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Manitobans are taking advantage of Manitoba Hydro's recently announced Solar Rebate Program. Manitoba Hydro will rebate \$1.00 per watt to users of solar, which represents thousands of dollars of savings and equates to approximately 35% of the install price. The average customer offsets approximately 50% of their annual electricity consumption and rate payers can do it with 0% down. This is welcomed news. (Continued on page 4).



This edition of *Rural Outdoors* was delivered to over 16,000 farms and businesses in rural Manitoba. Future issues will blanket the prairies reaching 65,000 in rural Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Delivered by



From the Ground Up

It's in your property and it belongs to you. But, it's only yours if you use it.

What is It?

The answer to the riddle?....
renewable energy.

It's stored just below the surface of the earth and, if you harness this energy that is in the ground, it will provide you with all the energy that you'd need to **heat** and **cool** your home year around.

The Science

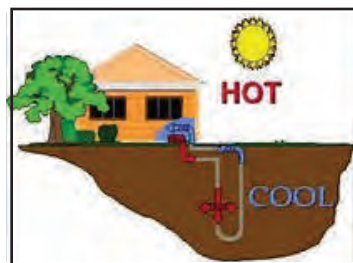
The ground in your back yard absorbs 47% of the sun's heat energy as it hits the Earth's surface and, regardless of whether it is winter or summer, the tem



perature of the ground remains fairly consistent all year.

Heating the Home

Today **WaterFurnace Geothermal Systems** are able to tap

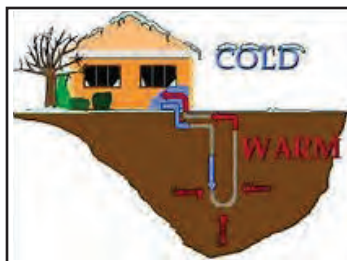


into this free energy with what is called an *earth loop*. The loop is a maintenance-free pipe much like a gas line and will last a lifetime. It is filled with a solution of environmentally friendly anti-freeze which is connected to the indoor furnace. This liquid is then pumped through the furnace transferring the energy from the ground in your backyard into the home. To make this all work, a heat pump with a

compressor and a heat exchanger complete the transfer to your living space.

Cooling the Home

In the summer, the heating process is reversed, transferring that unwanted heat in your living space back into the cool earth via the *earth loop*. That unwanted heat can also be used to pre-heat the tap water in your home.



"Let the ground you walk on heat your home," recommends Gerry Paradis of Paradise Geothermal. "We have been in the business of installing heat pumps since 1989. Before that, we were doing plumbing and

heat-ing since 1977. The best efficiency rating of a gas furnace is about 98 percent. With energy efficiency ratings of over 400%, our **WaterFurnace** units have saved our customers up to 70% in heating and cooling costs. Yes, we are in the business of helping homeowners save. The ratio is about \$4 of energy for every \$1 of electrical energy used. There is no doubt that this system is *smarter from the ground up.*"



Contact Gerry at
gparadis@paradisageothermal.com
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Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge

See Page 5 inside for details on receiving
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A message from the...

Publisher.



Rural Outdoors
finds a niche audience.

talented writers to contribute exciting articles. In addition, our advertorials are written to tell a great story and to complement and maintain the quality of our editorial content. A decision to limit the use

We hope you enjoy this issue, and we invite your comments. **ro**

of block ads has contributed to the shelf life of this publication. Unlike news, a good story never gets old. We often think about the 10 year old Digests that we pick up and read while sitting in waiting rooms and reception areas. It has not been determined whether news print can endure the years but, at *Rural Outdoors*, we will certainly want to find out. Our wish is that there might be a parallel there one day.

Fresh- At *Rural Outdoors*, our design, layout and approach are deliberate. *Rural Outdoors* presents a fresh editorial format with nearly 180 degrees from tradition with newsprint. With the absence of politics, bad news and controversy, editorial and supplied copy in *Rural Outdoors* has become a very desirable read.

We've chosen to focus on what a lot of country living and outdoor loving folk are interested in here in the province. Our goal at *Rural Outdoors* is to invite and engage our audience in interesting and positive content.

*A*t a time when traditional daily/weekly newspapers and other media are busy re-tooling in one last effort to survive the disfiguring reality that's changing the media landscape, along comes *Rural Outdoors*. Dressed in tabloid clothing, your copy of *Rural Outdoors* is anything but a newspaper.

Technology delivers news at our fingertips 24/7. Still, libraries and book stores are very busy places. Everyone still reads. The fact is that the majority of our population are most attracted to read positive content. Newspaper freelance budgets are being trimmed. That has resulted in relevant regional copy being replaced by free wire copy from elsewhere. What makes for interesting reading?

Editorial Content - From adventure to a new perspective on nature and all things outdoors, *Rural Outdoors* has chosen to focus on the good things available and happening around us. We have invited



Publishers/Editors/
Advertising Sales

Q Lake Marketing
info@qlakemarketing.com
Box 88, Treherne,
MB R0G 2V0

Design/Production

Ben Wagner, Westgraphix
benwagner@shaw.ca

Editorial Contributors
Dani Gosselin, Carolyn Kosheluk, Shaunna Neufeld, P. Alexander, May Cee, Rich Crawford, Barry Morwick, Paul Turenne, Rob Cormack, Les Leonoff, Jessica Jackson, Bob Wheeler, Jennifer McPhee, Linda Maendel

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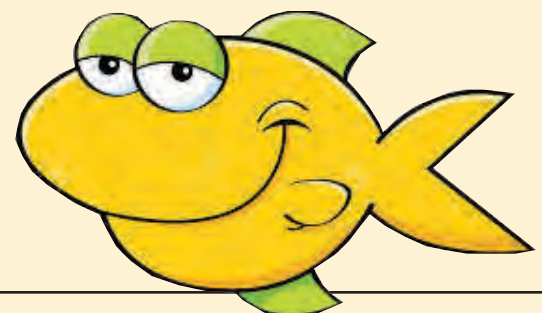
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Inside this edition...
Discover 4 locations
where you can
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Simply find **Phii A. Walleye** in this issue.



All You Have To Do is Dream...**GREEN**

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All I Have To Do Is Dream

Words & Music by Boudleaux Bryant



You may have been dreaming about replacing or having your failing tractor re-conditioned. If that is the case, you are just a telephone call away from getting to know quality workmanship and the finest prices in the land. At Mitch's Tractor Sales, Green is their specialty and they always have your budget in mind.

Mitch's specialty is everything from engine rebuilding, hydraulic and transmission repairs, welding, complete interiors, painting and much more. His mechanics are anything but green. They have many years of training and experience in their portfolios and have been working with Mitch for a lot of years. They are all trained to handle specialized service and repair. And, most importantly, they take pride in doing it right the first time.

At the shop, the inventory changes weekly. Mitch Rouire and his team of technicians stand behind what they sell.

Mitch has front end loaders, joysticks and grapple forks for all models of tractors. And, if you are looking to service, replace or part with your old tractor, **JUST CALL MITCH!**

Dre-e-e-am, dream, dream, dream. When I want...



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Powering Your Home, Farm and Business With Solar

Continued from Page 1

Web Monitoring- using an app to track your savings

Steve Makway of Living Skies Solar in Headingly, Manitoba, points out that it is easy for anyone to monitor their savings. "Included with the install of your new solar system, is the installation of a new Bi-Directional Meter. This meter tracks and monitors the Power that your new system generates as it is being sent back into the province's grid. Your utility account is credited at Manitoba Hydro's full customer rate, and you monitor your savings through an easy to use app."



Solar for Zero Down

Getting solar energy for your home, farm and business makes sense and now it's easier than ever before. "Home owners get Home Solar for \$0 dollars out of



their pocket and slash their bill," says Steve. "At **Living Skies Solar**, we've made it easy for everyone to get a quote and the quote is FREE. Just go to our website and request your quote on line."

Positive Cash Flow

Steve adds, "Based on our pricing, customers receive approximately 35% with the rebate program. A living skies

solar system on your house will keep you from throwing money at a never ending power bill. Within the first few years you will become cash flow positive, and virtually get your system for FREE."

What's to come

Manitoba residents can anticipate to rapidly increase over the next few years. By supplementing with solar, rate

payers are able to neutralize inflation in energy rates.

In addition to having paid less in monthly bills, you will own a solar system that produces free, clean power for many years to come. The system requires simple basic maintenance and will produce energy in up to -40 weather. Due to the angle of placement along with the heat that the panels produce, snow is rarely an issue.

At **Living Skies Solar**, installations come with a minimum 5 year service warranty and during that time their technicians will clean the entire system twice a year.



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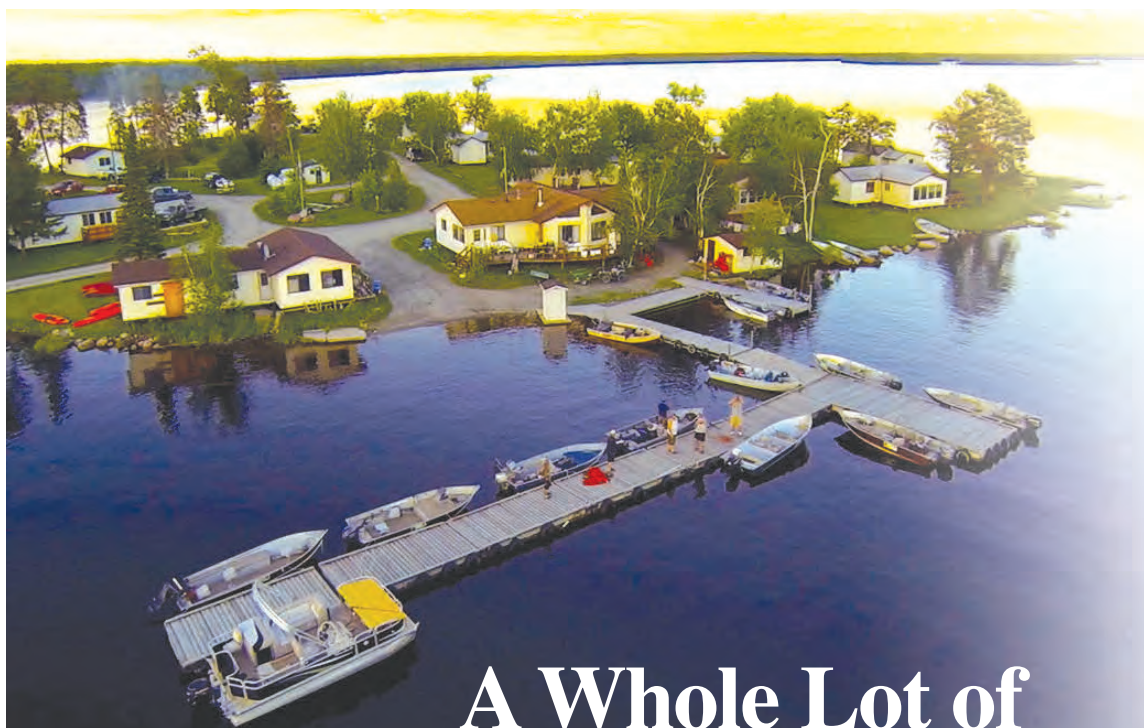
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A Whole Lot of Walleye Heaven.

by Richard Crawford



Richard Crawford

Over the years, Rich and Mike Crawford estimate they have caught, or guided others in their boats to catch well over 100-150 master angler walleyes and easily 200-300 master angler bass during their trips to Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge.

In 1971, after seeing pictures of a stringer of eight-pound + walleyes caught in Canada, my interest to someday find this “dream place” soon evolved from a passive pipe dream into a full-blown, out-and-out pursuit.

Not long after I began to dream of finding a place in Canada where big walleyes were readily catchable, a very close friend told me about a trip he’d taken around 1970 to a really great place in Manitoba.

I recall that my friend said it was a great walleye fishery.

In researching the best fisheries in Manitoba, one very amazing thing stood out. There were two lakes that not only produced huge walleyes, they also produced them in quantities far outnumbering almost all

entries from the other lakes combined: Caribou (Quesnel is the actual name) and Manigotagan. These lakes met all caveats, were within easy driving distance and were affordable. That was almost 45 years ago.

Manitoba Hawgs

Not only have these waters combined to produce an abundance of regular-sized walleyes that can easily be fished, they also continue to put out big numbers of what Rich and his son Mike refer to as “hawgs”.

Read Richard’s Book

Rich realized there was so much to share about his experiences and knowledge of the Manigotagan system that he has now compiled an actual fishing guide to assist others considering the opportunity to fish at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge. He has chosen to share his vast knowledge and keys to successfully fish one of the best fisheries in all of Canada.

Rich’s personal guide book is now available to all guests at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge.

ro

Richard Crawford is an avid outdoorsman and retired chief federal probation officer who resides in Bemidji, Minnesota. He has fished the Manigotagan chain of lakes (Quesnel, Manigotagan, and Happy Lakes) for over 45 years.



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Phil A. Walleye



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Contact us to be in our next Spring Auction Guide!

One of a Kind

...and made in Manitoba!

Clint Boyd can best be described as a true Manitoba entrepreneur. Clint's story begins with a life-long interest and experience in the fur business and a love for the outdoors. It all started at a very young age as a trapper. In particular, this story and his interest in the natural tanning process stems from that connection with the beauty in our outdoors.

Clint reflects on over 20 years that he has spent perfecting the process and art of tanning walleye skin. It's the skin of the fish which Manitobans commonly refer to as pickerel. "The path to developing the formula that worked best in tanning walleye skin was quite a journey. Walleye skin has the benefit of being light in weight, is a thin material but, most importantly, it possesses tremendous strength. Today this recipe for tanning remains the company's trade secret."

Clint has never wanted to see anything go to waste and has been able to source his raw material locally. The province's commercial fish processing plant which would normally discard fish skins during their processing operation, has become a source of fresh raw material for manufacturing at **Big Eye Leather**.

Today, Clint's company brand, **Big Eye Leather**, has been recognized as a front-runner in innovation. Their expertise and ingenuity permits the transformation of these raw fish skin into a unique one of a kind, home grown Manitoba leather.

The beauty and strength of fish leather is undeniable. **Big Eye Leather** now manufactures and distributes a range of custom designed leather products from personal accessory items, wallets, purses, and an assortment of gift items. Unique



variations in surface textures on this leather, results in each item in their product line being a one of a kind. At **Big Eye Leather**, each finished piece can also

be custom ordered in a wide variety of colours. Whether it is a **Big Eye Leather** product such as a braided walleye bracelet or a wallet, personal gift giving is predictably a "Wow" moment every time.

NOW AVAILABLE for the Retail Community in Manitoba - New for 2017
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invites enquiries for Point of Sale Distribution Outlets and Dealerships

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or call
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Carol's Homestyle Flaxseed Bread

You will need...

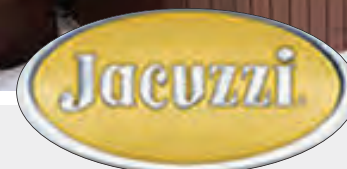
- 4 1/2 cups white flour
- 2 cups sprouted spelt flour
- 2 Tablespoons Fermipan yeast
- 2 Tablespoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups crushed flaxseed (the oil)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 4 cups water

Mix flours, Fermipan yeast and flax seed in a bowl. Mix together water, salt and honey. Add liquid to the flour mixture. Knead the dough a few minutes. Cover with clean cloth. Let rise till double in size, punch down and let rise again. Grease the bread pans with oil. Place in hot oven 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Turn oven down to 350 for 20 min. Cool on rack. The crushed flax seed is the oil in the bread.

Enjoy!



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A Corporate Fishing Experience on Lake Dauphin with Team

We have time to walk over to Dauphin's Tim's for a final morning coffee before our shuttle service arrives at the motel. Twenty minutes later, our group is loaded and on our way to Lake Dauphin. It is Super Bowl Sunday but our group is going ice fishin'.

A 20 minute ride and we off-load to a track truck that will transport us to Don Stokotelnny's ice fishing huts located approximately 2 kilometers off shore. As Don drives the Wide Tracker, we have a chance to chat. The transition from the service road across the lake to Don's hot spot is smooth and only takes approximately 15 minutes.

The anticipation and the level of excitement amongst us is high!

We're grateful that we booked this excursion early. We are quick to learn that this is Don's busy season for corporate and business groups. Most of Don's



groups arrive by bus charter with upwards of 30 people at a time on occasion. Corporate team building and client appreciation programs are what Sticky's Bait and Tackle specializes in. Lake Dauphin has been hot and, with the easy access, it makes for a great destination.

The moment we open the door, we are greeted by the staff. "Your lines all set for you and you can get right at it. Lunch will be served whenever you folks want. If you need something, just ask." There is a chill in the breeze today but all of the huts are heated and the seating is comfortable. As we settle in, there's a comment from one of our group members, "Easy living, man!" As the rods

begin to bounce and arc, the fun begins. Then come the shouts as each of us announces a "fish on" in their own special way. These walleye have a light green coloring and bellies are full and firm. This habitat is strong. Lake Dauphin is a conservation lake and our first four walleye exceed the 45 cm. slot size and so they're released.

"How do you want your steak done? We have shrimp and dipping sauce, fries on the side with Caesar salad. Make sure you leave room for your cheese cake." It's lunch and time to dine with Don and his crew. A ten ounce steak done to perfection and served on real pre-heated plates. M-m-m-m! Now that's fishin'! One of us has requested fish as an alternative so there it was... golden brown and more than enough for all. It is a half hour before sunset. Their staff have our fish all processed for us by the time we've begun loading to leave the lake. We arrive back in Dauphin just as the sun begins to set and get to Winnipeg about 4 hours later. What an amazing day! Well organized, fun and refreshing. Maybe there's more to life more than just the office.

Well done guys! Truly, a great example of a high-end licensed outfitter operation in our province. (supplied copy) **ro**

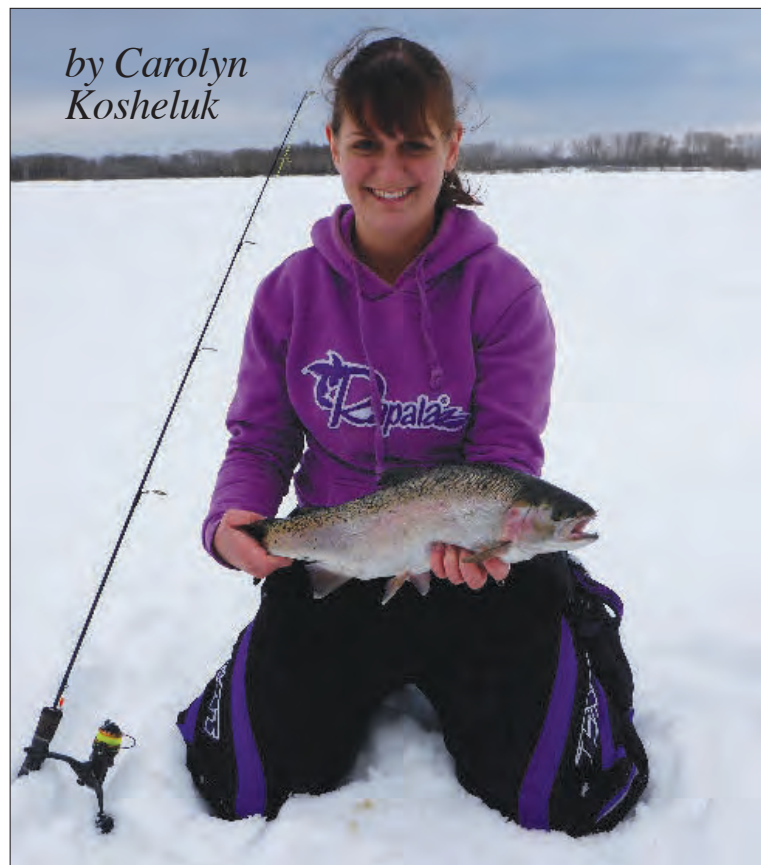
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Pothole Paradise

Trout Fishing is Bigger and Better in Western Manitoba

by Carolyn Kosheluk



Trout fishing is bigger and better in western Manitoba. Most folks know that prairie potholes are prime territory for waterfowl. As it turns out, what's good for the goose is good for the trout, too.

By nature, potholes are warm and nutrient rich. Vegetation supports forage aplenty for many wildlife species. These lakes are home to some of the most celebrated provincial trout stocking programs. The fish have what they need to grow big.

An early-ice trip to one of our favourite pothole lakes had us pulling up brown trout quickly. Our first was destined for dinner, so we cleaned it on the spot. With a little investigating, we learned that it had been eating well. Diving beetles, small perch and even evidence of frog filled its gut.

The abundance of food in lakes like Patterson and Tokaryk, just north of Oakburn, is good news for anglers who like to experiment with presentation. On the ice, we choose micro jigs with imitation beetles, large ver-

tical cranks, and everything in between. For open water, spoons, cranks and plastics all have their place when "matching the hatch."

Favourable conditions mean that trout in pothole lakes have the potential to grow faster than fish that are planted in deeper, colder lakes. This is a helpful boost for populations that rely on stocking to maintain their numbers. And many do. Unable to reproduce in slow-water conditions, populations are only maintained when more are trucked in.

Those new fish feed fast and thrive, like the generations brought in before them. In short order they can reach master-angler size, every inch hard-fighting and hearty – turning these small lakes into destinations with big appeal for anglers far and wide. **ro**

For more information on stocking programs and Parkland lakes, visit flippr.ca or www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/fish.

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Agriculture Leads Work-related Deaths

STARS responded to rural areas more than 3,400 times in 2016

There's no better way to see the Canadian Prairies than from the seat of a helicopter. It's a bird's-eye view that our crews have almost every day; but their flights aren't scenic tours, and they know many patients could work on the farms they see below.



There's no better way to see the Canadian Prairies than from the seat of a helicopter. It's a bird's-eye view that our crews have almost every day; but their flights aren't scenic tours, and they know many patients could work on the farms they see below.

"Crush injuries from heavy machinery, limb amputations from augers, and hay bales falling on people are just some of the situations we've come across," said STARS flight paramedic Ray Rempel. "My extended family is involved in farming, and I know the importance of providing rapid access to critical care in rural areas."

STARS responded more than 3,400 times in 2016 to rural areas, including dozens of agriculture-related incidents.

"The nature of farming is that it's seasonal and weather dependent, with folks working 18 or 24 hours straight," said Rempel. "This can result in sleep deprivation and dehydration – and that's when mistakes happen."

According to the Safe Work

Manitoba, agriculture sadly leads the way in work-related deaths in Manitoba, representing 29 per cent of all industry fatalities, followed by transportation at 22 percent, and the construction industry at 21 per cent (2006-2016). In addition, while only 30 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, 70 per cent of traumatic injury related deaths happen outside of big cities, and there is twice the chance of dying from injuries, according to the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.

Part of the reason behind the higher death rate is the amount of time it takes for patients to receive specialized medical care. This is why helicopter EMS has become an important part of the emergency health system across much of Canada.

"Farming emergencies often happen in remote locations, far from a rural hospital, let alone a major trauma centre," said Rempel. "Sometimes it takes hours before a family member finds an injured person – and there are stories like that every year in the farming community."

Farm related deaths also involve serious medical emergencies such as a heart attack or stroke. "A lot of times farms are multi-generational where you might have grandpa, dad and son or daughter all still working on the farm," said Rempel. "A strong work ethic can drive older farmers to do intense labour like they did when they were 20 years younger." Rempel reinforces the need to call 9-1-1 if a serious illness or injury is suspected. The call taker will triage the situation, and launch the helicopter if needed along with local emergency services. Rather than putting a patient on the back of a pick-up truck or ATV and driving them across a bumpy field to meet an ambulance, STARS can land close to the patient and minimize that movement. "We all work together for the safety of the patient and each other," said Rempel. "while we enjoy the view from the helicopter, many injuries are preventable, and we'd rather not have to come at all."

ro

rural outdoors

Moments With May

A wise friend, Michael, spoke very eloquently in an article he wrote..."Speak success on your projects. Pronounce the success. Declare it out loud!"

Having been blasted in private by an in-law family member, I had highly respected then, with very hurtful and unkind words just after I was

married, left deep wounds in this weak 19 year old at the time. "You are not good enough for our family. You come from a dirty home."



The healing was a very slow process. One of my favourite lines I keep displayed in my kitchen for the last couple years reads,"BE KIND . We are all fighting our own battles."

Well, just recently this was picked up by my daughter, (lovely lady she is in so many ways), when she handed me a picture with the bold words..."if you can be anything, be KIND."

A great message to print and wear on a t-shirt (my next project).

As my good friend continued, "If you want a certain fruit, you have to plant the seeds- say the words for that fruit. Plant it."

Thanks Michael.

On a less serious note, I thought this joke that someone shared was cute. As you get older you've got to stay positive. For example, the other day I fell down the stairs...Instead of getting upset I just thought. "Wow, that's the fastest I've moved in years."

You all have a beautiful day!

ro

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The gift you plan today is an investment that will yield the highest returns for nature and for generations to come. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) will always be here to protect threatened habitats and their wildlife. You can count on our clear vision and science-based

approach to achieve the best conservation results.

Investing in Nature

If you are passionate about nature, include it in your plans.

Discuss your financial and charitable estate goals with your family and professional advisors to determine the best donation method to suit your needs.

NCC staff are also here to help. As you work through the process, chat with us about the intention of your gift. Together, let's make sure your gift will be fulfilled the way you envision it.

Giving Options

Once you've taken care of your loved ones, you can make your passion for nature your legacy by leaving a meaningful gift to conservation.

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5. A gift of land

Nature Legacy Society

Please consider the importance of letting us know that NCC has been included in your

estate plans, so that we may thank and welcome you to the Nature Legacy Society. Knowledge of estate gifts not only allows us to plan our work further into the future, it also helps us encourage others to invest in conservation.

As one member of the Nature Legacy Society says: "The decision of leaving a gift in your Will gives you pause and makes you think about the values and beliefs that shape the person you are." (an anonymous Nature Legacy Society member).

Your gift can be tailored to your personal, financial and tax circumstances and we can work with you and your advisors to make sure your wishes can be met and are consistent with NCC's conservation goals.

To begin this conversation,

please contact the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Region at 1.866.683.6934 or email

manitoba@natureconservancy.ca



Invasive



Photo credit: Amy Benson

We have all heard it through the media. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are an issue in the province.

Of concern to Manitoba are species such as Zebra and Quagga mussels, Spiny Waterflea, Rusty Crayfish and Asian Carp. Manitoba currently has 15 aquatic invasive species and the most talked about are zebra mussels.

Zebra mussels are a significant environmental and economic concern and eradication does not appear to be an option any longer. We should all be aware of efforts being made to reduce their spread.

Larval zebra mussels are called veligers and are invisible to the naked eye. These veligers "...rely on water to survive thus they can be inadvertently carried in small amounts

of water transported by un-drained watercraft, water-based aircraft, ORVs and water-based equipment such as bait buckets."

"Adult Zebra Mussels have a shell and can strongly attach to water-based conveyances such as watercraft, trailers, water-based aircraft, ORVs and other water-related equipment. They can survive out of water for 7 to 30 days depending on temperature and humidity." Consequently, boaters are

asked to be pro-active in slowing their progression. - Rural Outdoors To read more about "Clean, Dry, Drain and Dispose", go to

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/stopais/>

Places where zebra mussels can hide



Image courtesy of texasinvasives.org



Experiencing the best of the Outdoors at the Mid-Canada Boat Show

There's no mistaking that feeling. When the sun shines warm and the lakes turn slushy, it's hard to contain the excitement for open water!

For 36 years, the Mid-Canada Boat Show has led the celebration for the upcoming season. From March 2nd to 5th, this year's show packed more than 135,000 square feet of the RBC Convention Centre with more than 250 boats from 10 local dealers.

It's the best opportunity to compare models, shop promotional pricing and check out the latest innovations in fishing boats, runabouts, wake/ski boats, pontoons,



canoes, kayaks and inflatables, with expert information from industry reps.

With this year's Spin and Win promotion, every new boat buyer also won a prize. For some, it was boat accessories, gas cards and gear. For Rob M. who purchased a boat from WSL Sport & Leisure and Patrick S. who purchased a boat from Avo Marine it was something more. They each earned the show's most coveted prize - a fishing package at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge, reserved for world-class walleye and bass fishing.

A range of other attractions took the excitement far beyond boats. The fast-growing "Hook & Bullet" section included more than 20,000 square feet of fishing and hunting displays. On the Lund Presentation Stage: Seminar presenters included professional anglers and government experts. Lund also

sponsored the casting competition for young and old. The Alumacraft Celebrity Cook-off paired four anglers in head-to-head combat. Other exhibitors shared offers on boat repairs, docks and lifts, insurance, fishing camps, lifestyle products and boating licenses. And on the first day of the show, ladies enjoyed free admission.

Next year's Mid-Canada Boat Show will run from March 1-4th and and promise even more for every member of the family. Visit midcanadaboatshow.com

We are growing and looking for "like-minded" exhibitors. Now's the time to join in on not only the Mid Canada Boat Show, but the growing and expanding Hook and Bullet area. Call today and we can see if there's a fit. Dave @ 204-256-1916 or email showmanager@mmpda.ca

ro



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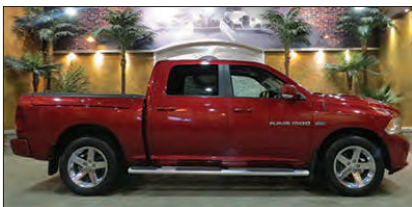




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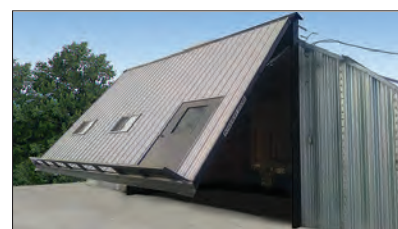
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“Radio control modeling is a great way to spend time outdoors with family and friends and get an adrenaline rush at the same time.



Fun/Fly Air Show

Cellar Dweller hosts an annual Fun Fly/airshow every year at the W.R.C.C. flying field on Ed Spencer Dr. in Winnipeg. This year's date is August 13. They are also a major sponsor of the Gimli Model

Model Fest which takes place August 18 – 20 in Gimli, Manitoba. Spectators will see 100's of model aircraft plus see WWII fighters turbine powered, aerobatic performances and more flying throughout both events.

Fingler invites all to come out to both events. “Come out and see how exciting the world of radio control can be. You might just find the outdoor fun you are looking for!”



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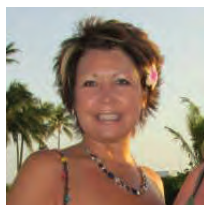


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**TO
TRAVEL
IS TO
LIVE**



Great friends, tight lines.

by P. Alexander

It's the 3rd week of June and as they drive into the fishing lodge, the level of excitement is crazy.

It's old home week all over again. Before their vehicles even stop rolling, the windows are down and they are welcomed by the lodge owners. It has been 12 months and so the chatter begins.

This has become an annual tradition for a group of buds who just love to fish. Four years ago, brothers Glenn and Lee Chorney, along with their brother Darrell (known as Charlie by the group) and friends Alfred Harder, Dave Smith, Joe Castellano, Rob Green and the other Darryl Kruk, discovered the great fishing at Caribou Landing for the first time.

This year, their accommodations will be at Cabin 9 which overlooks the rock cliff at the east side of the lodge property. Before they unpack

their gear, the first order of the day is to decide which of the two bedrooms will be for the snorers. With that all sorted out, it is time to investigate the new deck for a clear view of Quesnel Lake. A few chuckles can be heard as memories from previous years begin to surface.

Like with any sport, fishing can be competitive and every contest has rules. These guys compete for fun. Four species, biggest fish per species wins the day, carry over to the next day can happen. At the end of the 4 days, whoever has the most daily wins is declared the champion. In the case of a tie, it goes to whoever has caught the most master anglers of any species, if still tied, it comes down to the cumulative length of the largest fish per species caught each day.

Yes, it's a given...some pocket change is on the table.

As in previous years, a beautifully hand crafted plaque has once again made its way from Winnipeg with the team. This coveted trophy is unveiled, carefully removed from its padded carrying case then set on display in a prominent spot in the lounging area. For the group, it's a Stanley Cup moment. This prize will be in full view for the next 4 days till a winner is decided on the final day.

Lee points out that when friends are having fun, what comes around goes around. He shares a story that takes us to the bottom of Long Rapids where while fishing one morning, Glenn was netting a fish for Daryl, Glenn's unattended rod caught a snag and he lost his rod. That is when the fun begins. Within twenty minutes, while still laughing, Lee feels nature's call and lays his fishing rod across

his seat. Pre-occupied with the task at hand, Lee's rod disappears. Not seeing what happened he accuses the others in the boat of hiding it. Somewhere he lost his rod as well.

Every fishing trip spawns more funny moments and it is guaranteed that the greatest of those will be revisited at every meal and especially during happy hour. In fact, the fellows refer to the plaque as the "Greatest Fish Story" honour. This year, Glenn claims the award. Another special moment as he is applauded by his friends.

"It's not the fish we catch, the fish we lose or the shore lunches. It's the whole experience", notes Lee, "We no sooner finish the four days at the lodge and the guys are already planning for next year." **ro**

Delectable Honey Mushrooms

Sweethearts of the Wild

By mid-September, our forests come alive with the fall fungal growth. In amongst that vast collection of species and growing in clusters around stumps, we'll find the honey mushroom. These treasures will emerge on the fringe of a forest. Their growth is often triggered by the first frost.



by P. Alexander

The author has picked these sweethearts each fall for over fifty years and emphasizes caution in qualifying this edible.

There are 3 basic features to watch for. The central portion of the cap has a fuzzy region often referred to as a "five o'clock shadow". The gills run on to the stem from under the cap to a ring. Preparing a spore print should also be a part of one's investigation. This is done by slicing off the stem flush with the cap and placing it gills down on a darker piece of paper. Honey mushrooms will shed white spores.

For the dinner table, it's best to select mushrooms at the button stage or immediately after they open for the finest in meaty texture. An easy to prepare mushroom sauce is the author's favorite. Served in a simple fashion on mashed potatoes, a slice of toasted bread, pasta or perogies, it is sure to impress.

Honey Mushrooms in Creamy Sauce; Serves 4

1 tablespoon butter
4 to 5 cups sliced honey mushrooms
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white onion diced
1 cup milk or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup heavy cream
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup flour
2 larger cloves garlic
salt and pepper

Using a large frying pan, saute the onions till slightly browned. Set aside.

Toss in the raw mushrooms at medium heat and allow them to reduce. Stir frequently till they form their own juice. Continue to simmer slowly till the mushrooms have turned a dark brown.

Allow the contents to reduce slowly before adding your choice of dairy. Add sautéed onion and 2 crushed garlic cloves to the pan and stir in. Salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle flour and stir till a preferred consistency is achieved. Simmer for 10 minutes.

RO

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No fishing experience or equipment needed. Relax and fish aboard Caribou 1 or Caribou 2. Your choice of any 3 days this summer with your personal guide for 3 days.



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Register Now for the 2017 Manitoba 55+ GoldenWalleye Fishing Challenge

The Active Coalition for Older Adults (ALCOA) in Manitoba recently challenged older adults, ages 55 and over, to "...engage in activities that promote health and wellness." The ALCOA invited all older adults "...to get out there and try something new, or something they haven't tried in years.

Pick any 3 days this summer

The 2017 Golden Walleye 55 Plus Fishing Challenge is a 3 day program featured at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge for groups over 55. This fun event runs all summer from June 15th till September 15th.

Teams do not compete against one another on the same day. Each team comes fishing during those 3 days which best suit them. Points are simply recorded and compared at season's end.. The lodge provides a special discounted group rate for all participants who register.

Fully guided -
No experience required



Grand Prizes

Rural Outdoors has once again sponsored two grand prizes for

2017. The two top scoring teams will each receive a lodge package of 3 Nights



Accommodations for 5 at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge. Register Your Team Early. **ro**

**Call Carol at
(204) 330-1758**

Team Hartney and Red Necks Inc. - Finalists in 2016 Fishing Challenge

A team assembled by Ernest Hey of Virden, Manitoba and made up of friends from Moosomin, Tilston, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Elkhorn arrived at Quesnel Lake in September taking on the 2016 Manitoba 55 Plus Golden-Walleye.

The Red Necks Inc. had a plan and their strategy for the three days was simple. They'd record the 2 largest walleye on their first day, and then they'd have the last 2 days to find the third and final clinching dimension.

Well, their first day was amazing! Team member Grant Philip from Tilston recorded a 21 inch and Winnipeg's Orest Derkach landed a 26 1/2 inch walleye. Perfect!

What happened later that day was a surprise. Glen Jones from Portage la Prairie ends up hooking a nice walleye. They have 2 days of fishing left but he decides to measure it anyway. The fish hits the scale right on 17 1/2 inches. There is a moment of silence as everyone does the mental math... WOW...65 inches and all on the first day!

The Red Necks Inc continued strong and recorded a couple of trophy smallmouth

bass on day two. Glen records an 18 1/2 incher and Ernest finds a fat 21 1/4 incher. Well done!

Team Hartney coordinated by Glen Forbes of Hartney, Manitoba, scheduled their 3 day challenge for the last week of July.



The Team Hartney roster included Glen, his brother Keith, Lawrence Reid, Tom Alston, George Freeman, George Morrison and Lyle Gibson. Team Hartney caught a lot of big fish during their 3 days at the lodge.

At some point on day two, all they need is a 20 1/2 inch fish to get that perfect 65 inch goal. This is when George Freeman pulls in a 20 inch beauty. Think-



ing, "An extra 1/2 inch and we'd have it in the bag", he convinces the team that they should pass on this fish as they can certainly do a whole lot better. George says that he didn't sleep well that night. Yes, it was tough.



Now it was Day 3. Over breakfast, it was determined that any-walleye coming close to 20 inches would have to be taken.

Then, Tom Alston latches on to a 21 inch fish, and the vote was unanimous. They'd settle for a score of 65 1/2 inches. That was a great call and a good bit of fun.

Prizes Awarded

Both teams received the top prize for their great scores and enthusiasm. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the 2016 GoldenWalleye.

We will see you all again in 2017 because both teams have won a 3 Nights Accommodations Package at Quesnel Lake Caribou Lodge for 2017. **ro**

Competitive Fishing Event Permit # LdB- 16-3

**It's All About
Experiencing a New
Adventure and
Having Fun**

This challenge is open to groups or teams of 5 to 10 people. Teams are encouraged to represent their community (example "Team Treherne"). No previous fishing experience is required. Rods and reels, bait, all fishing tackle and equipment is provided by the lodge.

The Challenge

The Challenge and competition is not about catching the biggest fish. The objective of each team over the course of 3 days is to register three walleye (pickerel) with a total cumulative length closest to 65 inches. Your personal guide will help net, measure and release those fish which are recorded. Scores which exceed the 65 inch requirement also qualify. But, in the event that there are 2 scores tied such as 63 and 67, the lowest score will lead.

At Harmony With Nature in the Interlake

"If you live in harmony with nature you will never be poor... The day has already begun to lessen. It has shrunk considerably, but yet will still allow a goodly space of time if one rises, so to speak, with the day itself. We are more industrious, and we are better men if we anticipate the day and welcome the dawn." -- Seneca, Letters from a Stoic

Part of my summer was spent taking a philosophy course. These classes took place at two different colonies, one of which was Netley Colony in the Interlake. I'd never been there before, so I enjoyed meeting new people and seeing this part of Manitoba. Of the four days we spent at Net

ley, one was particularly hot and muggy. Even though I was fascinated with philosophy, sitting in the classroom that day drained much of my energy. I can never fall asleep during the day, no matter how tired I am, but around five, I had a strong urge lie down under a fan and close my eyes. As soon

as I got to my host family's home, I did just that. However, after just lying there for half an hour, with sleep as elusive as a cool breeze, I decided to get some of our assigned reading done instead - may as well get acquainted with the Stoics.

In the evening it was still very



rather rugged. We paused at the swimming hole, soaking up the serenity of this beautiful tree-surrounded emerald lake. Birds sweetly serenaded us with their cheery evening song. As we continued along the trail, huge trees provided a lush green canopy. Hugging the trail were a variety of berry shrubs, wild flowers and grasses, creating an enchanting woodland. Jennifer pointed out different wild flowers still in bloom; asters, common tansy, goldenrod, sow thistle, harebell, woodland sunflowers and wild roses.

Seeing this wildflower haven up close, and having an enthusiastic friend pointing out the various species, gave me a new appreciation for these exquisite plants. We came across the last pin cherries of the season, and almost-ripe rosehips. Every so often, a strong breeze brought a sweet scent, causing me to breathe in deeply, savouring the moment. "Is it wild honey or flowers?" I wondered out loud. Jennifer wasn't sure either. All too soon we headed unto the gravel road and back home. With the wind whipping my hair and headcovering about, I was totally rejuvenated and grateful for the wild beauty of the prairies.

(Continued on Page 22)

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metal and place it anywhere you desire on a runway is one heck of an accomplishment.

Become Something New

Flying can give all people, especially young people, a sense of purpose. Read my story of Henry in the article titled Become Something New. Henry was a young man who had a serious behavioral problem and changed his life dramatically by taking flying lessons. Leo Buscaglia once said that when we learn something new we become something new. Learn to fly an airplane and you'll become an entirely new person.

A Sense of Freedom

The sense of freedom in an airplane is unparalleled. You can walk out to your airplane, hop inside and head off in any direction you desire in these United States (with a few exceptions, like over the White House and other sensitive areas, of course).

I've Always Wanted to Fly

When I ask pilots across the country why they got involved in aviation, about 90% say they've always wanted to fly and knew this since an early age. Some folks want to fly but don't



know why. So what? Who said you need a good reason to do something exciting? If you want to fly, then fly.

Adventure

If you like adventure then you'll love flying your own airplane. Imagine taking someone to the airport, hopping in a small two-place airplane and flying to another airport for dinner then returning later that evening. Would your friend, date, spouse or acquaintance be impressed? I think so.

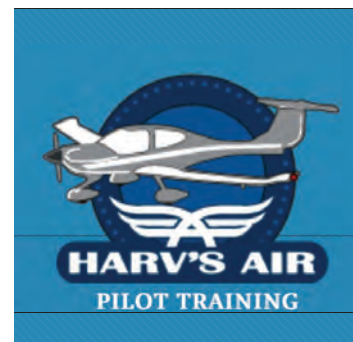
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At Harmony

(continued from page 20)

Stepping from the Kubota a few minutes later, I was abruptly reminded that the stifling conditions still lingered. However, it didn't dampen my spirits; I had been energized by the gifts of nature and camaraderie, and was ready for a long walk with my friend, Dora, who was also taking the course. Five miles later, a fog-blanket had covered the harvest-ready fields; like the

dampness of the day was being laid to rest; adding an exclamation mark to this enchanted evening. I limped home, feeling hot and tired, but "my heart soared". *ro*

Linda Maendel,
Elm River Colony, author
of Hutterite Diaries



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Gardens Grounded in Gratitude



In 1989, Edith Rook was a stay-at-home mom raising seven children when she embarked on her veggie-growing adventure. At that time, a farmer's market was launching in Carman and Edith began to sell an assortment of vegetables grown on a half-acre of land. While Edith was at the market, her husband, Len, and their older children were busy growing and harvesting after work and school.

Over the years, the farm evolved little by little with additional acres and more greenhouses. In 1995,

by Jennifer McFee

Nearly 27 years ago, Dufferin Market Gardens sowed the seeds for a small business venture that has since blossomed into a homegrown success.

Rook noticed that Peak of the Market was seeking growers for summer crops, and with Len's persuasions, they began to supply kale to the not-for-profit organization.

"About 90 per cent of the kale that we produced at that time was used as a garnish in delicatessens around the meat platters and in stores and restaurants," she says. "We're still doing kale, and the amount has increased over the years. Now 90 per cent of it is being consumed."

In 2000, Edith's husband Len quit his construction job to work full-time on the farm, which grew to span 30 acres. Today, the couple continues to grow kale for Peak of the Market, as well as zucchini, cucumbers, leeks, green bell peppers and jalapeno peppers. They also grow tomatoes

and a variety of other veggies for their own consumption and for sale at the Carman Farmers' Market, where Edith still vends every Friday throughout the summer.

"I enjoy the selling part and Len enjoys the growing part," says Edith, who makes plenty of salsa with her homegrown ingredients.

In addition to supplying an abundance of fresh vegetables, the farming lifestyle also provided the family with a wealth of cherished memories. "We taught our children a lot on the farm about working and playing and being together. We had a lot of great conversations because they were working right alongside us. For us, it was a really good way of life," she says.

They also employ nine seasonal Mexican workers who have become like an extended family. "We simply could not do this anymore without



Sautéed kale with cranberries and pine nuts

them. They're totally essential. They tend to come back because we're happy with them and they're happy with our farm," Edith says. "We built quite a relationship with them and they count on coming back year after year."

In addition, Peak of the Market is another integral element of their operation.

"For produce like kale and leek, there's a limited amount of sales in those products. We cannot grow these products without the good use of Peak of the Market," Edith says. "They are an essential part of our business. It works really well

for us. We would not be able to do these products without the good use of Peak of the Market," Edith says. "They are an essential part of our business. It works really well for us. We would not be able to do this without them."

At the same time, Edith emphasizes the importance of faith on the family farm.

"Over the years, we have been able to make a good living and farming has been a good way of life," she says. "We work hard and we enjoy life, but that can only happen because God is blessing us in that way. We are grateful."

ro

Today's Recipe

Roast Pork Dinner

- 2 Large baking potatoes, scrubbed and thinly sliced
- 500 ml (2 cups) Mushrooms, sliced
- 2 Onions, thinly sliced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) Basil, minced
- 2 ml (1/2 cup) Salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) Pepper
- 4 Pork loin cutlets, boneless
- 1 Can stewed tomatoes 398 ml (14 oz)

In a large bowl; mix potatoes, mushrooms, onion, basil, salt and pepper together. Pour mixture into a lightly greased 13 x 9 inch (33 x 23 cm) baking dish. Arrange pork cutlets over vegetable mixture. Pour tomatoes over all. Bake, covered, in preheated 325 F (160 C) oven for 1.5 hours.

Servings: 4



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By Dani Gosselin

Dani and her dad are nearly discovered by her buck. Hmm...where to start? Hunting isn't just a one day event. For me it starts as soon as I can practice shooting my bow outside and not freeze my fingers.

It starts when I set multiple cameras in summer time in efforts to pattern the deer in the area. Then it continues into early fall where we layout all our tree stands and ground blinds carefully keeping in mind what our trail cam photos have told us about their habits. All of these things put together will hope-fully fall into place

just like we hoped it would in our minds. This is where my story begins.

For the first time this season my dad was able to join me on a hunt. He had previously tagged out one week prior. So now it was my turn. Together, we set out to the blind one hour before sun rise and waited on the sun to come up.

Before we knew it, completely unaware they were being watched, 2 doe and a few fawns made their way to their bedding area after feeding in the field all night.

Shortly, we heard plenty of loud splashing in the river behind us. I thought a tree had fallen in the river from the beavers munching away. It was actually 7 deer crossing the

My heart stopped and I had a slight wave of panic come over me.

river and now heading our way. I immediately got a little anxious and reached for my bow. The chances of having a buck following the does who were just about to be in heat, was high. As one by one the deer crossed our path I became more and more sure there would be one of the bucks I had

in mind following the group. No sign of a buck. Discouraged I put down my bow beside me and waited for the next glimpse of hope.

An hour had past and nothing had been seen or heard. My eyes felt tired then "SNAP" a branch cracked. My eye lids sprung open and my heart started to race! I looked over to my dad and asked if he heard that as clear as I did.

With an ever so slight motion, I leaned forward to get a better view and to my surprise I locked eyes with a handsome, yet weary, 4x4 buck. My heart stopped and I had slight wave of panic come over me. I gave my father the "HE'S RIGHT THERE" wide eyed look and waited for the four-legged creature to look away for any opportunity to reach for my bow, which now felt like it was miles away. In reality, it was leaning upright against my hip.

Now, from experience I know that finding the right moment to draw back your arrow is the most critical aspect for a posi-

tive outcome to your hunt, (for the hunter that is). This buck took his precious time making his way to one of the three open shooting lanes I had previously cleared. The longer it took, the more unsure this buck became about his surroundings. Walking in the right direction, he quietly made his way towards the first lane. "It's all up to you now, take your time and make sure of your shot," my dad quietly whispered.

My first opportunity was about to present itself. But from the moment you nock your arrow to the time you let it fly a lot can go wrong. For example, as I put my arm out in front of me slowly and waited for this deer to be behind a tree, it gave me a second of cover to draw back my bow without being seen. He stopped, perked his ears straight up and looked in our direction. He snorted, stomped his hooves and trotted quickly across lane number one.

The wise buck had out-smarted me. I didn't give up just yet. I (Continued on Page 29)

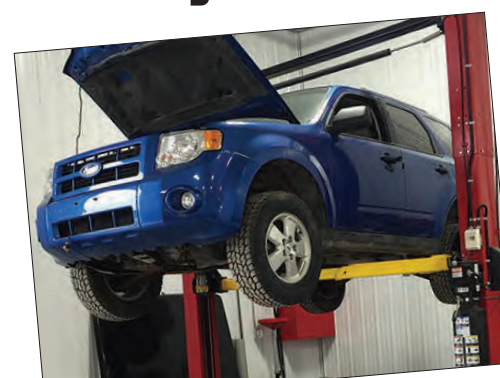
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Wild Boar at Large

by Trevor Graham

In some regions of Manitoba, wild boar populations are thriving in the wild. In both Manitoba and Saskatchewan, their populations are growing at a very rapid pace.

A major factor is their ability to have up to two litters per year with each litter being an average of 6 to 8 piglets. These animals also adapt well to our climate.

Wild boar are not native to Manitoba but were introduced here in the 1980's as exotic livestock in an exciting program for diversification on the family farm. But, some boar escaped their pens and yet others may have migrated into the wild. At-large in the wild, they have adapted well. Their numbers are growing.

Because of the impact on the natural ecosystem and consequently some native species, the Province of Manitoba permits a resident of the province to hunt and kill wild boar at any time of the year. These animals have an affinity for the low lying underbrush and rugged terrain and they are known to be aggressive. Hunting boar can be an experience. Nineteen year old Trevor Graham shares his story of the hunt and the adrenaline.

"My story goes back to the mild weather of October. There was a lot of rooting and tracks running through a meadow in the bush. I skirted around on an old logging trail and walked into the bush heading opposite of the boar trails. I was about 15 yards from the edge of a clearing when the ground began vibrating!

Grunting and crashing filled the air as four pigs took off down the valley.

A large group trotted off to my left. Then, there was movement in front of me. A boar popped his head through some spruce trees and was grunting and snorting. It looked about to charge me. It was pawing and shaking it's head. I pulled the hammer on the rifle and wasted no time in fixing the crosshairs."

"This animal weighed in at 425 pounds with a skull length of 21 inches. The final distance from where I was standing to the boar was 17 yards."

ro

Trevor Graham lives in rural southern Manitoba and is an avid outdoorsman.



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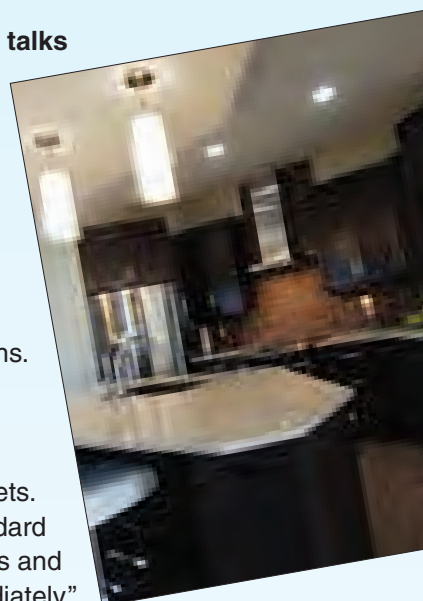
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Boston-qualifying marathon held in rural Manitoba

Run for the Hills

On September 10, 2017 the town of Treherne will hold the 13th annual Boston-qualifying marathon, with options for a half marathon, 10K and 5K run. This community sponsored event attracts up to 500 runners from all over Manitoba, as well as the U.S. and other provinces. The event is the only full marathon in rural Manitoba, and runners get to experience the beauty of the scenic hills south of Treherne.

An Event for Everyone

Run for the Hills, as the name suggests, is a challenging event, and one of many Marathoners' "Bucket List." The full 26.2 mile marathon route is certified by Athletics Canada.

In 2016 the new "Flat Half," a less challenging half-marathon route was added. The original half-marathon includes most of the hills of the full marathon and continued as the "Hilly Half" event. Runners experience the challenge of climbing the hills, but are rewarded by a sense of accomplishment and the panoramic view at the top. The 10K and 5K runs offer other options for the athletes. All 5 races are timed using chip technology.

Over the years, runners have come from as far away as England and New Zealand. There are some who have set goals of running a marathon in every province in Canada and every state in the USA. One man's goal is to run 100 marathons, and he has already run the Manitoba Marathon for several years. There are even a few runners who run without shoes, no easy feat on a gravel road!

Volunteers Make the Difference

Like most small rural communities, Treherne and area rely on volunteers to "Get it Done." Along with the main organizing committee, other committees include Marketing and Promotions, Track, Emergency Services, Registration and Awards, and Hospitality. The Race Director is the key person who coordinates the event. The event requires over 125 volunteers who donate over 500 hours annually to make the event happen!

Experience the Country Hospitality

What makes the Run for the Hills unique? Maybe it's the piano playing "Chariots of Fire" as runners go past. Maybe it's the smiling volunteers at the aid stations along the route or the home-made muffins at the end of the run. Could it be the enthusiastic group clustered at the finish line handing out the finishing medals to the very proud, but exhausted participants? Whatever it is, some runners come back year after year and smile right back at the volunteers!

For More Information Contact:

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The 'Harvesting Only' approach

Hunters celebrating their harvests for decades

Travel Manitoba launched a new program last fall aimed at celebrating hunting in our province, and its unique approach to defining which animals are worth celebrating will likely turn some heads in the hunting community.

Manitoba Master Hunter invites resident and visiting hunters alike to submit photos of their harvests to Travel Manitoba, who will post the successful entries online and celebrate the hunter's achievement with a crest and a notation in their online log book. The program is loosely designed in the same vein as Travel Manitoba's immensely popular Master Angler program, which has been around since the 1960s and receives



by Paul Turenne

Paul is the Executive Director of the Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters Association

more than 15,000 entries per year.

But unlike the Master Angler program, where the fish must be of a certain length to qualify, recognition in the new **Master Hunter** program has nothing to do with the size of the animal harvested. Any legally harvested animal, taken within the parameters of Manitoba's wildlife regulations and during the licensed

hunting season, qualifies for recognition under the new program.

Hunting awards programs are nothing new, but this "harvest-only" approach is. From the Boone and Crockett Club to the big buck nights that still take place every year across rural Manitoba, hunters have been celebrating their harvests for decades. But the way these pro-

grams typically worked – and in most cases still do – was by measuring the antlers or skull of a harvested animal to determine the largest "score," or at least to reach some minimum threshold that qualified for recognition.

Master Hunter has consciously and deliberately taken a different approach.

Hunters can submit entries for all species for which regulated hunting seasons exist in Manitoba, including big game like whitetail deer and moose, and any one of 34 different species of birds, from ruddy ducks and snow geese to sharp-tail grouse. Harvesting any one of these species will qualify. Different species combination badges are designed to encourage hunters to seek out new and different hunting opportunities. Another unique feature of the program is a demand that participants demonstrate respect for their harvested animals and for

hunting regulations. For example, the photo submission guidelines ask hunters to ensure the animals be cleaned of blood and presented in a respectful manner. "We recognize that hunting necessarily involves the harvest of wild birds and animals, so we aim to promote imagery that depicts ethical hunting practices and demonstrates both respect for wildlife, and respect for the non-hunting portion of the public," Travel Manitoba's Ryan Suffron said. "Travel Manitoba supports and encourages legal, regulated hunting, and we stand with Manitoba's hunting community in strongly condemning poaching and other illegal activity."

The **Master Hunter** program is open to anyone who holds a valid Manitoba hunting license, and to rights-based Indigenous hunters, provided the animal was harvested within the dates of the regulated hunting season and meets all other program requirements.

ro



Blind Busted

(Continued from page 25)

shifted my body to be in the right position for a shot in lane number two. While he was looking down I drew back my bow in one fluid motion and set my 20-yard pin just behind his shoulder. There was only one problem. I had missed a few twigs that were in between myself and the deer-twigs that made it impossible for me to take my shot. Such a small detail missed and just like that, my chance at this buck slipped through my fingers. So I thought.

Luckily he kept walking towards lane three, only a few steps away. Still holding my bow up, my arms became exhausted but I pushed through it. This was the "do or die" moment- the last chance. Once more I tucked my pin behind his shoulder and controlled my breathing. I concentrated as hard as I could but all I could seem to hear was my heart pounding. I pulled the trigger. To my relief, I realized that I made a perfect shot in the vitals.

Dad and I soon began cheering and celebrating! He was almost as excited as I was.

We tracked him for only a short while before I spotted him lying in the field. Walking up to the creature I said my thanks and hugged my dad once more. What an unforgettable experience! **ro**

At 20 years of age, Dani is an accomplished hunter and angler. During the summer months, she is employed at a lodge as a fishing guide. Those who have had the privilege of fishing with Dani, have a true measure of her deep appreciation for adventure in the outdoors. At Rural Outdoors, we are delighted to have Dani contribute to our publication and look forward to her articles in the future.

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NATURALLY, IT'S A HEALTHY PLACE TO WORK

By P. Alexander

While most cities continue to struggle with retaining an element of the natural world in urban planning, very few of us have considered the benefits of introducing a bit of the natural world into our homes and workplaces. Biophobia or the natural human affinity for the natural world is very real but overlooked by the majority of the population.

Cerrie of Earth Child by Design specializes in bringing the outdoors into the home and the workplace. She is quick to offer some insight. "Being in the presence of nature during our waking hours can translate into benefits too numerous to mention. People simply feel better when they are close to nature and, in fact, there is a healing power when we are surrounded by nature. People are more likely to be close to nature at home than we are at work. A good example of this is natural light. In most workplaces, more often than not, it begins and ends with a potted plant."



As an artist, Cerrie specializes in working with drift wood as her medium creating beautiful grand wall hangings. Many of her three dimensional pieces adorn offices, work studies, grand rooms and living rooms throughout North America. Her work is striking and each piece is naturally beautiful.

Mother Nature has taken decades to grow a forest and she takes even longer to transform that tree into the beautiful drift wood which Cerrie harvests from the shorelines of rivers and lakes located in the northern reaches of Manitoba's. In some cases, Cerrie's finished pieces capture more than a century of exposure to the magical dynamics of our natural environment.

Many of Cerrie's creations are commissioned. More often than not, her clients have a theme in mind. Each piece requires a special creative effort to transpose those ideas artistically.



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