

# Walker receives 4-H scholarship

Oakbank resident Victoria Walker has been named an inaugural recipient of the McDonald's Canada Future of Agriculture 4-H Scholarship.

A Bachelor of Environmental Studies student at the University of Manitoba, Walker is one of eight national recipients and one of three Manitobans to be awarded \$5,000 bursary to support their goal of pursuing a future in the critical area of sustainable agriculture.

"Through the generosity of our longstanding partner, McDonald's Canada, \$80,000 in scholarship funding will be awarded to 4-H youth over the next two years," explained 4-H Canada CEO, Shannon Benner. "These funds will help ensure the next generation of leaders in sustainable agriculture have the opportunity to attain their educational and career goals."

Benner added McDonald's Canada is a leader in supporting sustainable production practices in the agriculture and agri-food sectors, which is an area that is incredibly important to today's youth.

"We are grateful to have them as partners in our shared goal of supporting the next generation of environmentally aware and globally-minded Canadian farmers," she said.

For over 100 years, 4-H Canada has been one of the most highly respected positive youth development organizations in Canada with over 17,000 members and more than 6,500 volunteer leaders. With the goal of helping young Canadians "learn to do by doing" in a safe, inclusive and fun environment, 4-H Canada is nurturing responsible, caring and contributing youth leaders who are committed to positively impacting their communities across Canada and around the world.

In 1967, Canada welcomed the first McDonald's restaurant to Richmond, British Columbia. Today, McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited has become part of the Canadian fabric, serving more than one million guests every day. In both franchised and corporate-owned restaurants, nearly

100,000 people are employed from coast to coast to coast, and more than 90 per cent of McDonald's 1,400 Canadian restaurants are locally owned and operated by independent franchisees. Of the almost \$1 billion spent on food, more than 85 per cent is purchased from suppliers in Canada.

"At McDonald's Canada we're committed to continuing to help support future generations of Canadian farmers. Investing in the education of youth is an investment in our future," said Ashwin Ramesh, Head of Sustainability and Impact Strategy at McDonald's Canada and Canadian 4-H Foundation Board member. "We're thrilled to support 4-H in transforming the aspirations of these remarkable recipients into a vibrant reality for the future of agriculture."

The McDonald's Canada Future of Agriculture 4-H Scholarship will be awarded again in 2024. For more information, visit [4-h-canada.ca/scholarships](http://4-h-canada.ca/scholarships)



*4-H Canada*  
Victoria Walker is one of eight national recipients to be awarded \$5,000 bursary to support her goal of pursuing a future in the area of sustainable agriculture.

# Springfield growth impacting Sunrise

By Tony Zerucha

While continued growth in Oakbank and Dugald is challenging the RM of Springfield to ensure the municipality has proper infrastructure, the Sunrise School Division needs accurate population forecasts to provide enough space for a growing student body.

Two new developments being planned for Dugald are cases in point. One, a 63-lot development, has been

approved. Another much larger one is in the planning stages. Rossol Developments' design for 117 acres on Dugald's western edge includes multi-unit residential options, 76 two-unit lots and 250 single units. A 14.6-acre section will house 116,000 square feet of commercial development.

Those 402 units plus multi-family homes will bring hundreds of people into the area. They include students attending École Dugald and

Springfield Collegiate.

Part of Rossol Developments' vice-president Adam Rossol's preparations was to meet with Sunrise, he said. They are aware of his plans. Rossol also spread the construction time line into five phases running through 2030. That gives the school division time to prepare.

"The proposed time line over the years of 2023-2030 will allow the school division to react to the enrolment growth at a manage-

able pace," said Sunrise secretary-treasurer Jody Thiessen.

Thiessen said the proposed development would have the greatest impact on schools in Oakbank and Dugald. Springfield Collegiate has 558 students, while École Dugald sits at 496. Bursting at the seams, Dugald is already using portable classrooms, with an additional one coming next fall due to enrolment growth.

"The portable arriving in

the fall of 2024 is not related to the proposed subdivision, but due to growing numbers already," Thiessen added. "The trend met the province's standards for granting the division a portable."

Should the new development be approved, it will add to enrolment, Thiessen said. Additional portable classrooms may be an option in the short term. She added Sunrise could also

request another addition to École Dugald or another school to be built in Oakbank or Dugald.

Springfield Collegiate has room for growth, Thiessen noted, but it's not limitless.

"If the communities of Dugald and Oakbank experience rapid growth, an option of a portable classroom or classrooms would be a consideration," Thiessen concluded.

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