



The Citizen

Your Community Newsletter



First New Year’s Baby in Thompson - Julia Moore!!!

Proud mom, **Angelina Moore** of **Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation** welcomed her new baby girl, **Julia Moore** at 12:20 pm on Saturday January 3rd at the Thompson General Hospital (TGH). Julia is the first baby born at the TGH in 2026. “*She was born 6 lbs, 2 ounces*”, says Angelina. Representatives of the Thompson Health Auxiliary, shown in the picture above left to right, **Mervat Yehia, Cathy Pellizzaro, June MacTavish, June Bourguigon, and Wendy Lucas** were on hand to help Angelina, shown to the right of Cathy, welcome her new baby girl. The ladies also brought some great gifts for baby Julia on behalf of the Auxiliary.

Julia’s other family members include father **Fabian Francois**, and her other siblings that include 2 sisters and 3 brothers that will be giving her a lot of attention once she gets home. When asked who picked the name, her grandmother, **Mona Hart** said, “*The name was picked by Keisha, Angelina’s cousin. If Julia was born one day later, her and I would be sharing the same birthday.*” Mona explains how her birthday falls on January 4th.

Based on the last few years, Julia is a bit of a late comer when it comes to the first baby born in the New Year at the TGH. **Traven Hastings**, born to proud parents **Trishelle Hastings and Reagan Okemow** of **Bunibonibee Cree Nation (Oxford House)** was born at **1:04 am on January 1, 2025**. **Elliot John Lapensee** born **7:29 am on January 1, 2024** to proud mom **Shay Lapensee** of **Barren Lands First Nation (Brochet)**. **Pacey Tssessaze** was born at **7:23 pm on January 1, 2023** to proud mom **Roberta Tssessaze** of **Northlands First Nation (Lac Brochet)**. Welcome Julia, we hope you all happiness for many years to come!!!

Happy New Year Thompson
Welcome to 2026!!!- TNRC Board and Staff
The City of Thompson brought in 2026 with fire works.



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





36th Thompson Community Christmas Dinner

The Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (TNRC) were the host this year for the 36th Annual Thompson Community Christmas Dinner. There are many people and organizations to thank. First of all, thank you to the TNRC Board of Directors for supporting the needed resources to allow the TNRC to host the dinner this year on such short notice.



Aero Test and Knights of Columbus provided donations to help pay for the turkeys. Also a big thank you to **Santa** and **Music Makers** for coming out to spend time with the kids.



A big thank you to Lead Kitchen Cook **Nelson Pruder** along with the other chefs, **Chiew Chong**, **Blain Prince**, and **Duncun Wong** who cooked an incredible meal that included turkey and gravy, perogies, ham, mashed potatoes, carrots, coleslaw, and stuffing along with meatballs provided by the **Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre**. As the term goes, “*Many Hands Makes the Job Lighter*”, thank you to the close to 30 volunteers that came out over on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to help our cooks and to complete prep work, serve, wash dishes and do general clean up.

The fact that this is the 36th Community Christmas Dinner speaks volumes for Thompson and all of the past organizers, businesses, service clubs, and volunteers that help keep this important community event going for over 3 and a half decades!!!



These volunteers included **Joe Colomb**, **Rhria Cuenca** from Thompson Immigrant Services, **Braiden & Ryer Fenner**, **Shaun & Donna Harmen**, **Lori Henderson**, **Stacey & Angela Kennedy** of Vale, **Reynold & Helen Kuzma**, **Sean Neder**, **Chris Nelson**, **Mike & Sue O’Brien**, **Basanagowda Patel**, **Cohen Ruhlman**, **Kal Singh**, **Sonya**, **Terrence** and **Makayla Wiseman** and **Earl Timmons**. Joining in to help were 6 members of the **McDonald’s** team including **Hannah Cuenca**, **Brenda D’Sa**, **Momo Kane**, **Ivan Miroshnichenko**, **Ouzzy Traore**, and **Oussama Zahraoui**. **Oswald Sawh** and **Debra Pouliot** managed the event on behalf of the TNRC.



A total of **230** plates were served this year. Thank you to our **Royal Canadian Legion** for the donation of their hall, **Legion Women’s Auxiliary** for the donation of their kitchen, and **Vale** for the generous donation that allowed the TNRC to get presents to the almost **100** kids that came out. **McDonalds** also provided a donation of coffee and tea, and **MDS**





THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATION
Thompson ihtāwinihk tāpastawin

NorMan Jazz Festival Hosted by RD Parker Collegiate

The City of Thompson once again hosted the NorMan Jazz Festival. **Kevin Lewis**, Senior Concert Band and Jazz Director at R.D. Parker Collegiate commented on the importance of hosting this event, “*R.D. Parker Collegiate was proud to host the 2025 NorMan Jazz Festival. 81 students representing 6 bands from Thompson, The Pas and Flin Flon took part in the event. We had 94 participants in the festival, including students, directors and clinicians, who spent an intensive 2 days learning, rehearsing, performing and making music. They spent time learning, listening and performing with some of the top Jazz musicians and educators from across Manitoba, and Montreal. Thank you to our outstanding festival faculty, including Dean of the BU School of Music Greg Gatien, Jeff Presslaff, Diogo Peixoto, Lindsay Woolgar, Graydon Cramer and Bill Kristjanson.*” Kevin continued to say, “*the festival wrapped up with a performance in the Letkemann Theatre, with an audience of about 200 present, which was also live-streamed for our out-of-town friends and family.*”



Ready to make a real difference? Join the University of Manitoba’s Northern Social Work Program in Thompson and help to create positive change in your community.

We welcome individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, including racialized, Indigenous, disabled and 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

Earn your Bachelor of Social Work through a flexible program—full-time or part-time options are available. If financial, social, or cultural barriers have held you back this program is designed for you.

If you have lived in Northern Manitoba for at least six months and are passionate about social justice, this is your opportunity to embark on a life changing journey.

Application deadline is March 1, 2026.

Learn more at an upcoming information session!

Contact us at 204-677-1450, toll-free at 1-886-237-5509, or email nswp@umanitoba.ca

Check out UMNorthernSocialProgram on Facebook and Instagram.

Canadian Dental Care Plan

Accessible. Affordable. Essential.



Eligibility

To qualify, you must:

- ✓ not have access to dental insurance
- ✓ be a Canadian resident for tax purposes
- ✓ have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000
- ✓ have filed your tax return in the previous year

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) will help make the cost of dental care more affordable for up to **9 million** eligible Canadian residents.

What you need to apply

- Social Insurance Number (SIN) (if available for children)
- Date of birth
- Full name
- Home and mailing address
- List of dental coverage through government social programs (if applicable)
- You and your spouse or common-law partner (if applicable) must have filed your tax return in Canada for the previous year and have received your notice of assessment



How to apply

Eligible Canadians of all ages can now apply for the CDCP.

- You must meet all 4 eligibility requirements before applying.
- Eligible Canadians can apply online at Canada.ca/dental, by calling 1-833-537-4342, or by visiting a Service Canada Centre.



REGISTER IN THOMPSON, MANITOBA FROM 13-16 JANUARY, 2026

Call: 431 354 8463
204 282 2515

Contact:

Churchill—Keewatinook Aski Federal Constituency Office,
305-83 Churchill Road, Thompson R8N 0L6,
for more information



More than mining

Since 1956, Vale’s Thompson Operation has been a cornerstone of Northern Manitoba – driving economic growth, creating thousands of jobs, and contributing billions to Canada’s economy. With over \$750,000 invested locally every year, Vale supports education, reconciliation, and community development through strong indigenous and community partnerships and employee volunteerism.

As global demand for critical minerals rises, Thompson’s Nickel Belt – the fourth largest on Earth – is poised to power clean energy and sustainable development for generations to come.

Vale is more than a business. It’s a partner, a neighbour, and a driver of opportunity – for our local communities, for Manitoba, and for the world.



We’re changing the future.
Be a part of our journey.



Large Crowds at the 15th Annual Artist, Artisan, Crafters, and Small Business Expo

The Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (TNRC) in partnership with Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) held the 15th Annual Artist, Artisans, Crafters & Small Business Expo (AACSB) on Saturday December 6 from 10 am to 4 pm. “There were a total of 48 small and home based business registered for the craft show”, says Debra Pouliot of the TNRC. The theme of the show was “Shop Local, Support our local small business community”.

The month of December sees a number of craft shows that allows our small and home based business community to showcase their products and service. “Just in the months of November/December the Royal Canadian Legion, Juniper Community School, Wildlife Building, Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre, MMF, and Ecole Riverside all had craft shows. The AACSB has grown to be the largest craft show of the season with between 500 and 600 individuals in attendance,” said Oswald Sawh, Executive for the TNRC.



Thompson Health Auxiliary Continues to Make a Difference in Health Care for Individuals in 2025

The Thompson Health Auxiliary (THA), in existence for over 50 years. As explained by Cathy Pellizzero, THA member and Manager of the Gift Shop for the last 9 years, “the Thompson Health Auxiliary’s primary mandate is to provide supports for the the health of the community through grants provided to the Thompson General Hospital. We are a registered charity.” Cathy continues, “I don’t have the overall amount raised for the THA for the last 50 years, but I do know over the last 28 years, since I have been volunteering for the THA, I can safely estimated that **over 1/2 million has been raised and provided to the TGH for various health related equipment purchases.**”

The primary way that the THA raises funds to provide grants to the TGH is by operating the **Gift Shop** that can be found on the first floor, by the elevators, at the TGH. The Gift Shop is **entirely run by volunteers.** In 2025, the THA supported a couple of initiatives for the TGH.

THA made a donation towards the purchase of the Stryker Prime X - X-Ray Stretcher to the TGH **in the amount of \$16,222** to go towards the purchase price. The **Thompson Community Foundation** also provided a grant in the amount of **\$2,876** to help with the purchase.



Also in 2025, the **THA donated two rocking chairs**, one to the Psychiatry Department and the other one to the medicine/surgery/pediatrics section of the TGH for a total **value of \$2,601.88.** It is rare to see an organization as old as the THA, run by volunteers, still active and contributing after being around for more than 5 decades. The TNRC would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the THA for all they do for our community. Their dedication to the health and welfare of our residents is very much appreciated.





THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATION
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December Showcased Christmas Concerts to Bring in the Festive Season!!!

The Letkemann Theatre hosted a couple of concerts. December 10th, *A Winter Choral & Jazz Concert* showcased the School District of Mystery Lake (SDML) Jr. High, Grade 9 and Senior Choir as well as the SDML Jr. High, Intermediate and Andrenaline Jazz Band, including a performance by Vo-motion. On December 11th, *A Winter Band Concert* showcased the Grade 6, Grade 7, Grade 8/9 Mass Band, RDPC Intro to Band Class and the RDPC Senior Concert Band. A big thank you to all those that have supported our students to enable them to such high quality performances including the SDML Choir and Band Teachers and Administration, Thompson Music Parents Association, and Music Makers.



Volunteer of the Year Awards

Is there an organization or a person that has put in consistent, long term volunteer hours to something that you feel has either made a difference and had a significant positive impact in the community? The TNRC is calling for nominations for an individuals, organizations, clubs, or a committee in the following categories for Volunteer of the Year for 2025:

- Individual - Young Adult - Age 18 – 30
- Individual - Senior/Elder - Age 55 and up
- Individual - Youth - Age 17 and under
- Individual - Community Volunteer
- Organization - Not for Profit/Charity
- Organization - Committee/Group/Club
- Business

Wish to nominate a person or organization, club, or committee? Please fill out the information form that is inserted in this month Citizen that includes:

- 1) Name of Nominator.
- 2) Contact Information of Nominator.
- 3) Individual/Organization/Club/Committee Being Nominated.
- 4) Contact Information of Nominee.
- 5) Why do you feel this individual/ organization/ club/ business/ committee should have this award?

Please email completed form to executivedirector@tnrc.ca. If you have any questions, please contact Oswald Sawh at (204) 677-3031 or contact the TNRC office at (204) 677-0760. **Nomination deadline is Wednesday January 21st.**

More than mining

Since 1956, Vale's Thompson Operation has been a cornerstone of Northern Manitoba – driving economic growth, creating thousands of jobs, and contributing billions to Canada's economy. With over \$750,000 invested locally every year, Vale supports education, reconciliation, and community development through strong indigenous and community partnerships and employee volunteerism.

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Vale is more than a business. It's a partner, a neighbour, and a driver of opportunity – for our local communities, for Manitoba, and for the world.

*We're changing the future.
Be a part of our journey.*

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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.

Committed to Sustainable Mining and Meaningful Engagement

#energytransitionmetals

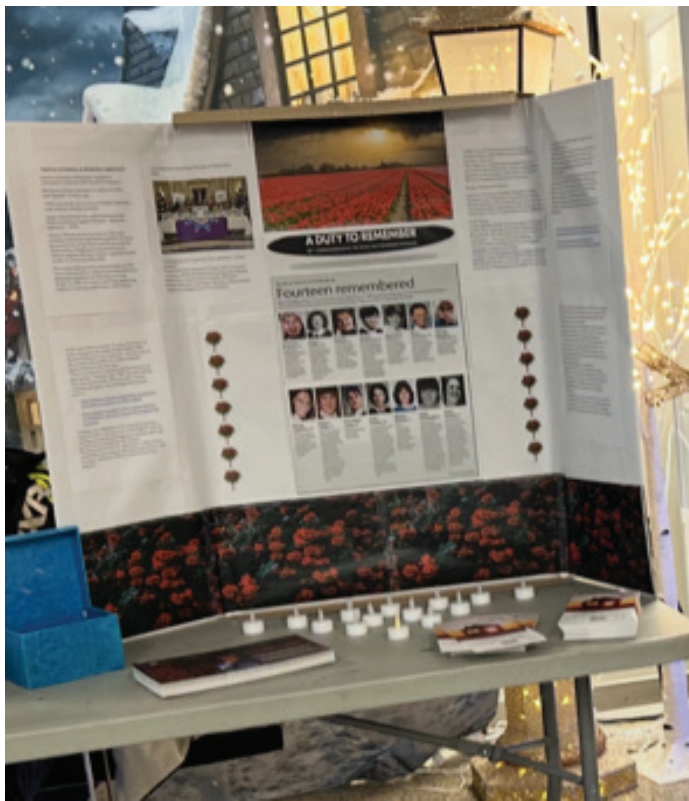


**THOMPSON NEIGHBOURHOOD
RENEWAL CORPORATION**
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On November 8th, the YWCA Thompson once again hosted **Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes**. An event that helps men to raise funds and awareness about the serious tragedy of violence against women and girls in our communities. The event is a playful opportunity for men to show solidarity and be part of an international walk. All proceeds support the YWCA's Women Centre. Usually the walk sees participants walking from the YWCA, up to Thompson's Best Value Inn & Suites, down Mystery Lake Road to the Super 8 and then back to the YWCA. This year, due to the wind conditions, the walk took place in the YWCA parking lot. *Participants were thankful, as were their ankles, for the shorter walk.*



December 6 Vigil Commemoration



Celebration of Life - Garry Adams

It is with shock and deepest sadness that we share the sudden passing of our beloved brother, brother-in-law, uncle, friend and colleague Gary William Adams of Thompson, MB. On November 27th, 2025 Gary passed suddenly as he parked his vehicle in the parking lot of his "second home," RD Parker Collegiate in readiness for another day with his students, friends and colleagues. Gary loved his position as Senior Automotive Instructor at the Collegiate and looked forward to the beginning of each new day.

Gary was born on March 16, 1959 in Swan River, MB.

When he was two years old, his father accepted a position at the Port of Churchill and he and his parents relocated to Churchill, MB. His little sister was born when he was three and he took his role as big brother very seriously all of their lives. Gary was very committed to his mother and sister after his father passed and proved to be a dedicated and supportive son, brother, and uncle throughout his life. Gary enjoyed a life of all things automotive and mechanical and had a proficiency within his chosen field. As a teenager he began his training with his Class 1 Driver's License at Keewatin Community College, The Pas, MB. He then went on to get his Interprovincial Journeyman Certificate at Assiniboine Community College, Brandon, MB. He continued his education at Red River Community College in Winnipeg, MB. Gary also successfully trained and received his Provincial Journeyman Crane Operator Certificate.

The Thompson Crises Centre once again hosted a booth on December 6th at the TRCC recognizing the **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**. Also known as **White Ribbon Day**. It is a day commemorating December 6th, the anniversary of the 1989 Ecole Polytechnique massacre, in which an armed male student killed fourteen women and injured fourteen others in the name of "fighting feminism". The fourteen women killed were **Geneviève Bergeron, 21; Hélène Colgan, 23; Nathalie Croteau, 23; Barbara Daigneault, 22; Anne-Marie Edward, 21; Maud Haviernick, 29; Barbara Klucznik, 31; Maryse Laganière, 25; Maryse Leclair, 23; Anne-Marie Lemay, 22; Sonia Pelletier, 23; Michèle Richard, 21; Annie St-Arneault, 23; and Annie Turcotte, 21**. Thank you to the Thompson Crises Centre for helping us to remember and learn from this very tragic event and for continuously speaking up against violence against women, men, and children.

Gary consistently sought out new challenges and was never hesitant in relocating to find new opportunities. Gary worked for the Province of MB as Infrastructure and Transportation-Vehicle Equipment Management Agency Mechanical Supervisor in Thompson, MB as well as Satellite Senior Tradesman in Ashern, MB. He also worked for Ports Canada – Port of Churchill during the summer seasons.

Gary found his true life calling when he was successfully hired as a Senior Automotive Instructor at RD Parker Collegiate. He was consistently working towards his Permanent Technical Vocational Teaching Certificate with pride and dedication.

He sincerely loved his daily joys and challenges and was able to add his favourite activities during his weekends. He loved curling, snowmobiling, quadding and all things outdoors. Gary's family was awaiting his retirement to spend more time with him, but he loved his daily adventures and wasn't quite ready for a slower pace. It is comforting and heartening to know that Gary was very content and happy with all aspects of his life as he passed. He will be mourned, remembered, and cherished by all who knew him.



VOLUNTEERS – THE HEART OF THE MANITOBA GAMES

THE 2026 MANITOBA GAMES MARCH 1-7 RUN ON THE ENERGY OF VOLUNTEERS GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY.



"You're making a memorable event. It's bigger than yourself."

Cristy Andres
2026 Host Society
Co-Executive Director



"I've been involved in the Manitoba Games all 3 times they've been in Thompson."

Todd Harwood
2026 Host Society
Co-Executive Director



"It was such a great experience to work on a big team and accomplish a big thing."

Harold Smith
Food Services
Comittee Chair



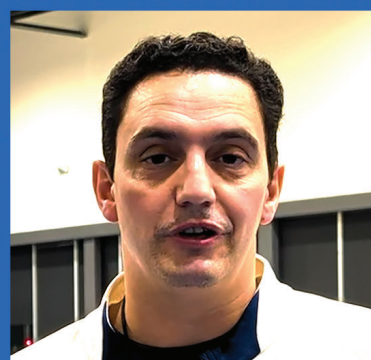
"I encourage people to sign up if they've never volunteered for a Manitoba Games. I think they will enjoy it."

Bryan Mintenko
Games Coordinator



"It's good to see that the community is rallying around these Manitoba Games."

Eugene Chong
Futsal Committee Chair



"if you're able to volunteer, please reach out. Be part of something special."

Nuno Pereira
Team North Futsal Coach

SIGN UP TODAY!



TOGETHER māmawi ki-mētawānaw WE PLAY

POWERED BY



A PROGRAM OF



PRESENTED BY



ERIC REDHEAD

MLA for the Constituency of Thompson

**402-79 Selkirk Avenue,
Thompson MB R8N 0M5 | Phone: 204-677-4789
eric.redhead@yourmanitoba.ca**

