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The Watrous Manitou

Inside: Christmas Edition
Est. 1933

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

VOL. 91 NO. 2

WATROUS, SASKATCHEWAN

\$1.25

Watrous resident honoured as Citizen of the Year

■ Daniel Bushman

Wanting to see the community not only come together but thrive, this year's Watrous Citizen of the Year has played an integral part in that desire. During the Town of Watrous Christmas Party Dec. 8, Ron Ediger was recognized with the prestigious Citizen of the Year award.

Constructing and spearheading Memory Trail, a unique walking trail joining Watrous and Manitou Beach together, Ediger who owns Melron Services Ltd. covered the entire cost and the work of the project. Along with donating funds to other worthy causes, Ediger was humbled to have received this year's award.

"I am just trying to make our community a better place and when I got the call that I had been named as this year's Watrous Citizen of the Year, it was very heartwarming. For me, I have always been a guy who wants to make things happen. When the opportunity came about to get that trail done, it was something I wanted to do and it is satisfying to see so many people enjoying it."

In the nomination letter submitted by former Manitou Beach Mayor Eric Upshall, he noted the area is very fortunate to have a person like Ron Ediger as a member of the community. "Ron brings strong assets as a community-minded businessman in Watrous.



►Ron Ediger (above middle) was named as the 2023 Watrous Citizen of the Year. Ediger was presented with the honour Dec. 8 at Danceland.

■ photo courtesy Chelsea Murfitt

He dedicates himself to many causes in not only Watrous and area but also outside our trading area. Historically Ron has been recognized privately and publicly for dedicating himself to improving the cultural, physical and human aspects in our area."

Not only lending his support to a number of initiatives but also building pride in the community, Memory Trail was the latest project for Ediger. Collaborating with local governments, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Watrous Rotary, businesses and families, Ediger took care of the cost of the trail and used his own equipment and resources from Melron Services Ltd. Officially opened earlier this year and enjoyed by residents and visitors, the trail has also brought the two communities together.

"Ron's personal touch and genuine concern for people can be seen in the trail design that provides a safe path away from the highway and in the quality of the construction," noted Upshall. "Building and funding the trail is a feat, but even greater is the cultural and human value it provides to our area."

In addition to his generosity locally, Ediger has also

(continued on page two:
CITIZEN)

Watrous Coach of the Year award handed out

■ Daniel Bushman

With a focus on helping and teaching others while seeing her team grow and excel, this year's Watrous Coach of the Year not only has a passion for volleyball and her players but has enjoyed the opportunity to coach within the sport.

Honoured to have been named as this year's recipient, when Brett Anderson found out she was receiving the honour at the Town of Watrous Christmas Party Dec. 8, the coach said, "I was very excited! I love being able to share my passion with others in the community."

Born and raised in Watrous, Anderson's love for volleyball started right from an early age. "The only time I enjoyed going to school was to play volleyball so it really isn't surprising I got into coaching. I played club volleyball in Holdfast for six years as we didn't have a club team in Watrous and I am happy to be back in my home community doing the things I love!"

Beginning her coaching career in 2016 in Watrous, Anderson then took a bit of time away when she moved to Alberta. Returning to her roots a few years ago, Anderson has coached high school and club volleyball ever since.

Flattered the members of the Wildcats Tournament Team 2 nominated her for the award, Anderson said, "I have coached some of the girls on that team for three years straight so for them to nominate me is



►Brett Anderson (above middle) was named as the 2023 Watrous Coach of the Year. Anderson was presented with the honour Dec. 8 at Danceland.

■ photo courtesy Chelsea Murfitt

huge. We worked hard and had a ton of fun this past year! They are a great group of students to coach. Every day they teach me something new and can always make me laugh! It has been an honour to coach them - three years really goes by too fast!"

Judging by the nomination letter submitted by the group, those sentiments of learning, growing and having fun were echoed by the team.

"Brett is the epitome of selflessness and caring. Brett has volunteered to coach the Senior Girls Tournament Team 2," shared the team in the nomination letter. "She donates not only her time by driving to practices twice a week, she also gives up every weekend during the season to take

the players to tournaments around the province and is always willing to drive when parents aren't able to. She is a kind and caring person who takes the time to get to know each of her players and leaves an indelible mark on each and every one of them."

A number of players from the team indicated in the nomination letter that Anderson was not only a coach but a friend, cares about the team, has taught the team a number of things, an amazing coach who has a huge heart and allowed the girls to become better players while bringing new and exciting ideas to practice.

Winston High School
(continued on back
page: COACH)

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HURRY IN - THE GIFT & TOY GUIDE ENDS DEC. 20th!

Open houses held as part of Aspen Supply Project

■ Daniel Bushman

Proposing construction of a new natural gas transmission line between Prud'homme and a proposed meter station facility near Lanigan, SaskEnergy Incorporated's natural gas transmission subsidiary, TransGas Limited (TransGas), held three open houses where people were invited to share input and learn about the Aspen Supply Project and the Saskatoon East Expansion Project.

Aiming to enhance reliability for its customers and increase spare capacity for anticipated residential, commercial and industrial growth in the surrounding areas - including a proposed SaskPower Aspen power station near Lanigan, open houses took place in Lanigan (Nov. 21), Prud'homme (Nov. 22) and Clavet (Nov. 23).

Kim Elaschuk, Senior Communications Officer with SaskEnergy said the open houses were very well-attended by local residents, landowners, Town and RM representatives and Indigenous groups. In Lanigan, approximately 30 people took the opportunity to learn more about the Aspen Supply Project and provide input to the project team on local area and land uses. "Public and community engagement is an important part of project development. Open houses introduce the project to interested parties and groups, including local area residents, landowners, Town and RM representatives and Indigenous groups. Open houses also allow our representatives to gain valuable input through discussions with local landowners and organizations, provide informational material, and answer any questions about the project. SaskEnergy then utilizes the feedback received to help refine the project further."

As part of the event, SaskEnergy said discussions were focused on project elements like potential routing options, project timing details on the gas line being installed, impact and mitigations, maintenance and monitoring activities, easement information as well as information on reclamation of the easement after construction should the project proceed.

Elaschuk said, "Project members were also on hand to answer any questions and meet people from the community. Landowners also provided specific feedback regarding their land and how it may affect construction of the new gas line."

With the project currently in the pre-planning stage, right now that includes looking at possible gas line routing loca-



□ photos courtesy Kim Elaschuk, Senior Communications Officer, SaskEnergy

tions, engaging interested parties, and gathering information regarding land usage while providing project information to interested parties.

"This multi-year project involves many disciplines and will provide ongoing work for a variety of trades and contractors until its completion."

Once completed, Elaschuk indicated the Saskatoon East Expansion Project and the Aspen Supply Project will provide increased capacity for anticipated residential, commercial and industrial growth east of Saskatoon as well as power generation.

The Aspen Supply Project itself will include the installation of approximately 91 kilometres of 16-inch or 406.4 mm (NPS 16) high pressure natural gas line. The gas line will begin at the TransGas Prud'homme Compressor Station and end at the proposed SaskEnergy natural gas meter station near Lanigan. The SaskEnergy meter station will be installed at the east end of the gas line, to regulate, odorize and meter the gas.

The Saskatoon East Expansion Project will include the installation of approximately 42 kilometres of 20-inch or 508.0 mm (nominal pipe size [NPS] 20) high pressure natural gas line. The line will begin at Patience Lake, east of Saskatoon, and end at the existing TransGas compressor station near Prud'homme. This gas line will run adjacent to an existing TransGas gas line. The additional compression facility will be installed within the existing compressor station near Prud'homme.

If approved, SaskEnergy said the Saskatoon Supply Project from Patience Lake to the existing TransGas

Prud'homme Compressor Station will be constructed parallel to an existing TransGas line in the summer of 2025. Should the project proceed, the Aspen Supply Project construction will commence in 2026.

Not the only substantial project being looked at for the local area, in addition to the Aspen Supply Project, SaskPower is hoping to create a new 370-megawatt natural gas Aspen Power Station near Lanigan.

In 2020, SaskPower noted it started to look at potential sites for a new natural gas power station, including the Lanigan area. Following technical studies and consultations with stakeholders, rightsholders and Indigenous groups, SaskPower indicated it began the regulatory approval process.

"The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) has determined that our Detailed Project Description submitted on Aug. 31, 2023 aligns with all federal regulations and a further impact assessment is not required.

"We're in the process of selecting an engineer, procure, construct (EPC) partner to design and build the power station. We expect construction to begin in 2024 and for the power station to be fully constructed in 2027."

Outlining its 2023-24 fiscal year capital spending in a May 11 release, the company indicated \$505 million has been set aside for growth projects like new natural gas plants such as the Aspen Power Station near Lanigan and the Great Plains Power Station.

With the new Aspen Power Station aimed at providing enough power for about 370,000 homes in Saskatchewan, the project is part of a staged approach to replace conventional coal generation that must be retired by 2030, and to transition the province's power system to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

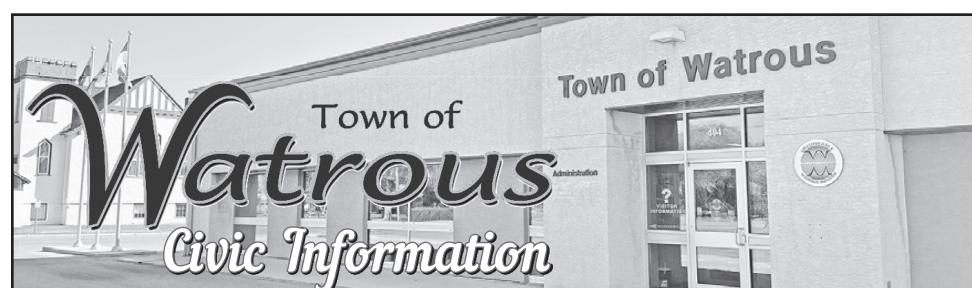
This is not the first time Ediger has been recognized for his tremendous efforts within the community and beyond. In 2017, Ron along with his late wife Melissa received the prestigious honour of Watrous Citizens of the Year. During that time, and as is the case now for Ron, a major focus was placed on community through their generosity and efforts. "We try hard and we appreciate the community, the town and the support we receive and want to give back and show people the appreciation of what they have given us over the years," said Ron in 2017.

The pair not only began Melron Services Ltd. from the ground up but grew it to become well-known throughout the area. As part of that Ron and Melissa gave back through substantial donations towards many initiatives like the Watrous District Health Complex, a new Zamboni at the Watrous Centennial Arena, the Watrous Manitou Beach Heritage Centre, the Watrous

Kinsmen Bull-A-Rama and numerous clubs and organizations. In addition to their fundraising efforts, Ron and Melissa also contributed through supplying equipment, labour and prizes towards various events and organizations. "The community has been wonderful and a lot of our customers have also become friends."

After getting into the business world in 1972, in 1988 Ron decided to sell his place in Nokomis and moved to Watrous where he began selling vehicles with Watrous Mainline Motors GM. It was during that time where he made a lot of acquaintances and met numerous customers. After he left the world of selling cars and began Melron Services with Melissa, Ron remarked, "A lot of people followed us and stayed our customers. That is how it grew, by just playing in the dirt."

Looking back on those years and after receiving the honour in 2023, Ediger said he is humbled and looks forward to seeing the community continue to grow. "I saw a need for the trail and wanted to make it happen. That is something I have tried to do during my time here, is help the community. They have supported us and I wanted to give back and say thanks. I also wanted to say a big thank you to my past and present staff who have helped me over the years to see our company succeed and grow."



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townofwatrous.com

■ Town of Watrous
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Closed for lunch: 12 - 1 PM

FITNESS CENTRE

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COUNCIL COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS 2024

Development Appeals Board - Vacancy
Watrous Manitou Marketing Group Representative - Vacancy

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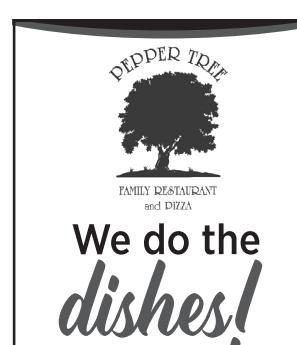
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“RCMP Report”

Cow shot in RM of Wolverine

Humboldt RCMP are seeking the public's assistance in identifying individual(s) responsible for shooting a

cow in the RM of Wolverine.

On Dec. 2, 2023, the Humboldt RCMP received a complaint that a domestic cow was shot in the RM of Wolverine. The occurrence happened some time between Dec. 1, 2023 at 5 p.m. and Dec. 2, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. The cow was found bleeding from the eye and foaming from the mouth. Police continue to investigate.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or has information about this crime are asked to contact Humboldt RCMP Detachment at 306-682-2535. Information can also be submitted anonymously through

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477. **Canada Safe Driving Week**

Dec. 1 to 7 was Canada Safe Driving Week and Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan (CTSS), made up of Saskatchewan RCMP and municipal police service officers, patrolled and held check stops throughout the province to help keep Saskatchewan's roads safe.

During the week-long initiative, CTSS officers found 64 drivers who had recently consumed alcohol or drugs

(continued on page eight: RCMP REPORT)

Warm weather provides early gift

■ Daniel Bushman

When it comes to the temperature, the 2023 version of winter has so far been quite delightful and not too frightful. With the values remaining relatively above-normal heading into the middle portion of the month, as Dec. 25 nears, many are wondering if places in Saskatchewan will have a white Christmas or not.

Treated to temperatures rivalling those from fall, the final month of 2023 has been quite the reversal from the 2022 version. Environment and Climate Change Canada's David Phillips said for example, on Dec. 6, 2022 the high was -23.4°C while the low was -37.9°C with a -50°C wind-chill. Fast forward to Dec. 6, 2023 and it hit a high of 5.3°C and a low of -3.2°C.

With a big swing in values, Phillips confirmed the past while has been quite mild. "Right now it is about seven degrees warmer than normal and November was about three or four degrees warmer than normal. September was similar while October was a tad cooler than normal."

While there has not been a lot of complaining in Saskatchewan when it comes

to the warmer weather, Phillips said people are wondering where winter is. Explaining the average temperature for the first half of December is around -6°C, when he accumulated the data of how many days the area should have experienced a -10°C day during fall and winter, normally by Dec. 6 there is 20 of them. "You would have had a few in October, 13 in November and five out of the first six days in December, but (as of Dec. 6) you had none."

Phillips shared the reason it has been so warm is due to El Niño, which has brought a lot of westerly and southerly air, keeping the arctic air away. "It was forecasted to make this winter a more balmy, soft winter and it often does on the Prairies but it is not a guarantee."

As of now though, that warm weather has arrived and elected to hang around for a while. Phillips said that has also been evident in the Arctic. Looking at the data for the three territories, in November and December, Phillips estimated there would be well over 150 records broken (and there is not a lot of weather stations up there). "When you add them all up

day after day after day, it has just been absolutely record setting warm. That is because the southerly air is flowing up there."

Looking ahead, Phillips noted the belief is the above-normal values will continue. Understanding Saskatchewan can have weather turn in an instant, as for when those moments of bone-chilling temperatures arrive, "they will be coming but not long drawn out week after week. They tend to be a melting/thawing then some cold weather then back into the melting/thawing. I find that makes winter go faster when you have that kind of a yo-yo back and forth and up and down. I think that is really the personality of the winter and we have already seen it."

While many have enjoyed the warmer temperatures thus far, the lack of snow means very dry conditions. "Precipitation is down around one-third of what you would normally get. You are almost into the decade of dry weather. You saw it this summer, you saw it last year and it is year after year. I looked at five years of Saskatchewan records and I found that every one of those last five years was a precipitation-less than what it normally would be. With El Niño you tend to find less precipitation . . . (but) you only get about 18 percent of your annual precipitation in October right through to March."

Needing moisture to arrive by spring to help the situation, in terms of

temperatures, with daytime highs above zero as opposed to -6°C (normal for this time of year) and single digit values overnight (instead of the normal -16°C), the question was posed whether or not some people will see a white Christmas in Saskatchewan. "I think it would be a shock to think that most of Saskatchewan would see a green or brown Christmas. It is almost like death, taxes and a white Christmas are guaranteed."

Comparing it to this year, Phillips said in 2015-'16 El Niño was fairly large like this one but it arrived later. "This one is earlier and is expected to last through winter and into spring."

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- Food donations can be dropped off at Wheatland Dental Clinic in Watrous

Thanks to all of the individuals who make the work of the local food bank possible.

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“Opinion”

Christmas Treasures and Dreads



Pass The Salt
A spiritual column
by Pastor
Greg Dermody

What do you treasure about the Christmas Season? I treasure the quiet moments with just the lights of the Christmas tree, the decorations and that wee candle in front of our nativity scene. The darkness feels heavy this time of year, and I look to the one who is called the “Light of the world” in John’s gospel. Christmas can become hectic and those moments of treasuring breath life into my soul.

What do you dread about the Christmas Season? Is what you dread a former treasure? I’m thinking about those who are

in season of grief having lost someone dear to you, memories you once treasured now bring the raw pain of the emptiness in your life. Or perhaps that dread is due to broken relationships and tension that you would rather avoid? Some of our family dynamics bring pain to our hearts. Hopefully the things we treasure about Christmas can help us overcome our dreads and sort through them to seek the peace, hope and joy that Jesus brings. The pain of grief and loss can in time grow into a fond memory and practices that honour the life of someone, and so bring solace to our hearts. A light in a dark memory. Advent reminds us we can seek and discover safe places to look for God’s healing touch.

After the shepherds had visited Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus in the stable, Luke tells us that “Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” I think the pondering is really the key that opens both our Christmas treasures and faces our Christmas dreads. We may not be able to do much about our circumstances, but we can review what God has done and what He has promised. Mary did know her baby boy was to be the anointed one, the Messiah long promised the people of Israel. Her faith was evident when the angel visited her to announce her forthcoming pregnancy, “may it be to me as you have said, I am the Lord’s servant.” It was not a fatalism of things she could not control, but a willingness to continue to trust and follow God in all things. She could look beyond her immediate circumstances to see God at work. This is where God meets us, right here on the street where we live, at this very moment as we turn to Him. Emmanuel, God with us. May you find, this Christmas Season, the hope, peace and joy that is found in relationship with Jesus.

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Moments In Time - December 20, 1951



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Founded in 1933 by J.A. McGowan

Funded by the
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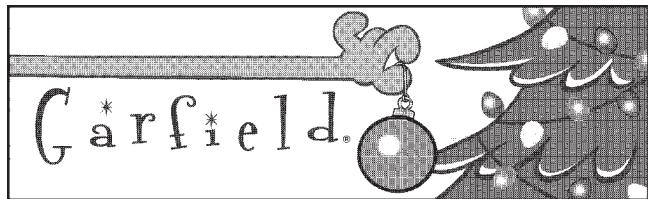
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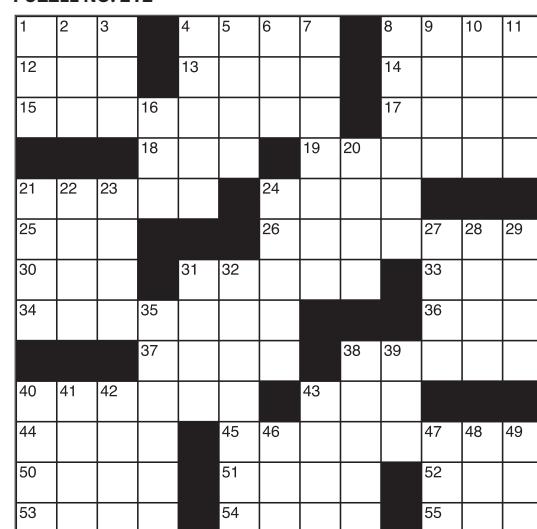
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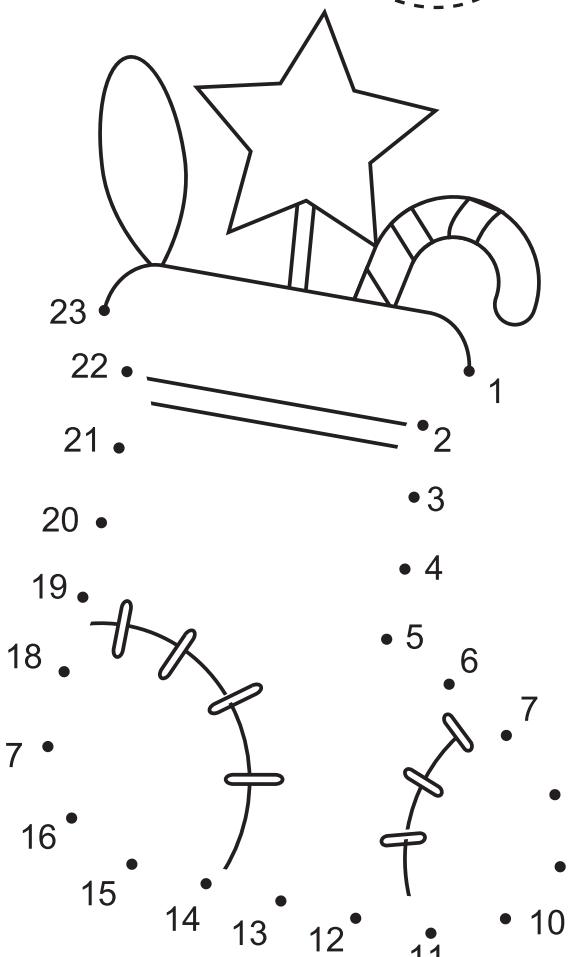
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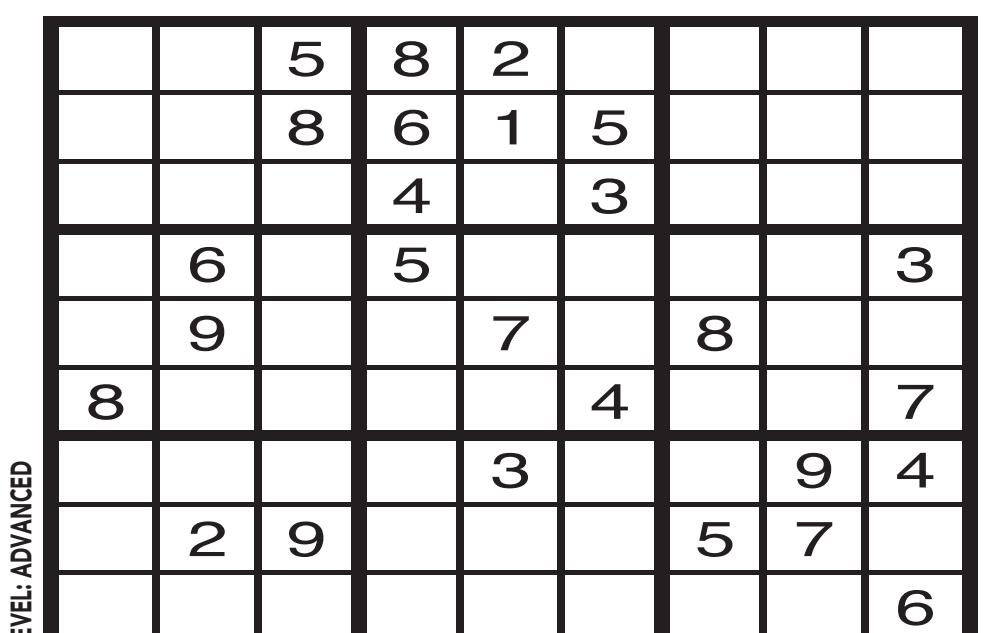
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- 9. Astride a horse
- 14. Milky jewel
- 50. Came to ground
- 10. Lightly cooked
- 15. Exit's opposite
- 51. Unseat
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- 17. Folk legends
- 52. At this time
- 16. Race (a motor)
- 18. Mete out
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- 28. Parent
- 26. Sogginess
- 29. Looks at
- 30. Bro's sibling
- 31. Bypass
- 31. Shovel
- 32. Retirement
- 33. Spotted cube
- 34. Gym shoe
- 35. Passes a bill
- 36. Fury
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- 38. Blasts
- 39. Most superb
- 40. Thick piece
- 41. Humdinger
- 42. Forget
- 43. Prompt
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- 46. Picnic spoiler
- 47. Overly
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- 49. Fleecy one

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TO SUDOKU AND
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CTC celebrates 50th anniversary

■ media release

Carlton Trail College celebrated 50 years of service alongside their annual student awards presentation at a special celebratory event held in Humboldt on Dec. 7, 2023.

A total of \$79,900 in scholarships were distributed to 43 students in Carlton Trail College's post-secondary programs of 12 weeks or longer.

In support of Carlton Trail College's scholarship fund, two special announcements were also made on Dec. 7, acknowledging the financial commitment of two of the College's partners.

In a first for Carlton Trail College, a legacy contribution of \$50,000 was made by Murray and Audrey Brockman and family, to create an en-



►Carlton Trail College Board members and staff, student recipients, donors, and community representatives.

© photo courtesy Carlton Trail College

dowment to award scholarship funds to Carlton Trail College students in perpetuity.

After an eight-year partnership, the Walker Wood Foundation also enhanced its contributions to the College, providing a six-year, pledged contribution amount totaling \$120,000 in continued support of Carlton Trail College's student awards program.

"It's been an honour

over the last 50 years to deliver impactful educational and training services within our east-central region," said Amy Yeager, Carlton Trail College President and CEO.

"With gratitude for the strong institutional foundation and culture developed by prior Boards of Directors, staff members, industry partners, donors as well as community supporters, we're committed to building on their work

as we look forward to the next 50 years. Financial gifts, such as those from Murray and Audrey Brockman and family, as well as the Walker Wood Foundation, are deeply appreciated to help us continue to realize our vision of changing lives through learning."

Scholarships are funded through donations from individuals, businesses, agencies and organizations. Student award recipients are determined through a combination of entrance criteria, academic achievements, the students' involvement in school and the community, as well as financial need.

The Watrous Manitou will have a paper Dec. 25 but no paper Jan. 2. TWM will be on holidays Friday, Dec. 22 and back in the office Jan. 2.

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L.L.V. Health Care Auxiliary Report

■ submitted by Helen Abrey

The Long Lake Valley Health Care Auxiliary had their final monthly meeting for 2023 on the first week of December. We were pleased at our last meeting in November to have Christa Braman, our new facility manager, attending, in order to meet our members and to answer any questions we might have about the facility.

She informed us at that time that the most recent ceiling track lift that we had purchased had been installed. Christa had indicated that there is only one more room needing a track lift, and that we are very fortunate to have a community that is so supportive in providing for the needs of its long-term care residents.

During the business portion of the meeting the auxiliary approved funding for the last ceiling track lift needed for resident rooms. Throughout the year the auxiliary has also funded an electronic pill crusher to make crushing residents' medications easier. Auxiliary members have also been involved in purchasing gifts for the residents for special occasions and volunteering in various capacities for activities and events that the residents are involved in.

The auxiliary will resume meeting in March on the first Tuesday of each month in the afternoon in the Town Council chambers. We would like to extend a welcome to any new members that would be interested in improving the lives of the residents in our health care facility.

VISCOUNT

Sandra Reid • 306-227-1193

■ submitted by Loa Titman

Wow, you might say Christmas has arrived. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. It always goes by so fast. Enjoy everything that is possible: Christmas concerts, family gatherings and celebrations.

We had a pop-up craft and trade show Dec. 9 in Viscount. It was fun and enjoyed by all. Customers enjoyed some fantastic personal shopping and Christmas shopping. It is always so nice to see the products that the vendors bring in and the visiting with the customers.

Blankets for Canada ladies met Monday, Dec. 11 at the Viscount library. The ladies wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the upcoming year. We were absent for a few weeks but we managed to get a lot accomplished on Monday. We greatly appreciate all who have supported us throughout the year. We look forward to continuing with our blanket making. Hope to see you in 2024. For more information, please call Evelina at 306-281-8196.

The senior centre has been busy with coffee, games, and breakfasts. Pickleball is still very much enjoyed by all who attend. The weather has been enjoyed by all as well.

Book Club is reading The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams set during the time of the women's suffrage movement. It is a very thought-provoking and delightful book.

Monday at Viscount Central School was plaid Dress-Up Day for the high school students. Dec. 7, it was Red, White and Green Day.

Best wishes to anyone who might be under the weather. I hope you feel better soon. Have a great week and a fantastic holiday season. All the best to you and your families.

Literary winners Remembrance Day 2023

(from page three: RCMP)

prior to driving, six of whom were charged with Criminal Code impaired driving charges. The other 58 drivers received roadside suspensions.

In total, CTSS officers issued 1,347 traffic charges, 1,349 warnings, and 111 vehicle defect inspection notices to drivers on Saskatchewan's roadways. These included: 713 charges and 324 warnings for speeding; 97 charges and 22 warnings for cellphone use

while driving; nine charges and 26 warnings for careless driving; 43 charges and 19 warnings for seatbelt misuse; 76 charges and 30 warnings for intersection-related offences; 38 charges and 8 warnings for invalid driver's license; six charges for driving while disqualified, suspended, or prohibited; 86 charges and 41 warnings for invalid vehicle registration; 256 charges and 868 warnings for all other Traffic Safety Act offences; 23 charges and five warnings for open alcohol or cannabis in a

YOUNG

Pat Bryson • 306-259-4860

Dear Santa, I would like to change my Christmas wish list please. I no longer want a toboggan.

May I say "well done" to the businesses in our village who have handled the busy December with the utmost courtesy and customer service to everyone who enters their door. I know from the many years of being a postmaster that December is a wildly busy month at the post office with parcels, gifts and cards coming and going; our postmaster Karis handles every day with a cheerful greeting. Ed and staff at the Food Store and Matt and staff at the Coop Service Centre serve each customer efficiently and happily. What a wonderful example of festive community spirit!

Congratulations to Leanne Deneiko, the lucky winner of the Christmas dinner for 15 people raffle. The Deneiko clan will surely enjoy this feast. The Young Parks and Rec truly appreciate everyone who purchased a ticket or two; they realized \$1,939 that will be used for facilities in our village.

School Christmas holidays, according to the Horizon School Division calendar, are Dec. 22 to Jan. 8, 2024. Staff and students alike will have time to rest, put a pause on academics and relax with family and friends.

Merry Christmas to you all! I will share a sentiment, penned by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Enjoy your week!

COLONSAY

Irene Gray • 306-255-2775

Sympathy to the Donald Bandura family on his passing Nov. 30 in Vancouver at the age of 72. His family had lived in Colonsay. His brother Robert (Bob) lives in Humboldt.

The Christmas train rolled through Colonsay on its way to Saskatoon Tuesday, Dec. 5. Several folks were able to see it.

Arnold Whitrow from Saskatoon visited Joan Campbell Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Judy Dieno and daughter Annette travelled to Regina Thursday, Dec. 7. They visited George and Lana Dieno and family. They also attended the Christmas program for Gabrielle Dieno. Four collegiates gathered for the program. It was a very enjoyable evening. There were 400 students participating.

Several folks attended the Christmas Santa breakfast Saturday, Dec. 9.

Thirty seniors and guests enjoyed the Christmas supper catered by the Blue Horizon. Then they really enjoyed the entertainment by the Rockin'

Robins from Manitou Beach. Several want to see them again.

It was a great week for the Colonsay Food Bank. The Colonsay School held a food drive and took lots down to the food bank. Also Cram the Ram was held in the Co-op parking lot and filled the Ram to overflowing. They also collected money and Co-op gift cards for a total of \$338.95 and several Feed the Hungry bags already made up that people purchased for donating to Cram the Ram.

Rev. Jim Pulfer presided at Colonsay United Church Sunday, Dec. 10. Candles were lit for hope, peace and joy for Advent 3, 4 and Christmas service. This was the last Sunday for church service until Mar. 3.

Congratulations to Ron Ediger for being chosen the 2023 Citizen of the Year in Watrous. Well deserved Ron.

Friends are closer to our hearts. Memories are more dear and wishes mean so much more when Christmas time is here.



► Pictured above: Viscount Central School. Back row (left to right): John Methven, Ed Morelli, Grace Boon, Drayden Chalifoux, Kaydence Chalifoux, Makenna Lowe, Paetyn Leffler, Ryker Harriman, Stephen Pieta, Karen Vishloff, and Ken Schwalm. Front row (left to right): Evelina Talevi, Loa Titman, Amber Wardell, Gage Hendricks, Ryker Leffler, Meadow Wailing, Oliver Raymond, Ryden Fluker, and Lorenz Tisdall. Pictured below: Colonsay School. Back row (left to right): Karen Vishloff, Bella Emmerson, Ken Schwalm, Olivia Palm, Bailey Butler, Sydney Wall, Caryss Quirk, and John Methven. Front row (left to right): Loa Titman, Gavyn Wall, Paislee Whitrow, McKenna Wapash, Kathy Wang, Dylan Butler, and Ed Morelli.

© photos submitted by Loa Titman



Centennial Drive South in Martensville. Officers assisted the Martensville Fire Department and Warman Fire Rescue at the scene. The building was destroyed by the fire. No injuries were reported.

Initial investigation has determined the fires may be suspicious in nature. As such, Martensville RCMP are asking anyone who saw anything suspicious in these areas the morning of Dec. 12, or who has any information about the fires, to contact their local police of jurisdiction. Dial 310-RCMP to reach your local RCMP detachment.

the trailer's wide load. The driver was ordered to properly secure the cargo before proceeding from the traffic stop and was ticketed for both the unsecure load and the inadequate mirrors.

RCMP respond to suspicious fires in Martensville

On Dec. 12, 2023, Martensville RCMP responded to two reports of fires in Martensville.

At approximately 2:40 a.m., Martensville RCMP received a report of a fire at a residence on 5th Street in Martensville and again assisted Martensville Fire Department and Warman Fire Rescue at the



“Notices AND Classifieds”

Obituary



OSMAK, Irene Theresa

We wish to announce the peaceful passing of Irene Osmak (nee Zimmer) on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the nurses and doctors of RUH Ward 5300 for their excellent care and compassion they provided Irene.

Irene was born April 21, 1945 in Esterhazy to Anton and Theresa Zimmer. Irene

grew up in Bangor, SK.

On June 4, 1966, Irene was united in marriage to Jerry Osmak and began their life together in Bangor. They moved to Asquith before finally making their home in Young in 1969. Jerry and Irene were blessed with two sons, Blaine and Trent.

Irene was a stay-at-home mom who took great pride in raising her family. She had a green thumb which was required to maintain her large garden which the whole family benefitted from. Irene and Jerry spent many summers camping with friends and family. They spent winters in Parker, Arizona where they made long lasting friendships. The most important thing to her was her love for her family which she always put first right up until her passing.

Irene was predeceased by her parents Anton and Ther-

esa, her mother-in-law and father-in-law Edna and Jim Osmak; sisters Gert (Jim), Mary (Joe), Kay (Bob), Betty (Jack), Martha (Steve); brothers Bill and Johnny; brother-in-law Don Osmak.

Irene leaves to mourn in her passing her husband Jerry; son, Blaine (Pam), Christopher (Whitney), Brandon and Parker; son, Trent (Laurianne), Ashley (Cody), and Madisson, great-grandchildren Tucker and Grady; sisters-in-law Eloise Zimmer and Marcie Osmak, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

It was Irene's wish to have a private family gathering which was held on December 13, 2023 to say our goodbyes.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Irene's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Cherished Memories Funeral Services is honoured to be entrusted with Irene's care.

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The Watrous Manitou will be on holidays Friday, Dec. 22 to Monday, Jan. 1. There will be a paper Dec. 25. No paper Jan. 1.



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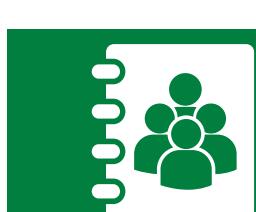
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“Coming Events”

**LEARN TO CURL**

Join the Watrous Curling Club to learn rules, technical skills and strategy of the game. Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$15/person drop-in (no registration required). Ages 10 and up.

SPIRITS OF CHRISTMAS

Spirits of Christmas, Young Wheatland Regional Library fundraiser. Four different items to be won. Tickets available at the Co-op Service Centre, village office and the library. Draw date Dec. 19.

WATROUS-MANITOU BEACH HERITAGE CENTRE

The Watrous-Manitou Beach Heritage Centre is open by appointment over the holidays. Come explore the history of our community. Call 306-946-1177 or text 306-222-8473.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Wed., Dec. 20, Blue Christmas Service, All Saints Anglican Church, Watrous. Join us for scripture, reflection and candlelight, acknowledging our losses and supporting those during this Christmastime.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sun., Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Watrous Christmas Eve Service, All Saints Anglican Church, Watrous.

BONSPIELS

Watrous Curling Club bonspiels: Boxing Day Family Spiel Dec. 26; Men's Spiel Jan. 26 - 27; Doubles Spiel Feb. 10; Seniors Spiel Feb. 16 - 17; Stick Spiel Feb. 21 (or TBD); Ladies Spiel Mar. 8 - 9.

BINGO

Nokomis Legion bingos at Nokomis Legion Hall: January 3 and 17, February 7 and 21 and March 6 and 20. Doors open at 6:30 and bingo is at 7 p.m.

BOTTLE DRIVE

Watrous Volleyball Club 17U team is having a bottle drive Sun., Jan. 7. Save yourself a trip to Sarcan and have your bottles out by noon.

YOUTH GROUP

At Philadelphia MB Church: Junior Youth (Gr. 6 to 8) meet most Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Senior Youth (Gr. 9 to 12) meet Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Contact 306-946-3785 for more details.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Al-Anon Meeting Thursdays 8 p.m. Ph. 306-946-2466, 306-946-2217.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings: Watrous, Thurs., 8 p.m. Anglican Church Hall on Main Street in Watrous. (306-946-2466).

Watrous Rotary Club meets alternating Tuesday evenings at the lower level of Watrous United Church. Call 306-946-3535 for more information.

ADVERTISE HERE FOR FREE

Advertise your meeting, event, registration, fundraiser, garage sale or bridal/baby shower for FREE. Call 306-946-3343 or email twmadvisorsales@gmail.com. 25 word limit, first come first served each week, availability dependant on space. Ad deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. each week for the following Monday's paper.

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12 to 1pm

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THE WATROUS MANITOU HAS 2024 PLANNERS AND DESK CALENDARS IN STOCK.

STOP IN AT 309 MAIN STREET TO GET YOURS.



This free coming event space is paid for by the Watrous Manitou Marketing Group. The marketing group supports local business, economic development and community growth.

watrousmanitou.com [f Watrousmanitoutourism](https://www.facebook.com/Watrousmanitoutourism)



Holiday Season Hours of Operation

CLOSED

December 10, 2023 to January 18, 2024

We welcome private tours during this time!

To arrange an appointment

Call 306-946-1177 • Text 306-222-8473

THE WATROUS MANITOU IMPORTANT DATES

TWM will be on holidays
Friday, Dec. 22 to Monday, Jan. 1.
There will be a paper Dec. 25.
No paper Jan. 1.
Phone 306-946-3343

At the Watrous Centre

Crib winners at the Senior Centre Thursday, Dec. 7 were: first - Joan Harding, 921; second - Shirley Birtles, 895; third - Bob Wignes, 881; fourth - Earle Amendt, 870. Travelling - Arlene Gegner and Earle Amendt. Homesteader was Isabelle Langston and Earle Amendt.

Kaiser winners at the Senior Centre Monday, Dec. 11 were: first - Lorelei Stewart, 191; second - Earle Amendt, 183; third - Sherwin Petersen, 173; fourth - Gail Shirley, 164.

Anyone interested in submitting local Watrous news can do so by faxing 306-946-2026, emailing watrous.manitou@sasktel.net or stopping by the office.



The Simpson Community Centre Board

would like to thank all sponsors who donated to our 2023 Farming Project, it was a tremendous success.

We would like to send a special *Thank You* out to everyone who sponsored the project.

The overall profit was **\$82,000** which will be going directly to the upgrades and maintenance of the Simpson Community Centre.

Special thanks to the following sponsors

Blair & Lori Crawford & Family for the *Parcel of Land*
Richardson Pioneer Simpson • *Soil Sampling/Fertilizer*

P&H Watrous • *Pre-Seed Herbicide*

BASF Canada • *Invigor Seed & In-crop Herbicide*

Konn Hawkes • *Seeding*

W.M. Hicks Farms • *Spraying*

Garrett Benell • *Spraying*

R & R Rintoul Farm • *Spraying*

Robert Oakes • *Combining*

Allen Oakes • *Combining*

Josh Elder • *Combining*

Wade Rintoul • *Combining*

Vanthuyne Farms • *Trucking*

David McIntosh • *Trucking*

Crawford Acres • *Trucking*

CSI Crop Scouting - Ken Vanthuyne

Richardson Pioneer Nokomis • *Taking Grain off the Combine*



WHS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



In partnership with Winston High School, this week's WHS Student Spotlight features Sawyer Allin. "Sawyer has attended every math class since mid-October and is working hard. He is ready to learn and makes our classroom better. He has shown a huge improvement! We are so proud of Sawyer and thankful to have him in our Wildcat family."

(from front page:
COACH)

Teacher Lori Bartko who submitted the letter on the team's behalf said, "It is impossible to capture all that Brett does for our students at Winston. She is a mentor, a friend, and an excellent role model. We are so lucky to have her volunteer the countless hours that she does."

Reflecting back on her time as a coach, when asked if there was someone who had an influence on her, like she has been having on others, Brett was quick to respond. "Definitely my auntie, Wendi Collins. She has led an excellent volleyball program for the school as well as a club program. I'm happy to coach alongside her and learn everything I can from her! I am also really grateful to Lori Bartko at WHS for giving of her time and assisting me with coaching the school team this year!"

Humbled and grateful for the recognition and now joining her auntie Wendi who received the prestigious honour in 2019, Anderson said, "Being named as Watrous Coach of the Year is a huge accomplishment for me. I've loved volleyball for as long as I can remember and never thought it would turn into me coaching, but I am sure happy it did."

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

at

TB'S
BAR & GRILL

Saturday
December 23rd
The uglier
the better!

DJ
Dance
Party

Danceland
AT MANITOU BEACH

NEW YEAR'S PARTY WITH
The **Bromantics**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 30

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| MATINEE SHOW | 2:30 PM |
| DANCE LESSONS | 5 PM |
| SUPPER | 6 PM |
| EVENING SHOW | 7:30 PM |

SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| COCKTAILS & DANCE LESSONS | 5:30 PM |
| SUPPER | 7 PM |
| EVENING SHOW | 8:30 PM |

TICKETS

SAT. DEC. 30 - MATINEE \$25 (ADULT) \$20 (SENIOR)
ADVANCE \$55 REGULAR \$65
SAT. DEC. 30 - EVENING SHOW WITH BUFFET \$55 \$65
SUN. DEC. 31 - NYE SHOW \$75 \$90
SUN. DEC. 31 - NYE SHOW WITH TURKEY \$95 \$115
SUN. DEC. 31 - NYE SHOW WITH PRIME RIB \$115
ADVANCE PRICING AVAILABLE UNTIL DECEMBER 18

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR CONTACT THE BOX OFFICE FOR EARLY BIRD SPECIALS, WEEKEND PACKAGES AND MORE!

DANCELAND BOX OFFICE
9AM - 12PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
1-800-267-5037
WWW.DANCELAND.CA DANCELAND

SCAN TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday
DEC. 23

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday
DEC. 24

CLOSED

Monday
DEC. 25

CLOSED

Tuesday
DEC. 26

CLOSED

Saturday
DEC. 30

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday
DEC. 31

CLOSED

Monday
JAN. 1

CLOSED



HURRY IN - THE GIFT & TOY GUIDE

ENDS DEC. 20th!



Watrous Home Hardware Building Centre
802 4th Ave. East 306.946.3325