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PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

A small army of volunteers armed with 1,000 cupcakes was sent out into the community to kick off Pay It Forward May last Friday. They dropped off the tasty treats at over 100 businesses in Winkler and Morden, hopefully starting off a chain reaction of giving.

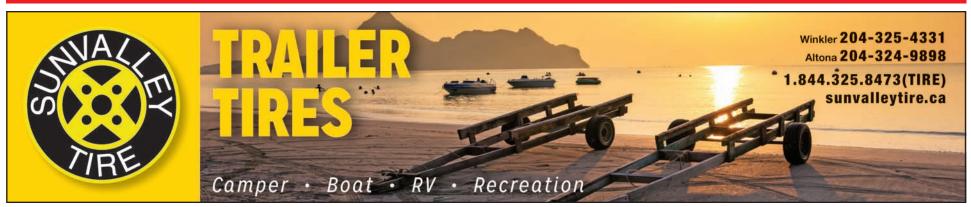
By Ashleigh Viveiros

Dozens of volunteers armed with 1,000 cupcakes from Winkler Co-op hit the streets in Winkler and Morden last Friday morning to kick off this year's Pay It Forward May campaign. The tasty treats found their way to over 100 businesses in the two communities, hopefully starting a chain reaction of giving.

"It really is inspiring when you make that delivery and you see the response on people's faces," said Myra Peters, executive director of the Winkler Community Foundation, which is spearheading the Pay It Forward initiative alongside the Morden Area Foundation.

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<u>TWO30NINE</u>

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Mayor reflects on success of 2016, looks to future

By Peter Cantelon

Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe delivered the state of the city address last week to a full house at the Morden & District Chamber of Commerce AGM.

While the tone of the speech was one of looking ahead, Wiebe also spent some time reflecting on the city's accomplishments in 2016, including the huge success of the new three stream waste/compost/recycling program.

"We have seen a 45 percent reduction in waste to landfill," he said. "The residents of Morden have definitely embraced the new system."

Other 2016 initiatives noted included the new GIS mapping of the city's tree inventory, increased focus on marketing Morden as a tourism destination, and the installation of the new Hwy. 3 entrance sign and mosasaur monument, to name just a few.

Looking ahead to 2017, Wiebe took time to talk about some of the projects that will begin sometime in the next 12 months, including:

· Adding to the ever growing inventory of walkways and paths.

• Upgrades to the Lake Minnewasta facilities.

• The addition of a columbarium for cremated remains at the Hillside Cemetery.

• Reducing lagoon odour.

• The construction of a new controlled intersection adjacent to Boston Pizza.

• The grand opening of the new Tabor Home facility in late spring.

Additionally, Wiebe said there are



PHOTO BY PETER **CANTELON/VOICE** Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe said 2016 was a banner year and 2017 is on track to be even better.

plans in the works to expand the popular BSI Skate Park at the corner of 1st Street and Wardrop in the near future.

He also noted that drivers and residents of 1st St. north of Thornview will be relieved to learn the city has budgeted for a two-year, \$1 million reconstruction of the worn road. Construction is set to begin this year.

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Winklerites speak up on Muslim prayer space

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Plans to correct a simple zoning oversight brought residents out in droves to the April 25 Winkler city council meeting.

On the docket was a conditional use application from the local Muslim community, who have been using a downtown commercial building as their weekly prayer space.

It was only recently brought to their attention that they needed a conditional use to have a non-home based religious assembly in the commercially zoned building, explained Zahid Zehri, a member of the Manitoba Islamic Association's Pembina Valley committee.

"The prayers area has already been here for one and a half years," he said, further explaining that the space which is tucked into an office building on Mountain Avenue—is not technically considered a full mosque, which requires a facility that is specifically built for that purpose. He also noted there is no external call to prayer at the site.

"All the community was invited to the open house [but] I think maybe some were not aware we have this place," Zehri said. Zahid Zehri, a member of the local Islamic committee, spoke before a packed house at

Winkler city council last week.

> PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/ VOICE

Once the zoning issue was brought to the committee's attention, they immediately took the steps needed to resolve the matter.

"We want to comply with the bylaws of the city because that's, as a Muslim, we want to make sure that we are complying with the law of the land," Zehri said. "That's a very important thing for us."

These kind of conditional uses are par for the course for any religious organization looking to meet in buildings zoned for other purposes, said



Mayor Martin Harder.

"This is not a unique application. Every church that is in Winkler has had to have a conditional use," he said. "If it is not zoned in an appropriate location then it is requiring a conditional use."

Despite the routine nature of the application, news of the hearing generated a great deal of discussion amongst Winklerites on social media when the announcement was posted on the "Wolfgang Schaefer for Mayor of Winkler" Facebook page (the page, created for the 2014 mayoral candidate, has since been removed).

The resulting comments—some taking issue with various aspects of the Islamic faith, others pointing out that freedom of religion is a constitution-

Continued on page 5





Morden Chamber celebrates continued growth



At the Morden chamber AGM last week, president Chad Sheldon shared some of the successes and challenges the organization faced over the past year. PHOTO **BY PETER** CANTE-LON/

By Peter Cantelon

It was a year of new member services as well as growth in both revenues and expenses-this was the message at the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting last Thursday at the Minnewasta Golf & Country Club.

It was an active year for the chamber, which saw it deliver eight different educational luncheons and workshops, its signature sixth annual Home and Life Show and its third Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas, the annual summer Farmers' Market, golf tournament, and numerous other popular events that all raise funds for the organization.

"In the midst of our three year strategic plan, and reaping the benefits of a year of experience with a new governance model, chamber activity focused primarily on maintaining momentum and following our road map towards specific and long-term goals within core areas of partnerships, member value, and advocacy," said outgoing president Chad Sheldon.

In terms of numbers, fundraising and special events raised slightly more than the previous year, clocking in at \$59,870 compared VOICE

to \$57,445 in 2015.

Membership revenue was up by nearly \$1,000 over 2015 to \$34,271, while other revenue remained relatively flat for an overall revenue total for 2016 of \$123,355-more than \$3,600 over 2015's totals.

Expenses grew as well, however, by nearly \$10,000 to \$138,855, eating into the chamber's cash position, which shrank to \$2,831 from 2015's \$8,656.

Despite this being the second year of expenses outpacing revenues Sheldon was confident in the position of the chamber going into 2017.

"The organization is healthy," he said. "It is meeting the goals that were set up for our members."

Sheldon noted that increased expenses were primarily due to unexpected operating expenditures, but that this year's budget is designed to bring things back in line.

"We continue to enjoy tremendous support of members and reiterate our commitment to support the business community," said Sheldon, who pointed to new efforts of the chamber such as its Business After Hours events, Member Spotlight, and the Lunch and Learn series as examples.

"Do something kind for someone else"

From Pg.1

"We wanted to spread that and inspire more people to pay it forward," Peters said. "Hopefully people will just do something kind for someone else-that's all we're asking."

The two foundations are encouraging area residents to take a moment to commit random acts of kindness over the next few weeks, asking for nothing in return except that the recipient pay it forward and do something nice for another person.

"I'm excited about the kindness, the spirit of kindness that this is going to foster in the community," said Avaline Widmer, MAF board president."I hope that we can keep the kindness going all year round."

This is the fourth year the two foundations have joined forces for this initiative, noted WCF president Chris Hildebrand.

"Working together to see these two communities working together is just a great thing," she said. "I think the longer the campaign runs the more uptake there is."

Past years have seen people paying it forward in countless ways.

"It can be something like taking a meal to somebody that's not feeling well, helping your neighbour clean up their yard," said Widmer.

"Asking somebody if they need their dog walked," added Hildebrand. "Or how about an hour or two break from the busyness of being a young mother? Things like that. There's different ways you can show kindness to people that cost nothing except maybe a bit of time."

Whether you're on the giving or the receiving end of a kind act, Pay It Forward organizers ask you to share it on social media using #PIF17 or by emailing myra@winklercommunityfoundation.com or info@mordenareafoundation.com.

"Take a picture of themselves and post it on our Facebook page ... so that we can really see the positive benefits of what is going on and inspire other people,"Widmer said.

"We don't want people to feel that it is tooting their own horn," added Hildebrand. "It's more to show that things can be done, small little things that can be done without money, and just to show love to people."

In addition to all the spontaneous acts of kindness that the campaign will hopefully inspire, there are also a few planned events coming up.

Every Friday this month in Winkler a local business will pay it forward with a free giveaway. Details of where and what will be given away will be released each week via social media.

Many other businesses are planning to hold giveaways and fundraisers of their own throughout the month, Peters noted, so follow the foundations on Facebook to stay up-to-date on what's happening week to week.

MAF to honour Ron Blum as Volunteer of the Year

The Morden Area Foundation is thanking Ron Blum for paying it forward all year long.

Blum has been named the city's Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, and he'll be honoured with a special celebration next Monday night. "What he is known for in our

community is he goes for walks

several times a day and he takes a garbage bag with him ... and if he sees some litter he picks it up," said MAF board president Avaline Widmer.

To honour Blum's unique way of giving back to his community, MAF board members and Gr. 5 students from ÉMMS will join him on one of

his walks on May 8, cleaning up the town as they go.

The walk will begin at 4:15 p.m. at the corners of South Railway Ave.. and Mountain and 1st streets and make its way to the MAF offices on Stephen St. for cake and coffee starting at 5 p.m.

Students get their day in court

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The community got a behind-thescenes peek at the Morden courthouse last week.

The Manitoba Bar Association hosted its second annual Law Day festivities there the morning of April 28, inviting the general public and local students to stop by and learn more about the Canadian legal system.

"We did this last year and it was such a blast," said Carli Owens, Crown attorney and district representative with the bar association. "Things went very well today and I'd like to make this an annual event."

Many people spend their lives never having to set foot in a courtroom, so this event gives them an opportunity to see exactly how the wheels of justice turn, Owens said.

"We don't get a lot of people from



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY LINDSEY JACOBS

Gr. 6 students from École Morden Middle School took part in the Law Day festivities at the Morden courthouse last Friday. The kids put on a mock trial for Peter Rabbit, who was accused of vegetable theft but acquitted of all charges.

the public coming in and watching court, but it's important for the public to understand really how their justice system works," she said. "That's why it's so great to bring that opportunity to the Gr. 6 class and then they can see on a simpler level how it works, how people are found guilty or not guilty, and sort of be proud, too, of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, because not every country has that."

The École Morden Middle School students there that day got hands-on in the festivities by presenting a mock trial in which Peter Rabbit was accused of stealing vegetables. He was acquitted of all charges.

"You can't win them all," Owen said, laughing, "but justice was definitely served."

Teacher Lindsey Jacobs said the experience was both

Council unanimously approves conditional use application

From Pg. 3

ally protected right in Canada—caught the attention of news media outside the community and sparked further debate.

"It went to the electronic media and the paper media that we are trying to establish or make a mosque here," Zehri said. "And that's why since this morning my pharmacy [has been contacted by] CTV, CBC, Winnipeg Free Press ... they came with the cameras and they took my interview. It was totally unexpected."

All this led to the packed full council chambers last Tuesday, where some residents came to show their support for their Muslim neighbours and others voiced concerns.

Mayor Harder opened the hearing by stressing the issue at hand was a matter of law whether the conditional use application met the requirements laid out by city bylaws—and not one of religion.

"We are not here to discuss our religious beliefs or make accusations against people that differ from us. That's not the purpose of this hearing," he said, further appealing for respectful dialogue from those wishing to speak. "We're not going to be sitting here listening to arguments about what faith is better or worse

than the other.

"We're here simply to allow people the freedom of worship, the same way we do absolutely everybody else in the City of Winkler."

The comments that followed ranged from those stressing the importance of diversity and acceptance in our community to concerns that Islam is a religion of violence and oppression.

As to the former comments, Zehri said it was heartening to see such support from so many people.

"I think that's the sign that this community is loving, caring, and very respectful," he said.

That said, some of the fears raised about radicalization and terrorism makes it clear to Zehri that more education and outreach is needed to assure people this newest faith group in Winkler seeks only to be of benefit to the community.

"People have a fear because they do not understand. If you understand a thing then you do not have a fear of it," he said. "That's why we have done two open houses in Winkler ... maybe we can do some [more], maybe in the evenings where we can get more people together. "My message to the whole community is to

come together, contact us. Our doors are open." The conditional use application was passed unanimously by city council. taken and used in trials and a question and answer period with Owens and members of the sheriff's department. The Voice Call 325-68888 What's Voiv story?

"It's invaluable. It's a priceless opportunity for them," he

"They're very involved in the community and every as-

pect of citizenship, so this is a great opportunity to exer-

cise that and learn about our system of government and

The morning's activities also included demonstrations

from Winkler police on how roadside breath samples are

fun and educational for the kids.

said."The kids love it.

our criminal justice system."



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Keep feeding the core t is sunny and warm and I am on the deck watching the cats explore the

front yard.

We have indoor cats who have developed a healthy fear of straying too far. They never leave the property and we never let them out of our sight because we do not want to become one of "those" people whom other people complain about because their cats invade their gardens.

As I sit here I am glowing with a level of contentment that comes from time to time in these circumstances. That rare, "all

AGRICULTURE REPORTER Harry Siemens

> accept such good circumstances without a great heaping spoonful of suspicion, I begin to ponder how easy it is to allow

our externals to convince us our internals are doing well.

I do not mean to suggest that there are not times when our core is not do-



ing as well as the façade. I only mean to suggest that it is easy to let sunny days, good food, and a healthy body and bank account become the foundation for our well-being.

Setional > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

It's at this point some of you might be saying, "Stop overthinking things and enjoy your sunny, warm porch" and you would be right, except that this would not be me. Overthinking is what I do.

When I talk about core things what do I mean? I mean things such as our mental and our relational health. Things that might be called intangible in comparison to the fringe things like warmth, money, looks, houses, cars, boats, etc.

All of these fringe things are neither good nor bad in and of themselves. They are neutral and depend on us to give them value. As such, they become poor materials to use as a foundation to build upon.

The fringe things are generally out of our control. Circumstances beyond us can intrude and take them away or erode them. If we choose to build our sense of well-being on them, like a house of cards, the whole thing can come tumbling down upon us with the first winds of interest rate increases, for example.

The intangible things—our sense of self-worth and well-being, of loving and being loved-these things are more within our control. They are more stable and thus better to build the foundation of our lives upon as long as they are not dependent upon the fringe things.

In order to ensure that our house is built on the core we must come to a place where we consider ourselves fortunate to have these fringe items but not dependent upon them.

That place where we can say, "I love you deeply because of who you are and who I am" and not,"We have this amazing house, car, boat, etc. and I love you."There is the difference ... it is a part of what makes us human, unlike my cats.

For my cats, their well-being is based upon the fringe. Tangible things. If I could read their minds it might sound a little like, "I love you because you feed me, you let me outside once in a while, you play with me, you clean up my poop and keep me warm". Stop doing any of these important externals with a cat and you'll need to sleep with one eye open.

Ultimately, our love and contentment starts from within and grows outward, not in reverse.

Time in hospital makes one grateful for support network

During the past five months I have spent more than six weeks in Boundary Trails and St. Boniface hospitals as an in-patient. In addition, there have been numerous tests and clinic visits both locally and in Winnipeg.

Several things have become clear: 1. We live by the grace of God each day. John Newton was right when he wrote the hymn Amazing Grace. Times of testing underline this truth again and again.

2. We are dependent on the circle(s) of support. This was underlined for me when my family was there (at times) 24/7 through my hospital stavs.

It was there in the medical support of Dr. Lane in Winkler and Dr. Toleva in Winnipeg.

At the same time, it included nurses, support staff, lab technicians, housekeeping, kitchen, maintenance, and ambulance staff.

There were too many to list each one by name. However, without exception each one I encountered in both hospitals was kind and thoughtful; not one grumpy or unpleasant. This was truly amazing and

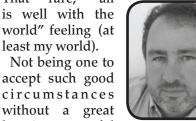
I am grateful for this.

This circle of support also included individuals from the church and from the community, fellow workers and former students. The visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, and prayers were each appreciated.

3. Boundary Trails is an exceptional healthcare facility. The equipment and the staff were first rate.

Thank-you to everyone who helped along in this journey.

> Bernie Loeppky, Winkler



By Peter Cantelon

least my world). Not being one to



Left: Keeley Sheppard performs "Opportunity" at the Morden Festival of the Arts Hi-Lites Concert Sunday. Right: Mason Frost and Vance Olson perform "Les Nuages." Far right: Amber Bezte won the Loreena McKennitt Award. Below: David Giesbrecht tackles "Boil 'em Cabbage Down."

> **PHOTOS BY** ASHLEIGH **VIVEIROS/VOICE**



Festival highlights

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Festival of the Arts wrapped up a hugely successful 42nd season with its Hi-Lites Concert Sunday afternoon.

In addition to serving as the festival's awards ceremony, the show also featured performances from the top youth performers from the previous weeks' piano, strings, vocal, speech arts, and sacred competitions, which saw 540 entries in all this year.

Taking home this year's prestigious Loreena McKennitt Award was pianist Amber Bezte.

The award is given annually to a festival participant judged to have reached a high level of excellence in their musical studies.

Bezte was lauded as an accomplished pianist, flutist, and vocalist, performing with numerous choirs, ensembles, and bands. Her love of the arts also includes dance; she is a member of the Selo Ukrainian Dancers, performing each year at Folkorama.

Though passionate about the arts and intending to continue honing her skills, Bezte plans to study science at university this fall.



Receiving piano awards for their performances at the festival were Joshua Hildebrand, Jayda Fransen, Bethany Wiebe, Liliya Navrotska, Micah Loewen, Heidi Giesbrecht, Sam Kroeker, Naomi Wiens, Amber Bezte, Thomas Kroeker, Daniel Kagan, Matthew Pahl, Madeline Meilun, and duet performers Amber Bezte and Ethan Bezte.

Taking home strings awards were Sam Kroeker, Beth Giesbrecht, Cecilia Sanders, Amy Lloyd, Maria Bergen, Mia Sawatsky, Aiden Losch, Micah Loewen, Thomas Kroeker, Kemper Hamm, Sam Bergen, Hannah Drudge, and Kemper and Trey Hamm (duet).

Vocal awards were presented to Katrina Banman, Haylee Henderson, Emma Long, Sage Penner, and Daenah Miranda and Haylee Henderson (duet).

Speech arts winners included Maria Bergen, Bijan Salimi, Keelyn L'Heureux, Sage Penner, Corby Stemkoski, Sarah Kagan, Jaxon Forster, Kaylea Peters, Keeley Sheppard, Kristin Smart, Ian Fehrmoore, Max Dell, and duets Mason Frost and Vance Olson, Rhett Perrin and Dylan Stemkoski, and Mel Stoesz-Gouthro and Cambrie Martens.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Finally, sacred music awards went to Sage Penner, Joel Geake, Valentina Knox, Jessica and Sarah Kagan, and Jeremy Schulz, Nolan Losch, and Enrico Holland.

A number of Morden area students also received recommendations from the adjudicators to compete at the Provincial Music & Arts Festival in Winnipeg later this month.

The festival board sends their thanks out to the many volunteers and sponsors who made this year's event such a success.

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Morden Collegiate cuts ribbon on piping trades program

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Western School Division cut the ribbon—or, more fittingly, the pipe on its new piping trades program last week.

Located in the city's incubator mall on Cochlan Dr., the program is currently teaching a dozen students everything they need to find work in the field after high school.

"For all of you, this program provides you with the opportunity to learn many skills that are transferable," said Red River Technical Vocational Area director Brenda Giesbrecht in addressing the students gathered for the grand opening ceremony.

"Not only do you learn about tasks that are performed in the piping trade, but you have the opportunity to explore what you enjoy doing, which could lead you into a variety of careers," she said.

"When we see students like yourselves proud of your accomplishments while soldering pipes, installing sinks, fixing leaky faucets, we see an education system that provides engagement and relevance," Giesbrecht continued. "We see students putting ownership into their learning while experiencing a trade."

Among the dignitaries on hand for the celebration was Education Minister Ian Wishart, who stressed the growing importance of vocational training programs such as this.

"Students today have more career options and choices than ever before," he said. "Providing the opportunity to them to gain knowledge and experience in skilled trades before graduating from high school can help make the choice a lot easier.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Instead of the traditional ribbon, students of the piping trades program in Morden cut a pipe to officially open their new facility in the city's industrial park.

"They can benefit from learning about the world of work and about the expectations of employers," Wishart added, noting that employers benefit from these programs as well by getting access to skilled local workers.

That point was echoed by WSD board chair and local manufacturer Brian Fransen in his remarks.

"One of the things that really excites me in manufacturing is I get to see the end product of people that come out of programs like this coming into my shop and working for me,"he said. "Students come out with skills that they need to supply us as employers, the manufacturers, with the skills that we need."

The program's students learn the ins and outs of building, repairing, and maintaining piping systems, fixtures, and appliances in all types of buildings. Those that maintain a high enough grade point average finish the program eligible for their Level 1 Apprenticeship in the plumbing trade.

It's a head start students like Travis Griffith are eager to take advantage of.

The Gr. 11 student from Emerson spends the better part of two hours on multiple school buses each morning to get from his home school in Dominion City to Morden.

It's time Griffith says is well spent. "I knew there was a lot of money in being a plumber," he said in reflecting on what drew him to the program.

While his future success is a big factor in his decision to tackle the program, he's also come to enjoy the hands-on nature of the courses.

"I like the shop, like the teachers. It's

pretty fun," he said.

Morden Collegiate principal Marianne Fenn pointed out that adding new vocational programs like this one serves to give kids more opportunities to find their path in life.

"Students find a place for themselves at our school, regardless of where that is. It might be academics, it might be in athletics, it might be in the arts, and it might be in vocational training," she said.

"Some of the students I've seen be successful at an extraordinary level here in this piping program are students who maybe would have struggled a little bit in school and who now look at me happily every time I walk in here and say what a great day they're having and how much they enjoy being in these classes."



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Travis Griffith, shown here with father Carl, travels several hours every day to take part in the new piping trades program in Morden.

Salem bake sale May 12

There will be some sweet goodies up for grabs at the Salem Home Ladies Auxiliary's spring tea and bake sale next week.

The auxiliary members are whipping up a bevy of homemade baking for the event, which runs from 1:15-3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12 at the 15th St. personal care home in Winkler.

Stop by to pick up some treats to take home or stick around to enjoy tea with your purchase, says auxiliary president Hilda Friesen.

New to the event this year is a silent auction table.

"We have had very generous gifts given to us," Friesen says, explaining

there will be several large gift baskets full of prizes. Raffle tickets are \$5 for an arm's length.

All the funds raised will go toward the purchase of a wheelchair accessible lawn swing for residents to enjoy.

The auxiliary has already set aside about \$4,000 for the project, but they need to raise another \$4,000 to purchase the unit.

This and other equipment purchases are why the auxiliary exists, Friesen says.

"We try to do what small projects we can to enhance the lives of the residents," she says.

Canadian Tire to expand

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler's Canadian Tire store is gearing up for a major expansion project.

The store received approval last week from city council for two variation requests that pave the way for it to expand the building out to the north and west.

This will be the largest expansion the store has undergone since it built the stand-alone facility in the Southland Mall retail development in 1998, says owner David Dunseath.

"Right now we're sitting at 24,700 square feet of retail space," he said. "We're going to be going to just over 41,000 square feet."

The plans also call for the store to rework its warehouse area, moving it to the northeast corner of the building.

The jump in size—adding over 16,500 sq. ft.—is long overdue, Dunseath said.

"Our sales since I bought the joint [11 years ago], they've almost doubled," he said. "Winkler, look at us, we're one of the fastest growing communities ... it's a great place to do business."

Dunseath further explained that Canadian Tire stores are categorized by the company by size—"A" being the largest and "F" the smallest.

Winkler is currently an "E" store,



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler's Canadian Tire is preparing to add over 16,000 square feet.

but its sales put it in the "C" bracket. This new expansion finally brings the store up to that category in retail space.

The extra room will allow the store

to carry a greater variety of products and have more items in stock.

Dunseath says work on the expansion will likely get underway early next year.

Winkler battling province for speed reductions

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler isn't giving up in its quest to get several speed reductions approved by the province.

At last week's council meeting, Mayor Martin Harder announced they have applied to the Manitoba Traffic Board to have the 70 km/hr stretch of 15th St. lowered to 50 km/hr.

"We have sports fields on either side and particularly in the summertime the place is just absolutely loaded with vehicles and loaded with people and there's absolutely no way we want any traffic going through there at 70 km/hr," he said. "It's just not safe."

The city had previously put up 50 km/hr signs on the street, but were told by the province to take them down.

Council is also looking to change the 50 km/hr limits on Southgate Dr., Stonegate Dr., and Orion Lane to 30 km/hr.

"Those are absolutely no-brainers," Harder said. "They're narrow streets, they're heavily populated, they're entry level homes so obviously you're going to have small kids, and there's just no reason for anybody to go 50." Just like 15th St., the city had low-

ered the limits on those roads on its own but was ordered to change them back.

Harder stressed that they are not going to give up on this.

"We want to ensure that hear us and that they understand we're not going to give up until it happens," he said.

This certainly isn't the first time Winkler has butted heads with the province on speed limits.

It took years and multiple requests to get the speed limit on Hwy. 14 dropped from 100 km/hr to 60 km/hr. The same thing played out when the city wanted to reduce the speed on PR 428 near the new high school.

"You know me ... and the history that I have with the highways department," Harder said. "I'm a fighter. We're not going to quit. We're going to get this thing done ... this will change.

NEW HOME FOR DOG PARK

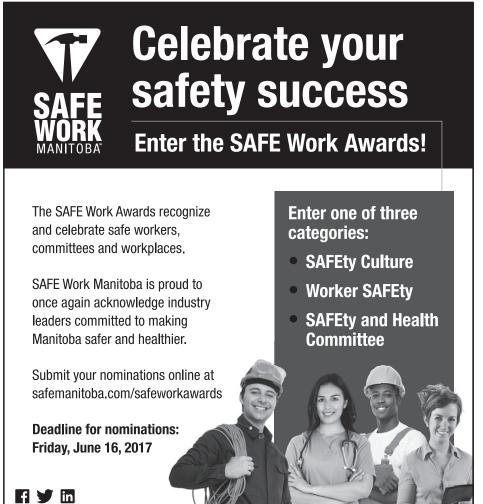
Also at last week's meeting, council officially approved the new location of the proposed Winkler Dog Park.



The park is now set to be located north of Hwy. 14 near the water treatment plant.

This is the third location proposed for this project in recent years, and while the first two spots didn't pan out, Harder is optimistic this is the one that will stick.

"It's behind the treatment facility but yet it's within walking distance," he said, noting the city owns the land but the dog park committee will spearhead fundraising for fencing, benches, and trees for shade.





"THE MOST

REWARDING

PEOPLE."

PART HAS BEEN

WORKING WITH

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Plum Coulee Community Foundation honoured two top citizens with awards last week.

At its annual meeting on April 27, the foundation hailed Jake Dueck as the 2017 Citizen of the Year.

Dueck has been an active commu-

nity member for many years, most recently being heavily involved in the development of the Prairie View Elevator Museum and volunteering at the local thrift store and senior centre.

It's his way of doing his part to make the community a better place, Dueck said.

"We retired and you have to find something

to do. You've got to keep busy ... and it's fun," he said, chuckling. "The most rewarding part has been working with people."

Being named citizen of the year is an honour he wasn't expecting.

"It's very humbling because anybody could have been chosen," Dueck said, noting the community is blessed to have many people willing to give back in a myriad of ways and it's only through those combined efforts that things get done. "Everyone knows that accomplishment are not done by one person only."

Sect NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

He hopes to see more young people get involved, taking up the torch from their predecessors.

"We're all getting on

in age, so I hope the younger generations do take over and keep it going," he said.

The foundation also paid tribute to the late Harold Schulz as a Community Builder of the Past.

Schulz spent nearly three decades working as a teacher and principal in Plum Coulee, in-

fluencing generations of young residents, many of whom came up at the ceremony to share fond memories of him.

He also served as the town's mayor for many years, spearheading numerous town improvement projects. "It is an honour for my family and



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Mary Schulz accepts the Community Builder of the Year award on behalf of her late husband Harold Schulz, a long-time educator and community leader in Plum Coulee.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE Dorothy Derksen presents Jake Dueck with the Citizen of the Year Award at the Plum Coulee Community's Foundation AGM last week.

myself to accept this award," said Mary Schulz as she received the plaque on her late husband's behalf.

"I think he would be honoured," she said. "He so enjoyed doing the things that he did. He had an interest in lots of things and he was quite energetic and [a lot of] gusto. When he started something he would try to fulfil it." Schulz said her husband threw him-

self into everything he did for a very simple reason:

"He loved Plum Coulee."

FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES GRANTS

The foundation also took some time last week to go over its financial picture and distribute its 2017 grants.

Board chair Heather Unger said 2016 was a solid year for the organization in terms of donations.

"We had a couple challenges, which kind of spurs you into that fund developing mode," she said of the fundraising challenges issued by Endow Manitoba and the Thomas Sill Foundation, which partially matched funds the local agency brought in.

The foundation's main endowment fund has grown steadily since it was established nine years ago, Unger noted. It currently sits at nearly \$346,000.

The foundation also has a grain elevator fund that is at just over \$126,000. Interest from that goes toward the upkeep of the town's heritage museum.

From the main endowment fund, this year's granting total ballooned to \$31,500 thanks in large part to \$20,000 in funding from the Canada 150 program.

That funding—which must be matched by recipients in fundraising—was split between the Plum Coulee Age Friendly Facility (\$15,000) to use toward programs when the facility is built and the Plum Fest for its school reunion this summer (\$5,000).

Other grants included \$400 for the community meal program, \$300 to Plum Coulee School for new badminton equipment, \$350 to Maple Manor for decor for its recently renovated kitchen/dining areas, \$500 to the Plum Coulee fire department for ground search and rescue equipment, \$1,000 to the Winkler and area Imagination Library, \$780 to the Plum Coulee School Parent Advisory Council toward the outdoor classroom project, \$700 to the Plum Coulee Local Urban District for town beautification, \$1,000 to Plum Fest, \$1,500 to the Prairie View Museum, \$500 to the town's Minor Sports Committee to improve the baseball fields, and \$4,728 to the Plum Coulee elevator maintenance fund.

The foundation also received \$3,500 from the Thomas Sill Foundation to establish a Youth in Philanthropy program at Plum Coulee School.

PVHS hosts hot dog fundraiser this Saturday

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Humane Society holds its annual Hotdog for Hot Dogs BBQ and Adoption Fair this Saturday. The annual fundraiser May 6 will again be held at the Giant Tiger parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

> "HAVING AN EVENT LIKE THIS HELPS PEOPLE TO SEE MORE WHAT THE DOGS ARE LIKE OUTSIDE OF THE SHELTER ..."

Volunteers will have some of the shelter's canine residents on hand to greet the public, and there will be lunches of hot dogs, chips, and a drink available for \$5.

There will also be a by-donation raffle containing all kinds of dog toys and treats as prizes.

PVHS public relations chairperson Megan Rodgers notes it is a good time for them to not only be raising funds but awareness as well.

"Spring is a busy time ... adoptions tend to pick-up at this time of year ... this also means more dogs are coming through our doors," she says, pointing out that comes with increased costs to have animals spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and tattooed.

"We're hoping to raise \$500 to help offset some of these costs," she says,

adding it is a good way as well to introduce some of the dogs available for adoption.

"When dogs get visitors at the shelter, when they're in their kennels, they can be overexcited," Rodgers says. "Having an event like this helps people to see more what the dogs are like outside of the shelter environment, when they get to be out and just be a dog.

"We usually see one or two adoptions as a result of bringing the dogs out for this."

Pooches like Moose will be on

Humane Society's fundraising

barbecue at Giant Tiger May 6.

hand for the Pembina Valley

PVHS PHOTO

Morden police charge woman with assault, mischief

A few items of note from this week's Morden Police Service report:

• April 24: Morden Police received a report from a property owner that a disturbance had occurred at one of their properties the previous evening and asked police to assist with checking on the residence.

Officers learned that the tenant/victim had returned home in the early morning hours and found his ex-girlfriend causing damage to the residence.

Upon entering the residence, the victim was assaulted by the accused, causing minor injuries to his facial area.

Police were contacted because it was believed the accused might still be inside the residence causing damage.

Police attended to the home and located the accused hiding in the bathtub. They observed the residence to have extensive damage and the accused was placed under arrest.

She has been charged with break, enter and commit mischief, mischief to property over \$5,000, assault, and failing to comply with conditions to not contact or attend to the victim's residence.

The accused was already on charge by both the Winnipeg Police Service and the Morden Police Service.

She was remanded into police custody and transported to the provincial women's jail for a future court appearance.

• April 25: A Morden resident nearly fell prey to an online computer repair scam.

The victim contacted police to explain they had been contacted through Facebook by a company offering to help fix their computer. The company identified themselves as Super Anti-Spyware and requested a payment of \$300 in gift cards to complete the work.

The victim was alerted to this being a scam before any money had been transferred.

• April 26: Police received a call from a City of Morden employee regarding a suspicious substance that was found on public property.

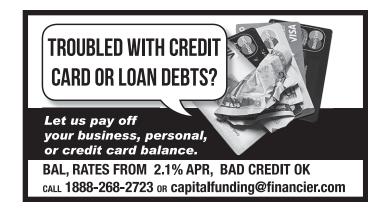
Officers attended and recovered a small package labeled "Exotic Extracts" which contained a substance known as shatter, a powerful cannabis extraction that can be purchased through the internet.

The package was seized and police continue to investigate the matter.

• In the last reporting period, the Morden Police Service advised the public of a vehicle that was reported stolen from the 300 block of 11th St. in Morden.

A subsequent investigation has revealed that the owner of the vehicle made a false report to police and the vehicle had not in fact been stolen.

As a result, police have arrested a 32-year-old female resident of Morden for public mischief. She was released on a Promise to Appear in Morden Provincial Court in June.



> STATE OF THE CITY, FROM PG. 2

Another big area of concern also set to see a little relief is in the realm of daycare, the mayor said. Morden has had provincial funding approved for 52 additional child care spaces in 2017 in the daycare being built in Boundary Trails Place.

Wiebe also laid out plans for the \$30 million regional wastewater treatment plant.

To put the number in perspective, the city's entire budget in 2017 is less than half that amount at \$15.7 million.



The mayor stressed that costs related to the plant is expected to be shared with the provincial and federal governments and other area municipalities.

Despite all these projects on the horizon, Wiebe pointed out that council was able to keep the mill rate unchanged between 2016 and 2017, holding the line on taxes.

"Our goal has been to continue to provide good services while managing costs in a prudent manner," he said.

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arts&culture

Morden gallery featuring work of Diana Persson



The work of Morden area artist Diana Persson, shown here with dog her Roxie, is on display at the Pembina Hills Arts Council this all month.

PHOTO BY LORNE STEL-MACH/ VOICE

mcna

Is your message getting through?

FACT#2: In 2016, 615 MILLION devices had ad-blockers installed by users to prevent ads from appearing while browsing online, an increase of 30% over 2015.



Meanwhile, ad-blocker use in newspapers remained flat at 0%.



A message from the members of the Provincial Community Newspapers Associations of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and AdWest.





By Lorne Stelmach

Art is obviously a passion for Diana Persson.

It has always been part of her life, but the Morden area artist says she doesn't make it happen.

"Sometimes I paint more ... sometimes I will paint less ... I will never force myself to paint everyday for instance," says the South African born and raised Persson, whose work is featured all this month at the Pembina Hills gallery.

"If I do have a break of a few months, I actually give myself that freedom ... I don't make plans for my art journey. I really just go with it."

Persson was trained as a nurse, though she now reflects that she "should probably have gone to art school ... but the opportunity wasn't there for me."

Being creative with things like drawing and painting was always part of her childhood and even once she started a family of her own.

"I always did some-

thing. I liked drawing ... I used to enjoy modeling with clay, so I think it was always the challenge to

create something lifelike," she says. "I did art in high school ... I've always loved it, but I never thought it was something I could just follow as a profession. It was always a hobby.

"I've always done art of some kind though ... whatever I was doing, you apply your creativity to that, whatever it may be," says Persson, whose family moved to Canada in 2000.

It was when her kids grew up and left home that she found herself with time to pursue art once again.

"That's when the watercolor journey started," Persson says."Art was always there in some form ... and watercolors was something I always wanted to try. Through the years I did, but it's quite a tough medium."

By studying the work of artists whom she admired, she developed her skills and quickly fell in love with it.

"The turning point was really having the time to focus on it because I don't like to be pulled in different directions," says Persson. "When I was at home with my empty nest, I was able to apply my attention to it."

She says something just really clicked for her with watercolours as she worked at it.

"You learn by just watching people and then you have to try it out yourself. And it's the experience that teaches you," she says.

There are a number of qualities of watercolours that she loves.

"It's that soft, lovely translucent look to it," she suggests.

"It's also, I think, the challenge of it. I'm never a person to try something easy ... because it's so challenging,

"IT'S LOTS OF

COLOURS AND

TEXTURES AND

FEATURES THAT

PERSONALITY

COME OUT."

the satisfaction of achieving it or succeeding is so much greater."

Persson also says she thrives on learning something new with each work.

At her home studio and gallery space, Persson is surrounded by a prairie landscape alongside a dry creek bed which she says offers in-

spiration in every season. She is inspired by all manner of beautiful things in the world around

her. "If you have a look at what I've painted, it's going to be things from my yard ... like flowers or birds," she says.

"The subject really is light. So whichever picture or object gives great light, that will be the subject."

More recently, she has been drawn to painting animals and does commissioned portraits. Some of those works will make up a good portion of her exhibition at the gallery this month.

"It's the challenge of painting a lifelike image, getting it to look realistic," she says, adding painting something for people that is meaningful to them is extremely satisfying. "And it's just lots of colours and textures and personality features that come out."

You can see Persson's work at the Morden gallery or learn more online at www.dianapersson.com.

Lakes & Pines releasing debut album this month

By Lorne Stelmach

Local group Lakes And Pines are taking the next step in their musical journey with the release of their first album.

The title *Peace Comes At Last* even seems appropriate not only for the subject matter of the 11 songs but also considering how much time and work went into completing the project.

"For some of the songs, it's been years we've been spent playing them before we ended up going to record them," notes Patrick Simoens.

"It literally took four years at least to get to the point where we are at now," agrees bandmate Derek Helps.

A lot goes into making an album, from creating the songs to all the steps of the recording process—not to mention paying for it all.

That aspect of it really fell into place last summer with the group's Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign, which surpassed its goal of \$7,000.

"We had saved some money already for recording and we needed some more to top it up," says Simoens.

"It really just took the money stress out of everything ... even though we still end up going over a little bit, we just didn't really have to worry about debt, which is huge," he notes, adding it also served as a great way to promote the album in advance.

"It was really cool that, using Indiegogo, we could pretty much do a pre-sale of the album ... give us the money ahead of time, we can use it to make it, and then give it to you after. It makes perfect sense, and it works." The album itself is a mixture of

songs both old and new. "There's some songs Derek and I were playing at coffeehouses back in 2012 ... then there's some that kind of only developed in the last year or two," explains Simoens.

Simoens says they feel the title, which comes from one of the songs, sums up the album's general theme.

"Each song is about getting over something ... just finding peace. Some of the songs are about death in the family, some are about finding a connection in nature ... struggling with many different things in life."

As for describing the music, that can be a tricky proposition.

"There's a lot of themes of nature and kind of the Manitoba surroundings lyrically. I think it's reflected in the music as well ... you can hear nature in it," says Helps, adding that he sees their music as being perhaps singer-songwriter based, but also much more diverse. "I think it's quite spacious ... and then adding strings to it adds a nice element to it."

They might use the terms alt-folk or indie-folk, but there is a bit of everything from classical to folk and even a hint of grunge, notes Simoens.

"We all kind of come from different musical backgrounds. We like a lot of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lakes and Pines celebrate the release of their first album, Peace Comes At Last, with a concert at the Kenmor May 13.

the same things, so that's why we are in a band together," he says. "But we also have our own preferences ... and that all comes together in what Lakes and Pines is all about.

"Some of our teen angst is still there ... and it comes out in our music too," he continues. "A friend of mine listened to the album recently and he was thinking it was going to be mellow ... he was just happy that the album also kind of rocks.

"It's not just a folk album. Hopefully there's a little bit for everyone on it." As for where they go from here, the band's journey remains open-ended, but they are very much building momentum and an audience.

"The album title kind of says it best ... peace comes at last. It's kind of like coming to a conclusion. We are finishing something, yet finding something," says Simoens.

"This is something we are doing because we love it. We're not doing it for the sake of becoming professional musicians necessarily."

The band will celebrate the official release of the album with a May 13 show at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden followed by a second show in Winnipeg a few nights later.



The Winkler Festival of the Arts wrapped up its season with the piano sessions last week.

Friday night's finale concert saw adjudicator Tanya Derksen (above photo, far left) present awards to (above) Jayden Wall (popular), Rachel Klassen (Gr. 3), Jakiya Friesen & Kylee Klassen (duet), Hailey Buhler (Sacred), Elias Mierau (Gr. 4), Bethany Penner (Gr. 2) and (at right) Kylee Klassen (studies), Angelina Enns (Gr. 6), Bethany Wiebe (Gr. 9), Samuel Klassen (Gr. 8), Evelyn Alles (Gr. 7), Naemi Schaefer (Gr. 10), and Noah Schaefer (G.r 5).

Earning scholarships were Jamie Reimer, Nicole Semke, Rachel Klassen, Clarissa Unger, Hailey Buhler, Kylee Klassen, Marcel Alles, Naemi Schaefer, and Michelle Baier. Noah Schaefer took home the Adjudicator's Choice Scholarship, while the Tina Wiebe Scholarship went to Hailey Buhler.

Winkler Festival of the Arts wraps up



My heart belongs

Give the gift of jewelry

Does your mother adore jewelry? Here are some suggestions to help you find the perfect gift.

Personalized jewelry

There's no better gift to mark the occasion than one with a sentimental touch; for example, a ring embedded with each child's birthstone, a bracelet with charms representing your mother's interests or a piece of jewelry engraved with a sweet note. No matter your choice, she'll certainly be moved!

Custom-made jewelry

Is there anything more touching than gifting your mother a piece of jewelry that's as unique as she is? Whether she's bohemian, romantic or eccentric in style, choose the shape, material, colour and size according to her personality and flair.

Symbolic jewelry

A heart-shaped necklace is an elegant way to express your deepest sentiments. With a variety of designs available to choose from, you'll surely find the perfect gem that suits both her style and your budget!

Tips for dads to plan the perfect Mother's Day

With mom's special day just around the corner, dads and partners can use these simple tips to prepare for a day she won't soon forget.

Bake while she sleeps. Think moms dream of breakfast in bed? Most moms really just want time to sleep in, roll out of bed, and take a luxurious hot shower or bath. Instead of waking her up with breakfast, let her do her thing while you keep the kids entertained by cooking with them in the kitchen. Bake a delicious treat she can enjoy for brunch whenever she's ready.

Remember — it's all about her. Just because it's Mother's Day doesn't mean she wants or needs to spend all day with the kids. Make a reservation at a nice restaurant for dinner and let her decide what she wants to do the rest of the time. Whether that's spending the day in bed with a book and wine, seeing a movie with friends, or going to the spa, let her know you'll hold down the fort while she's doing whatever she pleases. Bonus points if you do some laundry or fix that thing she's been asking you to for months.



GRENIER

cludes a free tour of the Pure Anada cosmetic lal at 3:30 p.m. (368 Stephen St.) You also have the opportunity to win some Pure Anada door prizes. Come enjoy a fun afternoon tasting strawberry shortcake,

strawberry punch and tea, plus meet new friends. Music provided. Tickets available at Pure Anada & Morden Church of God Ph. 204-822-5557 for details



Pre-schoolers donate art to Katie's Cottage

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A few pint-sized artists stopped by Katie's Cottage last week to brighten up the place with some new decor.

Forty-eight pre-schoolers involved with the Winkler God's Little Artists creative arts program visited the respite home Tuesday and Thursday to donate their hand-drawn art to be hung on the walls of the facility's eight bedroom suites.

"God's Little Artists is an educational creative arts program, Christian-based, and so what we want to do is promote community involvement, giving back, and doing what the Bible says to do is go out into the world," explains instructor Jennifer Krahn.

"We've been supporting missionaries in Mexico all year and now I wanted to pull it back in and support the local community," she says. "One way we can do that is by donating art, because the kids draw beautiful little pictures."

The children—aged three to six each drew something with a garden or spring theme. As such, the drawings are packed full of colorful flowers, butterflies, bees, and rainbows, and Krahn hopes they bring a smile to the faces of the guests at the home.

"We hope that everyone that sees them feels blessed, joyful, encouraged, and that they know that these are our future artists in the community," she says.

Krahn says the kids were very interested in learning a bit about what Katie's Cottage is and the role it plays

Students with the God's Little Artists pre-school program stopped by Katie's Cottage last week to donate handdrawn art to brighten up the respite home's

> PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VI-VEIROS/VOICE

walls.

in providing a space for families with loved ones receiving treatment at the nearby hospital to rest.

They were eager to do their part to help in that mission.

"A lot of them are going into kindergarten next year but some of them are as young as just turned three and they're already giving back to the community," Krahn says. "They feel like, 'We're helping people be happy, helping people smile.'"

Katie Cares' Ruth Reimer was certainly all smiles as she looked over the children's artwork.

"It is an awesome donation. It's something that is going to just brighten up this house," she says. "Just one more thing to brighten it up."

Katie Cares was founded by Re-

Join in for 12 Hours of Prayer

Morden's St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is joining the nationwide 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care this week.

As a lead-in to National Hospice Palliative Care Week May 7-13, the Catholic Women's League of Canada is spearheading the event to emphasize the sanctity of human life and the need for all Canadians to have greater accessibility to supportive and compassionate palliative care.

Local organizer Joanne Gonda invites all people of faith to join them in prayer on Thursday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Academy Dr. church.

"Each hour will start with some organized prayer and then we'll follow that with meditation and private prayer," she explains. A petition will also be available to sign requesting the Canadian government identify hospice palliative care as a defined medical service under the Canada Health Act.

"We feel there should be more support for palliative care," Gonda stresses, noting such programs often do not receive sufficient government funding, if any at all."So we're trying to promote that with more prayer and support for changing the Canadian Health Act."

If you're unable to stop by the church today to sign the petition, you can still do so by calling Irene at 204-822-4899 to arrange another time.

The church will also be accepting donations for the Boundary Trails Health Centre palliative care program all day.



imer's late daughter, Kaitlyn, to help other sick kids get through the tough times.

It's always a fitting tribute then when kids want to help the agency do just that, Reimer says.

"What I think is the best part is that the next generation is going to grab

that baton and run with it," she says. "This to me is a beautiful, beautiful legacy for these kids to leave here."

The young artists' visit to the cottage included a tour of the facility, a reading of *The Giving Tree* courtesy of Reimer, and a snack whipped up by a volunteer.





Construction Quick Tip: Choose concrete walls for severe storm safety

with wind impact-resistance up to 250 miles per hour? Inquiries for this option are increasing on a daily basis, says Nudura, a leading name in the production of insulated concrete forms (ICFs). Conframing is replaced by an interlocking,

How would you like your home to be built sues of homeowner concern. The concrete plus additional interior comforts such as beauty shapes like arches, bay windows envelope delivers superior wind, fire and even temperatures, no drafts and mold flood safety, is far more energy efficient control for cleaner air. Builders say that and is less wasteful of natural resources. with an interlocking system, the assembly More specifically, as compared to wood, the strength and insulation of ICF walls struction goes like this: the standard wood can save you up to 50 percent on energy energy consumption, homeowners will be construction process to ensure replacebills. Homeowners get a fire protection making an on-going contribution to the reinforced concrete system, proven now rating up to four hours and an unprec- sustainability of the planet. An ICF home for more than a decade to solve several is- edented sound barrier to outside noise. (nudura.com) allows for all of the interior

isquicker, it creates less waste, and by leaving more trees in the forests, with lowered

and decorative doors - and outside, the house can be bricked or you can opt for an eye-catching creative finish like stone, stucco, or wood siding. The decision to build with ICFs must be made early in the ment of the standard method.

Create a budget-friendly home landscape

Homeowners understandably envy the create lavish landscape designs, it's still scapes are inspired by many things, whether native, exotic plants. That means you'll have award-worthy photo spreads in lawn and garden magazines, wanting to emulate those same looks on their own properties. Scores of designers and landscape architects are involved in the process of creating those amazing lush lawns and perfectly placed plantings. Although not every homeowner has the budget to

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they can be proud of.

you have established the budget, all other to the eye. factors can be built around it.

• Consider the space and how you want to use it. Understanding the space will help you bet-· Find an inspiration piece. Great landter allocate your budget. If your yard is more of a retreat, look for ways to create privacy and a vacation feel. If you have kids and entertaining friends is a main priority, focus on recreational aspects, such as a pool, playset and some durable plants. Understanding how to allocate your budget will help you to avoid spending money frivolously. Think about reclaimed or repurposed mabudget. However, repurposing salvaged or inexpensive items can stretch that budget while adding some unique flair to a landscape. See if you can find an outdoor patio set that someone is giving away or selling for a lower price. All it takes is a coat of paint and some new cushions to make it look like new. Dis-REGULAR PRICE carded bricks or stones can be worked into a patio space or used to create raised garden beds. Purchase inexpensive flower pots and NEW!! Marathor mbroidery Thread SALE \$4.99 ea then paint them to make them look like stone or another desired material. Buy native plants. Native plants, shrubs, trees, and flowers will fare better than non-

possible for homeowners to create lawns it's a memorable piece of art or a landscape lavout in a lawn and gardening magazine. Use · Establish your budget. The first step in photos of other gardens or neighbors' yards any project is to determine how much as inspiration and build off of them. As long money you can devote to the job. Once as the theme is cohesive, it will look pleasing

to spend less time and money nurturing them into health, and less money having to replace plants that cannot withstand your climate. Consider perennial plants. Perennials may cost more at the outset, but the savings will be

realized in the years to come. · Hire a professional. It may seem counterintuitive to spend money on a landscaping professional when you've established a strict budget, but that's one way to save money. Landscape artists or garden designers have the experience to guide you in the right direction and help you avoid potentially costly

mistakes. • Use gravel in spots where plants don't thrive. Gravel is an inexpensive landscaping material that can fill in voids where plants or ground terials. Brand new items can quickly eat up a cover simply do not flourish. Those working on limited budgets may be happy to learn gravel is typically less expensive than concrete or pavers.

· Ask friends or family for clippings. Don't be shy about admiring the plantings of those you know. Flatter their good taste and ask if you can have some clippings to propagate yourself. These clippings can turn into lush plants in no time - with no additional spending reauired.

With some frugal spending, planning and budgeting, anyone can create a beautiful landscape.

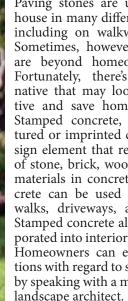




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Did you know?

Paving stones are used around the house in many different applications, including on walkways and patios. Sometimes, however, paving stones are beyond homeowners' budgets. Fortunately, there's another alternative that may look just as attractive and save homeowners money. Stamped concrete, also called textured or imprinted concrete, is a design element that replicates the look of stone, brick, wood, slate, or other materials in concrete. Stamped concrete can be used for patios, sidewalks, driveways, and pool decks. Stamped concrete also may be incorporated into interior flooring designs. Homeowners can explore their options with regard to stamped concrete by speaking with a masonry expert or





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Cheering on the home team





Clockwise from above: A group of young Hawks fans is set to cheer on the home team at the Esso Cup championship last week; the opening face off in Saturday's bronze medal game between the Hawks and Lightning; in true Canadian spirit, young Morden hockey fans and potential future Hawks players Casey O'Brien and Allie Huck made friends with the Mid-Isle Wildcats' youngest player Carla Stewart of PEI; St. Albert Slash players rush to celebrate their overtime gold medal win; the Hockey Canada mascot interacts with a fan; Hawks game star Makenzie McCallum celebrates one of her three goals as they downed the Wildcats 6-1 April 27.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT













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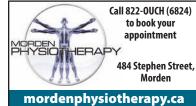


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Staying cutting-edge at Mud-Eeze

Business is pretty steady most of the year at Mud-Eeze Car Wash. The successful Morden car wash

opened back in 2000.

"Kel Wiebe was the driving force behind it," says Neil Hildebrand, who today manages and oversees the business alongside Kyle Loutchan. "His goal was to make Morden a great place to live and to watch it grow."

Mud-Eeze has five employees on its roster. Many of them are local youth, says Loutchan. "To give them a chance to have evening and weekend jobs."

With eight indoor bays and one exterior area, the car wash offers a range of options to make your vehicle shine, including a recently-upgraded spot-free rinse.

"We're going to be updating the credit card system as well," Loutchan adds, explaining the plan is to have that done in the near future.

Constant upgrades are a necessity of the business, which also requires a lot of ongoing maintenance to keep things operating smoothly.

"It's a very high maintenance building," Loutchan says. "There isn't a day that something doesn't need some work."



Mud-Eeze Car Wash's Neil Hildebrand and Kyle Loutchan.

"People don't see what is going on behind the scenes," adds Hildebrand.

Stop by Mud-Eeze Car Wash today at 850 Thornhill St.









MORDEN CHAMBER NEWS

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Pembina Vallev Hawks goalie and tournament MVP Halle Oswald tries to make a save dispite the spray of ice by Lightning Mackenzie MacDonald. The Hawks lost this bronze medal match 4-1.



Pembina Valley Hawks standing tall as fourth in the nation

By Ashleigh Viveiros

PHOTO

HIEBERT

They may not have won the gold, but the Pembina Valley Hawks are still standing tall after coming in fourth in the nation at the 2017 Esso Cup championship.

The team's dreams of winning the title on home ice were dashed Friday as they fell 2-1 to the Harfangs Du Triolet from Quebec in the semifinal match.

Pembina Valley, who headed into the playoffs with a 3-2 record that matched their opponent's, struggled to find their footing in the pivotal game. They trailed Quebec 2-0 after the first 20 minutes.

In the second period, the ladies made the most of an early power play. Captain Mackenzie Hutchinson fired a shot in on Harfang goalie Michelle Thibault, who smacked it away and right toward Hannah Petrie. Petrie took a shot in turn that was also denied, but that rebound found the stick

of Brooklyn Platt, who got it in to cut Quebec's lead to 2-1.

That was the last scoring either side would get, despite the Hawks outshooting Triolet 14-3 in the second alone.

While Pembina Valley netminder Halle Oswald denied all comers in the final two frames, the damage of the first period was done and so went the Hawks' chances at the national trophy.

The Harfangs went on to face the undefeated Pacific representative St. Albert Slash, who made it a clean sweep with 1-0 overtime victory to win the Esso Cup.

The Hawks, meanwhile, turned their attention to the third place spot, squaring off against Ontario representative Durham West Lightning Saturday afternoon.

It was tough going, though, shaking off the loss of the night before, said coach Dana Bell.

"It's a tough one ... everyone kind of

lost momentum," he said. "You're trying to get it through their heads that, hey, we can still win a bronze medal, but the dream of the gold medal was gone and we just didn't come out and perform like we could have."

Still, the Hawks managed to battle their way to a 1-1 tie after 40 minutes, the Lightning having drawn first blood just a few minutes into the first while Pembina Valley's Makenzie Mc-Callum evened things out two minutes into the second.

Durham West tore things wide open in the third, though, scoring three unanswered goals to take the game and the bronze medal 4-1.

It's not the finish the Hawks had been hoping for when they started on the road to the Esso Cup earlier this season, but finishing number four in Canada is no small feat either, said Bell.

"I'm very impressed with our girls. A hundred and sixty teams started off at the start of the year, and for us to

finish fourth overall, that's something to be proud of," he said.

Bell also lauded the community for all the support that went into hosting the national championship.

"The host committee was amazing. The support was huge," he said. "The fan support ... I mean, to have 800 people come out to watch you play every night, that was amazing.

"It was just a great experience all around, for sure."

For the young players, who had earned the provincial title earlier this spring, the Esso Cup was the icing on the cake of an already incredible season of hockey.

"Yes, we wanted to win the gold medal ... but it as more about making memories," Bell said. "We have eight girls leaving us this year and so we wanted to make them some memories and have fun, too. And I think we did that."

"Bring out the best in the people around you"

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Canadian Olympians Jennifer Botterill and Sami Jo Small were among the speakers at the Esso Cup awards banquet Friday morning.

The gold medalists recounted their experiences at the Winter Games, sharing a few lessons they learned about sportsmanship along the way.

Small shared how disappointed she was when the Team Canada coaches decided to start another player as goalie in the 2002 gold medal match.

"I remember staring back at the coach in disbelief and thinking this is not the way my dream is supposed to be lived out," she said.

"I felt like my dream was over ... it took me a good two, three, four hours of just wandering around [the Athlete's Village] trying to figure out what to do," Small said.

"I finally realized that I had two choices. One, I could feel the exact same way the next day, because I don't think you become an elite athlete unless you want to be the go-to person in the go-to moment. You want to be the person taking the shot in the shootout final, you want to be the goalie making the big saves.

"However, I realized that I couldn't make that decision, because my teammates, my best friends, needed me to make a different decision. They needed me to play my role to the best of my ability."

That role had become being the best cheerleader for Team Canada that she could be, and Small decided to take it up wholeheartedly.

"You don't always get to choose the role you play, but you always get to choose how you play it," Small stressed.

"YOU DON'T ALWAYS GET TO CHOOSE THE ROLE YOU PLAY, BUT YOU ALWAYS GET TO CHOOSE HOW YOU PLAY IT."

"As they got down to me and they put that gold medal around my neck, I looked down and I realized it doesn't matter what role you play," she said. "Whether you score the big goals or you make the big saves or you cheer as loud as you possibly can, each and every person got that exact same gold medal.

"How you play your role really does matter. Not only to yourself, but to the success of everyone around you."

Botterill was up next, and she echoed the importance of being the best teammate you can be.

"[It's] about bringing out the best in the people around you," she said. "In the locker room or on the bench or on the ice, [you're] doing everything that you can to bring out the best in your teammates."

Making to the Olympics takes a lot of commitment and sacrifice, Botterill reflected, and it all starts with a player setting their sights on being the best they can be and being willing to work to get there.

"I was 18 years old at the time when I was told I would be competing for Canada at the Olympics Games, and the first moment that I thought about was that conversation that I had with my parents when I was 15 years old,



PHOTOS BY DENNIS PAJOT/HOCKEY CANADA IMAGES.

The Pembina Valley Hawks' Katelyn Heppner (above) and Halle Oswald (below) were honoured with Top Defenceman and Most Valuable Player awards, respectively, at the Esso Cup awards banquet April 28.



when they said, 'Why not you?'

"So for every person here, at whatever stage of your hockey career or your life, it's about setting that standard just a little bit higher than you initially think possible."

HAWKS HONOURED

Just prior to the Olympians taking the stage, the tournament handed out its award trophies.

Two of the five honours were given to Pembina Valley Hawks, with Katelyn Heppner earning Top Defenceman and goalie Halle Oswald named the week's Most Valuable Player. "Hearing my name called as the MVP of the tournament was a huge honour," noted Oswald. "I always try my best for my team, but I never thought this would happen. This week, I just tried to do everything I could to help my team win, but there's no'I' in team; it's always a team effort. We couldn't get to where we are now without everyone."

Other recipients included Camryn Drever of the St. Albert Slash, who was named Top Goaltender, and Kate Gallant of the Durham West Lightning, who received both the Most Sportsmanlike and Top Scorer awards.



Olympian Sami Jo Small urged players to remember that every role they play—both on the ice and off—is an important part of being a good teammate.

ALH MOTOR SPEEDWAY RESULTS - APRIL 30

The ALH Motor Speedway kicked off another season of racing last Sunday.

Winners of the first races of the summer included:

• Slingshots: Rebecca Stutsky was the only car to finish.

• A-Mods: Scott Greer in first place, Jerome Guyot in second,

and Ryan Cousins in third.

- •B-Mods: Austin Hunter, Rick Fehr, and Grant Hall.
- Pure stock: Les McRae, Kevin Smith, and Pat Smith.

4-Cylinders: Dean Miljure, Ian Cabernel, and Sheldon Simoens.
Street Stocks: Art Linert, Adam Burrows, and Jesse Teunis.

Introducing cricket to Winkler

By Emily-Ann Doerksen

A new sport was formally introduced to Winklerites on Saturday, as four teams fought for the championship at the first Cricket Festival at the Winkler arena.

The Winkler Cricket Club squared off against South Africa, Pharmasix, and the Sher-E-Maples Cricket Club at the event.

Tournament organizer Zahid Zehri hopes the matches and the demonstrations gave people a good taste of the sport.

"We are hoping to teach the basics of cricket," he said. "Cricket is an art."

Zehri added that this event was hosted as an introduction to the game for those who may have been interested in it but unable to see it in action.

"We are trying to make [cricket] more famous in Manitoba," agreed Winnipegger Kunal Aggarwal, who joined the Winkler Cricket Club last summer. The club began in April 2015 and has grown significantly over the past two years.

Plans are now in the works to have the city's first cricket pitch up and running on the field by Northlands Parkway Collegiate. Last weekend's festivities served as a fundraiser to that end.

"I have no words to express my feelings," said Zehri of the plan, explaining he's eager to begin practicing on the new pitch. "We want to bring more youth and have a coach ... it will be beneficial for the city as well."

Mayor Martin Harder said at the event that the city is pleased the club took the initiative to put this all together.

"It's another venue, it's another opportunity, something else to do in Winkler," he said. "The neat thing is you have another culture introducing something that we would not otherwise be able to get."

The community was extremely supportive of the tournament, said Zehri,



PHOTO BY EMILY-ANN DOERKSEN/VOICE

The Winkler Cricket Club invited the community to their cricket festival on Saturday, giving people a chance to see the sport in action.

who explained that many businesses approached the team asking if they could donate something. "That was very exciting and pleasing for us." The Winkler Cricket Club is still accepting donations toward the creation of the new pitch.

For more information, visit their Facebook page or email winklercrick-etclub@hotmail.com.



PHOTOS BY CORI BEZAN/VOICE The Esso Cup tailgate party was all about fun and games for the kids on Saturday. The bash took over the ice-free Co-op Gold Arena to give kids the chance to practice their stick-handling (above), test their slap-shot targeting skills (right, top), dunk a volunteer or two (right), and enjoy other fun hockey-related activities.





Rocking W Barrel Series starts up next week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Another sure sign of spring is here: the Rocking W Barrel Series kicks off its eighth season next week.

The popular weekly barrel racing competition runs from Tuesday, May 9 through to June 20, followed by the finals on Saturday, June 24.

Organizer Dusty van der Steen says the event continues to draw new spectators and competitors.

"Every year it just seems to grow," she says. "More people start coming locally and there's more people coming from further away."

The series includes open, youth, select, and peewee divisions in a 3D format (4D if there's more than 50 entries).

On the line this year are over \$6,000 in prizes, including championship saddles for the top point earners in the open and youth divisions, custom-made bridles for the series average champions, division prize belt buckles, and more.

For insurance purposes, riders must be members of the Manitoba Barrel

Racing Association to compete. Beyond that, though, it's open to anyone, van der Steen says.

"If people want to enter they just have to show up on a Tuesday night before 7 o'clock and they can sign up." As the only weekly series offered in

our area, the event gets rave reviews from barrel racers.

"We're about the only one in southern Manitoba," van der Steen says, pointing out other local events are often limited to one or two-day affairs. "As far as a seven week series with prizes like this, we're probably the only one.

"For a lot of local [competitors] this is their thing for the summer," she adds. "They come out to every one and they get the opportunity to run for something like a saddle.

It also makes for a great night of action for spectators to enjoy.

"We're getting lots of people out to watch," van der Steen says. "It started out as mostly family and friends of the riders, but last year there were quite a few people who starting coming just because they heard about it



VOICE FILE PHOTO The Rocking W Barrel Series returns for its eighth season on May 9.

and wanted to check it out."

The series runs out of the Rocking W Ranch, which is located a mile and a half west of the Winkler Bible Camp on Road 16N.

The action gets underway every

Tuesday at 7 p.m. Admission is free. More information on the series can be found on its Facebook page at Rocking W Barrel Racing Productions or by emailing Wiebe at crossdquarterhorses@outlook.com.

Morden rolls out "Try It" activities for May

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Morden recreation department hopes to help the community check off a few more activities on the ParticipACTION 150 Playlist.

Morden is competing with Winkler to see which city can complete the most activities by the end of July.

"I think Winkler is beating us right now, but we're hoping to continue our push to get more activities done," says recreation programmer Stephanie Dueck."Part of that push is by offering 'Try It' classes, especially for things that people maybe haven't done before."

Try It: Folk Dancing is the first free session, taking place on Wednesday, May 10 from 7-8 p.m.

The family-friendly class led by Brenda Sloan will take participants through the basics of down-home dancing, Dueck says.

Next up after that is Try It: Rhythmic Gymnastics on Wednesday, May 24, from 7-8 p.m. That session will be led by Lisa Merritt-Bell.

"That's also open to all ages and I'd love to see men and women, boys and girls of all ages trying out rhythmic gymnastics, because that's an experience you don't get to have very often," Dueck says.

Rounding out the month is a Try It: Cricket class hosted by the Winkler Cricket Club from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, May 29.

"These are all a great opportunity," Dueck says."It's just a one hour commitment, it's free, and it gives you a taste and a fun experience and maybe a story to tell around the campfire this summer.

"I really hope that we get lots of people out."

The sessions all take place at the Access Event Centre. Drop-ins are

welcome, though pre-registration is appreciated. Pre-register by calling 204-822-5431 ex. 223.

Dueck says they hope to host more free sessions in June and July, including possibly fencing, hula hooping, slacklining, and hackey sack.

TV raffle raises \$5,000 for minor hockey

Winkler Minor Hockey's Matt Peters (left) recently presented Darryl Harder with the prize for this year's fundraising TV raffle. The prize, donated by Klassen's Furniture, raised \$5,000 for minor hockey to help offset ice rental costs and keep registration fees low. Winkler Minor Hockey sends its thanks out to Klassen's and to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket for their support.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



Students get a taste of what it takes to excel

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler, Morden, and Carman area students got a taste of what it takes to be an elite athlete like those competing in the Esso Cup in Morden last week.

A program for schools ran each morning in the Co-op Gold Arena in conjunction with the national female midget hockey championship.

In addition to the students getting to watch one of the daily noon hour games, the kids also got to hang out with the volunteering players and test their own hockey skills at a variety of activity stations.

They ranged from testing shooting and stick-handling skills to trying out the kind of weight and conditioning training done by elite players on a regular basis.

The program proved a popular one with students and teachers alike.

"It looks like the kids are having a lot of fun," said Chris Parenteau, who was there with his Gr. 5 class from École Morden Middle School.

He noted they previously had a half dozen members of the Pembina Valley



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Students from École Morden Middle School put their hockey skills to the test last week as part of the daily program offered for students during the Esso Cup championship.

Hawks come and speak to students at a school assembly.

"We got a bit of information about what goes into the training and learned what this tournament is all about," said Parenteau."So I think it's been a good experience for them.

"I see this being a good experience for the women's hockey teams too, he added."This might be one of their first experiences like this as well ... dealing with the kids, helping run an event. It might be even more beneficial for them."

"It's fantastic. They're all having a blast," said fellow EMMS teacher Janine Smart.

"They're excited to see all the different activities here ... and then they see the hockey game."

She sees a program like this as "being about building community ... and it's being part of something bigger ... and even then just cheering for the teams."

Parenteau also wondered if the experience might inspire a student or two to aim to compete at this level themselves someday, noting one of his students was a flag bearer for one of the teams.

"She is extremely excited ... she's into the hockey ... so it's a really good opportunity for her especially."

Tyler Lindstrom signs with Curry College

Graduating Winkler Flyers defenson. seman Tyler Lindstrom has found a home for next season.

The Minnesota native has committed to the Curry College Colonels (NCAA Div III) for the 2017-2018 seaLindstrom played parts of two sea-

sons with the Flyers and now is one of three players committed to a collegiate hockey program, joining fellow defensemen Lawson McDonald (University of Nebraska-Omaha – NCAA Div I) and Tyler Jubenvill (Bemidji State – NCAA Div I)

During his time in Winkler, Lindstrom recorded 15 points (four goals and 11 assists) in 61 regular season



Do you have a suggestion for our news team? Is there someone you would like to see recognized in the newspaper for their accomplishments - athletic, academic or community service.

games. He also had four points (one goal, three assists) during this most recent post-season, scoring the triple overtime game winner in game one of the MJHL quarterfinals against Virden.

Baseball begins

The high school baseball and fastpitch seasons kicked off this week.

On Monday, the Garden Valley Collegiate boys faced Morden Collegiate in a double-header, winning game one 7-1 and game two 2-0.

On the girls' side, GVC beat Mennonite Collegiate 15-3 while the Thunder beat W.C. Miller 7-5.

The Northland's Parkway Collegiate girls also hit the pitch, losing to Portage 10-0.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Morden Senior Curling Club held its windup April 12. Winning the Wednesday night league prior to Christmas was Ron Henderson, Mike Walske, Elmer Young, and Linda Wiebe (missing from left photo). Monday night winners before Christmas was Ron Henderson, Bev Sheldon, Dianne Lambert, and Mark Gavard (centre photo). The Monday night winners after Christmas were Dennis Howden, Bev Sheldon, Lois Kinsman, and Mike Walske (right photo). The league also featured a two person stick league after the holidays, which was won by Elwyn Brown and Rick Fraser. The league welcomes new curlers every year. Anyone interested can contact Ray Kirk at 204-822-5686 or Carol Gavard by email at carolgavard@gmail.com.

• HEALTH CORNER Taking asthma seriously

Survey 2016.

The survey also reveals that most asthmatics may not take asthma seriously as a chronic respiratory disease.

Currently there are 2.4 million Canadians living with asthma, with an estimated 317 new cases diagnosed every day. Asthma accounts for 70,000 emergency room visits per year in Canada.

By Karen R. McElroy, RRT

Here's what life

with controlled asthma should look like:

1. Daytime symptoms of wheeze, cough, and shortness of breath less than three times per week,

2. Not missing any school or work due to asthma symptoms,

3. Exercise and physical activity is not affected by asthma symptoms,

4. Asthma symptoms disturb sleep

one night per week or less

5. Rescue medication, Salbutamol, also known as Ventolin or the blue puffer, is used less than four times per week.

Unfortunately, the survey revealed that 90 per cent of patients diagnosed with asthma are not controlled and they are suffering with symptoms frequently or even constantly.

Where does the problem lie? The survey indicates that 14 per cent of asthmatics—336,000 Canadians—admit that they do not use their medications as prescribed by their family physician.

Asthma control medications only work if used on a daily basis, therefore if they are not being used as prescribed they can not effectively control the inflammation in the airways of the lungs.

Currently, 25 per cent of Canadians living with asthma smoke, vape, or use e-cigarettes. Inhaling irritants into their airways can cause further inflammation in the airways of the lungs and this can make controlling symptoms harder and often leads to a loss of asthma control.

How can we correct the problem? An increase in knowledge around asthma as a disease, the medications used to control it, and the symptoms that occur when it is not controlled may go along way to helping Canadians.

There is no cure for asthma at this time, but with the right treatment and an asthma action plan, someone living with asthma can identify warning signs that indicate their asthma isn't controlled and then they can take measures to correct this.

Every person living with asthma should be able to live a normal life that is mostly symptom free.

The best place to start if you feel your asthma is not controlled is to speak with your family physician. In Morden and Winkler we do have access to certified respiratory educators who can educate patients on their asthma and how to manage it appropriately.

Asthma is a serious chronic disease that still kills 250 Canadians every year, and taking care of your asthma should be taken seriously.

Trailblazer wins big

The Winkler Trailblazers Club's Tessa Warkentine brought home the hardware from the 4H Provincial Speech Competition last month. Warken-

W a r k e n tine won first place in the Senior One Person Visual category for her presentation on the benefits of music.

The speech, entitled "How to Get Invalved," included demonstrations on the flute and



valve trombone.

Warkentine (above) received the award from Minister of Infrastructure Blaine Pedersen at the April 22 competition.



Morden thrift store gives back

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Community Thrift Store was able to give back to the community in a big way last week.

In its spring grant dispersals on April 27, the shop donated \$165,561 to 14 local organizations.

"We just have awesome support from the community," said board president Jean Hildebrand.

"Both in people donating as well as shopping," added fellow board member Nora Wiebe. "And, of course, with our volunteers that give so generously of their time. Without them, even if it came in it wouldn't be able to go out.

"So it's a team effort-the community and the volunteers working together for the same goal."

"Pretty much every month is an increase over the year before in the sales," noted Hildebrand. "So it's a very successful business."

And it's one whose mandate is to return the fruits of that success to the community it serves, handing out grants in both spring and fall.

'That's why were here," says Wiebe. "This is what keeps us motivated: be-

"THIS IS WHAT KEEPS US MOTIVATED: BEING ABLE TO GIVE BACK AND TO HELP OTHERS."

^{Winkler} Morden



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Receiving over \$165,000 in grants from the Morden Community Thrift Store last week were (back row, from left) Ryan Hanan of Agassiz Medical Clinic, Wilf Warkentin of Tabor Home, Bowen Wiebe from the Winkler Bible Camp, Dennis Macklem of Morden Fire & Rescue, the Christian Programs Committee's Allen Schellenberg and Ken Friesen, Darlingford Fire Chief Cal Funk, Andrew Braun from Morden Minor Ball, (front row) Myrna Mayor from the Agassiz clinic, Tabor Home's Sherry Hildebrand, Ainslee Warkentin from the Pembina Valley Bible Camp, Youth for Christ's Tara Wyton and Pat Heinrichs, BTHC floral volunteer Judy Stambuski, Shannon Samatte-Folkett from the BTHC Foundation, and the Rock Lake United Church Camp's Judy Bradley. Missing is Cst. Sean Aune of the Morden Police.

ing able to give back and to help others."

On the receiving end of the grant ceremony last week were:

• Agassiz Medical Centre, \$46,000 for new diagnostic equipment.

• Boundary Trails Health Centre palliative care program, \$32,000 for new furnishings for the new palliative care room.

• Boundary Trails Health Centre, \$500 for outdoor flowers.

Darlingford Fire Department, \$10,000 towards purchasing a new Jaws of Life.

 Morden Fire & Rescue, \$20,000 for rescue and fire training equipment. • Morden Police Service, \$5,600 for

new tasers and cartridges. • Rock Lake United Church Camp,

\$6,000 for camp programs.

• Winkler Bible Camp, \$5,000 for beach shelters.

• Pembina Valley Bible Camp,

\$20,000 for camper sponsorship and a truck.

• Morden Christian programs committee, \$6,000.

• Youth for Christ, \$12,000 (\$1,000 on a monthly basis) for counseling services and \$10,000 for remodeling and security system.

• Tabor Home, \$22,500 for a sound system for the chapel and a camera system that will allow all residents to view services from their rooms.

• Morden Minor Ball, \$5,361 for a pitching machine, field maintenance machine, and a portable pitching mound.

•Morden Collegiate, \$6,000 for six \$1,000 bursaries for graduates pursuing post-secondary education.

DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

The thrift shop is always grateful

for donations of used, clean items in working conditions. Dirty or broken items often can't be made suitable for sale and then end up costing the store money to discard.

"If people are bringing in mattresses and TVs it costs us money to get rid of them, so it would be nice if people were aware that we just can't accept those things," Hildebrand said, urging donors to contact the store if they're unsure whether an item is resalable.

The shop is also always on the lookout for new volunteers.

"We could always use more volunteers," said Hildebrand. "We have a variety of jobs and positions and shifts, whatever works for somebody."

To learn more about how you can support or get involved at the store, stop by at 220 N Railway St. or call 204-822-3435.

Get in touch with us via e-mail: Send news items to: news@winklermordenvoice.ca Advertising inquiries to: ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

The

Agriculture Young farmer custom planting on the side

By Harry Siemens

Riley Anderson, who farms near Morris with his father Jo, is getting into custom planting for the second year running to help pay for the kind of planter they want to become rotational corn and soybean farmers.

"We are here to custom plant corn, soybeans, and edible beans," said Anderson. "We have a Case IH 1265 planter that's on 22-inch spacing and a Case IH RowTrac 350 4-wheel tractor to match and look to custom plant a couple of thousand acres a year."

Anderson said he's looking to custom seed for somebody who's just getting into corn for the first time and not yet willing to invest in a new planter themselves.

"We can go plant for them or somebody who wants to save money on the soybean seed costs.," he said."For what we charge we can save him the amount of money our service costs and then some."

Last year Anderson did about 1,000 acres of custom planting. This year he's shooting to double that.

"We wanted to buy a planter for our farm and we wanted to buy something that could cover a lot of acres and be a great fit for us in the future," he said when asked what prompted this new side business."This is a way for me to make money on the side and to buy a planter big enough that cash flows for our farm."

Riley, a sixth generation grain farmer, runs about 3,000 acres with his parents, growing corn, soybeans, and wheat. Another 600 acres they custom farm for some neighbors.

This is part of their business plan and in the future the plan calls for a new custom grain dryer to encourage more farmers in the area to grow corn.

"That's my dream, to grow lots of corn," Anderson said. "We will have almost the whole farm in soybeans this year, about a section of corn and a couple quarters of wheat. We're not the best farm for rotation around."

Anderson's plan is to eventually get the farm into about half soybean, half corn and rotate back and forth.

"We hire a marketing company out of Winnipeg called FarmLink Solutions. They give us information and even sell a little bit of our crop. We sell most of our corn to the feed mills locally around here, a little goes to Husky, the ethanol plant in Minnedosa," Anderson said when asked about how they market their crop."A 100 per cent of the corn stays in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

"Last year most of the soybeans also went to the local elevators, but in years past we have been shipping into the United States," he added. "We ran into some difficulty this year. They're cracking down on country of origin for their soybeans that are getting shipped overseas in the U.S., so it has to go to a processor and that gets very complicated with there not being any processors right across the line." The Anderson family farms in an area that has an abundance of grain handlers and elevators.

"We do a lot of forward contracting, futures first contracts, and then lock in the basis later. That's how we sell early before the crop's in the ground," Anderson explained.

Anderson was set to go to university after graduating from high school but didn't.

"I graduated from high school and was ready to go to university and a piece of land became available, so I decided to buy land instead of going to university," he said. "We're in the process of transitioning from one generation to the next. Right now I farm independently of my dad. He's talked about coming together and farming in the same corporation, it's not a hundred percent done yet."

They share all the equipment where Riley scouts the field for weed and disease and does the agronomy on his farm, while Jo focuses more on the equipment and the business side on his farm.

"I would like to get into custom soil sampling maybe in the future," said Anderson "I like the fertility side and the crop planning side more than the weed scouting, so I'm probably in the boat with most farmers on that one."

Young farmer Anderson is pretty bullish on agriculture: "I think that this is the greatest profession in the world."

Port of Churchill still in flux

By Harry Siemens

OmniTrax Canada president Merv Tweed made it clear one year ago that he was committed to the idea that a First Nations group would one day soon own the Port of Churchill and the rail line leading to it.

While little has been heard from OmniTrax in the last year, Tweed made it clear in Swan River recently while speaking at the Hudson Bay Route Association conference that he's still committed to the idea.

"I think it's important to understand that when we entered into this process of transferring and the sale of the railway and the Port of Churchill, meeting with Chief [Arlan] Dumas December of '16, we decided at that point the Chief was the person we were going to deal with as a company and he would lead the delegation and the consortium that would move the sale of the Port and the railway to the First Nations Organization,"Tweed told the group of about 100 people.

"Sometimes when you have 15 or 20 people on a board, not a lot gets done because we can't get consensus. We found with the Chief, we could sit down and talk, make our business plan and move it forward. I think the one thing that I've learned very quickly and it holds true today, is everything that Chief Dumas has committed to do, he has done and everything he has said he would do, he has done."

Tweed said they were hoping to have a final announcement that day.

"But I can tell you that we are making every plan necessary to have the Port open this year," he said. "We're very optimistic that there will be a grain season this year. We're optimistic that we'll get some of the volumes that we couldn't achieve last year. But in the same breath, we're very, very positive and very optimistic about the season going forward."

In his remarks, Chief Dumas of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation paid tribute to his elders and even former Manitoba Premier Ed Schreyer for laying the groundwork which allowed his band to achieve railway ownership.

The Pukatawagan community is near the Churchill River on the rail line which connects The Pas to Lynn Lake.

Some heated conversations took place at the HBRA meeting, but president Eldon Boon was happy about bringing the many parties involved on this matter together.

The HBRA has long lobbied for Churchill, and likely played a role in having the line sold to OmniTrax in the mid-1990s when it became clear that CN would either divest or (according to some observers of the time) sell the steel for salvage.

But one of the nagging questions out of this latest Swan River session is an apparent rival group to the OmniTrax-favoured Mathias Colomb First Nation. A group called One North emerged recently headed up by Chief Christian Sinclair and the well-known mayor of Churchill, Mike Spence.

So far there is no indication that the Pallister government in Manitoba is backing the proposed First Nations ownership, but it seems likely that either federal or provincial governments, or both, may be involved—both backed the sale of the previously mentioned lien from The Pas to Pukatawagan.

Last July, OmniTrax closed Churchill Port quite suddenly with no indication of its future plans although OmniTrax has maintained once-a-week freight trains into the Northern Port from The Pas.

Producers have their eyes on the skies

By Harry Siemens

The 2016 crop in Manitoba, while one the best in recent memory, it wasn't without its challenges, especially for farmers in the Altona area.

Farmer Eldon Klippenstein produces cereal crops, corn, oilseeds and soybeans in southern Manitoba with interest in markets, trading, and trucking of late.

"Below average. We had a lot of challenges and suffered through a tough year, probably the toughest year I've managed through, so far," he said recently about the season. "We managed to get into the fields last fall and whatever opportunity we had, we were in the fields. We managed to get our fields into relatively good shape.

"In terms of on an average, if somebody asked me how many acres are you happy with in terms of your field conditions, I'd say I'm probably about 40 per cent of where I would like to be, another 50 per cent that is workable, 10 per cent that I need a good

spring to fix some ruts and whatnot." Despite some colder weather and even some unwanted spring snow, he's optimistic going into 2017.

"So far, we've had a drier spring, which has helped us to dry out fields,' Klippenstein said."Our water has receded to where basically everything is off the fields.

"We've had a decent amount of drying take place. Our ditches are not full of water ... we're in a place where things are drying out. It's bringing some optimism to the community here."

Corn and soybeans are a big part of Klippenstein's operation.

"Soybeans are going in for us this year. It's due to soybeans proving themselves to do relatively well in either dry or wet conditions. It's a little bit of a hedge to try to preserve the farm this year," says Klippenstein after suffering three years of wet years affecting his bottom line.

That is why he's planning to plant more soybeans this year to help catch

up, putting rotation on the back burner.

"The last three years we've had either hail or too much rain," Klippenstein said."It's basically brought us to a point where we've got to do what we've got to do."

When catching up with Gilbert Sabourin, who farms at St. Jean, it was during the week of cold weather and snow, but that didn't dampen his optimism.

"We'll start off with oats, then roll into canola, soybeans, sunflowers and corn," he said. "Crops that I dropped from last year are barley and wheat. It is a long time that we have not grown barley and wheat.

"For barley, it took way too long for the trade to come out with new crop prices, and in the meantime I had an opportunity to price out more oats at \$3.60 a bushel, so my acres dedicated for barley turned into oats," he added. "And on the wheat side, I was supposed to grow some wheat and then someone had canceled some Nexera canola acres, so I picked those up and turned my wheat into canola."

Sabourin shared some difficulties he had last year with his first seeded canola drying up and freezing out. He turned those acres into corn because he could plant it deeper to get to the moisture. Then it rained.

"You know, it wasn't without a struggle, but we had a good crop out there, so we bought tracks for the combine,' he said. "We ended up buying a new grain cart with a track as well to get the crops off. With the tracks we eliminated a lot of ruts in our fields ending up working most of our ground in those two nice weeks in November. We tilled and even applied the fertilizer.

"We averaged a very good crop. Actually, our corn and soybean yields were record yields for us and that's partly due to the August rains we received."

et inspi > MEAL IDEAS

Fiesta Potato Smashers



Yield: 8 Prep time: 5 minutes Cook time: 30 minutes 5 small yellow potatoes

5 small red potatoes or potato of your choice

1 pint sweet mini peppers (red, orange and yellow)

cooking spray

4 tablespoons fat-free sour cream or

fat-free Greek yogurt (optional) 8 sprigs cilantro, picked from stems salt, to taste chili powder, to taste freshly ground pepper, to taste Place whole potatoes into

microwave-safe, covered dish. Microwave on high 3-4 minutes.

While potatoes are cooking, cut mini peppers into 1/4-inch slices. Spray nonstick pan with cooking spray and heat to medium. Add peppers and saute until they start to brown. Remove from pan and set aside.

Remove potatoes from microwave and with layer of paper towels covering each potato, smash on cutting board until 1 3/4-inch thick. Spray saute pan with cooking

spray, heat on high and add smashed potatoes. Cook 1-2 minutes until potatoes start to brown.

On plate, place potatoes and layer with sour cream or yogurt, if desired, peppers and cilantro. Dust with salt, chili powder and pepper, to taste. Serve warm.

Campfire Philly steak sandwiches

4 small round or oval whole wheat buns, sliced

1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded light cheddar cheese

Directions

In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion, pepper, garlic, thyme, chili powder, oregano and paprika, stirring for about 10 minutes or until softened and starting to brown. Stir in beef and broth and cook for about 5 minutes or until hint of pink remains in beef. Set aside to cool.

Place cheese on bottom of buns. Divide meat mixture among buns. Wrap each sandwich well in parchment paper and overwrap in foil. Place in resealable bag and refrigerate for up to 2 days or freeze for up to 1 week.

Remove from bag and place on low grill or campfire to heat through to enjoy.

Smokey Stuffed Jalapenos with Bacon



1/2 pound uncooked chorizo

16 ounces cream cheese

24 fresh jalapenos, halved and seeded 24 slices bacon (about 2 pounds), halved

1 cup Smokey Mesquite Bar-B-Q Sauce

Heat skillet to medium heat and

prepare grill for direct cooking. Remove chorizo casing and cook in skillet over medium heat until cooked through. Transfer cooked chorizo to paper towel-lined plate to drain and cool.

Mix cream cheese and chorizo. Stuff each jalapeno half with cream cheese mixture. Wrap with half strip of bacon and secure with toothpick. Place peppers on grill and cook 8-10

minutes, turning frequently. Baste peppers with sauce during last 2 minutes of cooking.



Ingredients

1 tsp (5 mL) canola oil

1 large sweet onion, thinly sliced 1 large green bell pepper, sliced

2 cloves garlic, minced 1 tsp (5 mL) each thyme, chili

powder

1/2 tsp (2 mL) each dried oregano and paprika

8 oz (227 g) outside round cutlets, sliced into thin strips

1/2 cup (125 mL) no salt added beef broth

The

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GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale on Saturday, May 13th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 19 Ens Crescent, Morden.

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GARAGE SALES Garage Sale at 134 Ash Bay, Winkler. Thursday - Friday, May 11 & 12, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

> Schanzenfeld Wide Garage Sale - May 11, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.; May 12, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; May 13, 10 a.m. noon. Plant perennial sale.

PLANT SALE Perennial Plant Sale at 125 Maple Street, Morden. Thursday, May 18, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, May 19, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

CAMPGROUND Hill Top Resort camping. 600 treed acres with sand beach lake. any size RV. Quads, ok. Live music. May to Sept starting at \$400. Site visits info@ hilltopresort.ca

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COMING EVENTS

Winkler Preschool Wellness Fair MOBILITY PRODUCTS Hosted by: (South Central Settlement Office, RHA-Central, Garden Valley School Division & Family Services & Housing **Bathroom** Thursday, May 18, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Emmanuel Mennonite Church 750 - 15th Street, Winkler This event is open to families of children born in 2013, including preschoolers, parents, grandparents, child-care providers. For more information and to register contact: BTHC Public Health Office receptionist at 331-8841 - Grab Bars Preschool Screening: For children born in 2013. Professionals will **Bath Seats** be available to check your child's development in the following areas: • Tub Rails Speech - Speech Language Pathologist • Hearing - Audiologist • Fine Motor/Functional Skills - Occupational Therapist Balance, Coordination - Physiotherapist • Dental • Vision • Dietician Feelin Good **Registration required: Contact your Public Health Office** 372 Stephen St.

(331-8841) to make an appointment for your child. Take in the education displays as well. DISPLAYS - OPEN to ALL!

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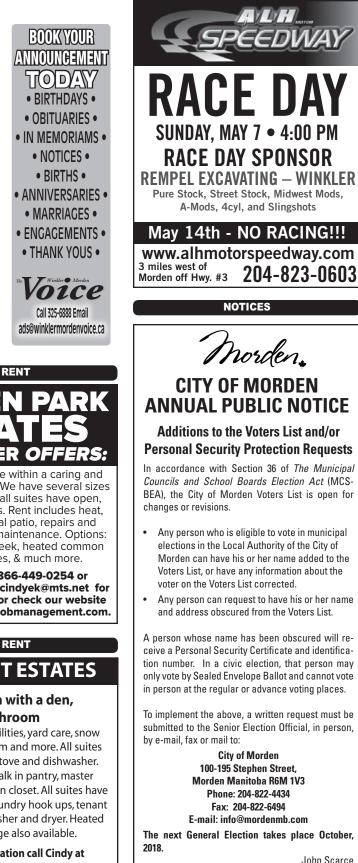
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CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to all who sent cards, food and for all your prayers on the recent loss of Dorothy Nagazina.

-Don and family

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COMING EVENTS

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146 & 156 Aspen Bay (off Pineview Dr.) Winkler Thurs., May 11 • 12-8 pm Friday, May 12 • 12-8 pm Saturday, May 13 • 9 am - 12 pm Proceeds go to feed, clothe, house and educate 40 orphans at the Victoria Christian Academy in Kenya



goods as well as nonetary donations are welcome. Call 331-1332 to drop off anytime!

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MULTI FAMILY HUGE FUNDRAISING GARAGE & BAKE SALE! Tax deductible receipts available on donations over \$10



70th Wedding Anniversary Celebration The McGregor family cordially invites you to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Mary and George McGregor on Saturday, May 13, 2017 Come and Go Tea from 2 – 4 p.m. at Homestead South 400 Loren Dr., Morden, MB.

Remember Your Loved Ones with an Announcement in the Call 204-325-6888 or ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

REGISTRATION



REGISTRATION Small Wonders

Community Nursery School/ Les Petites Merveilles French Immersion Nursery School

Friday, May 12 2017 · 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Westside Community Church at 831 Thornhill St. - Morden (North Doors) SPACE IS LIMITED

Registration of the 3 & 4 year old children for the upcoming school year 2017-2018. *Please note we are unable to enroll children who are currently enrolled fultime in a licensed child care center. Part time children may be enrolled in both, but cannot be registered for both programs on the same day. For more information please call

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\$35 per player Late registration fee in effect after registration dates





Roberta Mary Cramer (nee Dyer) 1926 - 2017

Surrounded by the love of her family near and far, our sweet and beautiful mother, loving grandmother, aunt and loyal friend, Roberta Mary Cramer and her radiant soul, slipped the bonds of our world while sleeping peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

She was a most special gift to all of us for 90 years. Her recent sufferings now ended, she returns into the eternal arms of God and the loving embraces of Bill, her husband of 55 years, her departed family – mom, Maud and dad, Sandy Dyer; siblings, Don, Betty, Gordon, Victor, Thelma and Thomas and many friends who preceded her. Surely, they are now enjoying a superb reunion with their beloved Roberta.

Roberta is deeply mourned by her sons, Gregory and Garth; daughter-in-law, Kelly; her precious grandchildren, Jordan, Paige and husband Dustin, Cloe and Francois and their moms, Michele and Mona; Cloe and fiancée, Kyle and Francois's partner, Santana and Roberta's great-grandchildren, Lilly and Kolt. She is also survived by sisters, Lorraine and Norma, the grand extended Dyer clan and many nieces and nephews on the Cramer side.

OBITUARY

Celebration and service for Roberta's rich life will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at St. Thomas Anglican Church 131 8th St. in Morden with interment prior at Chapel Cemetery Columbarium.

Flowers graciously declined. Any donations in honour of mom can be made to Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

Mom's gifts of laughter, generosity and love for life enriched all of us in ways beyond measure. To know Roberta, was to love her. Good bye sweet and gentle soul. You will be greatly missed!

OBITUARY

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com



Vina Henderson (nee McLeod) 1918 - 2017 a Henderson passed away on Friday, April 21, 2017, SI

Vina Henderson passed away on Friday, April 21, 2017. She is survived by her sons, Donald (Cheryl) of Calgary and Norman of Winnipeg. She was predeceased by her husband, Wilbert in 2007; her sister, Eileen in 2012; her brothers Neil in 2001, Alistair in 1944 (RCAF KIA) and Norman in 1943 (RCAF KIA).

Vina was the daughter of the late William and Elizabeth McLeod of Balmoral. She attended Winnipeg Norman and after graduating she taught in Woodlands, Treherne, Mystery Lake School District, Selkirk and Winnipeg. In 1952, she married Wilbert Henderson and together they farmed north of Morden. Mum loved gardening, nature, long walks and visiting neighbors.

Memorial service was held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Wiebe Funeral Chapel in Morden with private family ash interment at Hillside Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the staff at Tabor Home for all the kindness they showed mum and the home care staff whose efforts helped mum stay in her apartment before she moved to Tabor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Vina's memory to the Tabor Home Building Fund or to the charity of your choice.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden In care of arrangements wiebefuneralhomes.com



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