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**Beatlemania lives on**

STANDARD PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Carman-raised performer Brad Zacharias (middle) stars as George Harrison in *Can't Buy Me Love – The Beatles Forever*, now running at Destination Dinner Stage through July 12. Audience members can expect to hear many of The Beatles' biggest hits, including *Can't Buy Me Love*, *I Want to Hold Your Hand* and *Paperback Writer*, woven into the show's fast-paced 1960s comedy storyline.

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# Carman performer shines in Beatles tribute show

By Annaliese Meier

A Carman-raised performer is taking centre stage in a high-energy tribute to one of the world's most iconic bands.

Brad Zacharias, who grew up in Carman, is currently starring as George Harrison in *Can't Buy Me Love - The Beatles Forever*, running at Destination Dinner Stage through July 12.

For Zacharias, the role is more than just another performance — it's a full-circle moment rooted in a lifelong love of music and theatre.

"My family moved to Carman in 1996," he said. "I attended Carman Elementary and Carman Collegiate, and I still drive out to visit my grandmother when I get the chance. We lived about a block away from Syl's — I can still hear the faint sound of order numbers being called."

His passion for performing began early, landing his first role as a train conductor in a Grade 2 play, before continuing through school productions at Carman Collegiate, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Oklahoma!*.

That early exposure laid the groundwork for a career that now sees him performing regularly in one of Manitoba's busiest dinner theatre circuits.

Zacharias first became involved in



dinner theatre in 2012 with the former Celebrations Dinner Theatre, where he worked as both a performer and server. After gaining experience touring to other cities, he stepped away before the company closed its Winnipeg location.

When Destination Dinner Stage launched in 2024, artistic director Randy Apostle reached out and invited him to return to the stage.

"He offered me a role in their debut show, *Golden Gals Vacation*. I played a set of triplets, which was a lot of fun," Zacharias said.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Carman-raised performer Brad Zacharias (right), and Winkler's Griffin Kehler perform as George Harrison and Paul McCartney in *Can't Buy Me Love - The Beatles Forever* at Destination Dinner Stage.

Today, his role extends beyond performing. In addition to appearing on stage, he also works behind the scenes as part of the stage management team, helping ensure produc-

tions run smoothly.

Destination Dinner Stage operates on a unique model, blending scripted performances with interactive ser-

Continued on page 3

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# RCMP investigating suspicious death in Carman

By Lana Meier

Carman RCMP are investigating a suspicious death following a vehicle fire early May 25 at a self-storage compound on 2nd Street Northeast in Carman.

According to Manitoba RCMP, officers responded to the fire at approximately 1:15 a.m. The vehicle was fully engulfed in flames when police arrived at the scene.

RCMP said a deceased male was located near the burning vehicle.

Manitoba RCMP Major Crime Services has taken over the investigation.

No further information has been released.



STANDARD PHOTOS BY DENNIS YOUNG

Emergency crews responded to a vehicle fire at Carman Bring N Lock Self Storage overnight May 24–25 on the east side of the property. In a notice to customers, the owners stated a body was found at the scene. Access to units in Building Three remains restricted while the investigation continues.

## > BEATLES, FROM PG. 2



vice. Performers often take on multiple responsibilities throughout the evening, from acting to engaging with guests during the meal.

“The fun thing about dinner theatre is it satisfies a lot of different aspects of stage performance,” Zacharias said. “You have the scripted show, but you also get to improvise and interact with guests. That’s something I really enjoy.”

The company presents roughly 120 to 130 shows each year, and Zacharias estimates he personally performs in about 70 of them.

Casting is handled through a mix of auditions and ongoing relationships, with performers often returning for multiple productions.

“Since my initial audition years ago, it’s become more of a conversation and a handshake when roles come up,” he said.

In the current Beatles production, Zacharias takes on the role of George Harrison — known as the “Quiet Beatle” — a part he said has been one of his favourites to prepare for.

“I’ve been a massive Beatles fan for a long time,” he said. “For this role, I dusted off my Beatles Anthology DVDs, loaded my car with their al-

bums, and worked on developing a Liverpool accent.”

The show itself is designed to be a fast-paced musical celebration, featuring an impressive lineup of songs.

“Our usual productions have around 16 songs, but through medleys and quick transitions, we fit 33 songs into two acts,” he said. “Odds are, if you have a favourite Beatles song, you’ll hear it.”

Set in the swinging 1960s, the production follows four students at “Liverpool High” who form a band in hopes of winning a school talent show and impressing their crushes. The comedic storyline features rival acts, disapproving school administrators and a pair of exchange students from Winnipeg, blending Beatlemania with high school comedy.

The production also highlights the versatility required of performers, with Zacharias undergoing a dramatic transformation between roles.

Zacharias laughed about the dramatic transformation between productions.

“I had a beard in *Mamma Mia!* and now I’m a Beatle with no beard,” he said. “It’s all part of the fun — changing your look helps you step into a

new character. This show is actually one of the first where I’ve worn wigs exclusively.”

Audience members attending *Can’t Buy Me Love - The Beatles Forever* can expect more than just a concert-style performance. Each evening includes a full dinner theatre experience, with a three-course meal served alongside the show and opportunities to interact with performers in character.

The production runs Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays through July 12. Tickets are available through the

box office at 204-694-7469 or online through Ticketmaster.

For Zacharias, however, the most meaningful part of performing isn’t the costumes or the applause — it’s the connection to home.

“To be able to represent where I came from and see familiar faces in the audience is something I hold dear,” he said. “I wouldn’t be who I am without those roots, and I try not to take them for granted.”

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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## PCs push to raise Manitoba tax exemption

Progressive Conservatives are calling on the Manitoba government to more than double the province's Basic Personal Exemption, saying the move would provide meaningful affordability relief for families facing rising living costs.

Progressive Conservative finance critic Lauren Stone, who is also the MLA for Midland, said the party is pushing to raise Manitoba's Basic Personal Exemption to \$30,000, which would allow Manitobans to earn more income before paying provincial income tax.

The Basic Personal Exemption is the amount of income a person can earn before paying provincial income tax.

Stone said the proposed increase could save a single-income family about \$1,500 annually, or approximately \$3,000 for dual-income households.

"As we know, families across Manitoba are feeling the squeeze of the

cost-of-living crisis Manitobans are facing right now," she said. "The cost of living is increasing faster than our paycheques, and it's no doubt families are falling behind. This would put hundreds of dollars into the pockets of hardworking Manitoban families, allowing them to spend their money in their communities and boosting local economies."

Manitoba's current Basic Personal Exemption sits at \$15,780, below neighbouring Saskatchewan's exemption of \$20,381 and Alberta's \$22,769.

Stone said Manitoba is currently the only province not increasing its Basic Personal Exemption or maintaining indexation tied to inflation.

The NDP government paused indexation in 2025, meaning tax brackets no longer automatically rise alongside inflation. Stone argued that without indexation, some Manitobans may end up paying more income tax even if wage increases simply keep pace with rising costs.

"Every other province is either increasing the exemption amount for their citizens and/or bringing in indexation," she said. "Manitoba is the only province that is doing the opposite."

Stone said rising costs for groceries, fuel, utilities and other household expenses continue to place pressure on Manitoba families.

"People need those extra dollars in their pocket," she added. "These are basic needs Manitobans have, and those are real dollars and affordability relief that could go a long way."

She described the proposal as a "fair and common-sense approach" that would benefit most Manitobans.

The PCs introduced the proposal during the provincial government's spring budget session. Stone said the party is willing to compromise with the NDP government in order to move affordability legislation forward before the end of the spring sitting.

Continued on page 5

## The way it was this week in: May 28

By Dennis Young

**100 Years ago, 1926** — Newly amended Temperance Act prohibits liquor in places other than private dwellings; fresh milk and cream at W.H. Palmer's Carman Dairy; Peck's Service Station is your North Star Oil agent; Neil Galbraith sells young pigs for \$14 per pair; Magistrate Halverson fines Raymond Confectionary \$200 plus \$10 costs for liquor in his store, with Ryall Hotel, Grand View Hotel and Dorfman's pending; call 42 for Porter's Garage service truck; farmers along the N/E Carman drainage ditch receive compensation.

**75 Years ago, 1951** — Manitoba Power Commission holds Farm Electrification Day to demonstrate more than 75 electric appliances; Sperling wins Grand Aggregate at the high school track meet with 109.2 points, followed by Morris with 53.7 and Carman with

52; 16 members of the Miami Seed Club contract to grow malt barley; Safeway Pepsi and Coke, 16 bottles for 36 cents; Doug Keith to represent Roseisle at provincials in the half-mile and one-mile races; Allan Clarke of Carman to appear on CKY radio after a contest to find new talent; Eva and Art Grundy receive lavish gifts after more than 30 years of helping youth in Carman; Sperling holds its first graduation ceremony for five students.

**50 Years ago, 1976** — Parkway Motors grand opening staff includes Cornie Unger, president; John Neufeld, vice-president; Gil Lesage, sales manager; Harold Hiebert and Archie Hardy, service; John Pokitar, parts; Dennis Woods, books; George Enns, Len Giesbrecht, George Huston, Ken Kroeker, Gary Dinnin and Jim Sherwood, mechanics; Dick's Heating sells air conditioners from \$325 to \$510; at

the Central Plains Swim Meet, Robin Penner places first in breaststroke; Kin Club grows from 25 to 40 members in the past year; Harry McKnight builds the "world's largest corn planter" at 48 feet wide.

**25 Years ago, 2001** — Rene Comte elected CEO of RHA; Carman Development Corp. offers \$10,000 business loans; Myron Krahn named Home-wood Co-op agronomist; Terry Laycock co-ordinates Carman Heel & Wheel-a-thon for Crohn's and Colitis; after 10 years, Carman Fair to feature harness racing, says DAS president Dave Suderman; Rob and Bev Franzman operate Hillside Hail; grand opening of Boyne Regional Library renovations; Graysville Mennonite United welcomes Norman and Rose Dyck as pastor couple.

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# Town of Carman approves loader purchase

By Haley Cvar

The Town of Carman is preparing to move ahead with several infrastructure and recreation projects, including 2026 road work, new equipment purchases and improvements to community facilities.

Council discussed upcoming road work plans during its April 16 meeting, with tenders expected to be prepared and issued the following week.

CAO Susan Stein said the town prioritized roads considered to be in the greatest need of repair.

"We tendered out possible roads that we felt needed the work the most and the tenders will be awarded based on need and meeting budget requirements," Stein said.

The town also approved the purchase of a John Deere 444P loader from Brandt for \$282,450, with a \$130,000 trade-in included as part of the agreement.

Stein said the purchase aligns with the town's long-term asset management strategy and will support a wide range of year-round public works operations.

"Replacing equipment is part of our

asset management strategy to balance costs of equipment and repairs," Stein said. "The loader will allow staff to complete work efficiently and it supports year round work such as loading gravel, hauling snow, moving large debris and loading equipment into trucks."

The equipment purchase came as council continues work on its 2026 infrastructure priorities, which also include proposed upgrades to Memorial Hall and the Trestle Bridge area.

Council reviewed grant and funding options for replacement windows at Memorial Hall, with further discussion planned at a future meeting.

Photographs of the town's proposed Trestle Bridge lighting project were also presented, and council agreed to proceed with a quote from Sperling Industries.

The town also received an overview presentation related to a potential bid for the 2028 Manitoba Summer Games.

In recreation matters, council approved the hiring of Jay Asuncion as a recreation technician under the town's employee agreement pay scale.

Stein said the position is important in helping maintain facilities and support programming during the busy recreation season.

"This position helps ensure that facilities are maintained to a high standard, programs run smoothly, and residents continue to receive quality recreational services," Stein said.

She added the recreation department operates as a shared service between the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin.

"The recreation department is a shared service jointly funded by the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin," Stein said. "This year, the department is operating with four full-time technicians, compared to five in previous years, as we have also explored opportunities to improve efficiency and manage costs by tendering certain work externally where appropriate."

Council approved March accounts totalling \$815,880.55. March financial statements were also approved, and council received auditor planning communication documents.

## worship

with us > FAITH

How did you feel as the skies darkened with windblown dust and soil? I'm sure many of us felt a quiet unease. The air turned brown, visibility faded, and for a moment it seemed as though history itself had returned. I wasn't around in the 1930s, of course, but I remembered the pictures and stories in the history books that recalled the Dust Bowl years, when drought and drifting soil brought fear and hardship to countless families.

We often live as though life is stable and predictable, yet a powerful wind can suddenly humble us. Crops, weather, health, finances, and even tomorrow itself remain beyond our control. That realization can either produce fear or drive us to seek something steadier than ourselves.

The Bible speaks directly into that uncertainty. Scripture teaches that this world is not governed by chance or chaos but by God Himself. Jesus said that not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from the Father's will (Matthew 10:29). The God who rules over nations and stars also watches over the details of ordinary life.

That does not mean every storm is easy to understand. Hardships leave us with painful questions. Believers are repeatedly called to trust in God's character even when circumstances seem frightening or unclear.

Scripture often points people to creation not merely to admire it, but to remember the God who rules over it; that God "makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth" and "brings forth the wind from his storehouses" (Psalms 135:7). Weather is not random chaos beyond His reach. The same God who laid the earth's foundations still sustains it day by day.

Storms do come. Farmers still worry. Families still feel anxious. Crops can still fail. But Scripture offers something deeper than easy explanations: the assurance that the world is not spinning out of God's control. Scripture reminds us that we are creatures, dependent each day on the Lord for rain, sunshine, harvest, and breath itself.

Seek Him.

Trust Him!

Len Lodder, Canadian Reformed Church, Carman East

## > TAX EXEMPTION, FROM PG. 4

She suggested the province could increase the exemption to \$21,000 initially to match Saskatchewan and British Columbia levels if the government is unwilling to support the full \$30,000 proposal immediately. The \$21,000 would increase to one-third of the of the PC's goal, and she expects the partial increase would cost a maximum of \$350 million annually.

"Raising the exemption will attract new investment and grow the tax base, as well as further allowing us to cut government waste," she said.

"We are ready to support and bring their budget bill to a vote, but only if it includes meaningful affordability measures like a stronger Basic Personal Exemption."

Stone added that organizations including the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business have publicly supported increasing the exemption.

Gage Haubrich, Canadian Taxpayers Federation Prairie Director said Manitobans deserve and need to get all the tax relief they can get, acknowledging they pay the highest provincial taxes in Western Canada.

"Increasing the basic personal exemption is a great thing for taxpayers because that means that every taxpayer in Manitoba can earn more money

before having to pay taxes, reducing their overall tax burden," he said. "Bracket creep is a massive burden to Manitobans because it hikes their taxes every year through stealth. Because of bracket creep, inflation can automatically bump taxpayers into a higher income tax bracket and increase their tax bills. It's a stealth tax hike because Manitobans pay more every year because of inflation, not because politicians vote on a tax increase."

He explained the government needs to be doing as much as possible to alleviate the burden, noting raising the Basic Personal Exemption is what Manitobans need right now.

"Life is only getting more expensive for Manitobans and they need any and all tax relief available for the government to give."

Manitoba Finance Minister Adrien Sala acknowledged affordability remains a major concern for many Manitobans and said the NDP government has focused on targeted relief measures.

The province has introduced a temporary fuel tax holiday, a permanent fuel tax reduction, lower middle-class income taxes and expanded education property tax credits.

Through the Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act (BITSA), the government is also

proposing to eliminate PST on groceries, provide free childcare for lower-income families and introduce free transit for Manitoba students.

While basic groceries are already PST exempt in Manitoba, the proposed legislation would remove PST from grocery-store food items that currently carry the tax, including many prepared foods, snack foods and beverages, while restaurant meals and non-food household items would still remain taxable.

"We know Manitobans need the support now," Sala said. "I think the combination of tax reductions and credits that we brought forward are helping to provide the targeted relief that Manitobans need."

Sala said rising grocery prices remain one of the province's largest affordability challenges and pointed to the proposed grocery PST exemption as a key measure aimed at helping households manage costs.

He added that if BITSA does not pass before the end of the spring legislative session, some affordability measures could be delayed until the fall.

With only weeks remaining in the spring sitting, both parties continue to pressure each other over competing affordability measures as Manitobans face ongoing financial pressures.

# Six calls in one night push CDFD firefighters to the limit

By E. Antonio

The Carman Dufferin Fire Department (CDFD) had a busy May, attending numerous calls for grass and hydro line fires.

Fire Chief Chris Lemky said department resources were particularly put to the test on May 14 when firefighters responded to six calls throughout the area, requiring mutual aid from Elm Creek to assist with one of the incidents.

Lemky noted dry, windy conditions were factors in fueling many of the fires, prompting a brief burn ban from May 14 to May 19.

After a much-needed weekend of rain, he said conditions have improved, but he still advises residents to remain fire smart.

"It is still good to be prepared

when having any kind of fire outdoors, especially in spring and fall when conditions in our area are typically the driest," he said.

His tips for the season include:

- Having water or fire extinguishers on hand to ensure fires are completely extinguished following a burn

- Mowing grass and vegetation around yards and burn areas to minimize the spread of fire

- Treating all downed hydro lines as live and staying clear of the area until deemed safe by Manitoba Hydro

The CDFD will continue monitoring environmental conditions, and residents are encouraged to check social media and municipal websites to see whether a burn ban is in place.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Strong winds and dry conditions brought down many trees and branches in May, sparking hydro line fires. The Carman Dufferin Fire Department has been busy throughout the month responding to incidents and is encouraging residents to remain fire smart as summer approaches.

## Funding boosts English training for Ukrainians

By Lana Meier

The Manitoba government is investing \$500,000 to expand English language training programs for Ukrainian newcomers across the province as part of ongoing efforts to support settlement and long-term integration.

The funding, announced by Manitoba Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Nellie Kennedy on Vyshyvanka Day, will support programming delivered through the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Manitoba Provincial Council (UCC-MPC).

"As Manitobans celebrate Vyshyvanka Day and honour Ukrainian

culture and heritage, this investment reflects our commitment to ensuring newcomers have the tools they need to thrive, find work and fully participate in communities across our province," Kennedy said in a news release.

"Our government is proud to support the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Manitoba Provincial Council as it helps Ukrainian newcomers build strong connections and successful futures in Manitoba."

The UCC is a national organization representing Ukrainian Canadian community groups, with the Manitoba council among the oldest in Canada. Since the start of Russia's war on Ukraine, the organization has helped support thousands of individuals and families who have settled in Manitoba.

According to UCC Manitoba,

more than 30,000 Ukrainian newcomers have arrived in the province since the war began.

From July 2025 to February 2026, the organization delivered English language training to approximately 900 adult learners across Manitoba in partnership with community organizations.

UCC Manitoba president Joanne Lewandosky said language training plays a critical role in helping newcomers build stable lives in their new communities.

"English language training is one of the most important tools helping Ukrainian newcomers build successful lives in Manitoba, opening doors to employment, education and full participation in our communities," said Lewandosky.

"We are deeply grateful to the Manitoba government for its ongoing support of Ukrainians forced to come to Canada because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and for investing in programs that help newcomers integrate and contribute to our province."

The new provincial funding will support additional staffing, expanded course offerings and organizational supports aimed at strengthening program delivery in both urban and rural communities.

UCC Manitoba said there has been particularly strong demand for English language training in Winnipeg, western Manitoba, the Morden-Winkler area and the Interlake region.

The organization noted it is committed to offering as many rural courses as possible where demand exists, although finding qualified instructors continues to be a challenge.

The expanded programming will continue to focus on in-person instruction, as UCC Manitoba does not currently offer online language courses.

UCC Manitoba spokesperson Ostap Skrypnyk said language skills remain an important part of helping newcomers become job ready and establish long-term roots in Manitoba communities.

"Employers in general want workers who are job ready. Language is an important part of that," said Skrypnyk. "Viable and long-term employment is important for rural municipalities to retain newcomers."

Vyshyvanka Day is observed annually on the third Thursday in May and celebrates Ukrainian culture and unity through the wearing of traditional embroidered shirts known as vyshyvankas.

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The Carman Legion Br. # 18 is offering a bursary of \$500.00 to a child, grandchild, or great grandchild of a Veteran or a Legion member entering post-secondary education. The bursary must be used within one year from the date it is awarded. Application forms are available at Carman Collegiate, Dufferin Christian School, Miami School, and Elm Creek School or by calling the Carman Legion at 745-2454. **The applications must be received no later than Friday, June 4, 2026.**

Applications may be mailed to:  
Carman Legion Br. #18  
Box 98, Carman, MB, ROG 010  
Attention: Chuck Ross

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June 17th at 7:00 pm  
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renewals available on-site.

Refreshments to follow.



# Province of Manitoba seeks feedback on time changes

By Annaliese Meier

The Manitoba government is asking residents to weigh in on whether the province should continue changing clocks twice a year or move to a permanent time system.

Glen Simard, Manitoba's minister of municipal and northern relations, announced this week that consultations are now open as the province considers adopting either permanent standard time or permanent daylight time.

"Across Canada, a number of provinces and territories are ending the time change and Manitobans have made it clear they want us to look at doing the same," Simard said in a news release. "From a lower risk of stroke to when the sun rises and sets, there are a number of things to consider, and we want to hear directly from Manitobans."

A recent analysis by the Manitoba government concluded eliminating

the twice-yearly clock change would be better for population health than maintaining the current system.

The discussion is also drawing attention from Manitoba's agricultural community, where strict daily routines are an important part of livestock care.

Warren's Rob Boonstra, owner and partner at Boonstra Farms Ltd., said dairy cattle respond best to consistency.

"On a dairy farm consistency is key. Cows do not like change," said Boonstra. "A high producing cow feels the affects of being milked an hour later."

Boonstra said the animals eventually adapt after a few days, but routine remains important.

"They are a creature of habit and they do prefer things to stay the same," he said.

While he appreciates the longer summer evenings as a person, Boonstra said dairy cattle would likely

benefit from keeping one consistent time year-round.

"As a human being it's nice to have the long summer nights but as the owner of dairy cows, they themselves would prefer to not change the time," he said.

Commercial fisherman Bill Buckels said he believes maintaining the current seasonal time changes remains important for safety in Manitoba's outdoor industries.

"In Manitoba, permanent Daylight Saving Time would mean the sun wouldn't rise until nearly 10 a.m. in the winter," said Buckels. "For industries like commercial fishing or agriculture, this is a major safety hazard."

Buckels said workers in industries such as commercial fishing, forestry, mining and trucking rely heavily on early morning daylight during winter months for travel and equipment preparation.

"The risk of wildlife collisions, spe-

cifically with deer and moose, is significantly heightened during these pre-dawn hours," he said. "By reverting to standard time in the winter, an essential hour of natural light is returned to the morning, providing a critical safety margin for those on the road and on the ice."

Buckels added that while many people view the twice-yearly time change as an inconvenience, he believes Manitoba's seasonal clock adjustments continue to serve a practical purpose for industries operating in difficult outdoor conditions.

"The clock should serve the safety and productivity of the province's foundational industries," he said.

The Manitoba Health report is available through the Manitoba government.

Residents can also participate in the public consultation through EngageMB at <https://engagemb.ca/time-change>.

# Dufferin discusses industrial initiatives and recreational development

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Dufferin approved its 2026 taxation bylaw, advanced several recreation and infrastructure projects and later approved the purchase of a new excavator during meetings held April 14 and May 12.

Council gave second and third reading to By-law No. 2041 during its April 14 regular meeting, formally adopting the municipality's 2026 financial plan and setting the rates and levies for the year.

Council also approved more than \$1 million in accounts, totalling \$1,046,375.08.

Several utility and recreation matters were discussed during the meeting, including approval for three new water line installations at properties in the municipality and nearby Roseisle.

"The RM continues to see steady growth in rural water servicing demand, averaging approximately 10 new connections each year," CAO Sharla Murray said. "Most of these connections are associated with new-

ly built homes within the municipality."

Council also approved the Carman Minor Soccer Phase 1 project proposal, estimated at \$270,000, with the project to be fully funded through the organization's fundraising efforts.

"Carman Minor Soccer is currently in the fundraising stages for the future development of two new soccer pitches," Murray said. "The Phase 1 approval supports the project moving forward once fundraising goals have been achieved."

Additional recreation-related decisions included approving a grounds maintenance agreement for the Memorial Hall for the 2026 season and hiring Jay S. Asuncion as a full-time recreation labourer at a starting wage of \$19.88 per hour.

"The position was filled to replace a previous employee who had left the organization," Murray said.

Council also approved a subdivision application from Oak Ridge Holdings Ltd. to create an approximately 8.89-acre parcel from a larger property in the northeast quarter of Section 12-

7-7W, subject to a variance approval from the Carman Dufferin Grey Planning District.

During the May 12 special meeting, council heard a presentation from representatives of Brandt John Deere regarding excavation technology and the potential benefits of 3D ditching systems for municipal operations.

The presentation outlined how GPS- and GIS-based excavation systems can improve ditching accuracy, reduce operator training requirements and help avoid damage to underground infrastructure by tracking culverts and ditch elevations.

"The RM is looking to replace its existing excavator, which is nine years old and lacks built-in technology capabilities," Murray said. "Newer equipment options include integrated 2D systems, with the potential to upgrade to 3D technology separately."

"Regardless of the final unit selected, the updated technology is expected to improve the municipality's ditch maintenance programs and operational efficiency," she added.

Council later approved the purchase

of a CAT 320-07 excavator for \$388,000 plus taxes, including a 60-month or 4,000-hour warranty package. The municipality will trade in its 2017 CAT 320F excavator for \$125,000 plus taxes as part of the agreement.

"The new excavator includes technology expected to improve training, efficiency, and accuracy of completed work," Murray said.

"The RM will continue focusing on its ongoing maintenance program, including drainage and ditch maintenance throughout the municipality," she added.

Council also approved a Fire Safety Emergency Manager contract during the special meeting and accepted financial statements covering January through April 2026.

Several items remained tabled, including amendments to the municipality's 2025 waterline connections bylaw, the industrial park development agreement and an estimate related to the Carman Concrete Bridge PIER Phase 2 project.



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# Expanded campus prepares for next phase with assisted living project

By Lana Meier

The Southern Health-Santé Sud and Boyne Care Holdings are celebrating a major milestone as Boyne Lodge has officially reached full occupancy while plans continue moving ahead for the next phase of campus development.

Following a phased resident intake and staff orientation process, the final

two houses at the personal care home were fully occupied in late February and early March. The facility now includes 103 personal care beds and two respite rooms.

"We are so pleased to have all our homes fully occupied, being able to support residents who call Boyne Lodge home," said Helen Hoepfner, manager

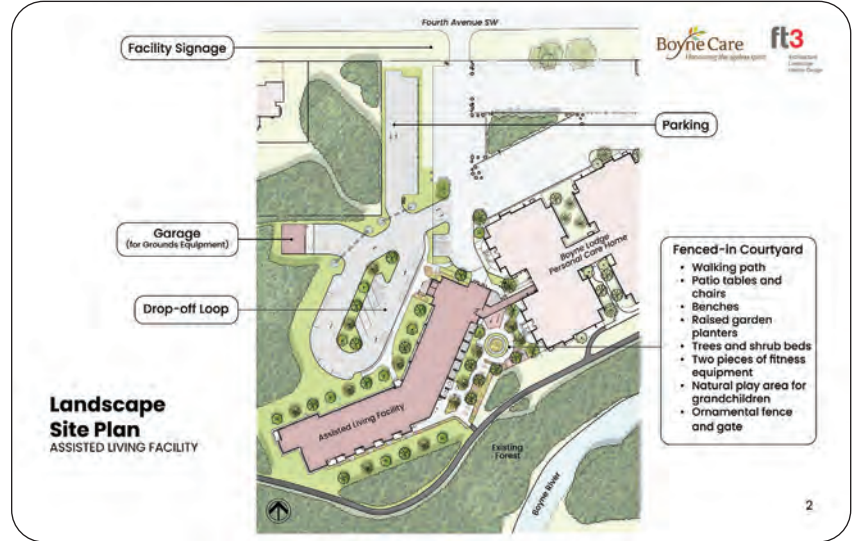
of health services long-term care administration for Southern Health-Santé Sud at Boyne Lodge. "Our dedicated leadership team, health professionals and support staff have invested tremendous time and care into making this possible. It is truly a moment worth celebrating."

For executive director Tyler King, the milestone represents years of planning aimed at expanding seniors care options within the community.

"Full occupancy at Boyne Lodge is an important milestone for Southern Health-Santé Sud, Boyne Care Holdings and the community," King said. "It culminates many years of preparation to allow us to provide increased seniors care in the community."

The Boyne Lodge campus has grown significantly in recent years. An addition completed in 2021 added 79 beds, while renovations to the original building in 2023 created another 24 beds and two respite rooms.

King said the expansion has allowed the organization to modernize care while creating a more engaging environment for residents.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

Landscape site plan for the next phase of the assisted living facility.



Completed phases of the Boyne Lodge have allowed the campus to expand to 103 personal care beds, two respite rooms and a growing range of seniors services as plans move ahead for a future assisted living facility.

"The biggest success is having a facility that includes modern amenities in an environment that allows for better outcomes for residents," he said. "The facility is always looking for ways to evolve and provide more successful programs and services."

The broader campus now also includes Southern Health-Santé Sud Community Services Programs, an Adult Day Program, a Family Resource Centre and administrative offices for Boyne Care Holdings.

Another major success story has been the Boyne River Bistro, which opened in 2023 and will celebrate its third anniversary this July.

King said the Bistro quickly grew beyond expectations as a gathering place for residents, families and the wider community.

"We expected it to be popular but the growth took place faster than we originally planned," he said. "It is utilized by residents, families, the community, the region and beyond."

Attention is now turning toward the next stage of development on the campus — a proposed 50-unit assisted living facility designed to support aging in place.

King said assisted living was always intended to become the next phase of the organization's long-term vision.

"It is the gap that we have in the community right now related to senior care," he said. "This will allow more individuals to be in the right type of facility for their needs."

The project has already received strong community interest, with enough deposits secured through the priority waitlist for construction to move ahead later this year.

The assisted living facility will include 50 suites — 10 two-bedroom and 40 one-bedroom units — along with services such as meals, housekeeping, activity programming, shared gathering spaces and climate-controlled access to other areas of the campus.

Preliminary land preparation is expected to begin soon, with full construction anticipated later this summer. Residents could potentially begin moving into the facility by late 2027 or early 2028, depending on construction progress.

Looking ahead, King said the organization hopes to continue expanding its seniors housing model into partner communities throughout the region.

"In 10 years we hope to have a lot of the hub and spoke housing built and looking at options for another phase of the project which could be supportive housing or life lease," he said.



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# Remembering... Don Jefkins' life of service

By Dennis Young

Don Jefkins was born on Sept. 14, 1934, to Melville and Edith (Carrothers) Jefkins. Mel worked as a farmer before managing the Carman Co-op, while Edith was a homemaker. Growing up in the Carman and Homewood areas with his siblings, Sheldon and Marlyn, Don created lasting family ties across Canada.

He attended Boyne School and completed high school between Radville, Sask., and Carman. During those years, he actively participated in hockey and baseball.

"As a child, Dad loved spending time with his pony and dreamed of farming, but his parents encouraged him to consider different careers because of the challenges of farm life," daughter Terri shared. "After ruling out physical education teaching for similar reasons, I guess he eventually chose accounting."

Don met Lilyan Winkler at the Church of Christ during high school, and their relationship deepened when he returned home for Grade 12. They married on Aug. 6, 1955, and had four children: Cynthia, Greg, Terri and Jeff.

Following one year at Manitoba Hydro after school, he became an accountant and worked for Internation-



Don was always available to help clients during his years with the Carman Co-op and Dufferin Credit Union.

al Harvester in several eastern Canadian cities. "After 17 years with IH, I decided it was time to come home in 1971," Don said in a 1999 interview. Returning to Carman, he served as assistant manager and later general manager at the Carman Co-op until 1976, which led to similar roles at Dufferin Credit Union from 1978 to 1999.

Don was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed playing baseball, hockey (including an early Beaver debut), golf,

Continued on page 12



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Lilyan and Don enjoyed travelling together with their constant companion, Maggie.

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## Why Manitoba's Spring Clean-Up is a Rite of Passage

Every year, around late April or early May, a collective shift occurs across Manitoba. It does not happen because the calendar says it should. It happens because the snow finally retreats, exposing the raw, brown reality of the winter aftermath. This is the moment Manitobans trade their snow shovels for rakes, stepping out into backyards that resemble archaeological dig sites. Spring yardwork in this province is not a mere chore. It is a grueling, rewarding, and deeply communal rite of passage that bridges our frozen winters and our fleeting summers.

To understand the Manitoba spring clean-up, one must understand the unique hostility of our climate. We do not just get snow; we get months of deep-freeze compaction, gravel trucks spraying sand across boulevards, and relentless winds that trap stray garbage in frozen hedges. When the thaw arrives, it reveals a landscape of matted brown lawns, rogue gravel, and the inevitable "spring shock" of broken tree branches weighed down by ice storms.

The first stage of this ritual is always the assessment. Manitobans stand on their back decks, coffee mugs in hand, surveying the damage. The initial sight is rarely pretty. Lawns look dead, flattened into a pale straw color by months under heavy drifts. The perimeter fences hold trapped dead leaves from the previous October, now thawed into a soggy papier-mâché consistency.

Yet, there is an undeniable energy in the air during that first weekend of double-digit temperatures. The neighborhood awakens. The drone of lawnmowers has not yet started, but the scraping of rakes against asphalt and the rustle of heavy-duty garbage bags fill the air. It is a social event by default. Neighbors who have not seen each other since November exchange nods across property lines, sharing commiserations over winter rodent damage or debating whether it is still too early to turn on the outdoor water valves.

The physical labor of a Manitoba spring clean-up is deceptively intense. Dethatching a lawn by hand—pulling up the thick layer of dead grass to let the soil breathe—is a full-body workout that leaves muscles aching for days. Then comes the gravel reclamation proj-

ect. Anyone with a driveway near a public street knows the frustration of sweeping cups of city sand and crushed rock out of the boulevard grass and back into the gutter, or into buckets for disposal.

For the avid gardener, this season requires a delicate balance of patience and restraint. Manitoba's weather is notoriously fickle. A beautiful 18-degree Saturday can easily be followed by a sudden frost or a surprise May long weekend flurry. The temptation to plant annuals or clear away every bit of protective mulch too early

is strong, but experienced locals know the rules. We wait for the soil to dry out to avoid compacting it. We leave the dead hollow stems of perennials alone a little longer to protect overwintering pollinators.

This period of yardwork also highlights our relationship with municipal infrastructure. In Winnipeg and surrounding municipalities, the arrival of the curbside yard waste pickup schedule is treated like a major holiday. Stacked brown paper bags line the streets like miniature fortresses, filled to the brim with twigs, old leaves,

and dead thatch. The annual opening of the compost depots sees a steady parade of pickup trucks and trailers, all driven by residents eager to clear their properties and claim their prize of free compost woodchips.

Ultimately, this annual labor is about reclaiming our outdoor living spaces. Our summers are notoriously short, which makes them incredibly precious. Every hour spent sweating over a rake, picking up fallen poplar branches, or preparing garden beds is an investment in the months ahead. We clear the debris of yesterday to make room for the

barbecues, patio nights, and backyard soccer matches of tomorrow.

When the sun finally sets on those first heavy weekends of yardwork, a quiet satisfaction settles over Manitoba neighborhoods. The lawns are still mostly brown, but they are clean. The air smells of turned soil, bruised grass, and the faint scent of early-season dust. We limp back inside, sunburnt and exhausted, but entirely content. We have survived another winter, tamed the spring thaw, and earned our right to enjoy the summer sun.

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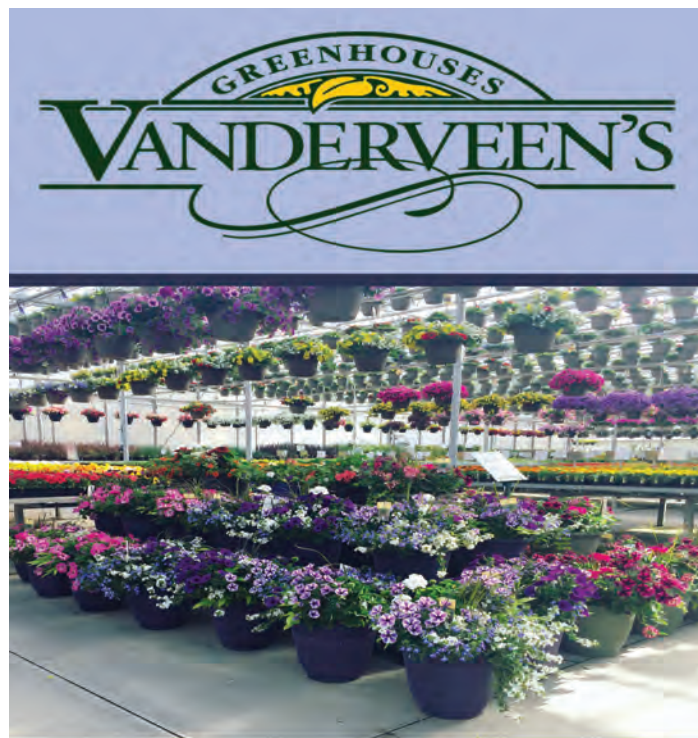
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# Webinar to encourage future school trustees

By Lana Meier

Residents considering a run for local school board in the 2026 municipal elections will have an opportunity to learn more through upcoming virtual information sessions hosted by the Manitoba School Boards Association.

The free webinars are designed to help prospective candidates better understand the role of a school trustee and Manitoba's public education system ahead of next year's elections.

Topics will include trustee responsibilities, campaigning, governance, the structure of Manitoba's education system and a question-and-answer session. The sessions will take place Wed., May 27 and Mon, June 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. No registration is required.

Alan Campbell, past president of the Manitoba School Boards Association and president of the Canadian School Boards Association, said school trustees play an important role in representing community voices within public education and encouraged residents to consider serving in the role.

"School board trusteeship is something I would strongly encourage for anyone who wants to give back to

their community in a meaningful and rewarding way," said Campbell.

Campbell said school boards are an important part of the democratic foundation of communities and should reflect a broad range of perspectives.

"Parents of current and former students, people who don't have children, members of the business community, those who are retired or perhaps just starting in their career, members of IBPOC communities and those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ all have valuable perspectives to offer," he said.

He noted that trustees serve in a governance role rather than an operational one, working with senior administration to help guide division priorities and decision-making through board policy.

"The most important annual policy statement by the local school board comes in the passage of the annual budget," Campbell said. "Trustees must come prepared to consider student, staff, PAC, community and other stakeholder feedback in the preparation of the budget."



Campbell added that local school boards play a key role in maintaining accountability within Manitoba's public education system.

"Public schools provide a vital function in the current and future success and sustainability of our society and therefore are not only worthy of, but reliant on investment by everyone — not just those with kids in school," he said.

He also stressed that school boards function best when trustees work collaboratively and respectfully.

"Individual agendas are only as strong as the votes around the table," Campbell said. "The division will be guided by the majority will of the board of trustees and not by the priorities of individual trustees."

He added that those considering trusteeship should understand the time commitment involved, including evening meetings and occasional daytime responsibilities.

"Effective trusteeship takes time," he said. "Those considering the role must be willing to give up several evenings per month."

School trustees in Manitoba are elected to four-year terms during municipal elections. Trustees receive an honorarium for their service, with amounts varying between school divisions based on board policies and responsibilities.

The next Manitoba school trustee elections are scheduled for Oct. 28, 2026. More information is available at [elect2026.ca](http://elect2026.ca)

# CHOICE soybean crop seeded in Elm Creek

By Lana Meier

The 2026 CHOICE growing project is officially underway after volunteers and supporters gathered to seed soybeans on a donated field near Elm Creek earlier this month.

The 80-acre field, donated by Helen Rempel, was seeded May 16 in support of Conquering Hunger Overseas Is Community Endeavor (CHOICE), a local initiative that raises funds for global food security projects through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

CHOICE secretary-treasurer Carolyn Koster said the annual project continues to rely on strong community support from local farmers, volunteers and corporate donors.

"We wouldn't have a successfully seeded field without the time and efforts of Ian and our CHOICE supporters," Koster said.

She thanked Ian Lepp for coordinating seed, seeding operations and other field work throughout the growing season. Koster also acknowledged Kevin Butler for donating his time, equipment and expertise to seed the soybean crop.

The soybean seed and seed treat-

ment were corporately donated, with additional support coming from businesses and community members contributing agricultural inputs and financial donations.

"Thank you to our supporters for their donations of inputs and financial giving," Koster said. "We are thankful for you, our community, and your support of this growing project and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank."

CHOICE welcomes volunteers throughout the growing season to assist with field operations, including spraying and other crop management tasks.

Funds raised through the project support the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which works with church and agency partners to address global hunger and food insecurity through emergency relief, sustainable agriculture and community development initiatives around the world.

Additional donations to the Elm Creek CHOICE project can be made through Access Credit Union or by contacting Abe Elias or Carolyn Koster.

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## > REMEMBERING DON JEFKINS, FROM PG. 9

curling, tennis and pool. After retiring in 1999, Don continued participating in sports to a lesser extent, but his commit-

ment to the community never slowed. He volunteered countless hours with organizations such as the Chamber of

Commerce, United Way and Carman Beavers, and helped introduce the Handi-Van, frequently serving as treasurer.

Don had a strong faith in the Lord and served the Church of Christ for more than 40 years as a deacon, elder and church treasurer. His faith and belief in God were evident in the way he lived each day of his life.

Most of all, Don valued his family. He cherished 64 years with Lilyan, which included travelling to Maui, Europe and Alaska. "He really looked forward to our one- to two-week camping trips when we were younger," Terri recalled, creating many memories not lost on those left behind.

His seven grandchildren admired his wit and leadership,

leading one granddaughter to become an accountant like him. He also cherished his four great-grandchildren and shared a strong bond with his dogs, who were constant companions throughout his life.

Celebrated for his honesty, sharp sense of humour and kindness, Don continued to support his family and community despite battling diabetes since age 30, heart surgery and cancer throughout his life. He approached every obstacle with determination and generosity, inspiring everyone around him. Don passed away on Nov. 5, 2019.

### John Veldman:

"I got to know Don when I was president of the Credit Union. Don and I attended many meetings together, and he was always humble and compassionate, always thinking about the people involved when making decisions. I really enjoyed my time with him. He had many life skills that he shared with me, and I learned a great deal from his knowledge. Don had a great sense of humour, and I felt privileged to know him."

### Gerry Giesbrecht:

"I met Don when I began working at DCU, and I quickly recognized that he was highly respected by the Credit Union members, the staff and the community. His good nature allowed us to pull a lot of pranks around the office.

"On Don's birthday, a staff member was at the store picking up a cake when the clerk said she was just heading over there and would wish him a happy birthday. She did just that, to which Don asked, 'How did you know?'

"'Oh, I read it on the sign,' she replied and promptly walked out.

"Of course, he thought we had pranked him, and he took off like a bullet in his car for the rest of the day. We only found out he was out looking for the sign that didn't exist when he went to each staff member and asked, 'OK, where is the sign?'

"It took a lot of convincing that there never was a sign and that he had pranked himself, with a little help from the clerk who just wanted some fun. I think I can speak for all the staff who worked with him when I say he was very well liked by everyone. He was not only a great boss, but also a great friend."

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Carman connections play key roles in Nighthawks' title run

By Kieran Reimer

Carman-area hockey connections played key roles in the Niverville Nighthawks' historic Centennial Cup championship run as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League champions completed an unbeaten week in Summerside, P.E.I.

Carman-born general manager Mike McAulay and associate coach Jeff McGill were among the team staff members who hoisted the Centennial Cup on Sunday, May 17, following Niverville's 4-1 victory over the host Summerside Western Capitals, along with Carman-born goaltender Ben Chornomydz.

The connections also extend through defenceman Thomas Phillips and goalie coach Tim Morrison, who each have family ties to the Carman area.

The championship marked the fourth time an MJHL team has won the national Junior A title and ended an 11-year drought since the Portage Terriers captured the championship while hosting the tournament in 2015.

For Niverville, the title came in just the franchise's fourth season, with several players still remaining from the original 2022-23 roster that had yet to win a playoff round before this season.

Niverville's Hayden Wheddon opened the scoring at 8:07 of the first period before Summerside's Jordan Shaw answered shorthanded to tie the game 1-1 after 20 minutes.

Wheddon scored his second of the game midway through the second period to restore Niverville's lead. The score remained 2-1 until 14:34 of the third, when two-time MJHL champion Marlen Edwards scored an insurance goal.

Summerside made a late push with its net empty, but Niverville's Tyler Bernier scored into the open cage at 19:08, sending the Nighthawks bench into a frenzy as players cleared the bench, threw helmets, sticks and gloves, and swarmed goaltender Austin Dubinsky.

"The atmosphere was fantastic," McGill said. "Throughout the tournament, the attendance probably wasn't where they wanted it, but it couldn't have been a better final having the host, the home team there, so it was a full building. I think they had a little over 4,000 people there in attendance."



Carman's Mike McAulay (general manager) and Jeff McGill (associate coach) celebrate winning the 2026 Centennial Cup.

McGill, 47, celebrated his first Centennial Cup victory that evening, adding to a resume that already includes three Turnbull Cups — as a player with the Winkler Flyers in 1997-98, as an assistant coach with the Winnipeg South Blues in 2005-06 and this season as associate coach with the Nighthawks.

The team has since taken part in several celebrations around Niverville, including a visit to the Manitoba Legislative Building, where players and staff met Premier Wab Kinew.

McGill now lives in Winnipeg and makes the 25-minute commute to Niverville's CRRC to coach in the community of just over 7,000 people.

He said Niverville reminds him of growing up in Carman, where his early years in hockey included skating on an ice sheet his grandfather built inside a mink shed during the winters.

Learning to skate early helped McGill excel at a young age, leading to stints with the AAA Pembina Valley Hawks, the Winkler Flyers and four years of NCAA Division 1 hockey with Bemidji State University. He later finished his competitive playing career with the South Eastern Manito-



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Members of the Niverville Nighthawks celebrate with the Centennial Cup following the team's 4-1 victory over the Summerside Western Capitals in the national Junior A championship final on May 17 in Summerside, P.E.I.

ba Hockey League's Carman Beavers in the early 2000s.

"He taught me how to play growing up, and then in a small town like Carman, your parents feel comfortable pretty much dropping you off at the rink and picking you up whenever it's time to pick you up," McGill said. "It has that small-town feel where you can get away with that, where we don't really see that in Winnipeg, where I live now, as much. You had people there in Carman looking out for you."

McGill credited several coaches with helping shape his path in hockey.

"I was very fortunate growing up in my minor hockey career where I had some really good coaches. Gerry Falk comes to mind. There's numerous others — Brian Coates, people who have real good history in the game that helped sort of shape the path for me," he said. "I'm still that small-town community guy. That'll never leave me, and I think that's why I really enjoy it in Niverville as well. It's still that small-town community with lots of support behind you."

He said the MJHL has changed significantly from when he played more than 20 years ago, with a greater focus today on skill rather than the gritty, physical style of the past.

When the Nighthawks coaching staff was not behind its own bench in Summerside, McGill said they were

often in the stands at Credit Union Place scouting the other teams in the tournament.

"Us as a coaching staff and Mike as a general manager, we were pretty much attending every game and then doing video back at the hotel when time allowed," McGill said. "You're not really putting as much time into it as you would when you're going into a seven-game series in the MJHL, but you're looking for every little angle you can find while you're there."

Niverville's ability to capitalize on its chances was a major factor in its Centennial Cup success. The Nighthawks scored a tournament-best 25 goals over four preliminary-round games and added eight more in two playoff contests.

One of their wilder moments came in the championship game when both team's backup goalies were forced to enter the game briefly. Following an icing at the midway point of a period, both starting netminders assumed there was a TV timeout and made their way to their respective benches.

The Centennial Cup rules however stated that there was no TV timeout off an icing and since both netminders went to their bench, both teams would be required to switch their goalies.

Both sides did so, with Chornomydz entering the game for Niverville and

# PGA Scramble returns to Carman May 30

By Annaliese Meier

Golfers in the Carman area will have the opportunity to watch some local talent compete for a chance to advance to the national stage as the Carman Golf & Curling Club hosts a local qualifier for the PGA Scramble presented by BMW on May 30.

Now in its 11th year, the PGA Scramble presented by BMW is considered Canada's largest grassroots amateur golf tournament, with more than 185 qualifying events taking place across the country. Last year's event featured more than 12,000 participants from coast to coast.

Teams of four amateur golfers aged

19 and older with an official Golf Canada handicap compete in the 18-hole scramble-format tournament. Successful teams advance to one of 13 regional finals later this summer, with regional winners earning the chance to compete in the national championship at Cabot Links in Nova Scotia this fall.

Dean North of the Carman Golf & Curling Club said the event has become one of the club's marquee tournaments.

"The RBC Scramble has become one of our signature events," said North. "The members and guests all love the

format."

Interest in the event has continued to grow locally, with North noting nearly 30 teams registered for this year's qualifier.

"We are the biggest RBC Scramble event in Manitoba," he said.

North said the Texas scramble format is part of what makes the tournament so attractive for recreational golfers.

"Amateurs love the Texas scramble format with their friends," he said.

"The tournament is also informal in that amateurs can have an alcoholic drink while they play."

The event also offers amateur golfers from smaller communities a unique opportunity to compete for a national title.

"The RBC Scramble is one of two events held in Canada that allows a group of friends to qualify for a national championship," North said.

Organizers are expecting a lively atmosphere on tournament day.

"Fun, relaxed and competitive," North said.

In addition to standard qualifying spots, the PGA Scramble also guarantees two national championship berths for all-female teams.

## > CHAMPIONS, PG. 13

Justin Robinson for Summerside. Their games both lasted two minutes where neither club recorded a shot, before being able to swap their starting netminders back in at the ensuing whistle.

Though it was short lived, it was still an experience Chornomydz will remember. It marked his second game of the tournament after getting the start in Niverville's preliminary round finale where he made 27 saves in a 7-6 win over the Rockland Nationals.

"It was pretty cool the way the tournament started with that game not really meaning a whole lot to us," said Chornomydz. "Our coach was able to get me as well as all the other scratches in, which was really awesome. All of us and obviously the parents that were there for those kids were super pumped and none of us had really played in about two months, some a little bit longer, some a little bit shorter, but it was just really fun playing in a building like that. It was decently packed so really soaked in the whole experience."

2025-26 was Chornomydz's second in the MJHL after playing his rookie campaign with the Winnipeg Freeze.

The move to Niverville brought him back to Tim Morrison, who coached him one-on-one on many occasions over the years.

Working under him, he played to some of the best numbers in Junior 'A', going 17-3 with a 1.50 goals against average, a .942 save percentage, and two shutouts in 20 MJHL games.

"He's been kind of behind the scenes with my whole goalie career," said Chornomydz. "The first time I ever strapped on the pads was with Tim, so that's pretty cool. This year finally he got to be my actual team goalie coach and was actually hired by our

team staff, so it was really good and got out to skate with him once a week out in Starbuck, and then he'd always come out and watch our games. The biggest thing that Tim helps out with, which I think he helps a lot of goalies out with, is just the mental side of the game. Just staying positive and staying true to yourself, always worrying about your next game, not really worrying about the last, just making sure that you're having fun in hockey the whole way through."

At 18 years old, Chornomydz is eligible for two more seasons in the MJHL.

The top line of now aged out 20 year olds in Adam Vigfusson, Wheddon and Merik Boles played a major role in them winning the Centennial, combining for 15 goals and 32 points during the tournament.

GM McAulay, who was with the Nighthawks during their inaugural season, has witnessed the three of them go from rookies to veterans since year one with the team.

Over the past four seasons, McAulay has played a major role in scouting and adding players from across Canada and the United States who fit his vision for the team, both on and off the ice.

"It starts with really good people that want to become better every day and are good teammates," McAulay said. "The magic in this year's team was sort of that core group of 20-year-olds that led the way."

He said many of those players returned to Niverville this season motivated by last year's first-round playoff exit against Winkler.

"They all decided after they were bounced in the first round last year by Winkler that they wanted to do something, and they felt like they had the team and the guys around them to win this thing," he said. "They worked really hard, they set the ex-

ample and they definitely led by example."

Among McAulay's most notable additions were Thomas Phillips, Aaron Krestanowich and Tyler Bernier before the season, followed later by Parker Rolston and Marlen Edwards.

The Nighthawks opened the season with six straight wins and never slowed down, finishing the regular season 51-6-1. They then lost just once in the MJHL playoffs and went undefeated at the Centennial Cup, where their closest game came in the semifinal after rallying from a 3-0 deficit to defeat the Toronto Patriots 4-3.

"This season I felt like there was a pretty special group that was returning, and that we had a chance to do something really good," McAulay said. "I'd be lying to you if I thought at the beginning of the season that we'd be a national champion, but it's definitely been a long road."

Niverville's success also helped McAulay earn the director of operations role with Team Canada West at the 2025 World Junior A Hockey Challenge, where he won a silver medal.

The national championship, however, now ranks as his greatest accomplishment as a general manager.

A former captain with the Carman Cougars high school hockey team, McAulay later finished his playing career at the University of Minnesota Crookston.

His first management role came in 2018 when fellow Carmanite Jeff Jeanson brought him into the Winkler Flyers organization as assistant general manager and head scout. He later joined the Nighthawks during their inaugural season.

After personnel changes midway through Niverville's second season, McAulay was promoted to interim general manager before the interim tag was eventually removed.

He credits growing up in a hockey

town like Carman with helping shape his management career.

"It was definitely a long road from then until now, but in my time in Carman there were so many really good hockey people around," McAulay said. "We had a coaching staff that consisted of a lot of ex-professional hockey players at the time, who were also teachers in the high school."

He said those relationships and lessons remain valuable today.

"It was a really good hockey town. There were a lot of really good hockey people that definitely instilled a lot of knowledge for sure," he said.

McAulay is also a scout with the Penticton Vees, giving him a close look at the talent developing through the junior hockey ranks.

With many young players across Western Canada competing for WHL roster spots, some eventually find themselves at the Junior A level, which has long been a strong pathway to NCAA and professional hockey opportunities.

Coming from a small town like Carman, McAulay said he understands the importance of patience in player development.

"Development isn't a straight line, it's up and down," he said. "Don't be discouraged if you did get passed over in the Western Hockey League draft. There's countless names that have ended up in the Western Hockey League and even ended up in professional hockey that didn't get selected in the draft."

Several Niverville players are examples of that progression, with many graduating players already committed or expected to commit to college programs for the 2026-27 season.

In the meantime, the Nighthawks continue to celebrate a championship run that has left the community of Niverville revelling in its national title.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## U17s lead busy week for Central Energy teams

By Annaliese Meier

The Central Energy U17 squad led the way during a busy weekend of Manitoba Premier AAA Softball League action, finishing with a 3-1 record over four league games, while the organization's U13, U15 and U19 teams competed in tournaments in Saskatchewan.

The U13 and U15 teams travelled to Warman, Sask., for the Prairie Oasis Softball Classic Tournament, while the U19 squad headed to Saskatoon for tournament action.

At the U17 level, Central Energy opened the weekend May 23 in Manitou with a pair of victories over the Manitoba Angels.

Central Energy earned a 14-7 win in the opener behind a five-RBI performance from Addison Nikkel, who tripled, singled and hit an inside-the-park home run. Taylor Wall, Sinead Convery, Blaine Wiebe and Ella Conrad all added multiple hits in the victory.

The U17 squad followed with an 11-7 walk-off victory later that day. Nikkel again led the offence, going 3-for-5 and delivering an inside-the-park grand slam in the bottom of the eighth inning to seal the win. Wall added an inside-the-park home run, while Taryn Toews and Nikkel each recorded three hits.

Central Energy split a doubleheader against the Interlake Phillies on Sunday at Swan Lake Diamond. The Phillies claimed the opener 9-5 despite a strong offensive effort from Central Energy, which collected 11 hits. Mya Richard, Payton Manness and Shyanne Goertzen each had two hits in the loss.

The U17 squad rebounded with a 13-8 victory in the second game. Kennedy Funk drove in four runs with a pair of triples, while Taryn Toews and Richard each recorded three hits as Central Energy piled up 17 hits in the win.

Central Energy U17 will now travel to Winnipeg on May 29 for a doubleheader against the Westman Magic at ANSC Boston Pizza. First pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m., with the second game to follow at 9 p.m.

At the Prairie Oasis Softball Classic in Warman, the U13 squad posted a 2-3 record over five games. Central Energy opened the tournament with a narrow 13-12 loss to the Pipestone Valley Cats before rebounding with a 16-6 win over the Melfort Spirit.

The U13 team continued its strong offensive play Saturday with a 17-7 victory, highlighted by Madison K's three-hit performance, including an inside-the-park home run.

Central Energy later dropped a 9-1

decision to Calgary Kaizen before falling 12-2 to the Prince Albert Aces in its final game Sunday.

Central Energy is set to travel to Friedensfeld Community Centre Diamond 1 on May 30 for a doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats. The first game is scheduled for 10 a.m., followed by the second contest at 12 p.m.

The U13 squad will then head to La Salle Jays Care on May 31 for a pair of games against the Manitoba Angels, with first pitch set for 1 p.m. and the second game to follow at 3 p.m.

The U15 squad also competed in Warman and finished the weekend with a 3-2 record. Central Energy opened tournament play with a 7-0 shutout win over the U15A Aces behind a three-run home run from Reese Fotheringham.

The team then suffered a narrow 2-1 loss in a pitchers' duel against Royal Reign before rebounding with a 9-5 victory over Crush 15U. Central Energy added another 3-1 win over Royal Reign on Sunday before closing the tournament with a 9-0 loss to the Interlake Phillies.

Central Energy will next take the field June 3 at Republic of Manitobah Diamond 9 for a rescheduled doubleheader against the Westman Magic. The games, originally scheduled for

May 14, were postponed because of weather and high winds.

The first game is scheduled for 6 p.m., with the second contest to follow at 8 p.m.

In Saskatoon, the U19 squad went 1-3 during tournament action. Central Energy nearly completed a comeback in its opener before falling 8-7 to the Eastman Wildcats despite out-hitting Eastman 10-7. Emma Klassen led the offence with three hits and two RBIs.

The U19 team then dropped a 5-1 decision to the Sherwood Park Storm before rebounding with a 10-3 victory over the Parkland Predators. Maddy Friesen led the way offensively with three hits, while Hailey-Jo Guffei drove in three runs.

Central Energy closed the weekend with a 9-2 loss to the Saskatoon Selects.

Central Energy will begin its season May 29 with a doubleheader against the Eastman Wildcats at Friedensfeld Community Centre Diamond 1. The games are scheduled for 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The following day, the U19 squad will travel to Winkler Parkland Diamond 1 for a pair of games against the Westman Magic beginning at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

## Orioles extend streak, Bisons still searching in MJBLL action

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Orioles have started a winning streak while the Altona Bisons are 0-6 for the Manitoba Junior Baseball League season so far.

The Orioles took both games of a doubleheader last Sunday against the Interlake Blue Jays in winning 9-2 and 8-6.

In game one with Interlake, Josh Dyck was dominant on the mound for Pembina Valley in racking up 11 strikeouts while surrendering only five hits and two runs over six innings. The Orioles scored eight runs in the fourth inning alone en route to victory.

Game two was a much more even affair, even with the Orioles holding a 10-7 edge in hits.

Haiden Friesen drove in two runs,

while Jaren Hildebrand and Chris Peters each collected three hits for Pembina Valley, and Karsten Peters went two for three.

The Bisons, meanwhile, dropped a 4-2 decision to the Winnipeg South Wolves last Wednesday and then lost both games of a Sunday doubleheader against the Carillon Sultans by scores of 12-1 and 8-5.

They came up just a bit short against Winnipeg despite having a slight 6-5 edge in hits.

Lochlan Rempel and Andrew Giesbrecht each had two hits for the Bisons, while Giesbrecht overall went two for four at the plate. Three runs in the bottom of the fifth turned the tide in favour of the Wolves.

In game one with Carillon, the Sul-

tans took a 3-0 lead in the second inning before closing it out with eight runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Hayden Klassen went two for three for the Bisons, who made it close in game two in trailing only 5-4 after collecting four runs in the top of the third inning despite being out-hit 9-2 overall in the game.

The Orioles this week have a Sunday afternoon doubleheader in Winnipeg against the Elmwood Giants, while the Bisons face Elmwood Friday before hosting Interlake for a doubleheader Sunday afternoon in its opener before falling 8-7 to the Eastman Wildcats despite out-hitting Eastman 10-7. Emma Klassen led the offence with three hits and two RBIs.

The U19 team then dropped a 5-1

decision to the Sherwood Park Storm before rebounding with a 10-3 victory over the Parkland Predators. Maddy Friesen led the way offensively with three hits, while Hailey-Jo Guffei drove in three runs.

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# Motion Performance takes over Gimli raceway

By Lana Meier

The return of drag racing to Gimli is set to mark a major new chapter for Manitoba motorsports as Motion Performance Raceway prepares to reopen the former Interlake Dragway facility later this spring.

After months of uncertainty following the announcement last fall that the drag strip near Gimli would close, the facility is now moving forward under new leadership with a tentative reopening planned for mid-June.

Motion Performance Raceway, formerly known as Interlake Dragway, will operate under the direction of Sheldon Root, owner and operator of Motion Performance and a longtime member of Manitoba's drag racing community.

Root is well known among racers for his work building, tuning and racing high-performance vehicles, and supporters say his involvement is bringing renewed energy and optimism to one of Manitoba's most recognizable motorsports facilities.

While taking over the facility was not originally part of his plans, Root said concern for the future of racing in Gimli eventually changed his mind.

"Originally, I wasn't interested in taking over the track, but around mid-December I started thinking more seriously about it," said Root. "I had a few people give me a nudge to step in, and after a few weeks of thinking it over and running the numbers, I decided to give it a try."

The decision was also deeply personal for Root, who has been involved with the Gimli drag strip for decades.

"I started racing in Gimli back in 1997 and then spent 10 years there with our Motion Parts Truck attending every event," he said. "As the owner of Motion Performance and being in the performance parts and car-building business, I've spent a lot of time at the facility over the years, so it was hard to watch the condition



of the track and see what was happening to a place that means so much to the racing community."

Plans are currently underway to welcome both quarter-mile and eighth-mile racers back to the track located at Gimli Motorsports Park.

For many in the racing community, the reopening represents more than simply bringing a racetrack back into operation.

"This is exactly what Manitoba racers needed," supporters said following the announcement. "A dedicated, well-run drag racing facility gives people a safe place to race, test, compete and continue growing the sport for the next generation."

The drag strip first opened in 1978 and has hosted generations of racers, spectators and motorsports enthusiasts over the decades. The facility became known for its family atmosphere, competitive events and longstanding role within Manitoba's grassroots racing scene.

Root said one of the major goals moving forward is rebuilding excitement around the facility while helping younger racers become involved in the sport.

"Our hopes are to bring back excitement, racers, and a facility the community can be proud of again," he said. "We really want younger people to become part of the sport because, like many industries, we're all getting older and we need the next generation to get involved."

To help encourage younger racers, Motion Performance Raceway plans to introduce a new Junior Street class



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Drag racing in Gimli is officially entering a new era under the leadership of Sheldon Root owner/operator of Motion Performance.

for drivers aged 13 to 16.

"We'll be adding a Junior Street class for the 13-16 age group to help get young drivers involved early and hopefully spark that passion for racing," said Root.

The reopening is also expected to provide an economic boost to the Gimli area, with race weekends anticipated to attract competitors and spectators from across Manitoba, neighbouring provinces and parts of the northern United States.

That increased traffic is expected to benefit local hotels, restaurants, gas stations and businesses throughout the community.

Support for the project has already been expressed by members of the motorsports community, local businesses and municipal officials from the Town and Municipality of Gimli.

Organizers say the return of drag racing will not only preserve an important piece of Manitoba motorsports history, but also create new opportunities for racers and fans for years to come.

The 2026 event schedule currently includes race weekends on June 13-14, July 11-12, Aug. 1-3, Aug. 29-30, Sept. 5-7, and Sept. 26-27, along with an additional weekend planned for Oct. 10-11, weather permitting.

Additional details regarding race classes, test days and opening weekend activities are expected to be released in the coming weeks as preparations continue toward reopening day.

Updates and announcements are being shared through the Motion Performance Raceway and MPR social media pages.

# Elm Creek golfer records ace at MJT event

By Annaliese Meier

Elm Creek's Oliver Sisson delivered one of the biggest highlights of the weekend at the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour's MJT Order of Merit Series at St. Boniface Golf Club in Winnipeg, recording a hole-in-one during the weather-tested tournament.

The 13-year-old golfer aced the fifth hole during the opening round on

May 17 before finishing third overall in the MJT Bantam Boys division with rounds of 90 and 84 for a 174 total.

Sisson's ace came during a challenging weekend that saw junior golfers battle cold temperatures, rain and shifting spring weather conditions throughout the two-day event. Darkening skies also forced both girls' divisions to shorten their opening

rounds to nine holes.

The tournament attracted a wait-listed field of 87 athletes from across Canada competing in six age divisions as Manitoba's junior golf season continues to build momentum.

James Qiu, 13, of Surrey, B.C., captured the Bantam Boys title with rounds of 76 and 79 for a 155 total. Grant Secord, 14, of La Salle, finished

second at 170.

Elsewhere in the tournament, Gavin Carver of La Salle won the Junior Boys division with a 156 total, while Ryder St. Laurent of Île Des Chênes claimed the Juvenile Boys title at 155.

The next Manitoba stop on the Maple Leaf Junior Golf Tour schedule is the MJT Zeal Series at Larters at St. Andrews on June 6 and 7.

# Veteran hunters push back on proposed swan, dove seasons

By E. Antonio

Retired Manitoba wildlife biologists and longtime hunters are urging Ottawa to reconsider a proposal that would allow tundra swan and mourning dove hunting seasons in the province as early as 2028.

The proposal would allow up to 400 tundra swan permits to be issued annually in Manitoba, aligned with existing fall migratory bird hunting timelines. Permits would likely be distributed through a random draw using an electronic licensing system. The proposed daily bag limit is one tundra swan per permit, with hunters restricted to a single permit per season. According to information published by the Government of Canada, officials estimate approximately 148 individual hunters would ultimately harvest a tundra swan each year.

In Manitoba, however, opposition is coming not only from non-hunters, but from veteran wildlife biologists, conservation educators and lifelong hunters who argue the proposal is unnecessary — and potentially harmful.

Ted Muir, a former Manitoba Wildlife educator, founding lead at Oak Hammock Marsh and lifelong waterfowl hunter, said he was stunned when he first heard of the proposal.

“As a naturalist and waterfowl hunter, I was completely taken aback,” he said. “We are blessed in Manitoba to have a bounty of waterfowl hunting opportunities — especially in the prairies. There is absolutely no need to introduce these new seasons.”

Muir’s greatest concern centres on trumpeter swans — a species that was once nearly wiped out across much of North America. Recovery efforts began in earnest in 1988 when Minnesota’s Non-game Wildlife Program launched a restoration initiative, incubating and raising birds at the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. Over the years, those efforts have helped nesting pairs gradually re-establish themselves in Manitoba, including in areas such as Hecla Island, Oak Hammock Marsh and Delta Marsh.

Tundra and trumpeter swans can appear strikingly similar, particularly at a distance or in shifting light. While experienced observers can distinguish them — trumpeters are generally larger, with longer bills and subtle differences in facial markings — critics argue that in real-world hunting conditions, mistakes are possible.



A mourning dove perches on a fence post in Manitoba. The species is among those being considered for a potential hunting season under a federal Notice of Consideration.

“Introduction of this new swan hunting season could reverse the positive gains that have been made to restore trumpeter swans to their historic range,” Muir said.

The United States already permits hunting of tundra swans and mourning doves in some jurisdictions with higher population densities. But Muir believes Manitoba does not need to mirror American policies.

“Just because they do it doesn’t mean we have to,” he said. “Trumpeter swans are a valuable resource in Manitoba, attracting residents and visitors who travel far and wide to view these magnificent birds on many of Manitoba’s wetlands.”

He emphasizes he is not opposed to hunting. As a hunter himself, he says ethical harvest and conservation are core values of the tradition. What concerns him most is the potential for misidentification — and the risk of damaging public trust in the hunting community.

“Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should,” he added.

Hannah Boonstra, spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), said tundra swan and mourning dove hunting seasons have not yet been introduced as formal regulatory changes. The department is currently reviewing feedback after outlining the potential additions in its Notice of Consideration.

She explained that Canadian hunting regulations are reviewed and amended every two years, with input from provinces, territories and other



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Delta Marsh provides vital habitat for swans, ducks and other migratory birds. Critics of a proposed tundra swan hunting season say protecting long-term species management must remain a priority.

stakeholders.

“When a new hunting season for a species that is not currently harvested in a jurisdiction is under consideration — as is the case for tundra swan and mourning dove — it is first posted as a Notice of Consideration for the Canadian public to review and comment on,” she said. “If the season is pursued, it is posted as a regulatory proposal two years later for public comment and may contain adjustments that reflect comments or concerns received during the first public consultation.”

In addition to public feedback, ECCC considers population trends and statistical data when determining whether to proceed.

Dr. James Duncan of Balmoral, former director of Manitoba’s Wildlife and Fisheries Branch and a lifelong owl researcher — as well as a deer hunter — views the proposal through a broader conservation lens.

He notes that federal avian studies continue to show long-term declines in many bird species, particularly grassland and insect-eating birds.

These trends are shown in the 2024 Bird Canada Study with 36 per cent of Canadian species declining since 1970 with grassland, insectivorous and shorebird species hit the hardest.

While duck and goose populations remain relatively strong, he questions whether expanding game species should be a priority.

The Government of Canada website notes, “Not all waterfowl are adequately surveyed using breeding ground surveys because of issues related to distribution, density and timing of surveys relative to arrival of birds on breeding grounds,” adding that tundra swans are more effective-

ly monitored through winter surveys. The survey used to track the eastern tundra swan population is conducted mid-winter in parts of southern Ontario, as well as along the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways.

According to the Management Plan for the Eastern Population of Tundra Swans, the objective is to maintain a three-year population index of at least 80,000 birds. The current three-year average (2023 to 2025) is 92,755.

For mourning doves, population statistics were drawn from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) between 2007 and 2015. During that period, the survey estimated Manitoba’s breeding population at approximately one million birds — about 15 per cent of the national total. The Government of Canada website also states, “Since 1970, there has been no detectable long-term trend in the abundance of Mourning Dove’s in Manitoba’s portion of [Bird Conservation Region (BCR)] 11, which is the core of the species range in the province. However, the BBS shows a significant short-term increase (1.8% per year, 2012 to 2022) in the number of breeding Mourning Doves in the Manitoba portion of BCR 11.”

These population trends, meanwhile, still don’t justify newly regulated hunting seasons to the opposed hunters.

“Most people consider mourning doves to be songbirds,” Duncan said. “They’re associated with peace. Swans, meanwhile, are delicate and beautiful birds. Is it really worth it for the limited number of people who would actually harvest them?”

Duncan also points to the success of

“JUST BECAUSE THEY DO IT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO.”

> HUNTING CHANGES, FROM PG. 17



A tundra swan (left) and a trumpeter swan are shown side by side. Retired Manitoba wildlife biologists say the two species can appear strikingly similar in field conditions, raising concerns about potential misidentification if a tundra swan hunting season is introduced.

Minnesota's trumpeter swan recovery efforts, calling them exceptional. Introducing a hunt for a nearly identical species, he suggests, feels counterintuitive.

"Even experienced observers can find it challenging in certain conditions," he said. "Why take that risk?"

As a deer hunter, Duncan says he understands the role hunting can play in conservation and food security.

"I take great pride in responsibility for the land and animals," he said. "I'm getting a fresh source of local, healthy food, helping manage populations and supporting the economy. But for these birds? I think we should remain watching them."

Warren resident Doug Langrell, an educator, orchardist and lifelong hunter, described his reaction to the proposal as a mix of curiosity and discomfort.

"Through my hunting career, I've never considered either of these species as game birds," he said. "I think

of ear-pleasing tunes and beautiful ballets in the sky — not meat."

Langrell questions whether harvesting swans or mourning doves serves any meaningful purpose in modern Manitoba.

"I doubt very many people need swan meat to survive," he said. "It feels irrelevant in this day and age."

Stonewall's Murray Gillespie, a retired provincial wildlife biologist and former game bird manager with more than 45 years of experience tracking bird populations, also questions the necessity of the proposal. He said the introduction of a tundra swan hunting season would lead to an "incidental harvest of trumpeter swans," risking setting back population numbers again. "Local nesting trumpeters would especially be vulnerable to harvest under the terms of this proposed season," he added.

He notes that Manitoba already provides ample waterfowl hunting opportunities and emphasizes the prov-

ince's importance within continental migratory corridors.

"We are stewards of the land and resources," Gillespie said. "Any decision that might pose a threat to long-term species management needs to be looked at carefully and not taken lightly. Stakeholder consultation needs to be part of the process of developing new hunting seasons."

All of those speaking out stress that they are not anti-hunting. Instead, they say the issue comes down to conservation priorities, ethical considerations and maintaining public confidence in wildlife management.

They are encouraging Manitobans — hunters and non-hunters alike — to share their views with federal and provincial leaders as consultations continue.

"The government is giving us an opportunity to respond," Duncan said. "It's important that we exercise our democratic rights and express our thoughts and feelings about it."

A provincial spokesperson with the Province of Manitoba is aware the federal government is seeking public comment for the proposed hunting seasons and said, "The province looks forward to the opportunity to review the results of this federal engagement."

Letters can be submitted or emailed to federal and provincial ministers at: Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of the Environment, and Climate Change and Nature House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6, julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca, and Honourable Ian Bushie, Minister of Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, Room 301-Legislative Bldg, 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8, minnrif@manitoba.ca. Public inquiries can also be made to ECCC at 1-800-668-6767 or [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca).



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JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER! The Motorcycle Ride for Dad is Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10 a.m., Polo Park, Winnipeg. Visit [ridefordad.ca/Manitoba](http://ridefordad.ca/Manitoba) to register or make a pledge.

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Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Hundreds have found relief. Benefits humans and pets. EVA is composed of proteins, amino acids, minerals, lipids and water. Key compounds that work to stimulate red blood cell production & cartilage cell regeneration & development. Stonewood Elk Ranch Ltd., 204-467-8884 or e-mail [stonewoodelkranch@gmail.com](mailto:stonewoodelkranch@gmail.com)

## NOTICES

**URGENT PRESS RELEASES** - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35 + GST/HST. Call MCNA 204-947-1691 for more information. See [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com) under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

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Cell: 204-476-6262 [www.meyersauctions.com](http://www.meyersauctions.com)

## NOTICES

Hiring for Summer? Selling something? Doing an online event? Let us help you book your blanket classified ads, Response Builder Ads or Power Builder Ads across Manitoba, to increase your marketing presence. Let people know about your business, item for sale or event, by placing an ad with us! Your ad will be seen in the MCNA Member Newspapers, in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please call 204-467-5836 or MCNA at 204-947-1691 for more details or to book ads. Take advantage of our great pricing! MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. [www.mcna.com](http://www.mcna.com)

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## OBITUARY



### Jan Thymen Graafland

On May 19, 2026, at the age of 90, Jan Thymen Graafland breathed his last breath here on earth, and entered into eternal glory.

Jan was born on December 13th, 1935, to Bastiaan and Fijtje Graafland in Berkel en Rodenrijs, The Netherlands. He was the youngest of a family of nine, two siblings died in infancy. He grew up in the midst of greenhouses and started working at different greenhouses from an early age. In 1963 he married Helena (Leni) Bloemberg and together they were blessed with three children. In 1986 they immigrated to Canada and settled in the countryside South of Elm Creek. Jan found work at Vanderveen's Greenhouses, where he enjoyed working for more than 25 years. He also loved working in the garden and sharing homegrown vegetables with others. He helped out others in their gardens as well. Jan and Leni loved camping and travelling, first while living in Europe and later here in Canada. They were also able to enjoy several trips back to the Netherlands to visit family and holidaying in Europe. In 2019 his health declined and he could not walk anymore, and early 2020 he moved to the Boyne Lodge. There he enjoyed sitting outside and visiting with people.

Jan leaves behind his wife of 62 years Helena, his children (Ben in loving memory) Dorothy Graafland, Maaïke and Ralph Borst, Monique Graafland, seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

We are very grateful for the care Jan received in the Boyne Lodge and also in the different hospitals he has been cared for in the last few years when he needed extra medical care. We also want to thank the church community and friends for their numerous visits, cards and telephone calls.

Funeral service took place on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at the Canadian Reformed Church of Carman West with Pastor Dathan Pleiter officiating. Interment took place prior to service in the Elm Creek Cemetery.

Doyle's Funeral Home  
in care of arrangements  
[www.doylesfuneralhome.ca](http://www.doylesfuneralhome.ca)

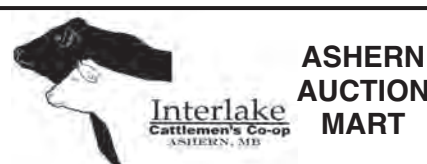
## Carman Medical Group cmgroup@mymts.net Casual part-time Medical Records Position.

We are looking for a professional energetic individual with computer skills and a positive attitude.

Please submit resume to Att.

**Cynthia Unrau  
Office Manager  
by June 12, 2026**

*Only those leading an interview will be contacted.*



**ASHERN AUCTION MART**

## ATTENTION: FARMERS AND RANCHERS

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Monday June 15, 2026  
At 8:00 PM**

**Auditors Financial Report  
Election of Directors**

204-768-2360

[icca@mymts.net](mailto:icca@mymts.net)

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

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## Public Hearing for Financial Plan Monday June 8th @ 7:00pm Roland Memorial Hall

For the purpose of: holding a public hearing for the 2026 proposed financial plan and to allow persons to make a representation, ask questions or register objections.

The information about the matter and the procedures of the hearing are available for review at the RM of Roland office (45 3rd St Roland) or by emailing [cao@rmofroland.ca](mailto:cao@rmofroland.ca)

## Carman Health Auxiliary Bursary

Available to Grade XII graduate  
Criteria for written  
letter of application:

- \* Plans to enter any of the varied careers within the health care system
  - \* Will be entering a post-secondary program within the first year of graduation
  - \* Good Academic standing (copy of transcript required)
  - \* Explanation of career choice
  - \* Evidence of school and community volunteering
  - \* Minimum of one Letter of Reference
- Interested students should apply in writing to:

**Carman Health Auxiliary  
C/o Betty Park**

317 180 Southpark Drive  
Carman, Manitoba R0G 0J0

Email: [parkbm@live.com](mailto:parkbm@live.com)

204-745-3417 Cell: 204-750-2279

\*\* Application deadline: June 12, 2026\*\*

# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Spring Greens Smoothie

Recipe adapted from KatieSpring.com

- 1 cup packed spinach or pea shoots
- 1 apple, cored and chopped
- 1 banana, sliced
- 1-2 dates
- 1 1/2 cups almond milk
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- 1 pinch cinnamon (optional)

Wash greens. In blender, blend spinach, apple, banana, dates, almond milk and chia seeds until smooth. Add cinnamon, if desired, and blend.

Leftovers can be refrigerated 1-2 days.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash



## Picnic Pasta Salad

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper

Cook pasta according to package instructions. Drain in colander and rinse with cool water; drain well.

Slice cucumber into half-moons, chop bell peppers, halve tomatoes, thinly slice red onion and chop parsley. Set vegetables and parsley aside.

Transfer drained pasta to large bowl. Add chopped vegetables, parsley and feta cheese.

Pour dressing over pasta salad and toss until evenly coated. Add salt and pepper then refrigerate until ready to eat.

Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Recipe adapted from "Budget Bytes"  
 Prep time: 10 minutes  
 Cook time: 8 minutes  
 Servings: 10  
 1 pound rotini pasta  
 1 English cucumber  
 2 bell peppers  
 10 ounces grape tomatoes  
 1/2 red onion  
 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley  
 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese  
 1 bottle (16 ounces) Italian dressing



## Grilled Chicken Bundt

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"  
 Servings: 4-6  
 4 potatoes  
 2 carrots  
 8 Brussel's sprouts

## Top tips to manage arthritis-related morning stiffness

By News Canada

Mornings can be the hardest part of the day when you're living with arthritis. At rest, joints can stiffen up—either because they haven't been moving and lubricating properly, or because inflammation builds overnight. The result is pain, stiffness and a slow start.

Here are eight practical, expert-backed tips from Arthritis Society Canada to help you loosen up and take control of your mornings.

### Start moving before you get up

While still in bed, gently move your joints through a comfortable range of motion for five to 10 repetitions. This can loosen the joints and reduce some of the pain and stiffness before getting up. An occupational therapist or physiotherapist can help tailor movements to your needs.

### Use heat to your advantage

A warm bath or shower in the morning can work wonders on stiff joints. Heating pads, electric blankets, or even a microwaved bag of rice may also be helpful. A programmable thermostat set to your preferred temperature 30 minutes before you wake up can also help make starting your day easier.

### Try topical relief

Warming creams, gels or oils can provide temporary relief by soothing sore joints or reducing inflammation. For hands, try applying mineral oil, wearing loose rubber gloves and soaking them in hot water while gently moving your fingers.

### Check your sleep setup

A supportive mattress and the right pillow can help keep your body aligned, reduce strain on your joints, and prevent awkward positions that contribute to morning stiffness. If you tend to clench your hands or bend your wrists, a splint can help keep joints in a more neutral position overnight.



### Upgrade your tools

Small changes at home can make a big impact. Ergonomic tools like lever-style door handles, adaptive kitchen gadgets or utensils with larger grips can reduce strain on stiff hands and make everyday tasks more manageable.

### Prioritize sleep

Poor sleep doesn't just make you tired, it can also increase pain sensitivity. Creating a consistent sleep routine and improving sleep quality can help reduce both pain and stiffness in the morning.

### Eat right

Choose anti-inflammatory foods and avoid sugars and processed foods. Boosting your intake of foods with omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants that have been proven to reduce inflammation is another way to support your joint health.

### Keep moving

Too much activity can leave you sore the next day, but too little can increase stiffness. Aim for a balance of movement throughout the day, including flexibility, strength and light endurance exercises to keep joints mobile.

Get more arthritis pain management tips at [arthritis.ca/healthy-living](http://arthritis.ca/healthy-living).

oil  
 2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided  
 2 tablespoons onion powder, divided  
 2 teaspoons salt, divided  
 1 whole chicken (4-5 pounds)  
 1/2 stick butter, softened  
 Heat grill to 350 F with one burner off for indirect heat.  
 Cut potatoes, carrots and Brussel's sprouts into bite-sized pieces. Drizzle with oil and mix in 1 tablespoon gar-

lic powder, 1 tablespoon onion powder and 1 teaspoon salt; set aside.  
 Rub chicken with softened butter, remaining garlic powder, remaining onion powder and remaining salt.  
 Place some veggies in bottom of bundt pan. Place chicken on top of chimney or tube of bundt pan. Fill pan with remaining veggies.  
 Place pan over indirect heat and grill 1 hour, 30 minutes, or until chicken reaches internal temperature of 165 F.