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Pembina Threshermen's Museum president Bill Fehr hands over \$5 to Edwin Siemens to purchase the heritage home moved to PTM's village last week. For the full story, see Pg. 2.

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH  
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# Heritage home on the move

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Pembina Threshermen's Museum welcomed a new addition to its pioneer village last week.

The old white house at the corner of Hwy. 14 and PR. 428 in Winkler was pulled up from its foundation and moved down the road to the Hwy. 3 museum on Dec. 2.

Built in 1919 by the Winter family, the two-storey house has been owned by the Siemens family since 1949.

The move—which took about three hours as Manitoba Hydro workers painstakingly disconnected and re-connected the power lines along the way—has been in the works for some time now.

"It was in springtime when we got asked if we were interested in this house, and naturally we were," says PTM president Bill Fehr. "We've been looking for a two-storey house for years."



The Siemens home, which has stood sentinel over the northeast corner of Winkler for over 100 years, found a new home at the Pembina Threshermen's Museum last week.

PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Fehr says the building is in good shape considering its age, with the Siemens keeping much of the original character intact. Still, there is some repair and restoration work that will be required. They hope to have it ready to open to the public next summer.

A fundraising campaign helped cover the costs of moving the house and putting in a foundation for it at the museum. The Siemens family was kind enough to sell the building itself for just \$5, which Fehr handed over last week.

"We just wanted something symbolic," said Edwin Siemens, who grew up in the house and took over its ownership from his parents, John J. and Elly Siemens, over two decades ago.

"We bought it from Dad and Mom in 1997 and lived there until mid-November of last year," Siemens said, explaining his father purchased the house in late 1949 just before getting married. John and Elly (who passed away in 2018 and 2014, respectively) went on to raise five kids in the house.

"We haven't done too much to it," Siemens said, noting an addition was built in the mid-70s that included an indoor washroom—something the original building did not have.

Knowing the building will live on at the museum brings a measure of comfort as the Siemens bid farewell to their family home.

"We're glad to know that it's here," Siemens said. "It's so much better than it being demolished."

It isn't the first piece of Siemens family history to find a home at PTM.

"My mother's wedding dress is hanging in that house there," said Rita McEwen, Siemens' elder sister, as she watched workers fit the home in on its new foundation. "My grandmother's sewing machine is here ... my dad's

combine is over there."

McEwen says she and her family are frequent visitors to the museum and that her father was actually a volunteer there years ago.

"My parents would be thrilled to see this here," she says, adding she's eager to see how the PTM volunteers will bring the home's story to life with displays and artifacts.

Located as it was at the edge of town, the home has for years served as a landmark for Winklerites, and safe shelter as well.

"A lot of stuff came in by train, but once the trucks started coming through, sometimes if there was a major snowstorm they couldn't see the road," McEwen recalls. "But they said, 'We could see your yard light.' That light led them to the house."

"We had people staying over in the barn, in the basement. We had chickens, so there was always bacon and eggs for breakfast ... nobody left that house hungry, ever."

McEwen recalls her mother was always quick to invite people into her home, to sit with a cold drink on the veranda or enjoy a meal inside.

"So it's very appropriate to have it here now for visitors, because it's always been that way."



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# get informed

NEWS > VIEWS > WINKLER > MORDEN > SURROUNDING AREAS



## Finding ways to spread holiday cheer in spite of the pandemic

By Lorne Stelmach

At a time when gatherings are not possible to spread good cheer, people are finding other ways to do it.

In Miami, April and Walter Hildebrand have been making the rounds in the community with an ATV decked out in lights and blasting Christmas music for residents stuck at home to enjoy.

They ventured out on their own one recent Saturday and then invited others to join them with their own decorated vehicles last Thursday night.

"It's so important to connect with others, especially this year. People are struggling and missing the usual festivities from this time of year. Any way to bring hope, fun and holiday spirit to others at this time is so needed," said April Hildebrand. "We were just thinking of a way that we could lift spirits but still follow orders and not have contact with others and not encourage gathering ... so we just drove up and down all of the streets

of Miami, just waving to people and playing the music.

"It's a nice way to kind of have that connection with people still but from a safe distance," she added, noting it helps lift their own spirits as well.

A number of people joined in on the fun last Thursday, including Hildebrand's daughter Charlize Woodhouse as well as Ed and Alona Marquart, Kyle and Jenna Mikolasek, Dale Oakes, Jared and Leann Friesen, and Dennis Jones. The RM of Thompson provided a Santa suit while Rob Cox supplied some Christmas trees.

"The main thing is following the health orders and doing it safely," stressed Hildebrand, "but if you're just sitting at home, it's something to brighten up your evening."

Morden-Winkler residents have been reporting similar holiday revelers making the rounds in recent weeks.

A pair of white trucks with the words "Be Kind" on them have been going up and down residential streets and



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

St. Nick and his elves made their way through Miami last week to spread some holiday cheer.

filling the air with Christmas carols.

The group behind it all has chosen to remain anonymous, speaking only through their website [bekindmw.com](http://bekindmw.com).

"So far, we have brought people to their doors waving, people out walking stopped to wave as the truck drives by," the group said. "We have brought smiles to cold faces, and yes, we even got people in Winkler to dance."

"Our goal is not to coerce people to

be kind during these challenging days; instead, we want to inspire people to be kind. We believe that kindness can take someone from a physically and mentally unhealthy place to a physically and mentally healthy place.

"Kindness is free. Free to give and free to receive. It is, for this reason, we decided to inspire and cultivate an attitude of kindness throughout Winkler and Morden."



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# Morden chamber offering delivery service for members



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Morden Chamber's delivery "sleigh" is offering free delivery for members this holiday season.

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden and District Chamber of Commerce is offering a Christmas present to its retail members.

The Chamber Santa Sleigh started offering a free delivery service this week. Executive director Candace Olafson said they hope offering doorstep delivery will be a benefit while businesses remain under varying restrictions due to the pandemic.

"One of the things that we recognized is that being able to deliver to the doorstep would make it that much easier for people to support local businesses," said Olafson, noting the idea came about as a result of brainstorming about how they could help their members. "Even though curbside pickup is a great option, delivery

to your door is more convenient.

The chamber is offering to pick up items daily at 4 p.m. Monday to Friday for free delivery to Morden and Winkler.

Making the deliveries will be a truck wrapped up to make the box look like it's full of presents.

"We want shopping locally to be as convenient as possible," said Olafson. "So the chamber can take that weight off the businesses and say we're going to do this for you, then they don't need to have their staff do it.

Small business "have a lot on their plate, and they have had to pivot and switch gears so many times," she added. "They are working so hard to serve our community, it's just really amazing, so we thought we can do this little bit for our retail members."

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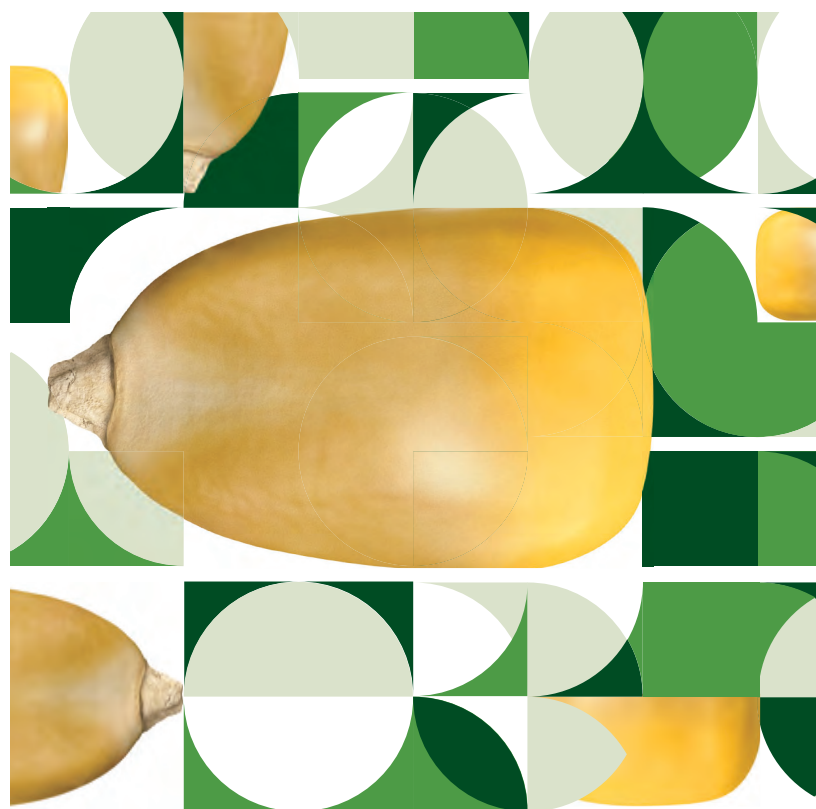
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# Habitat for Humanity looking for its next family

## Applications open for local chapter's first Morden build

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Habitat for Humanity's Winkler-Morden chapter isn't letting COVID-19 slow them down.

After initially having to press pause on their fundraising activities due to the pandemic, local volunteers are once again focusing their efforts on getting shovels in the ground on their second house sometime in 2021.

"Although we do not yet know the exact amount, the government of Manitoba will be providing a substantial amount of funding towards a house build if we are able to start that build in 2021, so we are taking the plunge and going for it," said board member Christina Falk.

Applications are now open for the home, which will be built in Morden. The chapter's first house went up in Winkler last year; the keys were handed over to the family in January.

Applications will be accepted until the end of January and the chapter hopes to have a family selected by spring.

"The family selection process is quite lengthy—last time it took about six months from start to finish," Falk said, noting they're aiming to halve that this time. "That was our first go-around and we were learning a lot, so hopefully it will be a bit quicker."

Falk urges people to get in touch with them via email to [wmhabitatfs@gmail.com](mailto:wmhabitatfs@gmail.com) to learn more about the application process.

"We would like to remind people that there are a huge range of families that would qualify for a Habitat house," she said. "Many people think they make too big of an income and wouldn't qualify. But if you are a family who do not own a home and are

currently struggling to save up a down payment because of high rental costs, we want you to apply."

Eligible families are those who have a minimum income of \$26,667, are ready to live in the community Habitat is building in, are employed at the time of the application and have two years recent work experience, and are willing to partner with Habitat by doing sweat equity hours during the build. Preference is given to families with young children.

"The most common misconception of Habitat is that we give away our homes," Falk noted. "This could not be further from the truth. Habitat exists to give a hand up, not a handout."

"Our partner families buy our homes at market value and they own the home. We provide them with a no-down payment, interest-free mortgage where the monthly payments are based on their income."

"Habitat families are hardworking families," Falk stressed, noting it's no small feat to put in the required 500 hours of sweat equity required.

### AIMING FOR \$200K

In order to make this home a reality, the chapter needs to raise around \$200,000.

"If we really pull together as a community we can get these funds raised," Falk said. "We have a few ideas in the works as far as fundraisers, most of which will happen after Christmas."

One way that even kids can help with this campaign is through the Meaning of Home writing contest, which runs Jan. 4 to Feb. 19.

Kids in Gr. 4-6 are invited to submit a poem or essay explaining what home means to them. Every local entry earns the Winkler-Morden chapter \$10.

"We have done this in previous years and had great success in our community," Falk said, encouraging kids to check it out at [meaningofhome.ca](http://meaningofhome.ca).

Closer at hand, the chapter is hosting a fundraiser called the 12 Days of Christmas at Home Dec. 25 to Jan. 5.

Limited to 200 participants (\$25 per ticket), every day the winner of a Manitoba Liquor Mart gift card will be selected and a certain number of participants will be eliminated, leading up to grand prize draws of \$400 and \$250 on Jan. 5.

Head to the Winkler/Morden Habitat for Humanity Chapter Facebook page or email [wmhabitatfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:wmhabitatfundraising@gmail.com) for full contest details.



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Habitat for Humanity's Winkler-Morden chapter hopes to get to work on its second build sometime in 2021. This one will go up in Morden.

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**Voice**



**PUBLISHER**  
Rick Reimer



**ADMINISTRATION**  
Lana Meier



**EDITOR**  
Ashleigh Viveiros



**REPORTER**  
Lorne Stelmach



**SALES**  
Gwen Keller



**DISTRIBUTION**  
Christy Brown



**PRODUCTION**  
Tara Gionet



**PRODUCTION**  
Nicole Kapusta

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General inquiries: 204-325-6888

News tips: 204-332-3456

Email: [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca)

Winkler Morden Voice

Box 39, Stonewall, MB, R0C 2Z0

# get heard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Stop hiding and remove your masks

One of the arguments my sister and I would regularly resurrect was the place of faith in politics. She would say it doesn't belong and I would say it cannot be removed.

Over the years I have come to learn that when people say politicians should not allow their faith to affect their politics they often specifically mean Christianity (although not always). Christianity is not seen as a cultural element as certain other faiths may be.

When having this discussion I would usually retort that there is no way to avoid a person's faith from having an impact on their decisions because faith is part of their worldview. It is the water they swim in.

Nevertheless there are people who

will rail strongly against a politician who raises a religious concern publicly, especially while campaigning. This is why the more clever politicians avoid religion like the plague until after they are elected, unless they are running in a very religious riding where it is a benefit to be religiously outspoken.

Some may be tempted at this point to say, "Fine, then we should not elect people of faith and only elect people who have no beliefs."

But our beliefs—religion, agnosticism, atheism, spirituality, humanism, political stripe, racism, prejudices, and a thousand other things—make up the paradigm of our thinking. We cannot escape ourselves. In other words, there is no such thing as a person who believes nothing.

Speaking of belief, I have come to believe that when people protest against religion in politics they must really mean they just don't want to know; a sort of don't ask, don't tell policy. This must be the case because a person's beliefs follow them wherever they go and impact everything they say and do.

Why are we so willing to accept people if they keep themselves a secret versus those who are openly themselves for all to see? Fear. Although,

in this instance, people do not fear the unknown. Rather, they fear to know. By not knowing we can make up a fiction of a person and pretend this is who they are.

There are professions where the temptation to keep our real selves invisible is stronger than others. Pastor, police officer, politician (a lot of 'P' words, it seems), and more. Positions that come with authority.

The danger of forcing such restrictions/expectations is that when one of our fine fictional fellows presents a sliver of humanity to the world we can react with shock and horror, as though they have somehow betrayed us when all along we have been hiding from reality by encouraging their secrecy.

I would much rather have a politician tell me their religious stances (if any) than to be surprised by them after they are elected.

Now here's the thing: just because a person reveals they are atheist, for example, while running for political office, does not mean their decisions and deliberations will be enslaved to their beliefs. People are capable of divorcing themselves and seeking a kind of impartiality when required.

Continued on page 7

• **GUEST COMMENTARY**

## Please be respectful, kind: mayor

Recently, voices are loud regarding our "rights" being violated with the COVID restrictions we currently face.

As a City, we are caught in the middle of the fray, our staff as well as community leaders bearing the brunt of the criticism.

Please remember we are only the

messenger, we are not the rule maker! Likewise, as mask use is enforced, it's not the store clerk's fault, so don't take it out on them.

Let's remember the many messages we have published about being kind and considerate. Please be respectful in your approach. Please do that for the sake of your health, as well as for the sake of

others. This is not a debate on the effectiveness of the mask, but rather a letter about respect of others.

I am extremely saddened by some of the accusations being made when the rules are being enforced by our police, not because they are looking to be at public gatherings, or be mask police, but because they are required by oath to uphold the laws. Unless they change the laws, police will continue to be gentle but firm for those who choose deliberately to ignore the laws.

Continued on page 7



**By Peter Cantelon**



**By Martin Harder**

All columns and letters published on our Get Heard pages are the personal opinions of the submitting writers. They are not objective news articles, nor are they necessarily the viewpoint of the Winkler Morden Voice.



# Letters

## CHURCH CLOSURES ARE THE WRONG PATH

Our premier is doing what he believes is best for all Manitobans. I believe he is sincere.

We are heading into a season—and I don't mean Santa Claus—that should remind us that God is the creator, provider, and sustainer of life.

By closing or locking our places of worship, I believe, unwittingly, our premier has raised his fist and is shaking it at God saying, "We don't need you, we will get through this on our own."

The season we are heading into proves that God is serious when He states in His word that He has no delight in the death of a sinner, that is why He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Saviour.

Instead of closing places of worship, our premier should be imploring Manitobans to go to God, get down on our knees, repent of our sins, and plead for mercy!

Ernie Kroeker,  
Miami

## WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

Portage-Lisgar MP Candice Bergen has said [in

recent media statements]: "We can't keep shutting down our businesses, we can't keep telling people 'you have to stay at home, you can't see your loved ones, you can't see your family, you can't go to church.' That is not acceptable."

I hate wearing a mask, but I do it. I want to socialize, but I don't. I follow the rules because I believe it will make a difference and right now it's acceptable to me. Please tell us what is acceptable to the Conservatives.

People are struggling financially right now and if it wasn't for what our government has provided they would be suffering. It appears the Conservatives are suggesting that the government shouldn't have assisted as much as they have. What should they have done?

Without having to be told, we know that the country's economic situation is bad and the future is really bleak, but that's the price of dealing with an unprecedented situation. When the situation starts to ease, our taxes will go up and other services will suffer. To me, that's expected and acceptable—how else are we going to pay for everything? Our country survived prior austerity measures and crises throughout the years. We'll survive this one, too.

So what if the country is going into dangerous territory similar to the debt crisis of the 1990s?

What's more important? Trying to mitigate the debt or saving lives?

It is suggested that a cap should be set for spending. If that cap is reached, what then? Do we then just say "no" to all the people looking for assistance? There needs to be oversight but the support of Canadians should be paramount.

I am confident that our government is doing everything in its power to secure and distribute a vaccine and I can't imagine the logistics of developing and executing a plan to make it all happen. To imply that our government is not doing enough is just wrong.

It appears that [the Conservatives] want the Liberals to present a still developing plan now to Canadians for the vaccine process. Why? So that they can slam that too?

I've never read one positive comment from the Conservatives about what our government has and is doing for Canadians ... not one!

Rather than slam everything the Liberals have done and are doing, present solutions or get all three parties together to come up with a better way to do things.

Rick Gallant,  
Morden

## > HARDER, FROM PG. 6

I am particularly saddened by those who are deliberately gathering in public places like Bethel Heritage Park claiming that their rights to worship are being violated. My question is why choose to meet in such a public place to worship when you have never been there to worship before? Is it to worship or to make a public statement of defiance against the existing law?

When thinking about rights, let me ask believers: Why are our rights are so important? Have you not heard how Jesus gave up His rights of Heaven to come to spend time with us on this earth, only to die on a cross in order for us to have the right to become children of God?

Jesus not only gave up His rights of Heaven, but think about Mary and Joseph's rights being inconvenienced just over 2,000 years ago when they had to travel to Bethlehem to register because that's what the government of the day legislated. Yes, a long distance of walking and riding a donkey when Mary was about to deliver the child. Did they protest the ruling? Nope! When the innkeeper told them there was no room and sent them to a barn, did they protest that their rights were being violated? Nope! They simply were willing to take their place among the animals and lowly shepherds. That night a child was born that has changed the world! God was

there in that moment, and He is still in charge today!

No government rules and regulations prevent you from reaching out to others, praying for strength, or comforting those in distress.

This isn't about a conspiracy theory or threat intended to destroy our faith, and I don't believe our government has the intent of destroying our freedoms.

Government legislators may have made some huge mistakes in their approach, taken bad advice, made bad choices, and they must live with those. We can do something about that in a democratic country, but ignoring or protesting in an illegal way is not the

most productive way to get change. This is the time to show the Christ-like attitude every believer has been asked to display.

So I ask that we all take a step back, take a deep breath, and let's think about how we can initiate change without breaking the law.

May you find a reason to rejoice this Christmas, because the Christmas of inconvenience over 2,000 years ago changed the world in such a way that even the inconveniences of 2020 are minuscule in comparison. There is hope!

Martin Harder is the  
mayor of the City of Winkler

## > CANTELON, FROM PG. 6

Former Conservative Party leader Andrew Scheer was staunchly and publicly opposed to abortion but he chose not to revisit the legalities of it because he felt he needed to represent the broadest part of the Canadian populace, which in his mind, did not want it revisited. I have far more respect for this type of person than for the person who hides who they are until they can act on their hidden agendas with impunity (at least until

the next election).

The point? We need to stop encouraging people to pretend to a fiction of devoid of belief and conviction.

People are a beautiful, messy mix of conflicting and evolving ideas and beliefs. When we force ourselves underground we run the risk of becoming stagnant because we never get to engage and debate.

How boring. How inhuman.

## Letter policy

The *Voice* welcomes letters from readers on local and regional issues and concerns.

Please keep your letters short (excessively long letters are unlikely to be published), on-topic, and respectful.

The *Voice* reserves the right to edit, condense, or reject any submission.

Please include your full name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Your name and city will be published with your letter. We do not print anonymous letters.

Send your letters to us by e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).



# Light Up the Season supports Cheer Boards

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Explore Morden Winkler's first annual Light Up the Season campaign was a big success, raising over \$1,300 for the local Christmas Cheer Boards.

The tourism agency teamed up with coffee shops in both Winkler and Morden to celebrate both communities' holiday lights competitions.

Residents were encouraged to pick up a beverage from participating shops (following all pandemic restrictions, of course) Nov. 26-28 and then head out for a drive around town to enjoy the festive lights.

Coffee Culture, Other Brother Roasters, Whitecap, and Country Cycle in Winkler all donated \$1 from select drinks, raising a combined total of \$854 for the Winkler Christmas Cheer Board.

Coffee Culture and Velocity - Epic Board & Apparel did the same in Mor-

den, raising \$408 for Morden Cheer.

"We wanted to support our communities and our business community and help everyone get into the Christmas spirit," said Explore Morden Winkler rep. Karina Bueckert. "It's not easy putting on events in a pandemic ... it took a lot of grace and a lot of patience from everybody. We're very grateful that so many people showed up to support this.

"It was a win for everyone," she added. "We get people into the holiday spirit, we can donate to the Cheer Board, and we're driving some business into local businesses."

Coffee Culture owner Lisa Zacharias said the campaign certainly brought a few more people through the doors, which, during what has most certainly been a challenging fall, was most welcome.

"It was very steady the whole time with people coming to pick up the



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

From left: Coffee Culture's Lisa Zacharias, Winkler Christmas Cheer Board president Kris Derksen, and Explore Morden Winkler's Karina Bueckert at the presentation of the funds the café raised by taking part in the Light Up the Season campaign last month.

drinks before going out to look at the lights," she said. "We were really pleased with it. It was really good to see people coming in and supporting a good organization like the Christmas Cheer Board and also supporting us at the same time."

"Anything to help out the community, we definitely are on board with it," said Wanda Sitt of Velocity. "People are in need year-round, but you especially want to make sure people are looked after at Christmas."

The Christmas Cheer Boards certainly appreciated the funding boost as their own campaigns prepare to

wind down.

"Under the different circumstances of this year, this is wonderful support. It is very much appreciated," said Leslie Andrew, chair of the Morden Christmas Cheer Board.

"It was such a pleasant surprise," said Kris Derksen, president of the Winkler Cheer Board, who added that the community's support this year has been "overwhelming. I don't even have words for it ... we've surpassed our goal and donations are still coming in."

—with files from Lorne Stelmach



ABOVE PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Above: Desirae Hiebert and Wanda Sitt of Velocity with Morden Christmas Cheer Board reps Leslie Andrew and Diane Mestdagh. Right: Derksen accepts a cheque from Other Brother Roasters' Erin Plett.



# Province working through COVID-19 case backlog

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Health officials have worked through a massive backlog of COVID-19 cases, leading to active case numbers dropping across the province.

At Monday's daily briefing, Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Brent Roussin announced Manitoba was at 5,462 active cases and 13,362 recoveries. The province's five-day test posi-

tivity rate was 13.7 per cent.

There were 310 people in hospital with COVID-19 at the start of the week, 39 in intensive care.

Monday saw 12 new deaths announced, bringing the total number of Manitobans lost since spring to 407 (up 95 from a week earlier).

Locally, Winkler is at 33 cases, down from 110 the week before. The city has seen a total of 198 recoveries and, with

the passing of a woman in her 90s connected to the outbreak at the Buhler Active Living Centre last week, three deaths.

Morden had 16 cases Monday (compared to 53 a week earlier), Stanley is down to just three active cases, Carman has five, Altona 21, Morris is at 13, and Lorne/Louise/Pembina has four.

"The number of active cases is down

significantly," Roussin said. "We've been making a number of process improvements and technology improvements over the past several weeks. This work has strengthened our overall case and contact tracing ability. We're better able to meet some of the current demands and catch up with some of the outstanding activities."

Continued on page 17



# SAVE MANITOBA RESTAURANTS

Manitoba's restaurants have been hit hard and Manitobans need to do what we can to support them. Take Travel Manitoba's pledge and commit to ordering take-out, delivery or curbside pick-up at least once during the week.



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# FTC's It's a Wonderful Life streaming online

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Flatlands Theatre Company is offering a different way to experience a holiday classic this weekend.

The Winkler theatre troupe is putting on a performance of the *It's A Wonderful Life* radio drama this Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. on its new YouTube page.

A cast of 14 will be coming together virtually to bring the story of George Bailey's life-altering Christmas Eve to life.

"Everyone will be in their own homes presenting their parts," says director Jeanette Hoepfner, noting the show will include original music from local musician Lindsay Rae and old-timey radio ads from sponsors.

FTC had hoped to perform *It's a Wonderful Life* on stage this year, but pandemic restrictions forced them to pivot and try something new.

By streaming the shows, Hoepfner



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Precision Land Solutions in the Morden-Winkler highway corridor is spreading Christmas cheer in a big way with its display that was lit up for the first time last weekend. "We're just trying to make a statement of spreading some good cheer and hopefully making people smile and spread some joy," said president and CEO Chris Unrau, noting staff had a lot of fun pulling the unique decorations together. His message to passersby is that "It takes intentional practice to show gratitude ... look around, find reasons to be thankful and reasons to smile and know that this will pass."

hopes it will capture some of the same excitement you get when heading down to the concert hall for a play or concert.

"We want to provide that feeling of heading to a Christmas program, which is of course not going to hap-

pen this year," she said.

Instead, Hoepfner encourages people to tune in together with friends and family while remaining safely apart.

"You can watch it together from different locations and maybe enjoy

some hot chocolate or popcorn," she said. "Make a night of it."

The show is free to enjoy, though donations are most welcome to help FTC with its 2021 show planning. To make a donation, send an email to flatlandstheatreco@gmail.com.

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## DECEMBER - REACH OUT TO THE SENIORS IN YOUR LIFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Life can get lonely for seniors even in the best of times, so it is even more so now under the restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

That's why it's more important than ever to reach out to the seniors in your life this holiday season.

"We encourage people to take the initiative with their loved ones who are more isolated and keep in touch," said Paul Penner, a counsellor with Pembina Counselling Centre.

"Reach out and do it often; keep in touch and listen to each other and share with each other because life is still going on, and we need to talk about it," he said. "It's important to be staying connected any way we can."

This time of year is normally filled with social gatherings and festivities, but Christmas 2020 is looking very different and the loss of those events are being keenly felt by the eldest members of society.

"What is difficult and challenging is that their sense of community and connection is diminished because of code red and even before code red just with the lock down restrictions," said Penner. "It's hard for them because the important people in their lives don't have the same access."

Modern technology is, of course, a great way to keep the lines of communication open, be it through a simple phone call or setting up a tablet or computer to be used for family video calls—whatever it takes to stay connected.

"We need to make the time for it as much as we can," stressed Penner.



Local Services for Seniors programs are also doing their part to reach out to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Morden's senior centre, for example, is doing wellness checks to "make sure that these individuals are getting the support that they need and [find out] if they need anything more from us," said Kimberly Klassen, community resource coordinator.

"We have to make sure that as a community that we're looking to our left and to our right and we're seeing if someone is in need," she said, encouraging people to reach out to their elderly neighbours (while still following pandemic restrictions) and see if they could use a helping hand or a listening ear.



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# A chance to chat with jolly old St. Nick

By Lorne Stelmach

The lack of Christmas events due to the pandemic restrictions has inspired a local business to organize virtual visits with Santa.

The Mordenites behind The Icecycle ice cream cart wanted to help fill the void left with the cancellation of events eliminating the usual opportunities for kids to meet jolly old St. Nick.

"You do what you can and make the best of the situation we're dealt," said Nathan Knight.

"It all got started when we realized there was not going to be a tree lighting this year," he said. "My



kids are teenagers now, so obviously they don't visit with Santa anymore, but I know when they were younger that was always a highlight, going to the mall and seeing Santa. So if the kids are going to talk to Santa this year, this is the only way they're going to do it.

"For kids to see Santa, for them, that's a pretty big thing. And for parents, the window where they can do that with their kids is pretty short," Knight suggested. "For some people, missing a year may be a pretty big deal."

People are invited to book a time to have their children talk live with Santa. If you don't have strong internet or cell service, there is also an option where Santa will record a custom video for your child.

The cost is \$25 per service, with a portion being donated to the Christmas Cheer Board.

You can find more information, including how to book your time, on The Icecycle Facebook page.

"We already had some this past weekend ... and I'm sure as it keeps getting closer to the 25th that it

will keep picking up steam," Knight said. "Depending on demand, if we need to open up some more times, we can do that ... we're going to gauge it on popularity."

He added they do have a select amount of appointments for Christmas Eve, but those are set at a different price. He asks people to message them directly for more information if interested.

Once you book, they will determine the best way for Santa to connect, with Zoom the most likely option. You will also receive guidance on what type of information Santa needs to make the call a personal one for your child.

The length of each meeting will depend on the information Santa receives as well as the level of participation by the children, but each chat will not exceed 10 minutes.

"You get some one-on-one time with Santa, and Mom and Dad can kind of give Santa some heads-up on information that Santa should know ... when he's talking to the kid," said Knight.

## Salem's armchair fundraiser brings in \$34K

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Thirteen more rooms at Salem Home will be outfitted with updated furniture thanks to the success of the Salem Foundation's fall armchair fundraiser.

The November campaign has raised \$34,000 and counting, said foundation executive coordinator Charmaine Harder.

"That number might continue to change ... donations are still coming in," she said last week.

"That is really encouraging," Harder added of the tally thus far, pointing out it's actually a little bit more than what was raised during a similar donation push in spring which collected enough to purchase furniture for 11 rooms.

Since announcing the new furniture project last fall, Salem Foundation has raised enough to do 51 of its 145 resident rooms.

"We're getting closer and closer to our goal every time," Harder said.

Foundation board chair Arlen Hildebrand noted that the pandemic has meant all of their usual fundraisers—the spring fasma, the fall gala dinner—have had to be cancelled, but it's heartening to see the community still eager to help.

Continued on page 13



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# Plum Coulee volunteer, museum honoured

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Two Plum Coulee icons were honoured last week for the important role they play in the community.

Central Manitoba Tourism rep. June Letkeman presented the agency's Award of Distinction (Organization) to the Plum Coulee Prairie View Elevator Museum and its Volunteer of the Year Award to Dorothy Derksen.

Derksen was selected in recognition of her years of tireless service to countless community groups and projects.

"Dorothy has been willing to serve whenever the opportunity arises," says Letkeman. "She's active in so many things ... she's such an excellent person and I'm so happy to see her receive this award."

Derksen's involvements include, in part, teaching English to local immigrants, serving on the Imagination Library board, helping out with both the Plum Fest and the community's fall supper, spearheading the creation of The Centre on Main community centre, taking on the role of the Plum Coulee Welcomes You program

coordinator, and volunteering on the board and as a tour guide at the elevator museum.

"She is a great storyteller and makes these tours interesting to everyone because she is so knowledgeable about the history in our area," Letkeman says, stressing volunteers like Derksen are a vital part of a healthy community. "If we didn't have volunteers we wouldn't have anything ... it's amazing what volunteers get done in every community."

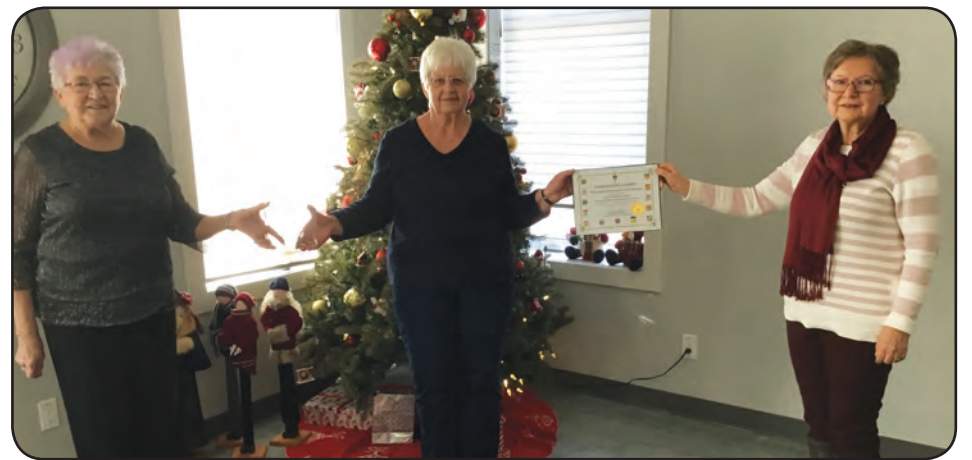
For her part, Derksen says getting involved is simply a way of life and not something she does for the accolades.

"It's kind of humbling because I'm not the only one that volunteers," she says.

Her work with the elevator museum has a special place in her heart.

"I used to be a teacher and so I love telling people about the museum's history and how the grain elevator worked and what life was like," Derksen says, adding that she's an avid traveller who loves visiting heritage sites herself. "So this is just payback for that, too."

Continued on page 17



SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left: Central Manitoba Tourism's June Letkeman presented the Prairie Elevator Museum's Linda Dyck and Dorothy Derksen with a pair of tourism awards recently.

## > SALEM, FROM PG. 12

"People are recognizing the need," he said, sending out a "big thank you to our community again for stepping up and blessing us with their donations."

The new dressers and bedside tables not only replace pieces that have been in use by Salem residents for over three decades but are also designed specifically for high-usage in personal care home. They're more durable, easier to clean, and much easier to fix.

Salem Foundation is accepting donations towards its furniture fund year-round until the project is complete.

Cheques can be made payable to Salem Foundation and mailed to 165 15th Street, Winkler MB, R6W 1T8. Credit card or e-transfer payments can be made by contacting the foundation at 204-325-4316 during regular

office hours.

"This year has been different and it's been challenging for everyone," said Harder. "A lot has changed, but one thing hasn't changed and that is the heart of our community. We're truly thankful for the support that we continue to receive from them."



## Holiday Early Booking Deadlines

<b>December 17 (Christmas Edition)</b>	
Booking Deadline - Regular and Classified	Mon, December 14 4:00 pm
Flyer Deadline	Mon, December 14 NOON
<b>December 24 (Boxing Week)</b>	
Booking Deadline - Regular and Classified	Thurs., December 17 4:00 pm
Flyer Deadline	Fri, December 18 4:00 pm
<b>December 31</b>	
There will be NO newspaper printed this week, but we will continue to distribute our flyers, so please watch for them in your mail and distribution boxes.	

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Community support has helped Katie's Cottage purchase new blankets for its eight rooms.

# “They feel like they are receiving a warm hug”

By Ashleigh Viveiros

lined Fabric allowed Katie's Cottage to touch up their rooms recently.

A donation from the Morden Area Foundation and some help from Soft-

Continued on page 15



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## > KATE'S COTTAGE, FROM PG. 14

The respite home have placed new blankets in all eight of its overnight rooms, replacing those that have been in use for the past four years.

Executive director Ruth Reimer says the new blankets add a splash of colour to the rooms and are also designed to be long-lasting.

"We wash the blankets after every stay, so we needed blankets that were easier to wash and dry," she said, explaining the new bed coverings are also a little lighter than the old ones. They've received rave reviews from guests thus far. "They not only provide comfort and warmth—guests have commented they feel like they are receiving a warm hug."

The donation from the community foundation covered the bulk of the cost of the purchase, with Softlined Fabric doing the sewing.

Reimer sends her thanks out to both for their help with this project.

### STAYING OPEN DURING CODE RED

Katie's Cottage has remained open throughout the past few weeks, even as Manitoba is at code red/critical on

the pandemic response system.

There have been some changes, though.

While all the common areas at the respite home are closed, they have set aside four of their rooms for use by day guests—people who have a loved one coming to the hospital for a procedure who need a place to stay while they wait for them.

"People were sitting out in their cars," Reimer said. "We wanted to give them a safe place to come relax."

Day guests are encouraged to call ahead to book one of the free rooms by calling 204-312-8445. The cottage is open 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The remaining rooms are for overnight stays, and those have been booked up pretty solidly in recent weeks.

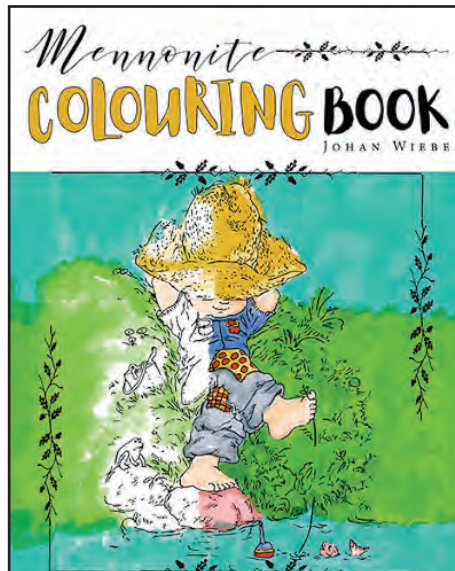
Reimer noted all guests are required to sanitize their hands and wear masks when they enter the facility and then remain in their rooms as much as possible.

Each of the rooms have their own isolated ventilation system and Katie's Cottage staff are constantly cleaning to ensure the facility is safe for everyone, said Reimer.

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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## Quilters' Den finding ways to connect

Alvina Derksen was wondering what would come next for her after she and her husband stepped away from the restaurant they had successfully run together for many years.

And then one day a friend suggested visiting what was then the Quilters' Jewel and previously Quilters Corner.

"I bought a kit and I was hooked," recalls Derksen. "I came and worked for Pearl [Braun Dyck] and enjoyed it, so we eventually bought the business and bought the barn."

Now with a decade of experience in operating the Quilters' Den, Derksen has been able to persevere even amidst the current pandemic restrictions.

"I carry the hundred per cent cotton for quilting, and it has been helpful now with COVID as a lot of people are coming in and buying fabric for masks," she notes. "So I've been seeing a lot of new customers with that and now they're buying supplies for making quilts. So COVID has helped in that way with getting new clients in and getting new interest."

"A lot of people are also just going back to the basics of sewing," Derksen suggests, noting she has seen increased demand for sewing machines this year. "When I get machines in, they're going pretty fast now. I'm down to two, and normally I have close to 10 machines for sure. That's been exciting to see."

She is thankful to have a core group of customers from Morden and the surrounding area, which is home to quite an active community of quilters.

"Morden has been known for a lot of the traditional quilters," Derksen says. "There's a lot of really good talent in our area."

Much time has been spent figuring out how to keep those loyal customers well-stocked for their projects throughout the pandemic.

To that end, Derksen has fine-tuned her online store and found other ways to connect.

"I think, going forward, people will be shopping more online," she says. "I've also done where people come to the window and



Quilters' Den owner Alvina Derksen says she's thankful for her loyal customers, new and old.

I show the fabrics through the window to get that perfect shade of blue or whatever they are looking for."

Derksen prides herself on offering a wide range of fabrics, including many designer fabrics.

The store's location itself is also a big draw for shoppers far and wide.

"Morden is a nice tourist attraction that draws people," Derksen points out, adding that "the barn is a big attraction. It's unique."

"I like to hang quilts outside because that draws a lot of people. I think that's important with a quilt shop is a unique building. It just sort of goes with the artsy theme."

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# Confederation Park trees to be used as 'prayer trees'

People encouraged to come hang a ribbon representing their grief

By Lorne Stelmach

An initiative of the Pembina Parish is aiming to transform our losses into something beautiful this holiday season.

The church recently received permission from the City of Morden to have the lit trees at Confederation Park used as prayer trees.

These "blue Christmas" trees will be available beginning Dec. 20 with the hope that they will become a sign of hope and commitment to care for one another, said Rev. Carrie Martens.

People are encouraged to share their losses and griefs by writing them on small strips of cloth or ribbon at home and then bringing them to the park and tying them to one of the lit trees.

"There's loss and grief for everybody," said Martens. "If we can bring those together, it's just a reminder that we're not alone in our loss ... we can all support each other."

She said they were inspired to do this because it has been a difficult year for everyone, and the reality of the pandemic and all of the accompanying stresses and worries are wearing.

For many, Christmas is already a difficult time of year when feelings of sadness, loss, grief or loneliness are intensified, Martens added, and these feelings and experiences are made even more complicated by necessary COVID-19 restrictions that prevent people from the fellowship they can usually rely on during the holidays.



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Pembina Parish is inviting people to come hang a ribbon on the lit trees in Confederation Park representing any losses or feelings of grief they'd like to share.

"It makes it more difficult for us to have a space to share our grief with each other," she said. "We thought that being able to write those down and then tie them to the trees would be one way of bringing it all together, kind of taking all of our grief and loss and bringing it together and transforming it into something beautiful."

"Sometimes the loss is very vague, sometimes its very specific ... but if we write them down, we have an opportunity to kind of narrow in on it, Martens added. "It gives you a feeling of solidarity. Sometimes you feel like you're the only one. The reality is that everyone is grieving something, especially this year."

## "Our case numbers remain too high to sustain"

From Pg. 8

To that end, health officials were able to confirm over 4,000 cases previously listed as active have recovered from COVID-19.

The province will continue to improve its reporting and tracing systems, Roussin said, so that the daily case numbers are as accurate as possible moving forward. There is still a backlog, he noted, and it's likely Manitoba's active cases on Monday were closer to 3,500.

That said, Manitoba is still seeing over 300 new cases of COVID-19 every day. It's a number we need to bring down significantly, Roussin stressed.

"[We're] continuing to remind Manitobans to stay home as much as possible," he said. "Our case numbers remain too high to sustain. There's still too much strain on our health care system."

"We need to stay home as much as possible, going out only for essential reasons. Stay home, certainly, if you're ill."

### VACCINE ON ITS WAY

Manitoba's daily briefing came not long after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada is on

track to receive up to 249,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Pfizer by the end of the month. Pending Health Canada approval, the first vaccines should be delivered next week.

"Shipments will continue to arrive into 2021, with millions of doses on their way," Trudeau said in addressing the nation. "This will move us forward on our whole timeline of vaccine roll-out and is a positive development in getting Canadians protected as soon as possible."

"I want to assure Canadians that any vaccine approved in Canada will be safe and effective," the prime minister said. "The regulatory process needs to be as rigorous as it always is. There

are no corners cut by Health Canada in terms of approving a vaccine for safe use by Canadians."

Dr. Roussin noted Manitoba is prepared to receive and store the vaccine—which must be stored at -80 C—as soon as it is ready.

"We are prepared to receive vaccine, really, at any point now should it be approved and should it be shipped to us," he said. "And we are in a position to begin administering a vaccine ... if that opportunity avails itself to us."

The province is still working on its vaccine rollout plan, including who might get the first doses.

"We'll have very strict criteria that we'll have to follow," Roussin said. "We need to set up the expectations

that this is going to be a very limited supply, especially early on, and so it will be a very minimal scope on who we immunize with it."

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has recommended the first rounds of vaccine be given to those most at risk of severe outcomes if they contract COVID-19, as well as the people who care for them.

That means residents and staff of long-term care homes, assisted living facilities, retirement homes, and chronic care hospitals should be given priority, NACI has advised, followed then by Canadians over the age of 80.

### > TOURISM AWARDS, FROM PG. 13

Museum curator Linda Dyck says the Award of Distinction is nice recognition of all the work museum volunteers have done to get the facility to where it is today.

It was a working elevator from 1975 until it was gifted to the town nearly 20 years ago. The museum moved into the space in 2010 and set to work fixing it up for visitors and arranging an ever-growing array of artifacts

and exhibits.

"It's getting cleaner and cleaner," Dyck jokes. "We still have a ways to go to get it to where we want it ... we're always looking for creative people to help."

She notes they endeavour to make every visit an engaging one.

"We tell stories," Dyck says. "We don't just have a display of stuff—we like to tell the stories behind it all."

Letkeman notes there's nothing quite like it anywhere.

"We have the distinction of having the only elevator museum like this in the area," she says, noting the exhibits are housed in old grain bins that have been cut out to make room. "It is a tourist destination in our community, that's for sure."



# New program promoting budget-friendly meal planning

By Lorne Stelmach

A City of Morden initiative is aiming to promote healthy eating this holiday season.

Funding from the Healthy Living Together grant through Southern Health-Santé Sud is supporting the

budget-friendly meal planning program.

The temptation too often can be to do something quick and easy and likely less healthy, so the aim is to help provide a good starting point for people to make better choices.

"We're aware that COVID-19 has

caused a surge in cooking and baking," said Morden facility events coordinator Owen Klippenstein. "We know it's always helpful to have examples and plans to work off if we're trying to achieve a goal of health and watching what we're eating."

The program kicked off last week and will run up until Christmas, with a meal plan and grocery list released every Friday.

Each week will also include budget-saving tips and a video with ideas on budget shopping, a cooking video with one recipe from the meal plan, and advice from a dietitian on eating healthy and saving money.

Klippenstein said they are working from the Canada Food Guide, although he is also putting some of his own ideas in as well that are budget friendly.

Week one featured a roast pork with a tutorial that explained how to do pulled pork for leftovers.

"It's kind of getting back to the old-

school ways of making food instead of buying processed or buying something already fabricated that's more expensive," Klippenstein said, citing the example of doing a whole roast chicken and stretching those leftovers out for multiple meals.

He hopes the program will perhaps give people some skills and also serve as incentive to try more meal planning in this way.

"Everybody can kind of do the basics, and then you can learn as you go, and you adjust the meal plan to fit your diet, like if you don't eat pork you can substitute something else," said Klippenstein. "It's just an overall guide to put some effort into your meal planning, and it takes away that question every day of what am I going to eat today and reaching for that simple fix.

"We're also just trying to provide some variety in people's diets."

For more information, head to [my-morden.ca/rec](http://my-morden.ca/rec).



Chef Owen Klippenstein walks viewers through making a pot roast in one of his weekly videos.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

## Gr. 7-12 moving to remote learning after Christmas

By Lorne Stelmach

School divisions are preparing for Grade 7-12 students provincewide to move to two weeks of remote learning following the Christmas break.

The province's mandate announced last week makes the remote learning period from Jan. 4-15 optional for K-6 students.

This two-week remote learning period will keep close to half of the student population in Manitoba at home following the winter break although regular, in-person classroom learning will remain available for students with special needs.

Local divisions were still waiting for more detailed information and direction at press time, but officials say they are prepared for such a change, although the plan does come with some hurdles.

"It does present some challenges. We were not expecting K-6 being different from 7-12, so that means we have some planning to do," said Janice Krahn, assistant superintendent for Garden Valley School Division.

"This is very different from spring, though, when everybody was suddenly thrown into a longer than expected remote learning," she added. "We've had a lot of time to adjust and prepare, and now people are really more comfortable with [remote learning]."

"It will be tricky because our staff is working really, really hard and trying to make it work," said Krahn in acknowledging the additional workload for teachers. "It makes it challenging for staff. They've been doing an incredible job, but it's a lot of work for them."

In Western School Division, staff got a bit of

a headstart on all this by already offering temporary remote learning for K-8 students a few weeks ago.

"We've been planning for every different kind of eventuality anyway ... with our rising case counts just in southern Manitoba here, we've been preparing," said superintendent Stephen Ross. "Our teachers have been, as all of us have been, super engaged in planning since April. It's kind of never stopped."

"Every time there's a change or a significant announcement from the provincial level, it requires all of us to do things differently, and I think everybody is suffering from a little bit of planning fatigue and change fatigue. It all just takes lots of work," he added. "I think we're relatively well prepared, but certainly it's going to add more stresses to the system; it always does."

### PROACTIVE STEPS: MINISTER

In making the announcement last week, Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen noted the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools remains low but they want to ensure they are reducing the risk that may be posed as a result of a change in students' close contacts during the winter break.

He cited evidence that suggests that older students have a higher incidence of contracting the virus and a larger number of close contacts, and are more likely to transmit the virus to others as a result.

"Any time there's a significant holiday, the contact patterns that students might have can change during that time," said Goertzen. "We have seen traditionally in other places and in Manitoba where there is that holiday break that

the COVID-19 numbers can go up."

Goertzen acknowledged the tremendous adjustments that need to be made by both students and parents but also suggested school divisions are better positioned and prepared for transition to remote learning now.

"It is a difficult time ... those who are working in the school system have certainly taken on the challenge and are doing an excellent job," he said.

"Moving to remote learning for two weeks for the Grade 7-12 in particular we know can have an impact on families, and they're not made lightly ... but they are made in consultation with public health and with the understanding that we believe and still believe that the best place for students to learn is in the classroom."

"Ultimately, we landed on going to after the Christmas

Continued on page 19

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The Winkler Morden  
**Voice**



# Penner elected AMM Central District director

By Lorne Stelmach

The Morden-Winkler area has another voice at the table with the province's main municipal advocacy group.

Morden city council member Nancy Penner was recently elected to the board of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities as a Central District director.

She joins RM of Stanley Reeve Morris Olafson as a regional representative, and she follows in the footsteps of Winkler Mayor Martin Harder.

"Martin's done an excellent job of being a voice representing the Central District," said Penner, who was elected in a by-election to finish the current two year term that is ending

next summer.

Penner was motivated to seek the seat because she sees that there can be a lot gained from having representation from this region.

"I think this is good for Morden. We want to have some input at the municipal level," she said. "I feel spreading our wings beyond just our own borders and beyond the City of Morden's borders is very important. I think to get involved at this level is a benefit to everybody. It helps our council, and it helps me expand my input.

"I feel I'm very qualified. The Central District is a heavily agricultural area, and I come from a strong rural background," noted Penner, who has a degree in agriculture and farmed for about 25 years in addition to having

a business and financial background, including as a financial planner. "I've been very active in our community.

"The desire is there. I think I can bring some integrity and good contributions to the board," said Penner, who sees the AMM as playing a vital role in presenting a strong, united voice to the province.

"They advocate for all of the municipalities. As individual municipalities, we don't have a lot of ways to open doors at the provincial and federal level, but through the AMM, we can send our concerns up the ladder," she said. "They advocate for all, whether you're a small municipality or a bigger city ... it's a good way to get your voice heard."



Nancy Penner

# Winkler Rec. honouring At Home Athletes of the Week

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Winkler Parks and Recreation is doing what it can to promote the ways

## Hockey MB cancels provincials

By Voice staff

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Hockey Manitoba has decided to cancel all provincial championships which were scheduled to take place throughout the province in February/March 2021.

The announcement was made last week on the Hockey Manitoba website.

"Each year, the hockey season is capped off with the Hockey Manitoba Provincials presented by Cargill Ltd. bringing together approximately 250 teams and 4,000 players to compete for the provincial championship," read a statement.

"The decision to cancel the minor hockey championships has been made with the safety of all members and the community in mind. These tournaments will not be rescheduled for the 2021 season."

The cancellation will provide leagues with more time to plan the current season, said Hockey Manitoba, and the ability to extend the season past February as teams return to play.

Provincial leagues will still have the ability to name a provincial champion and compete to represent Manitoba at a national tournament.

Winklerites are staying active during this most recent COVID-19 lockdown.

The department launched its At Home Athlete of the Week campaign a few weeks ago.

"We're right back to where we were in spring ... and everyone's doing what they can to keep morale up and to stay positive," says recreation programmer Kelly Morgan. "I thought, 'What could we do to spread the cheer, to keep each other connected again through all this?'"

Each week, Morgan highlights the activities of one Winklerite who is doing what they can to stay active at home, posting a video or photos of them on the department's social me-

dia pages to hopefully inspire others to follow their lead.

The first Athlete of the Week, Stella Klassen, 7, was shown participating in an online dance lesson.

Week two featured 10-year-old Rome Loewen and the many ways he's been honing his hockey skills at home.

This week's spotlight shone on Greyson Friesen and how he's putting his family's backyard rink to good use.

"That's what this is all about: what are you doing in your own backyard as a family right now to stay active?" Morgan says, stressing it doesn't have to be traditional sports. "It could be the kids making an obstacle course

for the dog, siblings skating together on the outdoor rink you've made ... we want to see all that because the reality is, athlete or non-athlete, we're all at home and we're all trying to move our bodies."

Morgan intends to keep the campaign going for the foreseeable future. She notes it's open to kids and adults alike.

"If it's Grandma and Grandpa doing a little boogie around the Christmas tree, we want to see that," she says. "Anyone in any fashion being active."

If you'd like to be considered for At Home Athlete of the Week, contact Morgan at [Kmorgan@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:Kmorgan@cityofwinkler.ca).

## > REMOTE LEARNING, FROM PG. 18

break for a couple of reasons," Goertzen said in explaining the timing. "It gives a little more time for preparation for that movement to remote learning, even though there has been a lot of remote learning happening already.

"It is for a time-limited period. It is for those two weeks ... providing those additional supports through the remote learning centre I think is also helpful," said Goertzen. "I think the school system can operate relatively well during a pandemic and keep people safe. There are going to be difficulties and things that are unforeseen, and we try to adjust to those as best we can ... we obviously hope our numbers go down."

Goertzen also outlined the range of funding being extended by the

province to help pay for the extra pressures on school divisions. The Manitoba government's \$100 million investment comes along with \$85.4 million in federal funding.

This total pool of \$185.4 million will be used to augment staffing, health and safety, learning, and technology.

Staffing is a key component of the government's COVID-19 education measures, said Goertzen, noting divisions continue to recruit additional teachers, educational assistants, substitute teachers, custodial staff, bus drivers, clinicians and other critical staff.

As of Oct. 31, over \$9 million had been invested in additional staffing, he said, with a total investment of over \$67 million already projected to be spent by June 2021.

School divisions and independent schools will also be able to apply for additional funding for needs not covered by their allocation through the Safe Restart Contingency Fund.

"We're pleased to see money moving," said Ross. "It's all just required an even larger investment in technology.

"By far and away, our largest is staff that we added," he said. "As a fastest growing division in Manitoba the last few years, we planned for additional staffing to begin with, but with the COVID restrictions ... all of that required even more staffing, so that has far and away been the biggest expenditure."

"It all has certainly been a big cost for us so we certainly need the funding support," agreed Krahn.



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## Rural Municipality of Stanley PUBLIC NOTICE

The Rural Municipality of Stanley purchases water from the Pembina Valley Water Cooperative (PVWC) to supply water to portions of the Municipality. The Public Utilities Board approved a rate increase for PVWC for \$0.18/1000 gallons, effective January 1, 2021. This rate increase reflects a "pass through" rate increase of \$0.18/1000 gallons for RM of Stanley consumers.

Public notice is hereby given that the water rate increase will be \$0.18/1000 gallons for the March 31, 2021 quarterly billing in the Rural Municipality of Stanley. That being from the present rate of \$12.51/1000 gallons to \$12.69/1000 gallons.

Chad Harder  
Finance & Administration Supervisor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

## CITIZEN REPS NEEDED FOR MORDEN POLICE BOARD

Help to serve and protect your community. The Morden Police Board is currently seeking to fill two membership openings for citizen representatives.

The Morden Police Board, according to By-law 14-2012 states that the board will consist of at least five members:

- 2 Council members or employees of the City of Morden
- 1 At Large person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- 2 Citizens appointed by Council

#### Eligibility for Membership:

1. At least 18 years of age,
2. A Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident, and
3. Resides in, is employed in or has a business interest in the municipality or another area in which the police service provides policing services.

How to apply:

Please provide a short letter describing your interest in serving on the police board and why you feel you would be a good representative on the board. All applications need to be originals with a signature so please do not send them by email. Submit your letter in person or by mail to the Morden Civic Centre: 100 - 195 Stephen Street, Morden, Manitoba, R6M 1V3.

Applications are due by December 31, 2020.

#### How often will meetings be held?

The Police Board must hold a meeting at least once every three months. These meetings would be open to the public. Is there any remuneration for being on the board?

The Council may provide for reasonable remuneration to members of the police board who are not members of the Council.

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**OBITUARY**

**Ed Heppner**

On November 27, 2020, age 80, Ed (Erdman) Heppner, of Rosenfeld, Manitoba, peacefully left his earthly home and entered his heavenly reward.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Diane Heppner; five children - Rick Heppner, Wayne Heppner, Debi Schroeder (Jack), Ken Heppner and Gerry Heppner (Tammy Breyfogle); five grandchildren; his siblings Henry Heppner and Helen Wiebe and many nieces and nephews. Dad was predeceased by his parents Henry and Helena Heppner and siblings Anton, Jake, Abe, George, Mary, Catherine, and Justina.

Dad lived a full life. For years he worked construction and farmed. He loved and was much loved by his entire family. He was a very social man, enjoying kibitzing with coworkers, friends and family.



Dad was diagnosed with cancer five years ago, and as the years passed, the cancer metastasized further.

We, the family, would like to thank Dr. Gingerich (HSC Cancer Care), Dr. Dahla (BTHC Cancer Care), Dr. Basta and the staff at the Altona Hospital for the care given to dad.

A private burial has taken place, at the Hochstadt Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the BTHC Cancer Care.

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**OBITUARY**

**Eva Nickel (Nee Dueck)**

1920 – 2020

Our mother, Eva Nickel, 100 of Winkler, MB formerly of Plum Coulee passed away peacefully at home on Thursday December 3, 2020 with her daughter at her side.

Mom was born to Heinrich and Helena Dueck (nee Hamm) on October 18, 1920 in the Grimsby area. She loved attending school and it was very hard for her to stay home and help on the farm when her older sisters got married. Mom was baptized upon the confession of her faith on June 15, 1943. On June 16, 1949, she married Peter nickel of Weidenfeld. They farmed in the Plum Coulee area for many years. Mom had a huge garden and would share the bounty with the seniors in the apartments. In winter, she would do sewing and some knitting and crocheting for the grandchildren.

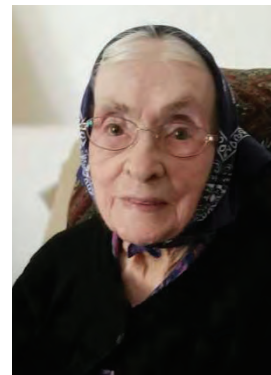
When our parents moved to Winkler in 1989, Mom volunteered at Salem until her health deteriorated. After that, she sewed many layettes for Faith Mission. The last few years, she suffered from dementia, so coloring was her main pastime.

She was predeceased by her husband, Peter on March 19, 2008 and all 11 of her siblings. She leaves to mourn her passing four daughters, Helen Nickel, Eva Nickel, Mary and Abe Wall, Tina Nickel all of Winkler; two sons, Peter and Agnes Nickel of Schanzenfeld, Henry and Betty Nickel of Plum Coulee; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and one brother-in-law, William Nickel.

A private funeral service was held with interment at the Schoenthal Cemetery.

The family would like to thank everyone for the prayers, food and phone calls we have received during this difficult time. Thank you also to Rev. David Penner, the pallbearers, Dr. Pohl and Wiebe Funeral Home. Also, a special thank you to Scott and the management and staff at McDonald's for allowing us time off to be with Mom.

Donations may be made in Eva's memory to Hope and Healing International.



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## OBITUARY



### Yvonne Trinke (nee Giesbrecht) November 19, 1945 – November 30, 2020

Yvonne passed away peacefully on Monday, November 30, 2020 at The Villages in Buhler Centre, Winkler, MB.

Yvonne is survived by her loving husband, John Trinke; her daughter, Cindy (Rennie) Schulz, her son, Derek (Shanna) Trinke, her daughter, Janette (Todd) Weber and many grandchildren. Yvonne was predeceased by her daughter, Tammy Berg and son-in-law, Gary Berg, parents, Edward and Mary Giesbrecht, parents-in-law, John and Margaret Trinke, niece, Sheri Giesbrecht and brother-in-law, Jake Reimer.

Yvonne was born in Altona on November 19, 1945, to parents, Edward and Mary Giesbrecht. She was their second child of six. Shortly after she was born, she required surgery in order to live. Already, as a wee child she showed fortitude for survival. Due to her mother's ill health, Yvonne learned early how to work hard to help the family out. In her final year of high school, she was planning to attend nurse's training upon graduation. But life took a turn, and she became a wife and mother instead. She married the love of her life, John, on May 25, 1963. Together they journeyed 57 years of married life. They had mountains to navigate but they prevailed and found joy amidst the peaks and valleys. They embodied a true commitment to marriage and demonstrated a love (which the world needs), to us all. They were playful together and loved embarrassing us kids with their silly antics.

Yvonne took up curling and golfing, allowing her to spend more time with her hubby, since he enjoyed those activities. She knew many NHL player's names as she spent evenings knitting while the two of them watched hockey together. In their later years of married life, they enjoyed travelling to places like Osoyoos, BC, New Braunfels, Texas, and Hawaii. Many memories of cherished love were made over their years together. In the latter years of Yvonne's life, when Alzheimer's took hold of her, the tables turned and John cared for Yvonne tenderly and lovingly, until she passed away.

Yvonne was the best mother to her four children. She sacrificed much to make all of our lives great. When she wasn't sewing or knitting for us, she was cooking, cleaning, helping with school, or listening to us and all our stories. She had four very unique children, with different personalities, each one she loved and served individually as needed. She spent a lot of time cheering all of us on in the stands, with our sports and driving us everywhere. When necessary, she would not hesitate to move life and limb and stick up for us in a controversial issue where we were being unjustly treated. If you think we were spoiled by her love, when along came her grandchildren, it got out of control. Yvonne's love language was gift giving, and she enjoyed picking or making the perfect gift for her loved ones, especially the grandkids.

After moving to the family farm, she conquered even more challenges which she had not faced before. She learned to manage a large vegetable garden, a beautiful perennial garden, canning, taking meals out to the fields, and endless mowing. She adjusted to the farm life and she thrived and loved it. She even humbly returned to high school, and took some clerical courses, in order to secure a career where her income helped the farm continue. It was difficult for her to make the move to town as she enjoyed her home and life on the farm, but like everything else in Yvonne's life she made the best of it. During this time a separate room was made in the basement of their new home in town, just for her to quilt in. John said he hardly saw her, after that room was made. Quilting was her passion, and she created many a masterpiece for her loved ones. Quilting took the place of all her duties on the farm.

Yvonne's faith and love for Jesus shone in her everyday life. She was baptized when we lived in Tyndall, MB. Her humble, servant character was apparent in everything she endeavoured. All who met her felt at ease with her and loved by her. She gave hugs freely and listened to others intently. From her workplaces, to friends, and her family, people left her presence feeling accepted, encouraged and heard. If she learned of a need or a misfortune, she would not hesitate to help. She would donate a quilt to be raffled, or money or whatever God put on her heart. When she fought breast cancer, and others blessed her, she was so surprised that they thought of her! Even in her final months of life, at the care facility she lived at, she captured people's hearts, despite her dementia, with her smile and sweet disposition. It cannot be said enough that her Christ-likeness, touched many in her quiet manner.

How can one summarize another person's life properly? If Yvonne could be summarized in quotes, it could be, "My life is my message." ~ M. Gandhi. If she could be summarized in a Bible verse, it could be, "God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them." 1 John 4:16. If she could challenge us with a word, it could be "BE the change you wish to see in the world!" But if she had one last word to everyone, we think it would be, "I hope to see you again."

Private funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13th, 2020 with livestream on Yvonne's funeral page at [wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com).

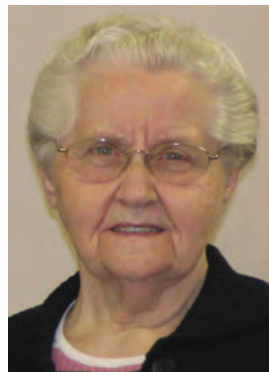
The family wishes to thank all the loving, caring staff at Silver Lining Care at Buhler Centre. They especially want to thank Carolyn Peters and Katelyn Buhler. We cannot thank you enough for how well all of you cared for Yvonne and treated all of us with such respect, dignity and honest, sincere love. We like to thank Dr. Greyling for his listening ear and sincere care for Yvonne. We also want to thank all our family and friends who have supported us with prayers, texts, emails, love, and food. We know without this support this journey would have been much more difficult.

If you would like to make donations in Yvonne's memory, you can make them to The Winkler Villages for Older Adults Inc. Thank you.

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## OBITUARY



### Margaret Hildebrand (nee Giesbrecht) 1933 - 2020

On Wednesday, December 2, 2020 our mom, Margaret (Marge) Hildebrand, passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

She was born on April 18, 1933 to Abram and Katarina Giesbrecht, the sixth of nine children. She was baptized upon the confession of her faith in May, 1951. On August 12, 1951 she married George Hildebrand and they were blessed with four children, Cathy, David, Lorena and Lois. Due to dad's teaching positions they moved frequently throughout Manitoba in the early years of their marriage, settling in Winkler in 1963. Mom grew up on the family farm and

did many chores, including tending and milking cows. She was a great story teller, frequently sharing many interesting stories from her life. She inherited a love of music and learned to play the piano, organ, accordion and other instruments. Mom started playing the piano and organ in church at an early age. She also accompanied various singing groups including the male quartet, which our dad sang in as well as the ladies' trio. Her love of music was passed on to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her spiritual life was very important to her. She supported our dad in his church involvement and served alongside him as a deacon couple in church. She was secretary of the church ladies group and conference ladies' auxiliary. Hospitality was one of her many gifts, always willing to host people who were traveling to Winkler for church events. She was quick to recognize those who needed help, offering assistance whenever, and in whatever way possible. Gardening was one of her loves; always having a large garden with fruit and vegetables, no garden being complete without flowers. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed going for rides in the country, especially to the Pembina Hills. Traveling to visit children and grandchildren was very important to her, going as often as she could.

Mom was a faithful, loving wife to her husband for 68 years. It broke her heart when, due to failing health they were separated by her move to Salem Home. She looked forward to his daily visits and greatly mourned his passing.

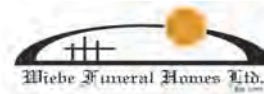
Mom was predeceased by her husband George, sisters Helen and Tina and brothers Ben and Henry. Left to mourn are her sisters Mary (Walter) Peters and Nettie (Ben) Wiebe, her sister-in-law Mary (Henry) Giesbrecht, her brothers Peter and Abe, and her children Cathy (Ken) Kehler and daughters, Andrea (Tom) Link and Kimberly (Chris) Feifel, Ethan and Ben; David (Janice Evans), and his sons with Ann Hildebrand, Matthew (Chantal) and Nathan (Ineta); Lorena (Rick) Kehler and children, Daryl (Sara), Chase and Devin, Amy (Andy) Wiens, Alem, Aniya, Ayrton and Arabel, Karen (Tony) Peters, Braedon and Taela, Bradley (Laurie), Jaden and Evan; Lois (James) Hildebrand and children, Holly (Phil) Tripp, Nora and Seth, Heidi (Matt) Friesen, Luke (Krysten) Hildebrand, Brynn, and "adopted" daughter Anna Letkemen and children, Willie (Andrea), Chloe, Ethan and Seth, Angela (Abe) Friesen, Orlando, Jackson and Bentley, Becky (Brady) Allen, Carter and Keagan; and many nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service was held at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

A special thank you to the staff on Evergreen at Salem Home for the care they gave mom and the love they showed her.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marge's memory to the Salem Foundation Inc.

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## OBITUARY



### Norman Janzen 1943 - 2020

Norman Janzen, 77 of Morden, MB was born and raised on the family farm in the Wakeham District to Aron and Tina (Fehr) Janzen. He was baptized in 1963 in the Morden EMM Church. Norman married Susan Friesen on October 29, 1965.

Norman is survived by his wife, Susan; one daughter, Correna Janzen; two brothers, Albert (Dorothy), Bill (Helen) and one sister, Rita Friesen (John), and their families. He was predeceased by his parents, Aron and Tina Janzen and one son in infancy.

Norman enjoyed working at Dressler Headwear, Gemini Sewing Factory, Lloyd's Cabinets and Manitoba Crop Insurance. Some of his interests were photography, carpentry and being out in nature. He loved to travel, whether it was going camping or spending the

winter in Yuma, Arizona. We often called him "The Count" because he loved calculating anything. He never went anywhere without a pen, paper and calculator in his shirt pocket. Norman also took his faith seriously and was involved in his church as Sunday School teacher, Board of Admin. and involvement in Bible study groups. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Special thanks to the caring staff at the Boundary Trails Health Centre.

Donations may be made in Norman's memory to Back to the Bible Canada.

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## OBITUARY



### Helena Nickel (nee Friesen) 1928 - 2020

Helen Nickel was born to Isaac and Helena Friesen on October 28, 1928 and passed into eternal glory on November 27, 2020 at the age of 92. We celebrate this well-lived life.

Helen grew up on a farm near Rosenfeld, Manitoba. She attended school in the Reichenbach S.D. and was baptized in the Rosenfeld Bergthaler Church.

On October 25, 1953 she married Peter Nickel. They began their life together in Winnipeg. It was here that their three children were born. In the early 1960s they moved back to Southern Manitoba where she devoted herself to raising her children, working in the church, volunteering and being a friend to many.

Two things that were very important to her were her family and her church. She enjoyed serving together with the other women in the ladies' group in the Sommerfeld Church. She also taught Sunday School and was a dedicated volunteer at the M.C.C. store in Winkler.

In 1983 her husband of almost 30 years passed away. She obtained her Health Care Aide certification shortly after that and for numerous years cared for her clients well.

She enjoyed the relationships she had with others living at Lions Court and the meals and programs they participated in.

After a three-week hospitalization she passed away and is now reuniting with her husband Peter and grandson Jordan Dalke.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughters Dorothy and Reg Derksen, Grace and Irv Dalke, and son Ken and Liz Nickel, her grandchildren Lance and Vickie Derksen, Ross and Holly Derksen, Blake and Sarah Derksen, Kari Dalke and Scott Unrau, Kim Dalke, Christine, Olivia and Katie Nickel, six great-grandchildren as well as her sister Teenie Funk. Her absence will also be felt by the extended Friesen and Nickel families, and many friends.

Due to the current and extreme restrictions, we are sorry that a funeral with family and friends was not possible. We appreciate the expressions of sympathy and love sent to our family during this very difficult time. Thank you also to Rev. Art Wiebe and to Wiebe Funeral Home for the services provided.

Donations may be made in Helen's memory to the Boundary Trails Health Centre Foundation designated to Palliative Care.

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## OBITUARY



### Anne Thiessen (nee Dyck) 1948 - 2020

On Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at her home, Anne Thiessen age 72, of Winkler MB, peacefully went to her eternal rest.

Mom received her cancer diagnosis on her 70th birthday. Throughout the process, we never heard her complain and through it all she wanted to honor God. Her amazing strength and perseverance were evident to us all. While we have said goodbye to her earthly body, we know she is with the Lord and in her eternal home. Her faith was at the cornerstone of her life and she shared it with family and friends. Her compassion, and friendly smile were known by many.

She is survived by her husband, John and her children, Angela (Jim) Apperley of Altona, Sherry (Chris) Thomas of Winkler and Richard (Alana) Thiessen of Winkler; eight grandchildren, Rylan, Cohen and Kam Thomas, Guerin, Ava and Lane Apperley, Madison and Riley Thiessen. She was also predeceased by her parents, Isaac G and Mary Dyck and siblings, Liz Reimer, Tina Fehr, George Dyck and Dave Dyck.

A private memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2020 at Wiebe Funeral Home Winkler with interment at Westridge Memorial Gardens.

Thank you to Kiley and the staff at Wiebe's Funeral Home for their compassionate service. Special thanks to the many that cared for Anne, Dr. Silvagio, Dr. Pitz, Dr. Woelk and the staff at BTHC. Her exceptional home care staff that provided us support beyond measure: Alecia, Breanne, Carolyn, Stacy, Brittney, Darlene, Vanessa, Leala and Lottie. Donations may be made in Anne's memory to the BTHC Foundation, designated to Cancer Care.

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## OBITUARY



### Abraham Wall 1936 - 2020

Abe P Wall aged 84 of Winkler, MB passed away on Friday, November 27, 2020 at Boundary Trails Health Centre. He was the husband of Elisabeth Wall and they shared 60 years of marriage.

He was born in Mexico on April 25, 1936 to Peter and Elisabeth Wall. He was employed by Kroeker Farms for many years. He also worked at Penner Foods, Co-op, Eden and Enns Court. He enjoyed being the caretaker of the Zion Church with his wife, Elisabeth. He had a great sense of humor. For example, his sons, Jim and Cornie wanted a three-wheeler when they were younger. Dad said they couldn't have a three-wheeler, but they could have a four-wheeler. The next day, he came home with a push mower. He passed on his love for hockey to some of his kids and grandkids. We remember going to may Flyers and Royals games. He still enjoyed watching his Toronto Maple Leafs and the Jets. He always had to have the biggest of everything, the biggest cabbage, the biggest watermelon, the biggest bonfires and the biggest cars. Our dad had a very soft heart for dogs. That was definitely a benefit to us, his kids. Growing up, we couldn't ever remember not having a pet dog. His last wish was for his whole family to join him in Heaven one day.

He is survived by his wife, Elisabeth; four sons, four daughters: Mary (Pete) Hildebrandt, Pete Wall, John (Lori) Wall, Liz (John) Wall, Tina (Al) Derksen, Sadie (Mark) Enns, (Amanda Wall), Cornie (Mary) Wall, Bob (Sabrina) Wall; 27 grandkids and 12 great-grandkids. He was predeceased by his parents, his parents-in-law, one brother, two sisters, his son, Jim in April 2020 and one granddaughter.

A private funeral service was held with interment at the Reinfeld Cemetery. Donations may be made in Abe's memory to the BTHC Foundation designated to the Dialysis Unit, who became his second family for the last four years.

Thank you to the staff at the rehab ward, who made his last few days as comfortable as possible. Thank you to Pastor Henry and Esther Penner and Pastor Bill and Linda Thiessen. Thank you to Dr. Dreyer for the many years of care and a big thank you to Wiebe Funeral Home for their kind and compassionate care.

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## OBITUARY



### Tena Rempel

Tena Rempel (nee Falk), passed away peacefully December 4, 2020 at Salem Home in Winkler.

She was born to Johann and Elizabeth Falk on February 7, 1931 at Kleinstadt, Manitoba (near Altona). Mom, along with her twin sister Mary were the 4th and 5th of 7 children. Mom was baptized upon confession of her faith in the spring of 1948. She grew up on the family farm where she eventually met David Rempel. They were married in the Altona Sommerfeld Church on May 23, 1948 and were blessed with one daughter and three sons, and nearly 60 years together.

Mom worked in the Altona sewing factory for 22 years. When she was still well enough she prided herself on going for walks daily. Mom's interest included journaling, reading, crossword puzzles and quilting. She loved quilting and made many, many quilts and

passed them on to three generations of her family.

After Dad passed away Mom took several road trips to Alberta and BC. Mom enjoyed visiting with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shortly after dad passed away in 2007 Mom moved to Winkler where she met many new friends and resided until August of this year when she moved to Salem Home where she made many new friends once again. Everyone who got to know her, including her care givers, loved her gentle and kind nature.

Tena was predeceased by her parents Johann and Elizabeth Falk, her husband David Rempel, three brothers and three sisters and one grandson Chadwynne. She is survived by her children Irene (Jake) Buhler, Ron (Marilyn) Rempel, Harold (Carol) Rempel, Ken (Kathy) Rempel; her 12 grandchildren, Valerie (Peter) Dyck, Gerald (Anhelia) Buhler, Allan Buhler, Loretta (Randy) Dyck, Harvey (Lindsay) Buhler, Matthew (Yvonne) Rempel, Bradley (Sarah) Rempel, Dustin (Justine) Rempel, Lindsay (Kevin) Bouchard, Rebecca (Jake) Harder, Rose (Herman) Rempel, and Sharon Rempel; and 33 great-grandchildren.

A private funeral service was held with burial at the Hochstadt Cemetery. On behalf of the family, we would like to say a big thank you to the staff at Salem Home for the great care of Mom received. Thank you also to Wiebe Funeral Home of Altona.

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