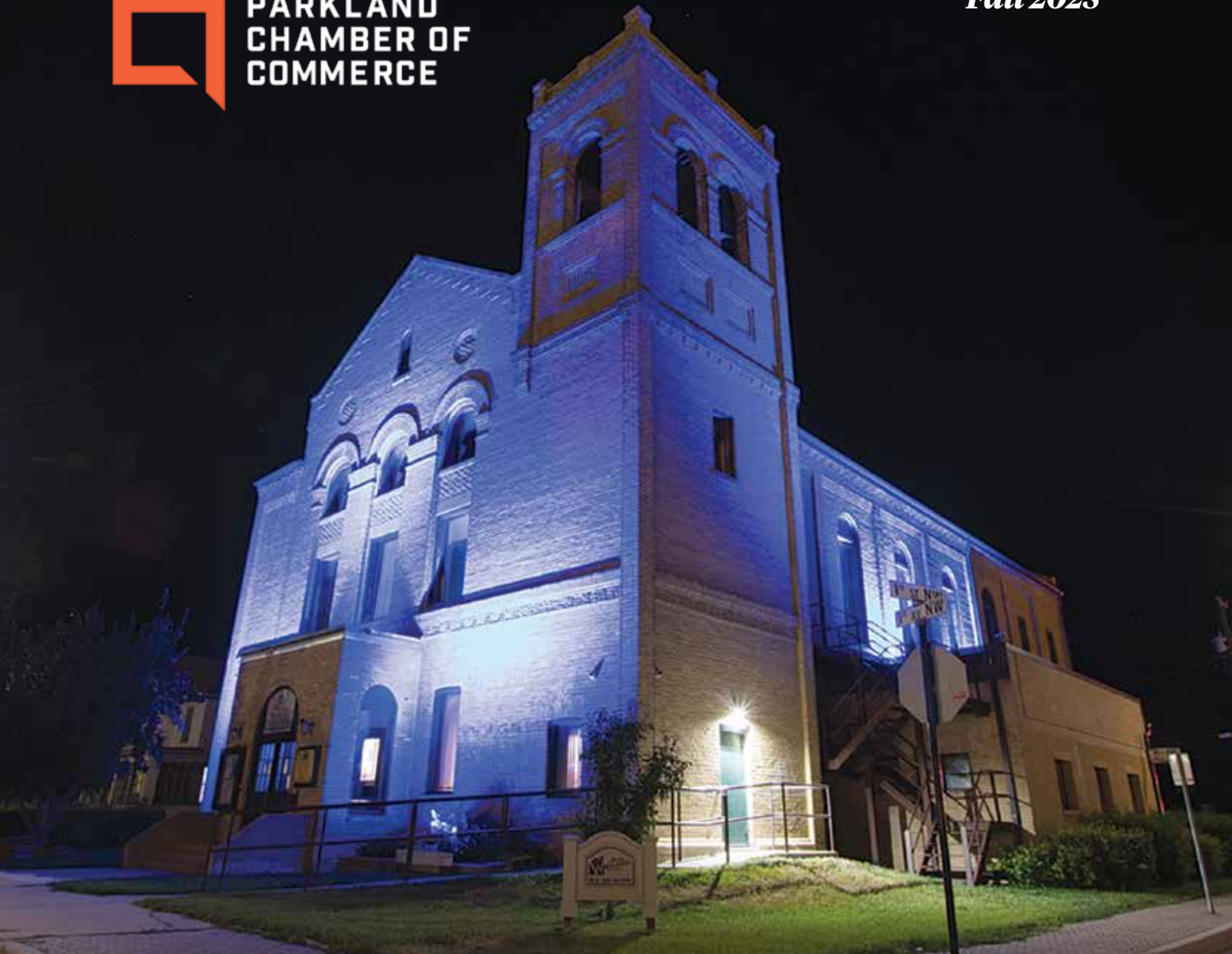


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Executive Director of the Parkland Chamber of Commerce, Kamryn Winters	4
Message from the President of the Parkland Chamber of Commerce, Jon Yerema	5
Message from MP Dan Mazier	6
Message from the Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Dauphin Constituency Ron Kostyshyn	7
Benefits of a Parkland Chamber of Commerce membership	8
Support local with Parkland Chamber Bucks	10
Call for nominations Parkland Chamber of Commerce 2026 Business Awards	11
Advocacy in Action – Partnering with government to strengthen Manitoba future	12
Protecting your community from social engineering attacks	14
A renewed Watson Art Centre brings the community together	16
A new era at the pump – First Nations joint venture fuels change in Dauphin	18

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Access Credit Union	OBC
EDIFICE Engineering Inc.	10
Efficiency Manitoba	9
Fusion Credit Union	13
Manitoba Blue Cross	IFC
MNP LLP	15
Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual Dauphin	9
Ron Kostyshyn, MLA for Dauphin Constituency	10
Roots to Wellness	7
SV Benefits	6
TIM-BR-FAB Industries	15

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Message from the Executive Director of the Parkland Chamber of Commerce

KAMRYN WINTERS



Dear Parkland Chamber of Commerce members,

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new executive director of the Parkland Chamber of Commerce!

My name is Kamryn Winters and I feel incredibly honoured to step into this role that Stephen Chychota helped shape so vividly for the Parkland area. I enjoy working and collaborating with passionate, community-minded business owners, and I know that I will be able to be an asset to this great team.

I bring with me a strong background in event coordination, most recently from my time with Dauphin's Countryfest and Rockin' the Fields of Minnedosa, where I had the privilege of assisting the organization with large-scale events that bring people together, and boost local tourism and business engagement all at the same time. That experience deepened my love for this region, as well as expanded my network across Manitoba.

In addition to event management, I have a professional and educational background in graphic design and marketing, having worked closely with several well-established and emerging businesses to enhance their visibility and grow their customer base. I understand firsthand the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship and am passionate about helping local businesses thrive through creative and strategic support.

As I settle into this role, I'm eager to connect with each of you to learn about your business, listen to your goals and challenges, and find ways that the Parkland Chamber can better support you. Together we can continue to make the Parkland a great place to live, work, and do business.

So, if you want to chat, just give me a shout and tell me all about your business. I want to hear it all!

Kamryn Winters 

Message from the President of the Parkland Chamber of Commerce

JON YERAMA



The fall is here, and with it comes new energy for our Parkland Chamber of Commerce, as we welcome our new executive director, Kamryn Winters. Kamryn joins us with extensive experience in event coordination, marketing, and community engagement. She's spent the past several years working in roles that brought people together, strengthened local businesses, and showcased the best of our region – an experience that fits perfectly with the chamber's mission. We're confident her background and enthusiasm will help lead the chamber into an exciting new chapter.

We also want to say a big thank you to Carissa Caruk-Ganczar for stepping up as our interim executive director over the summer, keeping everything running smoothly. The experience she brings working with boards was a big contributor to the success we had with our transition. And a shout-out to Taylor and Malayna, our summer staff, who worked hard with the day-to-day operations in the summer and helped organize and run our main event in the summer, the Street Fair.

This summer's Street Fair and Dance had an incredible turnout! The day kicked off with a pancake breakfast and carried on with activities for all ages, from a fun-filled Kids Zone to live entertainment throughout the day. Local businesses and food vendors filled the streets and park, creating a lively atmosphere that lasted well into the evening as dance groups and local bands took the stage and kept the energy going.

Looking ahead, the chamber board will continue with our strategic planning to help guide our direction over the next few years. As part of that process, we'll also be doing some board recruitment – looking for passionate, community-minded individuals who want to get involved, share their ideas, and help shape the future of the chamber. We're excited to build on our momentum, strengthen connections, and continue shaping a chamber that reflects the needs and goals of our local business community.

A big thank you to our staff, board, volunteers, and members – we couldn't do any of this without you, and we're grateful to have you along for the journey.

Sincerely,

Jon Yerama 

Message from MP **DAN MAZIER**



As the 2025 harvest season comes to a close, I want to begin by thanking all our local farmers for everything they do. Your hard work feeds our country and drives our rural economy. I am proud to represent the people of Riding Mountain in the House of Commons, where agriculture remains the backbone of our community.

Since my last update, a new Parliament has begun. I was honoured to be re-elected as your Member of Parliament and appointed as Canada's Shadow Minister for Health. It is a role I take seriously, and I am determined to bring rural voices to the national health conversation.

Across Canada, and especially in rural areas, families are struggling to find access to care. We face

severe shortages, with recent data suggesting that Canada is currently short at least 23,000 doctors and 60,000 registered nurses. Unfortunately, red tape and licensing bodies prevent qualified professionals from working. We need a government that removes barriers and lets doctors and nurses get to work faster.

That is why I am championing a Blue Seal National Professional Testing Standard. It is a common-sense plan to speed up licensing for professionals like doctors and nurses who can prove they are qualified. Those who pass a national test would earn a Blue Seal certificate, allowing them to work in any province or territory that adopts the standard.

This idea is not new. The trades have

had the Red Seal system for over 50 years. Every province and territory joined because it helped attract more skilled workers. The same principle can and should apply to health care.

The Blue Seal will ensure licensing is based on ability, not bureaucracy. It will test what professionals can do, not where they come from. It will also mean faster evaluations for those educated abroad and greater mobility across provinces. I have spoken to many health care professionals who are ready to serve but are trapped in years of paperwork. That must change.

As your voice in Ottawa, I will continue fighting to protect and strengthen our rural way of life. Whether it is supporting agriculture, defending law-abiding hunters and sport shooters, cutting red tape for small businesses, or reducing taxes for all Canadians, I will keep working for you.

If you need assistance with a federal matter or want to share your views, please reach out to my offices at the Dauphin Marketplace Mall or at 41 Main Street East in Neepawa. Also be sure to follow me on Facebook at Dan Mazier. 

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Message from Minister of Agriculture and MLA for Dauphin Constituency

RON KOSTYSHYN



As autumn settles across the Parkland, we're reminded that fall is a time of reflection, gratitude, and hard work. Harvest season brings both reward and responsibility – a culmination of months of dedication, innovation, and resilience by Manitoba's agricultural producers.

This fall, I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our farmers, business owners, and community partners who continue to strengthen our local economy and ensure Manitoba's agricultural sector remains a pillar of stability and growth. Agriculture is more than an industry – it's a way of life that sustains our communities and drives economic opportunity across rural Manitoba.

Our government recognizes the uncertainty created by fluctuating global markets and trade challenges, including the ongoing concerns surrounding tariffs on Canadian agricultural products. From the moment these tariffs were announced, our government has been taking action on behalf of producers, and we remain committed to working closely with industry leaders and federal partners to manage tariff uncertainty and safeguard the competitiveness

of Manitoba's producers and processors.

Despite these challenges, the message is clear: our premier is standing firmly with the agriculture sector and Canadian businesses. Together, we are pursuing long-term solutions that strengthen our value chains, open new market opportunities, and encourage agribusiness development right here in the Parkland and across Manitoba.

This season also provides an opportunity to celebrate progress. From continued investments in infrastructure renewal and rural health care to advancing new opportunities in agrifood innovation and local business growth, we are seeing meaningful change take shape. I want to extend my appreciation to the Dauphin and

District Chamber of Commerce and to local councils, Indigenous leadership, and community organizations – your collaboration is key to building a resilient and prosperous future.

As the fields are cleared and preparations begin for the next growing season, we are reminded of the strength and perseverance that define rural Manitoba. Together, we continue to adapt, innovate, and ensure that the Parkland remains a thriving, welcoming, and forward-looking region.

If you have questions or would like to get in touch, please reach out at ron.kostyshyn@yourmanitoba.ca, call 204-638-1672, or visit my office at Unit B1, 101 1st Avenue NW, Dauphin. 🇨🇦

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Benefits of a Parkland Chamber of Commerce membership

The Parkland Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, community-leading organization made up of local businesses, professionals, and people of Dauphin and the surrounding area. Together, we are working towards building a strong and growing commerce for our Parkland region through various programs and partnerships.

Joining the Parkland Chamber of Commerce is a strategic investment in your business and the Parkland region. As a member, you receive access to a variety of supports and services.

Networking and professional development:

- ✓ Annual Lunch Series
- ✓ Small Business Holiday Party
- ✓ Workshops and meetings throughout the year

Visibility and exposure for your business:

- ✓ Online business listing on the Parkland website, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce website, and other Chamber-affiliated listings
- ✓ Opportunities to advertise and promote your business through the Chamber's marketing efforts
- ✓ Event sponsorship opportunities
- ✓ Referrals to member businesses

Cost savings, discounts, and programs:

- ✓ Chambers Plan Employee Benefits
- ✓ Chamber Bucks program
- ✓ Affinity programs
- ✓ Member to member savings

Advocacy and representation:

- ✓ Lobbying on behalf of member needs and other issues that impact the region at municipal, provincial, and federal levels

- ✓ Opportunity to provide valuable input through Chamber surveys


- ✓ Advocating for investments and support for regional initiatives

Access to information and resources:

- ✓ Weekly *Chamber Matters* newsletter
- ✓ Bi-annual *Parkland Now* magazine
- ✓ Connections through the Chamber office
- ✓ Access to additional information through the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and other industry associations

Contribution to community:

- ✓ Providing leadership as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- ✓ Volunteering for Chamber events and special initiatives
- ✓ Hosting of events that impact the region including the Annual Street Fair
- ✓ Leading special regional initiatives such as the Immigrate Parkland project

Are you taking full advantage of the membership benefits offered to you each year? If not, reach out to the Chamber office to discuss your needs. 



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The Parkland Chamber Bucks program is a powerful initiative aimed at promoting local shopping and strengthening our community's economy. Chamber Bucks work just like cash and can be redeemed at any participating business within the Parkland area, offering customers the flexibility to explore a variety of local products and services.

One of the best parts about the program is that any business can sign up to participate, whether you're a chamber member or not. This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to gain more visibility and attract local shoppers who are eager to support our community. By accepting Chamber Bucks, businesses are not only contributing to a stronger local economy, but also opening their doors to new customers and building stronger relationships with existing ones.

For customers, Chamber Bucks provide the perfect gift and spending option that keeps dollars circulating locally. By using Chamber Bucks, customers are supporting local jobs, fostering growth, and ensuring the longevity of our small businesses. Whether it's for a special occasion or everyday purchases, this program encourages people to shop right here in the Parkland region, benefiting everyone involved.

Our Chamber Bucks are now digital and available for purchase online in denominations of \$5 to \$50.

Participating in the Chamber Bucks program is easy, and the rewards are invaluable – so why not join today and be part of a thriving local community?

For more information, visit www.chamberbucks.ca. 



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Advocacy in Action

Partnering with government to strengthen Manitoba's future

As Manitoba continues to navigate shifting economic realities, the role of credit unions has never been more important. Fusion Credit Union CEO Darwin Johns recently sat down with Ron Kostyshyn, Minister of Agriculture.

“Beyond serving as financial institutions, we are deeply rooted community partners – uniquely positioned to understand the needs of local businesses, farmers, and families,” says Johns. “That perspective allows us to play an active role in advocating for policies and investments that support long-term prosperity across our province.”

Shaping policy on tariffs and agriculture

One of the key areas raised with government was the impact of tariffs on Manitoba producers and businesses.

“These costs ripple through entire communities, affecting not only profitability, but also local investment and job creation,” says Johns, who shared further strategies on behalf of Fusion Credit Union for:

- Tailored tariff relief programs that provide direct support where it's most needed.
- Improvements to agriculture business risk management tools, ensuring producers have strong, practical safeguards against market volatility.
- Recognizing the broader role that credit unions play by standing beside members and communities every day, ensuring stability and access to capital.

“By bringing the voice of our members to the policy table, we help ensure that programs are designed not just in theory, but in ways that reflect the realities of life and business in Manitoba,” says Johns.

Aligning policy with community impact

Johns cites the provincial government's recent \$500,000 investment in Dauphin's Countryfest as a clear example of what happens when policy decisions align with community priorities.



Credit unions have long advocated for investments that go beyond immediate returns, creating ripple effects that strengthen local economies for years to come.

“While the announcement is about a music festival on the surface, the deeper story is one of economic resilience, cultural identity, and community fundraising capacity.”

Credit unions have long advocated for investments that go beyond immediate returns, creating ripple effects that strengthen local economies for years to come. Countryfest's success – powered by thousands of volunteers and dozens of community organizations – demonstrates the importance of that philosophy.

The credit union advantage in advocacy


What sets credit unions apart is the dual perspective.

“We operate at the grassroots level, but we also engage directly with government at the policy level,” Johns says. “That means we can connect the dots between everyday community realities and the broader legislative frameworks that shape them.”

Advocacy is not about short-term wins; it's about ensuring that Manitoba's policies and investments reflect what matters most to the people who live here. This can include sustainable agriculture; strong local businesses; thriving cultural and community institutions; and a balanced economy that works for urban and rural Manitoba alike.

Looking ahead

At Fusion Credit Union, we will continue to use our platforms to bring forward the voices of members, communities, and industries that deserve to be heard. The Countryfest announcement is one example of positive government action – and a reminder of what can be achieved when advocacy, community, and policy work hand in hand.

“Our commitment is clear: to be a trusted voice, advocating for Manitoba's future while supporting our members every step of the way,” Johns says. 

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Protecting your community from social engineering attacks

By Owen White

On average, Canadians lose about \$100 per person to scams each year, according to Richard Bankert, founder and CEO of the Bankert Family of Companies.

Social engineering is the act of collecting data about a person and using it to psychologically manipulate them. It's a popular technique with scammers, and the backbone of many successful scams. It works so well because a lot of people don't realize how much of their data is public.

Take the common out-of-office CEO scam, for example. A travelling business leader may post on social media about a conference they're speaking at, and the conference probably has the time and details of their presentation readily available online. They often have an out-of-office email set to auto-respond to emails, which might include an email signature that can be copied.

A scammer can take that information and reach out to an

office manager, assistant, or anyone else who would be privy to communications from them. They could say they need a prize to give out or they're in some sort of trouble, ask for gift cards or funds transfers, and note that they don't have access to their work email. There is often a sense of urgency with these scams. A social engineering expert would have enough personal information about the CEO to convincingly impersonate them, just from what they find online.

On average, Canadians lose about \$100 per person to scams each year, according to Richard Bankert, founder and CEO of the Bankert Family of Companies. As an example, for just Winnipeg, that translates to around \$85 million lost to scams yearly.

The Dauphin-based Bankert Family of Companies includes LearnOnlineSecurity.com, an online resource providing education about online security against social engineering attacks.

Bankert believes that educating people about what information they and the people around them share online can reduce their risk. He says that while online security tools have their place, a proactive approach to online security is most effective.

“Firewalls and antivirus are important, and we highly recommend them, but if you don’t protect people, then your business is wide open,” he says.

Scammers often go for low-hanging fruit. One of Bankert’s goals with LearnOnlineSecurity.com is to make people in his community harder targets through education. The business has a podcast, runs workshops, and offers online courses, all aimed at protecting individuals from social engineering attacks.

Even if you’re not online, your kids are. So are your friends and family members, place of work, and coworkers. Learn Online Security offers courses for parents and kids, seniors, and businesses which all emphasize protecting yourself, your family, and your community.

By fully understanding the data you’re sharing online, and learning enough signs of social engineering, you significantly reduce your risk of getting scammed. Just imagine what kind of difference \$100 per person could make in your community. 🏠



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A renewed Watson Art Centre brings the community together

By Lyndon McLean



Built in 1905, the Watson Art Centre once housed City Hall, the jail and the firehall.



The building housing the Watson Art Centre is a heritage site with the Province of Manitoba and the City of Dauphin.

As one of the most distinguished buildings in Dauphin, the Watson Art Centre has a lot to offer, and recent renovations are bringing more people to a place where history and the arts come together and come alive.

Built in 1905, it has once housed City Hall, the jail, and the firehall. In the early 1970s, the building was slated for demolition, but the Dauphin and District Allied Art Council (DDAAC), organized by Dr. Vernon L. Watson, lobbied the town to save it and took over its management. It was designated a heritage site with the Province of Manitoba and the City of Dauphin, ensuring its historic character would be maintained.

In the early 2000s, it was named the Watson Art Centre after Dr. Watson

and his wife Frances, who were both instrumental in securing the use of the building.

The DDAAC has continually restored and repaired this beautiful building, but after many years, further improvements were needed, primarily for guest comfort and improved experiences.

In the last few years, new windows were installed to improve fresh air in the building, and in the summer of 2024, hardwood floors were replaced by local company Jenkins Flooring. The \$50,000 project received some support from the Province of Manitoba and the City of Dauphin, as well as the centre's own reserves. Just this past summer, a \$100,000 heat pump project was completed that cools the building

in the summer and heats it more efficiently during the shoulder seasons, without turning on the boiler. In the past, they avoided holding events in July and August, as it was simply too warm to hold an indoor event.

"We're now able to book events confidently for the whole year. We hope this will increase our bookings and bring events throughout the summer," says Cam Bennet, president of the Watson Art Centre. "We also expect this to save us some heating dollars, and with some additional funds we had, we upgraded the insulation in our attic – all of this is to improve the comfort of our guests and boost our bookings."

The centre has improved access to


the basement, installing a \$10,000 lift to allow those with mobility issues to access the pottery and art studios in the basement. They're also talking to a consultant to assess the performance stage area and investigate how to improve access for performers who may have mobility issues.

All renovation work was done by local contractors and businesses, including Jenkins Flooring, Steiner's Plumbing & Heating (heat pumps), and Dauphin Mobility (chair lift). Since the upgrades, and with the increase in bookings and events, the centre has hired a casual office person and may consider making that full-time position.

The upgrades are already making an impact, and the community has noticed. The Watson recently brought back their Concert Series, selling 80 concert series passes.

"That's unheard of," Bennet says. "We've had a really positive response. Our first concert was the Waylon, Willie and Cash tribute, an MCMA award-winning show that was just a few tickets short of a sell out."

While they haven't experienced an increase in wedding bookings yet, Bennet says they anticipate that to happen over the next few months as couples prepare for the summer of 2026. And they've had tremendous financial support from the community, raising about \$16,000 in personal donations for their "Make the Watson the Coolest Building in Town" campaign.

With a refreshed feel and an eye on bringing more of the arts to Dauphin, the Watson Art Centre is a welcoming place for the community to gather and be entertained. 



Top: The Watson recently brought back their Concert Series, selling 80 concert series passes.

Middle: The Watson Art Centre is also a beautiful venue for weddings.

Left: The Watson Art Centre has had tremendous financial support from the community.



A new era at the pump

First Nations joint venture fuels change in Dauphin

By Shayna Wiwierski

The opening of the Anishinabe Aki Petro Canada Service Station at 1405 Main Street South has ushered in a new era for Dauphin and the Ebb and Flow First Nation. What began as a hope decades ago is now a reality – and it's already making an impact for the Indigenous business community and the wider region.

The journey to the July 23 opening stretches back nearly 20 years, when the land for the gas station was first acquired by the Ebb and Flow and Pine Creek First Nations, now Minegoziibe Anishinabe.

“We worked on that for three years. It was the first process to get it converted to reserve lands,” says Brenda

Catcheway, general manager of the Anishinabe Aki Petro Canada Service Station.

Obtaining reserve status took time, and only became official in May 2024, finally allowing the two First Nations—and the project team they quickly assembled—to break ground on the civil work and underground infrastructure.

Construction began in earnest in July 2024 with a focus on building the necessary civil and underground infrastructure before winter set in.

“It was an empty field before, so all the civil work had to

be put in first because it was the first part of our project. We did all of that before winter... we even put in the underground gas tanks,” says Catcheway.

By early 2025, a modern gas station began to take shape, but it's not just a place to refuel.

“It's a good-sized building. A little over half of it is our service station, and the other half, maybe 45 per cent, is going to be a Burger King,” Catcheway explains.

Although Burger King hasn't moved in yet—delayed by equipment costs and tariffs—the plan is for the fast-food outlet to open in spring 2026.

The official opening drew a remarkable crowd, reflecting the significance of the occasion for Dauphin and the First Nations involved.

“We had quite a few members from each community come out,” recalls Catcheway.

Nearly 200 people gathered for the celebration, including chiefs and council members from both Ebb and Flow and Minegoziibe Anishinabe First Nations, as well as representatives from other nearby nations, all eager to show their support. Adding to the moment's importance, the mayor of Dauphin, the reeve from the surrounding rural municipality, and officials from both city and provincial governments were in attendance. Even the Grand Chief of Manitoba sent a representative,

highlighting the broader community's engagement in this milestone.

The event was more than ceremonial: a ribbon-cutting marked the official launch, while speeches from local and Indigenous leaders echoed themes of perseverance and partnership. A celebratory barbecue drew together people with deep-rooted connections to Ebb and Flow and Pine Creek First Nations, many of whom had anticipated this day for years.

With the doors now open, Catcheway is looking ahead. She's focusing on new marketing strategies to grow sales in specific areas, although gasoline sales have already met expectations. Profits from the station will be shared by both First Nations, with a portion set aside for youth scholarships—ensuring that the station's success will have lasting benefits in the community.

Standing on Main Street South, the new service station is more than just a place to refuel—it's a symbol of collaboration, determination, and the ongoing pursuit of economic self-sufficiency for future generations.

Reflecting on what's been accomplished—and what's still to come—Catcheway puts it simply.

“The business has been good. We've been meeting our target... we always want to do a little bit better.” 🏠



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