



The Hometown View

Your Community, Your News

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Volume 135 No. 49

Tuesday, December 24, 2024



Olivia Reimer, daughter of Rosilyn and Brendan of Crystal City, poses for a photo with Santa.

SUSAN PETERSON PHOTO



The Hometown View
Your Community, Your News

...wishes you and your family the best this holiday season. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in the new year.

*Susan, Nancy, Deborah,
Penny, Josh and Jennifer*

Weekly community news for the municipalities of Louise, Lorne, Pembina and Cartwright-Roblin



Santa Visits Pilot Mound

SUSAN PETERSON PHOTOS



Hadley McLaren, Rose Hatcher and Jayda Young were Santa's Helpers this year.



Some children really enjoyed their visit...

Susan Peterson

Continuing the tradition started by Julie Weselowski, Alicia Buydens, Sue Delorme and Dianne Darracott during Covid, and on the invitation of the Pilot Mound Moundettes,

Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit to Pilot Mound the evening of December 14th.

Following the cruise around town, Santa joined the children at Black Jack Stewart Arena. After their little visit,



... others just weren't too sure!

the children could enjoy a skate, their treat bags and popcorn.



Rock Lake Funtown Daycare Christmas Concert

JAMIE BISSON PHOTO



On Friday, December 13, the children at Rock Lake Funtown Daycare in Pilot Mound performed a variety of Christmas songs and skits. The large crowd of proud parents and grandparents filled the Tivoli Theatre and then joined the children and daycare staff for some juice and homemade cookies.

Lions Peace Poster Contest 2024



Lion Cheryl McKitrick (left) with the winners of the Peace Poster Contest L-R: third place winner Brooklyn Edwards, second place Adriana Page and first Jaydis Chevalier.



The grade 8 class showing their creative artwork.

Submitted by Lion Cheryl McKitrick

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. The 2024 contest theme was "Peace Without Limits".

The Crystal City Lions Club was very excited that Mr. Derek Turnbull, the Art teacher in Thomas Greenway Middle School (TGMS) agreed to have his students enter this contest. There were 21 awesome pictures. This is a start for the future.

The winning poster went to 5M13 District for judging and there is potential to move onward to the Multiple Convention and then on to the World for judging. You will see from the pictures that Jaydis Chevalier's poster went on to the district. The winner of the district was a young girl from the Wawanesa area. The Lions Club gave \$50 first prize to Jaydis Chevalier, \$30 to second winner Adrianna Page, \$20 to the third Winner Brooklyn Edwards. Congratulations to all.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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HOLIDAY HOURS

December 23.....	Closed
December 24.....	1 - 4 p.m.
December 25.....	Closed
December 26.....	Closed
December 27.....	9 a.m. - Noon
December 28 - 30.....	Closed
December 31.....	9 a.m. - Noon (no paper)
January 1.....	Closed
January 2.....	9 a.m. - Noon
January 3.....	9 a.m. - Noon
January 4 - 6.....	Closed
January 7.....	Regular hours (no paper)

Next issueJanuary 14, 2025

TIVOLI THEATRE

TICKETS
Adults - \$7.50
Student - \$5.00
Child - \$4.00

PMMRC, PILOT MOUND, MB

DATE	MOVIE	RATED	LENGTH
Dec. 27 & 28	Moana 2 Sponsored by Park's Family Foods	PG	2h 40m
Jan. 3 & 4	Wicked Sponsored by Weselowski Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning	PG	1h 40m
Jan 10 & 11	Sonic The Hedgehog 3 Sponsored by Matt Bisson Construction	PG	

MOVIES BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Check our website for any last minute changes
www.tivolitheatre.ca

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Manitou Services to Seniors Host Christmas Suppers

CATHERINE UNRAU PHOTOS



Manitou Services to Seniors hosted two community Christmas suppers at TT's Return Restaurant/Bar on Dec 4th and again on Dec 11th. Close to 70 seniors braved the wind and cold to come out and enjoy a wonderful turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

It's a joy to bring the community together in fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal at a magical time of year. Every year TT's Return is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season which always adds to the festivity of the evening.

This has become a much anticipated event

for many of our Manitou seniors and a tradition that Manitou Services to Seniors will continue.

The board and staff of Services to Seniors look forward to providing new and exciting ways to serve our senior community better. We look forward to the New Year ahead and wish everyone a joyous Christmas season with family and friends.

Catherine and Jessica can be reached at 204-242-2241 or drop by the office at 315 Main Street, Manitou. We'd love to meet you and answer any questions you may have.

Catherine Unrau
Support Services
in Group Living
Coordinator

PEMBINA COMMUNITY RESOURCE COUNCIL

JANUARY CONGREGATE MEALS

PURCHASE MEAL CERTIFICATES AT THE SERVICES TO SENIORS OFFICE (315 MAIN ST. MANITOU). MEALS ARE AVAILABLE TO SENIORS AND THOSE WHO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN DAILY LIVING.

55+ MEALS

Fri. Jan. 3: Fish, Fried Rice, Cooked Veg, Tossed Salad, Lemon Dessert

Mon. Jan. 6: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Cooked Veg, Coleslaw, Date Square

Fri. Jan. 10: Turkey Veg Soup, Ham Sandwich, Chicken Dinner Bars

Mon. Jan. 13: Hamburger Steak w/onions, Mashed, Cooked Veg, Choc Pudding

Fri. Jan. 17: Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo, Garlic Toast, Caesar Salad, Brownies

Mon. Jan. 20: Quiche, Hashbrowns, Pineapple Cake

Fri. Jan. 24: **Birthday Meal:** Roast Beef, Mashed, Broccoli Salad, Fruit Tarts

Mon. Jan. 27: Pork Chops, Baked Potato, Veg, Greek Salad, Puffed Wheat Cake

Fri. Jan. 31: Chicken Casserole, Biscuits, Coleslaw, Tapioca Pudding

HAVEN MEALS

Thurs. Jan. 2: Pork Chops, Baked Pot, Veg, Greek Salad, Puffed Wheat Cake

Tues. Jan. 7: **Birthday Meal:** Roast Beef, Mashed Pot, Salad, Chocolate Cake

Thurs. Jan. 9: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Toast, Fruit Salad

Tues. Jan. 14: Liver & Onions, Mashed Pot, Cooked Veg, Salad, Raisin Delight

Thurs. Jan. 16: Hamburger Steak w/onions, Scalloped Pot, Veg, Choc Pudding

Tues. Jan. 21: S&S Chicken and Fried Rice, Salad, Butter Tarts

Thurs. Jan. 23: Homemade Pizza, Tossed Salad, White Cake w/Fruit

Tues. Jan. 28: Meatloaf, Mashed Pot, Cooked Veg, Jellied Salad, Rice Pudding

Thurs. Jan. 30: Perogy Casserole, Tossed Salad, Lemon Tarts

LODGE MEALS

Wed. Jan. 1: **NO MEAL: NEW YEARS DAY**

Wed. Jan. 8: **B'Day Meal:** Roast Beef, Mashed Pot, Salad, Chocolate Cake

Wed. Jan. 15: Liver & Onions, Mashed Pot, Cooked Veg, Salad, Raisin Delight

Wed. Jan. 22: S&S Chicken & Fried Rice, Salad, Butter Tarts

Wed. Jan. 29: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Jellied Salad, Rice Pudding

Please call or sign up before noon the day prior
Services to Seniors office: 204-242-2241 (Lodge, Haven, 55+)

**Rock Lake United Church
Camp would like to thank the
following
for their generous
support in 2024!**

**Pilot Mound Foundation
Glenboro United Church
UCW of Gladstone
McKenzie United Church
Crystal City UCW
Sharon Southam**

We have been able to install an air conditioning unit in the kitchen and provide much needed general maintenance and upkeep throughout the camp.

Thank you to all the individuals, churches and UCW groups for your time and energy throughout the year that help to keep RLUCC operating. We would not be able to continue to improve our facility and programs without your support!



Pembina Parish Sets the Mood for Christmas

SUBMITTED PHOTO



**Jennifer Ching-Faux
Darlingford
Correspondent**

Members of Zion-Calvin United Church in Darlingford participated in last week's "Everywhere Christmas Tonight," a Christmas concert fundraiser for Pembina Parish.

Organized and led by Darlingford's Myra Amy-McElroy, the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a capacity crowd.

The program included Christmas favorites and other festive music with

both choral and instrumental numbers. The evening featured music of every discipline, with the Douglas Kuhl School of Music string ensemble, the church choir with the children's choir, featuring members of the Zion-Calvin United Sunday School, piano duets, a flute and cello duet and audience singalongs.

Congratulations to Myra and all of the performers for your many evenings of rehearsal and thank you for sharing your talents with the community!

While concert-goers praised the entire evening, the stars of the show had to be the children's choir, who brought energy and enthusiasm to their three numbers; Jingle Bells, Away in a Manger and Come on Ring Those Bells.

Christmas Card Making

CATHERINE UNRAU PHOTO



L-R: Dorothy Dobson, Brenda Murdy, Barb Lloyd, Charlene Moores and Donna Frost. Front: Leslie Forrest.

Catherine Unrau
Support Services
in Group Living
Coordinator

Services to Seniors hosted another card making afternoon at the Manitou Haven. Leslie Forrest graciously volunteered her time and talents to guide us in creating our own unique Christmas cards to give to friends and family this Christmas season.

Services to Seniors would like to thank Les for leading our small group in a most enjoyable afternoon, we are looking forward to the next class!

Darlingford Community Coffee Contributions for 2024

SUBMITTED PHOTO



If you find yourself in town on a Thursday or Friday morning between 7 and 10 a.m., stop by the curling rink and grab a cup of coffee for a good cause!

**Jennifer Ching-Faux
Darlingford
Correspondent**

Another year of morning coffee at the Darlingford Curling Rink is winding down and a wide range of local community projects and causes benefitted.

The coffee pot was on most Thursday and Friday mornings and proceeds were shared

between the Darlingford Cemetery, Darlingford Memorial Park, the Darlingford Pembina Heritage Museum and the Darlingford Fire Hall.

Donations were also made to the Zion-Calvin United Church Sunday School Lent project, the Darlingford 125th fashion show and Manitou and Area Christmas Cheer. A contribution was made to participants in the annual

Walk for Alzheimer's and a donation was made to the GoFundMe for a family who lost their home to fire.

Cake was purchased to celebrate Brian Young's retirement from the Municipality of Pembina and donations were made to STARS in memory of Kerry Wilson and the Pembina Manitou Health Centre in memory of Janet Robinson.

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Drop payment off at Crystal City Health & Flowers



CHRISTMAS. A time for reflection.



By Lloyd McTaggart,
Common Sense
Management

Another year has come and is almost gone. Like every year before, it has been a time of change. That's normal. Constant change seems to be a natural part of life.

Christmas is a good time to sit back and think about where we've been and where we're going. In my younger days, I did a lot of travel working for an American company, and was lucky to have worked within a number of different cultures. It was all very enjoyable and educational. As I reflect on some of those experiences, I can say I'm prouder than ever to be a Canadian.

CANADIAN CULTURE

Everyone has their own definition of what it is to be a Canadian. We share certain cultural qualities with our big neighbour to the south but we also belong to the Commonwealth of Nations.

We see a fair degree of

Let's Talk BUSINESS

Small business is the backbone of the Canadian economy and communities across the country. "Let's Talk BUSINESS" explores ways to help independent businesses grow and prosper. During his corporate business career, Lloyd McTaggart held a variety of management positions both domestically and internationally. His passion for working with independent business stems from his upbringing in Crystal City and from his own experience as a business owner/operator. He is now a semi-retired business consultant living in Kamloops, BC.

French influence in our country and that is not limited to just Quebec. Indigenous people are of course the oldest part of the country's heritage. We also have a lot of other European flavour in our culture, not to mention influences of Asia.

In fact, we might be one of the most "global" countries in the world if you stop and think about our people and the wide scope of their cultural backgrounds. Although we could perhaps strive to establish a more clear identity for our country, I tend to look at all the positives around us.

WAY BACK WHEN

Until I moved away from home, I had been exposed to Mennonite culture because of my mother's background and of course, the customs and traditions of the rural western Canadian (Scottish) lifestyle. Oh yes, also the French culture up in the Mariapolis area. And Chinese, when I think of Toy Jack's cafe in Crystal City, back in the day.

However, when I hit the big city of Winnipeg, the big city hit back with a dramatic introduction to many

more cultures. I worked in the north end of Winnipeg which was a virtual "United Nations" of different people,

QUOTE: "Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime." - Laura Ingalls Wilder, American author.

languages, food, religions, and music.

I learned a few words in seven different languages just to do my job. I made many friends with parents and/or grandparents who could not speak English and everyone got along just fine.

FURTHER AFIELD

Later on, I spent a lot of time in the USA where I worked with people (International Operations Division of the company) from all over the world. I participated in many meetings with representatives from Columbia, Brazil, France, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand,

Viet Nam and a few other countries.

I remember sitting with my buddy from Sweden as

he munched on potato chip sandwiches (potato chips stuffed between 2 slices of bread) made from the lunch buffet because he liked his starches!

Warren from Australia had his own fiery hot chili powder (in a special container on his belt) to sprinkle on any food put in front of him. And then there was my good friend Jimmy from China who could eat delicacies such as deep-fried pigeon heads and turtle steak but also loved a good, medium-rare (beef) steak dinner!

During our time in Japan, I was of course treated to a "subarashii" (wonderful) education in many things Japanese.



KEEP THE FAITH

The subject of religion and special holidays would often come up and I learned that most people - Christians and others - knew what Christmas is all about. I knew a number of Buddhists and other non-Christians yet I never once heard anyone speak negatively about our Christmas; no one I knew was ever offended by it.

Another thing I learned - as I pause to think about it - is that people from all over the world are about as similar as they are different. They might eat different foods, speak different languages, participate in different activities, have different faiths and do things differently than we might but they all share one common trait - they all want to

live their lives in happiness.

For many, it means they want to be free to make their own choices. The vast majority are honest, caring and upstanding, while - being human - there are always a few that are not. That has nothing at all to do with their race or cultural background. Human weaknesses transcend any borders, skin colour or culture.

I have come to realize that people are most happy and respectful of others when they are serving them in some way. It must be built into people as part of our humanity. Perhaps that is what "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men" (Luke 2:14) is really all about.

It's a great time of the year and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

PMCI News



Submitted by
Trina Langan

Throughout the month of December, PMCI has been participating in the Rock Lake Community Food Bank Drive. Non-perishable food items donated to go to our local food bank.

The Food & Nutrition class has prepared hot lunches for us this month: taco salad, pizza buns & chicken alfredo. And a special thanks to

Mrs. Deamel who helped prepare a hot breakfast for students on the 12th.

Due to a couple of unexpected snow days, volleyball intramural round robin wrapped up during the last week of December with finals taking place in January.

Leading up to our last couple weeks before Christmas, PMCI staff put on an "underground" spirit week from December 10th-13th, in which staff members dressed

up with different themes throughout the week, consisting of: socks & sandals, formal wear, patterns and PMCI gear days. This "secret" "underground" spirit week definitely sparked some confusion and entertainment throughout the school.

Our Leadership group has also organized an end of 2024 spirit week from December 16th-20th consisting of: pj day, ugly Christmas sweater day, Christmas colours day, Christmas characters day and Black & Yellow day in support of the Pembina Tigers Hockey Team.

In the sports world, the curling team has continued practicing for their upcoming season. They will be heading to Clearwater to practice throughout the month of January as there will be no ice in Pilot Mound due to the Rockies coming up! Curling zone will be February 3rd, 4th & 6th in Baldur.

The Pembina Tigers Hockey Team have continued to have a great season, going on a winning streak throughout the month of December. There was a home game on December 20th in Manitou. PMCI's players are Brad Sloane, Tegan Follis, Rylan McDonald, Dwight Sawatzky, Jason Park, Jamie Park, Tucker Mangin and Parker Grice.

The last day before break PMCI students were rewarded with a hot breakfast served to them by the staff members as a reward for raising over \$8,000 in their perogy fundraiser.

Later that day, PMCI attended the annual Christmas Hockey Game where the Pembina Tigers took on the Mountain Mustangs in Manitou. Go Tigers!

PMCI would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a fantastic New Year!



CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMUNITY.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through the place,
The last issue was done,
It had been quite a race.

Now the team could relax,
For the next little while,
They had worked very hard,
With always a smile.

The subscribers were happy,
With all of the news,
They could read it in peace,
And then have a snooze.

The merchants were good,
The ads did them proud,
They made lots of sales,
To the nice local crowd.

There is quite a bit,
For which to give thanks,
A great local paper,
Is high in the ranks.

Next year's on the way,
With lots more that's new,
And all will be covered,
In The Hometown View!

Merry Christmas to everyone at THV!

Lloyd (Lloyd McTaggart)



Greg Costen
A retired professional counsellor, Greg Costen is fuelled by Timmy's and does anxiety for cardio

Dear Therapist,
I love my mom but her constant negativity is taking a toll on me. She is a textbook "Negative Nelly." Whenever we talk, she focuses on everything that's going wrong in her life, people she doesn't like and why or criticizes me and my choices. I want to maintain a good relationship with her but I feel exhausted and resentful after our conversations. It makes for tough Christmas get-togethers. How can I set healthy boundaries without hurting her feelings or making her super angry?

Signed, Pulling My Hair Out

Dear Pulling,
Man, that's frustrating! Setting boundaries with loved ones, especially a parent, can be brutal but is fundamental for preserving the relationship and your own mental health. Here's some guidance to consider as you prepare to talk to mom:

Know Your Intentions
Remind yourself that boundaries aren't about rejection - they're about creating a healthier connection

Ask the Therapist

In "Ask the Therapist" I tackle readers' counselling-related questions big and small, personal or general, by sharing how a therapist might think about your concerns.

If you are asking, "Who is this guy?", I am a retired military chaplain and have completed a master's degree in counselling as part of that role. I have owned/operated two private therapy clinics in southern Manitoba and have worked for several independent counselling agencies. I have a number of advanced certifications in sexuality counselling.

and a better life for you. Approach the conversation with love and respect, focusing on improving the relationship, not ending it.

Choose the Right Moment

Timing is key. Discuss boundaries when both of you are calm and in a neutral setting. Avoid bringing it up during or immediately after a negative interaction.

Be Clear and Compassionate

Use "I" statements to express your feelings without blame. For example:

- "Mom, I value our relationship but when we always focus on negatives, I feel overwhelmed. Can we talk more about the positives?"

Also bear in mind that mom is so negative likely due to painful events in her formative years. This might lessen anger and generate compassion.

Set and Communicate Limits

Decide what feels manageable and share this clearly. If long conversations are draining, you might say:

- "I love catching up but shorter chats work better for me. Let's try keeping our calls to 10 minutes."

Redirect Negative Conversations

When discussions turn negative, gently steer them

to something constructive. For instance:

- "That sounds tough. Is there anything exciting you're looking forward to this week?"

Prepare for Pushback

It is a rare person who likes change. Mom is not likely one of them. If she reacts negatively, remain calm and reaffirm your boundary:

- "I understand this is hard but this is about maintaining a healthy relationship for both of us. Please think about it for a while."

Follow Through Consistently

Boundaries are effective only when upheld. If they're crossed, politely remind her of the conversation and reinforce the limit. Kindly remind her that these boundaries are not up for negotiation.

If mom gets angry, it's important to focus on your responses rather than trying to control mom's reactions.

Steps to Handle Resistance:

1. Stay Calm and Validate Feelings

Acknowledge mom's emotions without compromising the boundary:

- "I can see this is upsetting for you but I need this for my own wellbeing."

2. Reaffirm the Boundary
Restate the limit gently

but firmly:
- "I love you mom but I am not budging on this."

3. Avoid Over-Explaining

Boundaries aren't negotiable. Don't get into long defenses or explanations. Keeping explanations brief prevents arguments and confusion.

4. Be Patient with Outcomes

Mom may need time to adjust. Resistance is natural but can lessen as boundaries are consistently maintained.

5. Protect Emotional Energy

If her mom's anger turns into manipulation or disrespect, you can end the interaction calmly:

- "I think we should pause this discussion and talk later when we're both feeling calmer. Have a good day mom."

6. Prioritize Self-Care

If the relationship remains harmful, limiting contact or reassessing its depth may be necessary for your well-being.

I expect this will be harder than you anticipate but it must be done. Let me know how it goes. Stay strong!

Please submit your therapy-related questions to gncosten@gmail.com with "Dear Therapist" in the subject line. ■



Mary Adelaide Lortie (nee Vines)

March 1, 1942 - December 8, 2024

While Mary's Dad was stationed at the R.C.A.F near Claresholm, AB, Mary was born on March 1, 1942. Mary, at the age of 10 days, came by train with her parents, Harold and Ella Vines to Crystal City. Mary and her mother lived in part of Kate and Annie Smith's house while her dad was overseas. When Harold's enlistment was up, they moved to N 1/2 2-2-11 to farm. Mary was educated at Eton (a one room school that Mary talked very fondly about) and Crystal City.

After high school, Mary worked in Alex Shields' store. She spent the summer of 1963 working for Allan and Muriel Potter north of Pilot Mound. She then joined the staff at the Royal Bank in Crystal City. In 1974, Mary moved to Brandon and worked at Hillcrest Lodge, the Brandon hospital and Spectra Studios.

It was there she met Fred Lortie. They married in Crystal City on August 20, 1977. They lived in Alma, Quebec, Portage La Prairie and Winnipeg. Their chosen daughter, Karen Marie, completed their little family.

Mary and Karen moved to Crystal City in 1986. Mary worked in the Homecare Program up until her health deteriorated. When Karen moved to the Toronto, Ontario area, Mary visited as often as she could, enjoying her time with her three grandsons, Adrian, Sage and Chayton.

Mary's passions were needlepoint, crocheting, crafts and knitting. She could whip up an intricate detailed afghan in hours. She was always looking for bargains of wool as she donated a lot of her creations.

Mary moved into the Parkview Lodge in Crystal City where she met and made a lot of close friends. After several falls she made the hard choice of moving into assisted living at the Rock Lake Personal Care Home (PCH) in Pilot Mound. It only was a matter of a few days and Mary was guiding the lost to their rooms and visiting with EVERYONE. Her cousin Linda used to tease her that she was the "Walmart Greeter" of PCH, she would laugh and said it was "a good gig, only didn't pay much." She really enjoyed her time living at PCH.

May 9, 2023, Mary suffered a severe stroke which left her right side paralyzed. With some mental damage, Mary struggled with her verbal abilities along with more physical issues. The staff at PCH were her lifeline and she really appreciated all the moments they could spend with her.

Mary's family and friends wish to express their sincere appreciation to the staff of Rock Lake Personal Care Home for the gentle and caring assistance they gave to Mary.

Somerset Bible Chapel

Submitted by Isabel Acheson

Sunday Dec. 15 was a full day: Christmas concert practice in the Sunday School Hour, Worship Service with Harold Giesbrecht of One Hope Canada as the guest speaker and the annual Christmas concert in the evening with refreshments after.

The Worship Service began with Rachel Picard reviewing the announcements. The music team was Kevin Friesen and Jamie Small. The Advent reading was done by Isabel Acheson. The usher was Abe Klassen and the Prayer Focus was led by Clayton Kimber.

The third Sunday of Advent is linked to Joy. Three candles stand alit on the Advent Wreath. The Scripture reading was Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11.

The music for the worship service included many

well known Christmas carols: "Joy to The World," "Unspeakable Joy," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Silent Night" (Offertory), "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "O Holy Night" and in closing, "You are My King (Amazing Love)."

The sermon title "Christmas - The Season of Giving" used Romans 8:31-39 and 1 John 4:7-21 as the main texts. Harold's intro detailed current news of the 40 some ministries under One Hope Canada.

Over 35,000 persons heard the gospel through camps and other means during this past season, an increase of 26% over the previous year. The camping programs are recovering from the 2 Covid years when overnight camping programs were not allowed.

In Acts 20:35, the Apostle Paul quotes Jesus as saying it is more blessed to give than

to receive. Harold addressed God's love for us, our love for others and our love for God. The latter involves giving ourselves to Him (salvation), giving up things that hold us back (surrender), service and sacrifice.

There are many opportunities to give ones life to Christian service and many ways to do so. Several Bible references relate to giving of the first fruits. Harold related stories of how God provides when a share of one's resources is given to Him first. Prayer can be a powerful means of service.

Rachel Picard was M.C. for the evening program. Carol Picard was pianist. Lots of grandparents visited for the concert. Each Sunday School Class had their own segment. The youth class of 6 students presented "Deep Thoughts." Each had selected their own item to read or tell. A few others did a skit of the Christmas Story. The age 3

to Kindergarten group had 4 students on stage for their 4 line poem!

Picard's Puppet Theatre featured Lester the Lamb with his Christmas wish list, a long one. The Grade 1-3 class of 6 students had a poem "Long, Long Ago." This was followed by a dramatization of Luke 2 by the Grade 4-6 class. They did a great job of passing around the microphone so every part could be heard.

The final item was a mediation by Abe Klassen. Daughter Adeline, just turned 3, joined him on stage. With her on one arm and his device in the other hand Abe reviewed some of the Messianic prophecies and the sort of world in

which they would have originally been given. Messages of Hope, Strength (Jesus is Stronger) and Wonder as the Prophecies began to be fulfilled.

Rachel concluded the program with an invitation to refreshments downstairs and the blessing for them.

Monthly bulletins and previous reports are available on the website www.somersetbiblechapel.com. ■



4-H Combined Club

If any older students or adults would like to run a 4-H Combined Club Please contact Nancy 204-825-8566



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for 2025!

CNIB Vision Mate Volunteers provide one-on-one support, companionship and assistance for people who are blind or low vision. We need you!

1 Hour a week = 1 Life changed!

- Plan social activities, assist with shopping, reading, outings, and forge genuine connections
- Uplift well-being, fostering independence & inclusion

Call Ben Neufeld at:

(204) 509-9658

Ben.Neufeld@cnib.ca

An Interview with Santa

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Nancy Holman and Bill McLeod

At Christmas time,

how many children do you think you have spoken to over the years?

I just started helping

Santa a couple of years ago, so I would guess that it's over a hundred but less than two hundred. The first year I helped Santa I did it for the kids on the 17 Wing Air Force base. The second time it was during the Covid pandemic so I did a zoom call with about 100 kids. This year I will be helping Santa in Mather.

What is the strangest request a child has made of you?

Well, it's not a request but I remember one little guy who wanted to stay sitting in my lap all night. His parents would take him away and when they weren't looking he would come back to sit with me again. He was sweet.

What was the greediest?

It's funny, most kids ask for one thing. So it might be an expensive toy like a gaming system, or a quad or something like that.

What request almost

(or did) make you cry?

It was the kid who wanted to sit in my lap and talk to me. He was also developmentally disabled and he was very enamored with Santa. I think it was at that time I realized how much I enjoyed helping Santa and that I wanted to keep doing it for the kids. Santa is magic. He spreads excitement and kindness. He listens to children's hopes and affirms what they want to hear.

How does Santa get around the world so quickly?

Santa has the best reindeer. They are magic and it's easy for them to fly everywhere in one night.

How does Santa fit down the chimney?

Again, magic. I don't know how it works but I just climb in and slide down. If you don't have a chimney, I can come down your vent stack.

Why do some of my toys come from a store and have price tags?

Sometimes at the North Pole, Santa has to make business decisions. Like is it cost effective for the elves to make this toy or would it be more cost effective to buy it in bulk? It's these kind of decisions Santa and his elves make throughout the year. If you have a toy with a price tag, Santa probably bulk purchased it from that store.

Why does Santa have the same wrapping paper as my Mom?

Santa and your Mom love sales on wrapping paper, they must shop at the same store.

What happens when a child pulls your beard? Are they surprised it's not fake?

I only had a few children touch my beard. No one has ever pulled it but there were curious kids who wanted to see

if it was real. When kids come up to you when you are helping Santa, they are excited and scared so they don't treat you badly, it's like they just need to confirm it for themselves.

How do you answer a child who asks if you are the real Santa?

This is something you have to play by ear. If the child is over 6, I might explain to them how Santa is magic and can get around the world in one night but he can't be everywhere at once, no one can, so he hires me and others to listen to children all over the world. If the child is under 6, I let them know that I am the real Santa. If a younger kid hears me explain to an older kid than I let them know I just help Santa.

Can you explain all the Santas at the malls, skating rinks, stores, etc.?

Well, Santa is magic... ■

Festival of Carols



Clearwater Nursery School sang 3 songs.



Kristi Guilford and Bill Tiessen sang a duet that brought goosebumps.

NANCY HOLMAN PHOTOS



Esther Hildebrand played 2 piano songs



Brenda Taylor did a reading.



Olivia Bamford sang songs.



Isabella Carels sang a song and accompanied herself on the guitar

JAMIE-LYNN LEADBEATER PHOTOS

Nancy Holman

Rock Lake Festival of the Arts presented its annual 'Festival of Carols' at the Parklane Theatre in Crystal City Sunday, December 15th. The Rock Lake Festival highlights

singing, piano playing, guitar playing and speech arts. This concert celebrated the Christmas season with all those aspects of the arts.

Esther Hildebrand played the piano then accompanied the

audience as Christmas carols were sung between numbers.

23 out of a possible 26 Clearwater Nursery School students shyly took to the stage with their teachers Helen Stone, Theresa Gardiner

and Rhonda Melvin...Oh, the many grandparents were proud!

Isabella Carels of Pilot Mound played her guitar as she sang. Olivia Bamford of La Riviere was accompanied on the piano by her mother as

Olivia sang a beautiful song.

Brenda Taylor of Mather's reading of 'Twas the Night before Christmas' - a mother's version was humorous. The musical highlight was the duet by Kristi Guilford

and Bill Tiessen of Crystal City. Bill was singing in Italian and Kristi was singing like some famous recording artist...brought goosebumps! An amazing performance...the whole afternoon was very enjoyable. ■



*Season's Greetings to all
and our best wishes to you
through the year ahead!*



**CAL MCKAY
CONSTRUCTION**

The brightest *Joy*
The Warmest *Cheer*
The Greatest *Happiness*

*May this Christmas
bring you the best
of everything!*

Thanks to all of our fine friends and customers for making this year so very enjoyable. We owe our success to your loyal support.
MILLJOUR TRUCKING LTD.
Brad, Karen & family

*Hope Your
Christmas
IS ALL IT
"AUTO"
BE!*



ETRE TIRE

- ALL YOUR TIRE NEEDS
- FULL MECHANICAL SHOP

204-745-2300 CARMAN, MB
204-822-6127 MORDEN, MB

*Sweet Tidings
To You*

*Wherever you go this
holiday season,
know our warm wishes
will be waiting!*

*Happy Holidays
and many thanks!*

**LOUISE
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
SERVICES**



**Have a Merry
Little Christmas**

Here's hoping your Christmas is filled with childlike wonder and excitement!


*Thanks for
your business.
We wish you and
your loved ones
all the best this
holiday season.*



**Heather Deamel
Discovery Toys**
Heather, Curtis, Abigail & Jacob

Merry Christmas

THIS CHRISTMAS, AS WE LOOK BACK UPON THIS PAST YEAR, OUR HEARTS ARE WARMED BY THOUGHTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE WE HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH AND SERVING. WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED CHRISTMAS.



RON & TWILA BERNARD & VERONICA
JORDAN & JANALEE RILEY JULIAN WELDON
ASHLYNN SHAYLYN STEPHANIE JANINA
MARTA DENNY HELENA

EVL BORDER VIEW LUMBER
CARTWRIGHT, MB



*In the air, there's a
feeling of Christmas...*

and we hope that feeling lifts your spirit and fills your heart and soul with enough peace, joy and hope to last the whole year through!



**ROYAL
CANADIAN
LEGION**
MANITOU BRANCH

**Happy Holidays
& Happy New Year**



*From
Chad, Jolene
and staff at
Cartwright Ag
& Auto*

Thank you for your patronage!
We look forward to serving
you in the New Year!

**Closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 3
Open on Jan. 6**

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!



Derrick Young

Clearwater, MB

Septic Tank Call or Text
Vac Services 204-245-1142

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May the wonder, magic and merriment of the season be yours! Our very best wishes to all!



Scharf Service Ltd.

Norman & Jean, Ken - Lori - Tyler - Craig

Season's Greetings
Jim Delorme
(Tire Shop)

Thank you for your continued support!
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025!

Jim & Candice

MANITOU FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

WISHES YOU A
Merry Christmas

May you and your family be filled with happiness and harmony this season...

From the Board and Volunteers of
PILOT MOUND & DISTRICT MUSEUM

Come see our Hong Kong Vets Display

Closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1
REGULAR HOURS:
Wednesdays and Saturdays 2-4 p.m.
pilotmoundmuseum@gmail.com

A Winter Wonderland

May you enjoy the beauty and splendor of this special time of year with loved ones and friends, and please accept our best wishes and gratitude for your loyal and continued support.

Wawanesa Belmont Transfer
Proudly providing all your grain & fertilizer hauling needs.
Killarney, MB. 204.523.8393
Phil & Janet Lees and staff

Wishing you a Safe & Happy Holiday Season

Fresh Roots Farm is wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

We would like to thank our customers and the wonderful businesses that sell our honey for a great year.

Merry Christmas!
Derek & Jill Lints and Family
COMPUTER DJ'S
info@computerdjs.net
Call/Text 204.825.4124
www.computerdjs.net



Cartwright School Christmas Concert

Cartwright and District Early Learning Centre - L-R- Gunnar Vincent, Elena Mullin, Erika Enns (Floor Supervisor, Infant Program), Carson Wallace, Sacha Schram, Jasper Graham, Dani Kinley, Miajoy Sabado, Denver Riglin, Macey Boundy, Calder Haight, Tori McGill (CDELC Executive Director)

PENNY BURTON PHOTOS



Grades 1 & 2 - Elf's New Shoes



▲ Grades 3 & 4 - Early Visit From Santa - who visited Cartwright School.



◀ Kindergarten - L-R: Rhett Haight, Burklee Riglin, Kruz Enns

KALDECK
TRUCK & TRAILER
www.kaldectrailers.com MacGregor, MB
1-204-685-3127
Greg McLean **Griffen McLean**

Crystal City Early Years' Christmas Concert



Each grade was introduced by a group of grade three students who told riddles while the classes got organized on stage.

Ms. Avery's Grade One Class



Ms. Taylor's Kindergarten Class



Ms. Perrett's Grade One Class



Mrs. Leadbeater's Grade Two Class.



CCEY Concert (Cont'd)



Mr Lawson's Grade Three Class



Mrs. Nunn's Grade Two Class.

Manitou Elementary School Christmas Concert (Continued next page)

The students at MES presented "A Merry Melody" on Thursday,

Dec. 17th. It was a musical journey through the holiday season, filled

with classic carols, modern favourites and everything in between.

The Grade 5 and 6 Handbell Choir started our evening off with two songs: O Christmas Tree and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. ▼

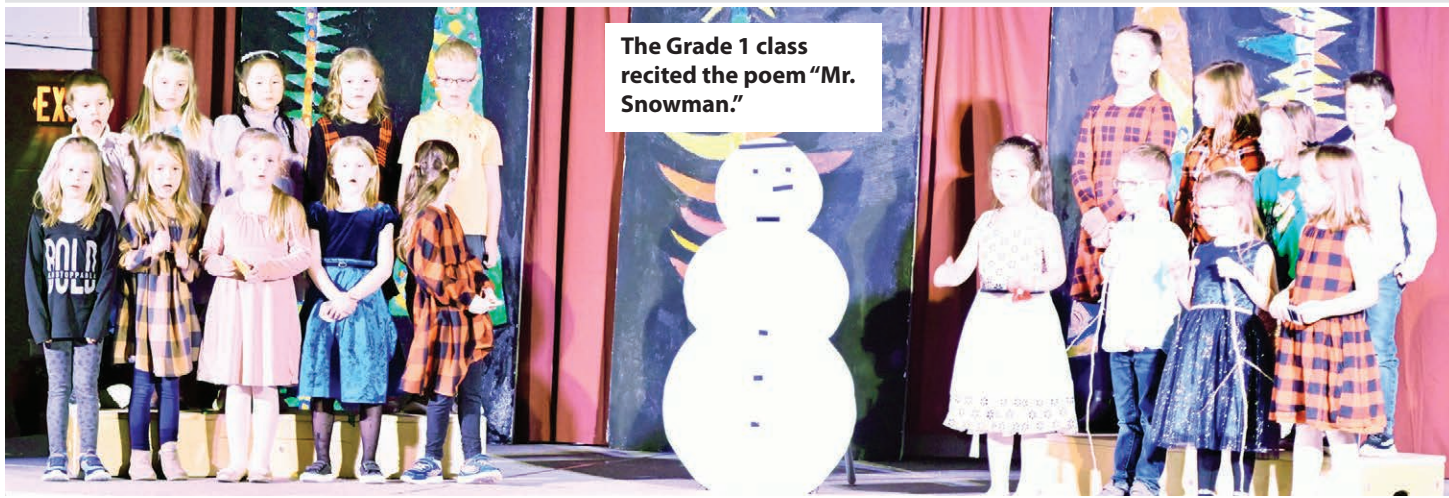


◀ The Kindergarten class performed "He'll Be Comin' Down the Chimney."

The whole school sang "Up on the Housetop" to conclude the evening. ▼



Manitou Elementary School Christmas Concert (cont'd)



The Grade 1 class recited the poem "Mr. Snowman."



The four photos above: The Grade 5 class sang "Shine a Light for Peace."



The Grade 2 class performed "Christmas in the Air" and included sign language along with the song.



Grade 4 performed "Dancing Snowflakes" on the xylophones, with a few Haiku poems mixed in.



Grade 6 presented 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' with a few surprise splashes of drama and music.



The Grade 3 class sang "It's Christmas Time."

sudoku


Hard 0.70

		7		9	6	3
9			3	8	4	
4		6			5	
			1			4
5	1				8	3
6			7			
	6			3		9
	9	7	5			6
7	4	9			3	



**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year from
The Corner Pocket**

We will be closed from
Dec. 22-26 &
30-31 & Jan. 1st
Open regular hours Jan. 2nd


From all of us at St. Andrew's United Church in Manitou we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.
May your season be filled with the light of the Incarnate One who came to bring us peace- Jesus the Christ.

**Christmas
BLESSINGS**

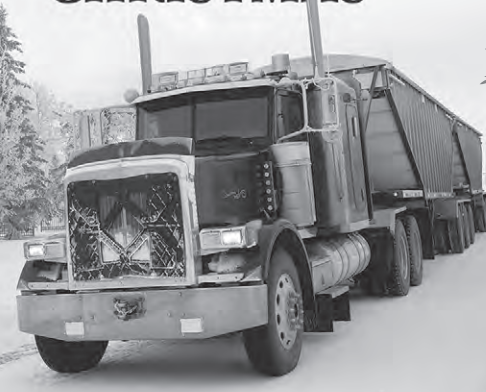
Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year.

We thank you for your patronage and look forward to serving you in 2025.

**Cambria
Eavestroughing**



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



Thank you to our valued customers in 2024
Wishing you all the best in the new year.


**Graham Morrow Trucking
MGM Seed & Service Ltd.**
Graham & Margaret Morrow and family

**Christmas Eve
Celebration Service**



4:30 p.m
St. John's Anglican Church,
218 Moffat Ave. W., Pilot Mound
Refreshments to follow.

**Merry Christmas,
From the Whole Gang!**



Just in the "nick" of time, we're delivering our best wishes to all our patrons.

Thank you for pulling for us this past year!

**CIRCLE L
FEEDLOT CLEANERS**
Mark & Desmond Lebeau

Merry Christmas



and our best wishes for the year ahead!

from the Mound Services Crew



COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS

MUNICIPALITY of LOUISE GARBAGE & RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

Regular garbage pickup Crystal City & Pilot Mound Dec. 24 & 31 (Site closes 3 p.m.)

Recycling Crystal City & Pilot Mound:

No collection Dec. 25 or Jan 1.

Pick up for both communities Jan 2

Municipal Office Hours:

Dec. 24 & 31, closed at noon. Closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

See ad p 17.

HOME TOWN HONG KONG HEROES:

Display at Pilot Mound Museum 213 Lorne Ave, from now until the end of December. Wednesdays & Saturdays 2-4 p.m.; Tours upon request.

La Rivière & Community Recreation Centre Weekly CRIB WEDNESDAYS 1:30-3:30 p.m., \$3 drop in fee.

MANITOU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 7 p.m. 106 Voth St. Manitou. Children's Nativity, Special family and choir music, caroling

PRAIRIE MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Mon. Dec. 23, 7 p.m. You are invited to join in carol singing and celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 4:30 p.m. Refreshments to follow. *See ad p. 15*

CORNERSTONE MINISTRIES' CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Begins at 6:45 p.m. with refreshments to follow. Everyone welcome! South of Crystal City.

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

ROCK LAKE PASTORAL CHARGE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 7 p.m. 36 South Railway Ave. W. A service of carols and joy. Everyone welcome! Crystal City.

CELEBRATING HAZEL MAYO'S 90th BIRTHDAY: Mon. Dec. 30, 2-4 p.m. Crystal City Friendship Centre. Everyone Welcome!

HEALTHY BABY:

January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2. Begins at 10:30 a.m. each day. Free program for those pregnant or a new parent, but all ages always welcome!

THE UKU-LADIES: Wed. Jan 15, 2. p.m. Pilot Mound Fellowship Club. Free ukulele performance. *Sponsored by Louise Community Support Services and Santé Sud - Southern Health's Healthy Living Grant.*

SPORTS/ RECREATION

SWAN LAKE CURLING CLUB'S DOUBLES BONSPIEL: Jan. 3 & 4, 2025. \$60/team. Contact Christine: 204-526-4455 to enter. Deadline Dec. 31, 2024.

CHAIR YOGA WITH CARISSA starts Wed. Jan. 8., \$80.00 for eight weeks at Pilot Mound Fellowship Club 10:30 a.m. OR \$80 for eight weeks at Crystal City Friendship Center 1:30 p.m. If you are interested please register by calling 204-825-2443, or email lcss@wcgwave.ca. New people are always welcome; no experience is needed.

PROVINCE-WIDE

NOTICES

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

URGENT PRESS RELEASES - Have a newsworthy item to announce? An exciting change in operations? Though we cannot guarantee publication, MCNA will get the information into the right hands for ONLY \$35.00 + GST/HST. Call MCNA (204) 947-1691 for more information. See www.mcna.com under the "Types of Advertising" tab for more details.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Board of Directors, Staff, and all of the Member Newspapers of the Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. May your celebrations be blessed with peace, joy and happiness. Thank you for all of your support throughout 2024. Looking forward to serving you in 2025.

BATTERIES FOR EVERYTHING! 50,000 BATTERIES IN STOCK

- *Auto *Farm *Truck
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CASH FOR COIN COLLECTIONS & ACCUMULATIONS OF COINS! ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COINS, OLD COINS, OLD PAPER MONEY, SILVER COINS, GOLD COINS, RARE COINS ETC.

Also buying all Silver, Gold, Nuggets, Scrap, Coins, Old Jewelry, Bullion, Ingots, Sterling Silver, Old Quality Watches working or not, Rolex, Omega ++

Todd
204-904-9705

Online McSherry Auctions

First Sale of 2025

Estate & Moving
#1 Auction
November 6th @ 7:00PM
Featuring High End Studio Dolls

Happy New Years!

McSherryAuction.com
204-467-1858
or 204-886-7027
mcsherrytld@gmail.com

DRUMMOND'S FARM SERVICES LTD. HOLLAND, MANITOBA

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

CUB CADET Heavy Duty Snowblowers



3 X 28 HD \$3000
3 X 30 HD \$3100

Ph: 204-526-2740
Dave - Cell: 204-526-7671



Response Builder Advertising WORKS!

- GET SEEN by over 360,000 Manitoba Homes!
- Create instant top of mind awareness
- Showcase your info, business, product, job, announcements or event
- We format it, to make it look great!
- Starting at \$239.00 (includes 35 lines of space)
- The ads blanket the province and run in MCNA's 31 Manitoba community newspapers
- Very cost effective means of getting your message out to the widest possible audience

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

www.mcna.com

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A	W	W	N	L		T	N	E	T	V		D	G	W

PLAN YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS FOR 2025! Maximize your business plan, for a successful year. Jump on our great prices and start getting responses! Have your blanket classified ads seen in the 31 Member Newspapers which are seen in over 368,000+ homes in Manitoba. Please Call THIS NEWSPAPER NOW to book, or call MCNA at (204) 947-1691 for more details or to book ads. MCNA - Manitoba Community Newspapers Association. www.mcna.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. Toll free 1-866-405-1228 www.firstand-secondmortgages.ca

FOR RENT in Crystal City

2 Bedroom house available January 1st, 2025. **Included** - washer, dryer, fridge & stove **Not included** - hydro, telephone & internet

For more information and an application form call Debby Bergen
Home - (204) 873-2274
Cell - (204) 245-0179



Accepting tenders for Clubhouse Lease Opportunities

DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2025.

For more information or to email tender package, contact manitougolfclub@gmail.com.

Administrative Assistant Prairie Mountain High School (Somerset)



Prairie Spirit School Division invites applications for an **Administrative Assistant at the Prairie Mountain High School** to work 7.0 hrs/day to commence February 24th, 2025. Deadline for applications: **Noon January 8th, 2025.** Details available at: www.prairiespirit.mb.ca or phone 204-744-2751.

We are hiring!

We have a new opportunity to highlight:

Instructor, ECE II Accelerated (Early Childhood Education)

School of Health & Human Services
Full/Part-Time, Terms, Casual (Jan 7/25 to July 3/26)
Competition #30-24/25
Morden, Manitoba
Salary: \$63,431 to \$97,078 annually (\$33.65 to \$51.50 hourly)
(Educational Supplement:
Masters \$1.52/hour; PhD \$3.03/hour)

As an Instructor in our Early Childhood Education program, you will play a vital role in shaping the future of ECE education. Reporting to the Chairperson or Program Coordinator, you will develop and deliver curricula, evaluate student performance, and engage in various administrative functions. You will also support college promotion, student recruitment, student placement, and industry liaison.

Discover full details about the position on our careers website at www.assiniboine.net/careers.

Assiniboine welcomes applications from all qualified candidates who are legally entitled to work in Canada, including Indigenous peoples, persons of all abilities, members of visible minorities, all genders and sexual orientations, and all other groups protected by the Human Rights Code.

Assiniboine College is privileged to provide learning opportunities on the lands of the Dakota Oyate, Nakoda Oyate, Ininiwak, Nehethowak, Nehiyawak, Anishinewuk, Denesuline, Anishinaabeg, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

For accommodations or alternative formats, contact careers@assiniboine.net or 204 725 8729.

If you are interested in this career opportunity, please email your resume and cover letter with reference to Competition #30-24/25 to:

careers@assiniboine.net

We thank you for your interest. Those selected for further consideration will be contacted.





**Minutes of the
04 December 2024
Regular Meeting**

Present: Council Members Murray McIntyre, Bill McKitrick, John Daracott, Mike McLaren, Kyle McCannell, Liana Vanwynsberghe. CAO Alicia Buydens and PW Manager Kelly Young.

NEW BUSINESS

Payments totaling \$1,643,109.81 were approved for payment.

Donations

Donations received on behalf of organizations were distributed as follows:

- Christmas Cheer Board - \$325
- Crystal City Community Centre Board - \$50
- Crystal City Town Beautification - \$25
- Fire Committee - \$1,000
- Greenwood Cemetery - \$75
- Parklane Theatre - \$125
- Pilot Mound Legion - \$2,100
- Pilot Mound Swimming Pool (construction) \$34,200
- Rock Lake Handy Van \$100
- Tivoli Theatre \$1,200

Propane

A Propane Supply and Equipment Rental Agreement was entered

into with Federated Co-Operatives Ltd. relating to propane supply for the Louise Aquatic Centre.

2025 Fire Honorariums

The 2025 fire fighter honorariums were set at

- \$25 per practice and fire hour
- \$25 per training hour
- \$25 per meeting hour
- \$25 per inspection hour
- \$2,000 annual Fire Chief retainer

2025 Dog Control

A contract was entered into with J & C Dog Control Officers for 2025 at a base rate of \$300 for two visits per month and a rate of \$0.60 per km mileage.

Fire Inspector

It was approved that Mike Cameron continue in 2025 as the Fire Inspector, with the Municipality of Louise.

2025 Weed Spray Contract

A 2025 contract was entered into with Kent Shewfelt to provide the services of weed scouting, spraying, and Sub Inspector.

Tax Sale Year

The designated year for which properties in arrears will be offered for sale by auction will be 2024 (meaning all properties with outstanding taxes from the year 2023 or prior).

LUD Indemnities

LUD indemnities for 2025 were set at:

- LUD of Clearwater

- \$100 per month
- LUD of Crystal City - \$150 per month
- LUD of Pilot Mound - \$175 per month

By law 2024-19

Second, third and final readings were given to By law 2024-19 being a By law of the Municipality of Louise to amend the Municipality of Louise's By law 2022-09 as amended.

DELEGATION

Council met virtually with Maddy From, on behalf of Food Cycle Science. She presented a pilot program where municipalities can implement Food Cyclers into residents' homes by purchasing 100 Food Cyclers for \$10,000 and then sell them to residents for \$200 each.

Following the delegation, Council respectfully declined to participate in the pilot program.

DISCUSSION

Years of Service

Congratulations to Lovell Stone on 15 years of service and to Erik Ginter for 5 years of service with the Municipality.

Pool Financials

Council to publish an updated expense paid and revenue received as at 30 November 2024 report relating to Louise Aquatic Centre.

PMMRC Elevator

Administration explained the concern brought forward from the Safety Advisor in relation

to the poor condition of the PMMRC elevator.

Organizational By law

Councillors reviewed and decided not to make any amendments

Indemnities By law

Councillors reviewed and decided not to make any amendments

REPORTS

AMM Convention

Breakout sessions, resolutions and tradeshow were good. Starting in 2026 all fall conventions will be held in Winnipeg, all Spring conventions will be held in Brandon.

Met with Liaison Officers of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure and discussed Highway 34 condition and Clearwater Bridge.

Spoke with the representatives at the Municipal Board desk.

Fire Committee

Practices, 2025 honorariums, potential water hook up location

Works and Ops

Snowblower purchase, proactive on culverts, winter road closures to save amount of time it takes to open roads after a snow event

LUD of Clearwater

Garbage special service, water plant operator, snow blowing, speed limit, Provincial bridge and roads

LUD of Pilot Mound

Future of Dr. House, community garden idea

LUD of Crystal City

Replace pump at lagoon, sidewalk

**MUNICIPALITY OF LOUISE
GARBAGE & RECYCLING
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**REGULAR GARBAGE PICK UP
CRYSTAL CITY & PILOT MOUND**

(Site closes 3 p.m.)
Tuesday, December 24
Tuesday, December 31

**RECYCLING
CRYSTAL CITY & PILOT MOUND**

No collection December 25
No collection January 1
Thursday, January 2:
Pick up for both communities



MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS:

December 24 & 31: Closed at noon
December 25, 26 & January 1: Closed

consideration
Pool

Plumbing quotes for fixtures, electric water heaters. Electrical to start when doors and windows have been installed, still waiting on flooring samples, turf idea for outside grass area CAO

- Due to postal strike reissuing cheques to be hand delivered, couriered or paid via credit card.
- Update regarding 103/107 Railway St S building,
- Westman applying for easement in Pilot Mound subdivision.

PW Manager

- Ditch maintenance reminders sent to some landowners,

- update on Spearman Crossing survey requirement and speed reduction,
- re-route MG2 to alternate starting and ending snow clearing priorities

CORRESPONDENCE

Water systems- Lead monitoring program

- 2023 DFA, submission 1 & 2 payment
- 2024 Canada Community Building Fund (Gas Tax) funding

This is a partial listing of the minutes of Council of the Municipality of Louise. A full listing may be obtained at the municipal office, 26 South Railway Ave. E., Crystal City, MB. 204-873-2591 or on louisemb.com

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE
(Including WATER/ SEWER UTILITY and SANITATION Services)

Cartwright-Roblin Municipality is looking for a dedicated individual to join our team full-time. This role involves a variety of tasks including water/sewer utility operations, sanitation services, and equipment operation. Whether you have strong utility operating skills or are eager to learn, we welcome your application. We provide all necessary training to ensure quality service.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a) Utility & Sanitation systems operation & maintenance
- b) Equipment operation & maintenance
- c) Other duties as assigned
- d) Alternate weekend/ statutory holiday duties (based on up to 2 hours per day, more if required)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Utility Operator Certification or willingness to obtain
- Valid driver's license

HOW TO APPLY:
Send a cover letter, resume of related experience, anticipated hourly rate of pay and three (3) references to the CRM Human Resource Committee, at:

- Mail: CRM Employment Opportunity, Box 9 Cartwright, MB R0K 0L0
- Secure dropbox on the front of the municipal office
- Email: cao@cartwrightroblin.com
- Fax: (204) 529-2288

Applications accepted until vacancy is filled. We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS: www.cartwrightroblin.com

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RESPONSIBILITIES:

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- b) Other related duties as assigned
- c) Alternate weekend/ statutory holidays, and covering utility employee absences as required (based on up to 2 hours per day, more if required)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Utility Operator Certification or willingness to obtain
- Valid driver's license.

HOW TO APPLY:
Send a cover letter, resumé of related experience, anticipated hourly rate of pay and three (3) references to the CRM Human Resource Committee, at:

- Mail: CRM Employment Opportunity, Box 9 Cartwright, MB R0K 0L0
- Secure dropbox on the front of the municipal office
- Email: cao@cartwrightroblin.com
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Applications accepted until vacancy is filled. We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

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Westoba Inspire Program Donation

We were happy to attend the Prairie Mountain Elementary School Santa Skate in Swan Lake on December 13th and present the Swan Lake Recreation Complex with \$5,000.00 from the Westoba Inspire Program.

Swan Lake Recreation Complex Board Treasurer, Nadine DeBlonde says the complex is an important part of this community's well-being. "The complex is the heart of our community and provides recreational opportunities to keep people of all ages physically and mentally fit and is a place to socialize and be a part of a team," said DeBlonde. "Long term investments to the complex support the desire services needed to keep our rural town thriving."

The Inspire funding will be used to support important items for the arena side.



L-R BACK: Kelly Heirman (Complex committee member), Eric Rimmer (Complex committee member) and Jackie Shoemaker (Westoba Branch Manager). FRONT: Brittany Malfait (Westoba), Esha Patel (Westoba), Jessica De Baets (Westoba), Nadine De Blonde (Complex committee member), Vicki Davis (Westoba VP of Finance).

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Miller beer variety
4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
9. Stomach
14. Investment vehicle
15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
16. Irregular in botanical parlance
17. Cease standing
18. "American Horror Story" actress
20. Grow milk teeth
22. Plant parts
23. Snow house
24. Most contemptuous
28. Note to repay
29. Old English
30. Wings
31. Financial institutions
33. Parks and Lopez are two
37. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
39. Give off
41. Semitic alphabet letter
42. Farm state
43. Actress Sarandon
44. Back parts
46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
49. Touchdown
50. One point north of

due east

51. Refurbishes
55. Silver and Dogg are two
58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
59. Type of envelope
60. Seriously considered
64. Unhappy
65. Past (archaic)
66. Asian wild dog
67. Old English letter
68. Young domestic sheep
69. Football players need to gain them
70. Witness

CLUES DOWN

1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
2. Norwegian composer
3. Indicates location
4. Pubs
5. Unable to walk easily
6. Electronic warfare-support measures
7. World leader
8. Midsection
9. Jewish calendar month
10. Urological condition
11. A small quantity of anything
12. Mountain Time

13. Affirmative
19. Word element meaning ear
21. Carried away
24. Short-billed rails
25. Newborn child
26. Sword
27. Groups of people
31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
32. Become less intense
34. Polishes
35. Indicates position
36. Songs sung to one's beloved
40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
41. Insects
45. Israeli politician
47. Pre-digital
48. Roaming
52. Ambience
53. Brew
54. Late
56. Make ecstatically happy
57. Semitic alphabet letter
59. Blend
60. Dash
61. Self
62. Exclamation of satisfaction
63. Hill or rocky peak

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Killarney, MB

Curling committee for the “Rockies”



Nancy Holman

Plans are well under way for the CurlManitoba RME (Rocky Mountain Equipment) ‘Women of the Rings’ curling championship to be held in Pilot Mound January 22

to 26.

This group (chairs of different committees plus volunteers) met on Dec. 16 upstairs at the PMMRC to gauge how the planning is coming along for the big event. Pilot Mound is the smallest town to

undertake such a huge provincial event.

Now that a local rink (Cheyenne Ehnes of Manitou) has qualified, the committee is hoping that ticket sales will really take off. (See pg. 22 to order your tickets!) ■

Left to right: Gail Maxwell, Rhonda Burns, Kristi Guilford, Kelsey McLaren, Nathan McLaren, Paula Watson, Kyle McCannell, Kent Lewarne, Kelly Morrow, David Mutch, co-chair Jackie McCannell, Al Couling, Kristen Friesen, Kyle McCannell, Melissa McCannell, Gord Arbuckle, Russell Pauls, co-chair Travis Saban, Greg Currie, Ruth Loney, Cheryl Schwalm, Shelley Sutherland. In front are Emma and Ali McCannell.

Prairie Spirit School Division

Minutes of the November 27th, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

A motion to approve the accounts in the amount of \$953,093.83 was passed.

Reports of Senior Administration:

Continuous Improvement Plan: Divisional administration met with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Student Achievement, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Bureau de l'Éducation Française and the Director of Continuous Improvement to review Prairie Spirit's Continuous Improvement Plan.

Manitoba Framework for Learning: Divisional administration are presenting the Framework for Learning developed by Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning to teachers throughout the school year.

Workplace Safety and Health Reporting: Annual reporting of violent incidents as defined by the Workplace Safety and Health legislation was provided.

Procedure Manual Update: An administrative procedural manual update was reviewed.

EI Premium Reduction: An update on the EI Premium reduction

appeal was provided.

MASBO Update: An update from the MASBO meetings held November 19th and 20th was provided.

Legislative Updates: A review of the updates to the legislative bills during the Fall session was provided.

The following motions were passed:

- authorize the Secretary Treasurer and the Chairperson to sign Substitute Teacher Contracts with Syndey Lefebvre and Betty Mateychuk for the remaining 2024-25 school year;
- accept the resignation of Peter Plante from his teacher position at Evergreen Colony School, effective January 31st, 2025;
- ratify the employment of Leteisha Berry as educational assistant at the Glenboro School for 4.67 hours per day every other day, effective November 27th, 2024 to June 26th, 2025;
- ratify the employment of Sherry Hird-Arason as educational assistant at the Glenboro School for 4.67 hours per day, effective November 27th, 2024 to June 26th, 2025;
- authorize the Chairperson and Secretary Treasurer to sign a Limited Term Teacher contract with Selista Langan,

for a .20 FTE term position as guidance, effective November 29th, 2024 to June 27th, 2025, and assign her to Holland Elementary School;

- authorize the Chairperson and Secretary Treasurer to sign a Limited Term Teacher contract with Debora Morrow, for a .50 FTE term position, effective January 6th, 2025 to March 28th, 2025, and assign her at the Kamsley Colony School;
- ratify the employment of Dacey Kathryn Purling as educational assistant at the Manitou Elementary School for 5.67 hours per day, effective November 18th, 2024 to June 26th, 2025;
- ratify the employment of Rachelle Hofer as educational assistant at the Shady Lane Colony School for 2.33 hours per day, effective November 13th, 2024 to June 13th, 2025;
- ratify the employment of Mary Figueroa as educational assistant at the St. Claude School Complex for 6.09 hours per day, effective November 26th, 2024 to June 26th, 2025;
- authorize the Secretary Treasurer and the Chairperson to sign a Limited Term Teacher Contract with Jim Partaker for a 1.0 FTE term position

Setting Records



Ashley Morrow of Pilot Mound, graduated last June and is now attending university in New Brunswick on an athletic scholarship. At a recent shot put competition in Quebec City, she placed third. That 15.3 meter throw, according to the University of New Brunswick Track & Field – Cross Country, set a new UNB record and also doubles as the new Manitoba record!

SUBMITTED PHOTO

commencing December 2nd, 2024 to January 31st, 2025, and assign him at St. Claude School Complex;

- accept the resignation of Jenifer Philipchuk from her position as teacher at the St. Claude School Complex, effective December 31st, 2024;
- ratify the employment of Gabrielle Vuignier as educational assistant at the St. Claude School Complex for 5.25 hours per day and .84 hours per day duty free, effective November 26th, 2024 to June 26th, 2025;
- accept the resignation of Joel Wollman from his teacher position at Whistling Wind Colony School, effective December 31st, 2024;
- ratify the term employment change for Odile

Furet from custodian assistant to head custodian (8 hours per day) at the St. Claude School Complex effective November 18th, 2024 to January 17th, 2025 or until the return of the employee she is replacing;

- grant Prairie Mountain High School permission to take the Junior Varsity Girls team on an extended overnight field trip to attend provincials in Winnipeg from November 21st to the 23rd, 2024, at no cost to the division and subject to the conditions of Policy IFH-P and following the Youth Safe Programs Reference Guide for Schools;
- approve the request of McKenna Nicholls to rescind her acceptance of the Prairie Spirit School

Division French Teacher Recruitment Bursary for the 2024-25 school year prior to the distribution of bursary funds;

The above constitutes a partial account of the meeting. A full transcript of approved minutes is posted on the website www.prairiespirit.mb.ca. If you wish to receive a full transcript of the minutes or have any questions about this regular meeting of the Board of Trustees please contact Prairie Spirit School Division, Secretary Treasurer, Box 130, Swan Lake, Manitoba, R0G 2S0, phone 204-836-2147. Board agendas will be posted on the division website at 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the board meeting. The Regular Board Meeting will be held on December 11th, 2024. ■

U11 Girls' Hockey



Kyle McCannell, the female hockey representative for the Pilot Mound Minor Hockey Association receiving the grant from Ross Ballantine of the Pilot Mound and District Foundation.

SUSAN PETERSON PHOTO

Nancy Holman

This team of U11 girls had their first game December 13th against Altona. Pilot Mound & District Foundation granted funds to buy the new set of uniforms they are wearing.

U11 team manager Jodi Arbuckle noted, "In the past, we have borrowed old jerseys from past Pilots or Rock Lake teams to play our games. We wanted to give the girls their own identity and be proud of playing with their peers in their own



L-R BACK: Spencer Platt – Assistant coach, Violet Levanen (Manitou), Camilla Keinanen (Pilot Mound), Honor Fontaine (Manitou), Piper Platt (Pilot Mound), Danica Vodden (Manitou), Emery Mangin (Pilot Mound), Emalie Collins (Pilot Mound) and Jocelyn Keinanen – Head coach. FRONT: Ava Stewart (Manitou), Emma Chewings (Pilot Mound), Clover Holman (Crystal City), Emilee McLean (Manitou), Emrie Handford (Manitou-Snowflake), Ali McCannell (Pilot Mound) and London Saban (Pilot Mound). MISSING: Taelynn Penner (Cartwright), Matt Vodden – Assistant Coach.

NANCY HOLMAN PHOTO

jerseys. This also sets up PMMHA to have a set of jerseys for future teams."

For this team, girls from Rock Lake Minor Hockey Association, Pilot Mound Minor Hockey Association and the Manitou

Minor Hockey Association joined together.

Jocelyn Keinanen (Pilot Mound) is the head coach with assistant coaches Spencer Platt (Pilot Mound) and Matt Vodden (Manitou).

The girls are 'double rostered' which means they also all play on a mixed boys and girls team. Hockey Manitoba and Pembina Valley Minor Hockey Association are trying to increase the

number of girls playing hockey. Friday nights are "black outs" when mixed or male teams are not allowed to play to allow for the female hockey to take place.

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Jennifer Ching-Faux
Darlingford
Correspondent

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Good news for parent volunteers working a kitchen shift - the rink will also be streaming the home games on the kitchen TV, so you won't have to miss your child's game winning goal while you're slinging burgers in the back.

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of province aunts and uncles. The arena board has been working on this project for months and it

will be a great addition going in to the back half of the hockey season.

Every Little Bit Counts



More community spirit by PMHA teams for our local Food Bank.

PMHA News Release
Submitted by
Gordie Tumilson,
Marketing Manager

After a recent, hugely successful Hockey Cares for Cancer contribution, the players of our U15 and U17 male teams and Pilot Mound Hockey Academy (PMHA) management/ownership stepped up again last weekend.

Both teams promoted and volunteered for our local Food Bank, collecting both food and cash in the lobby of the Black Jack Stewart Arena. Nice job boys for taking time out between games to selflessly help out once

again in our community!

In the meantime our last weekend of games from Dec 9-15 saw our teams play in all 4 western provinces. We had our greatest success right here at home where our community-minded U15 male prep team knocked off archrivals Notre Dame Hounds in all 3 of the 3 games played! The rest of our teams results/stats/standings etc can be found on our busy/informative website: www.pilotmoundhockeyacademy.com

Our final podcast for this year will be specially aired on Christmas Day featuring our head

coaches who will discuss the first 4 months of our season and give us some insight into the next 5 months of concentrated developmental hockey here in Pilot Mound.

That does it for now. As you read this edition of HTV all of our players and many coaches and team staffers are back in their own homes enjoying Christmas and holiday celebrations.

From all of us at PMHA, enjoy a safe and fun family Holiday Season. See you back here on January 5th when regular play starts again until the playoffs are completed in late March 2025.

Jackie's Curling Journey

2024 CANADA-SCOTLAND FRIENDSHIP TOUR



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Jackie is holding the Muriel Fage Friendship Trophy, which was awarded to the Canadians. Through all the curling games against the women in different cities and towns across Scotland, the Canadian teams won the series 647 points to 494 - that was the total scores of all of the games. The Trophy is now in Canada awaiting who will win it when the Scots come to Canada next in 2025. Jackie had the honor of carrying the Canadian flag into the closing banquet ceremonies where the trophy was awarded.



An Aberdeen golf course



This is an ice rink, not only a skating arena or only a curling rink, but both. Note the lines for a hockey game and blue goal crease with the circles for a curling house also visible. It is used for skating and hockey on the weekends, then the hacks are put in for curling through the week.

Nancy Holman

Every ten years Canadian curlers go to Scotland "on the zero" and every ten years "on the 5" Scots come to Canada for the Canada-Scotland Friendship Tour. The next trip will be in 2025 when the Scottish women curlers come to BC. The 2020 tour was just held this past November because of Covid pandemic delays. This Friendship Tour isn't just about seeing the sites and enjoying local cuisine, this is about a great curling rivalry! Women curlers tour the country (Canada or Scotland) curling nearly every day (17 games in 21 days), enjoying the camaraderie of fellow curling enthusiasts and partaking in the local customs, tourist sites and views, drinks and food.

Back in 2019, Jackie McCannell of Pilot Mound applied to Curl Canada to be part of the Canada-Scotland Friendship Tour. The application contained details of her volunteer roles at curling events (the list would be long from her many years of instructing the junior curlers at Pilot Mound to officiating and

other duties at Canadian national and provincial curling championships), her curling achievements like 5 appearances at the Manitoba Scotties plus national Legion curling playdowns, and the long list of volunteering she has done in the community. She was one of two Manitobans awarded the trip to Scotland. 22 women were on the tour, forming 6 curling teams.

When asked to comment on how it felt to curl in Scotland - the country where curling started centuries ago - as part of Team Canada, Jackie wrote, "The experience was a once in a lifetime thing. Once you have competed as Team Canada going to Scotland you aren't eligible to go again. We saw where the first documented curling game took place in Paisley across the street from the Paisley Abbey on February 6, 1540 and also saw the first curling stone used from 1511 in the Stirling Smith Art Gallery & Museum in

Sterling. It was actually surprising how little the Scottish knew about curling considering it originated there. I believe this may be due to how they run their curling association with hand picked persons/teams to represent Scotland plus they have had several venues close over the years so this limits the accessibility for some. They have very few actual curling rinks. Stranraer, Green Acres, Forfar and Aberdeen were the only dedicated curling rinks we curled in, the rest were 'ice rinks'. They skated all weekend then put the hacks back in for curling during the week."

If you followed Jackie's curling journey on Facebook, it was hard not to notice the matching outfits on the Canadian women. "We had matching outfits for everyday on and off the ice; there was a clothing schedule given to us before we left for Scotland. We went as Team Canada and represented this as a group

wearing the same outfits. We had to purchase all of our clothes and air fare. We paid a lump sum up front to cover the costs of our hotel accommodations, meals, admission tickets into our various venues that we all did as a group site seeing and the coach that was hired to drive us all over Scotland. We travelled a total of 2847 km while there. I believe Curl Canada put in \$1000 to put towards the Friendship pins and to go towards all of our brooms that had Team Canada on them with our name."

October 29 Jackie left Winnipeg for 24 days in Scotland. At the opening banquet, a representative of King Charles III sent his greetings to the Canadian contingent.

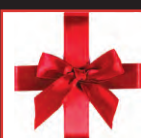
While on the curling tour she met family members of well-known Scottish curlers. Many Canadians who follow curling would be familiar with Hammy McMillan.

Continued pg.24

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Jackie's Curling Journey

Continued fr. pg. 23

While in Stranraer the group stayed at the McMillan castle and curled at the attached curling club where Hammy's sister is the ice maker. Jackie's driver on one of their tourist excursions was Kate Adams. Kate's daughter Vicki played with the great Scottish curler Eve Muirhead. AND Kate's sister Shona Douglas-Coulthard lives near Clearwater, Manitoba just 10 or so miles from Jackie back in Canada. What an amazing coincidence that is!

After the trip to Scotland, Laura Rampton, one of Jackie's fellow Canadian curlers wrote: "Back home in Vancouver reliving the dream! My friends can't believe that we were piped onto the ice every day, treated like both visiting royalty and long lost friends, wined and dined and given the gift of friendship at every turn." That sums up a wonderful adventure in Scotland, one in which Jackie McCannell



Jackie took part in a ceremony to "pay the piper" - give him a nip of Scotch - before a curling match in Aberdeen, Scotland. The Canadians were treated to much pomp and ceremony at the different curling venues across Scotland.

is thrilled to have been touring, laughing, drinking, eating, exploring and particularly curling.

Jackie and some fellow curlers are "shooting the broom" not an old tradition but a fun one!

In front of a Scottish castle - buildings are centuries older in Scotland than in Canada.



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