

Souris pool makes a splash at opening

BY JILLIAN AUSTIN

SOURIS — An ecstatic Souris community celebrated the official grand opening of their brand-new \$1.2 million pool yesterday.

Complete with fun water fountains, a gradual “beach entry” on one side of the pool, water slides and a “lazy river,” children and adults alike couldn’t wait to dive into the pool.

“It’s amazing, we feel so lucky,” said Shannon Kohut of Souris.

Kohut brought her three-year-old son Jackson and six-year-old daughter Riley to the celebration.

The Let’s Make a Splash New Pool Committee has been hard at work for years to raise funds for the project, which did not receive any provincial or federal government funding.

While Sport Manitoba did chip in for a portion of the project, most of the funds were raised through community donations.

To see their dream become a reality was overwhelming for many community members, who have spent countless hours on the project.

“It’s absolutely amazing,” committee member Linda Ryckman said. “Four years ago when we first started, we weren’t sure if we were ever going to make it.”

Committee chair David Kirkup was proud to see the kids enjoying the pool yesterday.

“It’s an unbelievable feeling to see the community pull together for such a worthwhile project,” he said.

The vision for a new pool was first created in 2004 when a committee met to discuss the future of Souris and its role as a Manitoba tourist destination.

It was clear the town’s previous pool — 36 years old and aging badly — was in need of an upgrade. Cracks and a leaking problem left it beyond repair.

The new pool now appeals to everyone from toddlers to adults. Smaller slides and shallow sections are perfect for younger kids, while more advanced swimmers can enjoy the bigger slides and the deep end, which reaches depths of close to 10 feet.

The “lazy river,” a circular section of the pool that takes swimmers around in a slow



A boy splashes down a waterslide during a hot Saturday, at the grand opening of Souris’ \$1.2 million new pool. (James O’Connor/Brandon Sun)

current, was a popular part of the pool yesterday.

Being born and raised in Souris, head lifeguard Jennifer Adams says she is excited for what the brand-new pool will do for the community.

“Souris pool has been a big part of my life,” she said. “It was time for an upgrade This is absolutely amazing.”

The grand opening was made official by cutting a red floating noodle, instead of a ribbon.

“I’m a little bit speechless,” Souris Mayor Darryl Jackson said to the crowd yesterday.

“I can’t really put into words how proud I am of the community.”

Jackson said the pool will likely be a tourist draw for Souris.

“We’re certainly hoping it’s going to increase traffic to our town in the summer time,” he said.

Minnedosa PC MLA Leanne Rowat was there to celebrate the pool’s grand opening. She calls Souris her home community and has utilized the pool with her family over the years.

“It’s exciting for the community and the region,”

she said. “It’s something the community has done on its own, so it makes it that much sweeter.”

There are still a few things the pool needs to complete the project, including a 135-foot loop water slide. Roughly \$150,000 is still needed, and the committee is hopeful the federal government will chip in.

The Souris pool will also see upgraded change rooms and a “Wall of Recognition” for all the community members who contributed to the project.

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PASSINGS

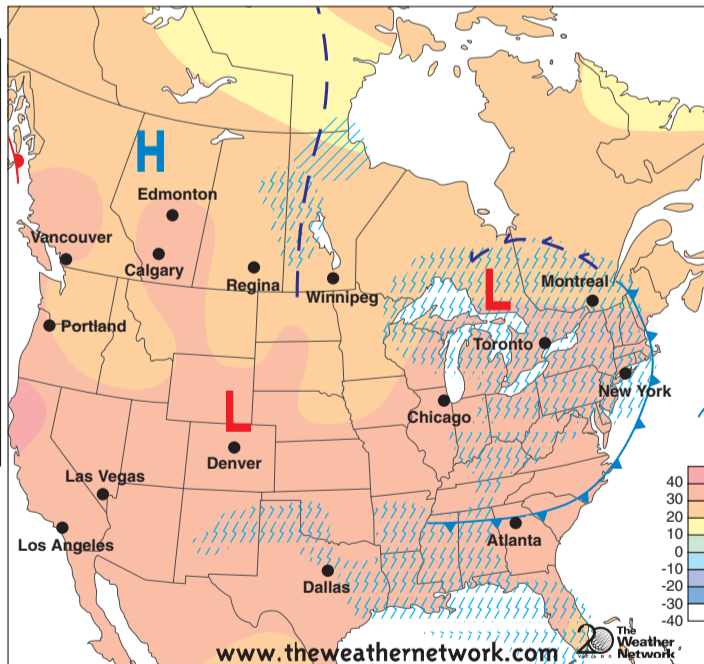
None reported.

Western Manitoba Forecast

TODAY	TONIGHT	TOMORROW
Mainly sunny in the morning with chance of thundershowers developing later (pop 40%). High 26.	Mainly cloudy with isolated showers (pop 40%). Low 14.	Mainly cloudy with isolated showers (pop 40%). High 21. Low 10.
TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mainly sunny with cloudy periods. High 20. Low 9.	Mainly cloudy with isolated showers (pop 40%). High 20. Low 10.	Mainly sunny. High 21. Low 10.

Canada Today

Calgary	tstorms	24/13	Prince Rupert	p.cloudy	19/14
Charlottetown	p.cloudy	25/19	Quebec City	showers	20/16
Edmonton	showers	15/7	Regina	p.cloudy	28/13
Estevan	sunny	26/13	Saint John	p.sunny	20/17
Dauphin	tshowers	31/15	Saskatoon	showers	25/13
Dryden	p.cloudy	26/15	St. John's	rain	19/13
Fredericton	showers	22/15	Sudbury	tstorms	21/15
Halifax	p.cloudy	25/19	Swift Current	tshowers	30/14
Kapuskasing	tstorms	24/18	Thompson	tshowers	24/12
Lethbridge	tstorms	20/15	Thunder Bay	tshowers	24/15
Moncton	p.cloudy	26/14	Toronto	tshowers	22/17
Montreal	p.cloudy	26/18	Vancouver	sunny	25/19
North Bay	tshowers	25/17	Victoria	sunny	23/18
Ottawa	tstorms	20/16	Whitehorse	p.cloudy	24/12
Prince Albert	tshowers	25/17	Windsor	tshowers	24/18
Prince George	sunny	25/13	Yellowknife	m.sunny	26/16
				sunny	21/13

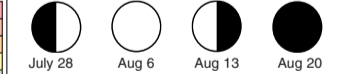


Regional Temperatures

Dauphin	26/15
Russell	
Shoal Lake	26/13
Carberry	26/14
Winnipeg	26/16
Brandon	26/14
Portage la Prairie	25/16
Melita	27/15
Killarney	

The Daily Skies

Sunrise: 6:01 a.m. Moonrise: 12:15 p.m.
Sunset: 9:30 p.m. Moonset: 11:13 p.m.



The World

Acapulco	p.cloudy	34/26	p.cloudy	34/26
Boston	tshowers	26/21	tstorms	25/20
Cancun	tstorms	31/27	tshowers	32/27
Chicago	p.cloudy	27/18	p.cloudy	28/20
Dallas	tshowers	33/26	tstorms	33/25
Denver	tstorms	25/13	tshowers	27/13
Los Angeles	p.cloudy	22/18	p.cloudy	22/17
Miami	tstorms	32/26	tshowers	32/26
Montego B	p.cloudy	34/26	p.cloudy	34/26
New York	tstorms	27/21	tstorms	27/21
Phoenix	p.cloudy	42/32	sunny	44/32
Washington	tstorms	31/22	tshowers	31/22

DID YOU KNOW...

• United Way invested in parenting and support programs to help over 1500 families increase their capacity to create healthy relationships and to build hope for their future.

• One in six children in Canada are considered at risk because they arrive at school less prepared and with lower literacy levels than their classmates.

• In times of need, 30-40 food helpers are provided per day to individuals and families in need.



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