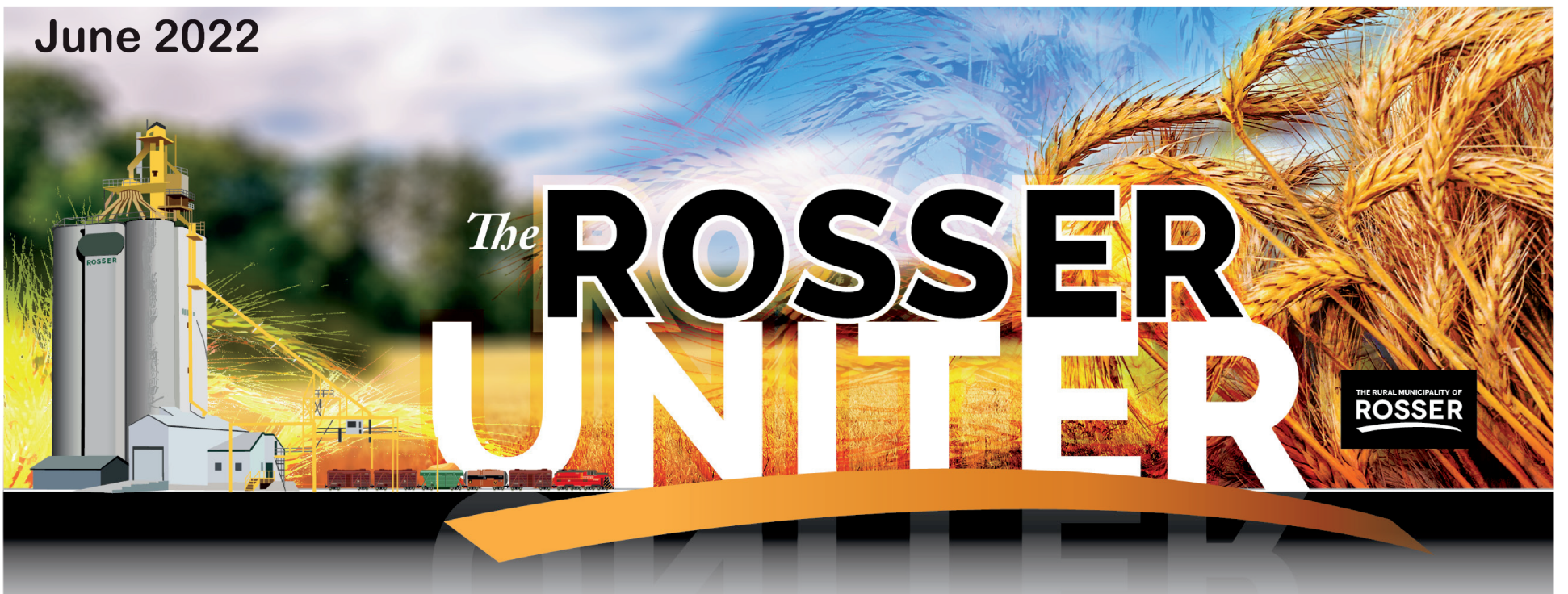


June 2022



## Newsletter ushers in new era of communication

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the RM of Rosser Newsletter – The Uniter.

Your elected representatives have taken the bold step of putting together what we believe to be the very first newsletter ever produced by the RM.

We're excited to be connecting with our residents with this newsletter and will use it as a forum to keep you up to date on what's happening in the municipality. We hope you'll reach out to us with ideas of what you'd like to see on these pages as well.

Why a newsletter? Well, the RM occupies 441.74 square kilometres, and our population of 1,270 people is fanned out across the land. There's plenty of things happening in our municipality and sharing information with residents is important.

For Reeve Frances Smee, the newsletter provides an opportunity to share facts with residents. COVID-19 closed the world down and made meeting in person a non-starter.

Pandemic or not, council meetings in any municipality have been known to draw smaller and smaller crowds over the years, so often times the business of the municipality lives within council chambers.

While there's an old adage that 'no news is good news,' sometimes a lack of information sharing can lead to rumours that, like wildfire, tend to spread.

"It is incumbent upon us to let the community know what we're doing, and then they can decide whether they like it, appreciate it, or want changes," Smee said.

The RM, as many will know, is home to CentrePort, North America's largest inland port with 22,000 acres of industrial land that is accessible by truck, rail and air. More than 50% of the CentrePort lands are located in Rosser. In the coming months, we'll look at what's happening in CentrePort and delve into the unique opportunities and significant benefits it has brought to the RM and its residents.

Getting the facts out into the community is just one function we hope the newsletter



Your Rosser council members want this newsletter to be another way to engage with the community. Back row, left to right, Coun. Kelvin Stewart, CAO Larry Wandowich and Coun. Ken Mulligan. Front row, Coun. Lee Garfinkel, Reeve Frances Smee and Coun. Angela Emms.

will have.

The municipality, established in 1893, has a rich history that's rooted in agriculture and our farmers – from dairy to grain and all things in between – are among the best.

They take pride in their work, and we celebrate their successes.

The RM has numerous century farms and more than a few farmers have taken a seat in council chambers over the years.

Grain elevators dot our prairie skyline, several seed cleaning plants call our municipality home and if you need a tractor you can purchase it from one of the equipment dealers located in Rosser along the Perimeter Highway.

We intend to showcase Rosser's agricultural past,

present and future in the newsletter and we'd love to shine a light on the people who have made their living working the land in the municipality.

The communities of Rosser, Grosse Isle, Marquette, Meadows, Gordon, Lilyfield and Little Mountain each have their own character and identity and the people who call them home will be represented here.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any community and we'll aim to provide space for organizations doing good work and looking to connect with other likeminded individuals.

When people choose a location to call home, they want their home to be a place where they fit in, where they find a kinship with their neighbours and their family can thrive.

Often these relationships are forged around recreation.

The RM has several recreation halls, sporting fields and curling rinks and volunteer boards that run them. Riley Morningstar is our new recreation facilitator with the Rosser Woodlands Rec Commission. Through these pages we'll share information and stories on the activities and recreation opportunities in our community.

We'll begin as we started – with a welcome to all of you to this first ever Rosser newsletter. It's a historic moment for the municipality and we hope you'll join us on this journey. Let's celebrate the RM of Rosser, its unique place in this world and its wonderful people!

# Meet your Reeve and members of Council

Residents of the RM of Rosser are represented by a reeve and four members of council.

The RM has four wards and one councillor is elected from each ward. At election time, any resident or property owner can run for municipal council and they can run in a ward of their choosing. You do not have to live in the ward that you run in.

Once elected, councillors represent and work for the entire community, not just the ward in which they were elected.

Residents are welcome to contact any member of council with questions or concerns.

We invite you to learn a little more about your reeve and council members.

## Reeve Frances Smee

I have been on council for 3 terms/almost 12 years.

As with so many municipal officers, I was asked to run by residents of the community.

Having no previous council experience, I questioned what I would have to offer but I was willing to do what I could.

I have met many wonderful people and have had the opportunity to learn so many things. It has truly opened up a whole new world for me and for that I will always be grateful. I'm also grateful for all the councillors and RM staff members I have had the privilege to work with over the years.

My great-grandparents and my grandfather came to Rosser in 1901 and purchased a farm based on the wonderful well-water they discovered when they asked for a drink. Apparently, it was the first thing my great-grandfather did whenever they went to look at a farm to purchase. Needless to say, they found what they were looking for here in Rosser.

When my grandfather married in 1914, they picked the house up, turned it 90 degrees and built an extension on. This is where I am so fortunate to live today with my partner, Archie Delorme. After my uncle, Ross Conquergood, passed away I purchased the farm and have been owner since 2003.

I became a very small-time beekeeper (2 hives) when I moved to the farm and found that fascinating. I like to make things from scratch and so enjoy pottery, baking, knitting, etc. I play the piano and drums and sing when the spirit moves me. Love to read. I've also had a valid motorcycle license since I was 16 and may one day surprise everyone by pulling up to the municipal office on a Harley. You never know.

## Ward 1 Ken Mulligan

This is my first term as Ward 1 councillor and I have enjoyed being a councillor for the last 31/2 years.

I farm a century-old family



grain farm with my son just outside the Town of Rosser, with hopes that someday my son and grandchildren will take over the operation.

I decided to become a councillor because I feel it is my responsibility to help direct the RM into the future as my family has lived in this RM for more than 100 years.

I find it very interesting being involved with the many businesses and residents we have in CentrePort and surrounding areas and helping to decide how we can work together beneficially.

I enjoy working with the agricultural community within the RM and supporting them in any way I can.

I am very pleased that we now have a new Rosser elevator, a new flour mill in the process of being built, a new pea processing plant and a new limestone quarry in the RM.

I can see in the future that new developments will continue, including new housing opportunities.

We are presently working on a drainage plan for the RM, for both the rural areas and CentrePort, which I am very involved in.

I can see the RM continuing to expand in many ways and hope we can encourage more young families to move into the RM, as well as making it possible for the aging population to stay in the RM for as long as they wish to do so.

It has been a pleasure working together with surrounding RMs and serving on committees and dealing with ongoing issues.

## Ward 2 Lee Garfinkel

I am the councillor for Ward 2 and I've served the municipality for 7 years. I will complete my second term in October.

I've always been tremendously interested in government and how governments operate. I grew up in between Grosse Isle and Rosser and

loved the way the people of these communities really support one another, whether through fall suppers or when families are facing a crisis and need neighbours to be there for them.

I have seen firsthand how rural communities are knit together by care and mutual support. I wanted to support my community by giving back and making sure the municipality serves its people in the best possible way.

I have a wonderful husband who has recently retired from teaching. We have 3 children, all of whom have attended schools and activities in Rosser.

I currently work at the Grace Hospital as a social worker in the Emergency Department.

I have loved the different challenges council and the profession of social work have put before me. I hope to continue to serve my community going forward.

## Ward 3 Angela Emms

My name is Angela Emms and I have been the councillor for Ward 3 in the RM of Rosser since 2010. My parents moved to the community in 1981. My husband Michael (for 28+ years) and I were fortunate enough to purchase a home with 5 acres in the RM just after we were engaged. We have been so blessed to be able to bring up our 3 children, Rory, Sarah, and Randy, in this amazing community.

Until two years ago, I worked for my parent's family business, something I have done for as long as I can remember. My mom decided to retire, sold off her home & business and has moved in with us. I have now become a full-time caregiver which has been a big change in my life. While I was employed for 30+ years, I met a lot of wonderful people and assisted a lot of them in their building projects.

As a way to unwind from the stress of everyday life and that of a councillor, I always seem to resort back to my love of



baking. Despite the lack of gatherings over the last few years, meaning less of the bigger cakes and projects I was used to sharing, I still find some time to myself to whip up a batch of cookies or loaf of bread whenever I can.

Becoming an elected official, to be truthful, was not a personal desire of mine. I was busy being married, working, and raising my young family. It was the residents of the community that approached me, believing I would be the right representative for them. It was their encouragement that made me believe in myself, giving me the strength and courage to pull the paperwork to run as their elected official.

I have gained so much more than I believe I have given to the RM of Rosser throughout these 11+ years. I have had the opportunity to meet ratepayers I otherwise never would have, and have formed some of my closest friendships.

My knowledge continues to grow day by day, allowing me to make better decisions each time we are tasked to do so.

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The most difficult decisions are the ones that may be best for the RM, but not necessarily for individual residents and ratepayers. It is those decisions that will always be the most trying. To those who have continued to believe in me over the years, I thank you.

**Ward 4 Kelvin Stewart**

I have been the councillor for Ward 4 for 4 terms. The opportunity sort of fell into my lap. The seat came available and due to my interest in municipal politics and affairs, I decided to run for election. This awarded me the opportunity to serve my fellow constituents and help to improve Rosser overall.

I find it very satisfying to know that I'm helping Rosser to continue moving forward in the direction that is in the best interests of all constituents.

I've lived in Rosser all my life and have a great fondness for the community and its residents. My hobbies include: curling, golfing, hunting, and spending time with my family; especially my two grandsons. I also have an interest in history, in particular local history with an interest in preserving Rosser's fascinating history.



# RM part of newly created Redboine Watershed District

The RM of Rosser is part of the newly created Redboine Watershed District.

The Province of Manitoba announced two new districts recently, Redboine and the Pembina Valley Watershed District.

The RMs of St. Francois Xavier and Woodlands are also part of Redboine. Pembina Valley includes Emerson-Franklin, Rhineland, Montcalm and the Town of Altona and City of Winkler.

"The restructuring of the former Conservation Districts along watershed boundaries is an idea for which Rosser has advocated for the past several years," said Reeve Frances Smee.

"We have closely followed the process of re-alignment and are now very pleased to be joining the Redboine Watershed District."

Jeff Wharton, the Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks, announced the two new districts last month.

"Our government recognizes the importance of managing water on watershed boundaries. These efforts play a key role in building climate resiliency within the province, helping to protect water, soil and habitat," Wharton said.

"We are pleased to welcome new municipal partners to the Pembina Valley and Redboine Watershed Districts, resulting in increased watershed programming for producers and residents of the municipalities."

Rosser remains, as well, a member of the Netley Grassmere Watershed District, which covers the eastern border of the RM.

"We believe strongly in the work undertaken by the watershed districts including water retention, restoration of wetlands and other natural habitats, the protection of water, and climate resiliency," Smee said.

cy," Smee said.

"We look forward to partnering with our municipal neighbours through the Redboine Water District to protect and enhance our community now and into the future."

Gary Wasykowski, Board Chair of the Manitoba Association of Watersheds, welcomed the creation of two new entities.

"Manitoba Association of Watersheds is pleased to see the further expansion of the Watershed Districts Program and thanks the Province of Manitoba and the new partner municipalities for their support," Wasykowski said.

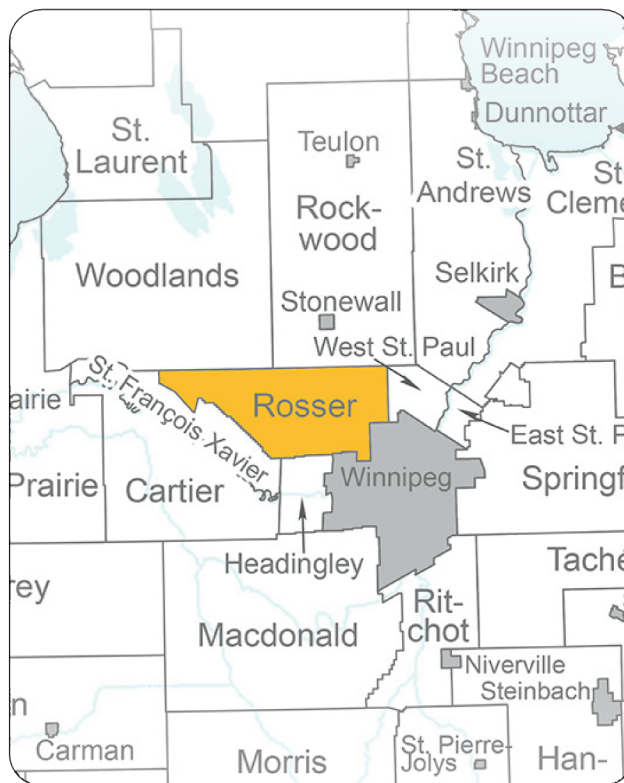
"The importance of Manitoba's 14 watershed districts has never been greater than it is now as we collectively seek to build climate resiliency within the province."

Watershed districts are established under the Watershed Districts Act and are formed as a voluntary partnership between the province and local municipalities to protect, restore and manage water resources on a watershed basis.

Watershed districts offer a wide range of programming to advance integrated watershed management plans and meet local priorities including water retention, erosion control, the restoration and enhancement of wetlands and other habitat and work with agricultural producers to protect Manitoba's water quality.

Since 2020, Manitoba has increased funding to the 14 watershed districts by \$560,000, to a total of \$5.873 million in 2021/22. In all, 111 of the 137 municipalities in Manitoba are part of the program, making significant incentive programming around water management available to residents of the partnering municipalities.

## Rosser at a glance



The Rural Municipality of Rosser was incorporated in 1893. It's located in the Winnipeg Metro Region and is bordered by the City of Winnipeg, and the RMs of St. Francis Xavier, Headingly, Woodlands, Rockwood and West St. Paul.

According to Statistics Canada's most recent survey numbers from 2021, Rosser has 1,270 residents, 424 occupied private dwellings and a population density per square kilometre of 2.9. The RM's total land area, in square kilometres, is 441.74.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF  
**ROSSER**

### You need to know

- ❑ The Public Hearing for the 2022 Budget was held prior to print deadline. We encourage everyone to visit our office or [www.rmofrosser.com](http://www.rmofrosser.com) for a copy of the presentation and to feel free to ask questions regarding the budget
- ❑ We want to hear from you! We will run a history story in upcoming issues of The Uniter; if you have an idea, let us know!
- ❑ You can receive emails, texts or phone calls from the RM of Rosser with important information like road closures, upcoming meeting dates and more. Sign up now at [www.rmofrosser.com](http://www.rmofrosser.com)
- ❑ The RM of Rosser Municipal Office is now fully open to the public. Masks are not mandatory, but we respect all individual's right to choose to wear or not to wear.

**Trivia time**  
At Park Royale, who was the Red Cross Swimming instructor?

Answer: Mrs. Lane

# Recreation a good fit for RWRC facilitator



Morningstar with her dog, Torino, during one of their outdoor adventures.

Riley Morningstar may have just landed her dream job.

She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2019 with her Bachelor of Commerce – with a double major in Leadership and Marketing – and began her working career.

She started as the Recreation Facilitator for the Rosser Woodlands Recreation Commission in January of this year.

“I have worked in marketing and event planning for several years in both the private and municipal world,” Morningstar said.

“This is my first introduction to recreation and I love it!”

She grew up outside of Douglas, in Manitoba’s southwest, and knows a thing or two about rural living.

“I think that recreation is so important and access to programs in small communities is often

hard to come by,” she said.

“I grew up on an acreage and understand what it is like to always have to drive 20-45 minutes to attend programming or events.”

She says she’s enjoying her job and hearing from people in the community and working with them.

“I’m hoping to create programs that benefit the community and work with groups that already work hard to serve their communities,” she said.

“We are always looking for feedback so I encourage people to reach out to me with their thoughts and ideas for recreation.”

Morningstar bought a home in the area and she’s been busy with work as well as meeting new friends and neighbours.

She likes to sew, bake and read and is a big fan of the outdoors.

“I walk outside almost every day, no matter the season,” she said.

“I love to bike and hike in the summer, as well as spending time at my parents’ cabin.”

Morningstar would love to hear from you, so please take the recreation survey on the RWRC website: [rosserwoodlandsrec.com](http://rosserwoodlandsrec.com)

You can reach her via email at [rwrc@rosserwoodlandsrec.com](mailto:rwrc@rosserwoodlandsrec.com)

The RWRC was established in 2010 to promote and address recreational activity in the RMs of Rosser and Woodlands.

Through collaboration the to the two RMs, the Interlake School Division and the West Interlake Trading Company, the RWRC seeks to support and develop existing recreation and community clubs in the area, while constantly monitoring and evaluating the need for innovative and entertaining recreational programming.

There are 5 main community groups/recreation facilities in the RM of Rosser including:

Rosser Central Community Club - Jessica Beachell [rosser.rec@gmail.com](mailto:rosser.rec@gmail.com)

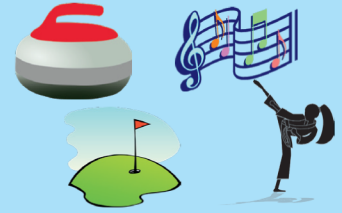
Grosse Isle Heritage Site - Donna Ridgeway [dgridgeway@gmail.com](mailto:dgridgeway@gmail.com)

Grosse Isle Memorial Park Recreation Club - Susan Lindsay [slindsay@hotmail.com](mailto:slindsay@hotmail.com)

Marquette Curling Club - Darren MacMillan [dwmac1@xplornet.com](mailto:dwmac1@xplornet.com)

Meadows Community Club - Bryan Hoas [bhoas@icloud.com](mailto:bhoas@icloud.com)

## Rec Round Up



**Rosser Central Community Club/Winnipeg Kinsmen Kin Kar 2022 - RCCC has partnered with the Kinsmen and will receive 50% of the proceeds from tickets the club sells. Money will go towards gym flooring. Grand prize - 2023 Ford Maverick Lariat AWD Supercrew. For tickets email [rosser.rec@gmail.com](mailto:rosser.rec@gmail.com) Draw date - June 27 at 11:30am.**

**Mixed Martial Arts Classes - ages 6 to adult, Sundays at 1pm at RCCC. Monthly memberships available. Contact Nelson at 204-291-4476 to register.**

**Rosser Gymnastics Summer Camp July 18-22, 2022, 9am - 5pm daily. \$200 Register on the Rosser Gymnastics Facebook page. Limited space available.**

**Yoga with Jen - Mondays at 8pm, upstairs at RCCC. Contact Lindsey at 204-228-8299 to register or for drop-in information.**

**RRCC open gym Fridays - 7pm - 10pm.**



present:

## JUMP INTO JUNE 2022

WHAT'S HAPPENING!	MONDAY, JUNE 6TH	TUESDAY, JUNE 7TH	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH
Celebrate your community and get active! Jump into June allows you to try FREE recreational activities.  Please check our website for all program updates. To register scan the code or call 204-461-4040!	<b>Walking Group</b> in Grosse Isle @ 10 am  <b>Bootcamp</b> in Warren Park @ 6 pm  <b>Yoga</b> at Rosser Central Community Club @ 8:30pm	<b>Walking Group</b> in Lake Francis @ 12 pm  <b>Pickle Ball</b> at Woodlands Gym @ 6-8 pm	<b>Ping Pong</b> at Grosse Isle Hall @ 1-3 pm  <b>Fit Kids Healthy Kids</b> at Warren Elementary Gym @ 6-7pm  <b>Gymnastics</b> in Rosser @ 6-8:15pm (Variety of Age Groups)
	THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH	FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH	SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH
<b>Walking Group</b> in Woodlands @ 12 pm  <b>Barre Class</b> in Grosse Isle @ 6:30pm	<b>Walking Group</b> in Warren @ 12pm	<b>Resistance Training &amp; Cardio</b> in Grosse Isle @ 9am  <b>SIRC Raise the Heat Social</b> @ 7pm in Warren Tickets (\$15) email <a href="mailto:sircsocial22@gmail.com">sircsocial22@gmail.com</a> to purchase.	<b>SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH</b>  <b>Mixed Martial Arts</b> in Rosser @ 2:30 pm  <b>Nature Hike</b> down the Interlake Pioneer Trail @ 9am (~2 km)

Download the ParticipACTION app, from Google play or the App Store. Then track your activity for the month of June! For a chance for our Community to win \$100,000! To learn more google "Community Better Challenge"

Plus keep the fun going all month long. Track your activity and try our weekly challenges to win fun prizes! Follow along on Facebook at Rosser Woodlands (Recreation Commission) and Instagram @rosserwoodlands\_recreation