



The Citizen

Your Community Newsletter



THE 2025 WILDFIRE SEASON - A BIG THANK YOU!!!

The 2025 Wildfire Season is far from over but it is important to take the time to thank local, regional, provincial, federal and international organizations and individuals who have come to assist in providing supports to our residents and fellow North-erners as we go through the most challenging fire season in a generation.

Shauna Kortz, Acting Wildfire Superintendent for the Northern Region summarized this season, *“the number of fires we have had so far is not out of line historically. What is different is the size and intensity of these fires due to the very dry conditions that we have.”* She continues to say, *“fortunately we have had help nationally from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, and Quebec, as well as internationally from the U.S., Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.”*



THE 2025 WILDFIRE SEASON - A BIG THANK YOU!!! (cont'd)

When asked what she feels has gone well this year, “The communication has been great. Messaging from the City of Thompson has been straight forward and this is what the public wants.” She continues to say, “the work being done to help clear some trees and vegetation within the city will also have positive results. This is part of the plan that Manitoba Wildfire Services and the City of Thompson has been working on since 2019. Having spruce and pine, which is very flammable, replace with other species such as poplar in certain areas will be very helpful.”

Many of the early fires started were unfortunately man made. When asked what residents can do to help the situation Shauna recommended individuals to go to [FireSmartCanada.ca](https://www.fire-smart.ca) to get tips on how you can better protect their property.

City of Thompson Steps Up to Help Neighbours

The City of Thompson’s City Manager Anthony McInnis and Municipal & Emergency Coordinator Lawrence McDonald talked about how Thompson has been playing a pivotal role as the Hub of the North in helping its neighbours during the recent evacuations. “At its height we had close to 450 evacuees. Over 80% of them were from Lynn Lake and Marcel Columb

(i.e. Black Sturgeon) with the rest from Tataskweyak Cree Nation (Split Lake), Pukatawagan, Norway House and Snow Lake.” The Thompson Humane Society also assisted by doing wellness checks for animals that came in with the evacuees.

Anthony goes on to comment, “the City worked very closely with MKO as we managed the evacuations, with the City and MKO dividing up responsibilities.” Lawrence added other partners included Public Health, Service Canada, CMHA, Provincial Emergency Services, Social Service and MMF. Other communities also helped out during the last evacuations such as the Town of Gillam by shipping out cots to other communities in need.

Anthony commented on some natural challenges that come with this type of operation. “There were a lot of organizations involved that the City had to coordinate with such as the Red Cross, Emergency Services, MKO and EMO as well as other service organizations and the different leadership in communities, not to mention expectations from residents and evacuees. With First Nations falling under federal jurisdiction and other communities falling under provincial, it is important that there is a focus on coordination. Anthony went on to comment on the fact that the City opened one of the first shelters result-

ing in the need for local resources to be expended upfront until the federal and provincial resources were put in place. He also acknowledges the hard work put in by City staff. “To provide the necessary resources for the evacuation we had many staff that were working at times 18-hour days over the past month. Some were literally sleeping at the TRCC.”

The City of Thompson has managed to build up a robust communication system supported by a dedicated communication officer and its earlier investment in Thompson Connect and its Facebook page. “We have views on our Facebook page that has increased substantially since the fire season started. On one occasion we had over 767,000 views for one post. Currently we have 6,275 registered to our AllNet and we continue to try and increase that number,” added Anthony.

It is great to get assistance from across Canada and internationally but in closing Lawrence and Anthony wanted to acknowledge the significant contributions from wildfire crews from other northern communities and from southern Manitoba and our own fire department. Anthony added, “the community support has been great.” We still have a ways to go for the current fire season, the City of Thompson encourages those that have not yet registered to do so.



Shauna Kortz - Acting Wildfire Superintendent



Wildfire Firefighter helping to hold the line



Service providers at the TRCC assisting evacuees from Lynn Lake and other communities.



A crew of Wildfire Firefighters on patrol.



Firefighters trying to stop the spread of a wildfire.



THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATION

RETURN OF THE CANADA DAY PARADE

It has been many years since Thompson has had a Canada Day Parade. The main reason is that with the Nickel Day Parade happening in mid to late June, having another parade shortly after seemed like a non-starter. After all, the participating organizations spend considerable time putting together their floats and for many, having the time to do it twice within a short period of time was always a challenge. This year was different. With the cancellation of Nickel Days due to concern with air quality, there was no Nickel Day parade. It was a tough call by the Nickel Day Committee, one not

taken lightly and done out of the potential health risks for the young people who would be spending considerable amount of time outside partaking in the many of the Nickel Day rides not to mention the workers who would also be outside for multiple days.

It was a late call, but the **Canada Day Committee** decided to hold a Canada Day Parade so Thompsonites, especially the children, would at least be able to have a parade even though their beloved carnival rides would not be available. In partnership with the **Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal**

Corporation, the Canada Day parade was a success with close to 20 organizations and close to 30 vehicles and floats participating. The streets were lined with children, quite happy to get candy from the parade participants. Thank you to all those organizations that participated on such short notice. A special thank you to the **Thompson Fire and Emergency Services** and the **RCMP**. There was also several activities that took place at the TRCC including performance by **Northbound Revival** and an arm-wrestling competition put on by **T-Town Arm Benders**.





Thompson Golf Club - Celebrating Their Past & Planning for the Future

The Thompson Golf Club (TGC) recently celebrated their 57th Anniversary of the official opening of the golf course. This is a milestone that is rarely celebrated by an organization, let alone a community based, not for profit one. The individuals and organizations that helped start the TGC was formally recognized by the Board of Directors of the TGC on May 28th of this year as “Builders” of the organization with their names put



onto two separate plaques, one for organizations and one for individuals.

Earl Timmons, past President and a board member for 37 years, acknowledged the work of the past and present volunteers and board members as the main catalyst behind the success of the TGC. “Our volunteers have been the reason for our success. At the same time we recognize that our future success will be based on how much we engage our young people in the game of golf.” Earl recalled that it was his dad that first got him interested in golf. “The main goal of our Junior Golf program is to get young people interested in the sport,” added

Earl. The golf course usually opens in May of each year. “When COVID hit, it actually resulted in more people playing golf as it was an activity that is done outside. I recall during that time period, you could only ride in the same golf cart if you were from the same household. We started to see our membership increase again after years of stagnant growth. We now have around 250 members,” said Earl.

The original clubhouse when the golf course was open was only intended to be temporary and was a collection of trailers. “In the early days, INCO was a huge supporter of the TGC. Some of their senior managers were heavily involved with us,” commented Earl. Due to ongoing foundation issues with the old golf club building, the current club



house was started in 1984 and completed in 1991. “The Board of Directors of the TGC are pretty happy with where we are at right now,” says **Randy Irvine**, current President of the TGC. Randy



has been president of the golf club since 2020 and sees a lot of growth potential for the organization. “We celebrated our 50th in 2018. The long-term strategy for the TGC is to upgrade our agrégation system, upgrade our kitchen and continuing to focus on growing our membership. We have been reaching out to our neighbours as well as working on building business for our club house through special events such as weddings,” added Randy. The club house has a seating capacity of 170 individuals. Congratulations to the original builders of the TGC, past and present board members and volunteers that has made the Thompson Golf Club a long-term success story.





TCF AWARDS \$ 176,000 IN GRANTS TO 14 ORGANIZATIONS

The Thompson Community Foundation (TCF) recently held their Annual General Meeting on June 24th at the Boreal Discovery Center. **Kim Laycock, President of the TCF** was asked about the highlights of this year’s AGM. *“The turnout from grant recipients was terrific! There were over 20 people at our meeting; mostly as recipients coming with several of their team members. The TCF awarded a total of \$175,863.72 in funds to over 14 community groups. The energy in the room was so positive as we all share a common goal to support community groups and initiatives in Thompson,”* commented Kim. **The TCF also awarded 7 scholarship cheques in the total amount of**

\$11,401. From 1996 to 2024, the TCF as awarded a total of **\$ 2.32 million** in grants to **97 local organizations** including all 8 of our schools and their related parent organizations, health facilities, social service organizations, family support programs and various committees, social and sport clubs that support low cost recreational, sport and wellness activities. This is impressive for a local foundation that started its first year by providing 1 grant in the amount of \$716 to now approving on average over \$180,000 annually.

When asked what are some of the things are that stood out for her as TCF President for the last year, Kim replied, *“the*

commitment of our board members is outstanding. Our board brings diverse perspectives and a wealth of experience to each meeting and all members really care about supporting community initiatives in Thompson.”

Looking forward to the next year, Kim reflected on TCF’s major goals. *“ We have a 4 major goals. These include (1) Building awareness of the TCF’s mandate and how we can help community organizations grow and prosper; (2) Growing our grant funds; (3) Leverage technology – seeking tools and platforms that will allow the TCF to be effective and efficient; and (4) Human Resources – growing our board and providing development opportunities for board members.”* **Other board members include Oye Abioye, Kevin Ali, Peter Blackmore, Lee Cripps, Michele Nichol-Sawh, Ying Kong, and Olad Oloko.**

Kim and her other board members are eager to get their information out and are always looking for board members that would be a good fit for the TCF. She commented, *“individuals interested in sitting on the TCF can email tcf@mymts.net indicating their interest. Non profit registered charities are encouraged to visit our website at <https://our-foundationthompson.ca> to learn about the many different funds that exist to support a wide variety of initiatives.”*



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.





Youth Build Graduation Class of 2025!!!

The graduation ceremony for the BGC’s 2025 **Youth Build program** took place on Wednesday July 31st at the BGC Thompson (formally known as the Boys and Girls Club of Thompson). Surrounded by friends, family, Mayor Smook, Elder Jack Robinson, BGC staff and other supporters, thirteen individuals celebrated a major milestone in their young careers. **Valedictorian, Amber Fenton** recognized each of her classmates and the unique background and personalities that each brought to the group to assist all in their achievements.

Youth Build has been in existence for over 24 years in Thompson and is well known in our community. In Manitoba there is currently only one location, which located in Thompson and is hosted by the local BGC. BGC summarizes the program as “*providing opportunities to young underemployed/unemployed adults who are in the process of rebuilding their lives through a commitment to continue their education, gain work experience and training skills, and taking on new responsibilities. The Youth Build Program provides a positive learning environment with an intake*

of up to 26 youth, between the ages of 18-29, who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or not attending school. The program runs for 49 weeks with the same group of individuals throughout the year. For the Educational Component, students will be registered with the School District of Mystery Lake RD



Parker Collegiate and attend the Youth Build program as they work towards a mutually agreed upon educational goal, such as regular grade credits, mature student or regular grade 12 equivalency.”

“Upon graduation, many of our graduates get hired on by the same employers in which they did their practicum with, or they may go back to school for

further education or they may go into training for a trade,” explains **Tamara Katchmar, Manager of Operations for BGC Thompson**. The work practicum is usually 10 weeks and is part of the 49 week commitment. “*Currently we are doing intakes and interviews for the next class that will be starting on September 3,*” further explains Tamara. For more information on the Youth Build program you are encouraged to contact **Erin Ells, Youth Build Coordinator, at (204) 778-7575 ext. 5.**

Congratulations to the following graduates, we are all very proud of your accomplishment:

- Rackesha Ballantyne**
- Cassandra Beardy**
- Christian Cordell**
- Amber Fenton**
- Raymond Francois**
- Ty Gazoyou**
- Cameron George**
- Noah Lumley**
- Logan McKay**
- Seth McIvor**
- Teagen Moose**
- Violet Ouskan**

2026 MANITOBA WINTER GAMES

Powered by Manitoba Hydro

MARCH 1 – 7, 2026

12 SPORTS, ATHLETE SERVICES, SPECIAL EVENTS + MORE!

- Alpine Skiing
- Archery – U17
- Badminton – U15 + U17
- Cross Country Skiing – U12, U14 + U16
- Curling – U15 + U18
- Figure Skating – U18
- Futsal – U14
- Gymnastics – Age 10 - 17
- Hockey
- Ringette
- Speed Skating – U14 + U18
- Wrestling – Born in 2010 - 2013

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Go to mg2026.gems.pro
or scan the QR Code



CONTACT: MANITOBAGAMES2026@GMAIL.COM
OR 204-250-2166



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

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.





THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATION
Thompson ihtāwinihk tāpastāwin

MAPS PARTNERS WITH CITY FOR 2025 BEAUTIFICATION AND GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM

Men Are Part of the Solution (MAPS) has partnered with the City of Thompson for their summer **Beautification and Graffiti Cover-Up** programs.



Assistance with the beautification program is largely focused on watering and maintaining the many large flower pots along Thompson Drive and Mystery Lake Road. *“We have individuals from our Phoenix Transitional Housing program that has taken the lead in maintaining the flower beds,”* mentions **Michele Nichol-Sawh, Executive Director for MAPS.** In addition, these individuals are also covering up graffiti in the community. *“The process is straightforward, if you have graffiti and are the property owner, whether you are a house or a business owner, you can contact our office and we will get our crew to do the*

necessary cover up. We ask the owner to provide the paint if they wish to get as close to a color match as possible, otherwise we use the standard white or grey that we have in stock,” added Michele. Asked how the uptake has been, Michele commented that it has been slow so far. *“We know some of this may be due to a lack of knowledge of the program or some individuals and businesses just wish to do the coverup themselves. I*



have also heard some comment that they feel that even if you cover up the graffiti, someone will simply come and mark it up again.” To address this, Michele does concede that she has seen this happen. *“The site of the old pool has been tagged a number of times and we go back and recover the area(s) where it was tagged. I understand the frustration of individuals when they see the same part of their*

home or business being retagged. In my opinion, it just means we keep coming back until whoever is doing it gets caught or gets tired of marking up the wall(s).“

Clients at the Phoenix House also get valuable work experience for the summer. Michele adds, *“for many of our clients, they genuinely enjoy working in the community. Thompson has been their home for many years and they wish to play a role in helping to beautify it. Watch for us, we are in a black truck with the MAPS logo with a big water tank in the back.”* If you wish to find out more about the Graffiti Cover Up



Program you are encouraged to call the MAPS office at (204) 778-6040.

VALE

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

VALE

MANITOBA OPERATIONS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRIAN NEIL DAWSON, late of the City of Thompson, in the Province of Manitoba, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration, must be filed with the undersigned at their offices, 100-105 Fort Whyte Way, Oak Bluff, Manitoba, R4G 0B1, on or before October 4, 2025
Dated at the Rural Municipality of Macdonald, in Manitoba, on August 5, 2025.

CONTRAST LAW

100 - 105 Fort Whyte Way
Oak Bluff MB R4G 0B1

Attention: Alex Bainov, Solicitors for the Executor



Thompson Junior Soccer Association Season Wind-Up

Congratulations to board and volunteers of the Thompson Junior Soccer Association (TJSA) for another great season of soccer. The U18 tournament took place Thursday July 24th to Saturday July 26th. The games were all close between the Screaming Eagles, Battle Lions and the previous year’s champions, the Super Dragons. The semi-finals between the Super Dragons and Battle Lions went into overtime. With the game still tied at 3-3 after over-time, the Super Dragons came out victoreas during the penalty shoot-out but went on to be defeated in a close championship final against the Screaming Ea-gles. The TJSA has teams in the U6, U9, U12 and U18. The TJSA looks forward to next year’s season.



For comments or feedback on The Citizen please contact Oswald Sawh at 204-677-0760 or email at executivedirector@tnrc.ca

