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# Herald angels sing

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE  
 Angels bring tidings of great joy at the From Everywhere to Bethlehem living nativity held in Winkler Park last weekend. Hosted by the Winkler EMM and Bethel churches, the three nights of performances drew over 2,700 people. For more photos, check out Pg. 13.

news > sports > opinion > community > people > entertainment > events > classifieds > careers > everything you need to know



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# Winkler gets to work on Meridian Exhibition Centre

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler broke ground on its \$20 million arena expansion project last week, kicking off what's expected to be 16-18 months of construction.

The Meridian Exhibition Centre will add a second ice rink and an indoor turf facility to the existing Winkler recreation complex on Park St., growing the complex west into the city's Parkland area.

It's a project that's been years in the making, said Mayor Martin Harder.

"It truly is a wonderful day in Winkler as we look at this new opportunity that is being presented for us," he said as dignitaries and project leaders prepared to put shovels into the ground.

The need for an expanded rec. centre was one of the key suggestions of the master plan created for Winkler by an outside consultant 12 years ago.

"One of the things that was highlighted was the fact that we didn't have a community gathering spot," Harder said.

While outdoor spaces such as Bethel Heritage Park have somewhat fulfilled that role in recent years, it's clear Winkler also needs a larger indoor space that can be used year-round.



Dignitaries and project leaders broke ground on the Meridian Exhibition Centre in Winkler Nov. 29.

"This Meridian Exhibition Centre is going to be one that will be a gathering spot for the region as a whole," Harder said. "We're not trying to build a facility here to compete with anybody. We're trying to build a facility that will in fact enhance opportunities in the Pembina Valley and create an opportunity to host bigger events that will benefit all of us."

The region has been passed over for major events in the past due to our smaller capacity, Harder noted, and larger local businesses struggle to find venues to host company celebrations.

tions.

"You have 500 employees and you want to have a Christmas banquet. Where do you go? There's nobody even in the region that is big enough to host it."

Continued on page 3



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# Morden clinic to be renamed Menzies Medical Centre

## Community board kicks off fundraising campaign for major renovations

By Lorne Stelmach

The Agassiz Medical Centre Community Board not only kicked off a fundraising campaign with a major boost last week, but also announced the project will come with a new name for the Morden clinic.

Once the estimated \$1.25 million renovations are complete, the clinic will be officially renamed the Menzies Medical Centre in honour of the three generations of Menzies doctors that have served here.

The honour comes following the 2017 death of beloved family physician Dr. Bob Menzies, who followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. The Menzies family's medical practice in Morden stretches back nearly 100 years.

"I think my dad really appreciated the continuity of care within the community and really found a lot of meaning working in the same community as his father and grandfather," said Kate Menzies, one of Dr. Bob's three daughters, in addressing the kickoff event at the clinic last Thursday.

"All of them dedicated their life to bringing quality medical care to the area ... I think they worked hard at advancing care here," added Heather

Menzies.

"It's very humbling to the family and very honouring," she said. "I think particularly of my father ... especially coming upon the first anniversary of his death that's more present in my mind, but I also really appreciate that it recognizes the generations. For me, I particularly think of my father, but I really appreciate that it incorporates our whole family."

"The rededication, becoming the Menzies Medical Centre, is for me the most exciting part," said Dr. Kevin Convery, who called Dr. Bob a role model for everyone at the clinic.

"The Menzies family has been synonymous with medical care in Morden ... so I think it's fantastic that we can offer Morden a lifetime of Menzies medical care now. I'm really proud of that,

and I'm really excited to come to work at the Menzies Medical Centre once we reopen the clinic."

The renovation will utilize undeveloped space at the former Morden Hospital building to provide room for more health care providers, including physicians and nurse practitioners.

The clinic currently has 20 physicians and two nurse practitioners among 40 staff overall. The goal is to add 10 more physicians.

The need is significant with the clinic

**"THE MENZIES FAMILY HAS BEEN SYNONYMOUS WITH MEDICAL CARE IN MORDEN."**



Heather, Meghan, and Kate Menzies, daughters of Dr. Bob Menzies, speak at the clinic fundraising kickoff last Thursday that also announced the facility would be renamed the Menzies Medical Centre.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Elks Club representatives present a \$10,000 donation to launch the Agassiz Medical Centre Community Board's fundraising campaign for clinic renovations. The board hopes to raise \$500,000 towards the estimated \$1.25 million project.

ic seeing around 4,000 appointments per month. Over 15,000 people identify Agassiz Medical Centre as their primary source of care, while another 1,600 are on a waiting list for a family care provider.

The work will add another 2,500 square feet of space to bring the clinic to about 18,000 sq. ft. The renovations will also address the functionality of the clinic space, including improving the nurse station and redesigning the current reception area to better handle increased capacity.

"From a physician's perspective, this project's vital ... to continue to grow as our community grows," said Convery. "We need to be able to provide the medical services to have a healthy and vibrant community."

"Certainly, with our current space, we're getting tight, and we know that we want to recruit physicians and we want to have a big area where they can come and work."

"The expansion project is going to allow us to be competitive in recruitment. We know that Morden is a fantastic community to work in, so now we just have to provide the facility,

the building, the space so we can get more doctors here and offer the service that the community needs."

The medical centre community board has committed to raising at least \$500,000 for the project, and it got a good start with a \$10,000 donation from the Elks Club of Morden.

"This was actually money raised three years ago. We were waiting for this day ... we're happy, I'm happy that this day has come," said club representative Henry Penner.

The service organization supports a variety of community projects each year, but this one ranks high on the list.

"We raise money for all sorts of things ... it's a group of guys that has dedicated themselves to making life better in Morden," said Penner, who served on the medical board for eight years.

"It's nice when you can raise some money and especially to this cause ... It's needed. When you walk in here any day, it's packed," he added. "So any amount of money that you can help with ... it touches everybody in town and the area."

**"THE EXPANSION PROJECT IS GOING TO ALLOW US TO BE COMPETITIVE IN RECRUITMENT."**



# getinformed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS

## Police, firefighters team up to support Christmas Cheer

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden firefighters and police are joining forces to support the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

While they aren't able to take to the ice as the Guns 'N Hoses in the charity hockey game against the Morden Thunder this year due to scheduling conflicts, both crews still wanted to do something to help out the annual holiday hamper campaign.

"We were thinking what could we still do to help out Christmas Cheer in some other way, so we decided we will open up the fire hall and the police station for people to drop off donations—whether that's new toys for kids or possibly cash donations or maybe some non-perishable food items," said fire Chief Andy Thiessen.

"We've been supporting Christmas Cheer for a long time and we want to continue that in some shape or form," he added. "So if people are going by and plan on donating, we would be happy to gather it all for them."

Cst. Devin Bell with the Morden Police Service said they very much wanted to be involved in some effort alongside the fire department again this Christmas.

"There's a great partnership between the police department and



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

The Morden police and fire departments are encouraging residents to drop off donations for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board this week and next at either the fire hall or the police station.

fire department," he noted. "Any time that we can join up with the fire department and help out a cause in our community, we're more than willing."

"This is just one way that we can give back to our community and help

out people less fortunate," Bell said, adding the Christmas Cheer Board is something that has huge impact on families in need. "We're hoping to help put a few extra smiles on people's faces this holiday season."

Donations can be dropped off at both locations this and next week during business hours. Drop-offs outside regular hours may also be ac-

Continued on page 6

## Winkler, Lowe Farm Co-op members vote to merge

By Lorne Stelmach

Members voted overwhelmingly last week in favour of a merger of the Lowe Farm and Winkler Co-ops.

Voting on the amalgamation took place Nov. 27, and while Winkler may have had only 56 registered voters, they were 94.6 per cent in favour of the proposal.

Meanwhile, there were 117 registered voters in Lowe Farm. They voted 98.3 per cent in support of the merger.

"In Lowe Farm the turnout was fantastic," said Winkler Co-op general manager Evan Toews. "The percentage of their members who came out to vote was much appreciated, and to have that go as strong in favour as it did ... it was great, it was really good

to see."

The lower turnout from Winkler Co-op members likely reflected the fact the merger does not present as much of an impact here as it does for Lowe Farm. Still, Toews said they welcomed the strong vote of confidence from those who did come out to cast a vote.

"It was almost unanimous ... having it overwhelming both here and in Lowe Farm, it's definitely a good feeling that the members felt the same way that the board and management did that this was a good fit."

The merger will see about 500 Lowe Farm members join 17,000 Winkler Co-op members. The amalgamated organization will have 23 different retail locations in five communities.

While Lowe Farm will obviously

benefit from being part of the larger Winkler Co-op, local Co-op members will see dividends from the change as well, Toews noted.

"Lowe Farm has a really well-established agricultural business as far as petroleum and farm inputs, and that's definitely going to help the new and larger Co-op," he said.

The new board will include seven members from the Winkler Co-op (down from the current eight) and two from Lowe Farm's current board of directors.

Co-op staff will now get to work on making the transition to the new regional Co-op, which officially becomes a new entity on March 24.

"Over the next number of months we're going to be working hard to

"WE'RE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER."

incorporate their members into the new Co-op," Toews said.

"We're really looking forward to working together with Lowe Farm," he added. "We're committed to Lowe Farm and we want to continue to make sure that we're local in Lowe Farm."



*The Winkler Morden*  
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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Why do we want young people to kill each other?

**N**ot fond of that headline? Neither am I, but it is there to make a point.

Periodically a variation of a particular meme surfaces where two pictures are set side by side. On the left is a photo of a soldier circa the Second World War and on the right is an Instagram selfie of a young man with a puppy face filter.

Beneath the photo on the left it reads "2018. Hey son, I found a picture of your grandfather." Beneath the photo on the right it reads "2060. Hey son, I found a picture of your grandfather."

I cannot stand these memes. I mean, I get what they are trying to say: "Look how tough and manly and sacrificial our men were in 1940 compared to the pathetic excuses for men now." To which I would say, "Get a life."

Look, I have pictures of my grandfather from the 1940s standing next to his "office," the rear gun turret of a Lancaster bomber, and I'm proud of his role as a member of the famous Dambuster Squadron and his Distinguished Flying Cross and Distinguished Flying Medal.

But ...

I would give anything to make sure my children never have to live in a world where they earn medals and stand next to gun turrets. My grandfather gave more than five years of his life and a good piece of his mental health to ensure his grandchildren would never have to fight in a war.

As a society we really need to start taking a deeper look at what we define as manly, womanly, or valuable before we seek to shame our young men and women with humour poisonously laced with hyper-judgemental imagery.

Another version of the famous meme shows young men storming the beaches of Normandy, once again shaming current youth. And for what? Not being put in a position to be shot at? Really? This is our measure of value?

There were nearly 20,000 casualties on D-Day of which more than 5,000 soldiers were killed. Sixty million people



**By Peter Cantelon**

were killed in the Second World War—that's three per cent of the population in 1940. Today that would be 231 million people.

Do we really want our young men and women to experience that?

Celebrating a person's ability to take a selfie with a ridiculous filter does not diminish sacrifices of previous generations. Instead, it magnifies it.

We live in a world here in the west where most of our youth will NEVER know the pain of war and conflict. We have the freedom to do almost anything we want. Previous generations sacrificed so that we could do the things they were denied, including being young, silly, and carefree.

Stop shaming people for exercising the freedoms they have because of the sacrifices of their forebears. Doing so misses the point of those sacrifices entirely.

My grandfather wasn't shot at for more than five years so his grandchildren could be as well. That is not what it was about.

## > CHRISTMAS CHEER, FROM PG. 5

commodated, but call first to confirm. The police station can be reached at 204-822-6292. Call or text Thiessen at 204-325-6647.

There is also the option of coming by the fire hall when firefighters are doing their drill night on Wednesday evening. To that end, Thiessen is dangling an extra little incentive for families to come by with a donation.

"If they want to bring their kids along, we may be able to give them a quick tour of the fire hall ... maybe get their picture taken in a fire truck ... whatever will get them down here to drop some stuff off."

The Cheer Board certainly welcomes the support of the police and fire departments

"We are thrilled that even though the Guns 'N Hoses

game isn't happening that both are still eager to support Morden Christmas Cheer," said volunteer Megan Andrew. "We know they serve our community with their roles every day, and it's excellent to see them get excited about going the extra mile."

Thanks to the Cheer Board donations that have been pouring in in recent weeks, campaign organizers believe they're on target to be able to fill upwards of 230 care hampers.

The deadline to apply for a hamper is Dec. 11. They'll be delivered on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

More information is available online at [www.morden-christmascheer.com](http://www.morden-christmascheer.com).





## Community Christmas party

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Winkler kicked off the holiday season with a Community Christmas party at the Winkler Arts and Culture Centre Nov. 29. The evening included (clockwise from left) bonfires and s'mores, Christmas carols, gingerbread creations, crafts for the kids, and a chance to chat with St. Nick. The outdoor fun also included a petting zoo.



# Plenty of outdoor fun to be had locally this winter

By Lorne Stelmach

The City of Morden is hard at work getting its array of rinks, trails and other winter recreation options ready for another season.

There are some new features in the works for this year, noted recreation programmer Stephanie Dueck.

"I think the more that we can offer, the better," she said. "If we have the staff and some partners come on board to help make some of this feasible, we're happy to keep doing what we have done and keep adding to it."

In particular, Dueck noted that they have a great resource with Lake Minnewasta, and they want to do what they can to take advantage of it.

"It is very nice to have that ... it's a great feature attraction," she said.

The Morden parks and urban forestry department as well as the Morden fire department are taking the lead in getting the outdoor rinks ready.

"We have started Lions Park, Access Event Centre and Elks Park flooding and we're planning to complete all three by the end of this week," said Shawn Dias, manager of parks and urban forestry. "We also cleared snow in the Morden Park Bowl and will head there next to flood once the other three are ready to go."

Dias and his staff have also developed a new ski trail route starting at the Lake Minnewasta parking lot and going through the golf course.

There are a few bare spots, but the trails are ready for use. You can get the trail map online at [mordenmb.com](http://mordenmb.com). Ski rentals are available from Country Cycle for \$20 a day.

The Morden fire department anticipates having the rink at Wardrop St. and 8th St. ready by the Christmas break, weather permitting.

The department will also be maintaining a rink on Lake Minnewasta and is hoping to help with the maintenance of the lake skating trail alongside Cole Hildebrand and his staff from Capital Landscaping.

"It depends on the conditions. Right now it's not looking good for that because of how the ice is frozen, but there will for sure be a rink right by

the beach area," said Dueck.

Meanwhile, the city has started up a free snowshoe rental program with funding from Southern Health through a Healthy Living Together grant.

Snowshoes can be rented from the Morden Drugstore. It's also possible to reserve online at [www.mordenmb.com/snowshoes](http://www.mordenmb.com/snowshoes). Anyone walking or using snowshoes are asked to stay off ski trails.

In Winkler, meanwhile, outdoor rinks are going up at Emerado Centennial School, Lions Park, Scotia Park, and Gemstone Park.

Plans are also in the works for a skating trail through the Winkler campground, conditions allowing.



# Scoular gives back to Donate Love in a big way



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Scoular employees stopped by Winkler's Central Station Monday to drop off a donation of food and cash towards Donate Love's work in the community.

By Lorne Stelmach

Scoular supported the work of Donate Love in Winkler Monday with a donation of over \$3,100 in cash and food.

Local employees of the special crops company helped raise and collect over \$1,300, which the company then matched and topped up with another \$1,800.

"What we really want to support is community-based projects ... we want to do it all in the local community," said Scoular's Cassie Harder, noting they saw Donate Love as a worthwhile cause to support given the charity's direct involvement in the community.

Earlier this year, Scoular had also made a donation worth around \$5,000 to Genesis House.

Marian Hildebrand, a local volunteer for Donate Love, said Scoular's gift will go a long way for the non-profit this winter as it continues hosting weekly community meals.

"This donation is absolutely huge for us ... it will provide many meals throughout the coming weeks and months," she said, adding it is nice to see a local company like Scoular get directly involved in this way. "The community meal is meant to pull the community together, so it's nice to have all parts of the community, people coming in from the all of the community, to make this happen."

## Morden's immigration initiative is flourishing

By Lorne Stelmach

Morden's community driven immigration initiative has continued to steadily grow since its inception in 2012.

Helping provide Morden with a sustained labour force by bringing in targeted skilled employees, the program has other communities talking, says immigration co-ordinator Shelly Voth.

"The program has been really successful ... it's been running very smoothly," Voth said following a lunch and learn session hosted by the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce Friday.

Voth touched on the basics of the initiative and the process that it follows, including recruitment and screening of potential candidates, a selection committee, exploratory visits to the community, and interviews through the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program.

Early on, they really had to promote Morden as an option for people to consider, Voth said, "but since then we haven't had to do any advertising."

Morden now receives a couple hundred new applicants every month, and several times that in inquiries.

"Our main program is [to bring in] 50 families per year," Voth explained. "And then were seeing more come in through other streams outside of our program as well."

Aside from the main immigration initiative, they now also have an employer direct program that can set out criteria to better meet a company's specific needs.

"That's something that is fairly new to us, but it's something that I think is going to end up being a large portion of our time," suggested Voth.

"We're here to help businesses in any way possible ... our department offers a lot of different things besides immigration program," she continued, touching on various other supports they provide ranging from meeting and picking up families at the airport to then getting them settled in transition apartments here.

"Sometimes people then find a place right away," she said, adding their stays in the transition housing might range from a night or two up to a couple months, depending on their circumstances.

Regional Connections is another re-

source which they work closely with, Voth added, citing the example of the newcomer welcome evenings held once a month.

"Regional Connections is great ... we work really closely together with them," she said. "We're also really careful that whatever is in their first couple of weeks is positive."

The bottom line is to ensure the range of questions and concerns that immigrants will have are being answered and addressed, Voth said, and that is key not only to the program working but also in drawing immigrants from a wider range of countries as well.

"We're seeing more diversity in our applications," she said, noting a majority originally came from Russia and the Ukraine but many more are now coming from other countries like the Philippines. "It's a lot of fun to meet people from all over the world. We always say in our office that we get to travel the world."

Voth attributes Morden's appeal for immigration to a number of factors.

"We have a very welcoming community. We have lots of jobs that are available that employers are having trouble filling," she said. "Companies are telling us that our program has assisted with their growth."

"We're seeing really good retention rate, and we do our best to retain the people that we bring in," said Voth, cit-

ing that also as a key for them in the long term. "We're looking for people that we feel are going to be employable, that's the main thing. We're also looking for people that we feel are wanting genuinely to come to a small city. We're looking for people who will be great citizens in Morden."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Shelly Voth, immigration coordinator for the City of Morden, oversees the community driven immigration initiative.

"WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL BE GREAT CITIZENS OF MORDEN."



# Obstacle Warriors open for business

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Say goodbye to cabin fever this winter.

A new Winkler business is offering kids and the young at heart a place to run, jump, and climb to their heart's content.

Obstacle Warriors invited the community to come check it out for free at its grand opening celebrations Saturday afternoon.

The indoor entertainment centre offers parkour and Ninja Warrior-inspired obstacle courses. The site is also home to Burst Martial Arts, whose training room doubles as an obstacle course space for younger kids.

Owners Frank and Donna Klassen found inspiration for the business in their experience as foster parents to teenage boys.

"They have nowhere to go. There was no place for them," Donna said, stressing the importance of getting youth away from video games and cell phones and out being active. "A lot of kids aren't into organized sports ... they just want to be able to come and do their own thing."

"We hope that this provides that space for them so that they can come and make friends ... make it feel like it's their place away from home, a place where they feel welcome all the time."

Though they hope to one day grow the business, for right now the central location downtown is ideal, Donna said.

"[It's] a location where it's fair for everybody to be able to reach it," she said. "Kids can just get on their bike and come down after school."

At the ribbon cutting ceremony last weekend, Deputy Mayor Henry Siemens lauded the Klassen for their vision.

"This is something that has been desperately needed in Winkler for a long time, to have something new, something different for kids and young families," he said. "This is terrific."

Donna noted they'll be holding parkour classes in the near future and also hope to host Ninja Warrior competitions next spring.

Obstacle Warriors is located at 324 South Railway Ave. You can learn more online on their Facebook page.



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Deputy Mayor Henry Siemens, Obstacle Warriors owners

Frank and Donna Klassen, pastor Rob Haslam, and Winkler chamber rep. Dave Giesbrecht cut the ribbon on the new Winkler entertainment centre on Saturday. The facility offers obstacle course challenges of all levels.



# 'A Merry Little Christmas' hits the stage Dec. 6



Musician Bowen will perform as part of We Who Wander with his sisters Tanisha and Ally at the A Merry Little Christmas concert this week.

By Lorne Stelmach

Up and coming musician Bowen shares the stage this week with other local musical talent to celebrate the holiday season.

Providing space for fellow musicians to join him in performance tonight (Thursday, Dec. 6) at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall for *A Merry Little Christmas* is a large part of the appeal behind putting together this annual holiday concert.

"I would like more artists to be able to have a cool platform to be able to perform," said Bowen, an emerging singer-songwriter whose debut album *Short Lived* was released a few years ago.

"I do appreciate that for myself," he noted. "Having a good stage and a good audience to play for ... it's always fun."

"It can benefit me ... but the main point of why I love it is the fact there are going to be seven different groups or performers in a two and a half hour show," Bowen said. "They're all so talented and I think it's really worth people's time and money to come and enjoy it."

Proceeds from *A Merry Little Christmas* will go to the Central Station Community Centre in Winkler.

Bowen is on the lineup as part of We Who Wander with his sisters Tanisha and Ally. Also performing is Paul Bergman, Ed Wayne, Orlando and Grace, An Unexpected End, Henry Abrams, and Keesha Otsuji.

This is the fourth *A Merry Little Christmas* show, which owes its creation to Bowen's love of the Christmas season.

"I just love Christmas, love Christmas music," he said. "I wanted to provide another avenue for local artists to be able to showcase who they are but in doing that also kind of focusing on Christmas and celebrating the holiday."

"We've had a few repeats over the years, but then each year we're also looking at finding a few new names," he said, adding the musical genres run the gamut from contemporary to folk and everything in between. "There's all of that wrapped up on a night like this."

Even more importantly, Bowen sees the night as a great opportunity to give back to the community.

"The first two years weren't a benefit concert ... but with the show being based on celebrating the Christmas season, it really came to my mind, as it

Continued on page 10



# Vet clinics taking part in provincial pet food drive



By Ashleigh Viveiros

Local vet clinics are making sure our furry friends won't go hungry this holiday season.

Both the Winkler and Morden clinics are taking part in the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association's annual The Season is Fur Everyone Pet Food Drive.

"This is a particularly busy time for animal shelters," says Dr. Jacqueline

Staff at the Winkler Vet Clinic launched The Season is Fur Everyone Pet Food Drive for local animal shelters last week. Donations of cat and dog food can be dropped off at the Winkler and Morden clinics until Dec. 20.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Enns of the Winkler Vet Clinic. "As the weather gets worse, animals look for shelter and so they're picked up on the streets and they need food.

"So what we're doing is we're collecting food donations—dog or cat food, dry food or wet food—and we're going to match what's donated and pass that onto our local pet rescue organizations."

Donations of dog or cat food can be dropped off at either clinic until Dec. 20. The food will be divided between the Pembina Valley Humane Society, Kat's Kritter's Rescue, and the Forever Friends cat rescue just before Christmas.

Past pet food drives in the Winkler-Morden area have helped feed an awful lot of animals, Enns said.

"Our community is so generous," she said. "We really appreciate the help."

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# Your kids need more than just you as a mentor

**E**very parent has experienced this:

You've been trying to teach your kid some basic principles on how to be a functioning human being for the majority of their life.

Then, one day, their teacher, uncle, coach, pastor, etc. says the exact same thing to them, and your kid comes running up to you to tell you of this incredible, profound lesson they just learned as if it was the very first time they'd heard it. Are you kidding me? I get the credit for that!

As frustrating as this can be, there's an important principle behind this: we are not the only influence our children need. We need other adults to affirm and reinforce core truths in the lives of our children to help shape their character and faith.

Here's the thing about these additional influences: they will enter into our kids' lives whether we like it or not. Instead of simply allowing these relationships to happen randomly or haphazardly, what if we as parents began to initiate them on purpose?

What if we pursue strategic relationships for our sons and daughters?

In a culture where genuine community seems increasingly difficult to find, we need to become more intentional about finding mentors, role models, and spiritual leaders for our kids. Whose lives are your kids witnessing that make them say, "That's what I want to be like when I'm older"?

One set of parents intentionally used the transition into Kindergarten to reinforce these key relationships in their child's life. They reached out to a handful of adults who knew their child and asked them to write a short note of encouragement for their kid and put it in the mail before the big day came. Guess which adults suddenly became a whole lot cooler in the eyes of that kid and just gained huge influence with them?

The need for this circle of influence around our kids only grows as they approach the teenage years. As they become more independent, they begin to redefine their identity based not on what their parents think of them, but on what those outside of their home might think.

When they need advice about future careers or are struggling in a dating relationship, there is a very good chance they'll be talking to their friends and other adults before you ever hear about it. If you've already helped them build relationships with other adults, this is a good thing—your teenager needs other voices

speaking into their world.

Author and pastor Carey Nieuwhof, when his son was about to turn 13, created a plan with his son to set up what they referred to as his mentoring year. They selected five men who they knew and respected and asked each of them to spend a day with the 13-year-old over the summer. During that day, they could do whatever activity they wanted, but at some point the man had to impart at least one spiritual truth (faith-based) and one life truth (good advice) into his son's life.

At the end of the summer, they all gathered for one big BBQ feast and the men got another chance to encourage the new teenager and speak to this young guy about the gifts and abilities they saw at work within him.

What a fantastic rite of passage into adolescence! When the questions and doubts of the teenage years hit, this guy now has at least five other adults in his life that he can go to for support. Isn't that exactly what we hope our kids will have?

Beyond family members, where do we begin to create this wider circle for our kids? I could be biased, but I believe one of the strongest sources of community for your child is a local church. Find one that values family and desires to partner with you as a parent to give your kid a better future. Connect regularly and give your kids a front row seat to see genuine faith lived out in others.

As author Reggie Joiner states:

"Something powerful happens when you partner with other influences who desire to instill a sense of mission into the hearts of your children. You give them a different view of their place in the world, and you transfer a different kind of passion to them that your family alone cannot give them."

How can you widen the circle for your child this month?

*Dan Doerksen is the Family Ministries Pastor at WMBC. He is the father to a talented little girl and two twin boys.*



By Dan Doerksen

## > CONCERT, FROM PG. 9

was going on a couple years, that I wanted to add more value than just good entertainment," he said, adding that Central Station "just seemed like a really good fit for the night, so we decided to go with

them this year."

He's pleased to see the crowd has consistently grown.

"I want to offer an amazing night of music and to be able to give back to the community."



# New Legion elevator on its way thanks to donations

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden Legion will be getting a new elevator sooner than anticipated thanks to some significant funding support coming its way.

More than two thirds of the estimated \$35,000 project costs will be paid for through three donations from the Morden Area Foundation, Enbridge, and the Morden Elks.

The largest of the three is coming from the foundation, which will officially announce the grant total as part of its Christmas party and grant awards night next Tuesday.

"That's unbelievable. That put us over the top right there ... we knew then that we could do this," said Legion president Bob Frost. "We probably could have done it ourselves fundraising, but it would have taken us two years ... now we're probably looking at this coming April."

In addition to the foundation grant, Enbridge is contributing \$5,000 towards the project, while the Elks have pledged to provide some money from their 2019 funds in the new year.

The Legion is generating money itself through such fundraising as its Liverfest, fish fry, and by selling Co-op gift cards. They already have \$4,300 in place for the project.

"We're very close," Frost said, adding they can draw some money from the Poppy Fund as well, though it "is very restrictive in what you can use it for. It's supposed to be strictly for veterans, but the elevator is one thing that we can use it for."

"With these funds that were available and then topping it off probably with whatever remaining funds are required out of our Poppy Fund, we'll be able to expedite the whole procedure and hopefully have the elevator in place by, I'm guessing, the end of June maybe at the latest."

Replacing the elevator has become increasingly urgent as the Legion has had to spend thousands of dollars in recent years on repairs and maintenance.

"It's been causing us problems and costing us lots of money," Frost said. "Financially, it makes sense for us to replace this as soon as possible."

"We probably have about six people who use it virtually every day ... on weekends, when we have our different draws ... there's usually some other people who do use it," he added. "As our membership population ages and the guests age, it's going to become required more and more."

With the growth of the local Legion branch in recent years, Frost said they



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Legion officials said thanks last week to three local supporters committing funds to replace the elevator at its Morden club room. Here with Legion executive members Tammy Petkau and Bob Frost are Ray Kirk of the Morden Elks, Ken Friesen, Allison Braun and Lynda Lambert of the Morden Area Foundation, and Andrew Plett from Enbridge.

are getting themselves into sound position for the future should more significant projects come along.

"We're probably one of the bigger branches for membership in rural Manitoba," he said, noting their membership has climbed to about 400. "Our volunteer base is growing

... that's what keeps us growing, that's what really generates the funds."

"With the amount of funds that we have available, we have to be very picky on what we try to do. We have to address the things that we require immediately ... but we're sitting pretty good."

# Access CU named a top Manitoba employer

Access Credit Union has been named a Top Employer in Manitoba for its fifth year in a row.

Entering its 13th year, Manitoba's Top Employers is an annual competition organized by the editors of *Canada's Top 100 Employers*. It recognizes companies that meet benchmarks for an extraordinary workplace including the working conditions, stability, ben-

efits, flexibility, community involvement and the ability to further each individual's career as it suits their aspirations while balancing their life goals.

Hitting those benchmarks is something Access Credit Union prides itself on, says president and CEO Larry Davey.

"When we talk about our people, we

know we couldn't be a top employer without all of the strong people we have working for us," he says. "We celebrate them and we really appreciate that our people are always working to improve on and provide the best expertise and advice they can to all of our members."

Access Credit Union strives to be an employer of choice in Southern Man-

itoba with 18 locations, 260 employees, and over \$2.6 billion in assets.

## Police blotter

- Nov. 28: Morden police received a complaint regarding an attempted break and enter to a residence sometime between Nov. 21-28. The resident observed pry marks on his door. The dead bolt was also bent. No one gained entry to the home and there are no suspects at this time. Police continue to investigate.

- Nov. 29: Shortly after 10 p.m., Winkler police were dispatched to a store located near Foxfire Trail regarding an active alarm. Police arrived on scene and noted that entry was unlawfully gained to the building and a large amount of merchandise was stolen from inside the store. The investigation is ongoing.

- Nov. 29: Police received a report of a hit and run to the front bumper of a



ACCESS CREDIT UNION PHOTO

Access Credit Union staff jump for joy in this company photo. The financial institution has been named a Top Employer in Manitoba for a fifth year running.

Continued on page 18



# A skate with Santa



St. Nick was a man in demand Sunday afternoon at the Access Event Centre as a large crowd packed the ice for the annual Skate with Santa. "It's a great day," said organizer Alex Fedorchuk, noting it was particularly nice to see many newcomers to the community out on the ice. The annual event is a chance for the Morden and District United Way to give back and say thanks to the community for its support of the annual fundraising campaign, which has thus far surpassed the \$60,000 mark en route to its goal of \$85,000.

PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

# Mr Mikes looking to reward Deeds Well Done

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Mr Mikes restaurant in Winkler has put a call out for nominations for its Deeds Well Done Campaign.

The program, entering its sixth year, recognizes non-profit organizations that make a difference in the communities they serve.

People are encouraged to nominate a registered charity from now until Dec. 31. In the new year, a panel of judges will select one charity in each of Mr Mikes' 40 markets across the country to receive \$500 and a group dinner at their local restaurant.

Nominations can be made online at [www.deedswelldone.com](http://www.deedswelldone.com).

Reina McClain of Winkler's Mr Mikes Steakhouse-Casual says the campaign aims to inspire people to reflect on what's truly important during the holiday season while giving back to their community.

"We are very excited" to be able to give back, she said, adding the Winkler staff are especially eager to promote a campaign that will "give to a local organization."

The 2017 Deeds Well Done program resulted in 1,400 nominations from 37 communities in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. This year's campaign will see \$20,000 donated across the nation.

Deeds Well Done is just one way Mr Mikes is doing its part to spread Christmas cheer. The restaurant is also a drop-off point for donations of non-perishable food items for the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board.



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# Christmas story brought to life

From Everywhere to Bethlehem invited visitors to become part of the Christmas story last weekend in Winkler Park. Audience members were greeted by a Roman centurion who took them through a village abuzz with rumours of a special birth. En route to the final stop—a manger where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus accepted gifts from three wise men (right)—people got the chance to chat with the prophet Isaiah (below, left), tax collectors and census-takers (below, centre), and King Herod himself (below, right). The evening collected 2,340 pounds of food for the Winkler food cupboard as well as cash donations for MCC Christmas Giving.

PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE



## Line 3 Replacement Program



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# Fullfill... Their Christmas Wishes

## Great last-minute gift ideas

Tradition is a hallmark of the holiday season. Religious services, family gatherings and trips to see Santa Claus are just a few of the many traditions people adhere to during the holiday season.

Many holiday shoppers also adhere to the time-honored tradition of last-minute shopping. The perfect gift can sometimes prove elusive, especially as the sand in the holiday hour glass keeps dwindling. These last-minute gift ideas may be just what shoppers need to put smiles on the faces of their loved ones this holiday season.

- **Books:** Books are often overlooked, especially now that so many readers use e-readers. But books can be an ideal gift and especially convenient for last-minute shoppers.

- **Experiences:** A 2017 survey by the global research firm NPD Group found that roughly 40 percent of holiday shoppers planned to give experiences as gifts last year. Experience gifts open up a host of possibilities for last-minute shoppers stuck on what to give those loved ones who seemingly have it all.

- **Food/beverage:** Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not need to look further than the latest hotspot restaurant or specialty grocery store for the perfect gift. Take them out for a night on the town or give a gift card they can use at their convenience.

Last-minute holiday shopping is easier than ever, especially for shoppers willing to think outside the box. Gift certificates are ALWAYS a great gift!

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Getting Down to Business

## Family-run business owes its success to loyal customers

Morden Autobody is not only a long-running successful business but has long remained family owned and operated as well.

It goes back to when Eric Pohl and his family moved to Morden in 1965 and bought the existing business. Pohl's sons Dale and Fred grew up alongside it.

"It's in the blood. Fred and I have both been doing it for close to 40 years. It became a family business," said Dale Pohl. "Fred and I both, through the years, spent a lot of time as kids in the shop doing whatever we could. We had a big interest in cars and slowly got into the business."

After completing high school, both of them went on to Red River Community College for their trades courses. They then returned home to carry on as partners with their father in the business, which was located on Mountain St. up until 1992 when they purchased their current building on Cochlan Dr.

The move was an important one for Morden Autobody, taking them from about 3,500 square feet to upwards of 8,000 sq. ft. of shop and office space.

"The business more than doubled in size ... and our shop has capacity for about 10 vehicles at once to be worked on, whereas we only had five before," said Pohl, adding that they employ eight staff.

Pohl attributes the shop's ongoing success to their loyal customers from across the region.

"We draw a lot of customers from around the area," he said. "We have both old and new customers ... new customers every day ... we still have our old ones that we've kept since I was just starting out in the trade."

He noted that Morden Autobody is a Manitoba Public Insurance accredited autobody repair shop.

"We are a DR (direct repair) shop where you can bring your claims to the shop here, have the estimate written here, and it goes straight on to the repairs so it speeds up the process," said Pohl.

**I Am a Member!**



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Dale Pohl of the family-owned and run Morden Autobody says automotive repair is in his blood.

"We are also aluminum approved shop for MPI. Not all the shops are able to do aluminum repairs, but we are equipped for that," he added, noting that they also offer a towing service. "We do complete frame autobody collision repairs including windshields and glass, stone chip repairs and replacements."

Another key factor in their continued success is ongoing upgrading and training.

"There's always a lot more training for our guys to take because of all the new technology in the vehicles now," Pohl said. "Repairs have changed."

## MORDEN CHAMBER NEWS

### Innovation Alley Bus Tour December 13th

Innovation Alley is a community of innovators, entrepreneurs and artists in Downtown Winnipeg's West Exchange District equipped with startup space, shared resources and Canada's largest fabrication Lab over four city blocks.

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# Congrats to our contest winner

Congratulations to Voice reader Nettie Klassen for winning our A Celtic Family Christmas contest! What's Natalie MacMaster's favourite Christmas carol to perform? The fiddling superstar told the Voice



it's "What Child Is This." The correct answer won Klassen two tickets to the sold-out show at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall this Friday featuring MacMaster, husband Donnell Leahy, and their children.

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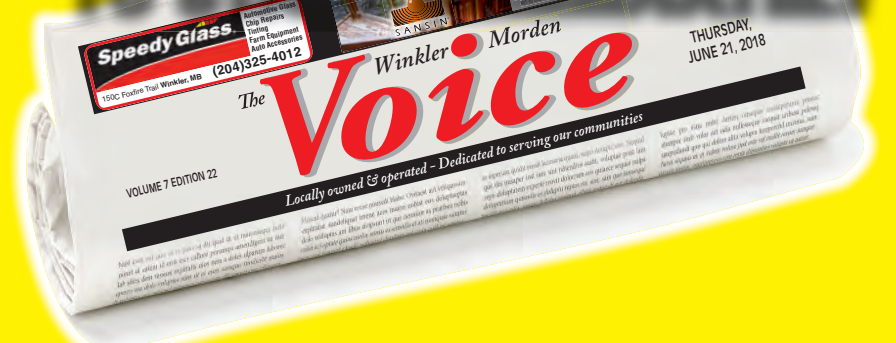
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# 2 MORDEN CARRIERS WANTED TO START IMMEDIATELY



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS BY SUSIE FRIESEN/DKSM



## Sing Canada supports DKSM



Douglas Kuhl School of Music director Rochelle Drudge (top left photo) received an \$800 grant from Sing Canada Harmony representative Gordon Billows at the school's *Joyful Sounds* concert last week.

The money will help cover costs related to the school's Winkler Senior Choir and Homeschool Harmony Choir.

Drudge notes that DKSM also re-

ceives a \$2,000 grant from the provincial government towards their strings/choir fall programming and a sizeable donation from the Kuhl Foundation for the strings and Cadenza programs.

At the Nov. 25 concert, audience members enjoyed music from the DKSM Encore and Post Road string ensembles, Homeschool Harmony Choir, and the Winkler Senior Choir.

## Just Watch ME! video contest accepting applications

A unique contest is now open for video submissions from rural Manitobans living with a disability or health condition and running their own business.

The Just Watch ME! contest began accepting applications this Monday, Dec. 3, on the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The contest is an initiative aimed at celebrating the small business success of rural Canadians with disabilities and encouraging others to embrace entrepreneurship on their own terms.

According to Employment and Social Development Canada, persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed, to live in poverty, and to earn less than people without a disability.

Self-employment can be a viable option, and with the support of the Community Futures Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program, the conversation is changing.

"In the last two years, we have helped 93 entrepreneurs with disabilities or health conditions start or expand their rural businesses," says Susan Bater, the program manager of the Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program for Community Futures

Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the organizations behind the video contest.

"Launching your own business and creating the environment you need to succeed on your own terms can be a game changer for people with disabilities and health conditions," says Bater. "Our annual video contest celebrates and showcases rural small business owners."

Last year's winner, Lorena Mitchell of Marchand, MB, owns Evolve Green, a renewable energy company. She launched her business over 10

years ago after realizing there weren't many opportunities for her in alternative energy.

"I wanted to knit my life with nature and do something I was passionate about, but there really weren't any jobs for me," says Mitchell. "Being my own boss is an opportunity for me when my health issues are a concern. I can modify my schedule and control what goes on with my company and its growth, and it's an amazing experience."

Any entrepreneur with a disability

or health condition operating a business in rural Manitoba or rural Saskatchewan can submit a short video about their business success online at [justwatchmecontest.ca](http://justwatchmecontest.ca).

Submissions will be accepted until Jan. 22. The winners will be announced in February.

There are several prizes to be won, including cash and business support packages for both start-up and seasoned entrepreneurs.

### > POLICE REPORT, FROM PG. 11

grey 2011 Honda CRV. The incident occurred on Nov. 16 between 5-9 p.m. while the vehicle was parked on North Railway St. in front of Giant Tiger in Morden. Anyone with any information is asked to contact police.

• Dec. 1: Morden police received a call that someone had just witnessed a hit and run take place at the Access Event Centre.

The caller observed a car attempting to parallel park back into a SUV. An occupant got out of their vehicle, checked the vehicle that was hit, and then got back into their car and

drove away without leaving a note.

Police would like to remind the public that regardless of if there is damage or not, you must leave your particulars at the scene of an accident. Failing to do so could result in a fine of \$203.

• Dec. 1: While on patrol, Winkler officers observed a female who appeared to be in distress and noted the female's boyfriend to be walking away from the scene.

Police spoke with the woman who advised that she had been sexually assaulted by her boyfriend the previous night. The 26-year-old male, a

resident of Winkler, was arrested for sexual assault.

While police were arresting the boyfriend, the female became hysterical, screaming at police, and proceeded to charge at a police officer with a stroller containing her small child, striking the officer.

She then attempted to flee from police but was apprehended. She resisted arrest while continuing to scream at officers.

The 25-year-old, a resident of Winkler, was arrested for assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest.



# A glimpse into Christmas traditions the world over

Regional Connections offered a look at Christmas celebrations from around the globe Saturday in hosting Holidays Around the World at the Winkler library. The afternoon included potluck snacks (below), performances from musicians like Paraguayan Willie Enns (right) on the harp, and presentations and displays on Christmas traditions in countries like Argentina, Austria, and Ukraine. Volunteer coordinator Alesha Hildebrand said the event is meant to be a fun, educational celebration of the region's growing diversity.

PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE



The Winkler Morden

**Voice**

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## Jets celebrate HFC Night



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Winnipeg Jets gathered before their Nov. 29 game to honour Hockey Fights Cancer, with four young champions who have all battled cancer dropping the ceremonial puck for Chicago Blackhawks' captain Jonathon Toews and Jets' captain Blake Wheeler. Jets general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff presented a cheque for \$100,000 to Manitoba CancerCare Foundation president and CEO Anita Stenning. Pictured left to right: Toews, nine-year-old Lily and mother Heather, four-year-old Caius and his dad Russ, 16-year-old Nathaniel and brother Liam, and 10-year-old Winklerite Heidi and mom Rachel, Wheeler, Cheveldayoff, and Stenning.

Snowshoe Hare

The Snowshoe Hare, sometimes called the *snowshoe rabbit*, is well equipped for the winter. Its large hind feet act like snowshoes that help it move through soft, deep snow as it feeds on tender vegetation close to the ground. Its fur is white in winter and brown in summer, providing excellent camouflage in all seasons. The female snowshoe hare can bear up to four litters of young in one year.

- Excerpt from *Footprints of Hope* by Henry Martens. Illustrated by Raymond Klassen.

FOOTPRINTS

*of Hope*

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# The best Christmas present ever

Christmas is fast approaching! Our young daughter studies the toy catalogues. She watches the toy commercials on TV. Her list grows longer. She dances and whirls and cannot be still.

"I'm so excited!" she cries. "Aren't you, Mommy? Don't you wish you were little again? Tell me about Christmas when you were little. Tell me about your best present ever."

My best present ever? Slowly, I think back over the years to my Christmases past.

"My best present ever," I answer thoughtfully, "didn't come at Christmas. It came in January."

"That's silly, Mommy! You can't get a Christmas present in January."

"Listen and you will understand." Susannah enjoys her mother's stories. We sit down together in our favourite rocking chair and I begin

"We were always poor when I was little. The Christmas I was nine was no different. My mother, your grandma, did her best. She put aside a little money each month all year long. With this money she bought us all small gifts. She bought material to sew my older sister, Jeanne, and me new dresses for our church Christmas concert. She bought special groceries for baking a Christmas cake and other goodies. And she gave us \$5 to go to the nearest Christmas tree lot to choose a tree. We only had a few ornaments to decorate our tree so we used lots of tinsel to make it look

sparkly.

"But this Christmas I wanted more! I wanted a doll carriage. A big one like the one in Eaton's catalogue. The kind that looked just like a real baby carriage. My friend had one. I thought about nothing else for weeks. I even prayed for one.

"Finally I asked my mother. She didn't say anything for a while and then she said, 'I don't think we can get you one for Christmas. Maybe in spring.'

"Now I was puzzled. She didn't say no. But spring! We didn't get many presents. Why would I get one when it wasn't even Christmas.

"My birthday," I remembered. "That's it. My birthday is in April. I'll get a carriage for my birthday." I was so happy."

"Why didn't you ask your mom if that's what she meant?" Susannah interrupted, "so that you'd know for sure."

"Oh, I don't know. Maybe I was afraid that I had misunderstood. I really wanted to believe. Anyway, I don't remember what I got for Christmas that year but I do remember what I got in January."

"Tell me. Tell me." Susannah squirms impatiently.

"A wonderful surprise! A baby sister! The most beautiful baby in the world. Mom let Jeanne and me help choose her name. She gave us two choices: Kristina Ann or Debra Ann. We chose Debra Ann.

"How we loved baby Debbie! We helped feed her, we played with her, and we dressed her in all her cute little dresses. A real live doll for two young sisters.

"But best of all, when the weather got warmer, our mother let us take Debbie for rides in her carriage. We rushed home from school every day to help get her dressed after her nap. Then we proudly strolled her into town to pick up the mail and run other errands."



By Florence Dyck



The author's younger sister Debbie, who arrived as a late Christmas present.

"Is that what your mother meant?" Susannah squealed with delight. "Did she buy a carriage for Debbie in spring? Was that your present?"

"Of course, my parents couldn't afford to buy a carriage. We were given one to use by friends whose little girl had outgrown hers. After Debbie was born, I was too happy and too excited to think about Mom's promise. But one day when I was giving Debbie her daily ride, I remembered her words. I now had a real baby and a real baby carriage. I never again thought about that toy carriage. My mom and dad had given me the best present ever!"

Susannah slipped off my lap. She ran to get her latest Christmas list. She handed it to me and said with a smile, "If I tear up my list, could I get a baby sister? Or a baby brother? I wouldn't mind. That would be my best ever present too!"

*Florence Dyck is a former Mordenite now living in the Okanagan*



Photo courtesy of DH Photography

## Manitoba paramedics honoured for their service

Manitoba Health Minister Cameron Friesen presented national honours recently for exemplary service to 22 Manitoba paramedics. The EMS Exemplary Service medal is a Governor General Award that recognizes paramedics who have provided commendable service for a minimum of 20 years. The 2018 award recipients from Southern Health-Santé Sud were Doreen Boyd, Gwen Blatz, Kunegunda Fedoruk, Robert Sattler, Stuart Cuddy, Tom Helliwell, and William Vanderveen. "I'm proud that we're able to recognize the high standards of work, sacrifices and good conduct of these hard-working professionals who give their all to save others," said Friesen.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Hawks fall to Westman 1-0 Saturday

By Lorne Stelmach

The female AAA Pembina Valley Hawks have yet to solve league leading Westman, but they gave the Wildcats a good fight on Saturday.

Westman needed overtime to break a scoreless tie and defeat Pembina Valley 1-0 in Morden, handing the Hawks a third consecutive loss in besting them for a third time this season.

Kadynce Romijn provided solid goaltending for the Hawks, stopping all but one of the 33 shots fired her way while her teammates were blanked on 33 shots on goal.

That leaves the Hawks in sixth place at 6-5-2 for 14 points, which keeps them one point up on the Winnipeg Ice while keeping within reach of Central Plains and Eastman at 17 points and the Winnipeg Avros at 18. Westman leads the way at 25 followed by Yellowhead at 21 points.

Pembina Valley, meanwhile, had mixed results in two exhibition games on the weekend, falling 2-1 to Balmoral Hall Friday but besting Pilot Mound 2-0 on Sunday.

Tessa Odell scored the lone Hawks goal Friday while Romijn stopped 31 of 33 shots on net.

On Sunday, Cambree Martens and Breanna Millions scored for the Hawks. Romijn got the 28 save shut-out.

The Hawks have four games in Winnipeg this weekend as part of the Manitoba AAA Midget Challenge, which is part of Hockey Manitoba's Girls Hockey United showcase. The ladies face Interlake on Friday, Balmoral and Weyburn Saturday, and then finish with Pilot Mound on Sunday.

The Hawks then return to league play next weekend with a visit to Portage Dec. 14 to meet the Central Plains Capitals and are then in Hartney Dec. 16 for their final game against Westman.



PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT/VOICE

Pembina Valley's Cambree Martens and Westman's Shaylee Scraba battle hard for puck possession in Saturday's 1-0 Hawks loss.

## Pembina Valley sweep weekend

By Lorne Stelmach

The male AAA Pembina Valley Hawks won both ends of a weekend doubleheader with Norman but needed overtime in game two to make it a sweep.

The Hawks followed up a 7-2 win Friday by edging the Northstars 6-5

in extra time Saturday on home ice.

The four points allowed Pembina Valley to slip into seventh place at 11-9-1-1 for 24 points while Norman remains in the cellar with only two wins and an overtime loss through 25 games.

The Hawks took control of game one with a four-goal second period

that had them up 5-1 after 40 minutes.

Cameron Brunn had a pair of goals including one on the powerplay, while Hayden Couling also scored twice including one shorthanded.

Continued on page 22





PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Left: Lynn Friesen and Ron Peters were collecting donations of non-perishable food, toys, and cash Monday for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board at the annual Morden Thunder charity game. Above: The Thunder's Justin Lloy gets off a shot.

## Morden Thunder host Christmas Cheer game

Morden hosted the Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks Monday night for the Thunder's annual Christmas Cheer game.

The home team lost the game 3-1

but won big in raising funds and collecting donations of food and toys for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board hampers going out to families in need later this month.

Also in Zone 4 hockey this past week, the Nighthawks fell to the Pembina Tigers 6-4 Nov. 28 and then to the Portage Trojans 5-4 Dec. 1 while the Garden Valley Collegiate Zodiacs

lost to the Morris Mavericks 5-1 Nov. 28 and then beat the Trojans 4-2 the next night.

## Redskins best Beavers, Royals fall to Islanders

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Royals and the Morden Redskins had two very different weekends in the South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League.

The top-ranked Redskins embarrassed the Beavers 13-3 in Carman on Saturday.

The lengthy list of goal scorers included hat tricks from Tyler Grove and Mike Rey, two goals each from Cole Penner and Derek Holenski, and singles from Kieth Bially, Jessi Freund, and Karl Fey.

Reed Peters stood tall in net, denying 29 shots. Across the rink, Carman's Steven Snider faced 40 shots on goal.

Winkler, meanwhile, found themselves on the losing end of their game against Portage Sunday afternoon.

The team, finally back playing on the ice at the newly reopened Winkler rink, fell 7-2 to the Islanders.

Scoring for Winkler was Calvin Spencer in the first and Marlin Fro-

ese in the third period, while Portage fired home two goals in the opening frame, one in the second, and four more in the third.

Devon Wiebe manned Winkler's net for the full game, stopping 39 shots as the Royals outshot the Islanders 48-

### > HAWKS, FROM PG. 21

Also scoring were Roux Bazin, Riley Goertzen and Andrew Boucher on a powerplay, while Brock Moroz earned the win with 33 saves as shots ended up 39-35 for Pembina Valley.

The Hawks held period leads of 2-1 and 4-3 at the intermissions and then were up 5-3 in the third before Norman scored two late goals to force overtime, where Campbell Enns

46.

With that, Winkler's record for the season thus far is 1-7 for a two points and last place in the league.

Morden is 5-2-0-1 for 11 points. That puts them in second place behind the Islanders (6-0-0-1 and 13 points).

scored the winner at 1:21.

Bazin and Goertzen each scored twice for the Hawks. The other goal came in from Tyson Allison. Moroz got the win this time with 24 saves, as the shots ended up 45-29 in favour of Pembina Valley.

The Hawks will need to gain ground to climb the standings as they trail Southwest and Eastman by seven

This week, Morden hosts Notre Dame on Thursday and then heads to Altona on Saturday. Winkler plays at Warren on Friday and then hosts Carman Sunday.

points. Right on their tails are the Winnipeg Bruins at 22 points and Kenora Thistles at 20.

The team heads west this weekend for a pair of challenging road games. It starts with the fourth place Wheat Kings in Brandon Saturday followed by the third place Yellowhead Chiefs at Shoal Lake Sunday.

The *Winkler Morden*  
**Voice**

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Winkler Minor Hockey hosted the Quality Inn Cup last weekend, featuring peewee teams from across the province. Winkler clinched gold in both the bronze (above) and silver divisions (right). In the bronze competition, the home team bested the River East Royals Black 3-1. Winkler's silver team also beat the River East Royals in their final by a score of 2-1. In the gold division, Winkler lost to Dauphin 4-1 in the championship match.

# Peewee champs



## Portage Terriers bite into Winkler Flyers 3-0

The Winkler Flyers went up against the top-ranked Portage Terriers in their lone game of the week Nov. 27.

The home team held their own in a scoreless first period that saw Portage hammer Winkler netminder Britt League with 16 shots, while the Flyers sent 11 the other way.

Portage drew first blood in the second frame, six minutes in, but it was the only goal they got off of nine shots on net, while Winkler missed the mark on their five.

The final period saw the Flyers gain momentum, outshooting the Terriers 14-10. But it was to no avail—the only ones scoring were Portage, who chipped in two for a 3-0 shutout win.

Portage outshot Winkler 35-30 overall. Winkler was 0-for-2 on the powerplay and 2-for-4 on the penalty-kill.

The Flyers are currently 12-13-2 for 26 points, putting them ahead of only OCN (23 points) and Neepawa (19 points) in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League standings.

They're a full 20 points behind the Portage Terriers in first place.

Following a home game against Steinbach on Tuesday, this weekend the Flyers hit the road to play Selkirk Saturday, OCN Sunday, and Virden next week Tuesday.

The Flyers made a few tweaks to their roster last week in advance of the Dec. 1 deadline.

On Nov. 29, the team announced it has acquired 19-year-old forward Marcel Berube from the Steinbach

Pistons in exchange for 18-year-old forward Trent Halfdanson.

Flyers general manager Ken Pearson says Berube will make the Flyers harder to play against down the left side and will inject some enthusiasm into the lineup.

In 26 games played with the Pistons this season, the Ontario left-winger recorded nine points (three goals, six assists) and 31 penalty minutes.

In 66 total games played in Winkler over the past two seasons, Halfdan-

son recorded 11 points (four goals and seven assists) and 112 penalty minutes.

On Saturday, Winkler traded forwards Kurtis Luke (2000) and Michael Boutoussov (1999) from the Neepawa Natives for a player development fee.

"Luke plays with an edge," said Pearson. "He scored 30 goals for Parkland [AAA midget] last season and has the upside to do that at the junior level also. He will provide an offensive shot on the arm that we are lacking."

In 23 regular season games played, the Ste. Rose du lac native has recorded 11 points (three goals, eight assists).

Boutoussov is a 5'8", 165 lb. playmaker from Dana Point, California and also has 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in 25 games played with Neepawa.

"Michael is a skilled forward that likes to be a playmaker," Pearson said. "We are looking for him to help jumpstart our stagnant power-play."

## Twisters riding high on winning streak

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Twisters are riding a 10 game winning streak that put them in first place in the MMJHL.

The hottest team in the league piled up three more wins this past week, including taking down the Raiders 8-1 Nov. 27. The run continued with a 4-3 overtime win against Transcona Friday followed by a 4-0 shutout of the River East Royal Knights Sunday.

Special teams made an impact against the Raiders, as the Twisters collected a pair of powerplay goals and a shorthanded marker. Travis Klassen was solid in net, stopping all but one of the 41 shots he faced.

Jeremie Goderis had a pair of goals for the Twisters, who expanded on a 2-1 lead with four unanswered goals

in the latter half of the middle frame.

Also scoring were Elijah Carels, Sven Schefer, Braeden Beernaerts, Dylan Dacquay, Travis Penner, and TJ Matuszewski. Pembina Valley fired 40 shots on goal, including 16 in their big second period where they connected five times to take a 6-1 lead.

The Twisters pulled of a come from behind win Friday after going down 3-0 part way through the second.

They got two back by the intermission and then forced overtime thanks to Elijah Carels' heroics, scoring his 14th of the season on a powerplay with just eight seconds left.

In the extra frame, Carels would lead a rush up the ice and get the puck up to Goderis on a two-on-one. It went in short side at 1:32.

Shots in the game were 35-28 for the

Twisters. Martin Gagnon got the win with 25 saves. Also scoring for Pembina Valley were Mark Klassen and Derek Wood.

On Sunday, Klassen was a brick wall in turning aside all 33 shots he faced.

Final shots in the game were 57-33 for the Twisters, who got goals from Beernaerts, Goderis, Penner, and Nathan Ayotte.

The team is now at 15-2-2 for 32 points, which has them just two points up on the 15-4-0 Raiders and the 14-4-2 St. James Canucks

This weekend they host the Fort Garry Fort Rouge Twins, who are fourth with 25 points, and then head to Winnipeg Sunday to take on the St. Vital Victorias, who are in fifth place with 20 points.



# Agriculture

## Canada Pork Internat'l sees great potential in China

By Harry Siemens

Canada Pork International chair Neil Ketilson said the level of interest among buyers in China in Canadian pork continues to build.

Last month Federal Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay, accompanied by representatives of Canada's agri-food sector, travelled to China for a 10-day Team Canada trade mission.

Ketilson participated in the Shanghai portion and points out the population numbers are staggering.

"Shanghai has 26 million people—that's 80 per cent of the population of Canada and concentrated in one small area," he said. "We went to a restaurant that the owners have 80 restaurants under their umbrella.

"To give you an idea of magnitude, they import bones from the hogs as a base material for a hot pot restaurant, which they are. They import two containers a month of these bones, and that's just that one little restaurant. Think about that regarding the size and magnitude of what that market could be. They're quite willing to pay for it, and once we get into the higher value cuts, that'll be there as well."

With over a billion people, China has roughly ten times the population that Japan has, making it a huge potential market for Canada.

"It can be and will be a very significant market and all the indications from the buyers that we talked to, there's a significant increase in demand and Canada can fill some of that," said Ketilson. "I'm sure our members over there and the people that sell the product know that very well, and they're making contacts right now, they're making customers, and they're setting up a supply chain to make sure we can get there with the product."

The trade mission also served as an opportunity for Ketilson to get to know a little bit more about how the Chinese system works. CPI recently hired a resident with an office in Shanghai, Carl Shi.

"Michael Young and I spent some time with Carl visiting a couple of opportunities for CPI members to get more involved in getting product directly to them," Ketilson said.

When looking further at potential,

Ketilson noted Japan is Canada's largest market, buying over a billion dollars of our pork every year. It is a mature market and very lucrative.

"Quite frankly, it's a market we not only want to maintain but grow. When you look at the Chinese market, the Chinese take a wider variety of products," Ketilson noted. "A lot of the offal that comes from pigs, things like that go into the Chinese market. It's mostly a frozen market right now.

We ship about, little over \$500 million of frozen product in there, of various forms. We continue to do so.

Ketilson said while China has imposed 25 per cent tariff on pork coming into China from the United States, Canada doesn't have that same tariff at the moment.

"It should create an opportunity, but don't forget that there's a global marketplace out there. The Americans are very aggressive in other markets

as well as the Chinese market right now," he said. "Therefore, there's some pressure to not work around the tariffs, but work with the tariffs, but still get their products in. That means discounted prices; it can mean a whole bunch of things.

"Any time you get a tariff that impedes trade, it hurts us all. It's a challenge for all of us. There's no doubt about that."



By Harry Siemens

When driving back from Vancouver recently, I had lunch with former ag minister Gerry Ritz in Lloydminster, AB.

I've known Gerry for many years, but only in his capacity as Canada's Minister of Agriculture, also responsible for the then Canadian Wheat Board.

After visiting for more than two hours, I asked him how he is doing since resigning as a sitting MP in opposition.

"Well, it's taken a year of retirement to let me appreciate what I have available to me. A lot of the contacts over the years in different countries, now that I'm doing a little bit of consulting work, I'm able to call those people and they take my call, which is phenomenal," he said. "So I'm able to help out with people as they work out trade routes and regulatory problems in other countries. As well as here.

"I still see agriculture in Canada as one of the major drivers of this great country. We've seen huge problems in the oil patch; now we're seeing the auto sector leaping out of Ontario. I mean, it's just a cascading effect that nobody's gotten a handle on yet. But through all of that, the strength of agriculture starts to come forward in spite of a lack of attention at the Cabinet level anymore. And I'm not political anymore, but I'm not apologetic either. And I look at that and

think we're coasting along, but agriculture's strength is still the backbone of this great country."

Well said, Mr. Ritz.

He agreed with me that what has and is happening with the oil patch is almost unforgivable.

"And it's unprecedented. It didn't need to happen. Northern Gateway was okayed and good to go and Liberals just came in and cancelled it," Ritz said. "Then they put a tanker ban on only oil going out on the west coast. No problems with all the Saudi and Venezuelan and Algerian oil coming in on the east coast, that's all okay. But for some reason the tankers on the west coast are taboo.

"It's that frustrating for people here in that even if that pipeline got built and we got more product to the coast they couldn't haul it away. So what are you going to do? Flush it into the ocean like they do with all the human waste coming out of Quebec? Oh, you shake your head."

Ritz said he also couldn't believe so many people are one payment away from losing their house and everything they've worked so hard for years for absolutely no rational reason. The world wants our energy.

"I saw a great thing on Facebook the other day: three grams of Trudeau's new pot costs you more than a barrel of Canadian oil. How obscene is that?"

During the time the Harper government was in power, agricultural trade tripled.

"It's because we made it a priority. My mantra was marketplace, not mailbox," Ritz said. "If you're looking for the government to send you a check don't hold your breath. We'll cover the crop insurance, the distortions in trade routes and things like that, and we had programs under the Growing Forward suite that delivered on that. But at the end of the day trade blossomed under us.

"It continues to hold its own, but now we've got problems in China with canola. We still don't have bone-in beef that was promised to us almost three years ago, Trudeau's first trip everything was wonderful 'till they got to know him. We've got problems with pulses in India, with durum in Italy, with our major trading partner in the US. .on many levels, and those don't get fixed overnight."

Ritz said look at the carbon tax and the regulatory regime that's going up, the costs of electricity going through the roof, and it starts to show why there's a hemorrhage of manufacturing jobs out of Ontario. Doug Ford can't turn it around—he's only been there since June.

"And the same thing with Canada CAPP, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. Tim McMillan will show you where \$90 billion slated but didn't come to Canada," he said. "Plus that amount that has left Canada escaped, and started to

Continued on page 25



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Chance Craft Sale! 2 floors, up to 100 crafters! Sun., Dec. 9th, 11-5. Canad Inns, Club Regent Hotel, 1415 Regent Ave W. Winnipeg, Admission \$3. [katherinebialek@gmail.com](mailto:katherinebialek@gmail.com)

## COMING EVENTS

**Thousand Oaks Ministries Inc.**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT**  
Sat., Dec. 15, 2018  
7:30 pm at the  
P.W. Enns Centennial  
Concert Hall Winkler, MB  
Featuring:  
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**Living Waters** Austin, MB  
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1000 Oaks Info Line (204) 822-1253  
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## BIRTHDAY



The Klassen family invites friends and family to a Come and Go Birthday Celebration for Henry Klassen, the youngest 80 year-old in Southern MB! Sunday, December 9 at the Pembina Thresherman's Museum, from 2:30 - 6 p.m. No gifts please.

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*The Pembina Valley Humane Society thanks the following businesses for their contributions to the 2018 Giant Tiger "Curl for the Critters" Funspiel:*

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- Chicken Chef
- Floral Scents
- Eclipse Salon & Spa
- Pharmasave
- Subway of Morden

*We also thank all of the volunteers for their efforts in making this event a success! Please visit [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca) if you wish to join our volunteer team!*

## COMING EVENTS

*A Christmas Musical Drama*  
**Sunday, December 16 at 6:00 PM**

*Peace on Earth*

Grandma has an extra place set at the table...Who it is for? This Christmas we all need a reminder of the real reason of why Jesus came and difference He can make.

Presented by  
**Pembina Valley Baptist Church**  
120 Manitoba Road, Winkler, MB

EVERYONE WELCOME!

## NOTICES

## Morden PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CITY OF MORDEN 2019 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 2019 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, 100-195 Stephen St, Morden, Manitoba on **Monday, December 17, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.** Copies of the Financial Plan will be available on December 12, 2018.

## AUCTION

**BOB PINKERTON TOY AUCTION ONLINE ONLY CLOSING DECEMBER 6 7:00 PM**

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## OBITUARY

### Marian Joy Redekopp (nee Loewen) 1958 - 2018



Marian Joy Redekopp went home to her eternal rest on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 surrounded by her family at Boundary Trails Health Center after a 19 month battle with AML Leukemia.

Marian was born on August 28, 1958 on the Quellen Colony in Mexico while her parents John and Helen Loewen were on a ministry assignment. Upon completion of the assignment, they moved back to Blumenort, MB where Marian lived until she met Peter. Growing up in a pastor's home, Marian was taught the way of salvation through faith in Christ as a young child and accepted Christ as her personal Savior early in life. She was baptized by

her father in the Blumenort EMC Church in her early teens and became very involved in various ministries of the church. After Marian graduated from Bible College, she became the school secretary at the Blumenort School and worked there faithfully for 15 years. Here she developed her secretarial, accounting, book keeping, and other clerical skills. Marian also enjoyed travelling and visited places like Pakistan, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, the Canadian east coast, Mexico, as well as numerous other locations in Canada and the USA. Marian had numerous hobbies and enjoyed gardening, doing creative things such as painting, knitting, and photography.

Marian met Peter at a missions conference and were married August 19, 1995. Their first two years of marriage were spent in Pilot Mound where Peter was employed with CP Rail. After their time in Pilot Mound, Peter and Marian moved to Caroline, AB to attend Living Faith Bible College in preparation for ministry. In fall 1999 Peter and Marian moved to Crystal City to work with a core group to start and pastor Cornerstone Ministries Church. Twelve years later, they moved to Winkler and in August 2012 they were called to pastor the Glencross Mennonite Church. One of Marian's dreams was to have a family and although this never became a reality for her, she nurtured this desire by blessing her nieces and nephews who were very important to her. She used her thoughtful creativity to spend time with them and keep family traditions alive and meaningful. Faithfulness was a very high priority to Marian, which was reflected in all areas of her life. It was important for her to hear her Savior say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Marian is survived by her husband, Peter; one sister, Junia (and David) Plett; five brothers, John (and Maria) Loewen, Arley (and Janice) Loewen, Cliff (and Pauline) Loewen, Dale (and Coralie) Loewen, Glenn (and Mary) Loewen and their families. She is also survived by her parents-in-law, Peter and Betty Redekopp and in-laws, Fred and Helen Redekopp, Don Groening, Jeff Redekopp and their families. One special joy in Marian's life was to be a "Nana" to a very sweet girl Aurelia Wiebe who became the granddaughter that she never had. She was predeceased by her parents, John and Helen Loewen and a sister, Florence as a toddler. She was also predeceased by her sister-in-law, Lillian Groening and niece, Adrienne Groening.

Memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 3, 2018 at the Winkler EMMC following an interment prior at the Blumenort Cemetery, near Steinbach.

Donations in memory of Marian can be made to ministries that were dear to her heart because of family involvement in these ministries. They are: Pamir Ministries which is a media and discipleship ministry for the people of Afghanistan, Dalit Freedom Network which serves the Dalit children of India and Prairie Pregnancy Support Centre in Portage la Prairie.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
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