



Tell-It-Gram

News from RM of Oakview

March 2026

**Who is finished with winter?
But is winter finished with us?
April Fool's Day, Easter and the
Royal Manitoba Winter Fair all
fall in Spring Break this year,
so anything could happen and
we all know March came in like
a lamb! We will have to see
what happens!!**

March 10—Council Meeting
March 14—7 & Under Home Tournament RC
March 15—Sourdough Starter Workshop
March 17—St. Patrick's Day
March 20—Rapid City PAC Meat Draw
March 21—Oak River Legion Meat Draw
March 23—Council Meeting
April 18—RCES Fundraiser Supper



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF OAKVIEW

Oak River - 204-566-2146 info@rmofoakview.ca

Rapid City - 204-826-2515 adminrc@rmofoakview.ca

Check out our website: rmofoakview.ca or our Facebook Page

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE DO NOT MODERATE Facebook. If you have legitimate concerns, please contact the office staff at one of the above numbers.

Minutes can be found on the R.M. of Oakview Website

Upcoming Council Meetings

March 10—6:00pm in Oak River

March 23, 6:00pm in Rapid City

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF OAKVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE

REGARDING THE 2026 FINANCIAL PLAN

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Subsection 162 (2) of The Municipal Act that the Council of the R. M. of Oakview intends to present its financial plan for the fiscal year 2026 at a public hearing in the Oak River Council Chamber, 10 Cochrane Street, Oak River on the 14th day of April, 2026 at 6:10 p.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan.

Copies of the proposed financial plan will be available for review commencing on the 25th day of March, 2026 on our website at www.rmofoakview.ca or may be examined by any person during regular office hours of the Municipal offices at Oak River (10 Cochrane Street) or Rapid City (435 3rd Ave) or by emailing a request for a copy to financemgr@rmofoakview.ca.

Consultation with our community is an important component of the Municipality's budget process. Council encourages you to attend.

Mark Humphries,
Chief Administrative Officer
Rural Municipality of Oakview
March 2, 2026



The Digital Billboard is a great place for business and community members to put news, greetings or other entertainment messages.

It's a great way to keep the community informed.

Scan this QR code to access the online info & request form. Fill out the form and submit it online to get started.



Soon you will also find links to the request form on Facebook and local websites.

Your Rapid City & Area Lion's recent donations to the community and more:

- Elton grad meat draw alone not including silent auction prizes was \$1118
- 4H Meet, draw alone, not including silent auction prizes \$580
- Paid hall rental for the FOL pie social
- \$200 To Rolling River Festival of the Arts
- \$500 To Lion's wilderness experience
- \$400 To diabetes, Canada, diabetes camp
- \$500 to Elton grad bursary
- \$500 To Manitoba high school rodeo Association sponsorship costs being split by 4 children from Rapid City and Area.
- \$500 towards Journey For Sight
- Held a pancake breakfast at Rapid City elementary school.
- Kidsight was held at the Rapid City nursery school, February 10. (This is to help with early detection of eye problems, but does not take away from regular visits with your Child's optometrist.)
- Some of your Lion's Will be at the Royal Manitoba Winter fair Loin's booth along with Kidsight equipment.
- We have acquired a new Lion member. Congratulations to Bob Tinkess!
- 200 club winners for February 13
 - \$500 Dean & Denise Eriendson of RC
 - \$300 Cameron Peters of Brandon
 - \$200 Travis Belcher of RC

Cont.

This year was the 49th anniversary of Journey for sight. They had a record number of Snowmobile riders this year. \$63,000 was raised in pledges, not including the 50-50. Which was one by Ken Hyndman.

We are proud to say Mary Phillips along with her husband Gary took part in the Journey For Sight. Mary helped contribute around \$1200 through her sponsorship efforts.

Rapid City and the Lion's have been a big part of Journey For Sight for over 25 years. Starting in 1997 with the late Morley Cornish and Ken Hyndman. Those two men either rode their Snowmobiles, helped with the organization of the ride or help manage the Journey For Sight fundraiser. The Journey For Sight ride had started many times as far north as Flin Flon, zigzagging their way to southern Manitoba. On their way, the riders would often stop in Rapid City.

If you want to be part of something more, we your local Lion group are always looking for new members to help give to the community and more. All you have to do is ask a member, and we would be happy to give you any information you need!

Saturday, April 18th
Tickets are on sale now
And available from any
Department Member
And local businesses!



Rapid City Emergency Services Fundraising Supper

April 18, 2026

Rapid City Legion Hall

Doors Open 5:00 PM

Supper 5:30 PM

\$25.00 Each - 10 and under free

Silent Auction Table

Beef Supper

PIC•COLLAGE

Rapid City Skating!

Rink is open on Sundays,
Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sunday: Public Skate 1:00 - 2:30
Sticks & Puck 2:30 - 4:00

Tuesday: Public Skate 6 - 7:30
Sticks & Puck 7:30 - 9:00

Thursday: Public Skate 5 - 6:30
Sticks & Puck 6:30 - 8:00



CONFIRMED
 March 15th 1-3 p.m.
 in the Small Hall at The Rapid City
 Legion Memorial Community Hall

Sourdough Starter Workshop

With Merina Gunn

Please message Alexandria to reserve your spot -
 slots are filling fast!
 Cost is \$45 and payment can be made via
 E-Transfer to info@rmof oakview.ca

2 hour workshop includes:
 No fail recipes
 Hands on stretch & fold
 Sourdough liquid & dry starter
 Question period

**HAPPY
 ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
MARCH 17

**FROM THE COUNCIL AND STAFF
 OF THE R.M. OF OAKVIEW**

A cartoon leprechaun with a red beard and a green hat with a shamrock is standing next to a large black pot filled with gold coins. A vibrant rainbow arches over the pot. The leprechaun is holding a wooden staff and pointing towards the viewer. There are some green shamrocks on the ground around the pot.

Join Today!

Expanded
Trail
System

Maps
available
On the
trail-
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Groomed for
skiers and
snowshoers!
Please sign the
registration
book when you
come to enjoy
the trails!



Single Membership
\$20/Season

Family Membership
\$40/Season

Daily
10 am
To
Dusk

Located on Timer's Pasture
on the West end of Rapid City

Frank Hyndman 570-0073



The Rural Municipality of Oakview

Oak River Head Office - Box 179 Oak River, MB R0K 1T0
Phone: 204-566-2146 Fax: 204-566-2126

Rapid City Satellite Office - Box 130 Rapid City, MB R0K 1W0
Phone: 204-826-2515 Fax: 204-826-2274



HELP WANTED

The R.M. of Oakview
is accepting applications to hire summer students for 2026. Start
date may be as early as May, ending in September.

Duties include maintaining grass, weeding, watering flowers,
recycling, painting and other duties as required.

Requirements:

Preference goes to those with a valid Class 5 Drivers Licence.

Ability to work some evenings and weekends if required.

Ability to operate small municipal equipment such as lawn
mowers and grass trimmers.

Applicants must be energetic, friendly, be able to take direction
well and work independently.

Closing date for resumes is Wednesday,
March 25th, 2026 at 12:00 noon

Position subject to confirmation of
Green Team Funding.

Please submit a resume with cover letter to the
Oak River or Rapid City office,
or
email: info@rmfoakview.ca

Oakview Waste Transfer Station Hours

Effective Starting February 1st, 2026

Location Codes

- OR = Oak River
- RC = Rapid City

Winter Hours

(October 15th - April 14th)

Day	Location	Hours
Tuesday	OR	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Noon)
Wednesday	RC	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Thursday	OR	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Saturday	OR	8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday	RC	12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Summer Hours

(April 15th - October 14th)

Day	Location	Hours
Monday	RC	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday	OR	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Noon)
Wednesday	RC	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Thursday	OR	3:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday	OR	8:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday	RC	12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

For more information or updates, please contact staff at your local municipality office.

Rural Municipality
of Oakview

*Congratulations to
all of the 2026
Manitoba Hall of
Fame Inductees*

10 Cochrane Street
Box 179
Oak River, MB
R0K 1T0
(204) 566-2146
info@rmofoakview.ca

www.rmofoakview.ca



Rapid City Library Report

March came in like a lamb—which was a huge relief because it was our Friends of the Library Pie Social on Sunday, March 1st. What a fantastic day! There was such a variety of pies, there were fantastic gifts to buy rainbow auction tickets on and of course there was the raffle for the handmade afghan.

We had 80 pies donated and trying to decide which ones to cut, and which ones to auction and which ones to use as door prizes was difficult because they all looked amazing. Of course, the biggest challenge is what to put as the mystery pie!!! A great big thank you to everyone who donated pies. We could not do it without you and we appreciate it very much! We can't forget to thank Ruth Paul, who came and cut the pies up and worked in the kitchen. We couldn't do it without you Ruth—thank you!!!!

Then there was the rainbow auction prizes—WOW! This year the prizes were fantastic and again, we couldn't do it without everyone who donated. Thank you so much!!

And we also drew the raffle ticket for the beautiful afghan that Rayleen Vassart made and donated for raffle and was won by Bill Aaroe from Oak River. Thank you again Rayleen for donating your talents to the raffle!

Our entertainment started with our perennial favourite—The Nursery School Kids. This year they didn't have much time to prepare and they were very down in numbers, but the six little tykes that bravely got on the stage did a great job!! We really appreciate them coming! Following them we had a heartfelt thank you expressed to our community from Library Chairperson Donna Anderson for the support and kindness we experienced after our difficult year last year! Then we were entertained by award winner Mike Sacharko and his equally talented sister Kathy.

And then the auction started. You know, when we had our first Pie Social, we had asked Timer to be our auctioneer. The time came, and no Timer. In a bit of a panic, Margo called him to see where he was. Guess where? The bathtub. He had completely forgot! While Mike and Kathy sang an extra couple of songs, Tina was trying to find out where our Auctioneer was. Thankfully he was not in the bath, but was visiting a friend and lost track of time! We were all very relieved to see him and Jesse Campbell, once again did a fantastic job of auctioning our pies! We want to say a big thank you to Kirk Bridgeman who watched for bids and encouraged bids and made the auction that much more fun!

Of course, we would be remiss if we didn't remember to say a big thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Pie Social! We couldn't do it without you, and from the bottom of our hearts, we say a heartfelt THANK YOU!!! Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised just over \$5000.00 to put towards our library. Absolutely fantastic and again, we can't say THANK YOU enough!!!



Cont.

These days at the library, things are pretty bright!! Why? Because Current Electric were here and put in all new LED Lighting in the upstairs of our library. It is beautiful and bright and we are so excited! This would not have been possible without the support of an Anonymous donor, and we are extremely grateful for their support of the library! No excuse not to find a book now! A big thank you to Clint & Brydon for doing such a great job! We really appreciate it!!

We also welcomed back some small but much missed friends as we had our soft launch for Story Time this past Wednesday. We are still waiting on our chairs and some other furniture to arrive so until we have that in place we can't do a full Story Time, but just having the kids here and reading a story felt so good!!! We have not had a proper Story Time since May 14th of 2025 which seems like a very long time ago!!

We also got started on our Reading Our Way to Spring! I'm looking forward to see what their reading grows!!!

Not only are we waiting on our little people chairs, but we are waiting on our big people chairs too. Once they have arrived, we have some people that are keen to do some programming in the basement, so stay tuned for that! In the meantime, there have been lots of great new books arriving and I think there is something there for everyone!!

For anyone in the Book Club—our book pick—Hot to Age Disgracefully by Clare Pooley is in, if you need to pick up a copy. Our last book was very interesting, but very heavy content, so we decided we needed something a little more light this time!

In the meantime—keep reading and again, thank you, thank you, thank you to all our community!

-The Gang at the Library



- Do you love snowmobiling?
- Would you like to help keep our trails open, safe and fun for everyone?
- Would you like to become a member?

- Director positions available
- We are looking for volunteers of all ages to help out. Some tasks include:
 - Signing the trails/Removing the signs
 - Maintaining the Shelters
- For more information please send us an email, text message or visit our Facebook page!

thundericesnowclub@outlook.com
(204)764-0372



Oak River Grow Arena Field 2025

On the community quarter in year one the volunteers grew Red Spring Wheat. The quarter was first harrowed, then a pre-seed burn off was sprayed ahead of seeding to clean the field up. The chemical was donated by Nutrien Ag Solutions. Nitrogen fertilizer was applied ahead of seeding via anhydrous ammonia which was also supplied by Nutrien Ag Solutions. The field was seeded on the 10th of May, the seed was donated by Nutrien Ag Solutions. Cargill Ag donated 50% of the dry fertilizer blend and the Community Association covered the other 50%.

In crop herbicide was sprayed on the 11th of June, the chemical was donated by Cargill Ag and Syngenta Canada. On the 12th of July we applied a fungicide application for disease prevention, the product was donated by Syngenta Canada.

On the 17th of September we started harvest, but rain shut the combining down, we were able to continue 5 days later. The volunteers finished combining on the 22nd of September. The wheat was contracted and sold directly off the combine to Cargill Ag at Oakner, MB. The crop turned out very well and yielded around 70 bushels per acre.

We had plenty of volunteers that gave their time and use of equipment to make this project possible throughout the growing season. Thanks to the following: Blacks, Stewarts, Gerrards & Browns. Also thanks to Ross Argue for helping to get the crop insurance set up and rates sorted out.

This project would not be possible without the donations and contributions from the following businesses & community members.

Cargill Ag.
Nutrien Ag Solutions
Redfern farm Services
Syngenta Canada
Way-Mor Agencies
G-5 Farms
Frank Black
Bill Aaroe
Jim & Raeleen Vassart



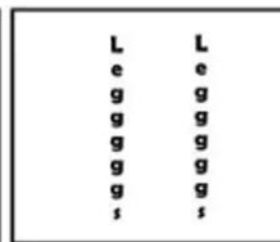
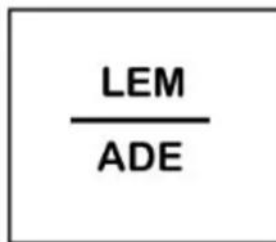
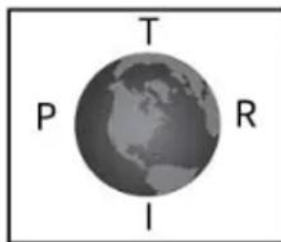
Thank you very much everyone for helping us have a successful year.

Committee member Ryan Brown

REBUS

PUZZLES

**Can you figure
out the words or
expressions?**



Oak River Donor's Choice Campaign Coming Soon

Oak River Donor's Choice is our annual community fundraising campaign that brings recognized charities together in one organized effort. Donors may contribute to one or more charities, making giving simple and impactful. Pledge forms can be picked up at the Oakview Municipal Office in Oak River, and when completed forms are dropped off, a tax-deductible receipt will be issued. At the end of the campaign, donations are totaled and one cheque is sent to each charity. Please consider donating generously to support these worthwhile causes.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Health Matters



Welcome to March – days are getting longer and thoughts of spring are pervasive as I watch snow fly by the window! Oakview Clinic has now officially been open for 4 months and continues to grow. Thank you all for your continued support! I thought my ramblings this month could clarify what a nurse practitioner is and why I must charge a fee for visits at this time.

Nurse practitioners are Master’s Degree (and sometimes Doctorate) prepared professionals, trained to work as independent healthcare providers. This means that nurse practitioners can be your primary care provider – the health care professional who you see regularly to help you manage illness and maintain optimal health. **“Nurse practitioners are legally allowed to complete comprehensive assessments, order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests, diagnose health conditions, prescribe medications, arrange referrals to specialists, provide treatments, manage chronic disease, screen for early disease detection, offer healthy lifestyle counselling, and advocate for socioeconomic resources.”** (<https://nursepractitioner.ca/nurse-practitioners/>)

Most nurse practitioners work in our publicly funded system through the various government health regions such as Prairie Mountain Health and receive payment through this health region. If you are fortunate to have an NP as your primary care provider within PMH, your visits are funded through this system. Many physicians are employed in this manner as well. However, physicians working in private clinics such as the Brandon Clinic or Western Medical Clinic can bill Manitoba Health directly for their services because of the Canada Health Act. Fortunately, changes are in process to allow for nurse practitioners to have similar opportunities to increase access to healthcare coverage to many more Canadians.

What is the Canada Health Act?

In 1947, Tommy Douglas, Premier of Saskatchewan and his government introduced the first of its kind, Saskatchewan Health Services Plan which provided coverage for hospitalized patients. By 1961, the provinces agreed to publicly funded (ie your tax dollars!) universal hospital and diagnostic health coverage which by 1971 was adopted by all provinces and included comprehensive medical insurance plans. 1984 arrives and instead of the dystopia of George Orwell’s 1984, our federal government passed the Canada Health Act (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-care-system/canada-health-care-system-medicare/canada-health-act.html>) . Under the act, “Insured health services include medically necessary hospital, physician and certain surgical-dental services. Extended health care services include certain long-term care services like nursing home care and adult residential care.” A key element of this act is the language used including “physician” (doctor) and “medically necessary”; because of this language, physicians have been the only health care providers allowed to charge the public health system for patient services.

Jump to January of 2026, our Federal Government made an announcement of a new interpretation of the Canada Health Act recognizing that nurse practitioners, midwives and pharmacists are providing medically necessary services to many patients but have been unable to charge the public funded system for these services. As a result, the patient must pay out of pocket if provided from a private clinic. This new interpretation recognises that medically necessary services are provided by numerous autonomous providers (able to practice independently without the guidance of a physician) and to increase access to Canadians needing health care, the provinces have until April 1, 2026 to develop funding through their federally received health transfer payments to support non-physician visits which are medically necessary.

This is exciting news for those of us in these fields and we are closely watching Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC who have already put funding in place and have successfully supported health care providers. I was advised by our

Cont.

Deputy Minister of Health Robert Shaffer in January that they are in discussions and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Manitoba released in February that there is movement towards alternative funding. Somewhat like walking in thick mud, but progress is being made.

So why did I decide to leave the safe haven of a reliable paycheque, health benefits and an impressive pension plan to open Oakview Clinic? Because I have the unique opportunity to support our community members in staying in their community to live out their lives, maintain their social networks and stay close to family members. As a private practice, I can provide home visits, so you do not have to drag your fevered, aching body out of your home and sit in a waiting room. In the future, I plan to work with our various community members to develop programs which cater to the unique needs of our community. And most importantly, I love this community and providing this service allows me to “pay forward” for all the amazing people we have living here, the wonderful community events and activities available to us and incredible beauty of our little town by a dam site!

To good health!

Michelle Weighell RN NP

Rapid City Nursery School News

Our first month back in our ‘home’ and what a month it was!!! We had Red Day for valentines and each child exchanging cards! No chaos there!! We have been busy doing lots of crafts and now we are straight into “Leprechauns Shenanigans!! So far they have just done nice tricks, but I’m sure that will all change the closer we get to the 17th!

Speaking of March 17th we will be having our ‘Green Day’, so we ask that you remember to dress your child in something green to please the Leprechauns!! You would not believe how excited these kids are about the Leprechauns!!

We will be starting our Easter Crafts before Spring Break and of course we will have our annual Bonnet Competition which will take place on April 7th. This gives lots of time for parents and kids to use their imagination to make their bonnets spectacular!!!

We will be doing our Pizza Fundraiser early in April, with more details to follow!!

We can’t forget to say BRAVO to our six brave performers who sang their hearts out at the FOL Pie Social on March 1st. That was a lot of people to entertain, and they did a fantastic job!!! We are so proud of them!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day and Easter!

Don’t Forget

The Oak River Legion Meat Draw is on Saturday March 21st at 8:00pm at the Blanshard Hotel. Everyone is welcome!!

Rapid City and District Wildlife Association

Rapid City and District Wildlife Association report for February 2026

The Wildlife Association is pleased to announce that Texas Hold'em Poker Night has been a huge success and will continue to run every Tuesday night at the Queens Hotel, starting at 7:30pm

Series # 18 of the Rapid City and District Wildlife Association Chase the Ace is down to 34 cards. Presently the CTA total is 3,960.00 with a possible winner receiving 60% of the total plus 60% of that evenings revenue.

The Chase the Ace runs every Saturday night at the Queens Hotel with new hours from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

This winters Ice Fishing Derby on the Little Saskatchewan River on February 22/26 was once again successful with 50 Adults and 16 kids participating .

All 16 kids recieved a new rod and reel for participating, and the main cash prizes were as follows.

1st....Justin Usunier (500.00)

2nd ...Vinny Gamblin (400.00)

3rd...Heather Luce (300.00)

4th ...Brayden Deedman (200.00)

The smallest fish caught prize donated by John Dalglesh (Cretco Concrete) was won by Jon Livingston.

The Association also supplied free hotdogs , cookies and pop for all .

Rapid City Wildlife presently has 52 memberships broken down into 33 family memberships, and 19 single memberships .

This translates into just over 90 men, women, and children that are part of the Rapid City and District Wildlife Association. If you or your family are interested in joining the Wildlife Association, contact Gary Phillips or myself Bob Christie.

CONTROL GATE AT THE RAPID CITY FISHLADDER

In a recent letter to the RM of Oakview from Chad Leitold P.Eng MTI, the Manitoba Government will be proceeding with obtaining all the regulatory approvals to install a control gate on the intake of the Rapid City Fishladder . The letter states that installation will likely be sometime in the summer. Great news for our Res-

MUSEUM MUSINGS

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to the Meat Draw on February 27th. It was a blustery day, and we were a little worried our tickets and some of our prizes were going to be snowed in, but the car got out and the items got to the Queen's just in time to start selling! Imagine our surprise when we actually sold out of the pile of tickets we had! Blew our minds!!!! A big thank you to everyone who bought tickets and supported our fundraiser. We really appreciate it!

We are busy making plans for what we are going to do this summer at the Museum and we will get started on some of our projects once this snow has gone away! We are really hoping the deer have left at least some of our plants in the garden alone, but we will see when spring comes.

Again, thanks for the support, we really appreciate it!!

HISTORY HOOKS

-Canadian History You May Not Know About by Yool Sharp

CANADA'S IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

1860, the year Palliser returned from his expedition, marked an epoch in Canadian history. Sir George Simpson, governor of the Hudson's Bay Co. (HBC) had died and with his passing the Gold Age of the fur trade was over. The days of the HBC monopoly were numbered and this venerable institute underwent a metamorphosis under the command of a flinty-eyed, bearded, bushy browed Scot (Donald Smith). He hadn't risen from the ranks with the lightning speed of the Little Emperor (Simpson).

Sir George, in 1830, had finally made a visit to England to bring back a wife—his lovely 26 year old cousin. In 1883 when the young matron was at the gubernatorial mansion At Lachine, Quebec, sandy haired Donald Smith arrived from Scotland. Sir George put him at a clerk's desk, were other young apprentices also toiled. When Sir George was away his wife took a friendly interest in the lads who were away from home, and sometimes entertained them at tea. When Sir George arrived home and found out he flew into a towering rage. "I am not going to endure having any upstart quill-driving apprentice dangling about the parlor reserved for the gentry and nobility", he thundered. Donald Smith was promptly banished to a lonely post on the Labrador coast—for twenty-seven years! That was the apprenticeship of the man destined to become one of the most powerful men in Canada, Governor of the HBC, multimillionaire, railway baron and future Lord Strathcona.

Donald saved his money at the bleak fur trade post. He invested the savings of his men at their request and they paid him a commission. His tall handsome cousin, George Stephen, who had come to Canada in 1850, made a fortune in woolen and cotton manufacturing and became a prominent shareholding official in the Bank of Montreal. His seedy-looking country cousin Donald, didn't impress him when he came on an occasional visit. He did, however, give Donald valuable advice about investing. When canny country cousin Donald came out of his long exile, he was only a hairsbreadth from being the principle shareholder of the HBC.

Not only had Donald's fortunes changed, Canada was changing too. In 1867 with Canadian Confederation, the HBC ancient rights in the West were transferred to the new dominion in 1870. The fur trade empire on the West coast had become a Crown Colony and the growing settlement at Fort Garry had sent Sir Stanford Fleming to petition Britain for a railway. The Canadian west was bound to be settled, but by whom—the fledgling Canadian nation, or the giant to the south? Canada's only hope of holding the western territory lay in linking it to the East by rail. Where was the sum of money required for a transcontinental railway to come from?

Donald Smith began to gather shrewd acquisitive businessmen as they were empire building. On a trip to St. Paul, Minnesota, he found former Canadian J. J. Hill defying HBC monopoly on shipping into Fort Garry. Smith ordered Norman Kittsen, the shipping agent on the Red River to battle for control of the shipping trade. This proved expensive so Smith decided since it was too costly to "lick 'em" - he'd join 'em. He arranged for an amalgamation, Smith, Kittsen and Hill, and they lowered their prices and drove all others from the field.

On a trip to the United States, Smith also watched with interest the fate of the bankrupt St. Paul Minnesota & Manitoba Railway and tried to convince cousin George (who was now president of the Bank of Montreal) that it would be a good investment. The cautious Stephen decided to check it out accompanied by the bank's general manager R.B. Angus, and was impressed on the number of settlers flocking in; the railway might be worth a try. Smith, Kittsen, Hill, Stephen and Angus were in the railway business. After ten months of operation the railway realized profits, which raised eyebrows in financial circles. They never looked back!

Sir High Allen, steamship tycoon, wanted a share of the current railway bonanza and moved to cash in on the gold

Cont.

Expected to flow from a government charter to build a Canadian transcontinental railway. Sir John Macdonald was waging an election campaign and Sir Hugh contributed substantially to his party. Sir John won the election but correspondence relating to the “donations” was filched. When the Liberal opposition broadcast the news that Allen, with his charter for the railway pending had “bribed” the government the fat was in the fire. In the ensuing scandal Sir John was fighting for political survival. It was thought that Donald Smith’s support would save the day. Smith, however, stated he could not “conscientiously” vote to support the government. The government was forced to resign, and sharing his defeat was the first Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Sir John began the long struggle to return to power; Donald Smith and his associates continued to rake in their railway profits.

Walter Moberly arrived in British Columbia in 1858 where he scoured the wilderness as surveyor for the colony. In the winter of 1859 he met Captain Palliser who told him the Gold Range west of the Columbia River presented an “unbroken and impossible barrier”. Moberly thought not and five years later set out to prove it. At Shuswap Lake he came to a valley running east to the Gold Range. His interest was aroused when he saw eagles soar far up the valley. He followed them and discovered Eagle Pass. He then attacked the other obstacle, the Selkirk’s. Ascending the Illecillewaet River he was forced to turn back by winter without finding a pass. It would be another sixteen years before that dramatic discovery was made.

Sir Stanford Fleming was put in charge of the railway surveys which began in 1871. Thousands of men fanned out all over the country looking for the best line, and Moberly was charged with finding the way across the Selkirk’s and Rockies. But which pass would he choose across the main chain of the Rockies? He favoured the Big Bend of the Columbia River, skirting the Selkirk’s where six years before he determined the railroad there would be expensive and dangerous. However, in 1872 he was ordered to move camp to the Yellowhead. Fleming came to see the route and saw that the Miette Valley was not a major obstacle, however the North Thompson Valley would be challenging. He, however, continued to favour the Yellowhead route. By 1880 surveyors had located the line from Fort William (now Thunder Bay) through the Yellowhead and along the Thompson. A brilliant young American engineer, Andrew Onderdonk, had started on his contract to build the Pacific section. Elsewhere the railroad was being built at a snail’s pace, in bits and pieces.

By 1880 Lethargy vanished! Sir John MacDonald was back in power, refurbishing his dream of a transcontinental line and Donald Smith’s syndicate was ready to invest its millions. They applied for a railway charter and got it, although Smith’s name was not on the contract—to mollify Sir John. He did however, own five thousand shares and his grey eminence loomed in the wings. The new Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and Sir John were now committed to achieving the impossible. Between the settled East and Fort Garry there was nothing but forest, granite, lake and muskeg, and the tiny settlements in the west were cut off from the Pacific by the rocky backbone of the continent. Across this immense and sometimes impossible terrain the railroad was to be flung and settlers brought in to make it pay.

To William Cornelius Van Horne obstacles were merely challenges. This fantastically dynamic American rose to the power of railway management. At thirty-eight he threw away security and plunged with astonishing energy into the task of translating Canada’s impossible dream into reality. As general superintendent he set up headquarters in Winnipeg in 1881 and said he intended to build an unheard of five hundred miles that year. “Nothing is impossible” he said to engineer J.H.E. Secretan. “Just show me the route, that’s all I want and if you can’t I’ll have your scalp”. He built four hundred and eighty miles that year.

Cont.

Like Sir George Simpson (HBC) the CPR wanted the shortest route through paying territory. The syndicate discarded the Yellowhead—it was too far north. Recently it had been established the southern plains were suitable for farming and cattle raising. If the rails went too far north of the boundary, America would throw up spur lines and cut into CPR profits. Where, then, should the line be threaded through the more southerly mountains? J.J. Hill had been responsible for hiring Van Horne. He recommended the man for finding the best way through the mountains was Major A.B. Rogers, a Yale graduate, a short snappy little chap with enormous flying Dundreary whiskers. It was said with a sea biscuit in one pocket and a few plugs of tobacco in the other he could travel weeks in the wilderness. He drove his men hard and himself even harder.

After consulting with Moberly, the Major decided to attack the Selkirk's first, from the east. Accompanied by his twenty-one year old nephew, Albert Rogers, for fourteen days they moved supplies through Eagle Pass, crossed the Columbia River and took up the task of finding a pass. By ascending the Illecillewaet River they reached what appeared to be the summit of the range. Below lay Major Roger's Pass! With only eight days rations left they had to turn back without crossing the Selkirk's, but the major had seen enough to convince him a feasible pass had been found. In the sprint of 1882, the Major completed his exploration of Rogers Pass; He and Albert reached the summit of the pass from the east—the way was clear. He then examined the Kicking Horse Pass and determined it was the route to follow, and Stanford Fleming gave qualified approval to the route through the Rockies.

Then, grim as the peaks it skirted, the spectre of financial ruin loomed before the CPR. Construction costs were devouring the syndicate's millions; depression struck and the threat of bankruptcy sat like a wolf on the railway baron's doorstep. Against all odds, Smith and Stephen refused to throw in the sponge. Sir John fought desperately to secure his cherished dream. He managed to push a relief bill through parliament, but the additional millions were soon gone. Stephen sent Donald a famous telegram "Stand fast, Craigellachie!" (battle cry of how ancient Clan Grant rallied their kinfold before battle).

Salvation came from an unsuspected quarter. The West was threatened with a second Metis and Indian uprising. Canada now had a railway—with gaps. Van Horne said he would transport the militia. Packing them into flat cars, hauling them with farm sleighs were the rails hadn't yet been laid, he got them west in a matter of days—to snuff out the Riel Rebellion. The CPR had shown its worth to the nation. President Stephen managed to prolong the life of the CPR from day to day. At a directors meeting he made what Van Horne called the finest speech he had ever heard. "Donald when they come they mustn't find us with a dollar". An inventory of all their assets had already been made. Disaster seemed imminent. When Sir John applied for another loan he was successful. The line could be completed.

Just west of Revelstoke, on 7th November, 1885, a cold mist clung to the cliffs over Craigellachie (pronounced 'Cray-Ga-Lack-Key'). A knot of workmen clustered around an iron plate which had been placed to join the rails running west to those running east. Bare headed little man, with flamboyant whiskers, Major Rogers, just visible on the left in photo; next to him, top-hated, bulky Van Horne and towering, square-bearded Sanford Fleming watched solemnly. A commanding figure, Donald Smith, with piercing eyes, unbelievably bushy brows and jutting beard picked up the great hammer—and drove the Last Spike!

A few months after that historic day an old man boarded the Transcontinental. The architect of Confederation was going to see, for the first time, the extent of his dominion. Past eastern lakes and forests, round rock and muskeg, Sir John travelled; on to now bustling Winnipeg, then westward



Cont.

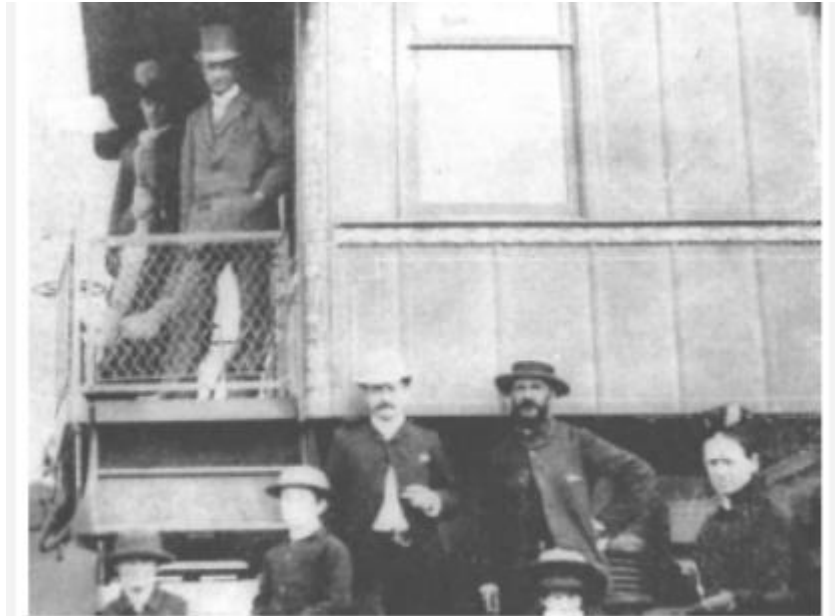
- for days the vast empty plains unrolled beside him. As the long voyage mounted to its climax, from a seat on the cowcatcher of the locomotive Sir John saw the Rockies. Then on to the Pacific.

HE HAD SEEN THE FULFILMENT OF HIS IMPOSSIBLE DREAM!

NOTE—This article is heavily edited edition from a chapter in Esther Fraser’s excellent book—The Canadian Rockies.



Major Rogers



This is an early photograph of John A. Macdonald and Mrs. Macdonald riding out west on the railway.

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- ✓ On our updated website
- ✓ In print publications
- ✓ In community promotions and displays

We want to showcase the beauty, character, and spirit of Oak River, Rapid City, Basswood & Cardale — and your photos can help bring that to life.

What We're Looking For

Stunning landscapes & nature
 Local landmarks
 Community events
 Everyday life in our municipality
 Heritage, recreation & seasonal photos

How to Submit

✉ Email photos to: info@rmfoakview.ca

Please include your name and a short description of the photo (optional).

Photo Use Notice

By submitting your photos, you grant the RM of Oakview permission to use them in municipal publications, online content, and promotional materials.

Thank you for helping us highlight the beauty of our municipality!

Rapid City Ag Society 2026 Fair

It's not too early to be thinking exhibits!!!!

Last month we gave a listing of what the kids could be working on during these long winter days and nights, but the adults have lots of things to get working on too! Here is a listing of items to get ready for the fair! Don't forget June 20th will be here before we know it!!

JUNIOR FOOD, 16 YEARS & UNDER

Specify age of child. No entry fee for 16 years & under. 19

Chocolate cupcakes, iced (4)

Nutritious cookies (4) may be oatmeal, peanut butter, whole wheat, granola bars, etc (include recipe)

Parent/child special occasion cake (not cut)

Creative Krispies

Wacky Cake, not iced, made from the following recipe:

1 ½ cup Flour 5 tbsp Oil

1 cup Sugar 1 cup Water, warm

1 tsp Baking Powder ¼ cup Cocoa

1 tsp Baking Soda 1 tbsp Vinegar

1 tsp Vanilla ½ tsp Salt

Grease an 8" square cake pan. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cocoa and salt into the pan. Make 3 holes. In one put vanilla, in one put oil and in the other put vinegar. Pour warm tap water over all. Mix well with a fork. Bake 35-40 minutes at 350 degrees F. Cool in pan. Do not remove from pan.

Have You Ever?? Maybe You Should!!

Have you ever thought you might want to learn more about fair exhibit judging?? Well, have we got an opportunity for you!! The MAAS-MHA Judging Clinic is taking place April 25th in Winnipeg. This all day clinic will teach you judging points and tips for judging agricultural and horticultural fair exhibits, how to work within fair rules and classes with directors and clerks and tips for personalizing your judging process. All classes are taught by qualified judges.. This is open to anyone who is interested in the art of judging. For more information on the judging clinic and how to register, please contact Deb Inglis at 204-826-2384 or 204-901-0035. There is a small registration fee of \$45.00 which includes access to all the clinic sessions and lunch. You can't go wrong with that deal!! Call Deb soon to insure you have a space!

BLESS THE FIELDS BREAKFAST

FREE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 18th from 8:30–10:30 am

**Deenfarms
Road 76, 3.5 miles west of Rapid City**

Rapid City Community Church is inviting all farmers & ranchers to a free breakfast, to welcome in the new growing season and ask for God's hand to be upon the crops we plant and the animals we raise.

**For more information contact Arenda Vanderdeen
@ (204) 570-2929**



Oak River Annual Two Person Stick Spiel

March 26th-29th

Rink entry-\$60

Friday March 27th

SUPPER -5 pm- 8 pm

\$20/plate adults

Supper is open to the public!

Live band-8 pm

"The New Highway 25 Repaved"

To Enter Call Ryan Brown

204-573-6198



2026

Join the Fun
OAK RIVER RELIC RUN

March 14, 2026
9:00 AM - 11:00AM REGISTRATION

Start & End
Oak River Memorial Rink

Prizes & Draws

- 1st - 25%
- 2nd - 15%
- 3rd - 10%
- Texas Mickey Draw

FREE BREAKFAST
9:30am-11:00am
From the Oak River fire department
Donations welcome!

FREE HOTDOGS
at 2nd stop

CANTEEN OPENS AT 3PM

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO THE OAK RIVER AG SOCIETY

QUESTIONS?
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204-345-3586

All hands in by 8pm




RM of Oakview

Snowplowing REMINDER

Please be patient with our operators as they do their best to get the roads cleared!

DID YOU KNOW?!



We have 4 graders.
We cover 4 townsites: Basswood, Cardale, Oak River & Rapid City.
We plow 434 miles of our roads.
We prioritize medical and bus routes, main arteries and high traffic roads!
It can take up to 3 days to plow the entire RM.
For the safety of our operators we do not send them out during a storm.





OAK RIVER MEMORIAL RINK

COMMUNITY SKATING RULES

PUBLIC SKATING GENERAL RULES

1. Anyone under the age of 16 must wear a helmet.
2. Anyone under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
3. No stick and puck during public skate times.
4. Fee's must be paid prior to stepping on the ice.

STICK AND PUCK GENERAL RULES

1. A helmet must be worn at all times.
2. Anyone under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
3. No body contact, slap shots or practice tools allowed on the ice.
4. Fee's must be paid prior to stepping on the ice.

PUBLIC SKATING TIMES

FRIDAY EVENING FROM 6 TILL 7
SUNDAY AFTERNOON FROM 2 TILL 3

STICK AND PUCK TIMES

FRIDAY EVENING FROM 7 TILL 8
SUNDAY AFTERNOON FROM 3 TILL 4

TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLEASE CHECK RM OF OAKVIEW WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE
OR RINK COMMUNITY CALENDAR ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE FOYER

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
PLEASE CONTACT
BOB AT 365.7042

AROUND THE HOUSE AND THROUGH THE YARD WITH ME

Hello again everyone and welcome to the month of March. So has this month begun like a lamb or a lion? It is warmer and there were no great weather stopping event on Saturday or Sunday. The weatherman predicted lots of cold and snow for the end of February but it certainly didn't seem to affect my driving at all. So perhaps it was more tamer than a lion? Anyhow on with the show.

Some crows are back and I'm reminded of the old saying "spring will arrive 3 snows after the crows." By my calculations we have had 3 snows already so it should be spring now. But then again maybe it really is an old wives tale, meaning spring will arrive when its good and ready.

There are people in the world today who are enjoying the sun and the green leaves and budding flowers while we poor sods here in rural Manitoba look out the window and see snow and more snow. It really makes me wonder why my grandparents selected this area in the first place. Why not stay in Scotland, England or Wales their places of birth. No, for some reason they all ended up here or in Moline or Pettapiece. So here we are, in the prairies with at least 4-5 foot snow banks up and down the lane and more cold days ahead for sure. Spring will be another few weeks away yet.

Here's the thing. Our streets and back roads are never crowded, our traffic in town is mostly obsolete maybe the odd senior out with a walker, or a kid on a bike, our nights are pitch black and we can see the stars and milky way right out our back door, we have real honest to goodness wildlife walking around during the night or right in the middle of the day, we can walk to the post office or the store within 5 minutes, there are not too many sirens blaring in town unless it's the summer fair parade, we don't have traffic jams, unless it's the parade, it's only a 30 min drive to a major city, is Brandon actually a real city, and do they ever have traffic jams? I guess what I'm getting at is that my grandparents made a pretty good choice in selecting this place to settle down. It's peaceful and quiet, lush greenish in the summer, tulips in May, maybe, June for sure and not too much traffic, just a nice place to call home. Compared to the world we live in today, I'd say I'm darn lucky to live here. Sure nasty things can happen but it's rare and when and if something did happen almost everyone would rally around and lend a hand to repair the damage.

Ok now that I've got that off my shoulders I feel much better, on with the Tell-It-Gram.

Wasn't that some pie social this past Sunday afternoon? I extend a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, especially Ruth for cutting almost each and every pie; what would we do without you? Plus you never hesitate to tell us what to do and we all love that about you. Ernie, you are one very patient man.

A big thank you to all the gals on the FOL committee and the library assistants for everything you do to make this event possible. And thanks to the family members who also come out and help in any way. We couldn't do it without you. Everyone I spoke to said what a great time they had and what great pie they ate and all for only 5 dollars. Where on earth can you go nowadays and get that kind of deal for just 5 bucks? And to end it off we have a real honest to goodness young Canadian champion auctioneer to come and help us fundraise by auctioning off homemade pies. Imagine, an auctioneer who has been declared the best in Canada living nearby and he comes of his own fruition (well maybe there was a bit of arm twisting going on, ask Trena Moore) to fundraise for our rural library. It's truly amazing the talent we have here in our town. The preschoolers who got to sing and perform for us was really awesome. And we got to hear Mike and Kathy Sucarko perform on guitar and sing for us as our entertainment. I would say that we are really a lucky community to have such dedicated citizens. Not every town is as fortunate.

Cont.

And gardening season is just around the corner, I'll be glad when it arrives. I'm getting antsy about getting back into the greenhouse and going out to the garden to seed or weed. Gardening means I get to see those migrating birds, see and hear all those great bird calls and hear the buzzing of the honeybees. I definitely don't like the sound of buzzing mosquitoes. Gardening and summer weather just go hand in hand and I can hardly wait to get out a new pair of garden gloves and get right back in the swing of things. I've read and reread the garden seed catalogues, found just the right seed packages and can hardly wait to get out there and plant them. I have the geraniums and petunias ready to start, the packets are waiting for me to get a bag of Soiless potting mix and to begin. The heated mats are all ready to go which makes this all an exciting time of year for all we gardeners and wannabe gardeners. There are so many plants to grown but not enough time to plant everything. I definitely have the space but more time is needed and it seems like the "farmer" always wants my assistance with something farm related which I think is wasting my planting/gardening time. For some reason he does not see my point of view.....

I started geranium cuttings this past winter and they are doing great, all they really need is to be in the greenhouse. But that a few weeks away yet. I like to get them out there by the middle of April weather permitting. Sometimes when it's a really sunny hot day I am able to carry out a few pots and let them spend the day in the greenhouse then bring them back in during the evening. They thrive and seem to simply grow a couple of inches within a few days because of all the heat and sun.

We have had a few warm days whereby some of the shop cats have made there way over to the greenhouse and have spent a few afternoons basking in the heat and sun. I'm sure they will be back in there by the weekend as warmer weather is predicted for Friday and Saturday. Speaking of cats they are all doing well both in the house and out in the shop. They have packed on a few winter pounds but haven't we all? When it's nice they get out the cat door and head for the wood shed to hunt or go to the machine shed to see what's living in there. It seems like they always find something to do. The newest one loves to play ball with an old racket ball. He chases it and loves to jump on it as it rolls around in cardboard boxes with door ways cut into the sides. Sometimes one of the older cats gets excited to see the ball rolling toward them and they too will get in the "chase the ball event." But more than likely it's just this October arrival kitten named Benny because he looks part Bengal.

How about a few baking tips

Next time you bake muffins skip a spot between each on to create better airflow which will allow the muffins to rise taller and bake more evenly. So if you have a 12 size muffin pan you can bake 6 and you will see a noticeable difference. The muffin batter will be fine while the first batch cooks.

Ideally you should bake the muffins at 425 for 8 minutes then reduce the temperature to 350 to let them finish baking this will help them rise taller. Doing this will allow for a better colour of muffin without over baking.

Use greek or plain yogurt to provide extra fat and acidity in your muffins. Use melted butter for flavour and some oil for moisture. Always fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients gently; and overmixing will create dense, dry muffins.

Using buttermilk in the muffins will create tender, moist and slightly tangy muffins. It's the acidity in the buttermilk which breaks down the gluten and reacts with the baking soda that gives them a better rise. Homemade buttermilk is easy to make at home. Add 1 tbsp plain white vinegar or lemon juice to 1 cup of regular milk. Let sit for 5-10 min or until it begins to curdle or become lumpy. That means the regular milk has now turned into buttermilk.

Cont.

Recipes

Mushroom stroganoff Serves 4

1 tbsp butter	8 oz fresh sliced mushrooms
1/2 c chopped onion	1/4 tsp thyme
2 tbsp flour	Salt and Pepper to taste
2 c veggy broth	1/4 c sour cream
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce	4 cups uncooked No Yolk egg noodles

Cook egg noodles as directed on package in boiling water. Heat large skillet. Melt butter, add chopped onions

Cook until soft, add in flour, stir 30 seconds. Gradually add broth, Worcestershire sauce stirring constantly

Add sliced mushrooms, thyme and salt and pepper. Stir, cook 4-5 min till thick and bubbly. Bring to boil, reduce heat, simmer 4 minutes. Remove from heat, stand 30 seconds. Stir in sour cream and noodles, mix well and serve.

Fried potato patties

- 1 c leftover mashed potatoes
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/4 c flour
- 1/2 green onion chopped or more as desired
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tbsp butter for frying
- Fresh dill if desired



Melt butter in large fry pan. Mix cold leftover potatoes with the beaten egg, flour, green onions into patty shapes

You should get 4 patties out of the 1 cup of leftover potatoes. Fry until golden brown on one side then flip over and fry on other side. Add fresh dill or dried

You can make these into salmon patties by adding small can of drained salmon to the mashed potatoes and then frying. This is a great way to use up leftover spuds and still make a great meal.

Well that's about it for March.

Margo



DRIPS FROM THE TAP



ALL THOSE FISH SHACKS

It was great to see so many fishing shacks on the river during the fishing derby. Don't forget that even though it feels like winter is hanging on, there is still a looming deadline of March 15th when shacks need to be removed, or sooner if we should suddenly have a lovely spring thaw. Sorry ice fishing fans, but we are all really looking forward to that warmer weather coming sooner than later!

It's an Election Year

You may or may not know but this fall we have our municipal elections and school board elections. In the coming months we will be having articles explaining what councilors do and how to put your name forward to run for a position.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS

We all moved our clocks ahead one hour and lost an hour of sleep doing it, but we gained some much loved sunshine. BC has said they aren't falling back in the fall. Do you think it's time Manitoba does the same? A bill has been introduced in the legislature that would keep Manitoba on Daylight Savings Time. Some Manitobians are all for it, and some aren't so sure. Where do you sit on the time change discussion!?!

Wildlife in the Wrong Spot

There is getting to be too many coyote sightings in the town limits of Rapid City. People have seen them running down streets and one person saw them actually eating—presumably— a deer close to the car wash. That is not good news. Keep an eye on where your pets are and make children aware that not all dog looking animals are dogs! If you have a dog, please keep them contained in your yard so they are safe. The number of deer in town is pretty tempting for a hungry coyote, but very dangerous for everyone else!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to All Things Hannah on being voted best woman's clothing and accessories store in Westman by Community Votes Brandon 2025! That is a real feather in your cap Hannah and your many customers will not be surprised!

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What do you call penguins in the Sarah Desert?

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Don't forget to get your articles in for the TIG by the 4th of the month. Send them to rclib@wcgwave.ca



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ANSWERS TO REBUS PUZZLES—Page 11

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- Lemonade
 - Long Legs
 - Advice
 - Spaceman
 - Big Bad Wolf



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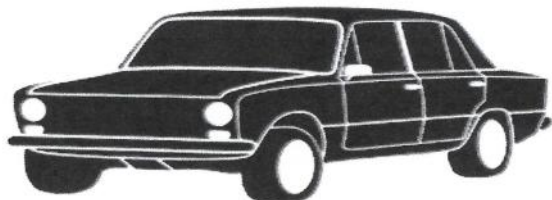


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