

COTTAGER'S GUIDE

2025 EDITION

to the
Eastern Beaches
of
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Powerview
and St. Georges**

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 Ambulance (Pine Falls) 911
 RCMP 204-367-2222

RM OF St. CLEMENTS

Fire 911
 Ambulance (Selkirk) 911
 RCMP 204-754-2300
 Medical Clinic (July & August) 204-754-2525

RM OF VICTORIA BEACH

Fire 911
 Ambulance..... 911
 Police Emergency 911
 Police Non-Emergency..... 204-756-2322

PINE FALLS, POWerview, St. GEORGES

Fire 911
 Ambulance..... 911
 RCMP 911

NEAREST HOSPITALS

Pine Falls Hospital 204-367-4441
 Selkirk Hospital 1-204-482-5800

MANITOBA CONSERVATION

Grand Beach 204-754-5040
 Powerview 204-367-6130
 Forest Fire & Tips..... 1-800-782-0076
 Campground Reservation 1-888-482-2267

VETERINARIANS

Selkirk Animal Hospital..... 1-204-482-4401

HEALTH

Quick Care Clinic Selkirk..... 204-482-4399
Mobile Primary Care Clinic 204-367-2278
 1-855-295-8296

Coast Guard..... 1-800-267-7270

The Cottager's Guide to the Eastern Beaches Area

Phone: 204-754-7064

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Publisher/Editor - Cathy Halgren Advertising Sales - Glenn Halgren
 Printing - Premier Printing Ltd. Design/layout - Shelly Makus Design

The Cottager's Guide to the Eastern Beaches Area is published annually for distribution on the May long weekend. Contents are subject to errors, omissions, and/or changes may be made without notice. Cottager Publications accepts no liability for content of ads. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited. We wish to thank the advertisers and other contributors without whose support this guide would not be possible.

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EASTERN BEACHES

MUNICIPALITY OF ALEXANDER – COUNCIL CORNER

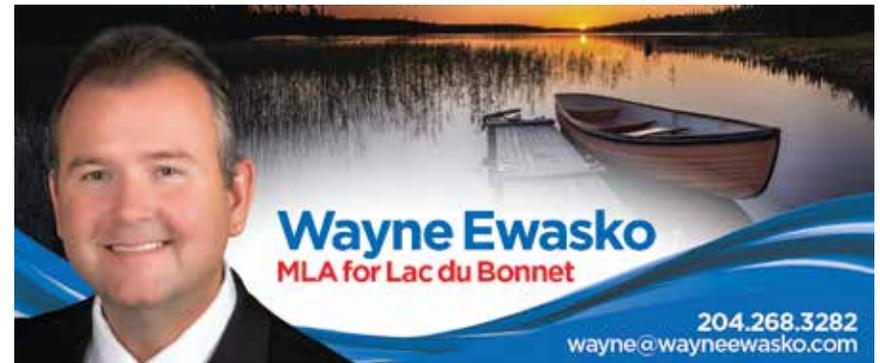
Welcome to the Municipality of Alexander! Whether you're a resident or a visitor exploring our beautiful region, we're happy to have you here. From our spectacular lakes and beaches to our vibrant communities, there's so much to enjoy. We take great pride in maintaining a welcoming and thriving municipality, and we're always working to enhance our public spaces, services, and infrastructure. We are excited to announce that we have



received grant funding to install a permanent washroom at Charlie Wall Park, improving amenities for residents and visitors. We have formed a committee to determine the best use and development of the land we own at the corner of PTH 11 and 59, ensuring it serves the needs of our growing community. Recognizing the importance of fire safety, we have also established a committee dedicated to developing a fire protection plan for the East Beaches area. Engineers and surveyors will be on-site at Lester Boulevard to develop a remediation plan aimed at protecting the shoreline and preventing further erosion. These projects reflect our ongoing commitment to community improvement and sustainability.

On behalf of Mayor and Council, we wish all residents and visitors a fantastic summer in the Municipality of Alexander! ■

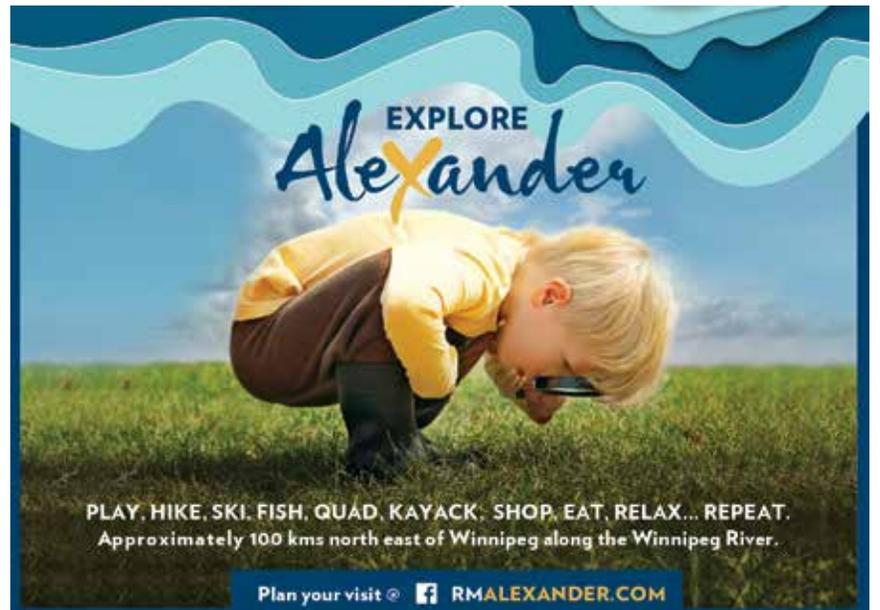
Mayor & Council
Municipality of Alexander



Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library
104086 PTH 11, St. Georges, 204-367-8443
3 Ateah Road, Victoria Beach, 204-756-2043

Books, magazines, DVDs, puzzles ■ e-books and audiobooks from eLibraries Manitoba with Libby ■ streaming films with Kanopy ■ materials in alternate formats from CELA ■ interlibrary loans from other Manitoba libraries ■ and more

www.allardlibrary.com



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RM OF VICTORIA BEACH - GREETINGS

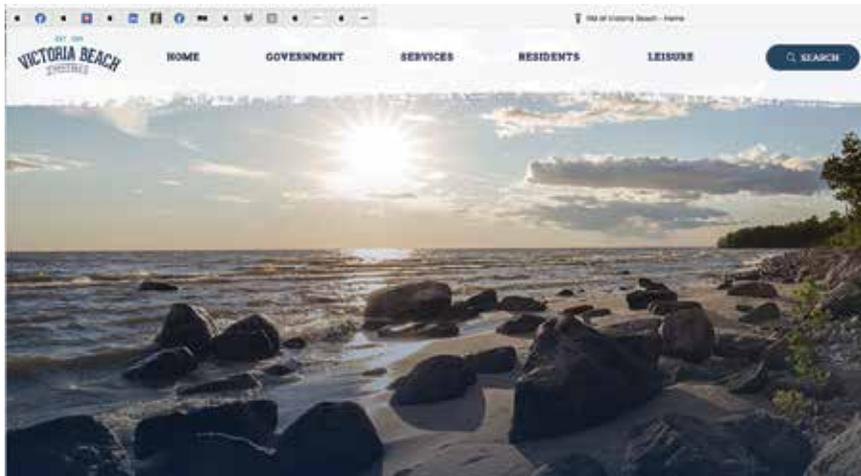


Welcome to the RM of Victoria Beach! The permanent residents who call Victoria Beach home are fortunate to experience all four seasons and to participate in a myriad of activities and events put on by local clubs and organizations year-round. Many thanks to the volunteers and staff who put so much effort into providing these opportunities for social interaction and physical activity in our community.

Welcome back to our seasonal residents who look forward to getting back to their cottages for the summer months. For residents of and visitors to the vehicle restricted area, please note that the vehicle restriction is in effect from Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. until Monday, September 1 at 6 a.m. All vehicles must be parked in the VB Parking Lot during this time, unless you have an approved vehicle permit.

An important reminder for residents wanting curbside garbage pick-up - you must have a bear-resistant garbage bin by this May in order to have your garbage picked up. There is still a supply available at our Garbage & Recycling Depot for \$315 per bin. Order forms are available on our website at www.victoriabeach.ca under the "Services" tab, then click on the "Garbage & Recycling" link, RM of Victoria Beach - Garbage & Recycling. Seasonal curbside pick-up starts on June 24.

The Garbage & Recycling Depot located just west of the Public Works yard starts summer hours effective May 1, open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This depot is for RMVB residents or renters only and all users must show their



valid RMVB Garbage & Recycling Pass to the attendant. There are tipping fees for some items – see the list at the Depot or visit our website for details.

A new pumper truck for the VB Fire Department has been ordered and we are moving forward with the construction of the new RMVB Firehall. Go to our website for updates and details. The restoration of the Moonlight Inn is almost complete, see details of the project on our website and also in the Cottager's Guide article written by Judy Fostey-Owen.

We encourage all residents and visitors to practice FireSmart. Wild fires are our biggest risk and we ask residents to visit our website for information on FireSmart initiatives that can be applied to your property. Some volunteer driven FireSmart initiatives will be happening in the community, clearing brush and deadfall. Your support and manpower are always appreciated. The municipality provides a brush pick-up service in the Spring and Fall, check our website for dates. Pile your brush neatly on the roadside of your property for pick-up and do not put brush out after the pick-up date or during the summer months.

Have you signed up for VB Connect - our communication and emergency information service? Visit the home page of our website and scroll down to the VB Connect box to register. If you need help please contact the RM office in Winnipeg at 204-774-4263, toll free in Manitoba only at 1-800-513-3839 or by email at Info@victoriabeach.ca. You can receive important information via land line, email, text message, or cell phone message.

Join us at our summer Council Meetings held at the Social Scene on the first and third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7 p.m from May 20 through to September 16, 2025. Visit our website for further details on all things related to your community. ■

*Mayor Penny McMorris,
Councillors Steve Axworthy,
Ian Chadsey, Irwin Kumka and
Graham Randle*

victoriabeach.ca



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA BEACH

info@victoriabeach.ca

Mayor:

Penny McMorris

Councillors:

Graham Randle, Steve Axworthy, Irwin Kumka, Ian Chadsey

Chief Administrative Officer

Lon Turner
2035 Portage Ave. Winnipeg
Phone: (204) 774-4263
Toll Free (MB): 1-800-513-3839

PW Lead Hand

Dane Zarazun 204-756-2286

Golf Course Clubhouse

Elaine Hodovick
Ph: 204-756-2435

Vehicle Restricted Area Dates:

June 19/25 at 11:59 pm to
September 1/25 at 6:00 am

EMO radio dial 89.5 FM

RMVB Council Meetings – 2025

Please visit the RM website for Council meeting information @ www.rmofvictoriabeach.ca or call the RM office at 204-774-4263

Fire Chief

Brad Patzer

Police Chief

Michael MacKinnon

Website: www.rmofvictoriabeach.ca

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- Adam Wallis – Course Superintendent

PHONE: 204-756-2435

Sunday Mass Times 2025

Our Catholic parishes & chapels invite you to come celebrate the Lord's Day.

Plage Albert/Albert Beach

Chapelle Notre-Dame-de-la Plage-Albert
Saffie Road; français/French
Dimanche à 10h30
(du 6 juillet au 31 août)
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
(July 6 to August 31)

Fort Alexander/Sagkeeng

St. Alexandre Parish
Highway 11
Sundays at 10 a.m.

Grand Marais (Grand Beach)

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Parish
88 Glenvale Avenue
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month
at 10 a.m.



Pexels: Mart Productions

Powerview

Notre Dame du Laus Parish
40 Laura Street
Saturday at 5 p.m. &
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Saint-Georges

Paroisse St-Georges
17, baie Caron; bilingue/Bilingual
Dimanche à 9 h / Sunday at 9 a.m.

Stead

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
on Stead Road
Sunday at 12 p.m.

Traverse Bay

St. Marguerite Parish
on Pitt Road near Traverse Bay Rd. East
Saturday at 7:30 p.m. (June 28 to Aug 30)
Sunday at 11:30 a.m. (May 18 to Oct 12)

The Local Priests

Fr. Emeka (Sebastian) Ejie Powerview 204-367-2700

Fr. Paul Nguyễn Fort Alexander/Sagkeeng (as of June 1) 204-367-2561

Fr. Kevin Ezeobi Wanipigow 204-363-7468

WAYSIDE GOSPEL CHAPEL

Roger Chorney at 204-635-2750 for information.

Wayside is a Community church serving the East Beaches and two First Nations Communities 12 months a year. You are always welcome to join us for worship, friendship and encouragement in your life. Ministry is focused on the Bible and God's love that resulted in Jesus Christ being crucified for sinners, risen, and glorified. You'll find us at **39081 Fey Road, 1km west of Hwy 59.**

On **Sunday mornings at 11am** (join us at 10:30 for coffee). You'll find activities for everyone; teens, kids, adults & a welcoming nursery.



AA/NA/CA – Overcomers Outreach, a confidential 12-step recovery program meets at Wayside. Call (or text) Ken Sundelin at (204)770-7999. Addictions and compulsions, including drugs, alcohol, overeating, and many other troubling life issues are dealt with. Come find freedom – come and make a new start in life.



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The Anglican Parish of St. Michael, Victoria Beach

Services at 11:30 every Sunday
throughout the year.
For further information,
please call Joan at 204-756-3173.
Everyone is welcome!



Trinity Lutheran - Thalberg

1 mile South and 1 mile East from
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thalbergtrinitychurch.ca

Check website for schedule updates



- Worship Services
Sunday at 11:00
- Sunday School during
Worship Service
September-June
- Vacation Bible School
July 14 through 18

For more info contact
Amanda @ 204-266-0260

All Are Welcome

Sun Country Arts & Crafts Inc. 2024

ONE GREAT SALE:

Saturday, July 5th

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For more Information, please contact
Barb Batulla at: 204-794-7627
or bbatulla@outlook.com



40 Years serving our Community



Wayside

Gospel Chapel

39082 Fey Road

1 km west of Walter Whyte School

Summer Schedule

Sunday 9:30am – Communion (1st Sunday @ 11:00 am)

11:00 am – Family Service Sunday School – 11:30 am

We are now on Facebook as Wayside Gospel Chapel
Facebook Live will take place every
Sunday @ 11:00 a.m.

AA/NA/CA Addictions Recovery (Overcomers Outreach)

Call (or text) Ken Sundelin at (204)770-7999

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NOT JUST A SUNDAY DRIVE

by Laura McCombe

A funny thing happened while the world was dealing with the Pandemic in the summer of 2021. In East Beaches the “Lockdown” and the necessity of distancing got the owners of some pretty nice vehicles out of the house and on to the paved roads of East Beaches for “Sunday Drives”. A couple of ‘car guys’, Brian Danyluk and Pete Peterson – also hockey buddies in the winter – noticed the cruising phenomena and when hockey resumed, the car buffs talked themselves into organizing a few “Meet & Greets” for car owners in August of 2022. They informally hosted shows in Traverse Bay, Belair at Thompson Crossing and at the Hillside Hub where the events were very well received with between forty to sixty cars per show. Plus, the public loved it!

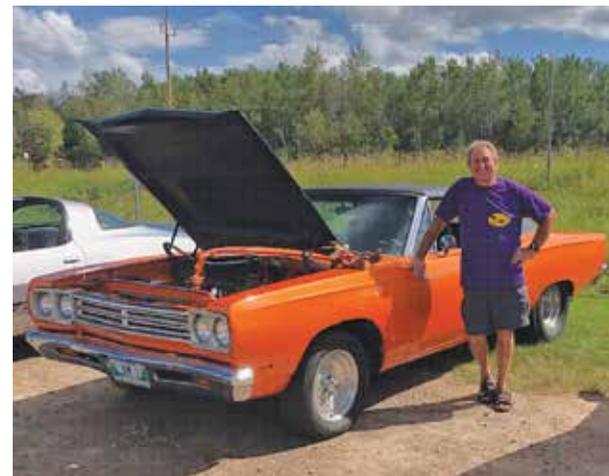


The following winter the two aficionados organized larger shows for the summer of 2023. They crafted a catchy logo to match the name of the club “Crusin’ the Beaches”. They had T-shirts made for sale, they found music to pump up the vibe and they gave away hot dogs while providing the opportunity for guests to donate - if they were so inclined. They got on social media to advertise events on a Facebook page and the rest is history.



Since its inception “Crusin’ the Beaches – Show & Shine has raised over \$5000 at a total of nine shows. In 2025 they will have 2 additional shows. The group boasts a membership of 536, an alliance with the Manitoba Association of Auto Clubs {MAAC} and the happy consequence of raising money which they have donated to non-profit and local

charities. In March 2025 both Pete and Brian were at the 2025 World of Wheels car show. They weren’t showing off their own cars instead opting to work with the MAAC to distribute the Event Guide to the thousands of guests in attendance at the convention center in Winnipeg. Brian qualifies his participation with “Crusin’ the Beaches” this way, “Although I did the majority of the work, we have had fabulous support and volunteerism from the Community”. These car guys have set the bar pretty high. Bigger and better every year with vintage and unique vehicles; free admission to the public, plus funds for charity.



These events are confirmed in our area for 2025 – However, watch for “pop-up shows” to be posted.

- **Tuesday, July 1** – Canada Day Crusin the Beaches Grand Beach/Grand Marais Show & Shine on the ground of the Grand Marais Community Central & RV Park – show time 12:00 to 4:00
- **Sunday, August 3rd** – The Christian Jonker “Anything With a Motor” August Long Weekend Victoria Beach Memorial Car Show on the grounds of the Beaches Community Centre just east of Victoria Beach gates - Show time 12:00 to 4:00
- **Saturday, August 16** – Gull Lake Car Show – this is the 2nd annual show for the club which holds the event on Stead Road at the top of the hill. Rain date the 17th Show time pending ■





Trust a Local Expert!

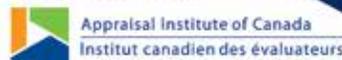
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Grand Marais



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Managing Partner, Precision Wealth Management, Senior Portfolio Manager, Investment Strategist, Q Wealth

james.mcinnis@qwealth.com | 1 866 954 0247



Tom Aldridge
QAFP, CEBS

Group Insurance Specialist, Precision Wealth Management

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FYI

RM of Alexander

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

- Call the main office: (204) 367-6170 or
- Visit the website: www.rmalexander.com

Public Parking

- Harry Craig Road, Hillside Beach
- Yellow Brick Road, Belair
- Pitt Rd, Albert Beach

Public Washrooms

- Harry Craig Road, Hillside Beach
- Charlie Wall Park, Hillside Beach
- Lagoon Rd, Hillside Beach
- Yellow Brick Road, Belair
- Belair Properties (Public Park)
- Lester Beach
- Traverse Bay Boat Launch

Public Boat Launches

- Harry Craig Road, Hillside Beach
- Hillside Point Rd, Hillside Beach
- Yellow Brick Road, Belair
- Traverse Bay Boat Launch
- St. Georges

Animal Control & By-Law Officer

- Please call the RM Office (or visit the website) for current contacts



RM OF VICTORIA BEACH

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION

- Call the RM office at 204-774-4263 or
- Visit the website: www.rmofvictoriabeach.ca

Public Parking – at the VB Parking Lot at the end of PTH #59; along PR #504 where permitted, watch for No Parking signs
Highway 59 causeway (Old Mill Park), watch for No Parking sign
No parking on any streets in the municipality

Public Washrooms

- Seasonal accessible washrooms; Pier Point, Village Green, Saffie Rd. at Pitt Rd.

Dogs must be on a leash at all times and owners are responsible to pick up after their pets. Dogs are not allowed on the beach 10 am – 8 pm from June 1 to Labour Day.

Spring and Fall Brush Pick-Up - For Brush and Bagged Leaves Only - No Building Debris
Dates to be Determined - check the website for updates.
Please bag your leaves for pick-up.

Victoria Beach Vehicle Restricted Period – Thursday, June 19 at 11:59 p.m. until Monday, September 1 at 6 a.m.

Fire Permits – Blank applications are available at the fire department in mail box #1 or can be downloaded from the website.

RM OF ST. CLEMENTS

Public Parking - Grand Beach Provincial Park

Public Washrooms – Located throughout the park
Grand Marais Community Central

Boat Launch – Lagoon inside in the Provincial Park
Balsam Harbour – Road 100 N

Visit www.rmofstclements.com for more information

BURNING PERMITS

Open fires are prohibited from April 1 to Nov. 15 annually, except under a burning permit or in enclosed approved firepits such as grated campfire pits in provincial campsites.

Permits are available at no charge from your local fire department or at any Manitoba Conservation Office.

Manitoba Conservation reserves the right to cancel burning permits during periods of extreme fire hazard.

Pine Falls District Office
204-367-6130

Grand Beach District Office
204-754-5040

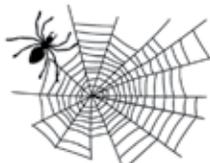


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The EBSS offers a wide range of weekly programming activities, opportunities to learn new skills, monthly dinners, an annual fall supper, lots of special events and more.

From its beginning in 1974 as the local Senior Citizens' Club, the EBSS has become a year-round meeting place for all ages and for members and non-members alike. Be sure to keep up-to-date with announcements in the local East Beaches Community Newsletter and on social media.

If you would like to make a difference and meet others at the same time, consider volunteering. The EBSS welcomes and appreciates all volunteers who want to help create fun and memorable experiences.

If you are hosting an event such as a shower, wedding, community meeting or craft sale, consider renting the main hall, which can accommodate up to 175 people. A private meeting room is available to rent for small organizational meetings.

The EBSS facility is also home to the East Beaches Resource Centre, Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library's Victoria Beach Branch and the Beaches Community Centre's fitness facility. There really is something for everyone.

Be active, stay healthy and get involved today. Call (204) 756-6468, email ebssinc1@gmail.com or visit www.ebseniorscene.ca for more information.

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MOONLIGHT INN SHINES AGAIN

Historic restaurant will reopen to its 'former glory' after restoration

By Judy Owen

He was one of thousands of kids over the decades who pedalled furiously across the Village Green and braked in front of the Moonlight Inn.

After opening the wooden screen door, he'd quickly walk to the ice-cream counter and ponder what flavour would satisfy that day's sweet tooth.



The Moonlight Inn was featured in a postcard after opening in 1929.



Its current white facade remains in a rendering of the inside-outside restoration. Photos courtesy of Mark Strople (top), Nancy Greer (above) and Unit 7 Architecture (facing page).

It's those tasty memories – and later in life an appreciation for the Inn's historical importance to Victoria Beach – that made him offer to financially cover what's turned out to be a two-year restoration to preserve the landmark restaurant for generations to come.

"There's no question that it was a big treat to go to the Inn for ice cream," says the benefactor, who requested anonymity. "I can envision Norman Rockwell capturing, in one of his iconic paintings, me and my chums gathered around the ice-cream display, wide-eyed, tasting every flavour in our imagination."

He and other cottagers and visitors will have the opportunity to go inside for an ice-cream cone or one of the restaurant's meals when it reopens this year after the seasonal vehicle-restricted period goes into effect June 19.

It's been a longer-than-expected wait.

The mezzanine top level of the 1929 building was closed for dining in 2019 because there was no exit from it to meet fire and building codes. A full assessment of the Inn was led by local cottager and retired structural engineer Kelly Hearson.

A steering committee called Friends of the Inn was formed, chaired by VB councillor Graham Randle. Its members include Hearson, Mayor Penny McMorris, Moonlight Inn proprietor Aaron Vincent Elkaim, some longtime cottagers and representatives from companies such as Unit 7 Architecture, Drew Allwright Contracting and Blanchard Landscape Design.

The entire building was closed prior to the summer of 2023 for a full restoration.

The benefactor initially offered to pay the fees of Unit 7 Architecture, owned by local cottager Dean Syverson, but later made a commitment that "shocked and awed" committee members, Randle says.

Continued on page 38



SOMETHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Renovation blends charm of Moonlight Inn with modern fixes

By Judy Owen

Expecting the unexpected is wise when planning a big renovation.

Members of the Friends of the Inn steering committee were prepared for that after it was decided in 2019 to upgrade the historic Moonlight Inn at Victoria Beach.

It was a good thing because once the 1929 building was closed before the summer of 2023 so the project could begin, one discovery led to another necessary fix – and then another and another.

Coupled with ideas to enhance the dining experience, the result is a full restoration that Unit 7 Architecture owner Dean Syverson and other committee members believe keeps the traditional features of the landmark restaurant.

“We stripped it right down to the studs, but we’re rebuilding it so that it will look like just a crisp, cleaned-up version of the original,” says Syverson, who began renting at VB 30 years ago and bought a cottage 15 years later.

The only ‘artifact’ discovered in the building was a white, wooden column with names of some past employees, and the years they worked there, scribbled in ink or felt pens. It’s been sealed and will be exposed again.

The Inn will reopen this year after the seasonal vehicle restriction takes effect June 19.

Syverson, whose company is also the interior designer and project supervisor, outlined four key areas of work and some of the “chain-reaction” changes.

In the beginning

The project was sparked by the closure of the Inn’s second floor/mezzanine in 2019

because it didn’t meet the fire code. There was no exit from that level, only the stairs to the main floor.

Adding an exterior staircase so the second storey remained a dining area of the Inn was crucial, but more building-code violations existed on the



mezzanine. It had railings kids could climb over or through and windows that opened in with screens but no bars. Two roof trusses also needed replacing.

Accessibility added

The Inn wasn’t handicap accessible, including no proper washroom, so one went on the to-do list.

Physical structure

The Inn was built on posts and pads and was “kind of collapsing,” Syverson says.

Since a new foundation was needed, it made sense to add a crawl space under the building. However, the Inn was too close to the log building that was the original office of the Victoria Beach Company and wouldn’t meet the fire code.

The solution was lifting the Inn and moving it over three metres (10 feet) onto new foundation walls.

Design issues

The back of the Moonlight Inn included a series of “ramshackle” additions, so it was decided to replace those with an efficient kitchen and incorporate storage space and an accessible washroom, Syverson says.

An outdoor patio was put into the plans, built so it could be converted into a screened room down the road if mosquitoes and other insects become too annoying for comfortable dining.

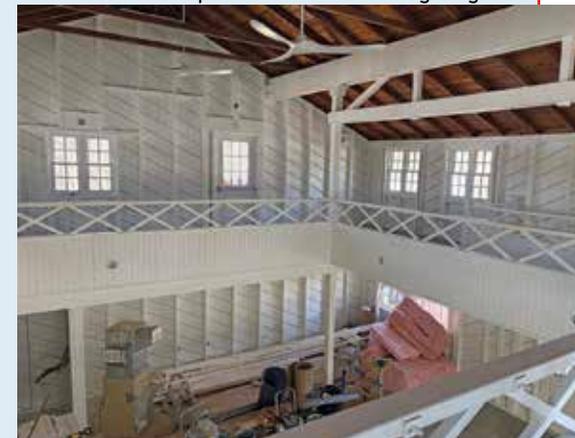
An anonymous donor funded the entire project.

“I think the community is very fortunate to have a patron who was willing to go the extra mile in terms of getting it done properly, and spared no expense to see it done properly – and did that anonymously. That’s pretty special,” says Syverson, whose past projects include the 1882 Fortune Building on Main Street in Winnipeg.

To learn more about the renovation journey, see the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach website for details and photos in the Moonlight Inn Update link.



The Inn’s well-known diner charm will remain, and the upstairs has expanded with a fire-code door. Photos courtesy of Nancy Greer (top) and United 7 Architecture (bottom).



“Bless his heart, he expanded his offer to include all of the construction costs,” says Randle, a retired certified engineering technologist and permanent resident at nearby Wanasing Beach.

“It was described at the time as a magnificent gesture, and it still is.”

The preliminary cost for remedial work was \$509,000, but it escalated to an undisclosed amount as more problems were identified and new features added.

“It went far beyond just catching up, rehabilitating the Inn,” Randle says. “It completely reinvigorates the Inn back to its former glory. Tradition is a big item with our residents. Every practical measure has been taken to ensure the integrity, the appearance and the spirit of the Inn as we proceeded with renovating it.”

The donor says he realized early on there was “a unique opportunity to make the Moonlight Inn a magnificent destination” for the community, as well as a team to bring that vision to reality.

“Anyone who has spent any time there will acknowledge that it’s a very special, beautiful place. It lives in my heart and its roots run deep in my life going back to my earliest childhood memories and the love that my parents felt for Victoria Beach and passed on to me...” he says.

“Since the RM of VB didn’t have the budget and I knew how challenging it can be to raise money from the public, I offered to fund the project in its entirety to ensure that this opportunity would be fully grasped, and to provide the financial flexibility and freedom to execute a first-class project with the highest level of design and workmanship.”

The interior of the Inn keeps its quaint diner charm, but is modernized with a new kitchen and accessible washroom. A liquor licence will allow customers to have alcohol with meals, but not into the wee hours of the morning. The plan is to end liquor service at a reasonable time and limit it to the expanded upstairs dining level and a new patio.

The Inn’s cottage-like exterior remains, including pillars with the original local stones if they’re reusable, Syverson says.

When the Inn opened under proprietor R.A. Robinson in 1929, it was a brown, wood-shingled building with a cafe, soda fountain, ice cream, candies and fruit. Employees could stay rent-free in a couple of rooms upstairs. A small pharmacy was included five years later. The building was eventually painted white.

The Inn got its name from the train service that ran to the resort, and the “Moonlight Special” return ride to Winnipeg. It was located near the train station in the Village Green.

A Moonlight Inn advertisement in a 1929 issue of the Victoria Beach News (now the Herald) had a headline with its iconic phrase: “Meet me at the Moonlight Inn.” The ad noted “courteous staff in attendance.”

McMorris is thankful it’ll remain a special meeting place.

“The Moonlight Inn is a treasured, nostalgic piece of VB history, now a beautifully renovated and improved piece of our future,” she says. “The past has been retained, the present meticulously crafted and the future is secure for decades to come.

“We are immensely grateful to our donor, whose passion for VB, vision and financial commitment made this amazing restoration possible.”

The Moonlight Inn food trailer that operated next to the building during renovations is expected to open the May long weekend and serve customers until the work is finished.

When the donor was asked why it was important his identity not be revealed, he explains benefactors usually receive recognition that overshadows the work of team members. In particular, he appreciates the skill of workers in the subtrades – from the person who operated the excavator to the plumber.

“These unsung heroes deserve accolades, but they often receive little or no recognition, yet the success of a project is so profoundly dependent on the quality of their work,” he says.

“They all deserve the limelight. By temperament and preference, I’m far happier supporting their efforts from the privacy of the wings and out of the limelight. The success of the finished project is the only acknowledgement that I desire.” ■

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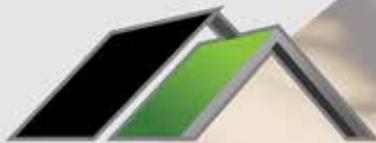
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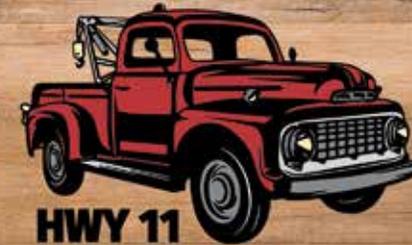


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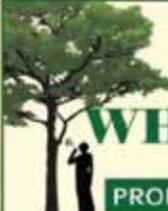
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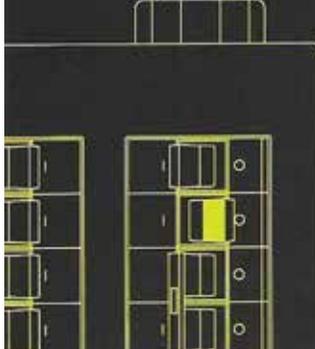
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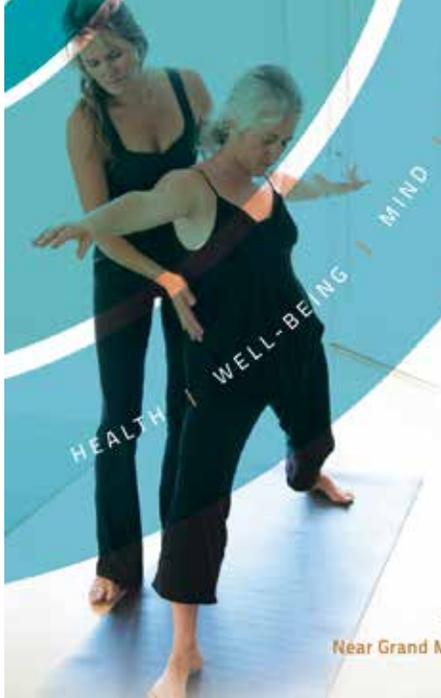
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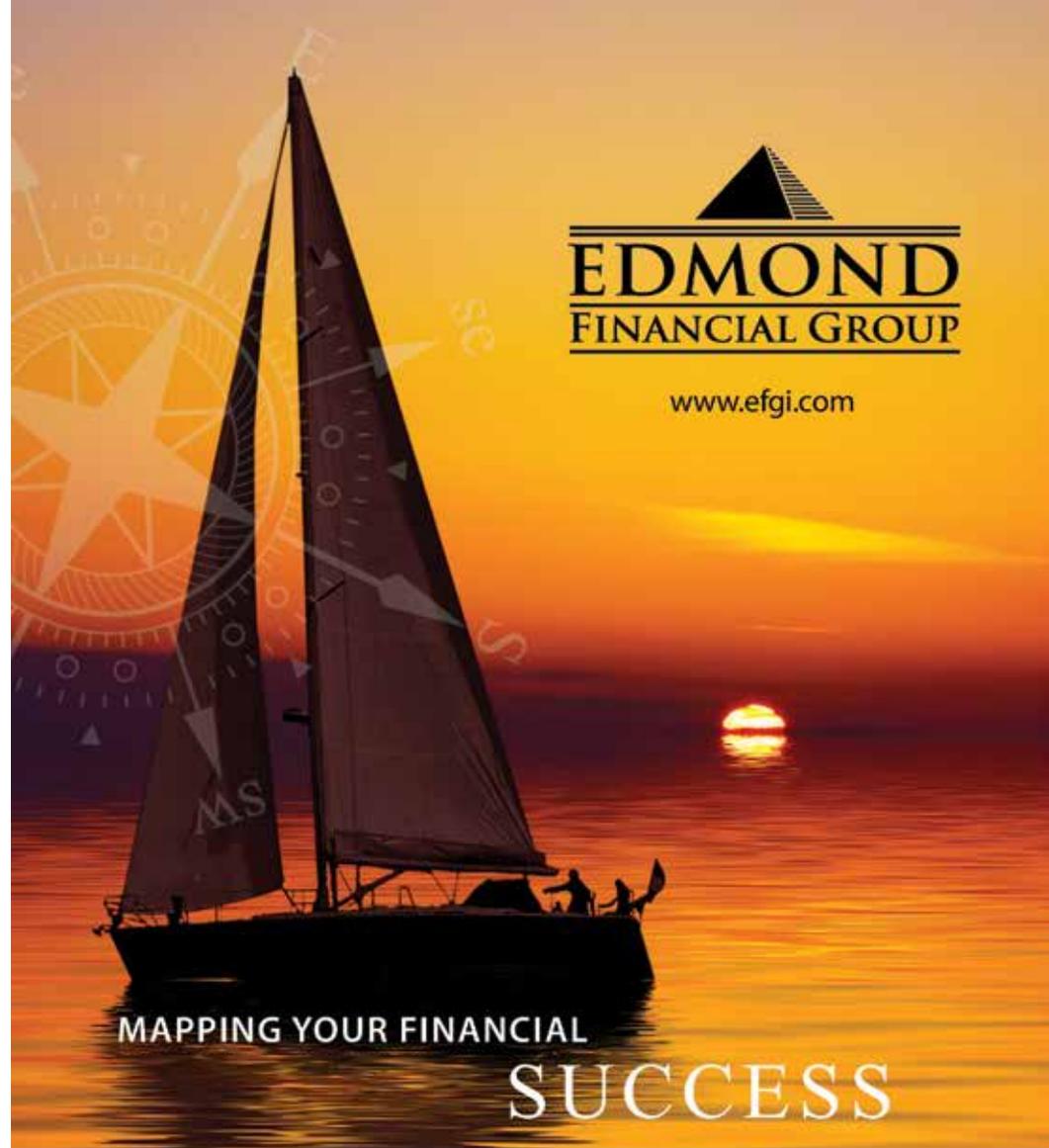
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HERE FOR GOOD – THE EAST BEACHES RESOURCE CENTRE

by Laura McCombe

Who knew that aging would be so awkward? Yet here we are. Our heavy feet resisting speed and rarely coordinated into a dance step; our fingers no longer nimble, that creepy cataract affecting light and colour, and then some idiot always turning down the volume even when you are home alone and straining to hear the words or birdsong. There is another issue. Our homes are no longer safe. The latter, not due to the threat of thieves or the racoon hiding under the cottage, or the snow in the driveway or that broken rung on the stairs or the deck. Danger lurks as we continue to trip on that lovely little rug that we placed for comfort in front of the kitchen sink. Yes, the same mutinous sink that continues to grow dirty dishes and a ring of scum when we ran out of energy after cooking a gourmet meal for one.

I remember when I was widowed the first time, my recurring thought was “this happens to other people – not me!”. Denial, pure and simple. Yet here is the truth. The subsequent and incontestable consequence of aging cannot be ignored. When the doctor says, “You need two new knees as soon as your hip is replaced.” he is not talking about your “funny bone” if it has been idle, nor is he suggesting that an exercise class is just what you need although you faithfully walk at least three kilometers a day and regularly attend the local TOPS group. There are some things that can’t be changed even with courage. We need wisdom to know the difference.

Certainly, moving and/or retiring to cottage country was the right thing to do at the time but with this “age thing” looming, even the comfort of our home reduces the attraction of the landscape. Lake Life isn’t easy anymore. Living beyond the chaos of the big bad city in a beautiful “resort” community impedes access to medical specialists, a couple of world class art galleries and museums, convention facilities plus specific music concerts, sporting events, certain varieties of ethnic restaurants and maybe the luxury of last-minute take-out food. We definitely have very good access to well stocked grocery shelves in the five convenience stores within East Beaches, plus a pretty decent number of essential service trades to say nothing of the endless recreation activity and several truly unique shopping opportunities just beyond our front door. However, as age, inclination and mobility dictate our agenda there are



some days when our prime choice of residence impacts wellbeing. Perhaps family is far away or non-existent, so we fret and worry and know frustration when the need for transportation or help with simple tasks becomes necessary.

There is an answer. The East Beach Resource Centre is fully prepared to help you meet the challenge of aging to continue living in the home you love. You may know that for years – nearly a decade - the Regional Health Authority has provided medical service in the form of a doctor or nurse practitioner for a minimum of once a week within the area. More days in summer. First there was a fully equipped mobile clinic, now find a permanent office in the Grand Marais Recreation Center. For reference, GMCC is where you see the clock tower and find the Heritage Wing on the highway leading to the West Gate of Grand Beach. At the GMCC, the East Beaches Resource Centre (EBRC) has created a 2nd point of outreach and service. The main office remains in Victoria Beach within the Social Scene complex while the other is next door to the doctor at the GMCC. Visit or call Resource Coordinator, Tara Thomas (204) 756-6471. The email is ebrcsource@gmail.com or check out the Resource Centre website <https://ebresourcec.weebly.com> which lists a dozen services offered for Seniors with special needs. You may qualify for the enhanced ride program that will get to your medical appointments and other essential destinations. The East Beaches Resource Centre is here for good. ■

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Grand Marais & District Senior Citizens Inc. offers on specific days Yoga, Tai Chi, Cribbage, Mobility Equipment Loan and Speakers at membership meetings.

East Beaches Transportation Program – Every Tuesday - 8:00 – 4:00 – available to those 55+ and/or ambulatory with disabilities from Patricia Beach to Victoria Beach.

Central Market – Every Friday Starting Jun 27 – Sep 5 from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Veggies, crafts, clothing, spices, cosmetics, cleaning products and so much more!!

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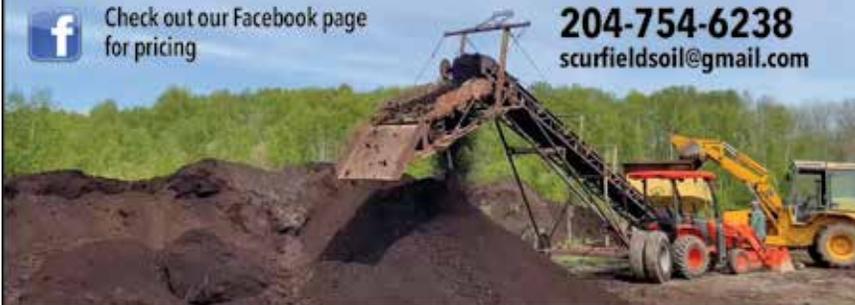
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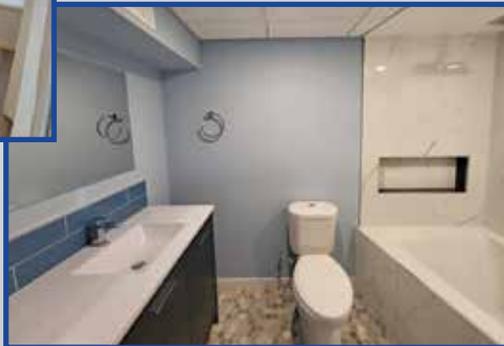
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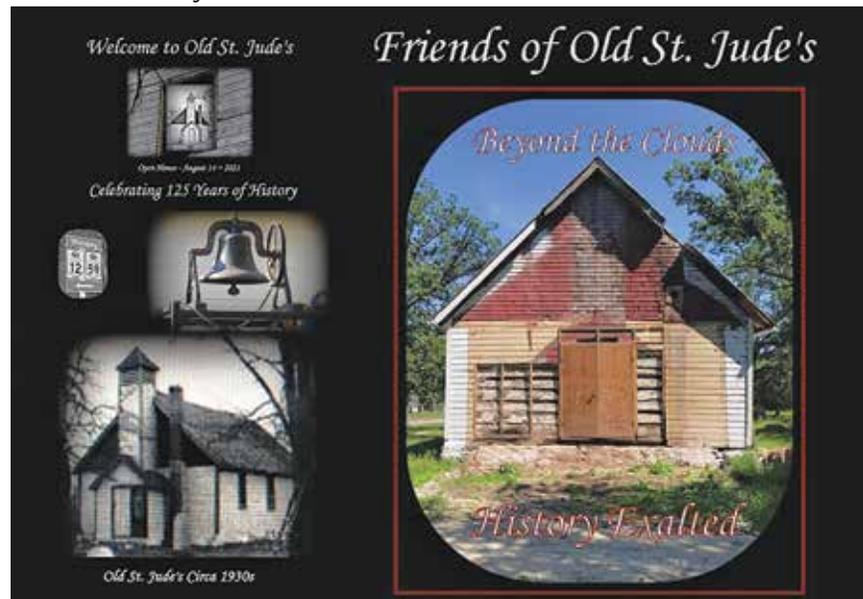
by Laura McCombe

Sixty years ago, Old St. Jude's in Grand Marais took a step back from active duty as a church. In 2025 it finally settled into a relatively comfortable retirement. In 2018 the cemetery and old log building on the property at the corner of Grey and Sunset in Grand Marais, was designated as a Heritage Site. This title allows her to show off her antiquity and exhibit her unique existence for all who pass or stop for a moment. These days she is only obligated to open her doors for special appearances at the behest of her proprietor and stewards.

Built in 1896, the presence of Old St. Jude's is integral to the history books because the humble building pays homage to era long gone. Maybe missing. A time when only local materials, mostly volunteer labour, generosity, determination and some stubbornness ruled the day. It speaks clearly of the ingenuity and resilience of the small, somewhat isolated settlement whose residents quietly attended to the need for a gathering place within their community. Meanwhile, the rest of the "new" province of Manitoba, and in fact Canada, argued about education and language and religion - all beyond the boundaries of Grand Marais but it affected the residents profoundly.

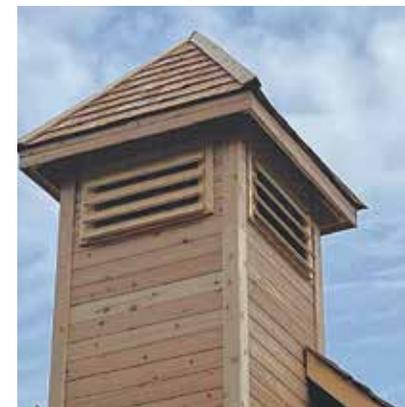
The community gathering place of Old St. Jude's was envisioned in 1891 by a pair of families who had created the cemetery out of necessity. The land was a legacy of their scrip. They were Metis. Of note, in those days most did not identify as Metis - they were listed as "half breed" on the census forms. Metis was their heritage, and this heritage determined their values, beliefs, language, communication and

Old St. Jude's history



practices – their culture. In 1896 a solid building with walls of hand hewed stacked black poplar logs and a stone foundation – all locally sourced – was constructed by volunteers. At Old St. Jude's everyone was welcome. It remains that way today.

In 1914 a bell was gifted from the Grand Marais schoolhouse to the small congregation, so a steeple was installed over the small porch at the entrance to the church. This vestibule survived until 1959 when it was replaced with cement steps and a larger entrance to the building. In addition to the porch, the main building increased its size and functionality with an extension of the sanctuary. Then in 1964 the congregation moved to a new building on the main highway leading into Grand Beach Park. For the next forty years, Old St. Jude's guarded the graveyard, always at the mercy of the elements.



Bell tower



Restoration vision

In 2004 the destiny of Old St. Jude's seemed bleak when the structure was threatened with demolition. The R.M. of St. Clements stepped in at the behest of a group of families, friends and advocates who had strong attachment to the iconic building and the surrounding graveyard. Calling themselves "Friends of Old St. Jude's" the determined group, with the help of the Metis Local, gave the old building a watertight roof and the chance at a future. It wasn't easy. In 2010 the "Friends" incorporated and in 2018 the site was recognized as a Heritage Site. Even when the Covid pandemic slowed progress, the group rallied, campaigned aggressively and successfully raised substantial funds to move ahead with maintenance of this local landmark. Their plan included a refit of the main building and porch based upon a study conducted by historical specialists from the Province of Manitoba.

In 2024 a spiffy replica of the original vestibule was carefully crafted to resemble the small porch and steeple as it looked at the beginning of the last century. The interior of the former sanctuary has been refreshed to expose a glimpse of her simple beginning. Comfy, and looking good, the Old St. Jude's Heritage Site will be the center of attention at a huge party planned specifically to celebrate her resilience and her contribution to the past along with the new Vestibule. On Saturday, August 23 – 2025 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the building will be open to the public. Invited guests will include her proprietor - the R.M. of St. Clements, plus the keeper of the cemetery – Rupersland Diocese; along with the generous funders, the architect, the contractors, and the faithful stewards - the Friends of Old St. Jude's, who saved this vintage building so their ancestors might know the history as they honour the spirits that live there. It is a peaceful place. A "Forever Place". ■

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LOOKING FORWARD – GLIMPING BACK – WALTER WHYTE SCHOOL

by Laura McCombe

In the tradition of the day, Walter Whyte School was named for the well respected and feisty trustee who represented the eight schools who were within the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. The province had responsibility for schools everywhere in Manitoba, with the exception of the parochial institutes which, even then, created much political angst and argument. Walter Whyte School originated as a high school in 1960 for students in grades nine to eleven with thanks to the tenacity of Walter Whyte. At the time, those wanting to complete their last grade had to do so by correspondence unless the student could find a school that offered grade 12. The student would then be subsidized with a living allowance while they completed those subjects and standards that necessary for university entrance.



Located on Highway 59 halfway between Scanterbury and Victoria Beach, the school was built on six acres purchased from the LDG of Alexander at the border of the R.M. of St. Clement. The solid new building boasted hydro, plumbing and indoor heating – no more feeding the wood stove in a one-room schoolhouse which had been the norm for these kids and their teachers. At the time, there was no (public) transportation provided to the students for any of the eight schools, which were from five to seven miles apart. The new high school not far from Grand Marais received two buses, three teachers and a principal. The old Belair School (spelled Belaire on official documents) was moved to the new site to be used as a residence for the teachers – the Teacherage.

The first school in the area had been built in Grand Marais in 1878 by the Selkirk School District at a time when several small permanent settlements were cropping up along the Lake. For twenty-five years an issue known as the “Manitoba schools’ crisis” was precipitated by a series of provincial laws that were passed between 1890 and 1896, then again in 1916. The laws specifically addressed both language and the funding of schools. It impacted on how education was delivered. As World War I (1914-18) raged oversea, at the same time that the railway and the

famous Moonlight Express (circa 1916) were bringing visitors to Grand and Victoria Beaches, the communities along the tracks realized a need for more teachers and schools as it became apparent that more families were making their homes along the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg. Eventually the eight one-room schools north of the Brokenhead river provided classes for anywhere from a dozen to twenty or more students in each school within the communities of Stony Point, Beaconia, Balsam Bay, Grand Marais, Dunlop, Hillside, Belair, and Victoria Beach.

Forty more years passed, and the population continued to grow. These were the decades of walking to school, your boots often collecting water or snow, maybe lined with a bread bag. You carried your homework and a lunch box – both of which were often shared. There were “field days” every spring near the end of the school year when the local schools gathered for a huge picnic and games – baseball and track & field, high jump, broad jump, relay races and speed contests. Those entrusted to deliver education had to find accommodation (usually in someone’s home) for the teacher or perhaps coerce someone local into the job of teaching.

It was a time when there was dancing in the schoolhouse on Saturday nights. The desks were pushed aside and local musicians gathered - fiddlers, harmonica and accordion players, banjo and guitar players all next to the piano that served the teacher throughout the week. Legend has it that the fun and shenanigans continued into the night. We know it was not unusual for the teacher to meet his or her future spouse at one of these gatherings and find themselves taking up permanent residency near the beautiful beaches. It must be noted that when World War II interrupted life in the 1930’s & 40’s young men of Canada went only as far as Grade 8 since they were needed to help at home with fishing, farming, minding the store or business. Many found themselves in Europe – fighting for freedom from tyranny. A freedom that was expected to last forever.

In 1967 Walter Whyte school undertook a major transformation as the students of East Beaches became subject to consolidation within the jurisdiction of the Lord Selkirk School Division. The facility was reimagined as an elementary school. The teacherage next to the school was enlarged since the principal was still entitled to a residence. The six-year-old high school on the highway was expanded to include nine modern classrooms. The four former classrooms were reorganized to become a kindergarten, a library, a multi-purpose room and plumbers installed showers off the gymnasium. Those of high school age were bused to Selkirk Collegiate which offered classes from Grade 9 to 12.

In 1960 there had been six elementary schools with an (estimated) combined total of 75 to 90 students left when the high school was created. Youngsters from age six to thirteen or fourteen still attended schools within the 3-to-7-mile (4 -11 km) radius of their home. This changed in 1967 when Walter Whyte became the solitary elementary school, and the small schools were abandoned. About this time the bus service for these rural students was revisited. In those days, if a student lived more than 1.6 miles (about 2.5 km or 20-minute walk) away from the school, they would qualify for a bus to pick them up. Exactly when the enhanced bus service first began is a little fuzzy but suffice to say, this was a really big deal for country kids and their parents. It still is!

In 1982/83 students from Brokenhead were welcomed to Walter Whyte along with their teacher when their school burned down. Later, Sergeant Tommy Prince School was rebuilt, however, students from Brokenhead have since been the option to attend Walter Whyte School should it be determined as their school of choice. In 1983 the grounds around the school were landscaped and over the last ten years the school yard has expanded to include an “Eagle Garden” (an eagle is the school mascot) and the garden is used as an outdoor teaching space. The school yard has a medicine wheel with stones for seating, a Metis inspired Red River Cart – built by the students, a Tee Pee which is dismantled in winter months and reassembled every spring. The yard and gymnasium are both well used by the surrounding communities for all kinds of public functions.

Forty-Two years ago, a comprehensive history of Walter Whyte School ended with this statement, “Walter Whyte is an excellent school that services the northern part of the Lord Selkirk School Division No. 11. It is a most integral part of the educational system and much of its boundary contains some of the most beautiful seasonal resort area in the province.” In 2025, it is still the only school in East Beaches. All evidence suggests continuing excellence, perhaps due to a rich and unique history but with grateful thanks to an active parent council, dedicated administration and governance that when combined create the laudable qualities of this school, which is the most northern of all schools in the fifteen schools in the Lord Selkirk School Division.

Ken Avery served as the school as trustee for this “ward” for thirty years. He was

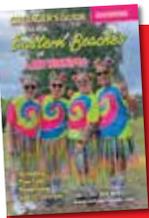


first elected in 1992 and remained in the position until 2022. Always passionate about our community he actively lobbied for parents to have a larger say in their children’s formal education. The current representative is Karen Johnston, who lives in the R.M. of St. Clements and was appointed to the position of trustee when Ken Avery retired in between elections. There are nine trustees on the board, each of whom are accountable to the public for safety, quality and cost of education through policies and budgetary decisions for the Division whose boundary extends from the outskirts of Winnipeg to Victoria Beach in the East and Netley on the West side of the Lake.

Gloria Juvonen has served with energy, inspiration and dedication as principal for the last 12 years. She will leave big shoes to fill (this includes dance shoes) with her retirement in June 2025. If you’ve ever seen her jigging in her oversized leprechaun cap to the cheers of an adoring crowd at a community event, you’ll know the reference and will retain an image that will never leave your head. Juvonen has displayed a healthy love for the students and a genuine love for the art of teaching and learning. She and her husband Dave – also a teacher here – have been an integral part of the community and Walter Whyte School for over 26 years. Here is an excerpt from a newsletter she wrote in 2013, her first year as principal. “Many visitors who have come to our school in the past four weeks and have commented on what a wonderful “community” school we have and how ‘friendly and welcoming all our staff and students are!’ They are always impressed by how engaged our students are in their learning and the bright and open windows into our classrooms. I am very proud to be a part of this great community of learners at Walter Whyte School. - Special thanks to all our staff and students for working so hard to prepare for their class contributions” The letter goes on to highlight a few of the programs that students have enjoyed, and upcoming family events to be held at the school.

As her legacy, Walter Whyte School will benefit from lessons learned, taught and nurtured by this dedicated teacher. Always, the students were encouraged to test their creativity and were recognized for their strengths. Always, the programs extended beyond reading, writing and arithmetic, history and geography although each of these essential elements and at the crux of the program. The music program at Walter Whyte School under Juvonen’s tutelage has likewise been exemplary. She’ll tell you “It’s the staff”, but clearly, Gloria Juvonen has influenced those delivering the program. Likewise physical education and competitive sports. Juvonen jogs every day and has insured a participatory sports and recreation program. These lucky kids even learned to ski, while getting an education.

Both the principal and the student body at the only East Beaches School will change again with the start of the 25/26 school year. There were 142 students during 24/25 school year – close to the average that it has maintained over the last fifty years. On September 4th, 2025, there are 130 students expected to check in when Walter Whyte School reverts from K to 9 back to the K to 8 school that it was when it began in “Centennial Year” 1967. The new principal has yet to be named but be assured that the spirit of this school will always be “to look forward” as it pays homage to its history. ■



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In the last year our club celebrated much success from purchasing a replacement groomer, opening Yamaha Way Trail, the purchase of a club ATV & trailer, grading of Trail 50, and honoring our club and legacy at our 60th Anniversary Celebration and Winter Gala. All of this would not have been possible without the support of many; including members, sponsors, the Government of Manitoba, the RM's of Alexander and Victoria Beach, Manitoba Liquor Lotteries, Yamaha Canada, and our dedicated volunteers.

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It takes a great group of volunteers, sponsors, and members for a club to have over 60 years of prosperity, and we thank each one of you for your hard work, support, and dedication.

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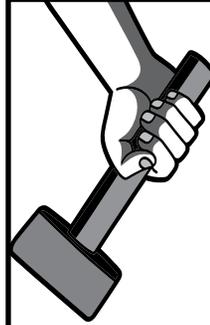
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Gull Lake	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	Closed	Closed	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm
Winter Hours							
Grand Marais	9 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	11 am - 5 pm	Closed
Gull Lake	Closed	11 am - 5 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	9 am - 5 pm

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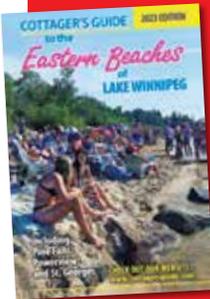
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