Daytime soap for one
- 24. JRR Tolkien's treelike creature
- 26. Female sheep

- 29. Take a child as one's own
- 30. Loved one
- 31. Fries quickly
- 32. Walks on again
- 33. In a low fat way
- 34. Delicious
- 37. 151 in Rome
- 40. Give up property
- 41. Plural of Serum
- 44. Long tailed rodent
- 45. ___ tai - tiki drink

COLLEEN ROBBINS, MLA

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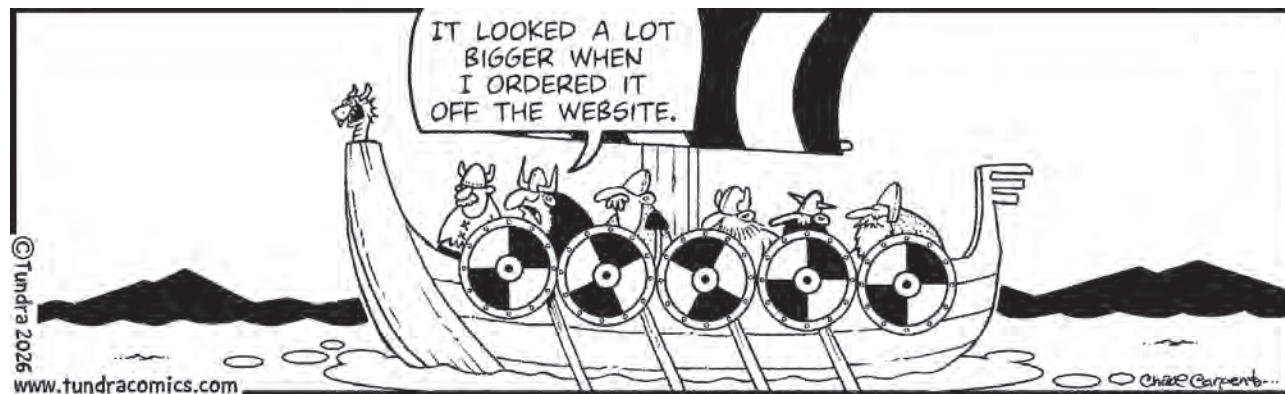
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Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



Big job ahead for municipal candidates

The next general municipal election is Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

All municipalities, towns and cities in Manitoba will go to the polls that day to elect Mayors, Reeves and Councillors. School boards will hold Trustee elections that day as well.

The only exception is that municipal elections will be held in Winnipeg Beach, Dunnottar, and Victoria Beach on Friday, July 24, 2026.

All jurisdictions in this paper's coverage area will face similar election realities.

For some areas, positions will likely go unfilled and appointments will have to be made.

All areas will fall short again in the way of infrastructure funding unless drastic changes come about. One change could be a major increase in taxes. Although it was likely a glib comment, but more than one person has said that taxes would have to double to cover the shortfall in road, street, water and sewer upgrades that are needed or expected. Another change that might keep taxes closer to current levels is if voters lower their expectations. Yet another possibility is for the federal and provincial governments allocate more money towards crumbling infrastructure. That of course means higher taxes.

When it comes to roads, I believe that all jurisdictions could be a lot more diligent in patching and replacement surfaces. For example, there is a simple machine available that cleans out potholes and pavement breaks, applies new material and packs the patch into place. In the hands of an experienced operator, it's a quite efficient machine. With an inexperienced operator, not so much. Experienced or not, there are problems. Potholes and surface breaks, be they from vehicle wear and tear, water line repairs or frost problems, need to be fixed sooner, rather than later. Without a machine



on hand all summer and possibly owned by two or more close by jurisdictions, the work simply gets further and further behind. Councils need to bite the bullet and get the job done.

I have also never seen proper street cleaning after the patching so chunks of pavement and pebbles simply lay around and traffic grinds the debris into the pavement surface aggravating the wear and tear. It amounts to sloppiness and negligence if the truth be known.

I have also heard it said that some municipalities try to maintain too much pavement and I agree with that. A well maintained gravel road can be smoother than a poorly maintained paved road. Some urban areas don't even own a road grader so maintaining any gravel surfaces depend on neighbouring RMs to squeeze the grading jobs into their schedule.

Another problem is municipalities are still feeling the side effects of the government enforced amalgamation from a few years back. The NDP government of the day decided that all municipalities had to have 1,000 people, which in many cases made sense. At the same time, more government regulations keep getting piled on making it more difficult to get qualified CAOs.

Long term planning is needed to run a municipal organization and there seems to be little help from government. In fact, the province is more of a hindrance than a help in many cases. To set up a sub-division to try and al-

leviate the housing shortage, can take years to get approval from a dozen or more government departments. Trust me, I know as I served as mayor of a town in two different terms.

There has to be meetings and studies and more meetings and decisions get severely delayed.

If a town or RM decides to even just lower a speed zone, they should be able to give notice and change the speed signs. That would be too simple and might lower some hours for a government employee. Speed zone changes are almost impossible to achieve.

This column sounds somewhat negative about local politics. I think the readers of this newspaper have the built-in confidence and competence to be a town/municipal councillor who would bring all councillors together and bring all citizens together to get the right things done (and convince taxpayers that higher taxes may be in the common interest of getting the right things done).

It would be better and easier to get candidates if the province would let locals make their own decisions. Simply put, we need more consensus, more local decisions and less nasty complaints from voters. One wise person recently said we need to have a situation where we criticize ideas not people.

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 Banner & Press staff.

Homebodies

RITA FRIESEN



The longing for beauty...

Spending time with my Sister the Younger allows me to be rested in body, mind and spirit. It allows time for introspection and reflection. Not that there are not other times and places that allow me these privileges. Part of it is shared history, part of it is shared values, and a whole lot of it is mutual respect and appreciation for individual talents and abilities. Whereas I am seriously into becoming more minimalist— downsizing!— she welcomes family heirlooms and treasures. These adorn her walls, enhance her rooms and surround one with memories and insights to values from times past.

One of the items that precipitated these musings is a hand embroidered wall hanging— a framed picture. Our mother excelled at handwork; knitting, crocheting, quilting, sewing and embroidery.

Probably a dozen other crafting skills that I took so for granted that I never noted. The picture featured is of a little cabin, surrounded by trees and flowers. Looking closely one can identify any number of skilled stitches that allow you to feel the blossoms and sense the quiet strength of the trees, and the safety the home provides.

Homemakers strove to make their environment beautiful, working with what they had. Often the pillowcases and tea towels were richly decorated. The pillowcases often with a floral pattern and the tea towels with sayings or domestic scenes. Heck, I'm eighty, and somewhere in a box I have not yet sorted is a set of towels that I embroidered. Monday washday, Tuesday ironing... on through the week with cleaning and shopping before resting! The crocheted doilies and antimacassars protecting the arms and backs of stuffed chairs— practical and pretty.

In the time before IKEA and Amazon, rural folks, and probably others, but it's rural that I know, didn't have an over abundance of things.

In the "Little House" series, Ma treasured the china shepherdess, an object of beauty that was so carefully moved and displayed in every home. The first cut glass cream and sugar set, or pitcher, all precursors of the elaborate fine china sets that were so carefully amassed. The walls were not adorned with framed photos of family members. The business calendar was often the sole point of color and decoration in a farm kitchen, and sometimes the one from the year past was left up just for the beauty.

I can't number the farm homes I knew that had a geranium growing in the kitchen window. Often the pot was a coffee or lard can, and in winter the plant was carefully relocated to the center of the table, or nearer the stove to prevent the cold seeping in from the window damaging or killing it. That red blossom, and I thought all geraniums were red!, was the spot of promise in a fairly stark place.

This longing for beauty is natural and ingrained. We who have so much often accumulate on a whim. I remember when my mother proudly hung images of 'Pinky' and 'Blue Boy' on her bedroom wall. I have no idea if they were a gift or if she had saved her egg money, but they were forever treasured.

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Canada

Rivers Legion Road Rally



Vehicles line the street in front of the Rivers Legion for the annual road rally.



Dancing the afternoon away at the Rivers Legion Parking lot while, the band, The New Highway 25 Repaved plays on stage.

By Carolyn Phillips
RIVERS BANNER

On a hot, sunny day that felt tailor-made for celebration, the streets of Rivers came alive with the sound of engines and laughter during the much-anticipated Rivers Legion Road Rally. This extraordinary event showcased an impressive lineup of 88 vehicles, spanning the spectrum from vintage gems to sleek sports cars, and even included motorcycles and semis. As the sun blazed overhead, hundreds of enthusiastic locals swarmed 2nd Avenue, marveling at the incredible variety of automobiles that represented not just styles and eras but also the passion of their owners.

The atmosphere was electric as families, car enthusiasts, and curious onlookers mingled and admired everything the rally had to offer. The event has become an annual tradition that brings the community together, celebrating not only the love for vehicles but also the spirit of camaraderie. The local Rivers Lions Club set up in the legion parking lot, dishing out mouthwatering burgers, crispy fries, and hot dogs, which kept the crowd fueled and ready for a day of fun.

One of the highlights of the rally was the People's Choice Award,

which went to Al and Donna Morken for their stunning 1957 red and white Chevy—a true classic that dazzled onlookers and garnered admiration from fellow car enthusiasts. Gifts and accolades are always a point of pride, but the camaraderie shared among participants and attendees is what truly defines the event.

The excitement didn't stop with the vehicles; the day offered numerous ways to engage with the community. The 50/50 raffle, a staple of many local events, was won by Janice Worth, bringing additional excitement and cheer to her day. Similarly, the Lottery Tree was claimed by Rhonda Dite from Fort McMurray, Alberta, adding a delightful surprise element to the festivities. The silent auction raffle tables were laden with an impressive array of donated prizes ranging from local businesses to patrons of the legion, showcasing the generosity of the community. The Cenotaph offered much needed shade as well as a few

vendor booths set up for people to shop.

As attendees enjoyed the lively atmosphere, live music provided by the ever-popular Highway 25 Repaved filled the air, enhancing the sense of celebration. Volunteers from the legion, including Rob, Lyle, and Darrell, served up a delicious steak and chicken BBQ supper, ensuring that nobody left hungry and that everyone was satisfied as the warmth of community and food melded into one delightful experience.

One of the defining features of the Rivers Legion Road Rally is its role as the biggest fundraiser for the Rivers Legion, and this year was particularly special as it coincided with the celebration of the Royal Canadian Legion's 100th anniversary. This milestone added an extra layer of significance, reminding everyone present of the rich history and importance of the legion within the community.

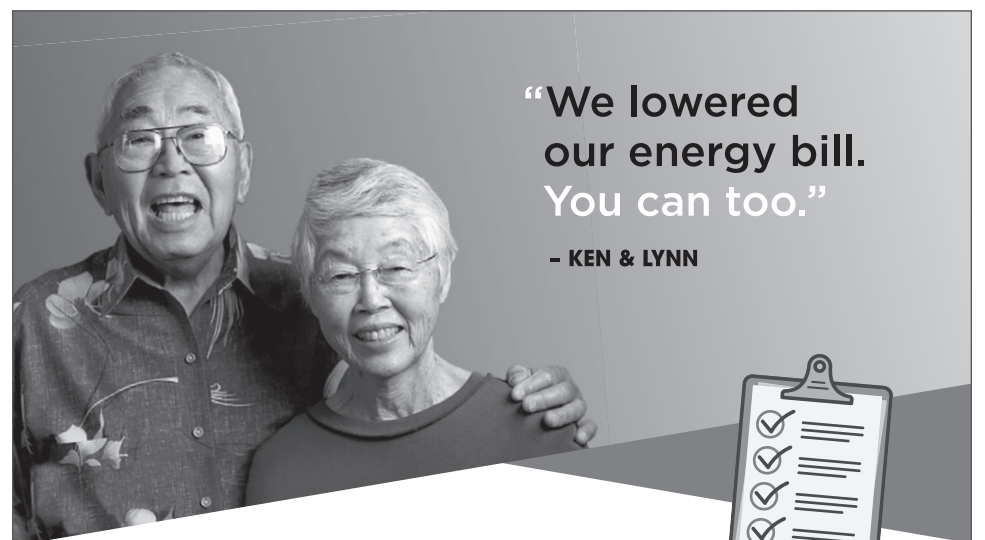
At the end of the day, as the festivities moved into the clubroom, it

was clear that the event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the volunteers. Their support and enthusiasm were the

heartbeat of the rally, ensuring that it remains a cherished event for years to come.

As the sun set on another successful Rivers Legion Road Rally,

participants and visitors alike left with fond memories and look forward to gathering again next July for another celebration of community spirit, cars, and joy.



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JESUS IS LORD

ROLLIN' INTO RIVERS FESTIVAL IS GROWING BIGGER AND BETTER EVERY YEAR

Game and Fish Turkey Shoot



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

The range was open on Sunday, July 5 for the always fun Turkey Shoot. People line up to take their chances at shooting at a target at one of the many shooting range pits. In order to score points, you need to hit the target with a .22 rifle, provided by Rivers Game and Fish, with no scope, just the sights on the rifle. Pictured above are three target shooters, youngest Lane Joynt, in the middle Ritchie Joynt, then Kelvin Lamb, taking aim at their chance to get the high score at this Rollin' into Rivers event. The supervisor, Ron Taylor provides the bullets to each participant and teaches those who don't already know, how to load and aim the rifle.

Submitted
BY CHERYL CHAMPION

Rivers Area Game & Fish hosted a fantastic Turkey Shoot on July 5, 2026. A delicious BBQ lunch was served thanks to Monica and Craige Madden and Adrienne Beaudin. We extend a huge thank-you to all shooters and non-shooters who came out to support the club.

Entries and Rounds
We ran six full rounds of shooters.

- Round 1 had the largest turnout with 9 participants.
- Each round included a mix of different shooters.
- To keep things interesting, firearms were rotated between shooting spots, and shooters were unaware of this

change.
• Participants were free to choose any shooting position for each round.
Winners and Scores
Ritchie Joynt delivered an incredible performance, taking Rounds 1, 2, 3, and 5 with scores of 29X, 29X, 29X, and 30X. Truly impeccable aim.
• Round 4 Winner: Larry Kryshewski — 30X, the highest possible score.
• Round 6: A four-way tie at 28X between Raury Caldwell, Ritchie Joynt, Kelvin Lamb, and Kyle Gurr. After the shoot-off, Kelvin Lamb secured the win with a 30X.
Each round winner received \$20 in Chamber Bucks, and when those ran out, \$20 cash was awarded.

How the Turkey Shoot works
• Entry is \$5 per round, which includes three bullets.
• Shooters may buy into as many rounds as they wish.
• Shooting distance is 25 yards.
• Three shooters fire at a time.
• Scores are totalled after each round to determine the winner.
We had outstanding volunteer support throughout the weekend. Today's Turkey Shoot was run with help from Kelvin Lamb, Ron Taylor, Roger Beaudin and Cheryl Champion (registration and prizes).
A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who volunteered, attended and helped make this weekend a memorable one for our community.

Rivers Sandcastle Contest



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Family category 1st place - Team Rivas, Robin, Santi, Sio, and Sara.



Family category 2nd place - Team Meow, Michael, Amanda, Auri, and Barrick Hodges.

Rivers 4th Annual Paddle Boat Derby



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Paddle Boat participants Jim and Heather Bate paid their entry fee and launch off of Daly Beach to start their derby run on July 5. This year brought 38 paddlers out to enter the derby including silent hands.



Lorne and Sheri-Lyn Green assist a group of derby paddlers with their score cards while standing on a dock that is currently not touching the shoreline on July 5. There were three contestants that had a score of 99 points and they won \$50 each. They were Tara Fullerton, Crystal Johnston and Samantha Lepp. Also, offered was a prize for the low score, won by Brayden Johnston who received \$40.

MORE GREAT WEEKEND FUN PHOTOS



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE WADDELL

As complicated as the archery seemed, the details of casting a lure was a much more difficult skill to perfect. Fishing lure packages were given to every child participating in the fishing game (65 handed out before they closed).



It was amazing and great to see the Rivers Game and Fish range flag flying in view of the Trestle Bridge. The Rivers Game and Fish Association site is one of the best views of the historic Trestle Bridge over the Little Saskatchewan River. Free cake and ice cream was served through the day. They served over 100 pieces of cake with ice cream treats. Donna Falkevitch says, "I would call it a very successful day!"



This young gal was ready to ride into the valley. The lineup for the horse rides were long and there seemed to be no limit on how often riders could climb aboard. Lucky Break Ranch and Tack owner and Staff had so much patience with these young equestrians. Three full hours of continuous rides were offered.



Rivers Game and Fish Association site was a busy place for youth activities and archery skills were tested. This young man seemed to have the skills well practised. There were hands-on archery instructions given to those who needed help.

HOPE TO
SEE YOU
NEXT
YEAR
AT THE
ROLLIN'
INTO
RIVERS
FESTIVAL

Kenton celebrates new kitchen and playground on Canada Day



PHOTOS BY ANNE DAVISON

Kenton playground features a new play structure and interesting pieces of play furniture, including a saucer swing. On Canada Day, at the playground's grand opening, community volunteers are pictured with Wayne Hunter (L) holding the ribbon, Zak Fordyce has just snipped the ribbon with grandpa, Blair Fordyce watching over the procedure, the ribbon is held on the right by a Valleyview Co-op representative.

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Community energy is palpable in the village of Kenton. At the crossroads of Hwy 21 and PR 259 within the RM of Wallace-Woodworth Kenton village and area punches well above its weight when it comes to business and community features.

On Canada Day, a Ribbon cutting celebrated the new fenced playground - kid central - in the Kenton park where a bandstand entertained summer crowds. Within the adjacent Kenton Community Hall, the commercial kitchen grand opening took place.

The well-equipped playground was made possible by fundraising of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 118 and Kenton Community Enterprises.

A committee of community volunteers pitched in with Blair Fordyce as project treasurer.

Representing Woodworth Legion, Vaughn Wilson said "The bulk of the work that was done was under the supervision and scrutiny of Blair. He was here every day that we worked on the playground," said Wilson. "There were a lot of grandpas that helped out and pitched in and worked when they could."

Several professional carpenters and agricultural producers contributed time and expertise as well. All donors are listed on the playground fence.

Wilson, as president of Valleyview Co-op board of directors said a co-op contribution helped the project. "We were fortunate enough to get the Community Places grant approved for Kenton." It's named the Co-op Community Playground in recognition of the \$39,000 grant from Federated Co-operative.

"These guys put their heart and soul into it," said Wilson adding, "As you can tell, it didn't blow away in the storm."

The town and immediate area, hit hard by a vicious hail storm in June, was celebrating a comeback on Canada Day with music on the bandstand by several groups including young violinist Kennidy Routledge.

Commercial Kitchen under budget

As supper hour rolled around, another ribbon cutting celebrated the Kenton Community Hall kitchen installation also managed by Kenton Community Enterprises.

Cameron Hunter, emcee, explained how the kitchen renounfolded. The original cost projection was \$150,000-\$160,000. However, the final cost came in at \$147,500. He said, "Some of the savings came from not needing a subfloor and from better pricing offers than the original quote, plus being able to use our local contractors to do the work, keeping us on time and on budget."

He acknowledged con-



Cam Hunter for Kenton Community Enterprises, snips the ribbon for the grand opening of Kenton Community Hall kitchen; (L-R) Trent Cross (marketing specialist for Fusion), holding the ribbon is Tara Knight, (summer student from Hamiota, Fusion Credit Union); RM of Wallace-Woodworth councillor Diana MacDonald holding the ribbon and Wallace-Woodworth reeve Clayton Canart.

tractors Mark Routledge (general construction/carpentry), Jeff Hunter (plumbing) and Lane Routledge (electrical).

Donations came from Virden and Area Foundation, Fusion Credit Union, Richardson's Tundra Oil & Gas (employees in energy/ag inputs), Valleyview Co-op and Woodworth Legion. The RM of Wallace-Woodworth provided \$35,000 toward the upgrade.

Supper was set out smorgasbord style from the new commercial kitchen, to serve hungry patrons from Virden to Hamiota and of course a local crowd. Harding Ag Society put together a wonderful smoked beef and pork supper, using the new commercial kitchen and the help of Renard Meats from Virden, serving 245 guests.

Kenton Canada Day fishing



PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

On Canada Day, the fish were biting, even jumping at Kenworth Dam. Aunt Sherry from Kenton and nephew Colton from Arden, Manitoba were reeling in the pickerel from their spot on the dock. The water is high, and clean looking, one blessing from the continuous June rains. "I love fishing here," says Colton. The small fish were released to continue to grow.

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice



NOTICE OF VOTERS LIST / PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the VOTERS LIST may be revised at:

670 – 2ND Ave, Rivers MB on Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm.

At this time the Senior Election Official (S.E.O.) will be available to update the voters list by:

- adding the names of voters who are entitled to have their names on the list;
- deleting the names of persons who are not entitled to have their names on the list; and
- making such other correction of errors to the list as required.

VOTER ELIGIBILITY:

A person is eligible to have his or her name added to the Voters List if he or she is:

- A Canadian citizen and at least 18 years of age on election day; and
- A resident of the local authority for at least six months prior to election day, OR a registered owner of land in the municipality for at least six months prior to election day.

APPLICATION FOR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION:

A voter may apply in writing to the S.E.O. (at the address / fax number below) no later than September 22nd, 2026, to have his/her name and other personal information omitted or obscured from the voters list in order to protect the voter's personal security. The application may be submitted in person, by mail or fax and must include your name, address and include proof of identity.

A person whose name has been obscured will receive a Personal Security Certificate and identification number. In a civic election, that person may only vote by Sealed Envelope Ballot and cannot vote in person at the regular or advance voting places.

All changes to the voters list must be completed on or before September 22nd 2026.

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person, by e-mail, fax or mail to:

Address: Riverdale Municipality
Box 520, Rivers MB R0K 1X0
Fax: (204) 328-5374
E-mail: cao@riverdalemb.ca

The next General Election takes place on October 28th, 2026.

Dated at Rivers in the Province of Manitoba, on April 22nd, 2026.

Marci Quane
Senior Election Official (S.E.O.)
Riverdale Municipality



NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Please be advised that a general municipal election will be held on October 28, 2026.

Prospective municipal election candidates must register with the Senior Election Official (SEO) during the registration period before they may begin to accept contributions, incur expenses, fundraise or borrow money for their campaign.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will be receiving candidate registrations:

For the office of head of council: Between May 1, 2026 and September 22, 2026

For the office of councillor: Between June 30, 2026 and September 22, 2026

at the Riverdale Municipal office, 670 – 2nd Avenue during the regular hours of business.

To obtain a registration form contact the SEO at the telephone number listed below.

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Dated at Rivers MB on April 22nd, 2026.
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Thank-you

The KENTON & AREA LIONS CLUB would like to thank all who participated in our Canada Day Car Rally. The day was a success and a lot of fun, even in the restricted wet conditions.

A special thank you also to Robert Stevenson and Jack Roseveare for their generous donations back to the Club from their winnings!

Looking forward to next year!

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SPORTS

LOCAL TEAMS SECURE SWBL PLAYOFF SPOTS

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

The Rivers Comets, Oak River Dodgers and Hamiota Red Sox are all playoff bound.

The Dodgers topped the South West Baseball League's North Division with an 11-4-0 record. Winning the division title earned them a spot in the Senior AA Provincial Championships in Winnipeg, Aug. 7-9. At 10-5-0, the Comets finished one spot behind Oak River.

The Hamiota Red Sox claimed the North's fourth and final playoff berth in dramatic fashion. On the last day of the regular season, July 5, they shut out the Brandon Young Guns 6-0. That meant both teams had 6-9-0 records and were tied for the final divisional playoff spot. In a July 6 play-in game, the Red Sox prevailed 5-4 thanks to an extra-inning walk-off double by Matt Rhie that scored two. Carter Loewen pitched all eight innings for the Red Sox.

In the opening round, the Dodgers will tangle

with the Red Sox. Meanwhile, the Comets will face the Reston Rockets, the North's No. 3 seed thanks to a 7-8-0 record.

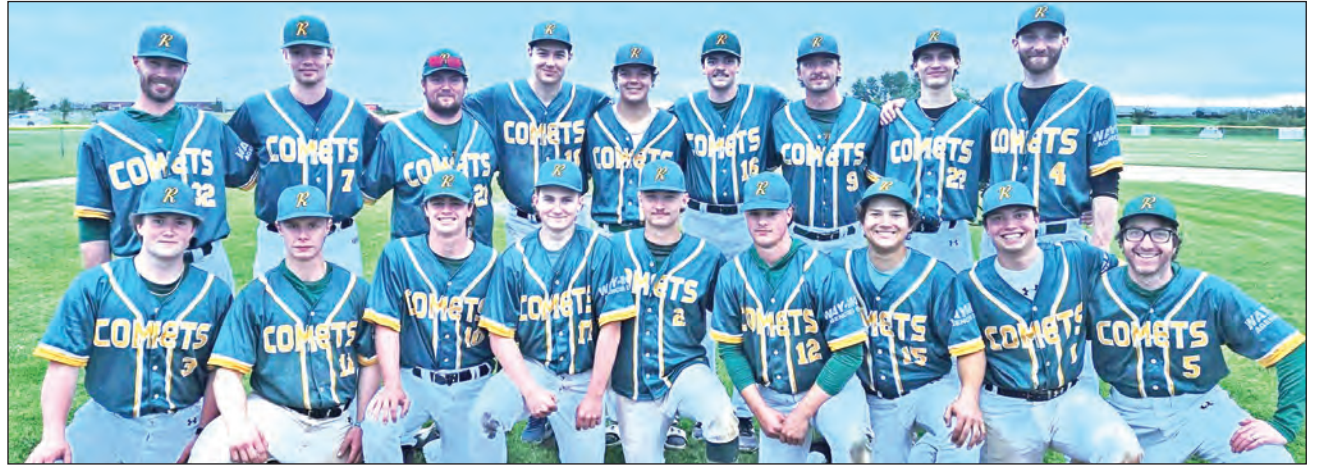
"I'm looking forward to making another run towards the final. We came up just short last year, but really hoping we can come through and get it done this year," said the Comets' Fred Hrycak, whose team fell in the semifinals to the Dodgers last season. "High stakes baseball games are always fun, so playoffs is definitely exciting for me."

The Comets hosted the first game of the best-of-three series on July 7, with the teams meeting in Reston on July 8. If required, game three would be July 10 in Rivers.

The Dodgers hosted game one of the other North Division series on July 8. Game two is in Hamiota on July 10. If a third contest is needed, it will be played in Oak River on July 12.

Rivers Comets

The Comets lost on July 5 to the Virden Oilers 11-4 to end the regular season. Heading into the playoffs,



Rivers Comets celebrating 10 years as the Rivers baseball team!

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rivers player-organizer Scott Beever said, "I think the focus for us is trying to get back to the ball we had been playing over the last few games. Sunday's loss stings. We had a chance to go to provincials and didn't capitalize. So, we're just looking to reset and try for a long playoff push."

The Rivers team shut out the host Dodgers 14-0 on July 2. The contest had originally been slated for June 30, but it was postponed due to poor weather. Beever fanned 11 while allowing only one hit and two walks in a complete game performance. He

helped his cause with five runs batted in, including a two-run homerun. Hayden Mackadenski hit a grand slam in the seventh inning. Jase Wareham scored three runs and hit a triple.

The next day, the Comets beat the visiting Red Sox 9-4. Hrycak drove in three runs, while Layton Veitch had two RBIs. Nolan Wright started and earned the win while allowing four runs on five hits. Mackadenski threw two shutout innings and allowed only one hit.

Oak River Dodgers

By winning the division championship, the Dodgers earned the opportunity

to represent the SWBL at the Provincial AA Championships in Winnipeg from Aug. 7-9.

After the loss to the Comets on July 2, Oak River wrapped up the regular season with an 11-7 win over the host Brandon Young Guns on July 3. Riley Shamray, Ty Paddock and Kaden Rozdeba all hit home runs. Oak River scored seven runs in the fourth inning of the five-inning contest. Dylan Schroeder led the team with three RBIs. Schroeder started on the mound for the Dodgers. Riley Shamray earned the win in just over two innings

of relief work.

Hamiota Red Sox

The Red Sox fell 9-4 to Rivers on July 3 despite Nolan Drake driving in four runs. That made the July 5 game against the Young Guns a must-win affair. The Red Sox did just that as Tyler Wood and Loewen combined to pitch a shutout in a 6-0 victory. Wood started, struck out four, and allowed six hits in 6 1/3 innings. Loewen did not allow a hit while closing things out. Rhie drove in two runs, and Jordan Edwards stole two bases.

RIVERS COMETS HONOUR FIRST DECADE WITH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Robin Wark
RIVERS BANNER

as the Rivers Comets marked their 10th anniversary with players, alumni and fans.

The senior squad's 10th anniversary celebration on July 3 featured games for kids, beef on a bun supper, beer gardens, and plenty of stories. There was also a victory as the current Comets crew defeated the Hamiota Red Sox 9-4.

"The atmosphere was great last night," Comets player Fred Hrycak said the next day. "It was probably our best turnout of the season and awesome to see lots of friends and familiar faces in the crowd. The beer gardens after were great too, with lots of people hanging around."

On their Facebook page, the Comets thanked the community for its "unwavering support." It noted the night was a great success and it was made even more special with the win. In an interview, player-organizer Scott Beever emphasized appreciation for "everyone who has supported the Comets. We wouldn't be here without your help. Here's to another 10-plus."

The Comets helped revive the strong baseball tradition in the community. Between 1964 and 1969, Rivers won five South Central Baseball League championships. The Comet earned the silver medals at the 1967 Western Canadian Baseball Championships. Those successful seasons earned the team induction into the Manitoba Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012. At the time of the induction, there was no senior baseball in Rivers, but it was coming...

About 15 years ago, Alastair McFadden was playing on and managing a junior team called the Diamond Dawgs. The team included players from Rivers, Brandon, and other western Manitoba communities. The squad eventually aged out of the junior ranks and competed in the Brandon Senior Baseball League under the same name.

"It was always my dream to have a team in Rivers, so in 2015

we actually played as the Comets in the Brandon league – and added a few more homegrown players – while we planned to build the diamond in Rivers," McFadden said.

Before the Comets could play in Rivers, there was a lot of work to be done in regards to fundraising and rebuilding the diamond at the old fairgrounds.

"It's phenomenal to look at the park now compared to where it was 10 years ago," McFadden said. "Aside from the original backstop, the entire senior diamond was built from scratch during a few months in 2016. Fence, dugouts, infield, etc. I think we did it for roughly \$40,000."

He pointed out that was much cheaper than the cost of constructing other facilities. While more has been invested in the grounds over the years, McFadden noted, "That number would be significantly higher if it weren't for all the support from volunteers, businesses, individuals, and the municipality that have provided time, money, and materials. There's been a variety of fundraising efforts over the years, but the community has embraced and supported us from day one. None of this is possible without them."

His brother, Mike McFadden, echoed those sentiments when discussing the strong support the Comets receive from the community.

"The community is everything to us," Mike McFadden said. "We could not have a team if we didn't have the town's support. Everything we do is run by volunteers. The yearly sponsors and fans are the engine that drives our cause."

The Comets hosted their first home game at the Rivers field in July of 2016. They moved to the South West Baseball League in 2017.

Gerald Kuculym played for the Diamond Dawgs and later suited up for the Comets. He still lives near Rivers and said "I enjoyed everything while I played for the Comets. We had a good team on and off the field."

The Comets have enjoyed success over the past decade. In

2017, the team hosted the Senior A provincials and defeated Cartwright in the title tilt. Alastair McFadden said it "will always be special."

In 2022, the Comets beat Plumas in Wawanesa to win the Senior A championship. Alastair McFadden said the provincials "were a lot of fun."

That same summer, the team hosted the Senior AA provincials. To get to the finals, the Comets beat Winkler 6-5 in eight innings.

"Our semifinal extra innings win in that tournament might be one of our wildest games," Alastair McFadden said.

In the finals, the Comets lost to Cartwright. Alastair McFadden said, "We were one swing of the bat from winning AA at home the same year but it wasn't to be." Mike McFadden noted it "still stings to think how close we got."

The Comets finished second in the SWBL North Division this season and the playoffs are underway. The team is seeking its first SWBL championship.

"We've always been competitive, but haven't quite reached the peak of the mountain... yet," Alastair McFadden said.

He noted that the Comets have a strong, young team. He also stated the community has "a minor ball program that's grown leaps and bounds the last number of years that should provide talent for years to come."

In addition, the Comets and the community continue to work on the area where they play.

"I'm just so proud of everything we've accomplished at the fairgrounds," Alastair McFadden said. "And, we continue to invest and improve every year. It's been a bit of a change personally to go from managing the senior team full time to coaching T-ball, but that's what this is all about. We're in it for the long haul. Maybe I can even watch my grandkids play out there someday. Thank you to everyone for the support. It's been an amazing first ten years and I look forward to the decades to come."

Hamiota embraces the World



Colourful Filipino dancers.

PHOTO BY ANNE DAVISON

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

The second annual Around the World in Hamiota celebrated many cultures of the area. This free event in Hamiota hall was sponsored by Hamiota's Centennial Library, Municipality and Recreation and the hall was full.

There was musical entertainment, ethnic snacks and many displays.

The Filippino culture was well represented and a colourful folk dance featuring in hand-held fans was performed by a group of women.

This community afternoon is an opportunity to make connections and learn more about the cultures abounding in southwestern Manitoba.

Canada's founding cultures from Europe and the British Isles were also represented.

Wool & Gaucos

Jackie (Loschiavo) Mathison, from a blended ancestry is a wool advocate. A fitting interest for someone with such a Scottish surname as Mathison.

However, before marriage, Jackie Loschiavo grew up in B.C. Her heritage includes an Italian born father who moved to Argentina where he lived for about 20 years.

She displayed artifacts of her father's gaucho background, and many wool items of the softest thread. She says she keeps busy at her kids' hockey games, knitting and crocheting.

"I grew up with sheep my whole life and then I had my own sheep."

She's also part of the Canadian Wool Collective, an organization that connects end users with Canadian wool products direct from Canadian farms.

Did you know that little wool pellets

made from the cast-off wool (too dirty to use) is sold as a soil enrichment?

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

Representatives from the Assiniboine Branch (Brandon) of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (UELAC) were conspicuous in their historic costumes. Established in 2015, this local chapter serves Western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, helping residents trace their historical roots, prove their Loyalist ancestry, and celebrate their legacy. If you suspect you have ancestors who were forced out of the United States after the American Revolution (1783) and eventually moved to Canada, the UELAC provides tools to help you verify your lineage.

Around the World is a taste of culture in Hamiota community.

United Church minister bids farewell

By Anne Davison
RIVERS BANNER

Rev. Noel and his wife Veronica Suministrado have said a formal goodbye to their Hamiota United Church congregation. Rev. Noel was the first Filipino to minister in Hamiota, a town with a large Filipino community.

In his own words (Hamiota Leader news), "Time flew like the Prairie wind for us and it seems like yesterday when we arrived in Hamiota in 2021, and then retirement came!"

"Hamiota United Church, being my last church assignment of 42 years of active church ministry, will be the cherry on top of the icing of the cake - I have been so blessed with a loving congregation!"

"I have been part and parcel of life's passages of Hamiota United Church that included baptisms, funerals, and pastoral visits to Park, Lilac, Birch Lodge residents, but also Hamiota's everyday life - the post office, the grocery, the walks around town!"

"It is here in Hamiota, that my wife Veronica discovered her talent for painting that led to two art



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Isla and Piper English, children from the Hamiota congregation with Rev. Suministrado at his farewell party, Sunday, June 28.

exhibits of Filipino women artists which, for her, was an enormous accomplishment!

"She also loved and enjoyed the volunteer work and shopping "The Mall" (the Thrift Shop), the Library, the Tea and Coffee Time in the Midwest Arts Center, the Hamiota Museum, and just tending to her flower and vegetable garden."

The Suministrados' retirement means a return to be among family.

Rev. Noel says, "Hanggang dito na lamang at maraming salamat! - thank you very much for all and everything!"

Hamiota United Church congregation celebrated with the Suministrados on Sunday June 28.

SUNMONTUEWEDTHUFRI

SAT

Jul 1011

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

12	13	14 RIVERDALE Council Meeting	15	16 FOOD BANK Rivers Food Bank 9:30 - 11:30am	17	18 Oak River BBQ Cook-Off 4:30 pm - 1am at the Rink in Oak River
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	Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	
19 Rivers Legion Bingo 11:30am	20 50 + Card Games 1pm	21 50 + Club Pool 1pm	22 50 + Club Cribbage 1pm Darts Rivers Legion 7pm	23 Rivers Legion Cribbage 7pm 50+ Floor Games 1pm	24 Chase the Ace Rivers Legion 7pm	25