

The Russell Inn Hotel & Conference Centre



April 2025



An Incredible Offer from our C-Centre

Our C-Centre is proud to showcase four of the top brand names in one building which in itself is amazing for a rural town. To add to that, we have decided to try something that we have never done before. This *Super Sunday* ad started running last week on our social pages. As you can see we are offering 4 incredible offers during our slowest time of the week - **Sundays from 7 - 9 pm**. Incredible gas discounts, 2 for 1 subs, 15% off of Canada's M & M Meat Market, 2 for 1 Timbits and top it off with an awesome free Tim's coffee. We ask you to spread the word and make this our 2 busiest hours of the week. If it goes well we may extend it right through the summer.

Welcome/Welcome Back

A warm welcome to our new/returning staff:

- Serhii Stronko - Tim Hortons
- Said El Ansary - Maintenance

Happy Birthday!



- April 3: Dana Hykaway
- April 10: Herbert Mercado
- April 17: Bob Auger
- April 19: Kathleen Bunyi
- April 25: Michelle Mutia
- April 28: Kenneth Jereos

Years Of Service Recognitions

- 2 Years: Andessa Noceda (Beer Store)
Cherwin Quiambao (Housekeeping)
- 8 Years: Michael Tanghal (Human Resources)
- 10 Years: Jun Mae Ogawa (Tim Hortons)
- 12 Years: Rosalie Mallari (Subway)
- 13 Years: Carolyn Deopante (Restaurant)
- 39 Years: Michael Stasiuk (Maintenance)



Jolly Lodger Renos Continue

In the past few weeks, Mike and Dennis have been working at the Jolly Lodger upgrading primarily bathrooms but the guestrooms as well. Here are some before and after pictures of rooms 112 and 114. The new shower tub and updated vanity area looks fantastic. They will continue to do a few rooms at a time while we wait for Spring to arrive.



Working Hard to Rebuild our Spring Break Week

When we first opened Asessippi, we focused annually on our Spring Break and by year 5 it was sold out almost like Christmas. Then after that, we had several years of warm weather where the conditions were degrading or we had to close early which broke the trust of the families planning their spring break vacation. This past year, as you know we upgraded our snowmaking significantly and that enabled us to make 50% more snow than ever before. This year for Spring Break (March 30 - April 5) our snow quantity and conditions have never been better so we decided to run these fabulous promotions. This incredible spring break offer will be offered every year for the next 5 years to get our Spring Break back to where we had it.

THE Russell Inn
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

AMAZING Asessippi

SPRING BREAK OFFER

FRIDAY, MARCH 28TH TO THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD

50% OFF Student (17 & Under) FULL DAY LIFT PASSES!

Book Now

1-800-665-0678

STAY TWO NIGHTS, GET THE THIRD FOR FREE! (PURCHASE YOUR 2 ADULT LIFT PASSES AT THE RUSSELL INN TO RECEIVE THIS OFFER OF 3RD NIGHT FREE)

FREE LARGE PIZZA WITH EVERY NIGHT BOOKED! (FREE ORDER OF NACHOS WITH A FOOD PURCHASE OF \$55 AT THE RUSSELL INN !!)

SPRING BREAK STUDENT PROMO

MARCH 30 - APRIL 6

SAVE 50% OFF ON (CHILD & JUNIOR) LIFT TICKETS

Available for purchase at Tickets Counter & Kiosk, or Online.

Westman eateries join Stone Soup cause

BY ABIOLA ODUTOLA

Five Westman restaurants are preparing soup creations to raise funds for school meal programs as the 2025 edition of the Stone Soup campaign kicked off Monday.

This year's event, running from March 17-23, will see the restaurants donating \$1 from each bowl of soup sold to the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, an organization dedicated to supporting meal and snack programs in schools.

The five restaurants are The Dock on Princess (1133 Princess Ave., Brandon), The Eagles Nest Bar and Grill (3500 McDonald Ave., Brandon), Lady of the Lake (135 17th St. North, Brandon), Maple Bay Cafe (507 Burrows Rd., McCreary), and Russell Inn Family Restaurant (1 Highway 16, Russell).

The Dock on Princess is set to host existing and new patrons this year, manager Erin Wells told the Sun on Monday.

"We are doing our chicken tortilla soup," she said in an interview. "It's a blend of fire-roasted tomatoes, onions, guajillo and ancho chiles with chicken and tortillas."

The soup was prepared by the restaurant's junior sous chef, Cynthia Fuentes.

"Wells said many people had already 'come in and asked about it,' expressing optimism about its success."

The restaurant has been participating in the Stone Soup campaign for "three or four years," Wells said, adding the first year was particularly strong.

"I was impressed with their marketing and the number of people that came in asking about it," she said. "The organizers are doing a good job with their campaign, like they get the word out about it and people will be calling us asking about it and asking what soup we have on, and that makes it so easy for us."

Stone Soup plays a critical role in ensuring students are well-nourished and ready to learn, which is the reason Russell Inn is participating for the second year, executive chef and food and beverage manager Wes Osborne said.

"If kids aren't eating or don't have full bellies, they're not going to learn very well," he said. "I requested from the management that funds raised through Russell Inn's Stone Soup initiative be directed specifically to their local school rather than the general provincial pool, and it was granted."

For this year's event, the Inn is serving beef and barley soup, a dish chosen to reflect the region's agricultural heritage.

"Where we are in Russell, Man., is the heart of beef and barley. Our town festival around Thanksgiving is called Beef and Barley Days, so it made sense to prepare a hearty bowl of beef and barley soup, made from scratch," Osborne told the Sun.

The soup features a rich beef stock, sautéed mirepoix (a combination of celery, onions and carrots), diced beef, barley and seasonings such as salt, pepper and thyme.

Soup sales began Monday, with expectations of strong community support.

"This is the first day we're offering it, and we've advertised on our social media. I'm hoping we can reach 100 sales throughout the week," Osborne said. "It will be available throughout the day, from our 11 a.m. lunch service until we close at 10 p.m."

Osborne described the Stone Soup organizers as "very good to work with," noting there were no major challenges in participating in the event.

"They reached out in mid-February, and I responded that we were in-



Justin Black, general manager of The Eagles Nest Bar & Grill, sits in the lounge with a bowl of potato and bacon soup. (Tim Smith/The Brandon Sun)



LEFT: Russell Inn executive chef and food and beverage manager Wes Osborne shows the beef and barley soup featured for the Stone Soup campaign, a dish chosen to reflect the area's agricultural heritage. MIDDLE: The Dock on Princess' junior sous chef, Cynthia Fuentes, poses with the chicken tortilla soup she made for this year's Stone Soup fundraiser. RIGHT: The Dock on Princess' chicken tortilla soup. (Submitted)

terested. They sent us posters, table cards and added us to their website. You can even vote for participating restaurants online," he said.

He underscored the importance of initiatives like Stone Soup in addressing food insecurity among students.

"Some families simply can't afford to provide breakfast, and this is one way to help," Osborne said. "It's very important that we support our young kids."

Beyond Stone Soup, Russell Inn has been actively contributing to student nutrition, Osborne explained. The business donates four dozen muffins each week to schools in the community, a commitment now in its third year.

"We recognize the importance of school food programs, and I lobbied

my owner to support this cause. He agreed, and we have been doing it ever since," Osborne said.

The Eagles Nest Bar & Grill is making its Stone Soup debut.

General manager Justin Black told the Sun the company decided to join after being contacted by the organizers.

"We have our potato bacon soup, made with bacon, potatoes, cream and chicken stock," he said. "Hopefully, it brings about 50-60 people in, and we can donate to a good cause."

Stone Soup, inspired by the classic folk tale, has grown significantly since its inception.

This year, the event features more than 40 participating restaurants — an increase from around 40 in previous years, CNCM registered dietician

Alyssa Lewis told the Sun.

"According to Lewis, the program has had a significant impact on school nutrition efforts.

"We currently support the majority of schools in Brandon and over 400 schools across Manitoba," she said. "Our dietitians provide support through one-on-one school visits, nutrition education and professional development."

"Despite its success, schools continue to face challenges.

"The top challenges that schools face in effectively implementing their school meal programs can include staffing, infrastructure and rising cost of food," Lewis said.

CNCM started in Manitoba in 2001 by supporting 10 school meal and snack programs. Fast forward to 2025,

Lewis explained it is now supporting more than 400 programs in every region of Manitoba.

"We work with the Province of Manitoba and many community donors and supporters to provide grants and nutrition support to ensure school programs have what they need to support students," Lewis added.

"Every dollar raised stays in Manitoba to support Manitoba students. We are always exploring ways to raise funds and support for programs."

In addition to soup sales, Stone Soup 2025 includes a raffle, featuring gift cards donated by participating restaurants. The final raffle draw is set for Friday at noon.

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The management and staff of The Russell Inn properties sincerely appreciate you taking the time to complete this form so we may better accommodate our guests.

Please check the location of your stay:
 Russell Inn Jolly Lodger Stone Haus Cedar House

Why do you choose us?
 Yellow Pages Newspaper Billboards Brochure
 Travel Agency Radio Tour Company Referral
 TV Advertisement Website Other (please specify) because it's our favorite

RESERVATIONS
 Were your reservations handled promptly and efficiently?
 Yes/No/Other: _____

GUEST SERVICES
 Did you receive friendly, efficient service from:
 Front Desk Receptionist: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Telephone Operator: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Dining Room Staff: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Lounge Staff: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Recreation Area Staff: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Convenience Store Staff: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Beer Store Staff: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

Comments: _____

GUEST ROOMS
 Did you find your room:
 Ready: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Clean: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comfortable: Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Was everything in proper working order? Yes No
 Are there other amenities that your guests suggest or require in your room?
more outlets and either a baby bottle

Comments: _____

BANQUET AND CONFERENCE ROOMS
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 How would you rate the food? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Are there other services or equipment that would enhance your conference or banquet?

Comments: _____

How would you rate our conference centre?

We Care

Please Share your Feedback
Thank You!

feedback
opinion
review
comments

RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
 Dining Room:
 How would you rate the food? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: It was excellent and we really enjoyed it
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: It was a while but it was really good
 Lounge:
 How would you rate the food? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: _____
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: _____
 Room Service:
 Was your order delivered: Promptly Yes No
 Completely Yes No
 How do you rate our overall hotel service and facilities?
 Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Recreation/Pool Area:
 What facilities or equipment did you use in the recreation area?

 Convenience Store:
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: _____
 Tim Hortons:
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: Just got some very fast
 Subway:
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: _____
 Beer Store:
 Was the service prompt and courteous? Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent
 Comments: _____
 Asessippi Ski Area & Resort:
 Rate your experience at Asessippi
 Comments: It was only first time and they took out overall it was fun
 Additional comments and your contact information can be included on the reverse side.

The 300 Wing was getting new shingles on March 5 as we enjoyed some beautiful spring-like weather. Unfortunately, it did not last so the crew will have to return in April.



2025 SLUSH CUP

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
STARTS @ 1:30 PM

— SNOWTIRE & BEER GARDENS —

Message From Daymon...

March has roared out like a lion and left us with a bunch more snow that is awesome for Asessippi. We are going to work very hard to focus on our Spring Break to extend our ski season by an additional week after Spring Break.

We are also going to be very aggressive at the C-Centre and I am excited to see how these new promotions play out.

Congratulations to Wes for participating in stone soup again this year. Check out the article here from the Brandon Sun.

Congratulations to Asessippi for being nominated for the second year in a row for the 2025 Large Business of the Year at the Manitoba Tourism Awards. We find out the winner on April 10. Best of luck!

Happy Easter to all ... DG