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# The *Winkler • Morden* Voice

VOLUME 6 EDITION 49

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 3, 2015

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## Cocoa elves

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Karina Bueckert, Joan Enns, and Jason Guenther served up hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of the Quality Inn at Winkler's Christmas kick-off Nov. 26. The celebration stretched from City Hall to the Winkler Centennial Library to Bethel Heritage Park. For more photos see Pg. 16.

## Local leaders represent region at AMM conf.

By Lorne Stelmach

Any time municipal leaders get together to talk shop, infrastructure is guaranteed to be a hot topic of conversation.

That's especially so when they are meeting with their provincial counterparts at a forum like the annual meeting of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

Held in Brandon Nov. 23-25, the gathering of leaders from 137 Manitoba municipalities saw them discuss a wide range of topics and decide which issues to press upon the Manitoba government.

Back home late last week, Morden Mayor Ken Wiebe noted the specific concerns often vary between urban and rural municipalities, but "infrastructure is always the big item. That's a concern in rural areas as well as urban ... things like deterioration of roads and bridges."

RM of Stanley Reeve Morris Olafson agreed.

"Maybe 90 per cent of our budget is roads, bridges and drainage," he said. "So everything that comes up about that affects us."

"I think municipalities are so limited in their ability to generate funds ... whereas

Continued on page 5

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The students of J.W. Walkof School filled several barrels full of food for the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board during their Soup Parade last week. Another parade was held this Thursday, Dec. 3.



# Caring and sharing

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The students at J.R. Walkof School in Winkler filled several barrels full of tin cans for the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board this past week.

The school hosted its first Soup Parade of the Christmas season last Friday. The entire student body marched through the hallways, tin cans held aloft and chanting in unison, "We care, we care, we have some food to share."

A second parade was planned for today, Dec. 3, after which all the donations will be sent to the Cheer Board

so they can use the items in the holiday hampers they're putting together for families in need next week.

"This is so exciting when we can get the kids involved and they understand that there's families in need and they want to help out," says Gr. 3 teacher Sherry Ehnes. "A lot of the teachers have discussions in their classrooms about what kind of a difference we can all make and how can we be better citizens and help other people, and so

**"THIS IS SO EXCITING WHEN WE CAN GET THE KIDS INVOLVED ... AND THEY WANT TO HELP OUT."**

this is just a piece of that puzzle."

Ehnes notes the campaign's success

Continued on page 4

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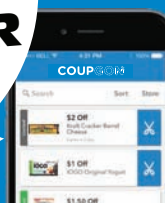
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# Morden Police talk drug trends with public

By Lorne Stelmach

Drugs are an ongoing concern for the Morden Police Service.

The nature and extent of the problem changes, though, as trends evolve, police said at a community information evening held Nov. 24.

Whether it is done through education or enforcement, their aim is make the community aware and to engage people both ways.

"Some people either don't want to believe it exists and deal with it or some people pretend like it doesn't exist and it's easier not to deal with it," Sgt. Sean Aune said. "We just know from our job that it's here ... it exists ... and we deal with the people who have these problems."

For some people, there is a more relaxed attitude towards marijuana use, officers suggested.

Where it is becoming more alarming, however, is that youth are starting to experiment with drugs as early on as Grade 6.

"It is starting to unfortunately ... kids are starting at a younger age," said Aune. "And some things are becoming more acceptable that were not acceptable back in the day. And, yes, we're seeing a little bit of a trend starting at the younger ages."

The problem then worsens as not only the drug use grows but users experiment with more varieties and become more addicted.

Aune said they are seeing that in an increased prevalence of methamphetamine use in the area.

"It's a supply and demand market," he said. "We infiltrated a bit of the cocaine market, then it kind of switches to other areas."

"If there's individuals in our communities who are in that area or in that drug for sale or for trafficking, which is generally what happens, an individual from this area will get involved in that drug, come to this area, and it's more readily available to everybody."

Another aspect of the problem is

Continued on page 4

"SOME PEOPLE  
PRETEND LIKE IT  
DOESN'T EXIST  
AND IT'S EASIER  
NOT TO DEAL  
WITH IT."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Samples of drugs and other related materials seized by the Morden Police Service were on display at the drug information night Nov. 24.

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# Pot, cocaine among most common local drugs

From Pg. 3

that a community like Morden can become a territory for Winnipeg street gangs.

That is why it is important for the police to be more proactive, especially in working in co-operation with other police services, Aune stressed.

"On a provincial level, we try to stay in with the bigger police agencies. It's so we stay in the know, we know who these people are, what the newest trends are," he said. "The biggest advantage Morden has is that it's a small community and we know who

these individuals are ... we can identify them quicker. And if we have the resources working there, we can get at them and stop them."

## STARTING WITH THE BASICS

The presentation began with some of the various reasons people get involved with drugs, which ranges from peer pressure to thrill-seeking.

Drug abuse can then start to reveal itself in a variety of ways: loss of motivation, social problems, changes in appearance, loss of contact with family and friends, financial problems,

health issues, and involvement in criminal activity.

Symptoms of drug use can include an increased heart rate, change in appetite, increased thirst, watery eyes, insomnia, lack of ambition, becoming apathetic or irritable, and even a rash.

Some of the most common drugs on the market in the Morden-Winkler area are marijuana, cocaine, hashish, methamphetamine, ecstasy, and magic mushrooms.

The local supply of these drugs comes mostly through Winnipeg, although police said there are some quantities of drugs produced here.

Drug prices vary from \$10-\$15 per gram of marijuana to \$60-\$100 for cocaine to \$10-\$15 for one pill of ecstasy.

Officers went on to explain that the basic "rush" when having taken a drug can typically last anywhere from five to 30 minutes. A "high" can extend anywhere from four to 16 hours, while a "binge" might go as long as three to 15 days.

Recent trends in the region have included the appearance of heroine as well as a form of synthetic heroine called fentanyl, which is much more potent.

Another new trend is what they called "shatter," which is a more potent concentration of the key ingredient in marijuana. Police also noted a few other examples including GHB (liquid ecstasy), PCP (angel dust), and LSD (acid).

Officers also didn't downplay the impact of prescription drug abuse or of alcohol as a popular addictive choice for local youth.

They suggested alcohol in particular is somehow seen as a more socially acceptable practice by some people.

Police offered a top ten list of what parents can do to protect their children and how anyone can help someone dealing with drug abuse:

- Be supportive.
- Teach negative actions have consequences.
- Do random drug checking or testing.
- Educate yourself more about the signs.
- Be involved in your child's life.
- Don't assume it can't or won't happen to your child.
- Be the best parent you can be to your child in all ways.
- Watch for signs among your child's friends and other family.
- Work to build their self esteem.
- Never take any drug with your child.

Your mobile phone or device can also be put to use through the RCMP drug app that provides a wide range of information about drugs and trends across Canada.

## TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE

Aune said he was encouraged that it was the community that initiated last week's information session, as it's a sign people want to take an active role in protecting Morden.

"This stemmed from the community wanting this presentation," he said. "It was requested by people in the community, so we feel it's important for us to come out here and give the people as much as we can.

"The crowd tonight showed me there's a lot of interest. I think by the number of people who came out here, it's definitely worth doing."



At the drug information night hosted by the Morden Police Service last week, Cst. Scott Edwards was on hand with police dog Chase. The K-9 unit's demonstration had Chase track down a quantity of drugs hidden in the room.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

## School prepares 177 boxes for Operation Christmas Child

From Pg. 2

owes a lot not just to the students for their eagerness, but to their families, as well, for being so generous with their donations.

"Whether it's a small item, whether it's something large, it's about coming together and helping other people," she says. "So whatever they can give is appreciated and is welcomed by the Cheer Board."

It has certainly been a giving couple of

months for the K-4 school. In addition to the Soup Parade, the kids also brought in 177 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child last month. Prior to that, they raised \$600 through a fundraiser walk for the Katie Cares respite home.

### SUBMITTED PHOTO

J.R. Walkof School prepared 177 shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child campaign last month.



## > AMM CONFERENCE, FROM PG. 1

the provincial issue is always, well, just put up the PST, right?" said Winkler Mayor Martin Harder. "Well, for us, the only source of funding we have is property taxes, and we know that people are maxed out.

"Nobody likes to see that, and neither do we. We like to keep our spending in line."

That is a message that Harder will continue to push after being elected as a regional director on the AMM board.

"I appreciated the vote of confidence," he said, noting the other candidate from the RM of Portage would have been an equally strong representative on the board.

From his perspective, Harder said he wants to see the province pushed to improve its fiscal management.

"From the municipalities perspective, we're disappointed not necessarily in the amount of funding the provincial government gives, but I think we are disappointed in how it gets used," he said. "We try to ensure our books are balanced, we try to ensure we spend our money wisely, and we try to limit it as far as administration is concerned. And with the current government, it certainly seems to be there's no end in sight. They keep adding bureaucracy."

Olafson gave Harder his vote of confidence, saying the region will benefit from his serving on the board

"That's a good thing. It gives us good representation in this corner," he said.

### BIG TOPICS

One big point of discussion at the conference had the municipalities agree on asking the province to rebate 100 per cent of the PST that they pay out.

It's estimated municipalities pay over \$25 million each year in PST and they want that rebated like the federal government does with the GST to support infrastructure improvements.

Also as part of the conference, mayors of Manitoba's cities—including Winkler and Morden—met to discuss not only PST costs but issues such as policing costs and services, mandatory accessibility plans proposed by the province, and the 2016 provincial election.

Harder suggested members of the city caucus want to make it a formal group under the umbrella of the AMM.

They still want to present a united front with other municipalities but also want to have that additional joint voice as cities.

"We have lots of issues that are not necessarily related to rural municipalities, but we have enough in common that we need to have the strength in numbers to be able to go to the province," he said.

Wiebe noted the meeting offered the cities a chance to meet with the premier and eight members of his cabinet. Delegates also enjoyed a debate between the leaders of Manitoba's three main political parties.

"It was a lively debate. They didn't hold back any punches."

One motion put forward by Morden at the conference focussed on using digital technology for subdivision ap-

provals. Right now, all the paperwork, plans and approvals have to be physically sent to Winnipeg.

"The days of the Pony Express have been long gone," Wiebe said. "We think in a day and age with the technology where it's at, this is a waste of time. You should be able to send everything to Winnipeg electronically and get them signed electronically and then sent back."

A second motion by Morden focussed on funding for water and waste water work.

"Every time the provincial and federal governments come out with a change in regulations, they mandate it be done by a certain time, but they never back it up with money. So the municipalities are stuck with the bill," said Wiebe, suggesting projects should ideally be cost shared with one third from each level of government. "They make the rules, we pay the bill. We said

that any regulations that are new ... should be funded as well."

Lobbying decisions aside, Wiebe said the meeting is always a good opportunity for networking with leaders from other communities.

"It's a good time to connect with other municipalities and talk to them one on one and see what their concerns are ... and they see what your concerns are and what you're doing."

Olafson added, as well, the event is a good opportunity particularly to meet with leaders from across the south central region.

"I meet up with all of the surrounding RMs ... there's a lot of shared concerns and there's some good ideas out there," he said. "I came away with a pretty good feeling about my RM and my council and people that we work with as compared to some other areas of the province."

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Winkler Morden Voice

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# The trouble with growing pains

**I** remember as a child being told those sharp pains in my legs that happened often at the end of the day were growing pains.

This was somehow supposed to help.

Of course, it didn't help at all. All I knew now was the source of the pain—growing—and the realization that I was simply supposed to lay there and take it until my stupid legs stopped growing.

Sometimes when I look at our region I think that is what is going on. We live in what I consider one of the most beautiful, awesome places in Canada (the Winkler/Stanley/Morden region, often referred to as the Pembina Valley) and yet there are times when it feels like things have gone awry.

Pain is supposed to warn us of

something gone wrong, we are told. However we know this is not always the case. Growing pains, for instance, are telling us that something is going right—I am growing. This is a good thing. Growth is a sign of life.

Our communities are growing. They are growing as fast as a teenager and sometimes there are pains. We point them out and to our chagrin we are told the equivalent of “relax, they are growing pains” and we are left to wonder what that means.

Houses are being built, businesses are coming to town, roads are extending, services are being stretched and adapted, people are getting busier, food cupboards are being stretched, different cultures are making an appearance, class sizes are growing, crime increases, and more.

Growth equals change. Most of us struggle with change and many of us downright hate it. Phrases like “if it ain't broke don't fix it” and “don't rock the boat” betray our fear and distaste for it.

But change is inevitable. It's a law of the universe, really (the second law of thermodynamics). All things change, no matter how much we fight against it.

This leaves us with options: sit back and take it or try to manage it. I prefer the latter.

We know things are going to change and sitting back and taking it may feel realistic, but in reality it is defeatist. Taking the opportunity to direct this change—to use the energy of change for good—this is worth the effort.

We know our cities are going to grow, so we have an opportunity to plan them so that they grow into something beautiful. Like a garden, you need to direct growth to avoid it becoming an ugly tangle of weeds. Heck, even wildflower and prairie grass gardens that seem uncontrolled are in fact the product of planning and intention.

We know service levels are going to have to change to meet the demands of a larger community. The days of having your milk delivered to the front door and doctor's house calls are largely gone because instead of 300 households there are more than 9,000. This is a reality of growth.

Managing the growth requires people to get involved. We already have a very involved community, but there

Continued on page 8

# Letters

## Time to stop 'proof-texting' when defending Islam

Although I did not attend the recent “crash course” on Islam at the Access Event Centre, I did take the time to read the lengthy article in the Voice on Nov. 25.

There is much I would like to respond to, but I will focus on one important and defining statement from Idris Elbakri. When speaking to the idea that Islam is a religion of peace, Elbakri made the following statement:

“I'm not going to say Islam is about peace because that's a cliché, but I will say that Islam is a faith that sanc-

tifies life and the Qur'an says, 'Whoever kills one soul it's as if they've killed all humanity; whoever saves one soul, it's as if they've saved all of humanity.' That's a clear text in the Qur'an. I really don't know which Qur'an these guys read over there in ISIL, because it's not the one I read.”

I would then have to conclude that Mr. Elbakri himself might be the one misreading the Qur'an. At the very least, he was proof-texting.

Here is the actual passage from the Qur'an that Mr. Elbakri was talking about. And, in fact, it's not referring

to Muslims at all. It's talking about the Jews.

“Because of that, We decreed upon the Children of Israel [the Jews] that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption of the land, it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one, it is as if he had saved mankind entirely. And our messengers had certainly come to them with clear proofs. Then indeed many of them, after that, throughout the land, were transgressors.” (Qur'an 5:32)

Continued on page 8

# Residents enjoying new Salem dining hall

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Thanks to the generosity of Triple E Canada, dozens of residents of Salem Home in Winkler are now able to enjoy a meal in peace and quiet.

To mark its 50th anniversary in 2015, Triple E fully sponsored the construction of a brand new, 1,100 square foot dining room in the personal care home's Maple North wing.

A ribbon cutting for the space, which hosted its first meal in October after several months of construction, was held last Wednesday.

It's been clear for a few years that a



new dining area was needed for the 28 residents who call Maple North home, said Salem CEO Sherry Janzen.

"People were coming and going through that space—it's an intersection of going upstairs, of going to the different parts of the building—and so they were totally distracted while they were supposed to be eating," she said of the former dining area. "When you're older and you have hearing problems, the noisier it is, the more distracting it is and the more frustrat-

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Above: Salem Home residents Mary Peters and Anne Neufeld helped dignitaries cut the ribbon on the care home's spacious new dining hall last week. Right: Triple E Canada's Phil Ens talked about why the company decided to fully fund the project.

ing it is ... and so then the residents don't eat."

The project got bumped up to the top of Salem's to-do list but only became a reality when Triple E stepped up to cover all the costs associated with it.



Continued on page 8

"THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS HAS JUST BEEN IMPROVED A LOT."

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Left: The 1,100 sq. ft. space provides residents with a separate, quiet, and well-lit room in which to enjoy their meals—a far cry from the former dining space located beside a noisy, busy hallway. Above: The new construction created a secure patio space upstairs.

## > SALEM HOME, FROM PG. 7

“Their role in funding it was 100 per cent,” said Salem Foundation board chair Edwin Guenther. “This was their gift to the community.

“It’s obviously very generous of them to give back,” he added. “We’re so fortunate that our people living here are the beneficiaries of that ... the quality of life for the residents has just been improved a lot.”

Triple E founder and shareholder Phil Ens said the company is pleased to have been able to give back to the community in such a substantial way

with this project, which will serve future generations of Salem residents for years to come.

“Fifty years, of course, is a year of jubilee and we feel that’s the time that you should open up the purse strings,” he said. “Many of our grandparents and parents have benefited by this great institution called Salem Home for the Aged, and the needs were apparent.

“In the former space they were eating sort of in the hallway and across from the nursing station, a lot of

phone calls and traffic going through. This way it’s quiet, it’s like senior citizens would like to live at home,” Ens said. “This new dining facility treats them with a lot more dignity and a lot better care.”

In addition to the new dining room, the building also creates an enclosed patio space on the second floor which gives residents living with dementia a secure place to enjoy the outdoors.

Also contributing to the overall project was the Winkler MCC Thrift

Shop, which furnished the space with brand new appliances and a fireplace.

Nancy Wiebe, special projects assistant at Salem, says the community’s generosity when it comes to the many projects the care home undertakes to improve resident care never ceases to amaze her.

“That’s one thing that so amazing about this community: you make people aware of the need and they respond, they have that caring compassion to want to give back.”



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## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

are always more opportunities. There are groups and non-profits, city and RM committees, and countless boards that can use our help in managing the growth in-

stead of simply sitting back and letting it happen at random.

The point is there are many positive ways in which we can shape and manage the

change. Step number one is to see what’s going on as not just inevitable but a good thing.

## > LETTERS, FROM PG. 6

The next verse (5.33) is the one for Muslims:

“Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Messenger [Muhammad] and contrive corruption upon the earth is that they be killed or crucified or that their hands and feet be cut off from oppo-

site sides or that they be exiled from the land. That is for them a disgrace in this world; for then in the Hereafter is a great punishment.”

This verse, used by Idris Elbakri, does not prove Islam is peaceful. In context, it actually does the opposite.

If we truly want to live in

peace and bring an end to jihad, we must stop proof-texting, and, even more so, we have to stop protecting Muhammad and the Qur’an from criticism.

Brian Klassen,  
La Riviere

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# Winkler United Way campaign hits \$70,000

By Ashleigh Viveiros

As its door-to-door residential campaign winds down, the Winkler and District United Way is already well on its way to its 2015 goal.

With most United Way volunteers having already canvassed their neighbourhoods and handed in the resulting donations, the agency is about \$70,000 closer to its \$125,000 target.

"It's a little less than we were at last year at this time," said board president Lori Penner, "but I think we're on our way. I think we'll likely get at least close to our goal."

The United Way's volunteer board now turns its attention to the business canvass, which will run into the new year.

Penner is optimistic the local business community will come through for the United Way as it strives for the

remaining \$55,000 or so it needs to meet the granting requests of the 20 non-profit organizations the money supports.

"We are making sure that the money donated to the United Way is staying in Winkler, staying with charities that provide services in Winkler," she said, noting that the grants the United Way hand out have a big impact on these charities. "These are vital donations that we make to organizations that provide services in this area and we want to make sure that they can continue those services."

Several Winkler companies have signed on to take part in the United Way's payroll deposit program, which allows employees to donate from each paycheque throughout the year.

"That's great to see," Penner said. It's a newer program that's starting to gain some word-of-mouth interest, she added, and they'd love to see more companies come on board.

If you didn't get a visit from a United Way volunteer and would still like to make a donation, you can reach Penner at 204-362-8952 or via e-mail at [unitedwaywinkler@gmail.com](mailto:unitedwaywinkler@gmail.com).

"Let's us know you'd like us to come and we will," she said, noting they managed to canvass the vast majority of the city thanks to the work of over 100 volunteers, but some pockets of town were missed.

Anyone who would like to receive a tax receipt for their donation for the 2015 tax year should contact the United Way before Dec. 31.

## UNITED WAY 2015-2016 CAMPAIGN GRANT RECIPIENTS:

- Alzheimer Society of Manitoba
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler
- Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation
- Bunker Youth Ministry
- CNIB
- Canadian Red Cross
- Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba
- Eden Volunteer Program
- Gateway Resources
- Genesis House
- Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre
- Salem Home Inc.
- South Central Cancer Resource
- Winkler Bible Camp Assoc. Inc.
- The Winkler Daycare Center Inc.
- Winkler Family Resource Centre
- Winkler & District Food Cupboard Inc.
- Winkler Senior Centre
- Northlands Childcare Centre
- MCC Low German Mennonite Services

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# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Facing off for Christmas Cheer

### Thunder to take on Guns N' Hoses

By Lorne Stelmach

A bit of friendly competition for a good cause is becoming a new holiday tradition in Morden.

The Morden Thunder high school hockey team will square off against the Guns 'N Hoses team made up of local firefighters and police Dec. 13 to benefit the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

The first game organized on short notice last year raised around \$5,000, so everyone involved is aiming to do even better this time.

"We had a blast last year. It was something that was very spontaneous for us last time," said Morden Fire Chief Andy Thiessen. "This time around, we're planning it a little bit better."

"This year, we got a bit of an earlier start on it, and we're able to promote it more," agreed Thunder coach Reid Sloan.

"They made a big dent in the donations," Cheer Board rep. Sarah Jolin said of the 2014 game. "It's going to be a great event all over again."

To drum up interest, members of



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden Thunder hockey team will face off against the Guns N' Hoses team made up of Morden police officers and firefighters Dec. 13 in support of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

the team will be at the Giant Tiger and Morden Co-op stores Dec. 9 and Dec. 12 to collect donations in return for help customers with their grocery bags.

Being involved in that way as well as the game itself makes it a great experience for the team members, Sloan said.

"It's great for the boys. It's great for the community. They get the experience to do something not many other teams are able to do," he said. "What they're going to be able to raise for the community is going to be great. It's showing that they want to give back

to this great community that we have here in Morden."

Being in public service roles gives the fire department and police service a vested interest in wanting to get involved and help out, suggested Thiessen.

"We just find this an awesome opportunity to get connected with some of the younger kids ... it's a win-win for all of us," he said, adding that "hopefully, we can get one of two of these guys on the department at some point in time."

Thiessen admitted there will likely also be some good-natured shenanigans planned for the game.

"I know there's a couple of my firemen's sons who are on that team, and I've got a couple things planned for them," he said. "We'll have a little bit of fun with it, and I'm sure they've got a few things planned as well. ... they can skate faster than us, I know that."

Jolin said this is a fantastic event for the Cheer Board and that it is great family oriented fun.

"They do such a great job in raising funds for the community and making it a fun event for everyone to enjoy as a community," she said. "They really care about the community. This community is amazing in how they support one another."

Also supporting the Cheer Board

this month is the Morden Massage Therapy Centre, Jolin added.

The centre has massage therapy students do their practical training there, so right now the proceeds from their massage treatments will be donated to this year's Christmas hamper campaign.

"So if anyone's getting stressed out with all the shopping and baking and they need a little massage, they can go down ... and have that donated towards their neighbours having a really fantastic Christmas this year," Jolin said.

She also noted Dairy Queen is running its Angels Anonymous program to collect toys.

With all of these initiatives in the community, Jolin said they are confident the Cheer Board will have another successful year.

"We're kind of on-par for our donations so far this year," she said.

Volunteers will spend Dec. 14-16 packing up the food and gift hampers for delivery throughout the community on Dec. 16.

If you can't make next week's game but would still like to drop off a food item or toy, a drop box has been set up at the Morden Fire Hall and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Miami and Area Foundation Board

# Morden residents vent their frustration

People weigh-in at info. meeting for new waste system

By Lorne Stelmach

A majority of those Mordenites on hand for the first of three information nights on the city's new waste program coming in the new year seemed ready to trash the change.

They raised a number of concerns about the workings of the new three stream system for waste, recycling and compost at the Nov. 27 meeting.

Many in the crowd also vented their frustration with how the change was handled and the decision to go with Souris-based Municipal Waste Management over Morden-based Pembina Valley Containers for the contract. Council voted on the matter in a closed meeting on Oct. 30, picking MWM over three other sealed bids, including PVC's.

Some expressed a desire to opt out of the program and deal with Pembina Valley Containers on their own, although city officials suggested that was not possible for residential properties.

Resident Greg Bereznycky noted he has heard about the problems with the new service in place in Brandon, and he feels Morden had it good with Pembina Valley Containers. He also expressed concern over whether local people might lose their jobs as a result of the change.

Wayne Cuvelier took issue with how the change was handled and felt the city should have allowed for input from the community.

"We weren't consulted. We were not consulted until after the fact," he said. "And they're putting stuff in the paper, little wee notices to change bylaws, and you cannot read it. I get the magnifying glass out because I want to know what's going on."

"So my concern is how it was handled, and I don't think it's going to be nearly as good. It's just not going to work for bi-weekly pickup. We're not going to get as much service."

Rick Wall cited a number of concerns about the workings of the program, such as whether residents might end up facing extra charges if

things are not properly placed in the correct bin as trash, recycling, or compost.

"It's how this was all presented and offered to us ... thrown at us," Wall said. "If they offered it differently to us ... these are your options ... and are we willing to pay more taxes ... none of that was ever presented to us."

A number of other speakers including realtor Ron Wiebe and former mayor Max Friesen also took council to task for their handling of the issue and for not making it work with PVC.

In a comment to the meeting, PVC owner David Weiss suggested his contract proposal was not out of line when taking into account other factors such as those costs related to processing.

"The problem is they're comparing apples to grapes," he said.

City officials have defended the process as being a fair assessment of who could provide the best service at the best cost, and their bottom line has been there will be extended services

including composting at no cost increase to residents.

Throughout the evening, though, residents offered a number of other questions and concerns ranging from the cost of having to replace lost or damaged bins to the size of the three bins just being too big for some homes.

On display were examples of the system of three wheeled carts colour-

coded for the three streams: blue for recycling, green for compost, and black for waste.

Compost pickup will run a for a 36 consecutive-week season from spring to fall and will be processed by Enviroclean Landfill Solutions at their

facility on Jefferson Street in Morden.

It is done through an automated process involving wheeled carts and a single-operator truck with side

Continued on page 13

**"WE WEREN'T CONSULTED. WE WERE NOT CONSULTED UNTIL AFTER THE FACT."**



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden city council member Doug Frost (right) fielded questions about the details of the new curbside collection program at a community information meeting last week.



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# Hometown Ford supports Imagination Library



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Hometown Services' Carl Derksen presented the Imagination Library's board (from left) Wendy Wiebe, Dorothy Derksen, Joyce Sawatzky, Judy Unrau, Rachel James, and Louise Fultz with the proceeds from the fall Drive a Ford fundraiser last week.

## By Ashleigh Viveiros

Hometown Service in Winkler presented the Imagination Library with the proceeds from the fall Drive4UR Community Drive a Ford Event last week.

The fundraiser earned the early

childhood literacy program \$20 for every test drive made one designated evening in September, totalling \$3,240.

Hometown's Carl Derksen said the event was one of the most successful ones ever for the dealership.

"They did a great job of registering enough people. We brought in eight vehicles to start off with and we actually had to bring two more ... because they had regis-

tered so many people ahead of time," he said. "This is our biggest fundraising year for the Drive event because of that.

"We were really happy to partner up with them," Derksen added.

The money will go a long way, said Imagination Library board chair Joyce Sawatzky.

"That will pay for about a month and a half worth of books for us," she said, noting they need to raise about \$48,000 a year to cover the program's costs.

The program currently has 729 pre-school age children receiving free

"THAT WILL PAY FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF WORTH OF BOOKS FOR US."

monthly books in the mail to foster their love of reading. Another 70 kids are on the waiting list.

"We have a real influx again of registrations ... it's basically a three to five month waiting period," Sawatzky said.

Sawatzky said it looks like the program is already starting to have an impact on registered kids as they head into their first years of school.

"They are noticing that the children that started Gr. 1 this year had not lost as much as traditionally they lose over the summer months," she said. "We are thinking that the longer this program runs the more effects we're going to see in the school."

The Imagination Library's next big fundraiser is a benefit concert slated for March.

"We're hoping that that's going to be a major fundraiser for us," Sawatzky said, noting more details will be released in the coming months.

If you'd like more information on the Imagination Library, find them online at [www.winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com](http://www.winklerfamilyresourcecentre.com) or email [winklerimaginationlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:winklerimaginationlibrary@gmail.com).

## ACU named top employer

By Lorne Stelmach

Being named one of the best employers in the province goes beyond having satisfied staff for the Access Credit Union.

Its inclusion among the top 25 employers in Manitoba for the second year in a row also translates to its clients being served better by the financial institution.

"If we have a strongly engaged workforce, they're going to provide stronger service to our members and they're going to go that extra mile because that's the value proposition of the credit union," said Larry Davey, company president and CEO.

Davey said they believe their core values are something that the staff can rally behind.

"Our staff is very aligned with our value proposition, and so when you take being a

"AT THE END OF THE DAY, MEMBERS RECEIVE STRONGER SERVICE ..."

happy employee ... in conjunction with the extra training we provide, which makes their jobs easier ... and the support we provide for continuous education for our staff ... that goes a long way in order for them to be that much more knowledgeable in dealing with our members.

Continued on page 13

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# Burgers for Boundary

By Lorne Stelmach

The bacon cheeseburger was the favorite of former Morden Dairy Queen owner Jerry Letkeman.

It is appropriate, then, that his menu item of choice is now supporting a worthy cause in his memory.

The Morden DQ holds its fourth Burgers for Boundary Trails Day next Thursday, Dec. 10.

On that day, a dollar from every bacon cheeseburger sold will be donated to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation.

(The Winkler DQ had joined in the promotion the last two years but will not be involved this time.)

"We get some scrubs from the hospital, and we dress up as nurses and doctors for the day and serve some burgers," said Morden restaurant manager Chris MacPherson.

He sees it as a small way to pay tribute to Letkeman, who passed away in 2011.

The annual Miracle Treat Day supports the children's hospital in Winnipeg, so this is a good chance to support the local hospital, MacPherson said.

"It helps the community. Any business that gets community support and is here for the long term needs to give back. So this is just one of the ways that we do that."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Ready to serve up some bacon cheeseburgers at the Morden Dairy Queen Dec. 10 in support of the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation are Chris MacPherson, Veronika Adler, Rita Berg, Afreen Imtiaz, and Val Bissett.

## Council gives special services plan first reading

From Pg. 11

loading arms, but it will provide collection only bi-weekly for recyclables and general waste on alternate weeks, with the compost pickup service running weekly starting in spring.

The Willcocks Road community compost site will continue to operate as usual and apart from this system.

Two more public information nights on the new system will be held Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Access Event Centre community hall and Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. in the MCC meeting room of the Access Event Centre.

### ISSUE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT COUNCIL

Morden council heard many of the same concerns again at its Monday night meeting where they held a hearing to approve the special services plan that sets out the financing for the new waste program.

A number of objectors asked about the cost difference in the

service proposals. Among them was former city manager Ernie Epp, who noted he had made a Freedom of Information request to have those numbers made public.

"I'm a big believer in council being open to the public," he said, adding he saw this as "a flawed system ... the process needs to be adjusted."

"I feel this initiative is being rolled out too hastily," added former RM of Stanley CAO Rick Klippenstein.

Also in attendance was resident Terry Titchkosky, who said, "I wish we had been asked as the public for our

### > ACU, FROM PG. 12

"At the end of the day, members receive stronger service and more knowledgeable service from our staff."

Entering its 11th year, Manitoba's Top Employers is a list organized by the editors who compile the Canada's Top 100 Employers list.

It recognizes companies that meet a range of benchmark, including working conditions, stability, benefits, flexibility, community involvement, and the ability to further each individual's career as it suits their aspirations while balancing their life goals.

ideas."

Afterwards, Mayor Ken Wiebe acknowledged some of the concerns.

"In hindsight, could we have done some things differently? Council could possibly have introduced the system a little better, but in the end, this is the system we are going to go with it. It was still going to happen.

"There's absolutely no doubt in my mind we made the right decision. Maybe we could have done the process a little differently, but the decision we made is the right decision."

Council went on to give the special

Within that framework, Davey suggested there are a number of key factors that contribute to making Access a strong employer.

"One of the key ones is the support on the education side and providing long term opportunities." "At the same time, it's making the staff comfortable in their roles so they're very clear on expectations.

"We're very, very proud of the fact that we're very transparent to all our staff. Any questions they may want to ask, they're welcome to ask," Davey added. "We've even created an anon-

**"THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT IN MY MIND WE MADE THE RIGHT DECISION."**

services plan first reading. Those who objected will have an opportunity to appeal the matter to the Manitoba Municipal Board.

ymous portal where staff can ask questions without people knowing who is asking the questions. Sometimes, people are a little bit fearful to ask those tough questions, so this is totally anonymous ... our assumption is if one person wants to ask it, others will as well."

Davey said this honour serves as reinforcement of the work ACU does in trying to create a positive workplace.

"We're going to try to build on the success that we've enjoyed and keep developing those skills going forward."

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BRINGING ENCOURAGEMENT & JOY

# Kicking off the Christmas season

Winkler held its Christmas Kick-off downtown last Thursday night. Clockwise from left: Several light displays, including these carollers in the gazebo, light up Bethel Heritage Park, which has speakers set up to play Christmas carols during peak usage times over the next few weeks; the SCRL's Mary Toma read stories at the Winkler Library to help kids warm up after touring the park; Darius Peters, Marcelo Guenther, and Dominik Bueckert handed out the scavenger hunt sheets, which sent participants all over the City Hall and park area looking for items in a bid to win the Co-op gift card grand prize.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



## Attention Kids...

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Pick one of the following themes and tell us your best story:

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United Way



**Morden Access  
Event Centre  
Sun., Dec. 6  
1-3 PM**



# Bringing a 'Tin for the Bin'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Parkland School's fall school dance encouraged kids to bring a "Tin for the Bin" as admission this year.

The campaign was led by the student council, who also set up collection bins for several days after the Oct. 28 dance to try and bring in even more donations for local families in need, says teacher Theresa Klassen.

"This was a student initiative, which is what we always hope for," she said. "Instead of raising money for them-

selves they thought of this. We are so proud of our students and how they are trying to make a small difference in their community."

Shown in the photo at left with some of the donations collected is (back row) Klassen, Sam Bauer, Briana Neufeld, teacher Val Harder, (middle row) Leah Schmidt, Trent Crane, Mike Heppner, Rachel Klassen, (front row) Victoria Krahn, and Lauren Ginter.

# New police campaign to reward safe road practices

By Lorne Stelmach

Don't assume the worst this holiday season if you find yourself getting stopped by the Morden Police Service.

The officers might be pulling you over just to say thanks and reward you with a gift card for doing something right.

"People panic when they see the lights, of course," said Chief Brad Neduzak. "The first thing in their minds is what did we do wrong? Why are you pulling me over? Actually, you did nothing wrong, you actually did something right. So that's why we're stopping and acknowledging you."

The campaign came about through the initiative and involvement of a local business, Neduzak noted.

"We have done similar campaigns to this, but we were actually approached by the owners of Coffee Culture ... wanting to do something with us for the holiday season."

So while officers are out on routine patrol, they might stop someone who is showing good driving habits, even as a pedestrian or cyclist, and the reward will be a gift certificate for Coffee Culture.

Neduzak said it is the kind of simple thing that can tie in well with their goals of education and prevention rather than just enforcement.

"We'll try to give out a few each day

... as we're touring around," he said.

For the police, it is nice to be able to deal with people for "positive things rather than illegal things," Neduzak said. "Normally, people don't hear from us until they've done something wrong, so this is nice in that way.

"And we appreciate the support from Coffee Culture too ... it's an awesome thing for them to do."

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# Your FARM



## Port of Churchill, Hudson Bay rail up for sale

By Harry Siemens

The iconic Port of Churchill is for sale along with the railway from The Pas to the port on Hudson Bay.

Sinclair Harrison, president of the Hudson Bay Route Association, puts a different perspective on it.

OmniTrax Canada had an abysmal year at the port as the grain handle dropped from 540,000 tonnes in 2014 to 184,000 tonnes in 2015, which is a long ways from break even, says Harrison.

"We had suggested to them to split the assets and sell the rail to a rail company and the terminal to a grain company but the company decided to leave it all together," he says. "It is a complete asset, the rail, the terminal, and the tank farm and a fair bit of land."

Harrison says their group is very supportive of the sale and will work with whoever the new owner is and life will go on.

So just how much is the port worth?

"I wouldn't even want to hazard a guess," says Harrison. "The federal government and Manitoba government have put millions of dollars into upgrading the track and into upgrading the port as OmniTrax has, too. I don't know how much OmniTrax paid for it and whether that will even enter into it."

Looking at the state of the port recently, this year's grain handlings are among the worst in decades, Harrison says.

"When you look at the grain handlings over the last 50 years, certainly

this year's is one of the lowest in 50 years," he says. "When you look at the amount of grain produced now as compared to 25 or 30 years ago, there's twice as much grain around."

Harrison agrees with OmniTrax president Merv Tweed that this sale a huge concern for the City of Churchill and all the communities along the line, as it is their lifeline, their connection in and out of the north.

"The ownership of that line is very important to the north, and to Manitoba, too," he says. "Most years it is Saskatchewan grain that goes out of that port, so it should be a concern of our government also."

"I would hope whoever the new owner is ... there needs to be an owner there that has a grain collection system in the Prairies" Harrison says. "And a good working relationship with CN because they are the ones that deliver the grain to The Pas, and Hudson Bay Rail takes it from there to Churchill."

Though it's still early in the process, Harrison has met with one potential owner already and says they'll do whatever they can to help promote the sale to a company that will help get that line and port up and running.

"There is potential business there, if they can become a more reliable source of transportation," he says.

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## Lions hand out ID kits

The Morden Lions Club and officers from the Morden Police Service teamed up to visit Minnewasta and Maple Leaf schools last month to present identification kits to all local kindergarten students.

The ID Kit Program has been sending personalized kits home with students for the past 16 years. This year they handed out 160 kits in all.

Each kit contains information about child safety and also includes each child's fingerprints and a space for parents to include other personal information.

Also included is a coloring book with fun things for the children to do that are all related to child safety.

All kits go home with the students for safekeeping.

**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Morden Police Service officers Dane Demianiw and April Penner helped Morden Lions Club members Rob Lawrence, Herman Hiebert, and Sandra Lawrence and Minnewasta School teacher Lorilee Barrett distributed identification kits to kindergarten students last month. Shown here getting their kits are students Nathanael Friesen and Ally Fleming.

## WSD to try something new with budget meeting

By Lorne Stelmach

When the Western School Division brings forward its budget in the new year it will be looking to bring the numbers to life for Mordenites.

Trustees recently approved a plan for what they are calling a budget showcase that will aim to give taxpayers a better idea of the kinds of programs and initiatives that are supported by the budget.

"I don't think people really care about the numbers, but they care about faces and they care about the difference we are making," said board chair Robyn Wiebe, noting that the typical public budget meeting format usually attracts little interest from Morden residents

"We need to communicate that in a better way," she said, so this budget showcase will be a way for people "to come and see the dollars at work."

The plan is to have something akin to a trade show set up in the Morden Collegiate gym, with teachers and other division staff on hand to talk about how the budget affects a variety of school programs and students.

"We are going to be showcasing several of our budgetary items that we have allotted Western School Division dollars for," said Wiebe. "You don't see them on a graph or spreadsheet but you get to see them alive and well in our schools.

"Our staff is excited to see that they can take part in this," she said. "I think they're the ones doing the work, they're the ones who are champions of our system, and we're going to give people an opportunity to talk about that and see that in action."

### LOCAL INITIATIVE

The division also continues to support local initiatives for innovation in learning.

Trustees recently approved a number of small grants of about \$5,000 to support ideas brought forward by WSD teachers.

For example, one grant awarded to Minnewasta School will support a lunch time club that is based around the idea of learning through play.

Another initiative coming from Morden Collegiate involves providing a student survival pack for new students.

**"I DON'T THINK PEOPLE REALLY CARE ABOUT THE NUMBERS, BUT THEY CARE ABOUT FACES AND THEY CARE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE WE ARE MAKING."**

"They're like gift packages that kind of help them fit in right away and feel a sense of belonging, that they are welcome, that they are part of the student body," explained Wiebe.

She said the grant program is a good way to encourage staff to take initia-

tive and show leadership in their schools.

"When it comes from within ... you get a greater sense of ownership. These are ideas that are coming from within our own community."

## PTM fish fry returns

Valley Harvest Maids volunteers were serving up heaping helpings of fish and fixings at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum's first fish fry supper of the off-season last Friday night. Funds from the event goes to help cover some of the operating costs of the heritage museum, which is located on Hwy. 3 between Morden and Winkler. Additional Fish Fry evenings are planned for Jan. 30, Feb. 27, and March 27. Check out [www.threshermens-museum.com](http://www.threshermens-museum.com) for more information.



# arts & culture

## A 'beauty' of a show

DanceWorks and Candlewick students took to the stage at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden last month for their annual Fall Family Classic. This year's show was an adaptation of *Sleeping Beauty*. Nearly 90 young actors, dancers, and singers brought the beloved fairy tale to life, with proceeds from the show going towards the continued refurbishment of the theatre, which also serves as DanceWorks' home.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



### > AN ARTIST'S LIFE

## Celebrate the season with these community shows

**A**s we near the Christmas season we find many different ways to celebrate with friends and loved ones participating in a variety of activities.

For arts enthusiasts, the Christmas season offers many different events—everything from concerts to readings to theatre.

Read on for a list of just a few of the many local ways to celebrate Christmas and the arts this season:

- The Homeschool Harmony Choir along with special guests Emmanuel Handbell Choir, Encore Strings, and Tempo presents a concert entitled

"What Sweeter Music" on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Winkler. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

- Candlewick Productions presents their annual Christmas Dinner Theatre, featuring a three course meal and great entertainment. Entitled *Phantom of the Grand Ol' Opera*, the production continues its two weekend run Dec. 3-5 at the Morden Alliance Church. For tickets, call 204-325-6764.

- Humor, inspiration, and music: these three components of an enjoy-

able evening can be found at *Laugh Again Christmas* with Jay Calder and Phil Callaway on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Winkler EMM Church. For tickets, call 204-325-7667.

- Would you like to try your hand at poetry reading, creating art, or music in a fun and low-key atmosphere? Attend the M.A.C. Coffee House on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Morden Alliance Church. Free admission and refreshments.

- Enjoy comedy and music? Attend *The Colorful Christmas Tour* on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall. The show features The Color and Matt Falk. Visit [www.winklerconcerthall.ca](http://www.winklerconcerthall.ca) for ticket information.

- Bowen presents *A Merry Little Christmas* at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. The evening features

performances from Bowen, Elessar Thiessen, Ed Penner, Warren Friesen, Jayme Giesbrecht, Lindsay Rae, Paul Bergman, Patrick Simoens, and Kensie Jane. For more information visit [www.winklerconcerthall.ca](http://www.winklerconcerthall.ca).

- Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* will be performed by Candlewick Youth Theatre Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Kenmor Theatre in Morden. Tickets are available through Danceworks or at the Pembina Hills Art Gallery. For more information, visit [www.candlewick.ca](http://www.candlewick.ca)

- The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra makes their stop in Winkler for their annual holiday tour on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to [southernmanitobaconcerts.org](http://southernmanitobaconcerts.org).



By Candace Hamm

Reach Candace Hamm at [ibcnu@mts.net](mailto:ibcnu@mts.net)

# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS



## Sprucing up Memorial Park

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The entrance door at the Darlingford Memorial Park building is looking better these days than it has in decades.

Thanks to funding from the Manitoba Designated Heritage Building Grants Program, the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund through the Morden Legion, and the Veals family, the community was able to restore the 95-year-old door, which had badly deteriorated over the years and needed both structural and cosmetic repairs.

Work on the Darlingford Memorial Park door has given the formerly rotting entrance a new lease on life after nearly a century of service.

The work was undertaken over the summer and fall months by Alexander and Nadezda Tolmachev of Cartwright.

The Darlingford Memorial Park was created in 1921 after the First World War to honour the locals who fought and those who died.

It is thought to be the only free-standing memorial building in Manitoba with the sole function of commemorating the war dead.

Inside, two marble tablets bear the names of men who served and died in both the First and Second World Wars.

*Holiday Schedule*

*The Winkler Morden Voice*

**December 17th Christmas Greetings Edition**  
Greeting Deadline – December 7th, 4 pm  
Regular Paper Deadline – December 14th, 4 pm

**December 24th Boxing Week Edition**  
Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements  
**EARLY Deadline** – December 16th, 6 pm

**December 31st First Edition of the Year**  
Display Ads, Classified Ads or Announcements  
**EARLY Deadline** – December 18th, 5 pm

*Happy Holidays!*

Offices will be closed December 22nd through January 1st.  
Offices will reopen Monday, January 4th



## Supporting Genesis House

Dr. Joe Suderman of Suderman Chiropractic in Winkler recently presented Genesis House executive director Ang Braun with the proceeds from the office's second annual collection drive. This year the company collected both monetary donations and food items for the women's shelter, resulting in about shopping cart's worth of food and \$613 in donations.

*The Winkler Morden Voice*

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# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Wolverines end Flyers' win streak

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers' winning streak came to an end Saturday in a 4-3 shootout loss to the Waywayseecappo Wolverines.

The first two periods were a hard scramble for goals, with Winkler's Jordan Williamson drawing first blood less than two minutes into the game, only to have the Wolverines tie things up in the final five minutes. Waywayseecappo then took a 2-1 lead by scoring the lone goal of the second.

After giving up one more goal to the Wolverines a minute into the final period, Winkler jump-started its offense with a goal from Mitch Dyck at the 2:17 mark and then evened the score with a late goal from Cam Whyte to send things into a scoreless extra period.

In the resulting shootout, both teams' first shooters missed the mark, while Waywayseecappo's Johl Swedio got the game-winning goal past Ryan Larochelle in the second round. Winkler's remaining shooters failed to score, giving the game to the Wolverines.

Despite the loss, Winkler outshot the Wolverines 41-22, with Larochelle going the distance in net.

A few days earlier, on Nov. 27, Winkler had extended its streak to eight games by downing the Natives in Neepawa 6-3.

That game saw the opening frame tip in the home team's favour 3-2, with Winkler goals coming from Braden Billaney and Thomas Mansbridge.

After a scoreless second period, Winkler creamed the Natives in the third, scoring four goals. Doing the honours was Zak Hicks, Kurt Sonne, Tristan Keck, and Williamson.

Connor Slipp was in net this time around, making 33 saves on 36 shots

Continued on page 24



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Winkler goalie Ryan Larochelle uses his shoulder to deflect the puck safely away in Saturday night's game against the Waywayseecappo Wolverines. This shot may have missed its mark, but the Wolverines still managed to take the game 4-3 in a shootout, ending the Flyers' eight game win streak.

## Morden Redskins still flawless

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Morden Redskins added two more wins to their already flawless record in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action last week.

On Nov. 25, they doubled up on the Notre Dame Hawks 6-3 on the road.

Morden was up 1-0 after the first period (with Graham Leiding doing the scoring honours) and then 2-1 at the second buzzer (with goals scored by Jay Fehr and Leiding once again).

In the third period Notre Dame managed to get two goals past Red-

skin netminder Reed Peters, but his teammates drowned those out with no less than three goals sprinkled throughout the period scored by Matthew Sibbald and two from Chris Reimer (the last on an empty-net).

Three nights later the Redskins sent the Warren Mercs packing, winning the home game 7-3.

Period one was the only period to see some back-and-forth scoring, with Ramsay Fehr and Clint Olson keeping Morden on the board as Warren took a 3-2 lead heading into the first intermission.

That was the last the Mercs saw of the back of the net, though, while the Redskins' Tyler Groening tied things at 3-3 at the top of the second and Blair Osiowy and Tyler Peers made it a 5-3 game heading into the final frame.

There, Jay Fehr and Olson cemented the win with goals at either end of the period.

Peters got the win in net once again, making 26 saves in all.

Meanwhile, over in Winkler the Royals had a rougher go of it.

Continued on page 24



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

Hawks forward Garrett Szeremly leaps to escape the check of the Chiefs' Dawson Barteaux in Friday's 7-0 Pembina Valley loss.

## > SEMHL, FROM PG. 23

In their lone game of the week, Winkler fell to Carman 6-3 on Nov. 26.

Despite a strong opening period that saw the Royals pull ahead 3-2 (with Mark Hildebrand, Marlin Froese, and Caleb Suderman all scoring goals), things fell apart soon after as Carman tied the game in the second and then scored three unanswered goals in the third for the win.

Matt Krahn took the loss in net,

making 48 saves as Carman outshot Winkler 53-49.

Winkler remains in sixth place in the league with a 1-3 record, while Morden sits atop the standings in first with 12 points and six wins, no losses.

This week, the Royals travel to play Notre Dame on Saturday and then host Portage on Sunday. Morden, meanwhile, plays at home against Altona this Thursday, Dec. 3.

## > FLYERS, FROM PG. 23

as Winkler outshot Neepawa 47-36.

Winkler remains in second place in the MJHL with 42 points and a 20-4-2 record. They trail the Portage Terriers in first place by five points and lead the Steinbach Pistons in third place by two.

This weekend the Flyers take on Portage at home on Friday and then travel to play Winnipeg on Sunday. They also hosted Steinbach on Tuesday, but results were not available at press time.

## MCDONALD AIMING FOR WORLDS

In other Flyers news, assistant captain Lawson McDonald has been invited to try out for Team

Canada West for the upcoming World Junior A Challenge taking place Dec. 13-19 in Ontario.

The 18-year-old Rosetown native sits in the top five in scoring among all MJHL defensemen with 20 points (two goals, 18 assists) in 24 games played so far this season. This is his third year with the Flyers.

The 2015 tournament will see two Canadian teams go up against four international teams. Since the first event in 2006, more than 230 NHL draft picks have played in the tournament, including 32 first-round selections.

Tryouts for the Team Canada West take place in Alberta this weekend.

# PV Hawks struggle against Chiefs, Cougars

By Lorne Stelmach

They're a young team still very much learning the AAA level game and it shows on nights like the Pembina Valley Hawks had last weekend, which saw them suffer a 7-0 shutout at the hands of the Yellowhead Chiefs Friday followed by a 7-2 loss to the South west Cougars on Sunday.

Coach Gerry Leiding said his message to the team is simple:

"Let's build on the positives and keep going. We're not going to throw in the towel. We'll keep pushing forward and try to turn things around.

"We still need to learn to play 60 minutes of hockey," he said. "When we take shifts off and don't finish our checks, that's what happens. We do have some positives to build on though. We need to learn how to score."

With the pair of losses, the Hawks remained mired in 11th place among the dozen teams in the Manitoba AAA Midget Hockey League.

Their record of 4-15-0-1 for nine points has them just two up on the

last place Norman Northstars and three back of Interlake in 10th.

The Chiefs rolled to 4-0 first period lead Friday night while outshooting the Hawks 42-23. Matthew Thiessen took the loss in net, though it was a 35 save effort for him.

Pembina Valley was in the game Sunday for two periods, as a first period powerplay goal by Dylan Dacquay had it tied at one after one period and then trailing only 2-1 after two periods.

Three unanswered goals by the six minute mark of the third made it 5-1 before Daniel Nychuk got another powerplay point for the Hawks. Two more goals by the Cougars, though, in a 22 second span sealed the victory.

The shots were even at 30 each, with Aaron Brunn making 23 saves in net.

This week didn't look any easier for the Hawks as they were slated to host the fourth place Winnipeg Thrashers Wednesday.

This weekend the team faces Central Plains Friday in Portage before returning home to face Eastman Sunday afternoon.

# Run, Jump, Play starting up again in Winkler

By Jordan Driedger,  
Winkler Recreation Programmer

There's no shortage of events coming up in Winkler to keep cabin fever at bay:

- The Run, Jump, Play After-School Program is back for another season starting January and running through to March.

The program will be offered to Gr. 2 students at J.R. Walkof School and Gr. 2-4 at Winkler Elementary and Parkland schools. Children will be led through various sports and low-organized activities by local high school students.

To register, fill out the form at [cityofwinkler.ca](http://cityofwinkler.ca) and return it to the Winkler Recreation Complex.

For more information, visit the city website or call 204-325-8333.

- Table Tennis started Dec. 2 and runs every Wednesday until March 23.

This program is for anyone 16 years

of age or older and will take place at Northlands Parkway Collegiate from 7-9 p.m. Open to all skill levels. Cost is \$25. To register, contact Winkler Parks & Recreation.

- The second annual Holiday Classic Mini-Stick Tournament is taking place Wednesday, Dec. 23 at the Winkler Arena from 1-5 p.m.

Students in Gr. 3-6 are invited to register as individuals and will later be divided into teams.

To register, go to [cityofwinkler.ca](http://cityofwinkler.ca). Cost is \$10. The registration deadline is Dec 15.

- Looking for something to do in the afternoon? During gaps in the ice schedule, the Recreation Department will be making the ice available to the public for \$5 per person. Please call the day of to confirm open ice times.

To stay on top of the recreational happenings going on in Winkler, check us out online at [www.facebook.com/winklerparksandrec](http://www.facebook.com/winklerparksandrec).



# Lady Hawks crush Lightning 11-1

By Lorne Stelmach

The region was well represented on both sides of the rink Saturday when the Pembina Valley Hawks faced the Interlake Lightning in Manitou.

The expansion Interlake team features five players from south central Manitoba, including two from St. Alphonse, one from Holland, and Morden's Shayna Wall and Erin Doherty.

It's been a tough journey so far with the 11-1 loss to the Hawks leaving the Lightning winless in 12 games to date.

"There's a lot of travelling that goes with it ... but I'm happy to be able to be playing at the triple A level," said Doherty.

She would have liked to have made the local Hawks team, but Doherty said it has been exciting to be part of a new program and it is helping her develop further as a player.

"I'm very happy with helping make this Interlake team work," she said, adding she has had a lot of support and encouragement from her family and friends in Morden.

As an expansion team, they knew it would be a challenge, but she said they have a good tight knit group that

is working hard to improve.

"We really work good as a team to stay positive," she said. "We talk about what we can do better. I think we have had a huge improvement since the beginning of the season. We're improving as a team."

That unfortunately didn't show in the score Saturday, as the Hawks held period leads of 3-0 and 7-1 on their way to victory.

Sage McElroy-Scott led the attack with a big four goal night and six points overall. Mackenzie Hutchinson chipped in a pair of goals and assists for a four point contribution, while Chelsea Dearsley also fired home a pair plus an assist for three points.

Also scoring for the Hawks were Alyssa Alderson, Jenai Buchanan, and Mackenzie Heide, while Halle Oswald was only called on to face 16 shots in net.

In an exhibition contest Sunday, the Hawks faced a much stiffer test in an exhibition game against Shaftesbury. The high-level Titans proved a little too much for the Hawks, who fell 3-1.

Ginny Grenier scored the lone Hawks goal in the third period when the Titans had already built a 3-0 lead.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Hawks and Lightning invited fans to bring a toy for Christmas Cheer Saturday. Players, parents, and fans filled the boxes with gifts, which will be handed out to families in need this Christmas.

Taylor Reimer kept the Hawks close in this one as she faced 33 shots.

Pembina Valley hits the road for just one game this Saturday in Winnipeg to face the Avros, who are chasing the

Hawks in the standings at 8-5-2 for 18 points. However, Pembina Valley is at 9-3-0 and 18 points and have three games in hand as they rest in fourth place.

## Zodiacs, Thunder fall

This past week was a rough one for the Zodiacs and the Thunder high school hockey teams.

GVC added three losses to their Zone 4 record, falling to the Aces 3-2, the Trojans 10-1, and the Mustangs 11-3.

Morden, meanwhile, fell to the Mavericks 5-4 last Friday but then bounced back against Altona Monday night with a 3-2 victory.

Off the ice and out on the court, the Morden Thunder varsity girls volleyball team competed at provincials over the weekend.

The Zone 4 champions won three matches and lost just one in the round robin, downing teams from Winnipeg and Flin Flon and losing only to Virden.

In the playoffs, the ladies downed the Neelin Spartans 25-22 and 26-24 but then met their end at the hands of the DRCSS Clippers in three straight sets in the semi-finals.

The Clippers went on to win the provincial banner from Virden in the final match, while Morden fell in the consolation final against the Westgate Mennonite Wings in two sets.

## Mazinke on fire

By Lorne Stelmach

St. James at 23.

A memorable night for Corey Mazinke earned the Pembina Valley Twisters an important two points on Friday.

Mazinke first recorded a natural hat trick with three unanswered first period goals and a game-winner four minutes before the final whistle in the 6-5 win over the St. James Canucks.

The win not only came over one of the teams chasing them in the middle of the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League pack, but kept them within shot of the first place Raiders.

The Twisters improved to 13-5-2 for 28 points and are just two back of the first place 14-4-2 Raiders. Chasing the Twisters are the Charleswood Hawks at 25 points followed by St. Vital and

Paul Remillard had his eighth goal of the season for the Twisters in the game, and he also assisted on the other Twisters' goal by Jamie Van der Linde.

Gavin Klassen made 23 saves to earn the victory as the Twisters outshot the Canucks 32-28.

With his four point night, Mazinke moved into the top ten in scoring with 15 goals and 22 points, while teammate Fraser Mirrlees leads the team and remains sixth in the league with 16 goals and 26 points.

After hosting the River East Royal Knights Tuesday, Pembina Valley was slated to pay a visit to the Transcona Railer Express Thursday before hosting St. Vital Friday to complete a rare three games in four nights.

### Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Portage Terriers	28	23	4	1	47	111	58			
Winkler Flyers	26	20	4	2	42	114	58			
Steinbach Pistons	27	19	6	2	40	110	68			
Virde Oil Capitals	26	17	9	0	34	97	58			
Winnipeg Blues	28	14	9	5	33	103	79			
OCN Blizzard	29	12	15	2	26	86	105			
Swan Valley Stampede	28	10	15	3	23	76	96			
Dauphin Kings	24	10	13	1	21	80	98			
Selkirk Steelers	25	9	14	2	20	91	115			
Waywayseacappo Wolverines	26	7	15	4	18	70	107			
Neepawa Natives	27	6	21	0	12	52	148			
MANITOBA MAJOR JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	20	14	4	2	30	71	56			
Pembina Valley Twisters	20	13	5	2	28	87	66			
Charleswood Hawks	18	11	4	3	25	74	52			
St. Vital Victorias	19	11	7	1	23	79	69			
St. James Canucks	20	11	8	1	23	73	76			
Stonewall Jets	19	10	8	1	21	72	59			
Transcona Railer Express	19	9	9	1	19	66	71			
River East Royal Knights	20	8	10	2	18	60	70			
St. Boniface Riels	21	8	11	2	18	71	80			
Ft. Garry/Ft. Rouge Twins	20	3	16	1	7	45	99			
SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Morden	6	6	0	0	12	28	10			
Carman	6	5	1	0	10	34	24			
Notre Dame	5	2	2	1	5	24	20			
Altona	4	2	2	0	4	17	14			
Warren	6	1	3	0	4	31	44			
Winkler	4	1	3	0	2	10	20			
Portage	5	1	4	0	2	21	33			
AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Eastman	23	22	0	0	45	119	36			
Wild	20	17	2	0	35	77	27			
Yellowhead	20	13	4	0	29	66	45			
Thrashers	20	13	6	1	27	87	47			
Central Plains	20	10	6	1	24	65	58			
Brandon	19	10	8	0	21	55	49			
Kenora	20	9	10	1	19	62	77			
Southwest	19	8	9	1	18	67	69			
Parkland	20	7	11	0	16	62	85			
Interlake										
Interlake	20	6	14	0	12	46	86			
Pembina Valley	20	4	15	1	9	39	95			
Norman	23	3	19	1	7	61	132			
AAA CITY MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Winnipeg Warriors - CM	16	11	5	0	22	65	38			
Winnipeg Hawks - CM	17	9	6	1	20	75	62			
Eastman Selects - CM	16	8	7	0	17	48	49			
Winnipeg Monarchs - CM	10	8	2	0	16	59	29			
Winnipeg Sharks - CM	13	5	5	2	13	49	53			
Interlake Lightning - CM	14	0	13	0	1	23	88			
Yellowhead Chiefs - CM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Parkland Rangers - CM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
AAA BANTAM HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Brandon Wheat Kings - B1	16	14	2	0	28	100	24			
Central Plains Capitals - B1	16	8	7	1	17	72	90			
Pembina Valley PV Hawks - B1	16	7	7	1	16	85	83			
Southwest Cougars - B1	18	7	10	1	15	55	60			
Parkland Rangers - B1	14	7	7	0	14	57	75			
Yellowhead Chiefs - B1	14	6	6	1	14	63	59			
Norman Wolves - B1	14	0	14	0	0	22	131			
MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE										
GP	W	L	T	OTW	OTL	PTS				
Westman Wildcats	14	9	2	-	-	3	21			
Yellowhead Chiefs	10	8	-	-	1	1	19			
Central Plains	12	7	2	-	2	1	19			
PV Hawks	12	7	3	-	2	-	18			
Winnipeg Avros	15	5	5	-	3	2	18			
Eastman Selects	11	4	6	-	-	1	9			
Norman Wild	14	2	12	-	-	-	4			
Interlake Lightning	12	-	12	-	-	-	-			
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY										
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA				
Morden Thunder	24	20	2	0	42	130	61			
W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	24	17	4	1	37	122	74			
Prairie Mountain Mustangs	24	16	7	1	33	139	87			
Morris Mavericks	24	14	9	0	29	96	76			
Northlands Parkway Collegiate										
Nighthawks (Winkler)	24	13	8	1	29	96	80			
Portage Collegiate										
Institute Trojans	24	11	12	1	23	91	106			
Carman Cougars	24	10	11	1	23	104	94			
Cartwright/Nellie McClung/ Pilot Mound Tigers										
Garden Valley Collegiate	24	7	17	0	14	70	109			
Zodiacs (Winkler)										
Zodiacs (Winkler)	24	0	23	1	1	40	201			

STATS AS OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

# ACU donates \$1,000 to Christmas Cheer



Denis Myers of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board was pleased to receive a \$1,000 donation from staff on behalf of the Access Credit Union recently. ACU spokesperson Dan McCausland said they were pleased to support the work of the cheer board. "This is a great way for the credit union to participate financially, but also we have a number of staff who go down and donate their personal time."

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/  
VOICE

## > MY HEALTH TEAM'S CORNER

# Paging 'Dr. Google'

**H**ave you ever been sitting at home worrying about your health?

Sore throat that won't go away? Stomach pain and fever? A news report about something you thought was healthy is now bad for you?

What's your first instinct? For many of us it's the internet. There's lots of information at our fingertips with a quick search on our favorite search engine.

But how do we know what we read is really accurate? We all have a desire to be more informed and involved in our health and are searching for answers. I



By  
**Benjamin  
Wiebe, NP**

hope this article helps you begin to evaluate the information you come across online.

To start to evaluate online health information, we need to understand some types of research:

1. Observational studies. Perhaps the familiar would be a case study. A particular event/group is chosen and observed for certain outcomes. Some of these findings can be quite valuable but a main drawback is that we can't always generalize the results to a larger general population. What is true in a case study may not be true for everyone.

2. Experimental studies. These are the clinical trials, used to research new medications and treatments. They tend to be set up in ways where we are more confident that the medication or treatment was the actual cause of the benefit or, in some cases, harm.

They use techniques such as treatment and control groups where one group receives the treatment and the other doesn't. Often par-

ticipants are randomly assigned to one or the other group so that they are equal in their characteristics.

Researchers are also often "blinded" as to which group the participants belong to so they don't know who got the treatment and can focus only on the outcomes. This increases their ability to determine benefit or harm with a specific treatment or medication.

Many research studies have an amazing ability to answer important health questions, but not all information online comes from these types of studies. Information is also presented in personal blogs, posted on social media, and (sarcasm alert!) there may even be one or two propaganda websites with hidden agendas, stating claims with little or no evidence to support them.

News reports—though showing us the Jets highlights and accurately forecasting the weather—may not always present everything in an unbiased way.

Not all of this is bad, though. Person-

al blogs and social media groups can be good for people to connect with others with similar health concerns. We just have to be aware of what type of information we are reading.

So where do we look online for accurate health information? Depending on your question, here are some

websites to start with:

- Mayo Clinic at [www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org) has great information on many different medical topics.

- Canadian Pediatric Society at [www.cps.ca](http://www.cps.ca) has information targeted for children and parents.

- Here to Help at [www.heretohelp.ca](http://www.heretohelp.ca) is great for mental health questions.

If you come across something that doesn't make sense, please discuss it with your health care provider.

Doctors, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, pharmacists and other health care professionals are ready to answer your questions. We can't believe everything we read or hear, but together we can make sense of all the info in cyberspace.

**"IF YOU COME  
ACROSS SOMETHING  
THAT DOESN'T MAKE  
SENSE, DISCUSS IT  
WITH YOUR HEALTH  
CARE PROVIDER."**

# Agriculture

## OmniTrax to sell Churchill port, railroad

By Harry Siemens

The Port of Churchill and the Hudson Bay Railroad are up for sale, being offered as one complete unit by owner OmniTrax Canada.

OmniTrax has owned the previously Crown-owned port and rail line since the late '90s.

Several weeks ago, while not making a public announcement, OmniTrax quietly put the whole kit and caboodle up for sale.

"Obviously, after a tough year in the industry, we've looked at a lot of things and concluded that either the railway and the port needs more support or perhaps another owner or operator could take it on and see what they could do," says Merv Tweed, president of OmniTrax Canada. "It is obviously a big challenge, but we feel we've put the port and railroad in decent shape over the last couple of years. We've brought in a lot of efficiencies, but it is a challenge."

Tweed says having a soft year in the grain industry as they did, it just makes that challenge so much bigger.

While there's need for more support, there's also a need for governments to recognize the service aspect for people living along the Hudson Bay rail line.

"I think the problem is the railway is a support service for the communities along the rail line and it's a big challenge to make it efficient and make it workable," says Tweed. "We've spoken to both levels of government and suggested to them the railway truly is a utility into the north and should be treated that way and they've listened and we hope they continue to listen."

A \$9/tonne subsidy program initiated by the feds some years back goes directly to the shipper as an incentive to use the Port of Churchill, but that comes to an end at the end of the 2016 shipping season.

"It is to encourage them to use the port and we are encouraging the government to extend that program," Tweed says.

Some people have said governments gave the Port of Churchill to OmniTrax Canada for a dollar, and then also gave maybe another \$80 million to help them upgrade.

While not commenting on the amounts, Tweed says they were matching dollars—repayable dollars, not gifts. The ownership of OmniTrax, in particular the Hudson Bay Railway and Port of Churchill, have invested millions of their own dollars in the two facilities.

"Without a stable grain market and without some support to service those communities, it just becomes very, very tenuous," Tweed stresses.

Tweed says they hope to resolve the future of the port and rail line sooner rather than later.

"We've given ourselves a time frame where we'd like to see something happen one way or the other," says Tweed. "As those limits start to draw closer, then we will have to make some final decisions. Nothing definite, but certainly would like to see some progress before the end of the year."

Tweed is mum on how much they're asking for the port and rail line, but he says some studies have suggested

**"IT'S A SERVICE AND THE OWNERSHIP OF OMNITRAX CANADA HAVE ABSORBED THE LOSSES FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS OF PROVIDING THAT SERVICE."**

their input and value to the northern economy is over \$40 million a year, and they spent just under \$100 million dollars.

There are some concerns by the communities like Churchill of what will happen should that railroad cease to operate.

"There are a lot of communities along that rail line, and many are First Nation communities and rely on the rail to get their services and transportation to and from the major centres," Tweed says. "Again, we see it more as a utility. It's a service and the ownership of OmniTrax Canada have ab-

sorbed the losses for the past several years of providing that service.

"My advice to them, and I think it's fair, they can no longer do that. We have to come to some sort of solution, be it more intervention from governments or a direct sale.

"I would suggest to you in the last couple of years we've made great strides to improve that service and the quality of service," he says. "If they want to sustain it, and they want to continue to have that service and have that option to use the line, negotiations have to move forward fairly quickly."



## Calgary-bound for conferences

> HARRY SIEMENS

**I'm Calgary-bound this week, en route to attend two important agriculture conferences.**

The first one is a soil summit dubbed *Digging into the State of Canada's Soils*. That one is piggy-backing on the larger of the two, *Grow Canada*, whose partners form an informal coalition of national stakeholders working together to promote and advance innovation in Canada.

As the conference's website says, "The coalition was formalized in 2009 with a vision for Canada to be a world leader in providing new products and innovative solutions for agricultural, nutritional, health, energy, and environmental challenges in Canada and around the world,

so that all Canadians can enjoy the economic, environmental and social benefits of the bio-economy."

I'm happy to be able to attend both conferences and report back next week on what I learned and the people I met and interviewed.

This being the year of the soil, the soil conference will explore the integral link between healthy soil and sustainable crops production.

Hosted by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada—the only national organization to concentrate on the issue of soil care and conservation—the event will bring together partners and stakeholders from farm, industry, science, and government to address the issues of soil care, and determine the best response to current and emerging challenges to the sustainability of the agricultural landscape.

These conferences inform at a different level than many of the farm meetings I attend, and covering

them is always a highlight for me as long as I work the farm beat.

Shifting gears a bit, I've written before about my presentation at the Rosenort high school and the fact they were planning to tour the Skyview Dairy Farm in Grunthal where owners David and Charles Wiens milk their cows with robotic milkers.

I had planned to go, but was unable because I had no voice for a few days. However, here is the response to the tour by teacher Arlin Scharf-enberg:

"The tour was very informative and the students really enjoyed it. I would probably break the group into two smaller groups next time as it was sometimes difficult to hear Mr. Wiens over the sound of the equipment. Nevertheless, a really educational and enjoyable tour."

While happy to be attending the two big conferences this week, I was just as sad to not be able to be part of this dairy tour!



# Classifieds

The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

### STEEL BUILDINGS

Steel building sale ... "Really Big Sale - Year End Clear Out!" 21X22 \$5,190; 25X24 \$5,988; 27X28 \$7,498; 30X32 \$8,646; 35X34 \$11,844; 42X54 \$16,386. One end wall included. Pioneer Steel 1-800-668-5422 www.pioneer-steel.ca

### WORK WANTED

Available to do renos, repairs, maintenance, painting, siding, roofs, fix-ups. Residential or commercial. Call Bill at 204-362-2645 or leave a message at 204-822-3582.

Do-it-yourself project gone bad? Need help to start or finish? I can help. Call 204-362-2645 or lve. message at 204-822-3582.

### HELP WANTED

Medical Transcription! In-demand career! Employers have work-at-home positions available. Get online training you need from an employer-trusted program. Visit: CareerStep.ca/MT or 1-855-768-3362 to start training for your work-at-home career today!

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Get free vending machines. Can earn \$100,000 + per year. All cash-locations provided. Protected territories. Interest free financing. Full details call now 1-866-668-6629 website www.tcvend.com

Great Canadian Dollar Store franchise opportunities are available in your area. Explore your future with a dollar store leader. Call today 1-877-388-0123 ext. 229; www.dollar-stores.com.

### CAREER TRAINING

Huge demand for Medical Transcriptionists! CanScribe is Canada's top Medical Transcription training school. Learn from home and work from home. Call today! 1-800-466-1535. www.canscribe.com info@canscribe.com

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

Need a loan? Own property? Have bad credit? We can help! Call toll free 1-866-405-1228 www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

### MUSIC LESSONS

Give the Gift of Music This Christmas! Now accepting students ages 4 - senior for: Piano, Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, 12 String Guitar, Classical Guitar, Bass Guitar, Banjo, Ukulele. For more information call Lorraine or Joe at 204-325-0824. Creative Chording Guitar & Piano Studio - Winkler, MB.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Antiques, spinning wheel, fire extinguisher, singing fish, scale, wool carder, sewing machine, snow scoop, humidifier ladies curlers, electric mangle. 315-4th Street, Winkler 204-362-0127.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Batteries for everything. Automotive, farm, construction, ATV, marine, motorcycle, golf carts, phones, tools, radios, computers etc. Reconditioned, obsolete and hard-to-find batteries. SOLAR equipment. The Battery Man. Winnipeg. 1-877-775-8271 www.batteryman.ca

Province-wide classifieds. Reach over 400,000 readers weekly. Call us at 204-467-5836 or email classifieds@mcna.com for details.

### COMING EVENTS



*You are invited!*  
Please Join  
**MLA Cameron Friesen**  
For his annual  
**Christmas Coffee Break**  
Friday, Dec. 11  
10:00am-11:30am  
Southland Mall,  
Winkler  
(Centre Court)

**Cameron Friesen, MLA**  
**Morden—Winkler**  
**Constituency**  
**204-822-1088**  
info@cameronfriesen.ca

### COMING EVENTS

*Thousand Oaks Ministries Inc.*

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT**  
Sat., Dec. 12, 2015  
7:30 pm at the  
**P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall** Winkler, Manitoba  
Featuring:  
**Christmas with D'Friesens**  
Reinland, MB  
Everyone Welcome! Freewill Offering  
1000 Oaks Info Line (204) 822-1253

### TRAVEL

SAVE 30% on our Greenland and Wild Labrador Voyage until December 18, 2015. See Labrador as it was meant to be seen - by sea - aboard the comfortable Ocean Endeavour. No extra charge for singles! Quote Community Newspapers! Call toll free: 1-800-363-7566 or visit: www.adventure-canada.com. (TICO # 04001400).

### HAY

Timothy/Alfalfa/Brome, 3-3 medium square stored inside, no bottom bales, no dust. Delivery available in small or large amounts stacked in your shed or barn. Reasonably priced and satisfaction guaranteed. Phone or text 204-771-7496.

### COMING EVENTS

Brandon Gun & Collectibles Show. Sat., Dec 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Sun., Dec 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Keystone Centre. Buy, sell, trade. Call 204-725-4363.

### RENTALS

## 1 BDRM SUITES Available in Morden.

Rent includes fr. st. water, heat, common room for gatherings. Suitable for retired or semi-retired  
**Call Cindy at 362-7151 or toll free at 1-866-449-0254 for more info.**

### HEALTH

Are you suffering from joint or arthritic pain? If so, you owe it to yourself to try elk velvet antler capsules. Stonewall Elk Products Ltd., 204-467-8428 or e-mail stonewoodelk@hotmail.com

**Winter Road Haul 2016**  
Class 1 Drivers needed for deliveries in MB & NW Ont.  
(800) 665-4302 ext. 223  
or e-mail: orderdesk@penneroil.ca

## BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT CALL: 325-6888

### CAREERS

**Christian Service opportunity!!!**  
**Valley Mennonite Academy Inc.**  
is a private, Christian school, and has an immediate opening available for the Principal position.  
*For more information call*  
**Jonathan (204)362-1232,**  
**John (204)362-1581**  
**or Bill (204)362-8936.**

### CAREERS

**Farm Operator Wanted**  
Large grain and cattle farm in west central Manitoba is looking for a full time farm operator year round. Applicant must have experience operating large modern farm equipment as well as GPS technology. Cattle handling experience is an asset. Must have a valid drivers licence. Modern housing on large acreage, and school bus route can be provided. Very competitive wages offered.  
Email resumes to  
**tarasturko@hotmail.com**  
or call 204-835-2778

## BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT CALL: 325-6888

### COMING EVENTS

The St. John's Catholic Parish and the CWL invite everyone to our ANNUAL  
**Christmas Tea and Bake Sale**  
SAT., DEC. 5 • 1:30 PM. - 3:30 PM.  
2 ACADEMY DRIVE, MORDEN  
(across the street from Minnewasta School)  
Baking, Door Prizes (Christmas Baking Tray),  
Rainbow Auction (donations to BTHC  
Palliative Care and Christmas Cheer)  
Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and dessert!

### NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE HEARING CITY OF MORDEN 2016 FINANCIAL PLAN**

Pursuant to Section 162(2) of The Municipal Act, the Council of the City of Morden invite all ratepayers of the City of Morden to a Public Hearing in respect to the 2016 Financial Plan (Budget) for the City of Morden. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow any interested persons to make a representation, ask questions or register an objection to the Financial Plan.  
A presentation of the Financial Plan will be made at the Morden Civic Centre on **Monday, December 21st, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be available on December 18th, 2015.

**PUBLIC HEARING 2016 FINANCIAL PLAN**  
**Monday, December 21st, 2015**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**195 STEPHEN STREET, MORDEN, MANITOBA**

### TENDER

**NOTICE OF TENDER**  
Sealed written tenders to be received until 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 18, 2015  
**Address:** 342 - 2nd St, Winkler, MB  
**Lot Size:** 100 ft x 125 ft  
**Zoning:** Residential, Multi-Family  
Ideal residential development opportunity!  
Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of \$1,000.00 by certified cheque payable to Jaret Hoepfner Law Office.  
*Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.*  
Please mail or deliver tenders to:  
**Jaret Hoepfner Law Office**  
Box 1053, Unit A - 915 Navigator Drive  
Winkler, MB R6W 4B1  
For more information, contact our office: 204-325-8666  
mviveiros@jarethoepfnerlaw.com

### NOTICES

**Household Hazardous Waste**

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WINKLER AND AREA HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DEPOT AT 345 1ST STREET IS FINALLY COMPLETE!  
**Starting on Monday, December 7, 2015; it will be open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Saturdays will be as posted for the used oil drop-off on the Recycling Calendar.  
**Any inquires or questions, please call the Public Works/Utility Shop at 204-325-7535.**

# Classifieds The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email [ads@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:ads@winklermordenvoice.ca)

**COMING EVENTS**

**SANTA'S SCHEDULE** SOUTHLAND MALL



**Sat., Dec. 5**  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Fri., Dec. 11**  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Sat., Dec. 12**  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Fri., Dec. 18**  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Sat., Dec. 19**  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
**Mon., Dec. 21**  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Bring your camera for a photo with Santa

**AUCTION**



**GRAIN BINS AUCTION**  
**Sat. Dec. 12, 11 am**  
Hwy 14 and St. Joseph road and 1/2 mile north  
Approx. 1200 bu. Friesen Hopper bin with air and fan, Also approx 800 bu. Sunrise feed bin

See [www.billklassen.com](http://www.billklassen.com). Phone bids accepted

**Bill Klassen Auctions Ltd.**  
Ph: (204) 325-4433  
Cell: (204) 325-6230  
Fax: (204) 325-4484

**CAREERS**



**Office Administrator/Assistant**


**General Office duties include but are not limited to:**  
Accounts Payable, Receivable, Payroll, Data Entry, Filing, Quotations, Phone and Customer service.

**Qualifications:**

- A minimum of 3 year's experience in office administration/accounting. Formal education considered an asset.
- Very process driven and detail oriented - accuracy is key in this role.
- Strong communication skills; comfortable with communicating with customers, staff, vendors/suppliers and consultants.
- 100% English communication skills: verbal and written.
- Experience using Sage/Simply Accounting, Works/Word processing, Outlook is essential.
- You must be a team player with good interpersonal skills within a small working environment.

Wage dependent upon experience, training & education.  
Personal interviews will take place in our office.  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
Company Health Benefit & Pension Plan  
Email detailed resumes with 4 references to: [ricksent@mts.net](mailto:ricksent@mts.net)

**CAREERS**



**The City of Winkler Requires a Utility Maintenance Operator**

Under the direction of the Utilities Foreman, the successful candidate will serve the Community by maintaining and operating water and sewer infrastructure and equipment. Standby and on call duties to responding to afterhours emergencies is required.

**Qualifications**

- Must have or be able to obtain a Class 3 drivers license with air endorsement
- Experience in operating light equipment and trucks with ability to learn heavy equipment operation
- Basic welding, plumbing, piping and mechanical skills are desirable
- Possess or be able to gain through studies - water and wastewater certification
- Physically capable of heavy lifting
- Grade 12 education

**Forward resumes by December 18, 2015 to:**  
City of Winkler  
185 Main Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 1B4  
[pfroese@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:pfroese@cityofwinkler.ca)  
Attention: Pete Froese, Director of Works & Operations

*We thank all candidates for their expression of interest; however we will contact only those under consideration. Candidates may be subject to a criminal record check.*

**CAREERS**



As a leader in the Modular Construction Industry and an equal opportunity employer, we invite you to join our family and experience the value, integrity, and corporate commitment of Grandeur Housing in a rewarding career as a:

**WARRANTY AND SERVICE MANAGER**

As a Warranty and Service Manager you will be responsible for the coordination and supervision of all Warranty functions for all of Grandeur's product lines. This will include resolving customer inquiries and issues and managing the service crew to ensure corrections are carried out in a timely and satisfactory manner.

The ideal candidate will have excellent communication and customer service, strong organizational and decision making skills, while having the ability to make sound and objective decisions. Your knowledge in construction practices will be an asset to the position.

Grandeur offers a competitive salary, a benefits package and a career opportunity to excel within our company. Salary will commensurate with experience.

Please forward your resume in confidence to:  
Email: [careers@grandeurhousing.com](mailto:careers@grandeurhousing.com)  
Grandeur Housing Ltd  
Attn: Trevor Siemens  
PO Box 2260, 401 Pembina Ave East  
Winkler MB R6W 4B9  
Fax: 204.325.5048



We thank all those who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

[grandeurhousing.com](http://grandeurhousing.com)

**BOOK YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY**  
**CALL: 325-6888**

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- BIRTHS
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**CAREERS**

**Swine Breeding or Farrowing Technician**

Morris Piglets Ltd. (MPL) is a sow operation with two 2,600 head sow barns near **Lowe Farm, Manitoba**. Become part of a great team, which is already reaching excellent production performance. We are now accepting applications for the permanent, full-time position of a **Breeding Technician or a Farrowing Technician**.

MPL pays competitive salary ranging from \$12 to \$17 per hour depending on experience. **MPL also pays a generous bonus program and excellent benefits.** Rotational weekend work is required. Experience and mechanical aptitude preferred but will train the right applicant.

To apply, please fax your resume to (204) 325-8630 or e-mail to [Edwin@kroekers.com](mailto:Edwin@kroekers.com) or call Ed Klassen at (204) 325-4333.



**CAREERS**



**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

Kroeker Farms Limited, a Winkler MB. based agribusiness has an opening for an experienced operator on their farm operation based at Stephenfield

**Desired qualifications include:**

- Enthusiastic person willing to take responsibility
- Familiar and experienced with potato equipment
- Basic mechanical knowledge
- The willingness to learn about and use technology
- The ability to communicate in English
- Demonstrating positive leadership in the workplace

**Duties would include:**  
Taking responsibility for the basic field operations, minor equipment repairs and maintenance, and general farm work as required.

**We offer competitive wages.**  
**Ed Klassen, Human Resource Manager**  
**204-325-4333**  
**Box 1450, Winkler, MB, R6W 4B4**  
**E-mail: [edwin@kroekers.com](mailto:edwin@kroekers.com)**  
**Fax: 204-325-8630**

*We thank all applicants for their interest! Only those being interviewed will be contacted.*



**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS - DECEMBER 4, 2015**

**FIND THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE POSITION with an EMPLOYMENT/CAREERS AD in**

The Winkler Morden **Voice** Call: **204-325-6888**

# Announcements

The Winkler Morden Voice

Book Your Classified Ad Today - Call 325-6888 or Email ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

## HEADING



In Loving Memory of  
Terry Suderman  
1959 - 2010

### Footprints

The Lord replied - My Precious Child,  
I love you and would never leave you,  
During your times of trial and suffering,  
When you see only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you.

-Sadly missed by Mom and Dad and family

**Don't Forget  
Your Loved  
Ones  
WITH AN  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
IN THE**

The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**

Call 325-6888 Email  
ads@winklermordenvoice.ca

## OBITUARY

### Katharine Dyck (nee Wolfe) 1927 – 2015



Mom was born on August 23, 1927 to John and Tina Wolfe close to Plum Coulee, MB.

She had a special relationship with her Dad because both liked to tease and laugh. She attended the Plum Coulee School till the age of 14. Being an only child she was required to help at home. She helped in the kitchen and also with outside chores and trucking during harvest time. When possible she would walk to town to visit with friends or go for coffee at the local cafe where she also worked for a time. In 1945 she met the love of her life. They had a long distance relationship for some months when Dad went to B.C. to work in the lumber camps. On June 9, 1946 Mom was baptized upon the confession of her faith in the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Church. On September 26, 1948 Dad and Mom were married. They moved into an old two storey house just south of Plum Coulee and began farming with her parents. In March of 1952 they were blessed with a son, Douglas Bruce. The following year they moved into a brand new house closer to town on her grandfather's land where they lived until 1990. In December 1956 they were blessed with a daughter, Karen Colleen. Mom was kept busy with all the household chores, raising two children, along with taking care of a yard, garden and milking cows. They sold milk and cream to people in town and shipped cream to the local creamery. Mom did find time to enjoy some curling in the winter and also got involved with the 4-H as a leader for a number of years where she helped teach me to sew. She later joined a "neifereine", the Grimsby Mission group, which she was a member of for many years. She also enjoyed helping out at the Coulee Thrift Store for numerous years. After the children were both married and gone from home Mom and Dad took a number of trips by car, bus, train and also flew to Hawaii. These trips took them to the east and west coasts and as far south as Florida and into Mexico. In 1990 Mom's mother passed away and Dad was having more health issues so they moved off their beloved farm and into her mother's house in Plum Coulee, where they lived for a year. They moved into her former uncle's place for a year while a new house was being built on her mother's yard. In 2000 Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and thru this they also discovered that she had pulmonary fibrosis. She recovered from the cancer but not the fibrosis so in 2002 they moved to Cedar Estates in Winkler. They had not lived there quite a year when one of the sprinkles malfunctioned and destroyed most of their furniture and their place. A corner unit was still empty and they were allowed to move in there while the other unit was being repaired. They liked it here much better and so they just stayed in this apartment. Mom had 10 very good years after her diagnosis but the fibrosis started affecting her more and more to the point where she needed a walker and oxygen when she walked, and then 24 hours a day. In December of 2013 when Dad had his fall and could no longer be at home with Mom she slowly became less and less mobile and more and more tired. She had home care in four times a day. These last few months were difficult for her as it became increasingly harder for her to breathe and to even make it to the bathroom. On October 26 we took her to the ER at Boundary Trails Health Center but they sent her home with some medication. She did not improve so on November 7 she was admitted to the hospital. They gave her different medication which didn't seem to help. Mom was so tired of fighting for air that her wish was to go home to be with her Lord and Savior. On November 17th she was moved to palliative care and on November 21st she peacefully went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, David J. Dyck; two children, Doug Dyck and wife, Pearl Braun-Dyck, Karen and Isaac Froese; three grandchildren, Melissa and Curt Wall, Sonya Froese and Chris Driedger, Scott and Elisabeth Froese; five great-grandchildren, Kennedy, Sawyer and Journey Wall and Zachary and Dawson Froese. She was predeceased by her father in 1975 and her mother in 1990.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at the Plum Coulee Bergthaler Mennonite Church with interment at the Plum Coulee Cemetery.

Mom we love you and will miss you but you are breathing freely now and that is our wish for you. If friends so desire, donations may be made in Katharine's memory to the Canadian Food Grains Bank.

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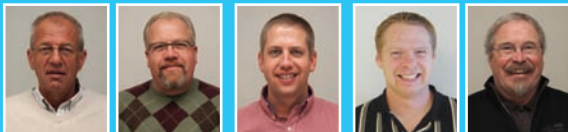


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# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

## Christmas Gift Ideas for Women

There are some fabulous Christmas gift ideas for women out there but if you're looking to excite the woman in your life, and make this festive period extra special, then the gift has to have meaning and be different. The list below is of the common and most popular Christmas gifts for women to help you choose.

**Perfume.** Why give a girl perfume for Christmas, why not. Every woman loves to smell nice. When choosing perfume for the lady in your life this Christmas make sure it's a fragrance she likes. Ask her friends what she favors most in scent so not to spoil the surprise. Getting the scent wrong can put a dampener on things.

**Jewellery.** Why give your woman jewellery for

Christmas, why not. All women love bling. Make sure if it's a ring you have in mind - that you know the exact ring size. Use the same tactics as above if it's to stay secret by asking close friends about the size of her finger. Gold or silver pendants, locket, bracelets and bangles are good choices to gift a lady. You can make the jewellery piece extra special by having it engraved.

**Chocolates and flowers.** I always see as Christmas stocking filler. You need a main gift accompanied with flowers and chocolates.

**Does you're better half like to read?** Men tend to think it has to be scent, jewellery or chocolates their women want. If her head is always in a book then buy her a volume of books written by her favourite author, or get the DVDs that's been made in to a film from the book.

**Relaxing time.** If she suffers with her feet from running round after the kids, or her job entails her standing for hours on end then a foot spa with complimentary foot products. Every woman loves being pampered so a fully paid up session in beauty parlour will put a smile on her face. Book her in for a manicure and pedicure, or think on the lines of aromatherapy and body massage.



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## 10 Best Gifts This Holiday Season for Your Colleagues

If you only say hello when you meet at the lounge area, then how are you supposed to know what to give them?

Here are 10 best gifts this holiday season for your colleagues.

1. Laptop Bags. These are quite cool to give away, just select one design and give different colors to your colleagues.

2. USB gadgets. From Keyboard vacuum, to winter mittens, to small coolers. There are so many cute gadgets that run by simply attaching to your laptop. Make sure

they are small enough to be stored in their drawer.

3. Desk Organizers. There are some pretty cool and simple designs for these. It would be a welcome treat for their busy desks.

4. Flowers. A set of fresh flowers is always nice to have no matter what the occasion is.

5. Coffee Set. You know how people like taking coffee in the office, it would be perfect!

6. A Set of Pens. Choose something classy, or you can have their initials monogrammed.

7. Books Related to Your Work. Latest editions or breakthrough in your field would surely be appreciated.

8. Paper Weights. You can choose designs that reflect your colleague's good traits.

9. Magazine Subscription. This is big but magazines offer holiday discounts for subscriptions meant to be given as gifts.

10. Seat Cushion or Neck Pillow. Your colleagues would love it, especially for small coffee or lunch breaks, they can now have a nice nap or chill out a bit.

If you still have troubles thinking of a gift, consider offering gift cards instead to allow your recipient to choose the right gift for him or herself.

These are just some gift ideas that you may consider when looking for a gift for your colleague this holiday season.

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## Holiday travel tips

The holiday season is rife with tradition, and traveling to visit family and friends is a tradition shared by many people. Holiday travel can be hectic, as millions of people take to the airways, highways and railroads in the days before and after Christmas.

But travelers whose patience is annually tried by airport security checkpoints and holiday traffic jams can employ several strategies to make holiday travel more palatable.

· Let apps do your legwork. Technology has made life easier in many ways, and smartphone apps can even help travelers make holiday travel less stressful. A free app such as FlightView provides smartphone and tablet users with real-time flight information and even provides travelers with flight status alerts. Travelers or men and women trusted with picking up family and friends at the airport can check gate assignments, delays and cancellations and even follow the flight's progress while it's in the air.

And it's not just air travelers who can put their apps to work for them. Drivers who are on a budget can download the free GasBuddy app, which finds the cheapest gas in a given city or postal code. Traveling apps are quite popular, and many are free, saving travelers money while making holiday travel that much easier.

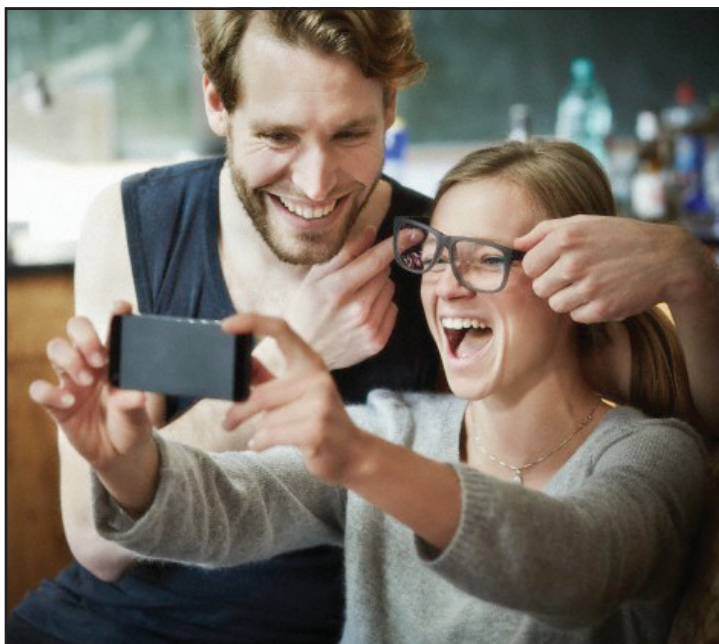
· Bring along your own sustenance. Hunger pangs are sure to arise during your holiday travels. Airports and

roadside truck stops are not exactly known for their healthy fare, so pack your own nourishing foods that can help you maintain your energy and stay healthy. Packing your own meals and snacks also saves you money and, if you're driving, time.

· Ship gifts. Shipping holiday gifts is another way to simplify holiday travel and save money. The lighter air travelers can pack, the more quickly they can make it through the airport. Shipping gifts saves you from paying excessive bag fees, and it also saves you the trouble of checking bags and waiting in baggage claim. Drivers also may benefit from shipping gifts, which can give everyone in the car more room to relax and also save the driver some money on gas.

· Switch up your travel schedule. If possible, take an extra day or two off during the holidays so you aren't forced to travel on the busiest travel days, which tend to be the days that immediately precede and follow the major holidays. If you must travel on busy holidays, hit the road or the friendly skies as early as possible. Book an early morning flight so you beat the crowds at security checkpoints or begin your drive an hour or so before sunrise when many of your fellow travelers are still asleep.

Travel is a holiday tradition for many people. While airports and highways are especially congested during the holiday season, there are many ways for travelers to make their trips less hectic this year.



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A

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1975

O

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1957

B

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1973

N



1972

M



1971

L



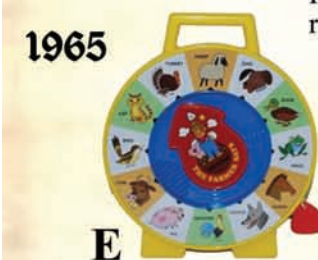
1961

C



1963

D



1965

E



1966

F



1966

G



1967

H



1968

I



1968

J

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# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

## Tips for visiting a store Santa

Christmastime is filled with many different traditions. Many people decorate their homes with Christmas trees, and songs are sung with family members who come from near and far to share gifts and companionship.

Families with young children often make visiting Santa Claus a part of their annual traditions. During the holiday season, Santa can be found taking up residence in department stores and malls across the country. Thousands of children and their parents will wait in line to get some face time with jolly old St. Nick. The following are a handful of ways to make kids' visits with Santa even more pleasant.

- Do a test run. If your child has not taken a photo with Santa before, he or she may be frightened and the result will be a poor photograph. The beard and the red coat coupled with the fact that kids are sitting on a stranger's lap can be terrifying for youngsters. Acclimate your child to the experience by visiting the mall to see Santa and become familiar with what he looks like and how he acts. It may take a couple of visits before your child is ready to wait in line for the real visit.

- Go off-peak. Visit Santa when the store just opens or when lines are not as long, such as during school hours or dinner time. This should cut down on the

wait and create a less tense experience. Confirm visiting hours so you don't arrive only to find he's out to lunch or feeding his reindeer. Do not schedule anything after the Santa visit, so you don't feel rushed.

- Dress comfortably. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing so neither you nor the kids will be uncomfortable. The goal is to look nice for the photo, but not at the expense of the children's comfort level. And while you should be comfortable as well, be sure to look presentable, in the event you have to hop into the photo if that's the only way your son or daughter will tolerate the experience.

- Pack some supplies. Bring snacks and drinks for the kids so hunger does not make them antsy. Bring along a change of clothes in case someone spills food or spits up before your turn.

- Get Santa recommendations. Ask friends and neighbors which Santas they visit. Many stores will have a Santa on hand, but not every Santa is as adept at handling children. You want someone who is used to making children feel welcome and comfortable.

Above all, try to have a good time and don't expect perfection. Sometimes the best Santa-visit moments are the ones that are unrehearsed.



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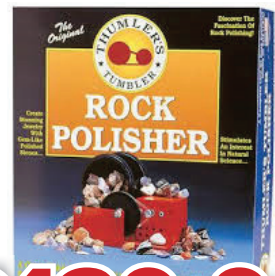
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# COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

## Hotels During the Holiday Rush

The holiday season is always a crazy time for hotels and other establishments in the hospitality industry. That is why it is important to always be prepared at the onset of the Christmas rush.

During the holiday season, hotels tend to be fully booked. One way to avoid being left without a room is to book early-weeks early. This way, one can still pick out preferred rooms and would not have to settle for the ones left available.

Another advantage of booking early is that certain hotels might be offering early bird Christmas discounts.

Prospective guests can research to find out about any special promotions for the Christmas season. Hotel rates are already relatively low this time of year and more so if these are coupled with special promos and packages.

Immense Christmas trees at the center of hotel lobbies, glittering decors adorning the walls and ceilings, Christmas-themed food and tapestries-these are just some of the things that are staple sights for the season. Some hotels even serve special edition menus for the Yuletide season.

In addition to all that, the holiday season ensures that travelers will get something extra. Aside from the Christmas settings within the hotels themselves, there are many different events and attractions that can help spice up a holiday stay at a strategically located hotel. For example, many major cities hold Christmas fairs and bazaars that allow people to get into the spirit of the season through a wide array of festivities and sale showcases.

Of course, the Christmas season continues on to the onset of the arrival of New Year. Many people seek to get away from the hustle and bustle and all the noises by spending a quiet night at the comfort of a hotel. Hotels offer their own New Year itineraries. It is a convenient solution for those who are not really into going out and partying the New Year away.

With hotels gearing up for the holidays with their special promotional rates and added attractions, guests will definitely be in for wonderful treats - not to mention great savings and unforgettable experiences.

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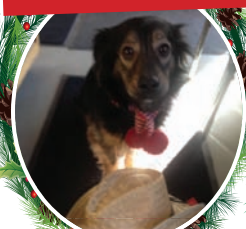
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