

Sou'wester

Published weekly by:
Canstar Community News
1355 Mountain Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2X 3B6
Ph: 204-697-7021
www.canstarnews.com

MANAGEMENT

Managing Editor
John Kendle 204-697-7093
john.kendle@canstarnews.com

VP, Ad Sales and Marketing
Karen Buss 204-697-7172
karen.buss@freepress.mb.ca

ADMINISTRATION

Main Switchboard: 204-697-7009
Delivery Service: 204-925-3300

EDITORIAL

Sou'wester Staff Reporter
Susie Strachan 204-697-7150
susie.strachan@canstarnews.com
f facebook.com/TheSouwesterWpg
@SouwesterWPG
Fax: 204-953-4300

NEWS TIPS

Email news@canstarnews.com

The Sou'wester welcomes letters to the editor by email or regular post. All letters must include a name, address and phone number for verification of authorship. Email letters to letters@canstarnews.com

ADVERTISING SALES

sales@canstarnews.com
Display Advertising: 204-697-7009
Classified Advertising: 204-697-7050
Fax: 204-953-4300

CANSTAR
COMMUNITY NEWS

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

mcna
Manitoba Community Newspapers Association

The Sou'wester is a member of the National Newsmedia Council, which is an independent organization established to determine acceptable journalistic practices and ethical behaviour. If you have concerns about editorial content, please contact managing editor John Kendle at john.kendle@canstarnews.com or 204-697-7093. If you are not satisfied with the response and wish to file a formal complaint, visit the website at www.mediacouncil.ca and fill out the form or call toll-free 1-844-877-1163 for additional information.

Publisher's liability for error: The publisher shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with any advertisement is strictly limited to publication of the advertisement issue or the refund of any monies paid for the advertisement.

Holiday message from the Lieutenant-Governor



**Manitoba
Lt.-Gov.
Janice Filmon**

The festive season always seems to bring out the best in our province, and so it will again, despite the extraordinary challenges of the past year.

Our shared community spirit, and willingness to work together for the common good, will guide us through these troubled times, just as surely as they will shine again this holiday season.

I am so proud of our citizens, charities and numerous other organizations throughout the province who have shown remarkable resilience and creativity in continuing their good works. They reflect the prairie ingenuity and dedication to purpose and to each other, that is so very Manitoban.

Neighbourhoods are aglow with seasonal light displays that bring a colourful sense of frivolity to the times, appealing especially to the young and young-at-heart. Our celebrations might be a little different this year, but the holiday spirit will certainly endure.

As the Queen's representative in Manitoba, I am pleased to extend season's greetings to all citizens, along with my best wishes for a safe and happy holiday. May the warmth of the season fill your hearts and your homes today, and throughout the coming year.



Dreamstime.com

Lt.-Gov. Janice Filmon calls for all Manitobans to celebrate their resilience and enjoy the holiday season.

Celebrate the holidays safely



**Sarah Guillemard
FORT RICHMOND MLA
CONSTITUENCY
REPORT**

At this time of year, I usually highlight how the holidays are filled with joyful celebrations of many different faiths and cultures, with various traditions, in our diverse neighbourhood of Fort Richmond. And while I still hold these traditions and festivities dear, this year — this holiday season is unlike any other.

This change cannot be ignored. We cannot be close to our loved ones in the same way we are used to. We cannot pop into shops and restaurants for supplies and treats as easily as before. Many are facing difficult financial decisions and have to stay far away from those they want to hold more than

anything.

There is the hopeful light of the COVID-19 vaccine but it may be months before we have the level of protection needed to return to life as we knew it.

Yet, it is still important to mark traditions, hold our families and friends dear (virtually), and try to offer hope and connection when everything feels different. I know many in our community are reaching out to others, supporting charities with gifts or time, or kindly ordering a delivered meal for a neighbour.

Speaking of hope, there are caring families in Fort Richmond who act as foster parents, and the need for more. The need for safe, loving homes does not take a break, especially during uncertain times as these.

If you have ever considered becoming a foster parent, or if you have some questions, my office will be hosting an informational

Zoom meeting in the new year. Please reach out to my office by calling 204-221-8881 or emailing contact@sarahguillemard.com and we will make sure to inform you when we have more information.

There is also a lot of valuable information on The Kinship and Foster Family Network of Manitoba website at www.kffnm.ca

Also, the small businesses in our community which have been negatively affected by COVID-19 should know that the Manitoba Bridge Grant application deadline has been extended to Dec. 31. Home-based businesses are now eligible to apply for this grant.

Please see more information on my website or at www.manitoba.ca/supportsforbusiness

I wish you and your families all the best in 2021.
For accurate and timely information surrounding COVID-19 measures, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html