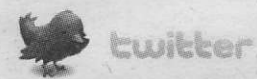


Follow us on Twitter:  
[twitter.com/KamThisWeek](https://twitter.com/KamThisWeek)



KAMLOOPS  
THIS WEEK

# UPFRONT



## It's Magic

By Jeremy Deutsch  
STAFF REPORTER  
[jeremy@kamloopssthisweek.com](mailto:jeremy@kamloopssthisweek.com)

A community can be bound together for many reasons, through success or sadness or simply a shared passion.

But, when one group in Kamloops meets up — it's magic.

A rainy and wet Sunday hasn't stopped two dozen serious gamers from getting together at All A-Board Games on Seymour Street for a tournament of Magic: The Gathering.

For the players of this fantasy-inspired game, this is their community.

The game, also commonly known as MTG, has millions of fans around the world, including a few rabid ones locally.

They gather several times a week to engage in battle.

They are players like Tyler Abar. He doesn't look all that different from the typical university student, sporting long hair and a touch of a scruffy beard.

But this whiz has got mana. Considered the only Magic pro in

Kamloops, Abar won a 350-person MTG tournament in Seattle last fall, which earned him entry into a pro tournament in Austin, Tex.

For those who don't know, MTG is essentially a collectible card game in which players battle each other using characters illustrated on individual "magic" cards.

Abar was attracted to the game a decade ago because of its combination of skill and strategy.

"It's just a lot of fun," he said. "We're all friends. We all know each other."

While some might categorize these players as geeks or nerds, they'll tell you otherwise.

The group assembled for this particular tournament spans generations and backgrounds.

Then there's Katrina Lowe.

The 27-year-old student was only recently introduced to MTG — now she's hooked.

"It's like a super-extra complicated board

**Curtis Parsons keeps his cards close to his chest during a Magic: The Gathering tournament at All A-Board Games in Kamloops.** *Jeremy Deutsch/KTW*

game," she said.

Lowe, who described herself as "super-competitive," isn't always the only female presence at local MTG events, but she is one of the few.

While she admits her gender is always on her mind, she appears to have fit in seamlessly with local gamers.

Watching over the entire proceedings is Derek Johnson, the owner of the game shop.

"It [MTG] creates friends and social interaction out of nothing," he said.

Johnson's aim was to create an environment where anybody who wants to play can just drop in — free of harassment or trouble — any time.

As for the pro, Abar had a bad Sunday and didn't win.

But he, and the rest of the group, will gather this weekend to do it all over again.

## LIFE IN THE LOOPS

## City rare

By Jeremy  
STAFF RE  
[jeremy@kamloop](mailto:jeremy@kamloop)

He was a kind gem" w long legacy v nity service.

That's ho Milobar is b remembered and colleague Kamloops.

Milobar, Kamloops M Milobar, pas on Tuesday Royal Inland

He was 7

Coun. Pa colleague of city council 1980s, called cian a "hard noting he ha dous ability all sides of a come up wit response.

She said well though patients and tors.

"There's word I coul quately des good, kind.



Tony Milobar