

May 2026



Keeping Our Foot on the Gas


We have said it for decades: if you want to get ahead you have to keep your foot on the gas. Even if it is just 1 or 2 miles per hour, you have to keep pushing ahead or you fall behind. This has been how we have made it over the last 55 years. Our year-end results prove it - we have had a great year in rooms and restaurant, Padcom moved forward, and Asessippi had a great year. How do we make it the next 40 years? We must stay relevant and look after our guests, because if we don't, someone else will. We are looking forward to some really positive planning in the remainder of 2026 and some major spending in 2027, which will go on for a couple of years. Happy New [fiscal] Year everyone!

Welcome/Welcome Back

A warm welcome to our new/returning staff:

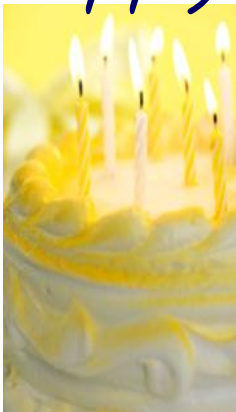
- Jamellee Dela Cruz - Restaurant
- Rebeka Bernhardt - Housekeeping
- Deshima Sayo - Tim Hortons

Years Of Service Recognitions

- 2 Years: Glenn Castro (Maintenance)
- Lezebel Conde (Subway)
- Randy Tanghal (Housekeeping)
- 10 Years: Jayson Bandola (Subway)
- 12 Years: Carlo Deopante (Kristie's Pub)
- 32 Years: Leanne Bily 

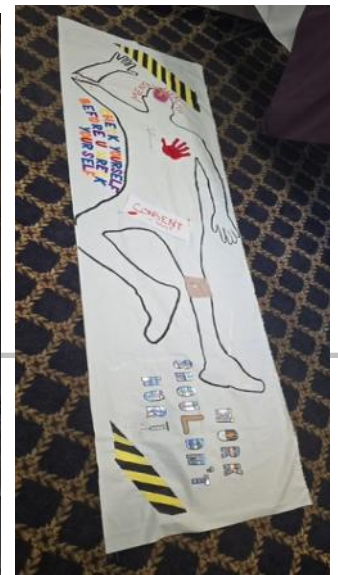


Happy Birthday!



- May 2: Ronald Matias
- May 6: Jessielyn Racadag
- May 16: May Reodique
- May 21: Ryan Ambion
- May 25: Jun Mae Ogawa
- Maria Bernadette Mendoza
- May 26: Melody Retotal
- May 27: Katrine Singleton
- May 30: Shellven Cayanan

Congratulations and Thank You!



Fun with CUPE and in the name of health and safety, Daymon is a good sport and helps out with one of the workshops © CUPE has been coming here for their week-long school for more than 25 years and it's wonderful to have them back.

Russell Inn Year End:

LOOKING BACK ON 2025: Happy New Year!

The Russell Inn's fiscal year end was April 25, making April 26 the start of a brand new year! So many things happen here that we don't give ourselves enough credit for. As we travel down memory lane, be proud of all that we have accomplished!

May 2025 - We start the year with gas prices at Gas prices are anywhere from \$1.15 - \$1.35 per litre as the Carbon tax "comes off" during the federal election campaign. The federal government does not compensate owners for carbon tax paid on gas in the ground which is \$8000 for us at the time, but we later claim back this loss in April 2026.



Tim Hortons proudly hosts its beloved Smile Cookie fundraiser. With strong support from the local community, the initiative raised an outstanding \$27,946.61 for the Russell & Area Early Learning Centres.

Culturama took place on May 9, 2025 with our Tim Hortons team members representing Canada. This year's program was enhanced with



additional dance and live performances, making the experience even more engaging for attendees.

June 2025 -

The Russell Inn recognizes 7 graduating student employees awarding **\$5100** in bursaries under the scholarship program.

Major Pratt School's graduation ceremony is held at the George P. Buleziuk Centre followed by a town-wide parade. After working closely with local authorities, a new



format is introduced, featuring all graduates together on a single flat deck trailer.

July 2025 - Steritech audits bring excellent results for both Subway and Tim Hortons. Subway earns an impressive 98%, while Tim Hortons achieves scores above 95% in all three evaluation categories for the first time.

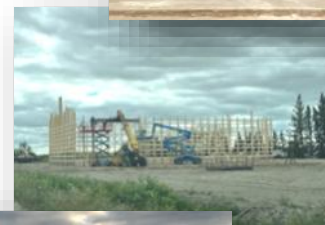


We celebrate Tim Hortons Camp day on July 16 with many youth enjoying the games and activities while raising funds for Tim Hortons Foundation Camps.

August 2025 - We upgrade our door lock system with Med Tech locks for the Russell Inn and Stone Haus, and introduce digital locks at the Jolly Lodger. This project replaces the first electronic locks from the early 2000s and brings modern, secure technology for both guests and staff.



September 2025 - Russell continues to develop into a strong regional centre through investment, new projects, and community effort evident by the various upgrade and construction projects throughout the community. The Municipality contracts Coco paving to fill in the deteriorating brick crosswalks on Main Street which is met with strong praise from local residents.

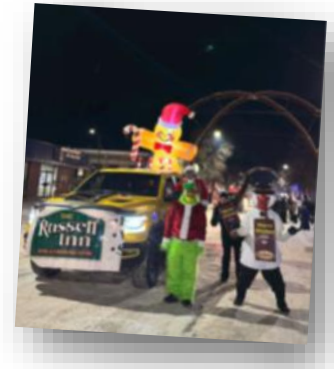


October 2025 - Beef and Barley's annual Welcome to Russell event is held at the George P. Buleziuk Centre and kicks off the annual festival. Attendance numbers were up (3 out of 8 tables were for the Russell Inn) with great reviews from the attendees.



Tim Hortons Holiday smile cookie campaign donates \$1356 to the school breakfast program.

December 2025 - They had great spirit! This year's Santa parade was a great success, even after being rescheduled due to extreme weather. The evening turned out to be beautiful, and the food and beverage team did a fantastic job participating in the event and were the talk of the parade!



Russell Beef and Barley's annual scarecrow contest once again brought fun and creativity to the community with their "Heroes and Villains" theme. The C-Store took home Best Business for its standout scarecrow trio, continuing the tradition after last year's win by the Inn.



Great snowfalls bring excellent ski conditions over Christmas break, with light, fluffy snow and favourable temperatures making for an ideal ski conditions. Asessippi saw especially strong numbers, with December 30 standing out as a record day both on the hill and here at the Inn in the restaurant and Kristie's.



Super Sunday returns but with some refinements (\$.20/litre discount instead of .10) that saw our pumps lined up at the C-Store on Sundays. After it's successful run in the spring, and then a pause for our

busy summer months, it proved to be a good kick start for the slower fall season.

November 2025 - our Subway continues to impress, earning top marks in Steritech audits and standing out as a leader among its peers. Through the Restaurant Scorecard system, our store ranks #1 in the region and an outstanding #3 nationally, out of nearly 2,900 locations.



At the annual regional meeting, our Subway also earns two major awards - #1 in Manitoba for top REV scores and Guest Experience with a top regional Google rating, later boosted to 4.5.



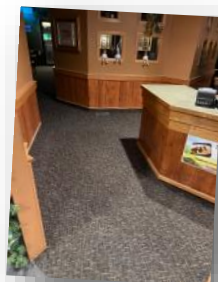
February 2026 - The Olympic gold-medal men's hockey final between Canada and the US brings the community together, with special early openings for licensed liquor service approved by the government to encourage fans to cheer on our team. Fans gathered to watch the big game in churches, and local venues joined in, including Kristie's Pub, which opened at 7 am, and quickly filled up with fans. While the result wasn't what we hoped for, it was a fun and historic event!



With ski season just around the corner, Asessippi gears up with exciting upgrades and preparations. New terrain park features are on the way, snowmaking systems have been expanded and improved, and staff training is underway.



The maintenance team installs new subflooring and carpet in the restaurant in preparation for ski season and it looks fabulous!



March 2026 - Asessippi holds with fantastic snow conditions right up until and even past closing day. We mark the best Spring Break that we have had in many, many years. Spring is very slow to arrive with continuing snow and cold temperatures.

April 2026 - Gas prices soar as Trump and Iran wage war over the Strait of Hormuz. Our current pump price is \$1.68 but city stations report \$1.80 with more increases to come. The federal government instates a tax discount of \$.10/litre (already included here) which is appreciated but seems to provide little effect.

Smile Cookie Week was underway again from the week of April 26 - May 2nd where our “cookie elves” were hard at work baking all night and decorating by day, along with the team of volunteers from surrounding daycare centres.



My MTI team and I spent an incredible day with Rural Municipality of Riding Mountain West Reeve Boryskavichand and council and Municipality of Russell Binscarth Mayor Snitynsky and council.

Lisa Naylor MLA for Wolseley 1h · 🌐

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Starting with a meeting, then several hours touring local infrastructure such as the Shellmouth Dam, Highways 45, 529, 482, 16 and 83 as well as looking at flooding challenges and mitigation in the region.

We wrapped up with an incredible meal at The Russell Inn Hotel & Conference Centre. Thank you to both teams for your hospitality, and desire to collaborate with our government and solve problems together.



Baby news

Gian and his wife Emelyn welcomed their second child, daughter Gianna in March. We were happy to meet her and get in some baby cuddles!



Message From Daymon...

Thank you everyone for your hard work in the past year. It is appreciated and does NOT go unnoticed. I may not say it enough, but it does not go unnoticed.

Ski season, hockey season and prime potash season are only 5 months away... ©

DG