

# Checkers anyone?

**KAREN MITCHELL**  
Minnedosa Tribune

On Thursday, July 28, Corinne Topham, along with Elie and Helgi Mailman, two of the members from the Minnedosa 4-H Teen Club, were at the beach to repaint and spruce up the checkerboard in order to have it ready for beach goers celebrating the long weekend. To finish off the project, the Minnedosa Men's Shed made the checkers.

The painting day was a spur of the moment decision for Topham, as it was initially discussed to complete the cleaning up and painting this last week. "Two weeks ago, the checkerboard was covered in silt and mud, and you could barely see anything," explained Topham. "Last night, I thought I would try to sweep some of that mud off so at least it could be useable for the long weekend. When I showed up to the beach, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was completed, cleared off and clean. The forecast looked lovely for today so I thought... let's just get it done with whoever can help!"

The project all came to light back in the summer of 2018 when the Minnedosa 4-H Teen Club was going on an exchange trip to Prince Edward Island (PEI) through 4-H Canada. One of the requirements of the trip was to do a community service project. The kids came up with the idea of creating a checkerboard down at the beach, so when the PEI kids came to Minnedosa, they all worked on it together. When the Minnedosa kids went to PEI, they in turn made kestrel houses for the conservation district.

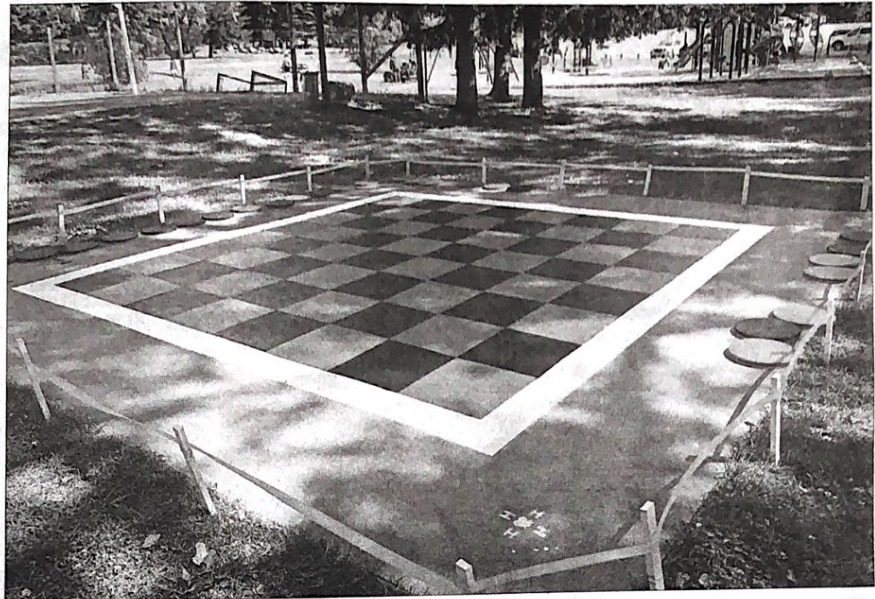
The group received a grant for \$551 from the Minnedosa and District Foundation in order to complete the repainting. In following up to receiving the funds, the group needs to fill out a grant impact statement, which will be completed by the five remaining teen members, to explain how this project impacts the community. Three of the five teens graduated high school in June, so this will be their last Teen Club project.

Moving forward the checkerboard project will continue to be looked after by the Teen Club with the help from the Minnedosa Multi-Purpose club as well. "It is so important and good for the kids to give back to their community," tells Topham.

Corinne has been the head leader of the Teen Club for 15 years, and this will also be

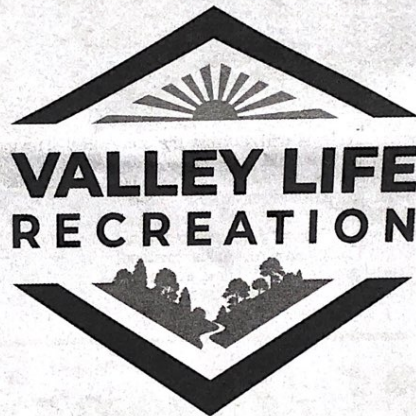
her last project of the group, deciding with the graduation of her youngest child, Cole, to hang up her hat and hand over the reins. Stepping into the role will be Laci Mailman, who also is the head leader of the Multi-Purpose Club.

A project, that not only provides insight into being part of your community for these teenagers but is also something that improves the landscape at the Minnedosa beach and is yet another draw to the beach area. Hats off to this dedicated group and all the best to Corinne who is turning the page in her volunteerism chapter. Great work to all involved.



The giant checkerboard at Minnedosa Beach received some tender loving care thanks to Elie and Helgi Mailman, two of the members from the Minnedosa 4-H Teen Club, along with help from the Minnedosa Men's Shed

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