

The Innisfree Informer



Deb's Message in a Minute

Here we are, as we march into March. We did it, we made it through the coldest and darkest months of the year and soon the night and day will have the same hours.

The Innisfree Library continues to be a warm and welcoming place to visit and look for a good book. It has much to offer along with the books and magazines.

Innisfree Senior Citizens are serving coffee again Monday mornings from 9 to 11. And Fun Bingo is Wednesday Evening at 7:00. Everyone is welcome to these events, not only senior citizens!

As St. Patrick's Day approaches, I wish an Irish Blessing for you all:

"May your days be many and your troubles be few.

May all God's blessings descend upon you.

May peace be within you, May your heart be strong.

May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam."

We are continuing to walk most weeks from Monday to Friday mornings at the Rec. Centre. We welcome new folks walking with us.

Check for updates as they are posted on the Village of Innisfree web site, www.innisfree.ca.

See the Mannville-Minburn-Innisfree FCSS Facebook page for up-to-date information available.

Respectfully submitted by Deb McMann

PEP GOES TO INNISFREE!

PEP is a free creative art program for youth. This program allows youth the opportunity to be creative, connect and learn PEP! Principles of Design + Elements of Art + Positivity = PEP.



On February 15th six artists gathered to learn and create! They learned about "texture" - how artists can use materials to create the illusion of or actual textures in artwork and about "emphasis" - making something stand out or pop out! The material they were given was... cookies, sprinkles, fondant, icing and so much edible more!

The artists collectively named the art show "Edible Abyss". As they created, they laughed, joked, listened to music and licked a lot of fingers! Some reviews from the kids... Favorites: the food, getting to create anything with no rules, edible spray paint, the free encouraging atmosphere. Cons: nothing

The next opportunity will be on April 19th, details to follow.



LIBRARY SURVEY!

Check out the last page of this issue for your Village of Innisfree Library Survey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and drop it off at the Library or the Village of Innisfree office. Your answers will help the Library bring programming and ideas to Innisfree!



Would like to thank the *Trophy Sponsors & Auction Donors & all other Individuals & Businesses* who contributed time, merchandise, and services towards our 2023 Annual Supper & Dance. Without your support it would not be possible.

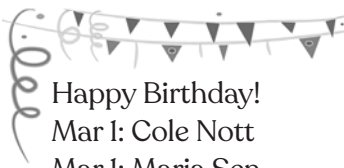
5K Cannan Farms	GT Automotive / NAPA Vermilion	Richardson Pioneer
Agland	Hudson Contracting	Road Runner Waterhauling
Agriterra	Humeniuk's Meat Cutting	Rocky Mountain Equipment
Alberta Beef Producers NE Zone	Innisfree Hotel	Rodney Smith
ATB / Mannville Registries	Innisfree Seed Cleaning Plant	RONA Vermilion
Bernie's Hotshot	Ireland Farm Equipment	Ron's Auto & Ag
Branded	IRIS Vegreville	Round Corner Welding
Bumper to Bumper Two Hills / Veg Auto	Jard Industrial Supply	Scott Wowdzia Ent. UFA
Cabin Boyz	JMT Mechancial	Section 35
Cargill Vegreville	Krissy Folk	Serendipitous Adventures
Chris Nott & Family	Mainstreet Hardware	Southview Trucking
Colin Folk	Mama K's Homemade Salsa	Stealth Bins
College Park Motors	Mannville & Area Liquor Store	Stepanick Boyz
Co-operators Koback Ent.	MarDar Electric	The Cutting Edge Family Hair Care
Cornerstone CO-OP	Mark's Vegreville	The Men's Den Vermilion
Dale & Larry Dmytriv	McMath Controls	Tisha's Auto Detailing
Dale & Tanis Dmytriv	Midwest Auto Supply	UFA Delegates Jeff Nott
Days Inn Vermilion	Minco Gas	Vantage Building Supplies
Deerland Equipment	Norstar Agriculture	Vegreville Autobody
Doug Agate & Cole Nott (Cole's Coup)	Nutrien Ag Solutions Innisfree	Vegreville Ford
Dwyer Mechanical	Nykolaychuk Family	Vermilion Chrysler
Eagle's Nest Lounge	OK Tire Vegreville	Vermilion Packers
Feschuk Farms	Outlaws Outsiders Bait & Tackle	Warehouse Sports St. Paul
G3 Grain	Providence Grain	Webb's Machinery
Grains Connect	Randy & Susan Cannan	Wildrose Ranch
Grant Miller Motors	Ray Nedzeilski	Wildrose Whitetails
Greater Canadians		



Hey Kids! Are you an artist, writer, inventor, or creative kid?

The Informer wants to hear from you!

Email your submissions or your creations to be featured in future issues!
 innisfreeinformer@gmail.com



Happy Birthday!

- Mar 1: Cole Nott
- Mar 1: Maria Sen
- Mar 3: Kevin Zaplachinski
- Mar 5: Betty Saik
- Mar 5: Rocky Thompson
- Mar 6: Bobbi Bouchier
- Mar 6: Teresa Porter
- Mar 7: Diana Bown
- Mar 7: Wendy Cannan
- Mar 7: Jennifer Johnson
- Mar 7: Lillie Petrowski
- Mar 8: Dylan Cannan
- Mar 8: Bobbi Jo Jackson
- Mar 9: Susan Cannan
- Mar 8: Ken Newton
- Mar 13: Yvonne Parasynchuk
- Mar 14: Ollie Cannan



Mar 16: Abby Tarapaski
 Mar 23: Howard Austin:
 90 years young in 2023!

- Mar 24: Jaxen Nott
- Mar 24: Evan Raycraft
- Mar 25: Cameron Gizowski
- Mar 25: Cara Gizowski
- Mar 30: Lorraine (Wink) Fowler
- Mar 31: Maryann Fortier
- Mar 31: Cecil Paranych

Happy Anniversary!
 Mar 10: Tom & Shirley Nott
 Mar 14: Bobbi & Ryan Bouchier

PLEASE! SLOW DOWN WHEN PASSING OUR SCHOOL

Per Alberta.ca: When you approach a school or play-ground sign, with a maximum speed posted with it, you are entering a school and/or playground zone. You must not exceed the posted speed when the zone is in effect.

The speed limit for both urban and rural school zones and playground zones is 30 km/h unless otherwise posted.

While school zone limits are in effect on school days only,



the entire stretch of road past the Delnorte School is also a playground zone.



Playground speed restrictions are in effect **EVERY DAY** from 8:30 am to 1 hour after sunset.

This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat, it was obvious that she thought her cat understood her... I came to my house, I told my dog... we laughed a lot.

I didn't have enough cereal for a full bowl, so I mixed Shredded Wheat with Grape Nuts, and it tastes like I'm eating wicker furniture in a sandstorm.

Innisfree Kindergarten News

Innisfree ECS has moved! After many years in the basement of the Millenium Building, Innisfree ECS has now moved over to the grade 1-12 school next door.

While the original kindergarten rooms in the Millenium Building will forever be nostalgic to many of us who attended our first year of schooling there, we are undoubtedly excited for the new experiences and opportunities future kindergarten and preschool classes will have in their new space. Being in our new classroom means the kindergartners get to be a part of a genuine school community. They will meet many teachers they may one day sit in a classroom with, become accustomed to the rooms and hallways they will roam for many years to come, and experience the joy of being around others and participating in school wide activities.

As we moved and held our first few days of classes in the big school, we were warmly welcomed by the other students and staff, who generously helped us in any way they could. The kindergartners appeared immediately comfortable and eager to explore their new school. In our first couple days in our new classroom, our young students have marveled at seeing kids from other grades every day. They are continuously amazed by the school's fascinating technology, including our Smart Board, the school speaker, and the schoolwide bells. They are even awed by the small details of the building, like the lockers, drinking fountains, large windows, and all the posters and quotes scattered throughout the school. It is wonderful to see how well they are transitioning and how much fun they have had exploring the school and their new classroom. This move is an extremely significant change for everyone involved but also unbelievably exciting. I cannot emphasize enough how much I look forward to the rest of the year. Thank you to everyone that helped us during our move and for all the support we have been provided.

C When God made
R Canadians, he
O **U** **T** **D** **O** **O** **R**
R made them
N polite, peace-
E loving, and nice.
 But the Devil
 said, "you are
 disturbing the
 balance of nature".
 God thought about
 it, and said, "you
 are right. But I don't
 want to undo my
 work." Devil: "well,
 there is only one way
 to fix this."

**So God created
 Canadian Geese.**



**OUTDOOR CORNER is sponsored by:
 PARANYCH CONSULTING 403-506-4667**

**What does a leprechaun eat for lunch?
 A Ba-Larney Sandwich!**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's What's Happening!

- Mar 1: Village of Innisfree Library Board Meeting
- Mar 8: Coffee Connections with MMI-FCSS
 1-2:30 pm at Millennium Building
- Mar 7: Cardboard Recycling Pickup!
- Mar 9: Innisfree 4-H Multi Club Meeting
- Mar 12: Daylight Saving Time Begins
 – Set Your Clocks Ahead!
- Mar 14: Innisfree Senior Citizens Meeting
- Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day – wear green!
- Mar 17: Innisfree Seniors St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper
- Mar 20: First Day of Spring 2023!
- Mar 21: Cardboard Recycling Pickup!
- Mar 21: Village of Innisfree Regular Council
 Meeting at 5 pm
- Mar 23: Ranfurly Seniors Potluck Supper and Meeting

*Please send your event info (name, date, location)
 by March 25 to be included in the April Calendar of Events*

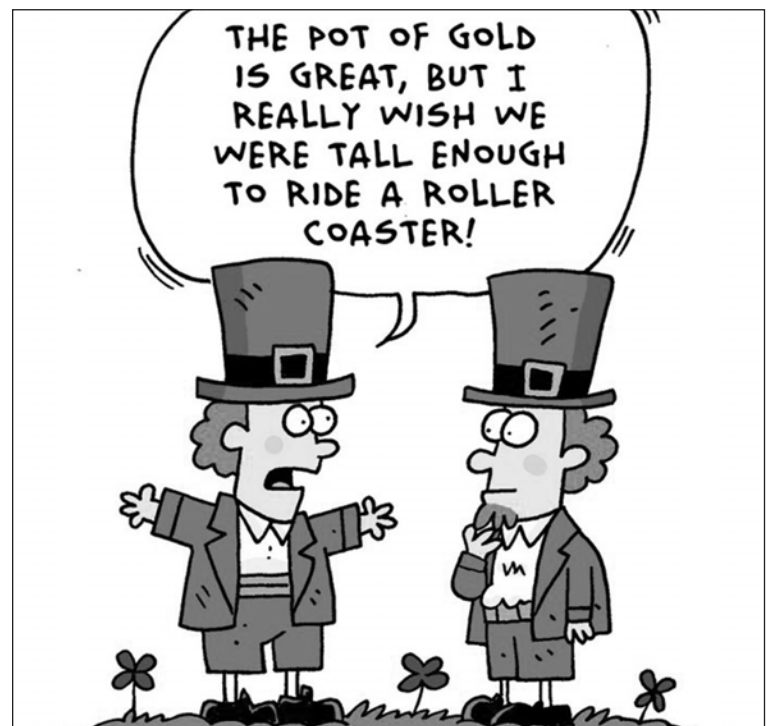
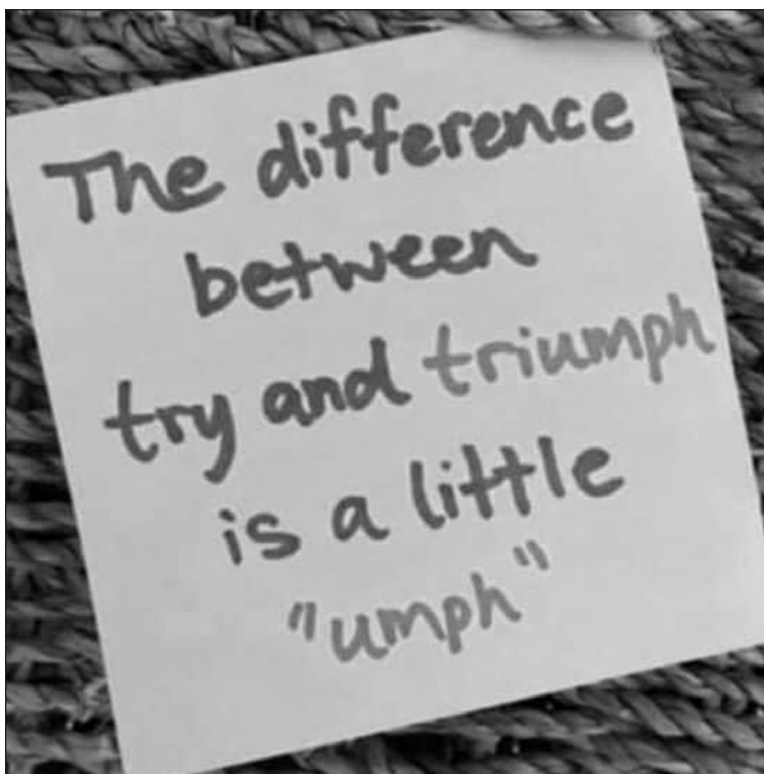


Is someone special celebrating next month?
 Send in your **APRIL**
Birthdays & Anniversaries for the April issue!
 Please send birthday or anniversary names and dates by
 March 25 to wish your loved ones a special day!
 Email to: innisfreeinformer@gmail.com

INFORMER TRAVELS

Readers! Let's see how far our little newsletter can go. If you or a friend plan to do some travelling, send us a photo of you holding the Informer and tell us a little about where you went, what you saw and the adventures you had!

**TO RENT: The Minburn Hall,
 Seniors Centre or Curling Rink:
 Call Dawn 780-581-0592**



Fun Fact: There are no female leprechauns.

Kids helpline # 1-800-668-6868
Mental Health Helpline # 1-877-303-2642



**Mannville – Minburn – Innisfree
Family & Community Support Services
And Yellowhead Community Support Society**

Email: mmifcss@mannville.com

Location: 5004-49 Street Suite # 4 Mannville **Phone:** 780-763-3005 **Website:**

<https://mmifcss.wixsite.com/mmifcss> **Instagram:** @mmifcss

Facebook: Mannville-Minburn-Innisfree Family & Community Support Services

CONNECTING COMMUNITY

- Coffee Connections: March 8th Mannville: 10 am and Innisfree: 1 pm
- Check out the Community Bulletin Boards for events calendar

FACILITATION & SUPPORTS

- Friendly Phone Visiting program: Call us to have your name added to our calling list and we will stay connected with you
- Meals on Wheels
- TeleCare Emergency Response Connection

PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION

- Information & Referral: Newsletters, Form Completion, Connections to Resources and Supports- Call or stop by the office
- Let's Talk: 3rd Thursday of every month over lunch hour
- Endeavour To Be Different: 2nd Thursday, every other month, evening

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICE

Check out Volunteer Connector <https://www.volunteerconnector.org/> for local volunteer opportunities

KALYNA MMI FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK

- **Facebook:** MMI Family Resource Network
- Mannville RedWagon Parent & Play 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month 10-11:30am in the United Church basement
- Minburn RedWagon Parent & Play 2nd Tuesday monthly 10-11:30am at the Rec Centre
- Ranfurly RedWagon Parent & Play 4th Tuesday monthly 10-11:30am at Ranfurly School
- Call or text Alicia Rutt at 780-581-4149

**February 21, 2023 Village of Innisfree
Council Meeting Highlights**

- Council endorsed Temporary Borrowing Bylaw 673-23
- Council endorsed a donation to the Innisfree Curling Club for ice decal sponsorship.
- Council provided First Reading to Animal Control Bylaw 680-23, a bylaw that will combine the Canine, Feline and Chicken Bylaw's into one, comprehensive bylaw.
- Council approved Bar Engineering's recommendation to request Tenders for the following capital projects:
 - o Water Main looping from 54th Street to 51st Avenue (under the Railroad tracks)
 - o 50th Street Sanitary Main Replacement and Road Reconstruction
 - o Water Main looping along 47th Avenue from 51st Street to 53rd Street
- Council approved Grant applications for the three projects noted above plus two additional ones:
 - o 50th Street & 49th Avenue erosion
 - o Museum upgrade of boiler, radiators, insulation, etc.
- Council passed a motion to endorse the Go East of Edmonton Tourism's application for a Travel Alberta Rural Promotion Fund, which will assist GoEast to promote the region.

REMINDERS:

- 2023 Business License are due.
- 2023 Dog and Feline Licenses are overdue.
- Electronic Notices: The Village provides individuals/businesses, to receive their Utility invoices, Combined Assessment Tax notices & receipts for same upon signing of an agreement.

Contact our office for more information on any or all of the above-noted items:

- **Phone:** 780-592-3886
- **Email:** admin@innisfree.ca

**HOW OTHERS SEE YOU
IS NOT IMPORTANT.
HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF
MEANS EVERYTHING.**



**TODAY IS
THE MOST
MONDAYEST
THURSDAY
THAT HAS
EVER BEEN
MISTAKEN
FOR A
FRIDAY IN
THE
HISTORY OF
WEDNES-
DAYS**

Innisfree-Minburn 4-H Beef Club February Report

Peyton Hess- Club Reporter

Only four months until our Annual Achievement Day! Save the date for May 31, 2023 and join us in Minburn for our Show & Sale. This month, we held our club public speaking competition. There were lots of amazing speeches presented to us and a few of our members will move on to Districts on May 4th. Our senior members Camille Kassian & Kasen Swanson, Intermediate member Olivia Saruk, and Junior member Peyton Hess will all be competing on May 4th in Mannville at the Elks Hall. Also in February, our leaders visited members at home to make sure they are getting their projects show-day ready! Members are working hard on their 4-H Books and with their project animals. A few of our members attended You Be the Judge in Vermilion in February, and some are registered to attend the Provincial Judging Competition in Vermilion in March. Our next club meeting will be March 8 in Minburn.



Our members at the Public Speaking event held in Minburn February 10, 2023



**Happy 3 Years
Innisfree
Informer!**

Thank you to
our readers,
contributors,
advertisers and
community!

The Innisfree Senior Citizens Association

is hosting a

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POT LUCK SUPPER

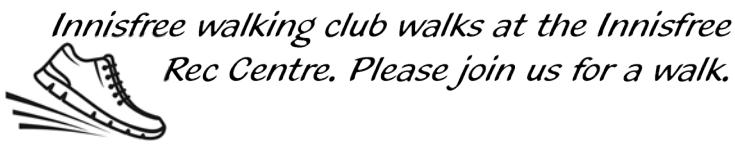
at the Drop In Center on
Friday March 17, 2023

All are welcome, bring a dish or by donation.

The Seniors are providing corned beef and cabbage, as well as Smoked beef brisket.

Supper is at 6 pm





Innisfree walking club walks at the Innisfree Rec Centre. Please join us for a walk.

News from the Innisfree Walking Club

Pending a recent visit from 3 family visitors from England I knew I needed to get a lot of baking into the freezer, which I proceeded to do.

Then my friend, Lil Carter surprised me with containers full of goodies that her and her sisters did for me. In that baking were some old-fashioned favourites. I chose the one that turned out to be the winner with the UK relatives. You just cannot beat some our Mum's good old recipes!

We would love to have your old recipes that you still use, or recipes from a loved one that were passed to you. You can email them to me: gaylefoyster@gmail.com

MATRIMONIAL CAKE

(Date Squares)

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C)

INGREDIENTS FOR CRUMBLY MIXTURE

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 and ½ cups rolled oats
- 1 and ½ cups white flour

INGREDIENTS FOR FILLING

- 1 pound of dates (pitted)
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp lemon juice

DIRECTIONS FOR CRUMBLY MIXTURE:

Combine dry and add butter in and mix until crumbly. Press half of this crumbly mixture into a 9 inch baking pan

DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING:

- In a pot combine dates, water, brown sugar and baking soda.
- Bring to a boil and cook until thickened.
- Stir in lemon juice and remove from heat.

DIRECTIONS TO ASSEMBLE:

- Spread the cooked filling over the first crumbly base.
- Spread the rest of the crumbly mixture over the top of the filling.
- Bake 20 to 25 mins or until top is lightly toasted.
- Cool before cutting into squares.

MY FAVORITE ADULT HACK IS WHEN I CAREFULLY AND THOUGHTFULLY PUT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT AWAY SO I CAN'T LOSE IT AND THEN I NEVER FIND IT AGAIN.

iTax

Business Solutions

Ph: 780-763-0070

itaxbusiness@hmsinet.ca



**Welcoming New Clients
for the 2023 tax season and
looking forward to serving
my returning clients**

**Our address is 5040 - Main Street,
Mannville, AB**





INNISFREE & DISTRICT
FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH
7:30 P.M.

INNISFREE REC CENTRE (UPSTAIRS)

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS
EVERYONE WELCOME!

Village of Innisfree Library News

This month's Early Literacy Program will be held on March 30th from 10am – 11:30am. This program is designed for parents and their small kiddos to have fun and gain some early literacy and numeracy skills. Snacks are also provided! Our theme for the day will be Easter Baskets. We will also be offering Early Literacy take home kits for those who are unable to make it to the program in person. Please let us know by emailing or calling if you would like one. As always, watch our Facebook page for story lady Holly as she reads a new book each week following our Early Literacy theme!

Congratulations to the winner of our Valentine's Day Basket, Edie Whitten! Thank you everyone for your continued support in helping us to provide programming to our community.

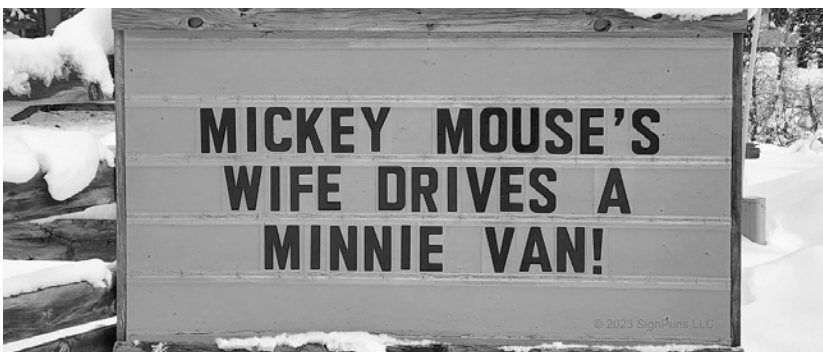
Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out and return our community needs assessment survey. We will take your feedback and apply it to planning events, programming and more in the library. Bob Logan was the winner of the gift card draw. The survey is attached to this issue of the Informer for anyone who did not get or have the opportunity to fill one out.

We have a few events in the early planning stages that we are excited to bring to our patrons and the community. Watch for upcoming information on these events and programs in the near future!



**On the days that you only
have 40%, and you give 40%.
You gave 100%**

Everyone knows that pressing the key fob once locks the car but only the real ones know that pressing it like eight or nine times SUPER locks it



Welcome to Vegreville Dr. Nagji !

Iris Vegreville Welcomes Dr. Nagji to our location,
now accepting new and current patients.

For your booking convenience we are now open 10 am - 6 pm Tuesday and Thursday's

**Specialty in Dry Eye, Seniors and Children eyecare, including
Diabetic Education. Call 780-632-3474 or online booking is available.**



I R I S

VEGREVILLE
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780.632.3474



The Cutting Edge
FAMILY HAIR CARE
780-592-2443

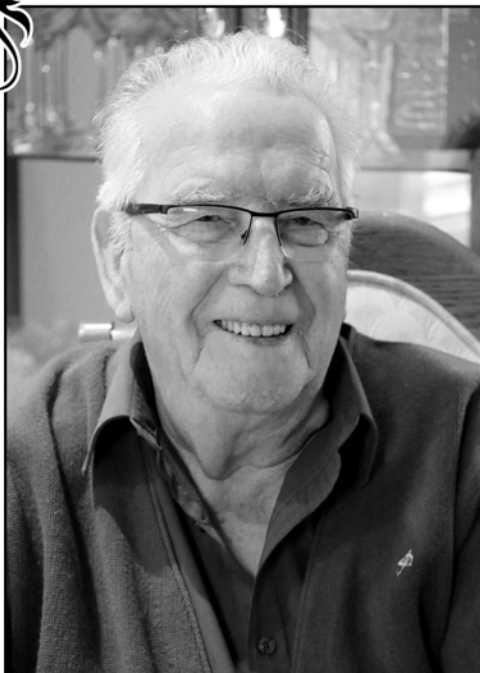


*Congratulations Linda on
your 10 year anniversary!*



Robert Weder

October 22, 1923 - January 27, 2023



Robert Oscar Weder of Innisfree - born October 22, 1923 in Viking General Hospital and passed away peacefully in Viking hospital January 27, 2023, at the age of 99 years. He is survived by his loving wife Genevieve and three daughters, Judy and Ron Konieczny of Innisfree; Catherine and Merlin Lysons of Vermilion; and Audrey Weder (Randy Neil) of Innisfree; as well as nine grandchildren and twenty two great grandchildren. Robert was Predeceased by infant son Brent and in 1986 son Ken, as well as his parents, brothers and two sisters.

Robert lived his 99 years to the fullest, celebrating 70th anniversary with the love of his life Genevieve on January 21st, 2023. He was passionate about his family, friends, music, community, sports (especially the Oilers) and doing all he could to make the lives of those around him better. Over his 99 years Robert worked hard, played hard and especially loved hard. We were so blessed to have him in all our lives....he will be forever loved, forever missed, always our hero.

A celebration of Roberts life was held on February 8th at the Innisfree Rec Centre.

The family would like to express their heart felt gratitude and appreciation to all those who supported us during this time. A special thank you to Viking hospital and all the staff for their gentle care of Dad and support of the family in the Palliative Care Unit. To those who sent cards, phone calls, visits, e-mails of condolences and the beautiful bouquets of flowers. A special thank you to Reverend Ann McGrath for officiating the service, Joan Anderson and the grandsons for delivering the eulogy and all those who participated in making the celebration special. And to Creech's Lakeland Funeral Home of Vermilion for their care, guidance and professionalism with all the funeral details.

There are actually 11 seasons

winter

fool's spring ← **We are here**

second winter

spring of deception

third winter

mud season

actual spring

summer

false fall

second summer

actual fall

I got a baby frog and decided to get a DNA test for it. He turned out to be mostly Irish, a little bit Italian, somewhat German and a tad Pole.

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all.

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

—EMILY DICKINSON



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Village of Innisfree **Birch Lake Campground/Innisfree Recreation Park Management**

The Village of Innisfree is now ACCEPTING Applications for the
Birch Lake Campground/Innisfree Recreation Park Manager for the 2023 Season.



The Campground/Recreation Park Manager tasks/duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Regular Maintenance of the Campground/Recreation Park such as grass cutting, tree trimming, emptying fire pits, cleaning of bathrooms, showers, and the Campground Administration Office.
2. Maintain a professional office at the Park with regular hours. The Manager will be required to process payments and reservations for camping sites and will be required to maintain accurate and thorough records of inventory and bookings.
3. Ensure that all visitors are made to feel welcome and will promote the Park and the Village of Innisfree in every way possible. Campers are to be greeted when they arrive or at some time during their stay.
4. Carry out small repairs and maintenance within the R.V. Park including camping sites, lawns, outbuildings, structures, parking lots, lighting, shower buildings, picnic shelters, accommodations and any other amenity related to the operation of the R.V. Park – with the assistance of Village Staff pursuant to budgetary approval.
5. Will be responsible for training and supervision of any hired seasonal staff.

To view the Birch Lake Campground/Innisfree Recreation Park Manager contract/
Job Description, please visit <http://www.innisfree.ca/Employment>.

The Birch Lake Campground / Innisfree Recreation Park Manager
must be available to open the Park for business from
May 1st, 2023 to September 5th, 2023
(or longer, weather permitting).



The Successful Candidate will:

- Completion of grade Twelve (12) or Equivalent
- Possess a valid Class 5 Driver's License
- Be bondable
- Obtain the necessary skills to operate heavy equipment (to be considered an asset)
- Ability to perform physical labour
- Good mechanical aptitude
- Be “team player”
- Be organized
- Computer Literacy will be an asset
- Ability to keep up with changing tasks on a regular basis.

**The Village encourages applicants to submit their resumes
by: Wednesday, March 8, 2023.**

Position will remain open until suitable candidate(s) are found.

Submit your resumes by using the following methods:

Email: cao@innisfree.ca **Fax:** 780-592-3729

Drop off: 5116 – 50 Avenue, Innisfree AB T0B 2G0

OR Mail: Box 69, Innisfree AB T0B 2G0

*We thank you in advance for your interest, however
only those selected for interviews will be contacted.*

INFORMER TRAVELS!

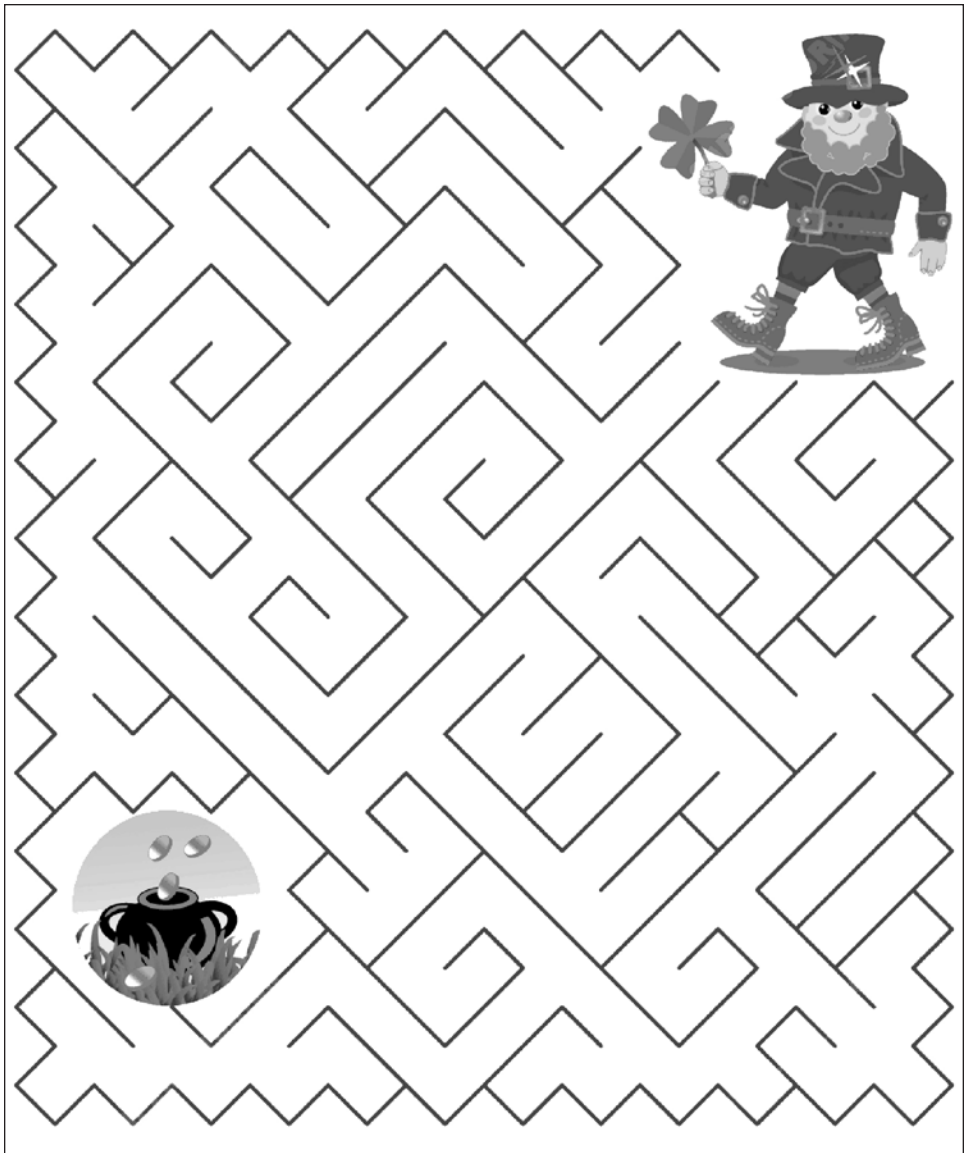
Debbie McMann and her Informer in Mexico!



How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time? **He's Dublin over with laughter!**

How did the Irish Jig get started? **Too much water to drink and not enough restrooms!**

What do you call a bad Irish dance? **A jig mistake!**



What do you call an Irish spider? **Paddy Long Legs!**

What did one Irish ghost say to the other? **Top O' the moaning to ya!**

How old are leprechauns? **So old that they can remember when rainbows were black and white!**

What do you get when two leprechauns have a conversation? **A lot of small talk!**

What do you call environmentally conscious leprechauns? **Wee-cyclers!**

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Scentsy
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Amberlyn Myshaniuk
780-592-3936

Farm Fresh \$4 dozen
BROWN EGGS FOR SALE
Chantal Laforest
780-592-3946 or 780-721-9685

Village of Innisfree Library
Library Hours
Wednesday 1:00pm - 7:00pm
Thursday 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm
780-592-2122

"The Little Convenience Store... with a whole lot more"
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Stylist/Pedicure
See you soon!

BULK SCANNING
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innisfreeinformer@gmail.com
780-632-1585

Thumbing Through the Pages... by Deb Barber



Even though several Seed Catalogues came in December and January, I had

set them aside until now to thumb through. February might even be pushing the time to be thinking about starting seedlings but by now my fingers are itching to be digging in the dirt so I try to sooth my addiction by looking through all those glossy pages that display beautiful images of vegetables and fruits dreaming of the day I can be back outside in my favourite place, my garden.

I remember as a child grumbling when mom would announce that it was my turn to weed the garden. It was better than doing the dusting and vacuuming but as a child it seemed like a huge waste of time that I could have been spending riding my horse!

Fast forward to those years that I was a 'mom' with a job and still I would plant a garden, however it often felt more like a chore than a love. Just another 'thing' that had to be squeezed in between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Once my daughter left home, I found my life came to a grinding halt and in that first year of empty nest syndrome I discovered a love for growing things. I soothed my empty heart by puttering around in the greenhouse. Testing out my green thumb to see what little seedlings I could coax into full fledged plants. I found that playing in the soil was very therapeutic for my soul.

Now as 'retired' grandparents we truly no longer 'need' the garden the size it is, yet it still remains my slice of paradise. Farmer Hubby would love to plant my garden plot to grass as he feels it takes too many hours of my summer supervising it, he just doesn't understand the feeling of fulfillment I get when I can create a salad from produce all grown in my own piece of dirt. Or that first feed of new potatoes!

He cannot deny that the tomatoes, cucumbers and even the lettuce have a flavour all their own that far surpass that of the same produce purchased at the store. He is a die-hard potato lover and last year I allotted him his own patch of soil and he was bursting with pride when he grew potatoes that were as large as two hands held together (he maybe has caught the bug or at least has a better understanding now).

At this time of year I start researching out of the box or more unique growing methods. Experiment one was the 'potato bag' and then the 'potato pail' in both cases I have decided I like to grow them best straight in the ground, but it was fun to experiment. Experiment two was the "cucumber pallet" which actually was a pretty good success and I might reinstate that one!

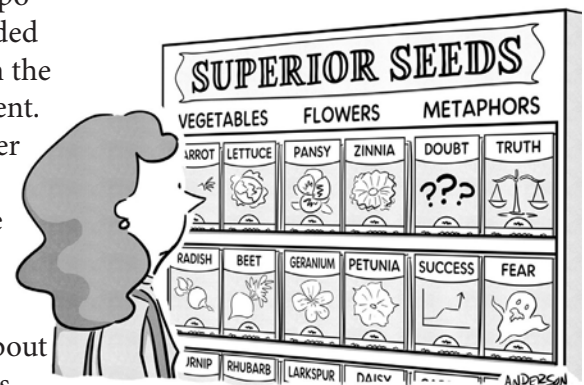
This year no experiments are planned! Instead I am thinking about growing a few scarlet runner beans to see how the hummingbirds take to them as I have heard they tend to be a favourite with them. As well I discovered spinach-strawberry seeds and I think I will give them a go as well!

I have also been doing some research about companion planting and I think I will give this a more serious try this year. Basil and tomatoes, carrots with beans and maybe even lettuce with them as well. I also have been reading how herbs can greatly enhance flavour as well as prevent disease and keep pests away.

Not to forget that flowers also can be interspersed in the garden for more than beauty as they bring function as well.

I have started drawing out various diagrams in my note book trying to decide how I can utilize the space in the garden to maximize the potential production, to make it astatically pleasing to look at and even perhaps a bit less work!

If you are a gardener I hope you are enjoying the days of February as you dream, plan and start your plants and that your garden is also your little slice of heaven on earth.



If you enjoy a weekly dose of Farm Wife humour please check out my blog at: <https://farmwifediary.blog>

When older people say "Enjoy them while they are young." They are talking about your knees and hips, not your kids.



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Thank you to the Village of Innisfree and the Minburn Agricultural Society for their help and support of the Innisfree Informer.
March 25, 2023 is the April Informer deadline for submissions. Email to: innisfreeinformer@gmail.com or text 780-632-1585

2022/2023 Needs Assessment Survey for the Innisfree Library

Thank you to all of you all that filled in and returned this survey. It has recently come to our attention that several people who should of received this survey in their mail boxes did not. Therefore we are asking that if you have not filled one in please take a few minutes to do so. The results of this survey will help us with our Plan of Service for the next 3 years. Your opinion counts and will help us decide on future library hours, programs, workshops, policies etc.

1. Have you picked up your FREE membership?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure

2. How often do you visit the Innisfree Library?

- Everyday it is open
 Once per week
 Once every two weeks
 Once per month
 Other _____

3. Do the current 17 hours of operation per week fit your needs?

- Yes
 No
Comments _____

4. Are you satisfied with our current resources and services?

- Yes
 No
Comments _____



5. Are you satisfied with current programming in the following categories?
- a. Parents and Tots ___ Yes ___ No
 - b. Children and Youth ___ Yes ___ No
 - c. Young Adults ___ Yes ___ No
 - d. Adults and Seniors ___ Yes ___ No
 - e. Early Literacy ___ Yes ___ No

Comments _____

6. Are you satisfied with the knowledge of our staff and level of help offered?
- ___ Yes
___ No

Comments _____

7. How are you informed about upcoming programs/services?

8. What suggestions do you have for improving programming?

9. What workshops did you enjoy here or would like to attend if held again or an idea you would have for a new workshop?

10. How would it affect you or your family if the Innisfree Library did not exist?

Completed surveys can be returned to the Innisfree Library or to the Village office in Innisfree by April 15/23.

NAME: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____