



# The Citizen

## Your Community Newsletter



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATION CLASS OF 2025!!!

On Thursday June 26, RD Parker Collegiate celebrated the 151 students earning their highschool diploma at the graduation ceremonies held at the TRCC. **Jeff French, RD Parker Principal** commented, *“highschool graduation marks the conclusion of one journey and the start of another.”* **Dhruv Dhawa** was picked as valedictorian and brought forward a speech of behalf of his fellow graduates of the class of 2025. Congratulations graduates, we are all very proud of you.



For comments or feedback on The Citizen please contact  
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## Under Challenging Circumstances Knights of Columbus Proceeds

The Knights of Columbus (KofC) has been a tradition in the City of Thompson since the 1970s. The annual track and field competitions held in the CA Arena, involves competitions between the 6 elementary schools in the City of Thompson – Burntwood Community School, Deerwood, Ecole Riverside, Ecole Communautaire La Voie Du, Juniper Commu-



nity School, and Wapanohk Community School. Our young athletes competed in various events including shot put, high jump, distance running and relays. With the recent wildfires and the use of the Thompson Regional Community Centre (TRCC) to accommodate evacuees from Lynn Lake and other communities, this valued annual event ran a real risk of having to be cancelled. **Brad Williams**, of Juniper Community School and **Ashley Squires**, of Ecole Riverside School, the two Phys Ed teachers that help managed this year's K of C reflected on the challenges and the satisfaction of being able to still hold the competitions this year without having access to the TRCC arena. When asked if there was anything that stood out for this year's K of C, Brad laughed, "You mean aside from the fact that we had to reformat everything



due to not being able to use the TRCC?" He continued, "We waited until we were told that the arena was going to be used for evacuations and then we had to reformat everything with limited time".

Ashley added, "We had to change things up such as having the older kids, 11 to 13 year-olds, doing their running events on Thursday evening and the younger kids, 8 to 10 year olds, doing their running events on Friday evening at RD Parker Highschool and all the other events occurring on Monday afternoon at Juniper School and evening at RDPC".



K of C competitions occurred on Thursday June 5th, Friday June 6th and Monday June 9th. The organisers had to get creative to allow for the 430 kids that were competing with the restrictive infrastructure available. "One of the drawbacks was having to modify how the athletes competed against each other," commented Brad. For example the



50-meter dash was individually timed in one of the hallways at RD Parker with the other distances such as the 100 meter and 200 meters timed in heats of 2-3 athletes in the gymnasium.

Overall, all the organizers and volunteers should be commended on their efforts and for stepping up to ensure that our young athletes were able to experience Knights of Columbus for this year. Challenged with not being able to use the TRCC and then not being able to host it outside due to the issues around air quality, they never gave up. "The toughest part of having it at the high school was not being able to have the traditional kid vs kid competitions versus individual timed and/or in heats, but it was

important to us to not have it cancelled. These kids worked hard [practicing] and we did not want to take this away from them," said Ashley.

"A lot of people came together to make this event a success. Thank you to **Principal Brolund of Burntwood School** for providing Subway sandwiches and snacks each of the three evenings for all participants and athletes. Thank you to **Vice-Principal Paradis and PE Teacher Mr. Gallo** for the live stream of the 50 meters into the main gym so the kids sitting could watch, as well as



all the **RDPC Track and Field members** that helped escort the kids to the different areas in the gym. Thank you to **Paul Anderson** from the Mystery Lake School Division for live streaming the competitions at Juniper School Gym and at the RDPC Trojan and Parker gyms to allow parents and other athletes see their children and fellow team mates compete. Thanks to the **administration from each school** for coming and monitoring the doors as the athletes came to the events and staying to watch and chaperone their student athletes, thanks to the **staff**



from each school that came to monitor the students while they waited to compete, and thanks to **Jan Perrin** for the hard work she does running our Track Meet Program every year," commented Brad. The top point getters this year was Ecole Riverside with 228 point.

The young athletes of the the Mystery Lake School Division were able to compete against their fellow school mates and represent their respective schools thanks to the efforts of many.



# Thompson Celebrates National Indigenous People's Day

On Saturday June 21st, the City of Thompson celebrated National Indigenous People's Day (NIPD) at MacLean's Park. "It was a great turnout, 500+ attended the various events that were held," mentioned **Gina Spence** of Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak (MKO). This year's NIPD was sponsored by Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy (TUAS), the Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and the City of Thompson.



The afternoon had several events including an Airband competition for families and workshops from the Indigenous Healer Program that included traditional teachings on drumming and tee pee making. There was also the presentation of the Soaring Eagle Award to 16 young people from the School



"Our events started with Elder Jack Robison conducting our Sunrise Ceremony at 4:30 am. We then had our programming at MacLean's Park at 12 noon, with messages and greetings being brought by MKO, RCMP, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), the City of Thompson, Youth Leaders from MKO, and the Juniper Community School Pow Wow Club," said Gina.

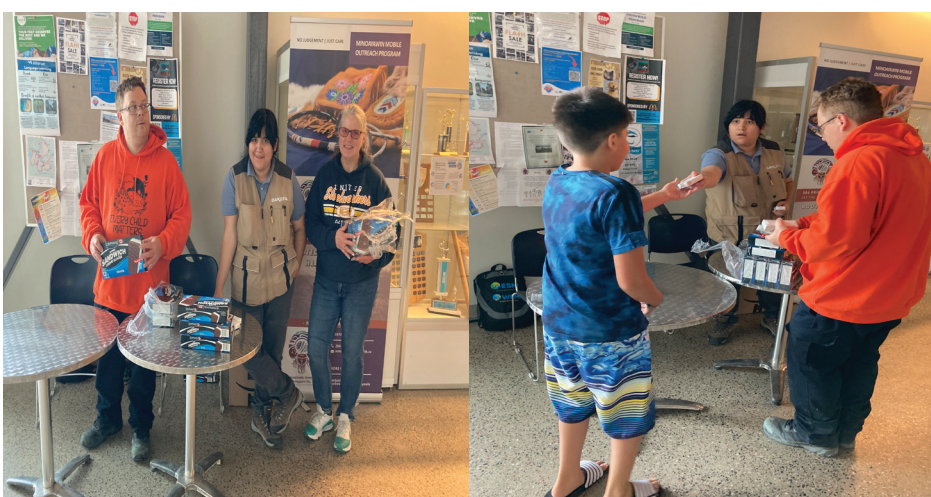
District of Mystery Lake, 2 from the Ma-mow-we-tak Friendship Centre's New Beginning Program and 2 from Mini-Muks Daycare program. "The Soaring Eagle Award is a recognition of Indigenous Youth in Academics," commented Gina. MKO recognized the many individuals and organizations that help with NIPD celebrations, "MKO, KTC, MMF who cooked hotdogs all day, City of Thompson, Government of Manitoba, BGC, Music Makers, Red Cree Drum group, High Rock Drum group, the many beautiful dancers, Terence Thomas, Nathan Beardy, and last but not least, our youth leaders."



**Ecole Riverside School Barbeque**



**Local 8223 Handing Out Ice Cream Bars to Evacuees**



**Community Concerns Hotline**  
*Your Voice Matters!*

At Vale, Manitoba Operations, we are committed to being a responsible neighbor and maintaining open communication with the communities where we operate. We understand that our activities may sometimes have an impact, and we want to hear from you.

If you have any concerns related to noise, traffic, environmental effects, or any other issues stemming from our operations, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Call our Community Concerns Line: 204-778-2888; or  
 Email: [Vale.MB.Public@vale.com](mailto:Vale.MB.Public@vale.com)

Your feedback helps us improve and ensures we continue to operate in a way that respects and supports our community. All reports are confidential and will be addressed promptly.

*Together, we can make a difference.*



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# National Accessibility Awareness Week

**Caleb Bielak, Rehabilitation Counsellor** for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Thompson office of Manitoba Possible has one message, *“We all of have inherent value and be proud of who you are.”* It is this basic but powerful message that sets the tone for what the Thompson office of Manitoba Possible is all about. Manitoba Possible, formally known as the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, provides programs and services for individuals with physical, neurological, intellectual, psychiatric and learning disabilities. It has several programs and services in the area of education and employment for both adults and children.



*“We work with individuals to set their long-term goals and then to work with them, basically what would you want and how do we get their,”* explains Caleb. Manitoba Possible in Thompson had an open house on May 28th to showcase the work they do as well as inviting employers in Thompson to set up a booth and to look at ways to work with their clients. *“We currently work with over 100 individuals in Thompson in various areas of employment, education and other services,”* explains Caleb. Their Open House reinforced their goals of *“Helping people with disabilities to find meaningful employment, supporting Northern Manitobans facing barriers to employment with job*

*preparation and job search assistance, and connecting families with programs and resources to support their child’s development and well-being.”*



Caleb and other staff of Manitoba Possible in Thompson is trying to get the word out on what their services are and who their client are by saying *“I find that Thompson does not know enough about us and we are working on addressing that.”* Caleb continues to say, *“we are also trying to have functions such as barbeques to not only allow employers and others to find out more about us but to also allow our clients to socialize.”*



If you are an employer or an individual who may wish to get in touch with Manitoba Possible, you can contact them at (204) 778-4277 or check out their website at [manitobapossible.com](http://manitobapossible.com).

**Stronger, Together.**

**Our Thoughts Are With Everyone Affected By the Wildfires**

We extend our heartfelt thoughts to everyone affected by the ongoing wildfire crisis in Manitoba. During this challenging time, we stand in solidarity with our community.

A sincere thank you to the first responders, organizations, volunteers, and all those who have offered support and strength when it's needed most. Your courage and compassion are deeply appreciated.

- Vale, Manitoba Operations

**Wildfire Relief**

Vale Base Metals, Hudbay Minerals and Alamos Gold have come together to donate C\$1.25 million to support of wildfire relief efforts across northern Manitoba.

*Pictured: Vale Base Metals' Thompson operation in northern Manitoba.*

**Public Notice**

**Seeking Input from Communities of Interest**

**Vale Base Metals – Community Engagement Initiative**

Vale’s Manitoba Operations is committed to responsible and sustainable mining practices. As part of our ongoing efforts to build respectful and transparent relationships, we are identifying Communities of Interest who may be affected by or have a genuine interest in our operations in Thompson, Manitoba.

We invite individuals, organizations, and communities—including Indigenous communities and organizations—to self-identify as Communities of Interest. Your voice matters in shaping how we operate and engage with the community.

**You may be a COI if you:**

- Live near or use the land around our facility or operations
- Represent an Indigenous community or organization
- Have environmental, cultural, or economic interests in the area
- Are part of a local, regional, or national organization with a stake in mining activities

**How to Participate**

To self-identify or learn more, please contact Ray Solski:

**Phone:** 204-778-2033  
**Email:** [Ray.Solski@vale.com](mailto:Ray.Solski@vale.com)

All information shared will be treated with respect and confidentiality, as requested.

Let’s work together to ensure our operations reflect the values and concerns of the communities we serve.



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## Summer Newcomer Youth Engagement Camp

Coming to a new country is challenging for many people as they try to get use to their new environment. For many children of Newcomer families, it can be an even bigger challenges as young people try to meet new friends as they settle into their new homes. Thompson Immigrant Services (TIS), in partnership with the **Thompson Community Foundation**, are helping these kids by hosting the Summer Newcomer Youth Engagement Camp. *“Currently we already have over 60 kids registered and are very happy with the level of interest,”* commented **Abbygail Enriquez, Manager of the Thompson TIS.**



The camp is free for children 6-12 and runs from July 2nd to August 15th at Deerwood Community School. Aside from getting to know each other and making friends, the camp runs several activities including *“arts and crafts, sports, indoor/outdoor activities, games and music and dance.”*

The camp is only one of many activities that the Thompson Immigrant Services hosts to help Newcomers transition to their new homes. The TIS also hosted a recent Meet and Greet, in partnership of **Mall of the Art** for families of Newcomers on Sunday June 22, *“It allowed families to meet each other and share what many have in common,”* explains Abbygail. The TIS *“understand that immigrants and newcomers may face many challenges settling into a new community. They must find*

*a place to live, find employment, become familiar with a new society and culture, develop a network of friends and social support, and possibly learn a new language.”*

The TIS provides many services to address these needs including helping Newcomers to apply for the various documents they would need, finding out about the different resources and supports that they can apply to, information on community services, helping Newcomer kids settle into their school, English classes and employment and training opportunities. Since September of 2023, there has been over 400 Newcomers



registered for support by the TIS. *“Thompson is one of the main places in Manitoba for Newcomers to come to, mainly for employment opportunities. We have individuals coming from all over the world with the highest represented groups coming from Asia, Philippines, Nigeria, and Mexico,”*

commented Abbygail.

If you want to find out more about the camp and the TIS services, you are invited to contact them at (204) 677-8094, join them on Facebook at Thompson Immigrant Services or check out their website at [www.nwris.ca](http://www.nwris.ca).

## Ground Breaking Ceremony at BGC

To address the increasing demand for space to operate their programs, on June 6th the Thompson BGC had their official ground breaking ceremony for their new building under construction. *“This new building will house our administrative office and board room on the main floor with our Youth Build program operating out of the basement. Our existing building will continue to be used for our After School and Late-Night Programs,”* explains **Lianne Maynard, Executive Director** of BGC Thompson. Lianne continues, *“Phase 1 of the new building construct will be completed this year by November, with Phase 2 planned to be completed in the next coming year.”* Phase 1 is mostly foundational and exterior work with Phase 2 being mostly interior work. Lianne explains the BGC programs, *“Our After School Program provides recreational activities that are both fun and educational. We offer space Monday to Friday from 3:30PM – 8:00PM to children ages 5 – 12. We have a daily schedule including a different activity (typically a science experiment, a craft, educational video, etc.), homework time and reading time. We employ a full-time chef who is responsible for making a healthy snack and supper daily for our partici-*

*pants. Many families in Thompson suffer from food insecurities; our program helps remove barriers to healthy nutrition. Last year, we served 5,603 snacks and meals to members of our community.”* The BGC After School program maxes out daily at 25. Pre-registration is needed. *“Our Late-Night Program targets at risk youth from marginalized families, who are between the ages of 12 - 17. We offer proactive programming which sparks interest in youth and encourages alternative choices of street life. We provide a safe place for youth to watch movies, play games, play pool and make new friends. Late Night participants may go on outings to various activities such as gym time, skating, skateboarding, biking, bowling, hiking, concerts, other public events. Late Night runs Friday nights from 8pm – midnight and is offered from September to June,”* says Lianne.





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## Ground Breaking Ceremony at BGC (Cont'd)

The BGC's Youth Build, next to their After School Program, is arguably their most well know program. Lianne explains, "Our Youth Build Program is designed to help youth who are underemployed, unemployed, receiving social assistance, or have not graduated further their education and skills to become productive, employable community members. In this program, we strive to increase our participants' skill sets in several ways: We provide routine - Many of the youth we serve are not in the habit of getting up in the morning and having structure in their lives. We provide accountability - Every day, in the morning and in the afternoon, we take attendance. If a participant misses more than five consecutive days without cause, they are terminated from the program. We provide education - We have an Academic Instructor who is a Manitoba certified teacher. This

gives our participants the opportunity to earn credits toward their Mature Student Diploma. Once the 38-week educational component is completed, we match participants with an employer for a 10-week work practicum. The skills gained from our program are unlike anything we have in a Northern community."

The BGC also has a drop-in tutoring program, 2 hours a week on Thursdays for 12- to 17-year-olds. Their tutoring program operates from September to June of each year. The new building will allow the BGC to expand their capacity and service delivery of much needed programs in Thompson. The TNRC congratulates them on their newest initiative. **Vale** and the **Thompson Community Foundation** have donated to Phase 1.



## Prom 2025





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# Prom 2025 (Con'd)





# Prom 2025 (Con'd)



## Knights of Columbus Individual Results

50m		High Jump	
<b>8 Girls</b>	<b>8 Boys</b>	<b>8 Girls</b>	<b>8 Boys</b>
1. Valerie Saiki - RS 2. Zaha Alkazaz - LV 3. Hyacinth Eh - LV	1. Owen Tucker - BW 2. Tharon Hoepfner - RS 3. Nikolas Chabot - RS	1. Laura Daganzo - JP 2. Espyn Howard-Chartrand - WW 3. Aleera Belfour - BW	1. Nikolas Chabot - RS 2. Lukas McKay - WW 3. Owen Tucker - BW
<b>9 Girls</b>	<b>9 Boys</b>	<b>9 Girls</b>	<b>9 Boys</b>
1. Lily Harwood - DW 2. Nyasia Coke - JP 3. Iniluwa Ajayi - LV	1. Andrew Marleau - RS 2. Ben Scadden - RS 3. Levi Ford - DW	1. Hailey Herman - RS 2. Mallerie Beardy - JP 3. Nyasia Coke - JP	1. Kaden Sraybash - WW 2. Matthew Galick - RS 3. Vincent Michaud - LV
<b>10 Girls</b>	<b>10 Boys</b>	<b>10 Girls</b>	<b>10 Boys</b>
1. Quinn Brolund - DW 2. Sma Alkazaz - LV 3. Ellen Oyelami - RS	1. Jase Kennedy - RS 2. Marshall Benson - BW 3. Elliot Yamada - DW	1. Quinn Brolund - DW 2. Sma Alkazaz - LV 3. Aria Abgrall - WW	1. Tanner Smook - RS 2. David Spence - BW 3. Ethan Gallant - DW
<b>11 Girls</b>	<b>11 Boys</b>	<b>11 Girls</b>	<b>11 Boys</b>
1. Macy Courvoisier - RS 2. Sarah Lamb - RS 3. Hannah McKenzie - LV	1. Fola Salau - BW 2. Demar Ford - JP 3. Kane Davis - RS	1. Macy Courvoisier - RS 2. Molly Devloo - WW 3. Blake Harding - RS	1. Fola Salau - BW 2. Bergeron Ross - BW 3. Demar Ford - JP
<b>12 Girls</b>	<b>12 Boys</b>	<b>12 Girls</b>	<b>12 Boys</b>
1. Cassidy Lysohirka - JP 2. Kaeda Johnson - RS 3. Izabel Williamson - BW	1. Jonas Fiddler - DW 2. Greyson Abgrall - WW 2. Riley Conner - RS 3. Jimmy Baker Spence - JP	1. Hayleigh Arthurson - DW 2. Ramisa Annesha - WW 3. Peyton Holmes - RS	1. Jimmy Baker Spence - JP 2. Logan Soutar - WW 3. Bradley Marleau - RS
<b>13 Girls</b>	<b>13 Boys</b>	<b>13 Girls</b>	<b>13 Boys</b>
1. Jerzie Carroll - RS 2. Hayden Lowen - RS 3. Kaya Kopeechuk - DW	1. Kacen McCartney - WW 2. Kirk Pankratz - RS 3. Lincoln Frost - RS	1. Wealth Adejuwon - JP 2. Kaya Kopeechuk - DW 3. Elysse Gallant - DW	1. Kirk Pankratz - RS 2. Parker Tait - JP 3. Michael Wamboldt - RS
100m		Long Jump	
<b>8 Girls</b>	<b>8 Boys</b>	<b>8 Girls</b>	<b>8 Boys</b>
1. Valerie Saiki - RS 2. Harjot Kambo - WW 3. Zaha Alkazaz - LV	1. Tharon Hoepfner - RS 2. Nikolas Chabot - RS 3. Thomas Buckle - DW	1. Sienna Blacksmith - DW 2. Laura Daganzo - JP 3. Zaha Alkazaz - LV	1. Owen Tucker - BW 2. Demario Ford - JP 3. Manit Tripathi - BW
<b>9 Girls</b>	<b>9 Boys</b>	<b>9 Girls</b>	<b>9 Boys</b>
1. Lily Harwood - DW 2. Abbi Haywood - RS 3. Nicole Okossi - LV	1. Kaden Sraybash - WW 2. Andrew Marleau - RS 3. Ben Scadden - RS	1. Iniluwa Ajayi - LV 2. Nicole Okossi - LV 3. Hailey Herman - RS 3. Navya Patel - WW	1. Jeriah Iyamolere - DW 2. Kaden Sraybash - WW 3. Jaxon Kopeechuk - DW
<b>10 Girls</b>	<b>10 Boys</b>	<b>10 Girls</b>	<b>10 Boys</b>
1. Quinn Brolund - DW 2. Sma Alkazaz - LV 3. Anabella Chabot - RS	1. Elliot Yamada - DW 2. Jase Kennedy - RS 3. Tanner Smook - RS	1. Sma Alkazaz - LV 2. Anna Chabot - RS 3. Ellen Oyelami - RS	1. Marshall Benson - BW 2. Glen Thomas - BW 2. James Monchalin - JP 3. Ethan Gallant - DW
<b>11 Girls</b>	<b>11 Boys</b>	<b>11 Girls</b>	<b>11 Boys</b>
1. Macy Courvoisier - RS 2. Sarah Lamb - RS 3. Hannah McKenzie - LV	1. Fola Salau - BW 2. Jake Cameron - DW 3. Diamond Adejuwon - JP	1. Sarah Lamb - RS 2. Blake Harding - RS 3. Kate Zawadsky - RS	1. Fola Salau - BW 2. Kingston Reimer - JP 3. Jake Cameron - DW
<b>12 Girls</b>	<b>12 Boys</b>	<b>12 Girls</b>	<b>12 Boys</b>
1. Tayla Maber - RS 2. Adele Harwood - DW 3. Kaeda Johnson - RS	1. Landon Abel - WW 2. John Hillick - WW 3. Greyson Abgral - WW	1. Adele Harwood - DW 2. Hayleigh Arthurson - DW 3. Izabel Williamson - BW 3. Mishwa Patel - RS	1. Jimmy Baker Spence - LV 2. Gab Sean Umacam - LV 2. Bradley Marleau - RS 3. Brezzy Moose - DW
<b>13 Girls</b>	<b>13 Boys</b>	<b>13 Girls</b>	<b>13 Boys</b>
1. Hayden Lowen - RS 2. Mikaela O'Handley - Binet - RS 3. Lily Lounsbury - WW	1. Kacen McCartney - WW 2. Michael Wamboldt - RS 3. Easton Boudon - BW	1. Brooklyn Monchalin - JP 2. Wealth Adejuwon - JP 3. Brianna Steruk - WW	1. Lincoln Frost - RS 2. Kirk Pankratz - RS 3. Parker Tait - JP
<b>8-10 Girls</b>	<b>8-10 Boys</b>	Shotput	
1. Abbi Haywood - RS 2. Navya Patel - WW 3. Alexis Harvey - DW	1. Owen Tucker - BW 2. Thomas Buckle - DW 3. Glen Thomas - BW	<b>9-11 Girls</b>	<b>9-11 Boys</b>
<b>11-13 Girls</b>	<b>11-13 Boys</b>	1. Harley Rodgers - RS 2. Blake Harding - RS 3. Sarah Lamb - RS	1. Alexander Enns - WW 2. Brock Andres - RS 3. Andre Duarte - RS
1. Adalyn Meilleur - WW 2. Daylinn Bignell - BW 3. Lily Lounsbury - WW	1. Easton Bourdon - BW 2. Michael Wamboldt - RS 3. Cassius Jarvis - BW	<b>12-13 Girls</b>	<b>12-13 Boys</b>
		1. Nevayah Thomas - BW 2. Natalia Botelho - RS 3. Jenelle Tripp - DW	1. Kirk Pankratz - RS 2. Lincoln Frost - RS 3. Brady Brown - JP