

GRASSLAND NEWS

APRIL 2020

News Release from the board of The Souris Health District Foundation Inc.

PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH FACILITIES **(SOURIS & HARTNEY)** **REQUESTS FOR FUNDING APPROVED**

The Souris Health District foundation Inc. met at their regular board meeting on March 16/20 to review the new grant requests from both the Hartney Health Centre as well as the Souris Health Facility. The board approved total Bequests of \$52,624.61 for the upcoming 2019 -2020 year.

The following items were approved for Hartney Health Centre: Blood Pressure Machine, a Summer Student, Activities Game Entertainment Equipment, Homey Sunroom furniture, New Room Furniture.

The following items were approved from the Souris Health Centre: a Summer Student, Blinds in PCH, Redecorate PCH, Physio & Occupational therapy Staircase, Sara Life Chair, PT Chairs for Acute Care.

These requests are submitted to the Souris Health District Foundation from Lori Klein your Hartney Client Care Coordinator and Karen Thomas your Souris Care Team Leader. If you think special equipment is needed in your health care facility that would help, please give your ideas to the ladies mentioned above.

We thank the people that donate to this foundation. You are the reason we can help these facilities each year with additional equipment and summer staffing.

THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE WE CAN GIVE OUT!

Souris Health District Foundation Inc.

Box 311 Souris Mb.

ROK 2C0

**Next deadline
will be THURSDAY,
May 14 2020
By 12:00 Noon**

**Drop ads off at the
Municipal Office
or email:**

**hartcamnews@mts.net
rec.edo@mglgov.ca**

For all up-to-date information on COVID19 visit
www.grasslandmunicipality.ca

You will find all updates regarding the municipality and the province, as well as the link to register for CodeRed - our emergency notification system.

Call Health Links directly if you have any COVID19 symptoms
Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257.

Online self assessment tool if you are feeling symptoms of COVID-19
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

Municipality of Grassland

Ph: (204) 858-2590 | Fax: (204) 858-2681
www.grasslandmunicipality.ca

Municipal Office Hours: Monday to Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm; Closed 12 - 1:00pm

Regular Council Meetings:

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

Handi-Transit: (204) 858 - 2590

Monday to Friday, to book your ride!

In-town trips: \$4.00 | Out of town trips: \$6.00

Group trips upon request; advanced booking required.

Please call for full details on prices for any road trip.

Donations can be made at the Municipal office.

Building Permits: David Houston (204) 851-0380

Required for renovations, new construction, additions, fences, and accessory buildings. Building Inspector in office upon request.

Fairfax & Hartney Landfill Hours:

Summer Hours: April 1 - September 30

10:00am - 6:00pm

Every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

Winter Hours: October 1 - March 31

10:00am - 5:00pm

Every Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

Hartney Garbage Pickup:

Burnable curbside pickup on WEDNESDAY.

All paper items, wet/dry, tissue paper, meat wrappers, cheese wrappers, cardboard, etc.

Landfill curbside pickup on FRIDAY.

Only items that ARE NOT recyclable or burnable such as diapers, carpeting, etc.

Recycling - HARTEY, MINTO & ELGIN:

Picked up every two weeks on Tuesday.

Please avoid putting house hold trash in recycling.

Contact Municipal office for a schedule.

2020 Dog Licenses:

Municipality of Grassland By-Law No. 921-07 states:

"The owner of every dog must register such dog."

License will be issued upon proof of rabies vaccination.

The cost per dog is \$5.00 fixed and \$10.00 not fixed.

Maximum 2 dogs per house hold. Cats and dogs must be registered every year.

Notice:

The stray cats in Hartney are becoming more of a problem and we are taking further actions to remove them from town, so please, if you own a cat, a collar is **REQUIRED**. We are not responsible if your cat goes missing.

Fern Valley Recreation: (204) 858-2536

call: (204) 858 - 2536 | rec.edo@mglgov.ca

Rates for the Grassland News

Full Page Ad	\$60.00
1/2 Page Ad	\$40.00
1/4 Page Ad	\$25.00
1/8 Page Ad	\$20.00
Classified/Coming Events	\$10.00
Thank You	\$10.00
In Memoriam	\$10.00
In Memoriam with picture	\$20.00
Obituary	\$10.00
Obituary with picture	\$20.00
Announcement	\$10.00
Announcement with Picture	\$20.00
News Article	NO CHARGE

Please note that these are general rates and are subject to change depending on sizing.

Have a business idea but don't know where to start?
Need help with a business plan?
Are you part of an organization looking to apply for a grant and need help?

Give us a call!

Economic Development Office
204-858-2536 Rec.edo@mglgov.ca

Rental Facilities in the Municipality

Hartney

Centennial Centre
Municipal Office
(204) 858-2590

Hartney Legion
Morrison Agencies
(204) 858-2521

Hartcam Museum
Dawn McKenzie
(204) 858-2071

Hartney & Area Arena
Todd Ardron
(204) 741-0134
toddardron@shmb.ca

Hartney Elks Hall
Timothy Inkster
(204) 741-0193
Chelsea Inkster
(204) 741-0292

Grande Clairiere

Community Hall
Yvonne Bertholet
(204) 858-2679

Elgin

Elgin Community Hall
Steve & Lisa Tufts
(204) 769-2346

Elgin Rink
Brett Hodgson
(204) 741-0630

Minto

Minto Community Hall
Hannah Beghin
(204) 741-0283

Minto Community Arena
Hannah Beghin
(204) 741-0283

Lauder

Lauder Community Hall
Donna Drummond
(204) 858-2282

Lauder Inn
(204) 858-2244

For any facilities not listed, we may still be confirming contact information and will be listed next month. If you think there should be other facilities listed, call the Recreation Office 204-858-2536

Thank you to the following
for your generous donations to the
Grassland News.
Any donation of \$10.00 or more is eligible
for a Tax Deductible Receipt

- Bernadette McPherson
- Clark & Shannon Combs

Upcoming Events

April 17 - Minto Trivia Night
Cancelled for the year

**April Donor's Choice
Postponed**

All events have been cancelled until
further notice.



The Hartney Golf Club is carefully monitoring the current COVID-19 situation. Our main priority at this time is the health and safety of our staff and golfers. There have been guidelines set out by the government that we must follow. The golf course is currently closed to the public and members. We will do our best to keep the public informed of any updates to the situation and when we will be able to open. We hope this message finds everyone in good health and look forward to seeing everyone out on the course this year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate contact Jon Morrison at 204-741-0124 or email hartneygolfclub@mymts.net



CodeRED is a FREE emergency notification service provided to all residents within the Municipality of Grassland that will notify you of emergency and general information through phone calls, text messages, emails, social media and the CodeRED Mobile Alert app. The system will be used to keep you informed of local events that may immediately impact your safety. As a local resident, Southwest Emergency Management Group encourages you to take action and register your home and/or cell phone for this service and verify your home location during the enrollment process so we may target notifications that directly impact your home or business.

Go to the Municipality of Grassland website to register your number with the CodeRed system to stay informed.
www.grasslandmunicipality.ca

News from Royal Canadian Legion Hartney Ladies Auxilliary

Hello from the Hartney Ladies Auxilliary! We may be small group of 27 members, but are a strong and active group.

President is Candy Henderson, vice president is Donna Drummond, Treasurer is Judy Reid and secretary is Karen Atkinson.

We had a meat draw and Mother's Day tea planned that have both been cancelled.

I'm so proud of our Ladies and their wonderful fundraising efforts. This year we have increased our donations to support the community.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hartney Canadian Royal Legion at 4:00pm and always welcome new members. If you are looking to join a fun, devoted and community minded group, please feel free to attend a meeting.

Please remember if you are experiencing symptoms of
COVID-19 please contact
Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257.

Obituary



Cowan: Thomas Arthur Cowan was born on the farm near Hartney Manitoba on June 21, 1932. He passed away peacefully at the Souris Health Centre on March 12, 2020 at 87 years of age.

Art attended Hartney School, and completed his grade twelve at United College of Winnipeg, Manitoba. He then went on to continue his education there.

Art married Reta Janet Robson on April 11, 1953 at Bethel Church in Deleau, Manitoba.

Art and Reta farmed the original homestead SW 32-6-22 as the third generation of Cowans. He was recognized as the zero till farmer of the year in 1992.

Art's love of community motivated him to serve as Reeve of the Cameron municipality for 25 years. During that time of service he was involved in the building and establishment of the Town Hall, Hartney Community Rink, and the Hartney Health Centre (personal care home). He enjoyed participating on various boards including the Surface Rights Board of Manitoba, Souris and Glenwood Hospital Board, and the Pool Elevator in Hartney.

Art enjoyed sports and had fun playing and coaching different teams. He was part of the Hartney Ball Team, the Grande Clairiere Ball team and the Manitoba Coyotes, slow pitch team. He played senior hockey and coached senior and minor hockey. He loved curling in many bonspiels. He remembers the bonspiels in Dauphin fondly.

In addition to sports, Art loved to travel. He went to Egypt with a provincial government marketing trade mission, representing Prairieland Grain. Art and Reta enjoyed trips to California to visit his sister Kathleen and Gordon Freeman. For their fortieth anniversary, Art and Reta enjoyed exploring Australia together. The family remembers many fun summers camping at Madge Lake.

Art is survived by his wife Reta Janet and his sister Geraldine Ames. As well as his five children, his daughter Kay Cowan, son Doug (Cathy) Cowan, daughter Debi (Kelvin) Jenkins, daughter Jani (Dale) McBurney, and son Bill (Nina) Cowan, his eleven grandchildren and twenty two great- grandchildren.

His funeral was held in Harney at the Hartney Centennial Centre on March 17, 2020 at 2 pm. His private internment will take place at Cowan Farms at a later date. Expression of sympathy may be made at www.kowalchuks.net



In loving memory of
Gordon Orville Agnew
April 8, 1951 - April 20, 2019

If tears could build a stairway
And memories a lane
We'd walk right up to Heaven
And bring you back again
No farewell words were spoken
No time to say goodbyes
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why
Our hearts still ache with sadness
And secret tears still fall
But now we know you want us
to mourn for you no more
Just remember all the good times
Life still has much in store
You will never be forgotten and
We pledge to you today
A hallowed place within our hearts
Is where you'll always stay

THANK YOU

The family of Art Cowan would like to express our sincere "Thank You" for all the Flowers Cards and Food we received at the time of Art's passing. We understand and appreciate the phone calls received in lieu of attendance at Art's Funeral. Especially at this difficult time. It is so nice to live in such a kind and generous community. A community that Art was so proud to be apart of!

Thank You

Reta Cowan, Kay Cowan, Doug and Cathy Cowan, Debi and Kelvin Jenkins, Jan and Dale McBurney, Bill and Nina Cowan, and Families!

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed
Dianne, Chad, Andrea, Jase, Levi, Mark, Kristy, Mila and Ellie.

News From The Hartney-Lauder Pews

As I sit down to write this we are well into the physical distancing that has become our new normal and will be for some time yet to come. Schools and non-essential businesses are closed, hospitals and care homes are locked down and more changes may well be on the horizon.

At a time like this it is important to remind ourselves that while physically distancing ourselves from each other is crucial, social distancing is not. It is vital for our health as individuals and communities to find other ways to connect. Phone calls, email, cards, etc. can all bridge the gaps and keep us in touch in this challenging time. Kids can make signs to hang in windows and even paper Easter eggs for folks to “hunt” for while out walking or driving in the coming weeks.

If you’d like to receive the reflections, music and prayers that we are sending out during this time you can drop me a message at spiralpastor@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook as the Hartney-Lauder Pastoral charge. I can also be reached at the above email to chat or talk about what’s going on.

I leave you with the quote of hope I keep returning to this week from the 14th century Christian mystic Julian of Norwich “And all shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be exceeding well.”

Blessings,

Jen Carter-Morgan

What’s Old at the Museum?

One of the businesses that existed in 1904 was the A. E. Hill Co. Ltd. In 1896 Alfred E. Hill and his brother Harry bought out the stock of business in the W. Hopkins block in Hartney. They named the new store “The Red Store” and it was managed by W. H. B. (Harry) Hill. In 1902 the A. E. Hill Co. Ltd. bought the Dickinson property at the corner of Poplar and East Railway streets and started construction of a new two story brick building. The Hartney Star described this store as follows. “On the ground floor are dry goods, boots and shoes, groceries, ladies’ goods and fancy department. Second story are carpets and linoleums, the milliner and dressmaker departments.” In 1940 W. H. B. died and his niece, Irene took over management of the store. She managed the store until 1982 when at the age of 79 she retired. 1983 saw one of the biggest auction sales in the history of Hartney when Irene sold off the contents and many of the furnishings of the store. In 1983 Garry and Kim McBrien bought the building and after some extensive renovations opened Hill’s Street Market. One half the store was dedicated to vendor stalls and the other half was decorated as an old fashioned kitchen. The two areas were separated by a board walkway. The tea house (kitchen) side was open from 7:00 to 5:00 weekdays and a breakfast and a huge smorg on Sundays. In 1999 Hill’s Street Market closed.

In 1999 the Hart Cam Museum committee decided to move the museum into the Hill’s store. After much hard work on Oct. 21, 1999 the museum was finally reopened in its present location.

The museum still houses a great deal of memorabilia from the Hill’s Store, most notably the hand operated elevator used to reach the second floor and the rolling ladder used to reach the top shelves.

What’s happening at the Museum?

We continue to await the arrival of the fire commissioner’s office permit to start construction on the stair lift. I have spoken with both Rolling Spokes (who are supplying it) and the fire commissioner’s office and they are hoping to have things underway by mid-April. We have also begun the publishing of the 187 letters sent by Ernest Diss to Amy Graham in World War 1. We hope to have the book available by mid-summer.

What we are looking for at the Museum

The museum, like all other municipal buildings is closed and we are not able to accept any donations at this time.

No Front Counter Services. Due to the current situation with Covid-19 virus, the Killarney, Boissevain and Deloraine RCMP detachments advise there will be no front counter services at the detachments until further notice. This includes civilian fingerprints and criminal record checks.

We request that you contact each detachment at 204-523-7293 (Killarney), 204-534-7262 (Boissevain) and 204-747-2810 (Deloraine) to make your inquiries or file a report. Leave a message if needed.

If you need to speak with a police officer immediately or to report to police in accordance with your court ordered conditions, please call 204-523-7255.

SWIMMING LESSON REGISTRATION & CAMPGROUND BOOKINGS OPEN!

Visit our website to book online today!
www.grasslandmunicipality.ca

Swimming lesson registration will not require payment at this time.
 Campground bookings will receive a FULL refund if required.

NEW THIS YEAR

- ◆ Be registered in swimming lessons and camp for the duration of those lessons and receive a FREE one night stay at either Hartney or Whitewater Park Campgrounds!
- ◆ Camp at Hartney or Whitewater Park and receive a two for one golf pass at the Hartney Golf Club for this season!



HARTNEY SWIMMING POOL

Redcross swimming lessons:

Session 1: July 6 - 10
 Session 2: July 20 - 24
 Session 3: August 17 - 21

Parent & tot: \$30.00
 Preschool: \$40.00
 Level 1 - 5: \$55.00
 Levels 6 - 10: \$65.00



HARTNEY CAMPGROUND

18 full service sites with 24/7 access to shower and washroom facilities.

\$25 / night

\$150 / week

\$600 / month

\$1700 / season

\$10/bundle wood

WHITewater PARK CAMPGROUND

Expansion and upgrade project in progress!

Expanding to include 8 new, fully serviced (water and sewer) sites - 26 sites in total!

Upgrading 8 of the existing sites to include water / sewer and upgraded electrical.

\$20 / night

\$100 / week

\$300 / month

\$10/bundle wood



Hartney Rink Land Committee Update

Hello Hartney and Area. Over the last several years a group of volunteers have been renting land as a fundraiser for "capital projects" for our arena. The funds have been used to install a new clock, new plexiglass and new flooring in the waiting room. These funds have also been used for the replacement of hot water tanks for the waiting room and Zamboni room as well as compressors and brine pumps for the arena ice surfaces. Thank you to all that have donated their time and money in the past. Your assistance is appreciated!

In 2019 we grew 150 acres of wheat on Roger and Carla Richard's land north of town and 40 acres of corn on Brenda and Kevin Mantell's land right beside town. Thank you to both of these families for allowing us to rent your land. The wheat seed was donated by Fred Gregg of Avondale Seed Farms "in honour of Gord Agnew". Cowan Farms did the fertilizing and seeding of this land and it was sprayed in crop by Double Diamond Farm Services of Elgin. On the corn side of things the seed was donated by Fraser Ag Services of Souris and was planted by the Phillips crew at Grand Bend Farms. Halfway through the summer we decided to "greenfeed" about 50 acres of the wheat. Thank you to Kevin Jasper for cutting, raking and baling these 50 acres and to Mazers for donating the net wrap. These bales were later purchased by Temple Land Ltd.

As we all know the fall of 2019 was challenging to say the least. We were lucky enough to harvest the rest of the wheat right before the October snow storm. Thank you to Garth and Terry Boyes for coming with their combine and supplying their gravity wagon and hopper bottom bins. Thank you to Mazer Group for supplying a combine, tractor and grain cart. Thank you to Kevin Jasper for supplying a tractor and to Lyall Currah for his gravity wagon. Thank you to Brent Thomas and Mike Canning for also supplying grain trucks and to Todd Drummond of Bayer Crop Science for supplying food and refreshments. The wheat was not "dry" but we were able to get it sold to Viterra a week or so later. Thanks to Clarke Farms and Kurtenbach Trucking for getting it delivered and to Denny Bertholet for letting us use his auger to get it out of Terry's bins...

The corn was not combined until February... part of the reason for the delay in this article! Grand Bend Farms did the harvesting of the corn and it was delivered to the bins at Darren and Rod Whetter's for storage until it can be sold to Maple Leaf Foods later this spring/summer.

Thank you to everyone that helped in 2019 and in the years passed and to anyone I may have missed. Our plan for 2020 is to seed canola on both of these pieces so if anyone is interested in helping out please let me know.

Sincerely,

Marc Boulanger

HARTNEY SENIOR ORGANIZED SERVICES

Brenda Mahy

During this trying times, I will be working from home, so you can call me Monday's, Thursday's or Friday's at **204-858-2672** if you need any arrangements.
Until then, Stay Safe, Social distancing and Wash your Hands

You're at home here.



Hartney Food Store SPECIALS April 29 - May 5

~ Bush's Baked Beans		4/\$6.00
~ Clubhouse Seatings		4/\$6.00
~ Cheez-it Crackers		2/\$5.00
~ SunRype Juices		3/\$7.98
~ Arizona Ice Teas	960mL	4/\$4.60
~ Co-op Salsa	650mL	2/\$6.00
~ Co-op Soups	284mL	4/\$3.00
~ Lipton Boxed Soups	4 each	2/\$5.00
~ Kellogg's Nutri Grain Bars		2/\$5.00
~ Cracker Barrell Oven Backed Macaroni		2/\$7.00
~ Hunts Thick & Rich Sauce	650mL	3/\$4.98
~ Black Diamond Cheese Strings		\$5.99
~ Cheese Whiz	900g	\$8.99
~ Special K Crisps		2/\$5.00
~ Chicken ker diane or cordon swiss		2/\$3.00

**Seeds &
Seed Potatoes**



Many more instore specials!

**BOUNDARY CO-OP
HARTNEY FOOD STORE**
204-858-2276

**Phone in
or email
for
curbside
pick-up**

Souris River Watershed District holds inaugural meeting

The Souris River Watershed District (SRWD) held their inaugural meeting in Deloraine on January 15, 2020. An amalgamation of Turtle Mountain and West Souris River Conservation Districts took effect January 1, 2020 to form the new Watershed District. Within the Province, 18 conservation districts saw their boundaries change to align with watershed boundaries to form 14 Watershed Districts, with corresponding name changes. Regional offices for the SRWD are located in Deloraine and Reston that will serve a 7650 km² area and encompass the southwest corner from Kola, Souris, Elgin, Boissevain and south to the International border.



Souris River Watershed District Board and Staff Photo:

Back L-R (SRWD Board): Henry Murkin (Member at Large), Dave Dickson (Provincial Appointee), Scott Phillips (Pipestone Creek Sub-District), Greg More (Member at Large), Gary Nestibo (Medora-Waskada Creeks Sub-District), Lloyd Atchison (SRWD Chairperson), Rick Schoonbaert (SRWD Vice-Chairperson & Whitewater Lake Sub-District), Keith Vanbeselaere (Chain Lakes – Elgin Creek Sub-District), Wilson Davis (Stony Creek Sub-District) and Tim McMechan (Jackson-Graham-Gainsborough Sub-District).

Front L-R (Staff):

Sandra Hainsworth (Administrator-Deloraine Office), Scott Hainsworth (Resource Technician – Reston Office), Dean Brooker (Manager – Reston Office), Yasemin Keeler (Manager – Deloraine Office), Jaimie Campion (Assistant Administrator – Reston Office) and Ina Cook (Administrator – Reston Office).

Contact your local regional office regarding conservation programming. Follow us @SourisRiverWD for watershed news, program updates and new incentive opportunities.

Deloraine: 204.747.2530, mgr.deloraine@srwd.ca **Reston:** 204.877.3020, mgr.reston@srwd.ca

Your local watershed organization.

MUNICIPALITY OF GRASSLAND COUNCIL NOTES

The minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Municipality of Grassland in Hartney at 7:00 P.M.

Those present were Reeve Blair Woods, Councillors Ron Bodin, Claude Martin, Ruth Mealy, Chris Mills, Ewen Mosby and Chief Administrative Officer Brad Coe and Chief Financial Officer Lisa Scott.

Councillor John Sparrow was absent.

Reeve Blair Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The following resolutions were passed:

- That the agenda be approved.
- That the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.
- That cheque numbers 7251 to 7309 inclusive in the amount of \$106,567.63 and EFTs 153194 to 170583 in the amount of \$27,254.12 be approved for payment.
- That the 2018 audit be adopted
- That the 2020 service plans for the LUD of Elgin and the LUD of Minto be approved.
- That the Deloraine/Winchester Airport Commission be given a grant of \$1,000.00.
- That the Hartney Golf Course be given a grant of \$5,000.00.
- That Southwest Snotrackers be given permission to place a warming hut on the road allowance on the southwest corner of 32-6-23 WPM for the use of Southwest Snotrackers members.
- Be It Resolved By-Law No. 42-2019, being a by-law to provide for the expenditure and borrowing of money to upgrade the Elgin sewage lift station, be given second reading.
- Be It Resolved By-Law No. 42-2019, being a by-law to provide for the expenditure and borrowing of money to upgrade the Elgin sewage lift station, be given third reading and passed as read.
- That By-Law No. 48-2020, being a by-law to establish a Fire Protection Reserve, be given second reading.
- That By-Law No. 48-2020, being a by-law to establish a Fire Protection Reserve, be given third reading and passed as read.
- That Council dissolve into a committee of the whole committee of council in camera to
- discuss personnel issues in a closed in-camera session at 9:50 P.M.
- That the committee of the Whole Council revert to the regular open meeting of council at 10:00 P.M.
- That the 2020 wage schedule be amended as per Schedule "A".

No resolutions were defeated. Councils gave reports on various committees.

Delegations & Hearings:

- Members of the Municipality of Boissevain/Morton council were present to discuss boundary roads maintenance cost sharing.

Staff Reports:

- Foreman Matt Hay reported on municipal operations.

Correspondence:

- Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester
Deloraine Airport upgrades.
- Canadian Pacific Railway:
New lease on park property.
- Hartney Golf Course:
Request for grant.

Old Business:

- One payment made for scrap metal sales. Still waiting on one other.
- June District meeting update reviewed.

New Business:

- EMO tabletop exercise held in Elgin.
- Landfill permits renewed.
- New drainage license procedure reviewed.
- Grant applied for from the province for emergency preparedness.

Council adjourned at 10:05 P.M. to meet again in Hartney on March 24, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in Hartney.

This is a condensed version of the minutes, the full version may be viewed at the municipal office in Hartney during office hours.

April 2020 Hartney Legion (Branch #26) Report

History: Excerpts from Legion Magazine (September - October 2018) with some information on the “so-called” Spanish Flu and its effect on the army in 1918.

His aircraft holed and ablaze, Lieutenant Alan McLeod, just 18 years old, earned his Victoria Cross with bravery and blood in a spectacular aerial dogfight on March 27, 1918 over Albert, France. He stood with one foot on the rudder and one outside on a wing, steeply side-slipping to keep flames at bay, while eight enemy planes peppered his Armstrong Whitworth F.K.8 from all directions. Although wounded, McLeod and his observer Lieut. A.W. Hammond brought down three enemy aircraft before crashing in no man’s land. McLeod sustained another wound helping Hammond to safety under heavy enemy fire. McLeod spent six months in hospital in Europe, he was sent home to Stonewall, Man., in September to finish recovering from his five wounds. Five days before the Armistice, he died. But not from wounds. McLeod was one of thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen who survived the war only to die of Spanish influenza, among the 50,000 or more Canadians who succumbed to the disease from 1918 to 1920.

The bubonic plague of the mid-1300s claimed up to 200 million people worldwide, but it took seven years to do so. In contrast, the Spanish flu swept around the world in less than three years, in three waves. Some 500 million people — a third of the world’s population — were infected and at least 50 million people, and perhaps as many as 100 million, died.

The military provided an ideal incubator. Most soldiers were in the age group —20s through 40s— particularly vulnerable to this flu strain, and they lived in conditions conducive to its spread. Stressed, dirty, hungry, wet and cold, massed in camps, huddled in trenches and tents or jammed into troop trains and ships, warriors were easy prey. In ships and rail cars, sick soldiers and sailors carried the infection with them to communities they passed through on the way to and from the front, and eventually, to their own hometowns and families.

The military was hit harder than civilians, and the United States military possibly hardest of all. More than a million men — 26 percent of the U.S. Army — were struck. About 30,000 died in training camps, never leaving North American soil. Infection and death rates were double that of same-aged American civilians. Nearly 46,000 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force overseas got sick and 776 died.

During the last four months of the war, 11,496 soldiers in Canada were stricken — up to 42 per cent of personnel in some military districts, and 19 per cent of overall forces in Canada. More than 400 died. These figures may not reflect the true numbers, however, as not all cases were reported, particularly at the beginning of the epidemic when influenza was not a reportable disease for quarantine purposes. As well, deaths from influenza were often put down to other causes — chiefly pneumonia.

Where and when the pandemic started has been the subject of debate. Did it start after the Battle of the Somme in 1916? At the huge British military transit camp in Etaples, France, 40 per cent of the dozens of men felled by a respiratory illness in December died after displaying a symptom later commonly associated with death from Spanish flu. Their faces turned a peculiar shade of blue as their lungs filled with fluid and oxygen levels in their blood dropped. Or was it in China in 1917, where a respiratory infection was killing dozens a day, just when 140,000 workers were being recruited for the Chinese Labour Corps? They would provide manpower for unloading cargo, digging trenches and graves, building railways and bridges at the front in Europe. About 84,000 of them were secretly slipped across Canada by March 1918 in sealed rail cars, and some of the transported workers and their army guards became ill. Or was it in the U.S.? An unusual evidence was reported in Haskell County, Kansas, in January 1918, near Camp Funston. On March 4 flu hit the first soldier. Within three weeks, more than 1,000 soldiers were hospitalized. Since the flu was contagious for some days before symptoms appeared, it spread along rail lines from camp to camp then on to troopships to Europe.

The first, and mildest, wave of the disease passed through Canada in spring and early summer 1918 without stirring panic. News was widely censored in warring countries, so the population was largely unaware of the spreading threat. However, the illness of King Alfonso was front-page news in neutral Spain in late May. Thus, it became known as the Spanish flu, even though it did not originate there.

Why was the 1918 flu strain so lethal? Debate about the cause of the Spanish flu raged for decades, until the influenza virus was finally identified in 1933. It has been termed the mother of all pandemics, not merely because it was so deadly, but because descendants of that virus have caused epidemics ever since. The 1918 Spanish flu was lethal because humans had no immunity to it. Now we have vaccines to protect us against the flu, but they are not always effective. In 2017-18, there was a mismatch between the vaccine and the epidemic virus. As well, not everyone gets vaccinated. We also have anti-viral medication to lessen the impact of the disease. And we know to wash hands frequently, capture sneezes more effectively, and stay home when sick.

Branch #26 Hartney Legion hopes that you are following those steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Stay Safe. Stay Home. Listen to the medical experts, practice social distancing. Wash your hands with soap and water.

Hartney Fire Department

wants to help celebrate your child's birthday!

We understand that due to social distancing and COVID19, many plans have been cancelled, but bringing joy to your child on their birthday does not need to be one of those things!

Light up their birthday with a fire truck parade!

Pending availability (please ask when you call to book the firetruck) get a pizza for the occasion as well - curtesy of the BURNING BALE (204-619-5394)in Elgin!

To book your birthday party parade:

Contact **Richard 204-741-0192** or **Keith 204-741-8058** with at least two days notice of your child's birthday to make arrangements.

Please note that all emergencies will take priority

