

# The Carman-Dufferin STANDARD

VOLUME 6  
EDITION 10

THURSDAY,  
MARCH 19, 2026

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## Olympic spirit

STANDARD PHOTO BY SHAUNA FINDLAY-WOLFE

Students and staff at École Carman Elementary School celebrated their own Olympic Games on Feb. 26 and 27. Classes represented different countries while taking part in two days of themed activities and friendly competition.

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# Golden Prairie Arts Council celebrates 30 years in Carman



STANDARD PHOTO SBY SUSAN WEPPLER

The Golden Prairie Arts Council (GPAC) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2026 with a spring matching campaign running from March 1 to May 31. During the campaign, all donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. GPAC continues to offer a wide range of programming for the Carman and area community, including monthly art exhibits, instructor-led classes, concerts, homeschool art programs and free Drop In Art sessions. Participants work on creative projects during a Drop In Art session at the Golden Prairie Arts Council in Carman. The organization is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2026 and is hosting a spring matching campaign from March 1 to May 31, with donations matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.

## TOWN OF CARMAN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF DUFFERIN ANNUAL PUBLIC NOTICE ADDITIONS TO THE VOTERS LIST AND/OR PERSONAL SECURITY PROTECTION REQUESTS

In accordance with Section 36 of The Municipal Councils and School Boards Election Act (MCSBEA), the Town of Carman and Rural Municipality of Dufferin Voters List are open for changes or revisions.

- Any person who is eligible to vote in municipal elections in the municipality can have his or her name added to the Voters List or have any information about the voter on the Voters List corrected.
- Any person can request to have his or her name and address obscured from the Voters List.

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

To implement the above, a written request must be submitted to the Senior Election Official, in person 12-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.W., Carman, Manitoba, by email, or mail to:

**Town of Carman**  
Box 160, Carman, MB R0G 0J0  
Email: [cao@townofcarman.com](mailto:cao@townofcarman.com)  
Phone: 204-745-2443  
Susan Stein, CMMA  
Senior Election Official

**Rural Municipality of Dufferin**  
Box 100, Carman, MB R0G 0J0  
Email: [cao@rmoofdufferin.com](mailto:cao@rmoofdufferin.com)  
Phone: 204-745-2301  
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# Carman derby sees record-breaking registration

By E. Antonio

Ideal weather, plenty of excitement and good company made for excellent conditions at the Carman & District Game and Fish Association's annual ice fishing derby on March 7.

Justin Major, president of the Carman Game and Fish Association, said the event ran smoothly from



**STANDARD PHOTOS BY JASON CROSS**  
Daniel Janzen holds up the 12-inch perch that earned top honours in the perch category at the Carman & District Game and Fish Association's annual ice fishing derby on Stephenfield Lake on March 7.

start to finish.

"The highlights of the day were, of course, the anglers bringing in those big catches throughout the day and handing out all the prizes at the end," he said.

The derby saw record-setting participation, with 374 adult and youth anglers registering for the event on Stephenfield Lake.

In total, participants caught 103 pike and 401 perch.

Top prize for pike went to Ric Wieler, who reeled in a 38¼-inch fish at 1:07 p.m., while Daniel Janzen landed the winning perch, measuring 12 inches, at 12:25 p.m.

Other prize winners included Ashton Wytinck, who took home the Ion electric ice auger raffle, and Ted Pethybridge, who won the 50/50 draw.

Major credited the event's newly introduced pre-registration system as a key factor in the day's success, noting it helped keep the registration line moving quickly in the morning.

Favourable weather conditions and strong sponsorship support also contributed to the event's success.

Major added the organizing committee has received plenty of positive feedback since the derby wrapped up.

"Many online messages, text messages and emails have come in thanking our committee for hosting the event," he said. "Anglers are already saying they can't wait for the event in 2027."



Ric Wieler shows off the 38¼-inch northern pike he caught to win top prize in the pike category..

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# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Leslie hosts town hall in Winkler re: Bill C-9

By Lorne Stelmach

Portage-Lisgar MP Branden Leslie has joined the chorus of critics condemning what he says is the Liberal government's attempt to push through a controversial change to the criminal code that would remove a long-standing safeguard protecting the good-faith expression of religious beliefs.

The change is being considered as part of Bill C-9, which is legislation that amends various aspects of the Canadian Criminal Code. During committee consideration of the bill, the Liberal government with the support of the Bloc Quebecois proposed removing an existing provision in the code that protects individuals from being convicted of hate propaganda offences for expressing an argument or opinion based on a religious text in good faith.

That safeguard has existed in Canadian law for decades, and it does not protect hatred or violence, which are already illegal under the Criminal Code, say critics, including Leslie. Instead, it has ensured individuals cannot be criminally prosecuted simply for reading, quoting, or expressing beliefs drawn from religious texts.

"The bill, as it originally was, I think did have laudable intentions. We should absolutely try to protect people going to their place of worship," said Leslie. "Hate speech is one element ... that is the problem that we need to be tackling."

He cited how the bill was originally targeted at tightening the language around hate speech and protecting religious institutions. However,

through the committee process, the Bloc Québécois proposed an amendment which would remove the safeguard from the code that Leslie says protects people from fear of conviction when expressing an opinion based on sacred texts.

"Given that the Liberals didn't have anybody to help them pass this piece of legislation, they basically made a trade with the Bloc ... okay, we'll get rid of this section, this particular safeguard in the criminal code, if you give us support for the broader bill," Leslie said. "We've seen basically every type of religious organization come out in opposition to this safeguard removal ... diverse groups have come out and said what are you guys doing? Where did this come from?"

Leslie said the proposal has triggered a significant response from his constituents across Portage-Lisgar, including at a town hall meeting held Saturday in Winkler.

About 400 people came out to hear from Leslie and fellow Conservative MP Andrew Lawton, who represents the Ontario riding of Elgin-St. Thomas-London South and has been one of the leading voices raising concerns about the proposed changes.

"Over the past few weeks, I have received more correspondence about this issue than almost any other during my time as a Member of Parliament," Leslie said. "People from many different faith communities and people with no religious affiliation at all are concerned about what it means to remove this protection from the criminal



code."

Leslie said those concerns had intensified after the Liberal government introduced a motion in the House of Commons March 5 that would limit debate and force the legislation through Parliament on an accelerated timeline.

The motion will force the justice committee to immediately resume clause-by-clause consideration of the bill and to vote on all remaining amendments without further debate. It directs the committee to continue meeting until the bill has been disposed of and requires the bill to be reported back to the House within two sitting days. The motion also limits debate in the House of Commons to one sitting day at report stage and one sitting day at third reading before forcing votes on the legislation.

Leslie said the move represents an extraordinary attempt to push a controversial change through Parliament while avoiding proper scrutiny.

"The Liberals are trying to remove a long-standing safeguard protecting religious expression from the criminal code, and at the same time they are trying to rush the bill through Parliament and shut down debate," he said.

Leslie had hoped the government would reconsider, but not only did they stick to it but they almost limited debate and "basically just crushed all opposition voices at committee and in parliament and pushed this bill through," he said.

Leslie concluded by describing it as a solution in search of a problem, and he is concerned that they went in an entirely different direction with the bill.

"They've offered no explanations. This safeguard has been tested in the courts ... they couldn't point to a single case where this prevented a prosecution, that this prevented something happening within the legal system."

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Carman Dufferin Standard  
Box 39, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0

# Carman advances fire hall project, reviews budget

By Haley Cvar

Council for the Town of Carman moved forward with several municipal projects and policy items during meetings Feb. 3 and Feb. 19, including approving a tender for a fire hall expansion and reviewing a draft of the town's 2026 budget.

Council approved issuing a request for tenders for the expansion of the Carman fire hall at its Feb. 3 meeting. The tender will be advertised in accordance with the municipality's procurement policy, with the submission period shortened from 60 days to 30 days.

Council also approved entering into an agreement with Forest Green to provide criminal record check services and a security camera registration program for residents.

Members extended the town's contract with MWM for one year, from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

Draft year-end financial statements for 2025 were also reviewed and will be finalized once outstanding payments and coordinated grants are completed.

Council later met again Feb. 19, where a draft of the 2026 municipal budget was presented for review. The budget will continue to be examined

once community grant requests are finalized following a joint meeting with the Municipality of Dufferin.

Council also gave first reading to a bylaw amending municipal water rates to reflect a pass-through increase from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative that was previously approved by the Public Utilities Board.

"There will be slight adjustments to the rate. The pass through only includes the amount of increase the PVWC was approved in the Public Utilities board order 140/22," Stein said. "The pass through increases the rates we purchase the water by .46 cents per 1000 gallons in 2026, \$1.00 in 2027, .95 cents in 2028, .87 cents in 2029 and .77 cents in 2030."

Members approved issuing a public tender for mowing and routine grounds maintenance services for municipal recreational spaces.

Council further approved extending its agreement with the Pembina Valley Humane Society to provide kennel services for stray animals for an annual donation of \$1,000.

Council also approved several reserve transfers as part of financial planning.

Other matters discussed included signage updates for Fisher's Trestle

Bridge, potential amendments to the town's unsightly property bylaw regarding large garbage bins, and a variance request for a Habitat for Humanity home.

"All variances and conditional uses are reviewed by the Carman Dufferin Planning District," Stein said. "The board recognizes the importance of maintaining consistent zoning regulations while also supporting initiatives that address community housing needs, including affordable housing projects such as those led by Habitat for Humanity. When variance requests are brought forward, they are reviewed through the established planning process to ensure they are reasonable, consistent with the intent of the zoning by-law, and appropriate for the surrounding neighbourhood."

Council also reviewed final specifications for a planned lift station project in the northwest corner of town.

"The project will support a 350-lot subdivision in the NW corner. Phase 2, 44 lots were subdivided in 2026 with single, duplex and one multi family lot. The lift station will provide service to these lots. Work should begin in spring/summer of 2026," Stein said.

## worship with us > FAITH

# Seeds of change

What a winter we have been having. I am not even sure if Mother Nature knows what is going on this winter. The temperatures have gone up and down. It has rained and then snowed. So, if I am getting confused by the weather, I wonder if all the trees and creatures are getting confused as well. This up and down in our weather pattern makes me wonder what spring and summer will mean for us and the farmers.

In the Bible we read many metaphors, one is the planting of seeds. Just as a tiny seed can become a mighty tree, we too can be agents of transformation and positive change in our world.

Jesus talked about the mustard seed, describing how the smallest seed can grow into a large and fruitful tree. This shows us how even the smallest actions we take, can bring about great change.

Planting seeds involves intentional acts of kindness, compassion, and justice. It means looking for opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. It may be a simple act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or a commitment to social justice that can take root and grow into a beautiful expression of God's love.

Yet, it is important for us to remember, as we make a difference in our communities and in this world, we are not alone. Our actions have a ripple effect that can continue. Much like a seed that multiplies and spreads, our acts of love and kindness have the potential to inspire others to do the same.

As we continue in the season of Lent, instead of giving up something, how can you be a seed of change, trusting that God is at work in and through us. May all of our efforts bring forth a bountiful harvest of love, compassion, and transformation in our community and beyond.

Pastor Trudy Thorarinson  
Grace - St. John's Anglican/  
Lutheran Church

# Roland renews garbage contract, appoints interim CAO

By Haley Cvar

Council for the Rural Municipality of Roland renewed its garbage and recycling contract, appointed an interim chief administrative officer and addressed several infrastructure matters during its Jan. 13 regular meeting.

Council renewed its curbside garbage and recycling collection agreement with Green Acres after both parties agreed to extend the contract.

Council also approved hiring Taxervice Inc. to manage tax

arrears recovery on the municipality's behalf for a three-year term. Under Manitoba's Municipal Act, municipalities must conduct annual tax recovery proceedings. Reeve Chris Klassen and councillor Taya O'Brien were authorized to sign the engagement letter on behalf of the municipality.

In staffing matters, council voted to offer the position of interim chief administrative officer to John Blatz, with contract terms to be confirmed.

Council also approved adding

Amber Klassen as a municipal signing authority.

Councillor Brent Hennan was appointed as the municipality's representative on the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation board for a two-year term beginning April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2028.

During the meeting, council gave second reading to By-law 2025-13 regarding a utility rate increase. The bylaw was amended to include a working capital contribution in the customer service charge, in accordance with guidelines from the Manitoba Public Utilities Board, and will be forwarded to the board for approval.

Public works reported replacing a sewage pump in lift station No. 1 at a cost of \$12,404 and installing a new flow meter at the Roland pumphouse for \$6,795 after the previous unit, nearly 45 years old, stopped providing accurate readings.

Crews also repaired water leaks in Roland and at a rural location in the municipality and completed winter maintenance, including snow clearing and street sanding.

Council also discussed hosting a Redboine Watershed District event scheduled for Feb. 23 from 6 to 8 p.m., which the municipality will help host and promote.

A building permit was approved for a 10-by-7.5-foot deck at 55 Second Street.

Council approved \$188,310.16 in municipal accounts and \$26,696.76 in payroll.

## Update: Squares arriving in large numbers



Staff

Organizers of the Blankets for Tumbler Ridge project say crocheted squares are now arriving in large numbers. Because of the volume, organizer Mary Marguerite Gee is asking contributors to send their packages with tracking to ensure they arrive safely. Anyone who does not receive confirmation is encouraged to contact Gee directly.

# Access CU named top employer for 12th year

By Lorne Stelmach

Access Credit Union has been recognized as one of Manitoba's top employers for a 12th year in a row.

The honour was announced by the editors and organizers of Canada's Top 100 Employers last week. Access CU chief executive officer Myrna Wiebe said it is recognition they value but also something they do not take for granted.

"It encourages us as an organization to keep doing better with our employees," she said. "It actually does keep us in check to make sure that we are doing the best for our employees."

Wiebe emphasized that Access strives to be an employer of choice by supporting engaged, highly competent employees who are inspired to achieve their personal best while reflecting their vision, priorities and values. They prioritize the wellness and satisfaction of their employees with benefits like paid training and continuing education, flexible hours and work locations, matched pen-

sion plans, competitive salaries, 100 per cent tuition subsidies, a fully paid health plan and family coverage, and the opportunity to contribute to the community.

The dedication, support and teamwork demonstrated daily by the employees is what supports the success and continued growth of the credit union, said Wiebe.

"We're proud of our employees' dedication to providing exceptional service to our members and clients and how well they represent Access both inside and outside the workplace," she said. "For myself, it gives me such pride. It just reflects a long term commitment that our employees have and that the organization has to our employees."

"It reinforces that as we invest in our employees, it just strengthens our entire organization. It confirms and affirms the positive impact that we want to have, that we intend to have and that we intentionally encourage our staff to have in the communities



SUPPLIED PHOTOS

Access Credit Union has been named one of Manitoba's top employers by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers. Right: CEO Myrna Wiebe says the honour is an encouragement for the organization.



that we serve," Wiebe added.

"Going through the process of the application, it brings to light some of the things that we can do better ... even though we have fantastic loyalty and dedication now, anything that we can do to encourage that, increase that and enhance that for our employees, that's what we want to do ... it keeps it forefront in our minds ... we need to continue to do better things to keep moving forward."

In addition to the top employer hon-

our, Access was also selected as one of Canada's best employers for recent grads as featured in The Career Directory 2026.

## Dufferin advances bridge project, approves recreation and heritage initiatives

By Haley Cvar

The Rural Municipality of Dufferin moved forward with several infrastructure, recreation and heritage initiatives during its regular council meeting Jan. 20 and a special meeting Feb. 10.

During the Jan. 20 meeting, council heard a presentation from members of the Carman Pickleball Club, who outlined the growing popularity of the sport in the community and shared information about the club's activities.

Council also approved accounts totalling \$616,631.30.

Among policy decisions, council approved hiring Taxervice Inc. to manage municipal tax arrears recovery proceedings on behalf of the municipality for a three-year term.

Council also adopted a revised util-

ity sewer connections policy, rescinding the previous version adopted in 2017. The updated policy will be administered alongside the municipality's sewer agreement with the Town of Carman. "The Sewer Connection policy was outdated and needed updating to reflex the current connections and align with the Waterline Connection Policy. We have yet to install sewer lines into the RM, so this will be the first project, planning for 2026," said chief administrative officer Sharla Murray.

Council further approved a 2026 sewer service agreement with the Town of Carman to provide sewer services to portions of the RM east of the town along Provincial Trunk Highway 3.

Recreation initiatives were also discussed. Council approved a request from a volunteer basketball committee to move forward with plans to develop an outdoor basketball court at Kings Park on the site of the existing skate

park.

Council also approved a \$2,500 donation to support the Roseisle Rose Garden through the municipality's third-party donation policy.

Heritage preservation was another topic of discussion. Council approved a storage expansion project for the Dufferin Historical Museum, consisting of an addition to the west side behind the existing building. The approval includes a condition that the new addition match or complement the existing building's exterior materials and colour, or that the entire building be re clad to achieve a uniform appearance.

"Our current museum space is full and we do not have room to display everything we currently have. We are always being offered new items for the museum and we want to be able to accept them," said Lori Keith, vice-president of the Dufferin Historical Museum.

"The new storage space will provide us with room to store larger items, display cabinets or shelving units so that we can rotate items between storage and display areas. At the moment, we have rented storage space off site which is not very convenient."

Council also appointed Richard Dyck to serve as a director on the

Boundary Trails Health Centre board for a two-year term from January 2026 to December 2027.

Council approved subdivision applications from William and Noreen Grindell and Wilhelm Bergen.

Council also approved Way-To-Go Consulting to provide post-election orientation for council following the 2026 municipal election at a cost of \$1,929 plus taxes.

Chief administrative officer Sharla Murray was appointed the municipality's senior election official for upcoming municipal elections.

Council also approved a surface drainage proposal from Andrew Fanzago.

At a special council meeting Feb. 10, council focused primarily on infrastructure and capital project decisions.

Council awarded the tender for the McEachern Bridge replacement project to Samson Developments Inc. in the amount of \$1,138,233.73, the lowest of four bids received.

Council also waived the requirement for a 50 per cent labour and material payment bond for the project.

In another capital project decision, council approved posting a public tender for the Carman-Dufferin Fire Hall addition and renovation project.

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# 58th annual Lundar Bull Sale set for April 4

By E. Antonio

The Lundar Bull Sale has long been a tradition for cattle producers in Manitoba's Interlake and beyond. Now entering its 58th year, the annual sale returns to the Lundar Agri-Ed Centre on Saturday, April 4, bringing together breeders, buyers and community members for another year of livestock and fellowship.

Lundar Bull Sale president Jack Cruise said he is looking forward to welcoming producers back for the long-running event, which features a variety of breeds.

Cruise recalls attending some of the earliest sales with his father, who was among the event's founders. For him, the sale's longevity speaks to the strength of the region's cattle community.

"We have a good reputation and we strive to maintain that," Cruise said. "We have managed to be successful year after year, and people come from all over the province to buy our cattle — it's a good place to be."

Over the years, the sale has become more than just a marketplace. Cruise said it has also become an annual opportunity for producers to reconnect with friends and neighbours.

"There are several generations of repeat buyers," he added. "It always brings back memories of those who have come and gone. There are people who have been involved with the sale since it started — whether as a buyer, contributor or organizer — and while the sale itself is a big component, the



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Lundar All Breeds Bull Sale starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, in the Lundar Agri-Ed Centre. 2024 highest-selling bull, Level Up.

chance to reconnect and reminisce is another important part of the day."

Cruise said he is proud of the reputation the sale has built and hopes producers will continue to support the event for years to come.

While the core of the sale has remained largely unchanged over the decades, the range of breeds available has expanded. In the early years, the sale primarily featured Hereford, Angus and Shorthorn cattle. Today, buyers can choose from a wider selection of breeds that have been introduced to Manitoba over time.

This year's lineup includes 13 Hereford bulls, 13 Simmental bulls, seven Charolais bulls, four Angus bulls, three Limousin bulls and one Shorthorn bull. In addition, two Hereford heifers, two Charolais heifers and five

pens of three commercial heifers will be available.

Cruise said keeping the sale local is important for Interlake producers.

"A lot of people like that they can come close to home and still find good cattle," he noted.

Behind the scenes, he added, a great deal of work goes into organizing the event each year. Cruise said the sale would not be possible without the support of the board of directors and the community.

Viewing of the cattle will begin

at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 3, both in person at the Lundar Agri-Ed Centre and online at [www.buyagro.com](http://www.buyagro.com).

Admission to the sale is free and everyone is welcome to attend. A pre-sale lunch will be available starting at noon on sale day, offering a light and social lead-in to the one-hour sale beginning at 1 p.m.

For more information about the Lundar Bull Sale, contact Cruise at 204-739-3645.

## The way it was this week in March 19

By Dennis Young

**100 Years Ago, 1926...** Tobacco Creek lads practise for game vs. Carman with crooked tree boughs and on ditches; carload of Fords arrives for R.H. Porter Co.; council appoints John Bodie as constable and weed inspector; Carman Tennis Assoc. holds dance with prizes for waltz and foxtrot; newly formed Carman Athletic Assoc. asks that all sports be managed by them; Roseisle's A.P. Loyns wins first in three barley classes at Brandon Fair.

**75 Years Ago, 1951...** Pegg's Plumbing & Heating opens in former Carmania building; YMS hosts Seed Grain Fair and Bacon Show at Memorial Hall; Ladies Curling Club elects Alice Skelton president;

Armitage & Loepky promote "the Mighty Beautiful 1951 Mercury"; Easter flowers available at Strachan Seed Co.; "Yes, you can have tap water" with a pressure system by Carman Plumbing & Heating; 85% lean ground beef at Safeway is 59¢/lb; goalie Norm Langston leaves game after being cut on the head vs. St. Charles team.

**50 Years Ago, 1976...** Carduff Farm Service gets 120,000 storage tank; Skelton Hardware starts closing sale; Reid Hodgson, Glen McIntosh and Warren Johnston named to Zone 4 all-star teams; due to Ed Manteufel's dismissal, Collegiate band dates are cancelled; ringette gaining popularity in Manitoba; Carman Frosted Foods opens new facility; Mi-

ami Collegiate approved for additional space; Chimo offers RTM homes; Isabell Park foursome heads to P.E.I. for Senior Curling Nationals.

**25 Years Ago, 2001...** Fiddle Festival committee wants hall renovated as Active Living Centre; CBC building set for demolition; Snow Valley owner Don Gill proposes motocross on his hills; SEMHL celebrates its 50th anniversary with reunion in Morden; bingo at Catholic Church ends after 37 years; Wayne Hutchison is your financial advisor at CIBC; Parkland Floor & Interiors sells laminate at \$1.99/sq. ft.; 191 posters and 105 literary entries at Legion contest; town shows profit of \$2,423.13 in 2000.

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3. The proposed dates of application for this program will be from April 15, 2026 to October 31, 2026.

The public may send written submissions or objections within 15 days of the publication of the notice to the department below.

Manitoba Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard, Winnipeg MB R3Y 0L6  
[pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca)



# Carman scouts tackle challenges at annual Klondike Rally

By Annaliese Meier

Young members of the Carman Beavers, Cubs and Scouts recently tested their outdoor skills and teamwork while competing in the 54th annual Klondike Rally at Camp Amisk near Winnipeg.

Inspired by the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896, the annual event challenges youth to traverse a snowy trail through the bush while pulling a sled loaded with gear — much like prospectors travelling north during the historic gold rush.

“The Klondike is an annual event inspired by the Klondike Gold Rush,” said Scouter Eric with the 1st Carman Beavers, Cubs and Scouts group. “Youth traverse a trail through deep snow in the bush while pulling a sled full of equipment needed to complete various tasks along the way.”

The rally is held over two days, with Scouts and Pathfinders aged 11 to 13 competing on Saturday, while younger participants — including Cubs and Girl Guides aged seven to 10 — take part on Sunday.

This year’s event featured 21 teams in the Scouts and Pathfinders division and 28 teams in the Cubs and Girl Guides category.

Along the trail, teams stopped at up to 10 different “towns,” each presenting a challenge themed around scouting skills and the Gold Rush era.

“When the youth arrive at a town, they’re given a scenario describing the challenge they have to solve,” Eric said. “For example, they might be told the water is rising and they need to keep their gear above water.”

In that scenario, teams had to determine how to suspend their sled and equipment off the ground.

Challenges were timed, and teams earned points based on how quickly they completed the task and how well

they worked together.

This year’s activities included crossing a rope bridge suspended over a valley while carrying all their gear, competing in a snowshoe relay race, building a fire high enough to burn a rope using only one match, cooking a hot lunch, completing a memory challenge and constructing a flagpole more than 10 feet tall.

Teams were also challenged to suspend their sled off the ground and transport “dynamite” buckets without touching the containers with their hands — a task Eric said proved to be one of the most difficult.

“Overall, the group did well,” he said. “The biggest challenge was figuring out a way to move the dynamite buckets without touching them.”

While the event includes competition, Eric said the focus remains on teamwork and fun.

“The main purpose of the event is to have fun but also work on team building, as that is a central theme,” he said.

For many members of the Carman group, the rally marked their first time participating.

“Our group has grown dramatically this year, which has been great, but it also means many of the youth are experiencing events like this for the first time,” he said. “I believe the kids really enjoyed the opportunity to compete.”

The local scouting program continues to welcome new members. Programs are available for youth ages five to 18, and participants come from communities across southwestern Manitoba.

Families interested in joining can find the group on Facebook at 1st Carman Beavers Cubs and Scouts or register through [myscouts.ca](http://myscouts.ca) by entering postal code R0G 0J0.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Members of the 1st Carman Beavers, Cubs and Scouts test their skills during the 54th annual Klondike Rally at Camp Amisk near Winnipeg. Teams completed a variety of challenges, including crossing a suspended rope bridge with their gear, building a fire to burn a rope using only one match and suspending their sled off the ground.



# Boyne River Voices hosting Spring Variety Show April 1



STANDARD PHOTO BY BEV MACLEAN

The Boyne River Voices choir will present a Spring Variety Show on Wednesday, April 1 at 1:30 p.m. at the Active Living Centre in Carman. The afternoon performance will feature a variety of musical selections by the local choir, directed by Audrey Myers. Admission is by donation, and cookies and tea will be served following the program.

## Hensall Co-op launches \$10,000 strong communities initiative grant

By Annaliese Meier

Hensall Co-op is inviting community organizations to apply for a new funding opportunity aimed at strengthening rural communities.

The farmer-owned co-operative has announced the launch of its 2026 Strong Communities Initiative, which will award a one-time \$10,000 grant to support a community project within its trading area.

The initiative is intended to fund projects that address a significant community need while creating a lasting and measurable impact. Hensall Co-op says strong rural communities are essential to a thriving agricultural sector, and the program reflects the organization's commitment to supporting those communities.

Priority will be given to projects focused on community health and healthy living, areas identified as important by the co-op's employees.

Eligible applicants must be Canadian community-based not-for-profit organizations located within the Hensall Co-op trading area that serve the broader community. The funding is intended for projects with long-term benefits rather than regular operational costs.

Projects must demonstrate a clear

and measurable benefit, address a meaningful community need and show that the organization has the capacity to sustain the initiative through completion.

Additional eligibility requirements include being registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a charity, maintaining a bank account in the organization's name and having operated for at least 12 months.

Organizations that have not received a large-scale sponsorship or donation from Hensall Co-op within the past five years will also receive priority consideration.

Applications for the 2026 Strong Communities Initiative are open now, with a deadline of May 31.

Full eligibility details and the application form are available on the Hensall Co-op website.

## Slippery morning commute



STANDARD PHOTO BY LANA MEIER

Traffic moved at reduced speeds along Hwy. 3 between Winnipeg and Carman on Friday morning as icy road conditions and blowing snow made travel hazardous. Vehicles crept bumper-to-bumper for stretches of the highway while drivers navigated slick surfaces and reduced visibility caused by the winter weather system affecting much of southern Manitoba, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada weather reports.

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For our rural entrepreneurs, a sale is never just a transaction; it's the engine of the local economy. When you buy garden seeds from the local hardware store, tires from the corner garage, or a coffee from the café, your money doesn't disappear into a distant corporate headquarters. Instead, it stays here, circulating through our schools, hockey rinks, and community halls.

"Every time a neighbor walks through my door, it's a vote of confidence in our town's future," says one local shop owner. "That support allows us to sponsor ball teams and provide first jobs for the students down the road."

Statistics show that for every \$100 spent locally, roughly \$68 stays in the community, compared to less than \$45 at big-box retailers. In rural Manitoba, that difference is the lifeline that prevents "Main Street" from becoming a memory. These businesses are owned by the peo-

ple who sit next to you in the pews and cheer alongside you at the rink.

In return for this loyalty, our business community is doubling down on service. From staying open late for a producer preparing for seeding to sourcing specific parts for a backyard project, the "local advantage" is built on relationships an algorithm can't replicate. Our merchants understand that spring is a race against the clock; they ensure you have what you need without the long drive to the city.

Choosing local is vital during this seasonal shift. Your decision to shop around the corner provides the stability these businesses need to weather the year. It ensures that when you need expert advice or a quick fix during the spring rush, your neighbors are there to help. This symbiotic relationship is the foundation of our rural resilience. When we support the shops in our own backyard, we aren't just consumers; we are partners in a shared future. Each purchase helps a local family pay for ballet lessons, keeps a storefront window brightly lit, and ensures that our small-town charm isn't lost to the convenience of a click.

As we look toward the planting season, "Shop Local" remains an act of rural pride. By choosing the shop around the corner, you aren't just buying a product—you are investing in the neighbor who owns it. To the customers who continue to choose local: our businesses thank you. You are the reason our towns remain vibrant and ready for the season ahead.

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# Carman hosts 'Grow the Game' girls hockey event



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The "Grow the Game: Female Hockey" event will take place March 21 at the Carman-Dufferin Arena, where about 30 girls aged five to nine from Carman and surrounding communities will try hockey with help from female AA and AAA players from the Pembina Valley.

By Lana Meier

Young girls from across the region will be lacing up their skates in Carman next weekend as a new initiative aims to spark interest in female hockey.

On Saturday, March 21, the Carman-Dufferin Arena will host a "Grow the Game: Female Hockey" try-it event for girls aged five to nine from communities including Carman, Miami, Sperling, Roseisle and Elm Creek.

Organizer Lisa Dreger said about 30 girls have already registered for the free event, which will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is designed to introduce newcomers to the sport in a fun, welcoming environment.

The idea was spearheaded by Stephanie McCullough, who wanted to bring Carman into the growing movement supporting girls' hockey across Manitoba.

"Many other towns are seeing an incredible boom in female hockey, and

Carman wants to be a part of it," said Dreger.

The event will feature help from a strong team of volunteers and local sponsors, with on-ice instruction provided by players currently competing at the AA and AAA levels in the Pembina Valley.

Organizers say the day is meant to celebrate women in sport while giving young girls a chance to try hockey with encouragement from experienced female players.

"It's truly a women-in-sport event," organizers said. "It's going to be really cool."

Families interested in learning more about the program or future initiatives can follow the group on Instagram under @growthegamecarman, where organizers share information about the event and promote female hockey and women's sports in the community.

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# ECES students host their own Olympic Games

By Lana Meier

Students and staff at École Carman Elementary School held their own Olympic Games on Feb. 26 and 27, featuring two days of themed activities and friendly competition.

The opening ceremonies began with students gathering in the school gym, sitting with their classmates while waving flags representing their class countries. Principal Mr. Beaudry delivered opening remarks before a parade of flags, with flag bearers from each class marching down the centre aisle carrying their class flag.

Grade 5 students then took part in the ceremony by reciting the Olympic motto and creed, explaining the meaning of the Olympic rings, and sharing the Oath of the Athletes.

Special guest Colleen Zacharias — who carried the Olympic torch through Carman ahead of the 2010 Winter Olympics — spoke about her experience participating in the official torch relay. Following her remarks, Zacharias helped begin the school's torch run. When the torches reached the cauldron, two students lit it together, signifying the official opening of the school's Olympic Games. Beaudry then declared the games officially open.

Students later gathered in team groups to begin their Olympic events. Activities included hockey, luge, bobsled, snowshoeing, biathlon, curling, figure skating, speed skating, skiing and Indigenous Games, with students participating in four events each day.

Due to weather conditions on Friday, the closing ceremonies were postponed until Monday.



Before the ceremony, each student received a custom-made medal to wear and keep. The school community gathered in the gym to watch a compilation video highlighting moments from the two-day event before the Olympic flame was extinguished to officially conclude the games.



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Two students light the Olympic cauldron together during the opening ceremonies of École Carman Elementary School's Olympic Games on Feb. 26 in Carman. The lighting of the cauldron marked the official start of the two-day event, which featured a variety of winter-themed activities and friendly competition for students throughout the school.



# Carman preparing for provincial Communities in Bloom evaluation

Carman preparing for provincial Communities in Bloom evaluation  
By Lana Meier

Carman-Dufferin Communities in Bloom is preparing to showcase the community on a provincial stage as the organization moves forward with plans to enter the Manitoba Communities in Bloom evaluation in 2026.

The program sees communities assessed by a panel of provincial judges using six key criteria: community appearance, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, landscaped areas and plant and floral displays. Communities receive a "Bloom" rating based on their overall evaluation.

Although judging will not take place until the summer of 2026, organizers say early preparation will be key to presenting Carman at its best.

Lee Collingridge, media representative for the Carman-Dufferin Communities in Bloom initiative, said the committee believes the timing is right for the community to participate in the provincial evaluation.

"After many discussions, our long-time volunteers Susan Mooney and Terry Gosnell, along with the executive and members of Communities in Bloom, concluded that 2026 is the time for Carman to shine," Collingridge said.

Sub-committees have already been formed to focus on each of the six evaluation categories and to help coordinate projects leading up to the judges' visit next summer.

The Manitoba Communities in Bloom program highlights community pride, environmental responsibility and beautification while recognizing the work of volunteers, organizations, businesses and municipal partners.

The provincial Communities in Bloom theme for 2026 is Therapeutic Gardening, which focuses on restorative green spaces and the positive impacts gardens can have on health and well-being.



Colourful planters installed throughout Carman in 2025 helped brighten the community's streets and public spaces. Floral displays like these are one of the elements Communities in Bloom judges will consider when evaluating Carman during the 2026 Manitoba Communities in Bloom program.

As part of the evaluation process, Carman Communities in Bloom will also create a Community Profile Book, which provides judges with a snapshot of the community and highlights achievements related to the six criteria.

"This document will showcase Carman and can also serve as an economic development tool promoting the community to visitors, sponsors and potential volunteers," Collingridge said. "It can be used by the Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall, the library and others to highlight what Carman has to offer."

Preparing for the evaluation will require strong community participation. The organization must submit a \$500 entry fee and host a one-day judges' tour in July or August, which includes providing transportation, meals and lodging for the judges.

Volunteers will also be needed at several locations throughout Carman during the judges' visit, with local organizations, youth



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Members of the Carman-Dufferin Communities in Bloom committee gathered recently as planning continues for Carman's participation in the 2026 Manitoba Communities in Bloom provincial evaluation. Volunteers are organizing projects and preparing community initiatives that will highlight Carman's appearance, environmental efforts, heritage conservation and floral displays when judges visit next summer.

groups and businesses encouraged to take part.

Collingridge said Carman already has strong floral displays and tree planting initiatives, but the evaluation also provides an opportunity to strengthen efforts in areas such as environmental stewardship and heritage preservation.

"Carman is well positioned to show off its strengths and beauty," she said. "But we will need support from residents, businesses, organizations and volunteers to help showcase everything our community has to offer."

Communities in Bloom members say they are excited to begin the process and will continue sharing updates as planning pro-

gresses. Residents are encouraged to get involved through clean-up efforts, beautification projects and other initiatives that highlight Carman's parks, heritage and green spaces.



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# Your FARM



## St. Claude bison ranch earns prestigious industry honour

By E. Antonio

Central Plains Bison Inc., a bison farm located in St. Claude, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Bill Lenton Memorial Award by the Manitoba Bison Association, recognizing the operation's dedication, commitment and service within the bison farming industry.

Bobbie Earle and Jamie McInnes own the farm after McInnes realized he wanted to work in agriculture but wanted to pursue something different. He began researching bison ranching and established Central Plains Bison in 2000.

Now a side venture — with Earle working as a teacher and McInnes as a welder — the pair have grown their meat business over the years, selling products at markets across Manitoba. In 2020, they introduced an online store and began offering curbside deliveries. Since 2024, their focus has shifted entirely to online orders, with curbside and ranch pickup available for customers. They currently have approximately 250 bison on their farm.

"The bison industry is currently strong and the demand for meat products has never been better," Earle said. "We have fallen in love with the animals and consider it a blessing to

be able to look out our kitchen window and see them in our backyard."

She added that bison are easy to care for, calve easily and rarely require medical intervention. They are also able to withstand Manitoba winters. Their ease of care is what drew Earle and McInnes to bison farming.

"Farming is becoming increasingly difficult, especially for first-generation farmers, with elevated land prices and constantly increasing costs for inputs, equipment and fuel," Earle noted. "Bison farming is more of a hobby for us, as we enjoy giving the animals the best life possible while they are here with us."

Describing bison farming as more "mainstream" now than it was 25 years ago, the pair say they are proud to have helped raise awareness of the industry by putting meat on thousands of people's plates. They ensure their operations run as smoothly as possible by improving infrastructure when needed, maintaining the animals as nature intended, and providing top-quality food and clean drinking water.

"For 26 years, we have dealt with the highs and the lows of the agriculture industry," Earle said. "We both work off the farm to make ends meet and somehow we have made it hap-



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Central Plains Bison of St. Claude, received the Bill Lenton Memorial Award from the Manitoba Bison Association at the No Borders Bison Show, Sale and Convention in Yorkton Sask. Feb. 20-22. Pictured, from left: MBA vice-president Bridie Ritchie, director Nolan Miller, and Central Plains Bison owners Bobbie Earle and Jamie McInnes.

pen every year. We put in the work with early mornings, late nights and weekends — whatever it takes. We work great as a team and are proud of how far we have come."

Their most recent milestone, they say, is receiving the Bill Lenton Memorial Award — something that came as a total surprise.

"To be acknowledged by a group of producers who have been leaders in the industry is such an honour. The trophy holds the names of significant bison producers in Manitoba, and to be given that same honour feels amazing."

Bill Lenton was one of the earliest commercial bison ranchers in Manitoba and is described as a "driving force" for provincial and national bison associations, helping open the gate to international bison shipping. Earle and McInnes even purchased their squeeze chute and two original breeding bulls from Lenton's ranch.

The award was presented to Central Plains Bison in Yorkton, Sask., at the Manitoba Bison Association (MBA)

and Saskatchewan Bison Association No Borders Bison Show, Sale and Convention after being nominated by MBA board members. While Earle is the current MBA president and has served on the board since 2019, director Nolan Miller and vice-president Bridie Ritchie presented the award and said that because of Central Plains Bison's dedication to the industry, the operation was more than deserving of the honour.

"They volunteer endless hours for the association and the bison industry, from promoting bison meat through their online off-farm marketing to volunteering on the Manitoba Bison Association board of directors and managing the association's website," Miller said. "Not to mention all the organizing of the MBA's events."

Ritchie added that Earle stepping up as president came during a time of need.

"We are a close-knit association and she brings a plate full of great ideas, organization and care," she said.

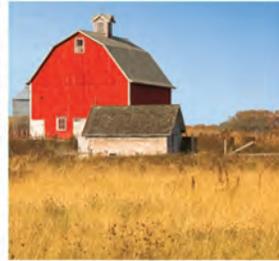
Continued on page 15

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# Your FARM



Earle's and McInnes' three daughter look out into their bison ranch.

## > BISON RANCH, FROM PG. 14

"Winning this award means you are recognized not only by the association, but by your friends — it comes from the heart."

Earle hopes that if Lenton were here today, he would notice the grit, determination and love they have for bison.

They are grateful for the support they have received from the bison ranching community throughout the years, noting they are "like family."

"The list of people who have walked beside us would be very long, but they know who they are," Earle added.

Looking ahead, they hope their daughters will one day take over the operation. Their eldest daughter, nine, has already expressed interest, according to Earle.

"To see it passed down to the next generation would be something we would be very proud of."



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Viewing: March 23rd -26th from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: March 26th, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on April 1, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Thursday, April 2nd & Friday April 3 from 9 AM to 5 PM



### MARCH ONSITE Week 2 Consignment Sale

Viewing: March 16-19 from 9 AM to 5PM. Bidding starts: March 19, 2026 at 9:00AM. Lots start closing on March 26, 2026 at 10:00AM. Pick up days: Friday, March 27th & Saturday March 28th from 9 AM to 5 PM



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# get inspired

> MEAL IDEAS



## Caprese Skewers

Recipe courtesy of The Produce Moms

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Yield: 12 skewers  
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning  
1/3 teaspoon cracked red pepper flakes  
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt  
12 mozzarella balls, drained and patted dry  
24 ounces NatureSweet Constellation

tomatoes  
24 small fresh basil leaves  
1/4 cup balsamic glaze (optional)  
In small bowl, whisk olive oil, Italian seasoning, cracked red pepper flakes, garlic powder and salt.  
Add mozzarella balls. Gently toss to coat. For best flavor, marinate in fridge overnight.  
To assemble skewers: Thread tomato, folded basil leaf, marinated mozzarella ball, another folded basil leaf and another tomato. Repeat to make 12 skewers. Place on serving platter. If desired, drizzle balsamic glaze over skewers on serving platter.



## Bruschetta Bagels

Prep time: 1 hour, 20 minutes  
Yield: 8 bagels  
Bagels:  
1 packet dry yeast  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 1/4 cups lukewarm water, divided  
3 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
sesame seeds  
Bruschetta:  
2 cups NatureSweet Glorys cherry tomatoes  
1/4 cup olive oil  
2 cloves garlic  
1/2 cup basil  
Topping:  
1 cup goat cheese  
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
To make bagels: In bowl, mix yeast, sugar and 1/2 cup lukewarm water; let rest 5 minutes.

In separate large bowl, place flour and add yeast mixture, remaining lukewarm water and salt. Mix thoroughly with hands until homogenous mixture is obtained. Transfer to greased bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise 1 hour.

Once dough rises, place on flat surface and divide into eight equal parts. Form small dough balls and, using finger, make hole in center of each to form bagels. Place on baking sheet, cover with kitchen towel and let rise 15 minutes.

Preheat oven to 390 F.  
In pot of hot water over medium heat, cook each bagel 5 seconds, making sure they do not stick to each other. Remove from water and drain thoroughly. Place on parchment paper-lined plate, sprinkle with sesame seeds and bake 25 minutes.

To make bruschetta: On cutting board, use knife to cut tomatoes in half. Transfer to bowl; add olive oil, garlic and basil then mix. Set aside.

To make topping and serve: Cut bagels in half, place on cutting board and use knife to spread goat cheese on each bagel half. Add bruschetta and drops of balsamic vinegar then sprinkle with salt and pepper, to taste.

# Expert patient here to help!



Susie Schwartz

By Susie Schwartz

Some of us have multi-layered chronic health issues, while others face complicated acute problems such as rare diseases or lesser-understood cancers. These conditions are exhausting. But if you can — or if you have a friend or family member who can help — try not to give up on doing your own research.

Our healthcare systems are broken. That's why we have to do everything we can to help ourselves. So what am I saying?

There is hope. Sometimes, though, we have to find the answers for ourselves. Maybe there's a treatment out there that isn't widely known and won't be suggested, but if we ask for it, our doctors may try it. Or maybe our symptoms seem random and no one is connecting the dots. Do they even connect? Sometimes, through our own research, we can find out and make changes that matter.

I follow Kate C. Bowler online. She is a New York Times bestselling author (from Winnipeg!) living in the U.S. If I remember correctly, when she was diagnosed with cancer and given a short timeline to live, she — along with some friends — started researching. She found out that the

trial the doctors had offered her was more about gathering information to benefit the sponsoring pharmaceutical company and less about actually saving her life. Through her research and discussions with her doctors, they found a different path, and she is still alive years later (and has written three or four books since).

On a more personal front, both Don and I are always searching for answers to the puzzle of my body. Some of it leads nowhere, but because of our research I now know I have gluten, dairy and histamine intolerances, and that a high-FOD-MAP diet contributes to my symptoms. Because I kept pushing to find out if MS was at play (it's not — but Myalgic Encephalomyelitis is, and the two are very similar), we discovered my spinal stenosis, and surgery radically helped some of my symptoms. Right now, we're considering buying an infrared system because many people find it helps with pain. We'll see if it helps, but it's worth trying.

Staying on top of our own research has helped us discover what is newly available, what hasn't been widely studied but people find helpful, and it also keeps us in the loop about upcoming technologies and medications that may help. Sometimes we've heard of treatments before my doctors have, and they are eager to prescribe them when asked.

Yes, there's hope. But we have to be our own detectives.  
Now go... get researching. I believe in you!

Less health stress, yes?  
A published author and musician, Susie currently lives in the U.K. Find her on Instagram @authorsusieschwartz and at [www.lesshealthstress.com](http://www.lesshealthstress.com). Email: [info@lesshealthstress.com](mailto:info@lesshealthstress.com). She is the author of *Help the Doctor Help You: 41 Secrets and Tips for Self-Advocacy to Get the Best from Your Appointments*.



## Watermelon Agua Fresca

2 cups fresh watermelon, cubed  
1 ounce fresh lime juice  
1/2 ounce agave syrup (optional)  
1/2 cup cold water  
ice

Rim:  
Tajín Chamoy Sauce  
Tajín Clásico Seasoning

Garnish:  
lime slice  
watermelon slice  
Dip glass into Tajín Chamoy Sauce then into Tajín Clásico Seasoning.

In blender, blend fresh watermelon cubes; lime juice; agave syrup, if using; and cold water until smooth and well combined.

Fill prepared glass with ice and pour watermelon mixture into glass.

Sprinkle with pinch of classic seasoning on top.

Garnish with lime slice and watermelon slice.

## Spicy Jalapeno Margarita

2 slices fresh jalapeno  
1 ounce fresh lime juice  
2 ounces blanco tequila  
1 ounce orange liqueur  
1/2 ounces agave syrup  
ice



Rim:  
Tajín Chile Lime Sauce  
Tajín Clásico Seasoning  
lime wedge

Garnish:  
jalapeno slice or lime wheel  
To rim glass, brush Tajín Chile Lime Sauce on side of glass then dip into Tajín Clásico Seasoning to coat. Set aside.

In shaker, muddle jalapeno slices with lime juice to release heat and flavor. Add tequila, orange liqueur and agave syrup. Fill with ice and shake vigorously 10-15 seconds. Fill prepared glass with ice and strain margarita into glass. Garnish with lime wedge and jalapeno slice.

# Prairie Singers take the stage Saturday

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Prairie Singers wrap up another season of singing with two concerts in Winkler this weekend.

The choir, made up of 42 vocalists from across southern Manitoba, take the stage at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church (750 15th St.) at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Tickets are available from choir members in advance or at the door for \$15 per adult and \$5 per student. Kids under five get in for free.

"I think this is now going on our third year of doing two concerts on the same day," shared conductor Rick Heppner-Mueller. "It's been well received."

This year's show theme is *This Finely*

*Woven Earth*, which Heppner-Mueller explains highlights how connected we all are in this life.

"We ourselves are interconnected, and it just kind of explores that theme of life and all the things that make up life," he said. "And also the sense of community, the sense of how do we go about our lives knowing we're so tightly woven together?"

"So we're focusing on acts of kindness and looking at the beauty in the world. Through music we explore all those different themes."

The song list is about as varied as it can be, ranging from a 500-year-old song in Latin to pieces in Tagalog and Russian to a few selections by Paul Simon and Bob Dylan.



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Prairie Singers close out their season in Winkler this Saturday with two shows.

"The feedback we get from our singers is that they like that variety," Heppner-Mueller said.

The Prairie Singers are an auditioned community choir for adults looking for another venue in which to grow and share their love of choral music.

"We do audition our singers just to make sure that they can handle the level of repertoire that we sing," noted Heppner-Mueller. "We try to pick music that challenges the group, be-

cause that's what they're looking for."

Their season of rehearsals begin each year in January and end with a spring concert.

"We rehearse basically once a week, every Tuesday," Heppner-Mueller explained. "It's sort of a compressed season, which allows the singers to be able to commit to a shorter timeline. It works well for us."

You can learn more about the choir online at [prairiesingers.ca](http://prairiesingers.ca) or check out this weekend's concerts.

# Young Métis trailblazer named Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child

By Annaliese Meier

Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba has announced eight-year-old Ireland Gault as Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child — a role that will see the young Métis ambassador represent the more than 140,000 children who rely on HSC Children's Hospital each year.

The moment was especially meaningful for Ireland's family and friends, who gathered to cheer her on — a celebration made possible by a life-changing surgery she received as an infant.

Born in March 2017 to Courtney and Will Gault, Ireland appeared to be a healthy baby. But as part of Manitoba's universal newborn hearing screening program, she did not pass her initial hearing test. Further assessments revealed she had profound hearing loss in both ears.

"There were so many unknowns, and we were very scared for Ireland's future," said her mother, Courtney.

At just 10 months old, Ireland became the youngest person in Manitoba to undergo bilateral cochlear implant surgery. The procedure, performed at HSC Children's Hospital, allowed her access to sound during a critical stage of brain development.

"You're letting go of your baby and trusting the process," said her father, Will. "We're grateful that she was able to receive this miraculous surgery in such a warm and welcoming environment."

After a month of healing, Ireland's implants — which she proudly calls her "ears" — were activated. For the first time, she heard her parents' voices.

"The Children's Hospital gave our daughter life-changing surgery and the ultimate gift of hearing," Courtney said. "We went around the house turning on the water so she could hear it. We went outside to listen to the birds."

Today, Ireland is an energetic Grade 3 student who loves gymnastics, singing and cheerleading. She is also a devoted big sister to Taylor. While she sometimes faces challenges hearing in busy envi-



Ireland Gault as a baby after becoming the first infant in Manitoba to receive bilateral cochlear implants.

ronments, her implants have enabled her to develop speech and language skills alongside her peers.

Her early surgery has also helped change the standard of care in Manitoba. Since Ireland's procedure in 2018, doctors at HSC Children's Hospital have performed cochlear implant surgery on more than 80 children, with 12 of those procedures completed before the child's first birthday. Previously, children typically received implants around 18 months of age.

"Our current treatment timeline for children identified with deafness at birth is to have them all implanted well before their first birthday," said Dr. Darren Leitao, a pediatric otolaryngologist. "Starting with Ireland, we give children almost double the head start of listening and language at very critical times in brain development."

As Manitoba's Champion Child, Ireland will serve as an ambassador through the Champion program affiliated with Canada's Children's Hospital Foundations and Children's Miracle Network. She and her family will attend events throughout the year to raise funds and awareness for Manitoba's only chil-



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Ireland Gault, now eight, has been named Manitoba's 2026 Champion Child and will help raise awareness and support for the children who rely on HSC Children's Hospital each year.

dren's hospital and child health research initiatives.

"We are so excited to welcome Ireland to represent the 140,000 kids who need HSC Children's Hospital each year," said Stefano Grande, president and CEO of the Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba. "Ireland and her family are already making an impact, sharing their story to raise funds and awareness."

Ireland's family has marked her annual "hearing anniversary" by hosting fundraisers through Will's business, Willy Dogs, in support of the foundation.

For Ireland, the message she hopes to share is simple: "Please help kids like me."

# Flashback: Carman's Ready-to-Move homes once shipped across North America

By Dennis Young

During the 1950s and 1960s, prefabricated homes, also known as Ready-To-Move (RTM) houses, experienced renewed popularity as an effective solution to the post-Second World War housing shortage. Numerous companies began manufacturing and promoting these homes as cost-effective alternatives to conventional housing, with Carman supporting several entities that became industry pioneers.

The RTM sector in Carman began modestly in 1951 but expanded rapidly; by 1957, five contractors were actively involved to varying extents. Frank Giesbrecht led the initiative, followed by Jack Ross, Jake Reimer, Tom Watson and Pete Giesbrecht's Town and Country. In total, 90 homes were relocated in 1957 alone — Ross accounted for 31 of these sales — with a combined value of \$550,000 (equivalent to approximately \$5.8 million today).

Building multiple houses concurrently on a single site allowed contractors to extend substantial savings to buyers. Once constructed at the contractor's facilities, the homes were transported directly to prepared foundations across Canada and, notably, into the United States.

Several factors made this business model especially attractive to the American market: Manitoba's average wage of \$1 per hour was significantly lower than the U.S. average of \$2.50, there was a skilled labour shortage in the United States, and proximity to lumber yards in Carman further reduced costs. Consequently, it was often more economical for U.S. buyers to have their homes built in Carman and shipped south.

The price range for these homes varied between \$3,000 and \$16,000 (about \$185,000 today), depending on the size and chosen amenities such as flooring and paint. Clients reported savings of up to \$2,000 (approximately \$17,000 today) through this approach. Contractors took pride in the durability of their construction, as evidenced by minimal repair requirements following relocation managed by Harms the Movers.

Local businesses excelled in attracting American investment to Carman. Despite the significant economic impact — providing employment for more than 60 individuals and supporting related trades — the local importance of the RTM industry was often overlooked due to its gradual expansion.

**Sidings:** In 1956, Jake Reimer delivered what he referred to as "the grandpappy of them all" to Inkster, North Dakota. This residence spanned 2,000 square feet, weighed 50 tons, measured 60 by 58 feet in an L-shape, required transport in two sections and necessitated the temporary removal of road signs along the 170-mile route. The project cost \$22,000 (approximately \$254,000 today).

**Sidings:** A notable year for new construction occurred in 1960, with projects totaling \$662,000 in value (about \$7.3 million today). This included commercial buildings (Co-op store, Bill Pethybridge, Cam Johnston, Elias Lumber, Pat's B/A and R & S Drive Inn), school initiatives, residential developments (on 1st Street SE and 3rd Street SE) and renovations (Safeway's expansion, McMillan's Red & White and Sanders Drugs). The RTM industry continued to flourish throughout the 1970s and has remained active to the present day.

**Sidings:** Research for this article revealed a Headingley-based RTM company whose owner discov-



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

This article was from 1956 emphasizing Carman's housing industry.

ered an Oct. 20, 1956 edition of the Free Press featuring Carman's industry leaders — Jack Ross, Jake Reimer and Pete Giesbrecht — on the front page. The newspaper was found during recent renovations in the ceiling of the owner's grandfather's home.

**Sidings:** In 2025, the Carman-Dufferin-Grey Planning District issued \$14,030,121 in residential permits, an increase from \$9,827,622 in 2024. Of this total, \$10,474,800 was attributed to new home construction. Commercial, industrial and farm permits reached \$41,272,665, compared with \$11,012,410 the previous year.



Aerial view of J.B. Ross Construction's site shows 13 houses in various stages of construction. At far left, movers prepare one home for transport to its new location.

## Prairie Connect 2026—come see what the region has to offer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

March is the perfect time to start planning out your "stay-cations" for the summer, and Central Manitoba Tourism (CMT) has just the thing to help you figure out where to go.

The agency hosts the first annual Prairie Connect event at the Access Event Centre in Morden on Saturday, March 28.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, municipalities, businesses, and community organizations from across CMT's service network will have exhibits set up to highlight all there is to see and do in our area.

"We have over 20 signed up, and there's still some registrations coming in," CMT general manager June Letkeman shared last week.

"I really want people to come and enjoy the day and see what we all have in our area, because we have so many hidden gems that people don't know about," she said of the myriad of museums, galleries, festivals, and recreational offerings that span the region. "I want them to see what we all have in our catchment area ... come plan out your summer."

It's very much a come and go type of event, though the Beerjammers will be taking the stage at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There will also be food available around midday. Admission is free.

"Come and have a look to see what we all have to promote in our area," Letkeman urged.

# Local grower credits seminar for 1,000-pound pumpkin success

## Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar March 28

By Lana Meier

A friendly neighbourhood bet in Balmoral has grown into a full-fledged giant pumpkin rivalry — and one local grower is crediting a winter seminar for helping tip the scales in his favour.

Travis Williams captured both first and second place in this past season's Balmoral pumpkin growing competition, highlighted by a massive 1,022-pound entry. The success followed his attendance at the Manitoba Giant Growers Association's Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar last year.

"A few years ago, my good neighbour Don Slater and I had a bet to see who could grow the biggest pumpkin," Williams said. "In 2024, five families from Balmoral decided to have a pumpkin growing contest. As the size of the pumpkins got bigger, so did the number of entries."

This past season, nine families entered what Williams describes as a "friendly" competition.

As interest intensified, so did the search for a competitive edge.

"The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar became of high interest for those looking for a competitive edge," he said.

The seminar, which returns March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, features experienced growers sharing techniques on producing pumpkins weighing 1,000 pounds or more.

Williams said the event proved invaluable.

"The seminar is of tremendous value. Arthur Cameron is very welcoming. Milan Lukes is an excellent presenter," he said. "In addition to the table stakes of lots of sunshine, water and space, Milan gave helpful hints on pumpkin placement, plant maintenance and fertility."

Despite the knowledge gained, the growing season came with challenges.

"Pumpkins love sunlight and water. The smoke from the forest fires reduced the amount of sunlight. May, June and July had very little rain," Williams said. "We can water our pumpkins, but irrigation is not a direct substitute for rainwater."

Even so, he knew he had something special in his patch.

"I could see that my pumpkins were much bigger this year, but I was surprised with how much they weighed," he said. "My dad thought we might have underestimated their size when he could feel the weight of the pumpkin on the tractor when we picked them up to move them."

The competition itself added to the excitement.

"It was kind of like a game of poker," Williams said with a laugh. "There was a lot of posturing, embellishing and bluffing throughout the growing season. We never saw each other's pumpkins until the official weigh-off. We then had to show our hands as we weighed each grower's pumpkins one at a time. The Slater barn was filled with music, cheers and laughter."

When the final weights were announced, Williams stood atop the podium — twice.

"It was rewarding to be on the medal podium holding the championship belt with my family," he said. "Marc Van Hussen and family brought home the bronze with a pumpkin that was more than twice the size of last year's winner."

The leap in size from one year to the next was dramatic. In the previous season, the largest pumpkin weighed under 200 pounds. This year, the top three pumpkins tipped the scales at 1,022 pounds, 734 pounds and 414 pounds.

"Everyone grew bigger pumpkins," Williams said.

He strongly encourages others to attend the upcoming seminar.

"Having the correct genetics is super important to grow a giant pumpkin," he said, noting that free seeds are provided. "Art, Milan and other growers are very approachable. The seminar is a must."

For those who may find the idea intimidating, Williams offers simple advice.

"If you're committed to implementing the best practice, be prepared to commit the time," he said. "And remember, no different than farming, that you'll learn something new every



STANDARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The Manitoba Giant Growers Association will host its annual Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar March 28 at the Blair Sharpe Active Living Centre in Miami, offering tips, techniques and free seeds for aspiring growers.



Travis Williams, joined by his wife Jamie and family, celebrates at the official weigh-in after their 1,022-pound pumpkin captured first place in Balmoral's friendly giant pumpkin competition.

year."

The Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar runs from 1 to 3 p.m. March 28 in Miami. Admission requires an MGGA membership for growers, while others

are welcome to attend by donation. Memberships cost \$10 for individuals or \$15 for families. Free refreshments and snacks will be provided.

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Please share your story ideas with Dennis Young at denjohnyoung@gmail.com or Lana Meier at news@carmanstandard.ca or call 204-467-5836.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Cougars fall short of podium at home provincial tournament

By Annaliese Meier

The Carman Cougars narrowly missed a podium finish at the Provincial A/AA JV Boys Basketball Championship hosted at Carman Collegiate from March 12–14.

Carman opened the tournament with a strong showing in the quarter-finals on March 12, defeating the St.-Joachim Braves 72–59 to move into the semifinal round.

Head coach James Ballantyne said the Cougars executed their game plan well in the opening matchup.

“We played an outstanding first game defeating St. Joachim who had defeated us earlier in the year,” Ballantyne said. “The boys executed the plan that we set out and won that game 72–59.”

The Cougars then faced the Frontier Raiders on March 13, where Frontier pulled out a 68–62 victory to advance to the championship game.

Ballantyne said the semifinal was a tightly contested battle against the eventual provincial champions.

“We started out slow and were down up to 14 points before battling back to within one point in the final three minutes of the game,” he said. “We just didn’t hit our shots down the stretch.”

That loss sent Carman to the bronze medal game against the Souris Sabres on March 14. Souris controlled much

of the contest and defeated the Cougars 67–51 to claim third place.

“In our final game we had a tough performance for the bronze medal game versus Souris and didn’t play up to our capabilities,” Ballantyne said. “We made a run to get the game to within six points but struggled to finish great chances throughout the game.”

Despite finishing just off the podium, Carman had strong individual performances during the provincial championship. Bravin Tshondo was named a tournament all-star and was also selected player of the game in the Cougars’ quarterfinal victory over St.-Joachim, while teammate Wes Ballantyne earned player of the game honours in Carman’s semifinal matchup against Frontier.

Ballantyne said Tshondo played a key role in the team’s success throughout the tournament.

“Bravin was a true offensive catalyst for our team throughout the weekend,” he said. “On the offensive end he is tough to stop and in transition his speed makes him a nightmare for the other team.”

Elsewhere in the tournament, the Rosenort Redhawks edged the Arborg Athletics 57–55 in the consolation final.

Frontier went on to win the provincial title later Saturday, defeating the



STANDARD PHOTOS BY LANA MEIER

Carman Cougars forward Wes Ballantyne earned player of the game honours for Carman in the semifinal against the Frontier Raiders



Carman Cougars guard Bravin Tshondo was named a tournament all-star and player of the game after leading Carman to a 72–59 quarterfinal victory over the St.-Joachim Braves at the Provincial A/AA JV Boys Basketball Championship held March 12–14 at Carman Collegiate.

Warren Wildcats 71–68 in the championship game.

Ballantyne said hosting the provincial championship at Carman Collegiate created a memorable experience for players, staff and fans.

“We were thrilled to have provincials at home,” he said. “Many of our players had the opportunity to attend provincials last year, but doing it at home in front of the school is special.”

From an organizer’s perspective, Ballantyne said the weekend ran smoothly thanks to strong support from staff, students and volunteers.

“We had an outstanding hosting committee and so much help from the staff and our students which made the event go very smoothly,” he said. “We heard many excellent things about the job our school did running the event and making it memorable for the athletes.”

The school also organized several extra events to enhance the provincial experience, including an opening ceremony, a come-and-go banquet and a skills competition for players.

“The players’ favourite was definitely the skills competition,” Ballantyne

said. “We ran four different events where schools competed against each other in shooting and dribbling games and the kids had a blast.”

Ballantyne added that the strong support from the school community helped create an exciting tournament atmosphere.

“The school was buzzing throughout the weekend and we had great crowds for most games,” he said. “For our first home game we had the entire school out cheering the boys on which made for a memorable experience.”

He also credited the many volunteers who helped make the event possible.

“None of these events or teams could happen without the many volunteers who generously give their time,” Ballantyne said. “We are very fortunate in this community to have so many great people willing to step up and help.”

Eight teams competed in the three-day provincial event, including Carman, Warren, Souris, Frontier, Rosenort, Arborg, St.-Joachim and Immanuel Christian, with all games played at Carman Collegiate.

# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Altona to host 2027 Manitoba Bunge mens curling championship

By Lorne Stelmach

Altona has hosted nearly the whole range of provincial curling championships over the years, but now they are looking forward to striking the one remaining big one off their to-do list.

Curl Manitoba has announced the 2027 Manitoba Bunge mens curling championship will be played at the Sunflower Gardens Arena in Altona's Millennium Exhibition Centre Jan. 26-31, 2027.

Altona was touted as not only the home of a vibrant curling club but also of a major Bunge oilseed processing facility. The event also co-incides with a couple major milestones in the community.

"We are pleased to be bringing the men's championship to Altona in 2027 as part of the Altona Curling Club's 100th anniversary celebrations," said Curl Manitoba executive director Craig Baker. "I think it is also significant that we are going to be Altona in the 25th year of Bunge's presence in the community.

"Since 2000, Altona has hosted every Curl Manitoba championship except for the men's and master men's cat-

egories," Baker said. "The energy and imagination of the Altona curling volunteers and the support of the entire community have always provided us with successful and memorable events."

The Altona host committee will be co-chaired by Quinn Hildebrand and Keith Stoesz, who have advocated for an Altona-hosted championship for about the past three years.

"Curling started in this community in a one sheet curling rink in 1927. It is important to celebrate that heritage on the 100th anniversary," said Stoesz. "What better way could there be to kick off our centennial year in curling than by hosting the best men's curling teams in the province in the Bunge championship?"

Stoesz said Altona has a good track record of hosting major curling events, ranging from the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and senior ladies and men bonspiels to mixed as well as junior and U18 events.

"It's a big deal for the community. It's a big deal for the region," he said. "We have hosted pretty much all of

the events that Curl Manitoba puts on, and this was the big one that we were hoping to get next.

"I think it's going to be a great event for the community. I think our community really likes to show off the facilities we have here in Altona," Stoesz said. I think our facility is a great size for this event. I think having the social hall connected to the complex is a real benefit."

In the next month or two, they will put together the various committee chairs, and Stoesz expects come summer or fall they will be putting out the call for volunteers.

Braden Calvert's Heather team featuring Corey Chambers, Kyle Kurz, Brendan Bilawka, and Rob Gordon,

as 2026 champions, are the first team identified to compete in the Altona event. Twenty-three other teams will qualify over the next season in their attempt to become Team Manitoba at the 2027 Canadian championship Montana's brier.

"We're pleased to continue our longstanding support of this premier event, which is always an excellent showcase of competitive curling in Manitoba," said Kyle Jeworski, head of Bunge in Canada. "Bunge has a significant presence in Altona through our oilseed processing facility, and we're excited that Curl Manitoba has selected its curling club to host the Bunge championship in 2027."

## Provincial champions



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Carman Cougars celebrate after capturing the Hockey Manitoba Co-ed U13 Rural A provincial championship held March 13-15 in Virden. Carman defeated Swan Valley 9-5 in the final after earlier victories over Thompson (8-1) in the semifinal, Ste. Anne (8-1) in the quarterfinal and Brandon (10-5) during round-robin play to claim the provincial banner. The U13 Carman Cougars Gold also captured the PVMHA U13 Gold division title, defeating the Morden Hawks in the league playoff final after Noah Friesen scored with 0.4 seconds remaining to force overtime and then netted the winner with 10 seconds left in the extra frame. Pictured: Alex Unger, Brooks Falk, Byron Lepp, Dany Williams, Declan Spencer, Drew McIntyre, Luke Hetherington, Malcolm Sisson, Noah Friesen, Oliver Sisson, Quinn Froebe and Ryker George. Coaches: Clark Sisson, Matt Falk, Derrick McIntyre and Ian Lepp. Manager: Ron Friesen.

## Tournament champions



STANDARD PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Carman Thunder Cats U9 DR girls capped off a strong season by winning gold at the final tournament of the year in Morden. Representing Carman, Elm Creek and St. Claude, the team finished the season with an impressive 11-1 record while building teamwork, friendships and a love for the game.

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Phone: 204-346-3231  
[www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca](http://www.wgiesbrechthomes.ca)

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**TODD:**  
1-204-904-9705

*Mark Passion*

You are invited to an evening of scripture reading and congregational singing to commemorate the suffering and death of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Date: Sunday, March 29, 2026**  
Time: 7:30 pm  
Coffee and baking to follow

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
Mark 10:45



**Canadian Reformed Church, Carman EAST**  
112-4th Ave SE, Carman, MB

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF THOMPSON PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Notice is hereby given that the R.M. of Thompson intends to conduct the following Pesticide Control Programs during 2026.

- To Control noxious weeds on road allowances and municipal properties. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026, to November 15, 2026. The herbicides to be used include:
  - 24D Amine 600 • Round Up • Par III
- To control weeds and turf fungal disease on the Miami golf course and greens. The projected dates of application will be from May 1, 2026, to November 15, 2026. The herbicides/fungicides to be used include:
  - Par III • Round Up • Banner Maxx • Heritage Maxx • Daconil

The public may, within 15 days after this notice is published, submit written comments to the department or register a written objection to the use of pesticide next to their property to;

**Environment and Climate Change Environmental Approvals Branch**  
Box 35, 14 Fultz Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 0L6  
pesticideusepermit@gov.mb.ca

**FOR SALE**

**2022 GRAND DESIGN 28BH30 REFLECTION 5TH WHEEL**



**Warranty is good until August 2030**

- Sleeps up to 8 people • 2 automatic slide outs
- LED awning • 9280 Dry Weight • 80 gallon fresh water tank • 43 gallon black water tank • 86 gallon gray tank • U-shaped dinette • Dual propane tanks
- Auto level system • 50 amp service • Indoor/outdoor speaker • Roof mounted solar panels
- Spare tire • 34f long, 12f high

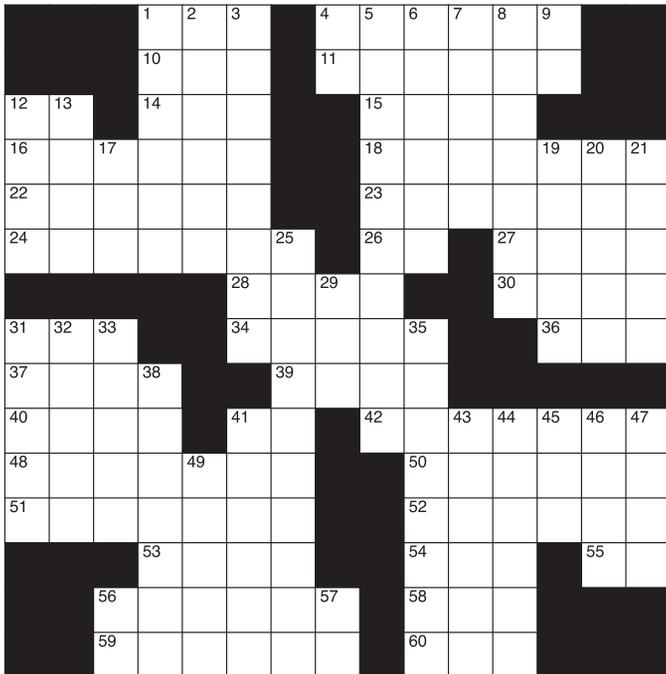
The Grand Design Reflection 28BH is a popular, family-friendly fifth wheel with a rear private bunkhouse, featuring 2 slide-outs and sleeping capacity for up to 8-10 people. This unit was purchased brand new, and is still like brand new as we only camped once since the purchase in 2024. Camper would require pickup near Oak Bank. Asking \$70,000.

Please contact Teri Young 204-745-0419 or Kristian Dreolini 204-904-8175 to arrange a viewing. Serious inquiries only.

<https://aem-dev.granddesignrv.com/fifth-wheels/reflection/28bh> - visit this link for further specifications and features

# Announcements Classifieds

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 204-467-5836 news@carmanstandard.ca



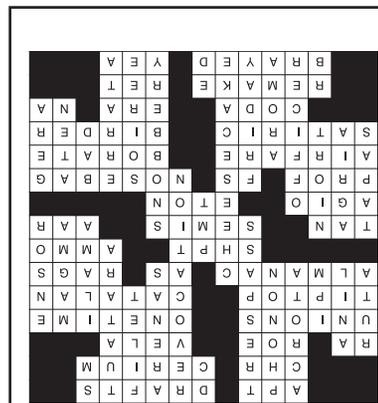
- 41. Foreign Service
  - 42. Horse gear
  - 48. Cost to fly
  - 50. A salt or ester of boric acid
  - 51. Mocking
  - 52. One who bird-watches
  - 53. Concluding passage
  - 54. A major division of geological time
  - 55. Sodium
  - 56. A way to produce
  - 58. Soak
  - 59. Laughed loudly and harshly
  - 60. Affirmative
- 21. James \_\_, painter
  - 25. Popular dessert
  - 29. Payment (abbr.)
  - 31. Cuisine style
  - 32. Genus of true flies
  - 33. City in western France
  - 35. Arrogance
  - 38. One holding a position of command
  - 41. Weekday
  - 43. An evening party
  - 44. Print errors
  - 45. Not good
  - 46. Egyptian Sun god
  - 47. East German town
  - 49. Olfactory property
  - 56. Atomic #37
  - 57. "Pollock" actor Harris

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Moth species phalonia \_\_\_
- 2. Quantum of energy
- 3. Break the law
- 4. Location of White House
- 5. Official cancellation of a decision
- 6. Where rockers work
- 7. Cut of beef: \_\_\_ mignon
- 8. Nocturnal burrowing reptile
- 9. Atomic #62
- 12. Genus of evergreen subshrubs
- 13. Flowering plant of the legume family
- 17. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 19. Tropical fruit
- 20. Hot fluid beneath the earth's crust

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Inclined to do
  - 4. Sketches
  - 10. Book of Chronicles (abbr.)
  - 11. Atomic #58
  - 12. Dorm official
  - 14. Small Eurasian deer
  - 15. Southern constellation
  - 16. Workers' groups
  - 18. Former
  - 22. Excellent
  - 23. Romance language
- related to Spanish
  - 24. Reference
  - 26. Equally
  - 27. Dirty towels
  - 28. A cargo (abbr.)
  - 30. Ammunition
  - 31. You get one in summer
  - 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
  - 36. Swiss river
  - 37. Exchange rate
  - 39. British School
  - 40. College teacher



Crossword Answer



## Town of Carman Public Notice Regarding the 2026 Financial Plan

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the Town of Carman intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing in the

**Town of Carman**  
 Memorial Hall,  
 12-2nd Ave SW, Carman, MB  
 Thursday March 26th, 2026  
 7:00 pm

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Town of Carman at 12-2nd Avenue S.W., Carman. Dated at the Town of Carman the 3rd day of March, A.D. 2026.

Susan Stein, CMMA, CLGED  
 Chief Administrative Officer

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF DUFFERIN**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**REGARDING THE 2026**  
**FINANCIAL PLAN**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(2) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing in the

**Rural Municipality of Dufferin**  
 Memorial Hall, 12-2nd Ave SW, Carman, MB  
 Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 7:05 p.m.

Pursuant to Subsection 169(8) of The Municipal Act, notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin intends to transfer PR Road Reserve funds in the amount of **\$50,902.17** to the Operating Fund. These funds will be used for **road reconstruction purposes**.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.

Copies of the financial plan are available for review and may be examined by any person on our website <https://www.carman-dufferin.com/rmd-financial/> or during the regular office hours of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin office at 12-2nd Avenue S.W., Carman, please call ahead for pickup at (204)745-2301. Dated at the Rural Municipality of Dufferin the 27th day of February, A.D. 2026.

**Sharla Murray, CMMA**  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 Rural Municipality of Dufferin

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF DUFFERIN**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**REGARDING THE PR ROAD**  
**RESERVE EXPENDITURE**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 169(8) of *The Municipal Act* that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Dufferin intends to transfer PR Road Reserve funds in the amount of \$50,902.17 to the Operating Fund.

These funds will be used for road reconstruction purposes.

Council will hear any person who wishes to make a presentation, ask questions, or register an objection to the proposed transfer at:

**Rural Municipality of Dufferin**  
 Memorial Hall, 12-2nd Ave SW, Carman, MB  
 Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Copies of the proposed expenditure may be examined during regular office hours at the Rural Municipality of Dufferin office, 12-2nd Avenue S.W., Carman.

Dated at the Rural Municipality of Dufferin the 27th day of February, A.D. 2026.

**Sharla Murray, CMMA**  
 Chief Administrative Officer  
 Rural Municipality of Dufferin

**BUDGET**  
**2026-2027**  
**PRESENTATION**

PRSD is hosting its public Budget 2026-2027 Presentation at the Prairie Rose School Division Office, 45 Main Street South, Carman, MB, on **Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00 PM**. The presentation will be recorded and posted on our website ([g.prsdmb.ca/board/financebudget](https://g.prsdmb.ca/board/financebudget)) following the live event, and a feedback form will be available until Friday, April 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Constituents may attend in person or online. To register, please complete the [Budget 2026-2027 Presentation Registration](#) form using the QR code above or the link here ([tinyurl.com/26-27prsdbrdgt](https://tinyurl.com/26-27prsdbrdgt)). Registration is required for the live event. If you need support registering or have questions, call the office at 204-745-2003 or send emails to [prsd@g.prsdmb.ca](mailto:prsd@g.prsdmb.ca).

# • MARCH • PHARMACY Appreciation Month

HEALTH ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST



## Behind the Counter, Beyond the Vial: Manitoba's Pharmacy Teams Bridging the Healthcare Gap

Winnipeg, MB – Behind the plexi-glass counters and rows of neatly organized vials, Manitoba's pharmacy teams are doing more than just filling prescriptions; they are serving as the indispensable front door of the provincial healthcare system. As the province marks Pharmacy Appreciation Month, the focus has shifted from the logistics of medication to the clinical expertise that keeps Manitobans healthy.

For years, the image of a pharmacist was tethered to a pill bottle. Today, that image is being rewritten. In rural communities from Swan River to the busy urban corridors of Winnipeg, pharmacists have evolved into primary care providers. They are the most accessible healthcare professionals in the province, often available without an appointment when a family doctor or an urgent care clinic is out of reach.

"We aren't just dispensers; we are clinical problem-solvers," says local pharmacist Sarah Miller. "Whether it's managing complex drug interactions for a senior or prescribing for a minor ailment like a UTI or a skin rash, we are taking the pressure off a strained system."

Recent legislative shifts in Manitoba have empowered pharmacists to do more than ever before. With expanded prescribing powers, they are now authorized to assess and treat a variety of common conditions. This "scope of practice" expansion has been a lifeline for patients who might otherwise spend hours in an emergency room for a non-urgent issue.

However, the role extends beyond the pharmacist. Pharmacy technicians and assistants form the backbone of the operation, ensuring that the heavy

volume of prescriptions—which skyrocketed during the respiratory virus season—is handled with precision. Their work in inventory management and technical preparation allows pharmacists to spend more time on one-on-one patient consultations.

The emotional toll of the job is often overlooked. Pharmacy teams are frequently the first to hear about a patient's financial struggles or a frightening new

diagnosis. They navigate the complexities of insurance coverage and provide the education necessary for a patient to feel confident in their treatment plan. During the pandemic, they were the primary hubs for vaccination, a role they continue to fulfill for both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.

As Manitoba continues to navigate healthcare human resource challenges, the pharmacy sector remains a beacon of

stability. Their lights are on, their doors are open, and their expertise is free for the asking. This month, as you pick up your refill or stop in for a consultation, take a moment to acknowledge the person behind the counter. They aren't just part of the healthcare system—they are the glue holding it together.

## Pharmacy Appreciation Month

Use the Co-op Pharmacy App and be entered to win a \$25 Co-op gift card every two weeks in 2026! Only at our Carman Food Store location.

Homestead Co-op Pharmacy  
@Carman | 204-745-3602  
@Portage | 204-239-0458



Homestead

