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# The **Voice** Winkler Morden

VOLUME 6 EDITION 51

THURSDAY,  
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## Taking prisoners

PHOTO BY RICK HIEBERT

The Guns 'n Hoses playfully hold a Morden Thunder player hostage in the second annual Christmas Cheer Charity Game Sunday night. The event raised thousands of dollars for the Morden Cheer Board. For the full story, see Pg. 32.

## Winkler city manager resigns after five years

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler wraps up 2015 with a hunt for a new city manager.

Dave Burgess handed in his letter of resignation to the city council last week after five years in the role.

Burgess' last day as Winkler's top administrator will be Jan. 22, after which he heads west to take up the city manager position in Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

His decision to resign was made to be closer to his family in Alberta, explained Mayor Martin Harder, who said Burgess leaves behind some pretty big shoes to fill here in Winkler.

"We've appreciated the service that he has rendered to the citizens of the City of Winkler in the past five years, and we'll be very sorry to see him go," he said. "We appreciated his professionalism and his ability to help the city grow at unprecedented rates."

Burgess came to Winkler with a wealth of experience both political—he was a former mayor of the City of Brandon—and administrative, and he put it to good use.

"He knew the fine line between political and administration. So for us that was a huge help," said Harder.

The role of city manager is a crucial one, the mayor explained, as it provides oversight to all civic departments.

"So not only did he give counsel to council, but he gave counsel to the staff ... as well as being involved in the day-to-day decision-making," he said. "He will be missed."

The hunt for Burgess' replacement begins immediately.

"We will be aggressively pursuing looking for a new city manager," said Harder, noting they hope to have someone in place by next month.

Continued on page 3

news &gt; sports &gt; opinion &gt; community &gt; people &gt; entertainment &gt; events &gt; classifieds &gt; careers &gt; everything you need to know

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# Hunt for new city manager already underway



Dave Burgess

From Pg. 1

Finding someone sooner rather than later is made more urgent by the fact the city heads into its annual planning session in January.

Though Burgess has laid much of the groundwork for that session already, it would be ideal to have the new city manager hired in time to attend.

"If there's a possibility we could have a new city manager here, it is very important for that individual to have exposure to that environment in preparation for the

"WE'LL BE VERY SORRY TO SEE HIM GO."

new year," Harder said.

Burgess was out of town this past

week and could not be reached for comment.

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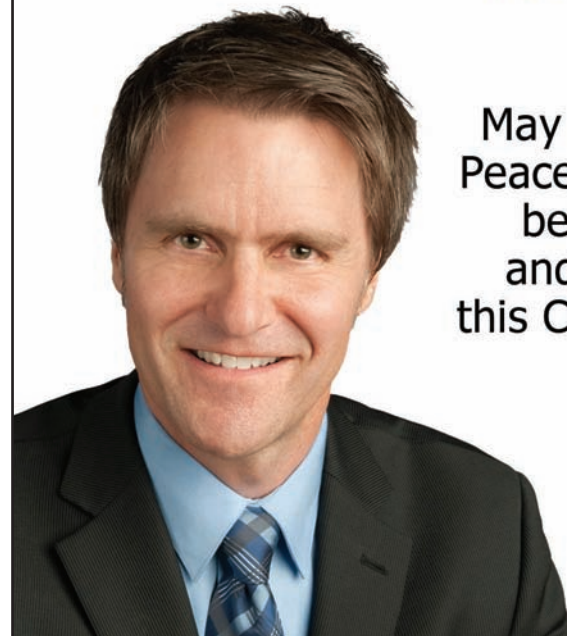
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Thank You for your Business in 2015.







# Spreading cheer

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The line-up of volunteers was out the door at the Winkler MB Church last Wednesday night.

They were all there to offer their delivery services to the Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board, which had 309 care hampers that

needed to be brought to families in need throughout the area.

Each hamper was filled with food, toiletries, and toys to ensure everyone is able to celebrate the holidays this month, said Cheer Board president Francis Fehr.

"The reactions we get ... the kids running towards the door—'They're



PHOTOS BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

The Winkler Royals lent a hand at the Winkler MB Church Dec. 9 to help the Winkler and District Christmas Cheer Board load up 309 food and gift hampers for delivery to those in need throughout the area.

here, they're here' ... the tears from the parents because now they can have Christmas," he said. "It's amazing to be a part of that."

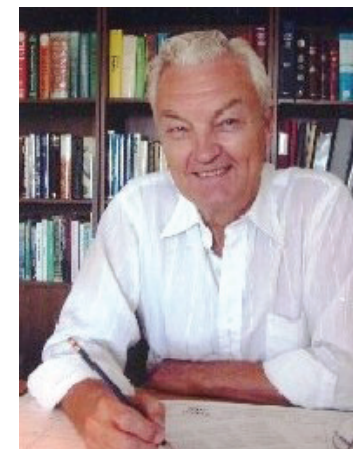
Fehr estimates the Cheer Board campaign touched upwards of 1,500 recipients this year.

None of it would be possible if not for the outpouring of support the Cheer Board receives from the community each and every year, Fehr stressed.

Continued on page 5

## The Hand that Holds the Worlds Extended to Us! from Creation Moments Radio Program

**John 1:14**  
"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."




For several years now, Creation Moments has brought to listeners each day evidences for design in nature. That design is often wonderful, usually ingenious and certainly places in question any possibility of it all having come about by chance. We have pointed out that where there is design there must have been a Designer and Creator. Those who believe that the Bible is the Creator's plan will also know that God, our Creator, loves His creation, from the stars to the smallest insect. But He has a special love for us who, we are told, were made in His image. As wonderful as the Creation is, it is quite staggering to realize that He Who created the billions of stars and energized them, chose to come down and be part of the human race. He experienced every part of human life from birth as a helpless babe to death on a cross in the prime of life. His name

while on Earth was Jesus, and He who knew all things came to show us the way and offer eternal life to those who would accept it. And why? Very simply — He was the Instrument Who made us, and we are eternally lost without His help. Who better, then, to rescue us from our evil nature? We can only stand in deep reverence at such love.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, of all that I have ever learned, the most amazing facts are Your birth, life, death and resurrection for my salvation. Before You I know nothing and have no power; my strength and powers can only be supplied by You. Amen.

Notes: Photo: Ian Taylor, host of the Creation Moments radio program.

# Peace Be With You



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# Volunteers deliver 309 care hampers

From Pg. 5

"It was huge—just huge. We had donations come from many, many businesses, whether it be time or building boxes or helping us buy some product ... we can't do this without them."

Similarly, several area schools contributed thousands of food items for the hampers, making a big dent in what the Cheer Board had to purchase.

"The students came through with a huge amount of tins," Fehr said. "It was a very good effort ... the schools were a huge support, the churches—just every one stepped up."

That includes the dozens of volunteers who spent three very busy days sorting donations, wrapping presents, and filling the hampers early last week, not to mention the small army of drivers who ensured every last hamper was delivered in under two hours the evening of Dec. 9.

"It was wonderful," said Fehr. "We finished almost an hour earlier than the year before."

The Cheer Board has been operating in Winkler for decades, and though Fehr says he's not surprised that the community gets so behind it each year, he is humbled by that continued support.

"Growing up in this community and just seeing that support year after year, it's awesome," he said. "If we ask, it's never, 'Maybe not.' It's always, 'Yeah, sure. What can we do to help?' That's what we heard everywhere that we went."

Fehr sends out a great big thank-you to everyone who made this year's campaign possible.

"A huge, big, wonderful thank-you to all the businesses and to all the people out there who have supported us and helped us out, whether it be volunteers or financially. There's just no way we could pull this off if we didn't get the help and support that we did."

"THERE'S JUST NO WAY WE COULD PULL THIS OFF IF WE DIDN'T GET THE HELP AND SUPPORT."

# Kenmor hosts 'A Winter Concert'


Looking for something to do the last Saturday before Christmas?

Dead Horse Entertainment has got you covered with a free singer/songwriter show taking place at the Kenmor Theatre Dec. 19.

A *Winter Concert* features Ryan Schroeder from Tin Heart, Ashlee Bart from BARTA, Patrick Simoens of Lakes and Pines fame, MCMA nominated artist Lindsay Rae, Evan Wiebe, and CBC Searchlight Manitoba winner Mika-Dawn Cavers.

Doors open at 7 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m.

RSVP your tickets online at [www.deadhorseentertainment.ca](http://www.deadhorseentertainment.ca).



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Receive \$500 (on 2016 model year) or \$750 (on 2015 model year) towards the purchase or lease of a new Ford Focus, Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary Edition and Shelby), Taurus, Flex, Escape, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, Transit Van/Wagon, Transit Cutaway Chassis Cab, F-150, F-250 to F-350, (all F-150 Raptor models excluded) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. Offer is not ratchetable. \*\* Until January 4, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus, BEV, E-MAX, Mustang (excl. Shelby and 50th Anniversary), Transit Connect, F-150 SuperCab XL and 2016 Escape. F-250 Gas Engine models for up to 72 months, or 2015 Focus (excluding BEV) and 2016 Focus models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (DAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. 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Offer includes charges for freight and air tax (\$1,790/\$1,665) but excludes options, AC, Tax, Green Levy (if applicable), license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, PPSA (if financed or leased), administration fees, and any other applicable environmental charges/fees and taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †††† Until January 4, 2016, receive \$4,250 in "Year-End Clearout Cash" (Delivery Allowances) with the purchase or lease of a new 2015 Escape, Mustang, Shelby 350/350R and Medium Truck model (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before GST/0.000 offer is deducted. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2015 Sirus Canada Inc. 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# Year-round hazardous waste drop-off opens in Winkler

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The City of Winkler is on track to divert a significant amount of dangerous waste from the local landfill thanks to the opening of the Household Hazardous Waste Depot.

The depot opened its doors Dec. 7 at the Public Works Yard at 345 1st St. and has already had several people pop in to properly dispose of a range of hazardous products.

"We are very happy to have this here now and now that we have it we're hoping that all the stuff that normally gets thrown into a black garbage bag that shouldn't will come here instead," says public works and operations director Peter Froese.

That includes a lengthy list of items that fall under the headings of paint, aerosols, corrosives, flammable liquids and gasoline, pesticides and toxins, and products that contain both the flammable and explosive warning symbols.

Basically, everything you used to bring to the annual hazardous waste

drop-off day you can now get rid of safely year-round.

"Old paint from the shed, old fertilizers, old chemicals, drain cleaners, hair spray bottles ... whatever's under the kitchen sink, the bathroom sink, and in the garden shed, really, all those things can come here now," Froese explains.

Annual drop-off days, though popular, still meant an awful lot of people were just tossing these hazardous items into the garbage instead of waiting for the next scheduled day.

"When people clean out their garages in May, they don't want to wait until June or July to get rid of it," Froese says.

The danger there, then, is all these kinds of products run the risk of leaching toxic chemicals into the ground at the landfill.

"We don't want that leaching into the water system," says Froese. "All the various chemicals, petroleum, and all the things that are no longer even on the shelf anymore like pesticides, herbicides ... there's probably



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Public works' Peter Froese and Crystal Heinrichs in the City of Winkler's new Hazardous Waste Depot, which allows for year-round drop off of a range of dangerous products.

some mercury in some sheds."

Froese doesn't have any firm numbers as to how many products he expects will be diverted from the landfill in an average year, but he points out a similar depot in Steinbach can see a few hundred people a day coming in to drop stuff off.

The entire building was sponsored by Product Care Association, a non-profit agency that offers product

stewardship services across the country.

Froese says Winkler is the only Product Care depot in our area, though they hope to build several more in Manitoba and across the country next year.

The collected products are sent to a local hazardous waste processor for

Continued on page 7

An advertisement for Harval Homes. The top half of the image shows a close-up of Christmas decorations, including blue and silver ornaments and a green star. Below this, the text "From our family to yours... Merry Christmas &amp; Happy New Year!" is written in a cursive font. In the center, the Harval Homes logo is displayed, consisting of the company name above a stylized house icon. Below the logo, the website "harvalhomes.com" and the phone number "(204) 325-7878" are listed. The bottom half of the image shows a modern interior with a black leather sofa, a wooden dining table, and a kitchen area with a bar counter and stools.

An advertisement for WBS Construction. The background is a light blue and white winter scene with snowflakes. The text "Season's Greetings!" is written in a large, elegant cursive font. Below this, the text "Here's hoping your holiday is beautiful in every way." is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. Further down, the text "Thank you for your business!" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, the WBS Construction logo is displayed, featuring a stylized white dome on a black background. To the right of the logo, the text "WBS Construction" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text, the website "wbsconstruction.com" and the phone number "204-325-4336" are listed, followed by "WINKLER • MB".



# Are you brave enough to take the plunge?

By Lorne Stelmach

You have to be very dedicated to a cause to be willing to take a plunge into ice cold water outdoors in the middle of a Manitoba winter.

But the Morden Police Service is counting on there being plenty of people prepared to do just that in support of Special Olympics in the new year.

The department hosts its first annual Morden Polar Plunge on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Access Event Centre.

"The more participants we get, the better ... and hopefully the first annual Morden polar plunge will be a success," said Cst. Scott Edwards.

The Polar Plunge is a winter fundraiser that gives brave "plungers" 15 years and older an exciting but chilly opportunity to raise money for and promote Special Olympics Manitoba.

Willing participants—donning bathing suits or goofy costumes—take a leap into an outdoor pool of water and bring in donations for being so daring.

It's happening in Morden with the involvement of the Morden Police Service in association with the Law Enforcement Torch Run Manitoba and Special Olympics Manitoba.

Edwards noted police forces have long been very involved with Special Olympics, including fundraising through the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Morden officers wanted to do the polar plunge locally this year in conjunction with Morden's Winterfest after having tried it out last year, he said.

"A few of us from the police service did it last year in Winnipeg and we enjoyed it," he said.

Plungers are asked to raise a minimum of \$150 per individual or \$700 for teams of five.

"It can all be done online. Anyone who wants to send it out to friends and family, they can go through the website for Special Olympics," said Edwards. "It's not hard to raise at least \$150 a person. We're going to be approaching some businesses for sponsorship ... hopefully they'll be willing to get involved as well."

"It's about awareness ... it's about fundraising ... and it's quite the experience to jump into some ice cold water in the middle of February," he added.

Successful plungers at the Morden event and the events in Winnipeg and Brandon also have the chance to qualify to take part in the Ultimate Plunge in Churchill

in July.

Anyone who is able to raise \$3,500 is automatically qualified to take part in the Churchill plunge, which includes a tour of the polar bear exhibit in Winnipeg and then airfare and accommodations in Churchill, capped off with a plunge into Hudson Bay.

"It's quite the experience they've planned, so hopefully we get good interest in these three Manitoba plunges to find some participants who would like to go up to Churchill," said Edwards.

Anyone interested in taking the plunge should head to [www.specialolympics.mb.ca](http://www.specialolympics.mb.ca) to register. You can also find local plungers and make a donation online.



## Manitoba Hydro – your energy expert



### Home humidity is a balancing act...

Controlling humidity in your home in winter can be a real balancing act. The ideal relative humidity for occupants, wood floors and furniture is 40-50 per cent. However, when temperatures dip below -20 C, even the best, modern windows can experience condensation and icing at humidity levels above 30 per cent. If your blinds or curtains are closed, condensation can occur at even lower humidity levels.

For a healthier home environment in Manitoba, it's necessary to manage your home humidity levels within the lower range of 20-35 per cent during the coldest winter weather. The level you are able to maintain will depend on the quality of windows, insulation and air leakage rates in the home. Ventilation also plays an important role.

Whether your home is too humid or too dry, consider the following information.

#### To reduce humidity:

- turn humidifiers down or off
- don't hang wet clothes indoors to dry
- always vent the clothes dryer to the outdoors
- run the exhaust fan while in the shower or bath and run it for an extra 10-15 minutes afterwards. Better yet, install a timer switch to do this automatically
- exhaust fans should vent to the outdoors (make sure the vent hood is not blocked)
- if you don't have exhaust fans, consider installing them or a heat recovery ventilator (HRV).

#### To raise the humidity:

- seal and weather-strip your home to reduce air leakage. Cold, dry air from outdoors soaks up humidity. Reducing drafts also improves comfort, lowers your heating bills and may even reduce or eliminate the need for a humidifier
- don't over-ventilate. Operating an exhaust fan or HRV more than necessary can dry out your home and increase your energy costs
- use a portable humidifier or furnace humidifier (on a forced-air heating system) **only** after all sealing and weather stripping attempts have been made.

To help you achieve the right level of humidity in your home, visit [www.hydro.mb.ca/your\\_home/resources](http://www.hydro.mb.ca/your_home/resources) for copies of our Power Smart® Guides 1, 2, 5, and 8.

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## > WASTE DEPOT, FROM PG. 6

proper disposal, with the city receiving payment in exchange for each barrelful to help cover the costs of running the depot.

The depot will be open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays as posted for the used oil drop-off on the recycling calender. If you'd like to drop products off, you need to stop in at the office—don't just leave them outside the shed.

Works and operations assistant Crystal Heinrichs, who will be handling all drop-offs, reminds people that, for safety, all items must be clearly labelled.

"We're going to have to turn you away if it's in an unlabeled container. And it can't just be written on there—it has to be a factory label."

The depot is also only for residential products, not commercial chemicals or industrial-sized containers of hazardous waste.

If you have any questions, contact the Public Works/Utility Shop at 204-325-7535.



# The Winkler Morden Voice



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Our editorial staff is available in Winkler at 204-332-3456, in Morden at 204-823-2655, or via e-mail at [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca).

Our commitment to you: we want to help build stronger communities through articles that both inform and entertain you about what's going on throughout the Pembina Valley. This is your community newspaper—let us know what you want to see in it.

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# getheard

EDITORIAL > VIEWPOINTS > LETTERS

## Oh the weather outside's delightful

**W**hatever the reasons (which are many and complex) I, for one, love this awesome December weather so far.

As is usual with my weather-related editorials, just after I submit the piece waxing poetic on the joys of our unseasonably warm and relatively snowless December, we are sure to be struck with a record breaking two metre snowstorm and people will be reading this and cursing my very existence.

Of course, even if things stay warmer than usual (and the weather warlocks claim it will) there will still be people who will be cursing this.

You see, there are loads of people who depend on lots of snow falling to

either supplement or earn the entirety of their income: people who plow and shovel driveways, ski resorts and their employees, cross-country ski operators, etc.

Now consider the winter recreational enthusiasts—skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, snowmobilers, outdoor rink enthusiasts—who all depend upon cold and snow for a great winter.

And what about the folks who love to ice fish? Every winter Lake Minnewasta is dotted with a dozen or more ice fishing huts. This year there is ice on the lake but at this rate it will be a good month or more before it is safe to head out and fish.

And, of course, farmers always appreciate a decent amount of snow to provide necessary moisture in the spring (depending upon how saturated the soil already is).

On the flip side, cities may save a substantial amount of budgeted money in terms of snow removal, which might translate into a nice surplus for the coming year.

Similarly, the construction industry can go to town on building projects in this balmy weather, ensuring deadlines are met or even beat.



**By Peter Cantelon**

# Letters

## Debate and dialogue requires freedom of speech

I would like to make a quick response to Peter Cantelon's letter last week critiquing my Nov. 24 letter regarding the recent seminar on Islam.

My sole intent was to challenge Dr. Elbakri in what I believe to be a very significant and deliberate misquote from the Qur'an.

Although I appreciate Mr. Cantelon's attempt to defend Dr. Elbakri's interpretation, I maintain that the full context of the passage is a call for jihad, not a call for peace.

This is very clear when we take the

time to read the entire passage. In fact, the passage gives very dreadful consequences for anyone who opposes Islam. I have to wonder if Dr. Elbakri assumed no one would take the time to validate his claim.

In any case, I did not write the piece out of ignorance or hostility towards Islam or the recent seminar. In fact, I wrote it out of a belief that the purpose of such presentations is to create dialogue, discussion, or debate. I do believe this is what Mr. Cantelon wants as well. However, such debate

For me, I just like that I could still sit out on the porch and eat lunch in jeans and a T-shirt when Morden was the hottest location in all of Canada earlier this month at more than 14 degrees.

Biking has been decidedly less difficult so far than I expected and I sometimes get to work overheated because I am still decked out for winter.

Part of me wonders what I may have accomplished had I not put off certain outdoor chores until after winter ... but there is another part of me that says, "Trust me, you still would not have gotten a lot done".

I did recently read that some insects are starting to reawaken due to the warmth and I wonder at the long term repercussions of this. We have already noticed that in recent weeks lawns were trending toward the greener and some trees were on the verge of going to bud again.

As for me, I will continue to suck as much joy out of the warmer temperatures as I can, knowing in my bones that it is sure to end.

After all, while it may have been delayed, there is no doubt that WINTER IS COMING.

and dialogue cannot happen when opposing views are immediately considered to be a hostile response. It's really easy to shut down discussion in a society gripped by fear, intimidation, and political correctness.

Ultimately, I hope we are all in the pursuit of truth, and sometimes the truth hurts.

**Brian Klassen,  
La Riviere**

> Send your letters to the editor to [news@winklermordenvoice.ca](mailto:news@winklermordenvoice.ca). Please include your name and contact info.



# Morden Elks donate \$2,000 to Legion clubroom

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The members and guests at the Royal Canadian Legion in Morden are sitting pretty these days thanks to community donations that allowed them to replace the nearly 50-year-old tables and chairs that previously populated the hall.

The latest donation came from the Morden Elks Club just last week, which chipped in \$2,000 towards the approximately \$16,000 the Legion spent on the new sets.

"We've had a lot of our meetings here over the years, as far back as I can remember," said Elks Exalted Ruler Charlie Hildebrand. "[The Legion's] always been good to us, so we thought—when they asked us to contribute to their clubroom upgrades—we thought it was a great idea, so we did."

Legion president Bob Frost says additional funding came from donations made by the Elks, the City of Morden, and the Morden Area Foundation that were originally earmarked for the Legion's washroom renovation project. That project had to be cancelled when it became clear it was a much larger undertaking financially than the Legion was prepared to tackle.

"We approached all three organizations and they graciously agreed to turn that amount of funding over towards clubroom projects," Frost said. "We specifically identified tables and chairs."

In all, the Legion purchased 100 new chairs and 14 tables, replacing every single one of the half-century old chairs that were falling apart and keeping only a few of the tables that were in the best condition.

"We would eventually like to replace [all of] them if the funding permits, but we have other things that we're looking at, too," Frost said, noting they're planning to re-

place the lighting in the clubroom with LED bulbs to significantly cut down on the Legion's energy costs. They're also hoping to replace some of the building's aging windows.

"We're looking at ways of reducing our expenses and then increasing our revenue in the clubroom, just to keep it viable," said Frost. "Right now we're doing quite well, but there's room for improvement."

Frost added that though the original washroom project—which would have seen all the washrooms on both floors made wheelchair accessible—will not likely happen due to the age of the building and the resulting cost of such a major renovation, they are looking at other related options.

"We still have in the back of our mind ... maybe in the future, if the funding permits, a uni-

versal bathroom," he said. "We'd have to find some spot up here to place it."

In the meantime, Frost thanked the Elks for their ongoing support of the Legion.

"They've used our hall for as long as I can remember for their meetings. But they also, when they're running events and having draws they usually hold the event in our clubroom, which generates actually a lot of revenue for our clubroom, too."

"So they help us every way they can. It's a really good relationship."

Both the Elks and the Legion are always looking for new members to bolster their ranks and help make a difference in the community.

If you're interested in getting involved, contact Hildebrand at 204-325-6122 for the Elks or reach the Legion at 204-822-4122.

Morden Elks Club Exalted Ruler Charlie Hildebrand (centre) presented the Morden Legion's Harvey Kinsmen (left) and Bob Frost with a donation towards the new chairs and tables for the Legion's clubroom.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

## Enjoy a 'Big Night Out' for Big Bros

By Lorne Stelmach

It will be an evening of entertainment with a chance to win some fabulous prizes.

As a bonus, you will also be benefitting a worthwhile community organization when you get your tickets for *The Big Night Out* in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Morden-Winkler.

"It should be a really good evening when you have two quality entertainers ... plus some fun prizes," said executive director Michael Penner.

*The Big Night Out* will feature comedian Matt Falk and magician Chris Funk at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler Jan. 29 at 7 p.m.

Tickets, on sale now, are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under.

"One other unique feature of the evening is going to be a live auction. We have a lot of different prizes ... it will be roughly \$10,000 worth of prizes that people can bid on," Penner said.


Among the top prizes will be a trip for two to Las Vegas, a private dinner party for eight people catered by the chef from the Minnewasta Golf and Country Club, a \$1,000





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Continued on page 15



# Morden Area Fdn. distributes fall grants

By Lorne Stelmach

It is not only the season of giving for the Morden Area Foundation but also one for receiving.

The foundation celebrated Christmas a little early last week by handing out its second round of grants for 2015.

But the Dec. 9 evening get-together also saw the foundation receive a \$15,000 donation from Wawanesa, which was then in turn presented to the Katie's Cottage respite home building project.

Speaking on behalf of Wawanesa, Jamie Hartry said the company had an interest in making a sizable contribution to the project, and the amount came in even higher than what had been hoped for.

Making the donation through the Morden Area Foundation provided the additional benefit of assisting it with two fundraising initiatives: the recent 24 Hour Giving Challenge as well as the Thomas Sill Foundation Challenge which will provide \$25,000 if the local foundation raises \$50,000 by next fall.

"Because of the way we handled the donation we were able to use it towards our matching grants," said Hartry, who also serves on MAF's board.

He added that Wawanesa was glad to support such an important project to the region.

"I think everyone is very excited about it coming to our community,"



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Representatives from several local non-profit organizations were on hand last week as the Morden Area Foundation presented eight grants as part of its fall granting session. It included five grants through the main fund and three through the Womens Giving Circle Fund. The grants of \$29,685 follow the spring granting session and brought the total MAF grants for the year to about \$55,000.

he said of the respite home. "I know lots of people in the area are behind it. We all know the project's going to go ahead. Maybe we'll be able to do some further in the future as well.

"Everybody's excited about it. There's support coming from way more than just Winkler, Morden and Carman, which is amazing."

Katie Cares' Ruth Reimer expressed her appreciation for the support and commented on the important role Katie's Cottage will play for families in

the region.

"It is for anybody who has a loved one in the hospital who wants to come across the street and just leave the hospital for a few minutes, half an hour, grab a cup of coffee and just be able to relax," she said. "When I've been to Boundary Trails, I've seen it many times that people are just sitting on the grass ... and nowhere to go ... [now] they will have a place to go."

## FALL GRANTS

Last week's celebration also served to mark the distribution of MAF's fall grants, which came out to the tune of \$29,685. That brings the total granted this year to around \$55,000.

Grants included:

- \$1,185 to the Canadian Cancer Society Manitoba division for the Morden radon awareness project.

- "What we're going to do is test all the day cares and nursery schools and make sure that little kids are not being exposed," explained local rep. Tami Thiessen. "I've probably tested close to 50 homes in the Morden and Winkler area and I think I've only had one test come back within normal levels. So our area is significantly high ... one of the significantly highest areas in radon across the country."

- \$2,000 to the Morden Legion for new chairs and tables in the club-room. President Robert Frost said it is part of much needed improvements that will also include lighting and new windows.

- \$2,500 to Agassiz Medical Centre

Community Inc. for a Bilichuk Bilirubin assessment tool.

Clinic manager Karen Chezick explained it assesses the risk of newborn baby jaundice with less risk of infection and trauma.

- \$2,500 to the Rural Municipality of Stanley for the 125th anniversary playground equipment at Stanley Park.

- \$4,000 to Tabor Home for a Suzy Q food cart. Designed by a dietitian, it will enable better hot food services to better serve residents.

- \$594 to the City of Morden from the Women's Giving Circle Fund for a teen drumming fitness program for young girls.

"We're trying to target youth with different options ... have different opportunities for them," commented Stephanie Dueck of Morden Community Services.

- \$1,030 from the Women's Giving Circle Fund to the Pembina Valley Pregnancy Care Centre for a post-partum depression support group program. Being offered in collaboration with the Healthy Baby Program, the program will be located at The Olive Tree.

- \$1,400 from the Women's Giving Circle Fund to Genesis House for an anger solutions program for women. Executive director Ang Braun said they anticipated it would be offered early in the new year.

Learn about how you can support the Morden Area Foundation and its annual community grants by going online to [mordenfoundation.ca](http://mordenfoundation.ca).



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: Jamie Hartry, treasurer of the Morden Area Foundation, was also representing Wawanesa Insurance along with Abby Smith in presenting a \$15,000 donation to MAF, which in turn was presented as a grant to Ruth and Randy Reimer for the Katie Cares respite home project. Also on hand for the presentation were foundation reps. Laura Matychuk and Allison Braun.





# Celebrating Christmas in their new home

By Lorne Stelmach

One came from a country where they couldn't really celebrate Christmas as a Christian holiday out in the open.

Another knew what it was like to celebrate the Christmas season, but with many more family and friends around than they have here.

Two families from different corners of the world with varied experiences, but they are on a shared journey that brought both of them to Morden.

They came together recently with others from all corners of the globe who have also been making new homes for themselves here in southern Manitoba.

South Central Immigrant Services through Regional Connections holds monthly newcomer welcome evenings in Morden, and the Dec. 10 gathering was a special one to celebrate Christmas.

"Christmas was one thing we were really looking forward," said Tania Mialenko, whose family came here from Kyrgyzstan just a couple months ago. "We come from a Muslim country, so we never really celebrated Christmas as a country."

Mialenko said they had been interested in coming to Canada for some time when the opportunity arose through Morden's community immigration initiative.

The main factor for them in leaving their homeland was that "we are Christians, and we come from a Muslim country, so it's not as easy for us to live there sometimes."

"When we heard about a small town with a big Christian population ... we

were excited."

It took some time for it to happen and have everything fall into place, she noted.

"It took us a little more than two years. And we have been here about two months now," said Mialenko. "We love it."

"It's a bit slow with jobs right now. We were hoping to find jobs sooner. We've been looking for two months now ... it's very quiet," she added, noting her husband would like to work in the manufacturing sector.

Being here in time for Christmas proved to be an added bonus for them, as Mialenko said they are really enjoying how everything is done here in Morden to celebrate the season.

"Like how the houses are decorated ... and we were so looking forward to seeing all that."

Back in their home country, they quietly marked Christmas on their own, and it wasn't nearly the same as here where it is very much a community celebration.

"The most important thing is that people celebrate the birth of Christ, although maybe not everyone thinks about that. But still, that the majority does remember that is the big thing," she said.

Mialenko says her family welcome opportunities like last week's Christmas party to meet a lot of people, as they have no relatives here.

"We have gotten to know people in the church, and some of them would now call us their family, which is great. So we are happy that we are very welcomed," she said.

"We hope that we will feel like it's



Newcomers to the Pembina Valley gathered for a Christmas party last week that included a visit from St. Nick (above, left), a potluck of food from all over the world (above), and musical entertainment from performers such as Busiisi Godfrey (right).



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

home. But yes it might take some time," she added.

"So far, we like everything about this place, but we do need jobs. I do think if God brought us here, though, we will be provided with work here. So we kind of rely on him and just wait ... For now, He has brought us here, and we are grateful."

It has been an adjustment, having come from a large city of about a million people, but it is a change they gladly embrace.

"It is so different but very lovely. We really like a small place. Now that we've had the experience of living in a small city, I would never choose to move to a bigger one."

Mialenko especially appreciates the sense of community in the area.

"People are nicer, more welcoming, smile more ... it's a big thing for newcomers to see people smiling to you," she said. "And lots of people know each other on the streets, they greet each other, and it just feels more like home."

## SETTING DOWN ROOTS

Armando Mariano and his family came from the Philippines for a visit in 2013 and liked what they saw.

"We were looking for a small town to raise the family and to grow roots, so we were able to go through the Morden immigration initiative," he said.

Having been here a year now has given them a good taste of life in Canada.

"We've been kind of experiencing all the seasons ... for every season, we've always had a different experience," Mariano said. "We're trying to go into our second year and be able to adapt to the climate better. And my family has been able to adapt in socializing ... it's been good."

Mariano said it also helps to have a bit of a Filipino community established in the region.

"The Filipino community is building up. When we arrived, there were only 15 that I knew of ... afterwards, there have been more families coming in."

Celebrating Christmas without a big family around has taken some getting used to, though.

"On Christmas eve, all the family gets together and have big parties, all kinds of food, and we will wait until midnight then we start eating the food. And just getting together,

Continued on page 14



# Major headway made on Hwy. 32, arts centre

By Lorne Stelmach

Winkler expects to finally get a start on long awaited improvements to the main highway through the city in the year ahead.

City council agreed at its Dec. 8 meeting on a deal with the province to cost share some initial work on the Highway 32 intersection at Pembina Ave.

The agreement on construction at the Hwy. 32 and Pembina intersection came about at the initiative of the Manitoba highways department.

"Manitoba Highways made the gesture to us to see if we could do that this year and we're pretty excited about it," Mayor Martin Harder said. "I think it's something we've waited for a long time, and I think it will be a tremendous help."

The agreement will see the city contribute 20 per cent of the estimated cost to start work on construction at the Pembina intersection, including the installation of traffic lights.

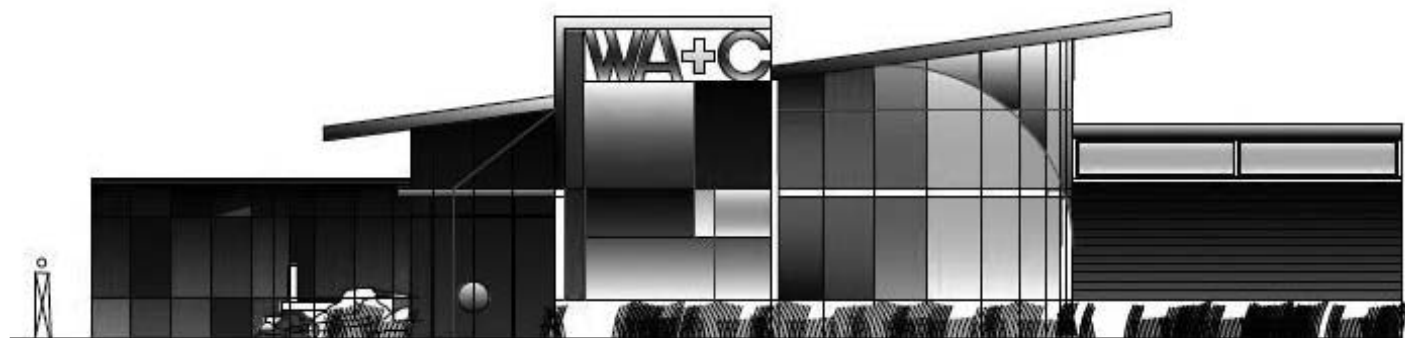
The hope is that provincial financing will be approved for the project to proceed in 2016.

The commitment of the city is for \$425,000 in addition to Winkler's other costs, including connected drainage, street lighting, and sidewalks.

"Those are over and above ... that's something we would normally do anyway," said Harder.

The mayor noted that intersection has already been widened and an additional culvert was installed to prepare it for four laning in the future.

"In the future, when we do the rest of Hwy. 32 and four lane it, there has



This artist's rendering of the Winkler Arts and Culture building could soon be a reality. Winkler city council gave the greenlight last week for work on the Park St. facility to begin. The tender was awarded to WBS Construction.

to be a controlled intersection where you can redirect traffic," Harder said. "Right now, Pembina and Hwy. 32 will be the logical one where we would like to start splitting traffic once we get into the regular construction for the rest of it. The intersection actually will be set up in a way that it will always be once the highway is four-laned.

"So there will be turning lanes, there will be traffic lights. It will be set up as if the rest of the highway will be completed.

"It's a huge step. It's a down payment ... the rest is yet to come."

## ARTS CENTRE MOVING AHEAD

Council also gave its go-ahead last week for work to start on the Winkler Arts and Culture building.

The renovation of the former Winkler water treatment plant had originally been estimated at about half a

million dollars. Once it went out to tender, the estimated cost came in at about \$675,000 because of additional work that is needed, including work on the Park St. building's aging roof.

The tender of WBS Construction was approved even though it was not the lowest tender, but Harder said it was a more complete bid that better addressed the project in detail.

"One of the tenders just had a bulk number, and in fact the contractor didn't even come look at the building, so we felt a little uncomfortable with that tender," he explained. "And the spread was only \$17,000 in the first place, so, for the size of that project, it just wasn't worth our while to gamble to find out what we were actually getting."

With fundraising for the project having already surpassed the half a million dollar mark, Harder said the city feels comfortable with getting the ball rolling on construction.

"We are prepared ... if they are not

quite up to the level where they need to be with the funding ... then we would provide some interim financing," he said. "So the project will get done, and they would continue raising funds. We believe once they're in there, once they've started working, the funding solicitation will be much easier.

"The community's behind the project, and I think there's a few more wallets that will be opened up now that they know the project's going ahead."

Harder stressed it is an important project for the city and very much a priority for council.

"I am very happy to see that come together. I think we are going to look at that thing 20 years from now and say, 'Why did we wait so long?'" he said. "There's a tremendous amount of talent in this region ... and I think it's going to be a tremendous asset to the City of Winkler."

# Charges laid in Sunday's Pembina Ave. accident

By Lorne Stelmach

One person is facing charges and two others are in the hospital with serious injuries as a result of an accident in Winkler last weekend.

The single vehicle accident happened shortly after 5 a.m. on Dec. 13 on Pembina Avenue east of 1st Street.

Two passengers were extricated by Winkler Fire and Rescue and taken to Boundary Trails Health Centre and then later to the Health Sciences Centre in unstable and critical condition.

The driver has been charged with two counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm and transferred

to Portage Court.

The accident remains under further investigation.

Other items in this week's police reports include:

- Morden Police received a report Dec. 7 of a hit and run accident that happened November 28 around noon in the Giant Tiger parking lot in Morden.

The driver returned to her 2009 grey Nissan Murano and saw damage to the right rear fender.

That same day, police were also called about a vehicle parked behind the Dollar Store in Morden being vandalized sometime during the day.

Around 1:30 p.m., the owner noticed

the vehicle had been keyed on all sides including the trunk and hood.

- Morden Police are investigating an attempted fraud where a woman entered a local bank and tried to cash a Government of Canada cheque.

When asked for identification, the suspect just left. It was later learned she had entered other banking institutions in other communities to commit the same act.

- On Dec. 11, police issued an arrest warrant for Eric Devell Johnson, 26, of Morden for failing to attend court Dec. 10.

Johnson was convicted on charges of theft under \$5,000 in 2008 and placed on probation. He had failed to

comply with conditions of the order and was subsequently arrested.

Anyone with information regarding Johnson's whereabouts is asked to call the Morden Police Service at 204-822-4900 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

- Also on December 11, police began investigating a 28-year-old Brandon man for assault following an incident that took place in Morden at 2:15 a.m.

The suspect and victim had a disagreement and exchanged words, resulting in the suspect punching the victim in the face. The victim received a large cut to his lip.

The investigation continues, with charges pending.



# Shoppers customers donate \$5k to Katie Cares

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Shoppers Drug Mart in Winkler had one of its most successful fall fundraisers ever in support of Katie Cares.

In October, the store's annual "Shoppers Loves You" campaign gave customers the chance to donate towards the Katie's Cottage respite home that will go up across from the Boundary Trails Health Centre next spring.

The cause so resonated with customers that the 2015 campaign raised over twice that of 2014's, said front store manager Mike Agnew.

"This is direct from our customers," he said of the \$5,159 the campaign brought in—a huge increase over the \$2,000 raised last year. "It just shows the enthusiasm and the support and the knowledge that people have behind this project."

In fact, the Winkler store raised the most per capita of any Shoppers Drug Mart in Canada.

"The average is \$8 per hundred customers donated," Agnew explained. "Ours was \$42 per hundred customers."

Agnew thanked the store's cashiers

for all the extra work they put in promoting the fundraiser.

"We'd like to thank our cashiers for doing that, and also our customers. We wouldn't be able to do it without our customers, for sure. It's an amazing, amazing effort by everybody to contribute."

"I would like to say personally thank-you from myself and my team to the entire community for participating in this great cause," added

Continued on page 14



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE

Shoppers Drug Mart in Winkler raised over \$5,000 for the Katie's Cottage respite home this fall. Store owner Zahid Zehri (front, left) and manager Mike Agnew (front, right) and staff presented the cheque to Katie Cares' Ruth Reimer (centre) and Randy Reimer last week.

## In The Spirit Of The Season



At the birth of our Savior, we'd like to join you and your family in giving thanks for the many blessings we share, including the friendship of good people like you.

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## > KATIE'S COTTAGE, FROM PG. 13

store owner Zahid Zehri, who added that the store remains committed to supporting local causes.

Store staff presented Katie Cares' Ruth and Randy Reimer with the donation just last week.

Ruth Reimer said that this and several other donations received in recent weeks puts the respite home fundraising project very close to its \$650,000 goal.

"It means that we're closing in on half a million dollars," she said, as Randy chimed in that, in fact, with a

donation expected to have come in this week, they'll have hit the \$500,000 mark.

"I can just see so many benefits for this house. I can hardly wait for the patients' families at Boundary Trails to be able to have a place to go," Ruth

said.

"That house is open to anyone who has a family member in the hospital," she added, stressing that it is not just for parents of kids receiving treatment at BTHC, but anyone looking for respite while their loved one is in care. "Anyone can come across the street ... you will be welcomed ... and it will help in a stressful time, in

a time when you need a place just to relax."

Donations for Katie's Cottage have poured in from all over, and Ruth said she has no doubt they'll hit their goal in time to open the facility next year.

"It is amazing the community support," she said. "We just feel so blessed."

## > NEWCOMER CHRISTMAS, FROM PG. 11

socializing with family and friends," Mariano described the holidays back home. "I guess ... we kind of miss those kind of things because we don't have many friends [here]. That's the reason we came [tonight] ... to celebrate ... we wanted to celebrate with other people.

"It's very nice to get out and to meet somebody else ... to know somebody

from another culture. It's fulfilling," he added.

With about five months of work at Decor Cabinets under his belt, Mariano said they are quite content in their new home.

"I guess we are going to be settling here ... we're trying to put down roots. Right now, we're trying to save more money to be able to buy a house in

Morden.

"It's a small city that has all the amenities ... the health care, the parks, the recreation centres for the kids," he concluded. "It's a small community that is compact ... pretty much everything is here. And we like living in a small town."

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<b>Sat. Dec. 26</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in Closed	<b>Sat. Dec. 26</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in Closed
<b>Sun. Dec. 27</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in Closed	<b>Sun. Dec. 27</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in Closed
<b>Mon. Dec. 28</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in Closed	<b>Mon. Dec. 28</b> • Clinic Closed Walk-in open 8:00 am - 7:30 pm
<b>Tues. Dec. 29</b> • 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Walk-in open 11:30 am – 7:30 pm	<b>Tues. Dec. 29</b> • 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Walk-in open 8:00 am - 7:30 pm
<b>Wed. Dec. 30</b> • 8:30 am – 6:00 pm Walk-in open 11:30 am – 7:30 pm	<b>Wed. Dec. 30</b> • 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Walk-in open 8:30 am - 7:30 pm
<b>Thurs. Dec. 31</b> • 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Walk-in open 9:00 am – 3:00 pm	<b>Thurs. Dec. 31</b> • 8:00 am – 2:00 pm Walk-in open 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
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> BIG NIGHT OUT, FROM PG. 9

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Proceeds from the evening will go back into the mentoring program and help expand Big Brothers further in Morden and Winkler, said Penner.

He added it is also a good way to give back to the communities for their support of the organization.

"We always get a lot of great support from our communities that we serve," he said. "This is one way to give back a little bit. A cold January night ... it can always be good to get out and have some fun."

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# CFDC unveils larger gift shop space

By Lorne Stelmach

When Trevor Fehr began working in an administrative capacity at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre, the gift shop was little more than a closet and a few shelves.

One can imagine, then, his joy at having a newly renovated and expanded gift shop that he hopes could be a reason in itself for people to stop in at the facility in the lower level of the Morden Access Event Centre.

"The gift shop was little more than an afterthought. It had no formal space and its design bottlenecked admission and entry, especially with large classes," Fehr commented as the CFDC officially reopened the space with a ribbon cutting last Friday.

Fehr said they had long recognized the potential to have a more substantial gift shop that would better complement the growth of the centre. There was potential to have more inventory if they had more room, so they decided "to carve out a more formal gift shop area."

"It went from a small part of a hallway and a closet to an entire space that's completely free," Fehr said, noting they tripled the size they have to work with. "So we can actually have shoppers wander our gift shop rather than simple turn and look."

"This additional space gives me freedom to really present more of a shopping experience for those who want to come."

The shop is important to the CFDC



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

From left: The CFDC's Peter Cantelon, Trevor Fehr, and Victoria Markstrom cut the ribbon on the fossil museum's newly renovated gift shop, which is now three times larger than the old space.

not just as a revenue source but also to complete the experience for many tourists, Fehr said.

"Admissions are great ... but people want to walk home with memories as well," he said. "It's a little extra something we can give on top of the museum experience."

"With even more space we offer the most unique items for sale in the region, including toys, dinosaur and

marine reptile replicas, rocks and minerals, and books like the 2016 *Guinness Book of World Records*, fossil replicas and loads more," said Fehr.

The expansion was made possible in large part by the volunteers who gave of their time to do the work.

"This gift shop would not be possible were it not for the help of a small handful but very dedicated crew of volunteers," said Fehr.

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Brent Butt performed for a sold-out crowd in Winkler Dec. 17.

# 'Stand-up is what I am'

By Ashleigh Viveiros

He may have become a household name for creating and starring in *Corner Gas*, the most successful sitcom ever to come out of Canada, but for Brent Butt, it's all about the stand-up.

In advance of his sold-out show in Winkler at the P.W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall Dec. 17, the *Voice* caught up with Butt to talk about his love of

stand-up, the unexpected success of *Corner Gas*, and the future of Canadian comedy.

Butt's deadpan humour shines through from the get-go when asked what local fans can expect from his show.

"Expect a guy talking. It's stand-up," he says, laughing and admitting he's never quite sure how else to describe his shows.

"I always think of it just as a conversation. In one of my favourite lines about stand-up, Seinfeld said people always refer to it as a monologue, but it's really a dialogue, even though you're the only one verbalizing words. It's very much a back and forth ... I talk to the crowd the way I'd talk to a couple of buddies.

"I like the live interaction, I like the immediate response, good or bad," he continues. "I like the fact that it is a solo effort, so .... any thought that I have on stage I'm just free to go ahead and talk about it. I don't have to run it past the network or the lawyers ... some of my best bits that are in my regular rotation is stuff that I initially ad-libbed on stage.

"You kind of have a grab bag full of material that you've worked on over the years, but you don't always know what stuff you're going to pull out of the tickle trunk," Butt says. "It kind of changes every night because you don't know how every crowd is going to respond. One crowd is different from the next ... that makes every show different."

Continued on page 22

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## > BRENT BUTT, FROM PG. 20

Stand-up has been Butt's bread and butter since he first stepped on stage during an amateur night in the late '80s. Even at the height of his time on television, he still

made a point to get out on the comedy circuit whenever he wasn't on set.

"Whenever I'm doing something that prevents me from doing stand-up I get kind of itchy," says Butt. "That's the one thing that I could never walk away from. I look at doing TV and film as this amazing thing I get to do, but stand-up is what I am. I feel like I am a stand-up comic, and everything else is just cool stuff I get to do."

Some of the cool stuff Butt's stand-up has allowed him to do includes six seasons of *Corner Gas*, two seasons of the sitcom *Hiccups*, and the feature films *No Clue* and *Corner Gas: The Movie*.

The latter, released in 2014, was a bigger hit than anyone involved in its production ever imagined it would be.

"I was blown away. I mean, we were selling out theatres," Butt says.

Continued on page 23

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## > BRENT BUTT, FROM PG. 22

Being a surprise box office hit makes it a fitting end to a series that also started with tempered expectations.

"We thought we kind of somehow tricked the network into letting us make this show, make 13 episodes, and nobody's going to watch," Butt says when asked about the runaway success of *Corner Gas*, which quickly became Canada's top-rated comedy and was broadcast in over 26 countries worldwide.

"I think that's one of the reasons that the show did well, because we weren't trying to please anybody ... let's just do a show that we really like, that we really think is funny, and then we can walk away from it and at least we can hold our heads up ... people responded to that authenticity."

Today, with *Corner Gas* still on heavy rotation in reruns nearly seven years after it went off the air (Butt jokes that it has become the *Gilligan's Island* of Canadian TV—on three times a day, every day), Butt is still very much recognized as his character Brent Leroy, a gas jockey in a small town in Saskatchewan where not a whole lot was going on.

He wouldn't have it any other way.

"It happens all the time. Just yesterday I was walking my dog and had to stop three times to take pictures

with people and each of them told me what their favourite episode was," he says. "It's very heart-warming to be reminded that you did something that's kind of in the general mindset of people."

"It's a really great feeling. I love it," he adds, acknowledging that fame can be fleeting, so he's going to enjoy it as long as he can. "There will probably come a day when people will stop asking and I'll be coming up to people and asking, 'Hey, you want your picture taken with me?'"

It's unlikely that will happen anytime soon, though.

Aside from his successful stand-up career—after this week's show in Winkler he continues on to performances across Canada well into the new year—Butt is also hard at work on his next screen projects.

"I'm in development on a couple TV shows. And now that I've done two movies, I really like it, so I'm writing a script and I'll see if I can convince anybody to make a movie of it."

That script is not, Butt cautions fans, a *Corner Gas: The Movie* sequel, and likely never will be.

"I do not think that's going to happen," he says. "The notion when we wrapped up the show was let's do a movie one day to put a cherry on top."



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Morden Dairy Queen staff donned hospital garb Dec. 10 for Burgers for Boundary Trails Day. Proceeds from the sale of bacon cheeseburgers that day went to the BTHC Foundation. With donations, the event raised \$250 for the hospital.

Having done that, Butt is excited to be looking forward rather than back.

As he continues to hone his own stand-up chops, he says he's honoured to be a part of the vibrant Canadian comedy scene.

"We're in really good shape with the next generation of comics coming up," Butt says. "There's this wealth of comedians out there who have kind

of been doing it between 5-10 years who are really original, really, really funny thinkers that are cracking me up ... I think we're going to see some really strong Canadian stand-ups make big names for themselves in the future."

You can catch up with Brent Butt online at [www.brentbutt.com](http://www.brentbutt.com).

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**Merry Christmas!**

Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen (far left) chatted with constituents at his annual Christmas Coffee Break held last Friday morning in the Southland Mall's centre court.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE



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# Gaslight expands to hold owner's growing collection of vintage wheels

By Lorne Stelmach

He knows he has a collection of rare and vintage Harley Davidsons and hot rods that is a real treasure trove.

But it's also large enough though that even owner Rudy Ens may not fully appreciate the size of it, because the vehicles are all scattered in a number of locations in the Morden and Winkler area.

"It's at my house, my warehouse, it's at my daughter's home in Winkler, my daughter's home here in Morden and at my house ... so here, there and everywhere," said the owner and manager of Gaslight Harley Davidson.

"I'd like to see my collection under one roof. The idea of putting everything under one roof ... I've had that plan actually for many, many years."

It is a dream that is coming to fruition for Ens with a building already well under construction immediately north of his sales and service shop on the west end of Morden.

Ens is doing it in style as well to give it a similar vintage look to that which makes the shop's main building so striking.

He said the expansion was spurred on about four years ago when he took ownership of the Arlington Hotel and had envisioned it as a place that could have housed his collection.

Unfortunately, the historic building eventually was demolished after a large section of it crumbled away. That turned Ens' sights to

building new.

"I think I'm putting up a facility now that will be a real asset to this community. It's going to be a beautiful building."

Ens said his collection now consists of about 50 motorcycles and vehicles in total.

He has been very particular about what years he collects; he says the vehicles from 1932 to 1944 are seen as "the most desirable cars in the hot rod world."

"It's a very focussed collection. I'm not just a collector of anything that's old. It's been a dedicated search for certain automobiles," said Ens. "I'd like to put them all in their proper order and put them on display."

It has been a lifetime passion and a labour of love for Ens from as far back as he can recall.

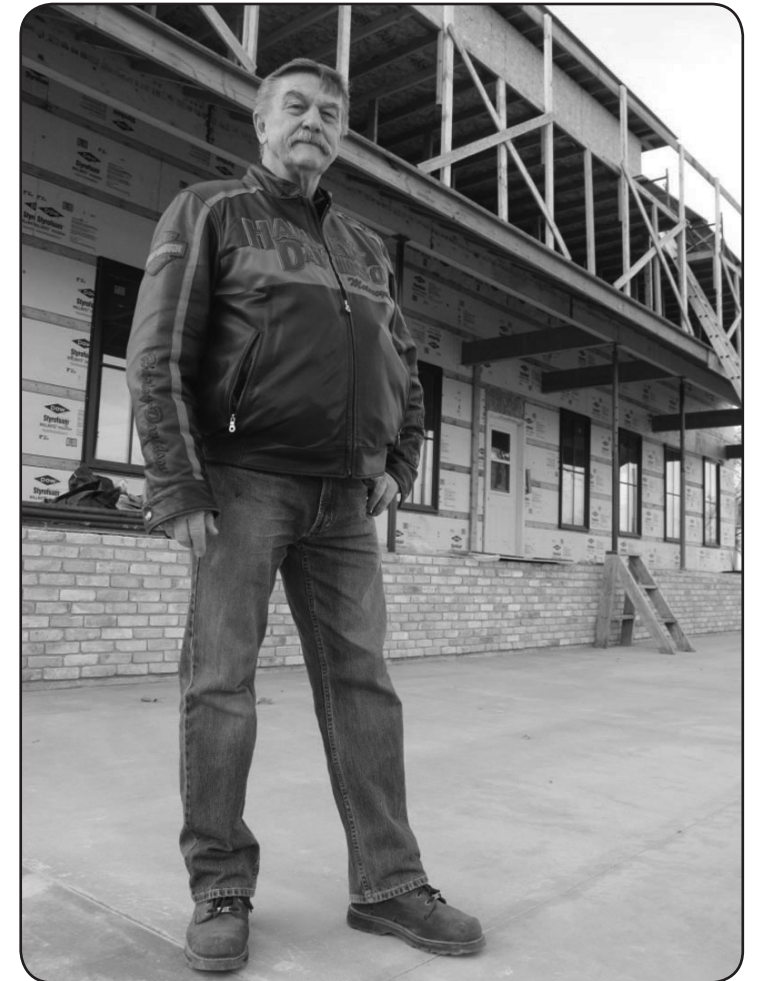
"I would call myself a gear-head ... I guess that is the term used for people who truly love things mechanical. So I've been a motorcycle and hot rod guy since the '60s."

It's hard, though, for him to put it into words why Harleys became his motorcycles

of choice.

"I think they actually had a saying that was, 'If I have to explain, you wouldn't understand.' It's just one of those things. It's hard to put into words. Once you've had a Harley, there's no turning back."

He recalls that what really started the collection was as a teen back in early 1960s when he rescued the remains of a classic 1927 Ford roadster from a local yard and then painstakingly restored it.



PHOTOS BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Gaslight Harley Davidson's Rudy Ens in front of the store's expansion, which will allow Ens to bring his collection of vintage vehicles under one roof.

ingly restored it.

"As a kid, I would read these hot rod magazines. You start off ... building soapbox derby type cars out of apple crates ... that kind of thing."

He restored his acquisitions with handcrafted materials and parts in the family garage with crude tools like an egg-beater style hand drill.

"And that has never left me. I've played this same game since that time. Of course, this sort of hobby connects to what I do here [at Gaslight]."

Now he anxiously looks forward to the day he can have all of the fruits of his lifetime of labours in one place.

"It's going to house a collection that has the most desirable cars of the hot rod world," said Ens. "I tend to think there are enough hot rodders in this world that they would make a trek out here to check it out."

"I do get a lot of people coming through as it is already ... they're curious about those cars. They always ask me when will we get a chance to see the whole collection."

He is somewhat uncertain, though, of his plans for a vehicle museum once the new building is done and all is in place.

"One step at a time," said Ens, adding he wasn't really looking to create another job for himself at this point of his life.

"We'll see how that part of it goes ... how to actually run it as a museum open to the public. That has not been the driving force here for me," he said. "I've spent all these years assembling the collection. It's almost all there."

In the meantime, he continues to seek out a few specific pieces to complete his collection.

"It's one thing to find it ... it's another to acquire it," noted Ens, who goes to Hershey, Pennsylvania every fall for what he called the world's biggest swap meet that draws something like a million people.

"People who own these cars ... they know they're valuable ... often it's a family heirloom," Ens explained. "You're in the same culture there. On a local level, there's not many people who play this game."

**"THE IDEA OF PUTTING EVERYTHING UNDER ONE ROOF ... I'VE HAD THAT PLAN FOR MANY, MANY YEARS."**



PHOTO BY LORNE STELMACH/VOICE

Western School Division staff held a raffle to raise funds for the Morden Christmas Cheer Board earlier this month. On hand for the presentation of \$541 were Roger Worms, representing support staff, Cheer Board rep. Denis Myers, board chair Robyn Wiebe, CUPE rep Lisa Sibbald, and Chris Nickels, representing the Western Teachers Association.



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

The Manitoba Lightning—which features a lengthy list of local SEMHL players—downed defending national champions Southeast Prairie Thunder 6-1 in an Allan Cup preview game Dec. 10 in Morden. The game was to determine home ice rights for the Thunder's series against Ile des Chenes in the Canadian Mens Senior AAA Hockey Championship in Steinbach next year.

PHOTO BY  
RICK HIEBERT



## Winkler Flyers 2-1 in northern road trip

By Ashleigh Viveiros

The Winkler Flyers lost a bit of ground in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League after going 2-1 in their road trip up north last weekend.

Things started off well going up against the OCN Blizzard Friday and then Swan Valley on Saturday.

In Friday's game, OCN came out fighting in the opening period, firing 19 shots toward Winkler goalie Nathan Warren and getting the period's lone goal in the final couple of minutes.

Cam Whyte evened things out with a Winkler goal at the top of the second period, while Jordan Williamson tied the game at 2-2 a handful of minutes after OCN retaliated.

After nearly 18 minutes of scoreless play, Whyte broke the deadlock to give Winkler the game 3-2.

Warren faced 42 shots in all in net, while Winkler sent 28 the other way.

The Flyers won Saturday's game by the same margin, though this time it was they who drew first blood courtesy of a goal from Jordan Wall at 0:26.

Swan Valley responded in kind before the first intermission and then pulled ahead with two goals in the first half of the next period.

Before the frame was through, Scott Gall brought Winkler within one of tying, which is exactly what Whyte did again five minutes into the final period, followed by the game-winning goal from Tristan Keck.

Connor Slipp guarded the Flyers'

net this time around, making 17 saves off of 20 shots as Winkler outshot the Stampeders 37-20.

The Flyers were hoping to end the road trip with a three game sweep, but they met their match in the Dauphin Kings, who were up 2-0 after two periods.

Zac Hicks finally got Winkler on the board by taking advantage of a powerplay at 1:04 in the third, but Dauphin got that goal back less three minutes later to make it a two goal mountain the Flyers had to scale.

They got partway there with a goal from Thomas Mansbridge at 6:03 and then yanked Warren from net in the final minutes in the hopes an extra man would get them the tie, but to no avail. Instead, the Kings scored a

fourth goal on the empty-net for a 4-2 victory.

Winkler outshot Dauphin 45-35, with Warren making 31 saves off of 34 shots handled.

Winkler remains in second place in the league with a 24-6-2 record and 50 points, though now they're tied for that spot with the Steinbach Pistons with a game in hand.

They trail the first place Portage Terriers by seven points. Virden is in fourth with 42 points.

This week Winkler faced the Portage Terriers Tuesday (results were not available at press time) and they will host the Winnipeg Blues Saturday at 7:30 p.m. They then take break for the holidays before returning to face-off in Portage again on Dec. 31.



# Pembina Valley Twisters down Jets, fall to Raiders

**By Lorne Stelmach**

A showdown between the top two teams in the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League ended with the Pembina Valley Twisters having tumbled from first place.

After having soundly beaten the Stonewall Jets 7-1 Friday, the Twisters came up empty Saturday in being blanked 4-0 by the Raiders of Winnipeg.

Pembina Valley remains second in the standings at 16-6-3 for 35 points, trailing the Raiders by three points.

The Twisters played it fairly even with the Raiders, as the shots were 26 each. But, in the end, penalties did them in as the Raiders capitalized on three powerplays, while the Twisters were blanked on their four man advantage opportunities.

Still, Pembina Valley was only down 2-0 until two later powerplay markers put the game away in the final few minutes.

Gavin Klassen took the loss in net with 22 saves.

Against Stonewall the night before, Fraser Mirrlees paced the Twisters' attack with a hat trick, bringing his team-leading scoring totals to 21 goals and 13 assists.

Mark Klassen also had a pair of goals, with singles also coming from Eric Lebrun and Troy Lehman.

Morgan Wall picked up the win in net with 30 saves as the Twisters out-



PHOTO BY LANA  
MEIER/VOICE

The Twisters' Alex Tetrault breaks through the Stonewall Jets' defence in the 7-1 Twister victory last week.

shot the Jets 46-31.

Pembina Valley finishes up their 2015 schedule at home with the third place Charleswood Hawks Saturday and then in Winnipeg Monday against the ninth place St. Boniface Riels.

# Redskins fall to second place in SEMHL

# Winkler downs Morden 4-2

**By Ashleigh Viveiros**

The Morden Redskins had a rough weekend in South Eastern Manitoba Hockey League action.

The team kicked things off with a 6-3 loss to the Carman Beavers on Saturday.

Both teams kept pace with one another through to the final nine seconds of the second period, with Morden's Jay Fehr and Clint Olson matching Carman's two goals in period one, and Olson tying the game at 3-3 in the final minutes of the second.

At 19:51 of the period, though, Carman pulled ahead and then went on to score two unanswered goals in the third for the win.

Reed Peters manned the Redskins' net, making 27 saves as Carman outshot Morden 43-37.

Things didn't turn around for Morden Sunday night in Winkler, where the Royals handed them a 4-2 loss.

Graham Leiding and Keith Bially bookended the opening period

for the Redskins, while Winker's Dwight Heppner and Craig Cornelsen scored twice in between to send the game into the second tied at 2-2.

Period two saw the Royals take a 3-2 lead just 2:32 in courtesy of a Mark Hildebrand goal, which was followed several minutes later with goal four scored by Blake Forsyth.

Neither team managed to make good on their shots in the third period, giving the game to Winkler.

Matt Krahn got the win for the Royals, making 51 saves, while Jesper Dyck and Reed Peters split goalie duties for Morden, with Dyck giving up the four goals Winkler needed for the win.

With these two losses, Morden has lost its tying hold on first place with Carman. The Beavers are now 7-1 for the season for 14 points, leading the 6-3 Morden by two points. The number three spot is a three-way tie at eight points between Altona, Portage, Notre Dame, and Winkler.

This weekend Winkler travels to play Altona Saturday and then hosts Carman on Sunday. Morden, meanwhile, played at Notre Dame Wednesday and will host Warren Saturday and then travel to play at Altona next Tuesday.

## Manitoba Hockey Standings

MANITOBA JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Portage Terriers	34	28	5	1	57	142	72
Winkler Flyers	32	24	6	2	50	132	74
Steinbach Pistons	33	24	7	2	50	129	77
Virden Oil Capitals	32	21	11	0	42	117	71
Winnipeg Blues	32	15	11	6	36	118	94
Swan Valley Stampede	35	14	16	5	33	99	111
OCN Blizzard	35	14	19	2	30	103	128
Selkirk Steelers	31	13	16	2	28	113	131
Dauphin Kings	31	12	17	2	26	97	124
Waywayseacappo Wolverines	31	7	20	4	18	74	130
Neepawa Natives	32	7	25	0	14	67	173
MANITOBA MAJOR JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Raiders Jr. Hockey Club	25	18	5	2	38	90	67
Pembina Valley Twisters	25	16	6	3	35	112	82
Charleswood Hawks	22	14	5	3	31	93	60
St. Vital Victorias	23	14	8	29	92	80	12
Stonewall Jets	24	13	10	1	27	91	80
St. James Canucks	25	13	11	1	27	91	93
River East Royal Knights	25	11	12	2	24	75	83
Transcona Railer Express	23	10	12	1	21	81	96
St. Boniface Riels	25	8	15	2	18	78	100
Ft.Garry/Ft.Rouge Twins	25	4	20	1	9	61	123
SOUTH EASTERN MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Carman	8	7	1	0	14	46	31
Morden	9	6	3	0	12	33	24
Altona	7	4	3	0	8	31	24
Portage	9	4	5	0	8	44	49
Winkler	7	4	3	0	8	24	28
Notre Dame	9	3	4	2	8	37	38
Warren	9	1	5	1	5	42	63
AAA MIDGET HOCKEY LEAGUE							
	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Eastman	27	26	0	0	53	137	42
Wild	25	20	5	1	42	98	39
Yellowhead	25	17	5	0	37	85	56
Thrashers	25	17	7	1	35	116	58
Central Plains	25	14	7	1	32	82	64
Brandon	23	11	11	0	23	65	64
Kenora	25	11	13	1	23	81	102
Southwest	24	10	12	1	22	78	87
Parkland	26	10	14	0	22	83	105

Interlake	24	7	17	0	14	60	111
Pembina Valley	25	5	19	1	11	50	120
Norman	28	3	23	2	8	76	163
AAA CITY MIDGET							
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Winnipeg Warriors	19	13	6	0	26	74	43
Winnipeg Hawks	21	12	7	1	26	95	75
Winnipeg Monarchs	15	12	3	0	24	89	42
Eastman Selects	21	11	9	0	23	66	60
Winnipeg Sharks	20	8	9	2	19	73	87
Interlake Lightning	20	0	19	0	1	31	121
Yellowhead Chiefs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parkland Rangers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AAA BANTAM							
HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Brandon Wheat Kings	19	17	2	0	34	122	26
Central Plains Capitals	20	11	8	1	23	93	103
Yellowhead Chiefs	19	9	6	3	22	83	74
Parkland Rangers	18	9	9	0	18	71	94
Southwest Cougars	22	8	13	1	17	62	78
Pembina Valley PV Hawks	19	7	10	1	16	91	108
Norman Wolves	18	0	18	0	0	24	175
MANITOBA FEMALE MIDGET							
AAA HOCKEY LEAGUE	GP	W	L	T	OTW	OTL	Pts
Westman Wildcats	17	11	2	-	1	3	27
Yellowhead Chiefs	14	10	1	-	1	2	24
PV Hawks	14	9	3	-	2	-	22
Central Plains	13	8	2	-	2	1	21
Winnipeg Avros	17	5	7	-	3	2	18
Eastman Selects	14	5	8	-	-	1	11
Norman Wild	14	2	12	-	-	-	4
Interlake Lightning	15	-	15	-	-	-	-
HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY							
GP	W	L	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	
Prairie Mountain Mustangs	13	13	0	0	26	94	25
Morden Thunder	11	7	2	1	16	59	28
Portage Collegiate Institute Trojans	12	8	4	0	16	60	36
Morris Mavericks	12	7	4	0	15	67	37
W.C. Miller Aces (Altona)	11	6	5	0	12	38	45
Carman Cougars	11	6	5	0	12	28	38
Northlands Parkway Collegiate							
Nighthawks (Winkler)	11	4	7	0	8	33	51
Cartwright/Nellie McClung/ Pilot Mound Tigers	13	2	9	2	6	13	53
Garden Valley Collegiate							
Zodiacs (Winkler)	14	1	13	0	2	24	103
STATS AS OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15							



# sports & recreation

INSIDE > OUTSIDE > UPSIDE DOWN

## Hawks break losing streak, then fall to Rangers

By Lorne Stelmach

It was one step forward but then another one back for the Pembina Valley Hawks male midget team this past week.

They snapped a five game losing skid Saturday with a solid 5-2 win over the Brandon Wheat Kings, but then fell 6-2 Sunday to the Parkland Rangers.

Coach Rylan Price was encouraged, though, by what the boys showed him against Brandon.

"We played a real strong defensive game. We allowed only two shots in the third period. So that even helped us put the offense on," said Price, who added coming through with three powerplay goals also made a difference.

"We had time to practice it. It didn't work perfectly out there but when the boys found a good chance to shoot the puck, they made sure they scored ... they executed."

Tye Turner opened scoring on a first period man advantage for the Hawks. He was followed by a goal from Caleb Unrau in the second, which tied things up at 2-2.

Garrett Szeremley and Nicholas Hatley pulled the Hawks into a 4-2 lead in the final period, with Troy Lehmann sealing the win with an empty-netter in the final few minutes.

Aaron Brunn earned the win in net with 26 saves for the Hawks, who were outshot 28-16.

The team went back to some of their old ways Sunday against Parkland as they allowed the Rangers to outshoot them 48-38.

The game got away from them after having come back from a 2-0 first period deficit to end that frame tied 2-2.

Daniel Nychuk and Turner scored for Pembina Valley, who gave up a second period shorthanded marker that proved to be the winning goal for the Rangers.

Price noted that the rink at Grandview is a tough place to play.

"It's small and the corners are quite square, so there's a lot of weird bounces that come out on you."

He added, "We didn't have our best effort. We kind of got off our game plan, and we got a little panicky in the

second period. Once that happened, it started to spin downward a bit and we had a tough time getting ourselves back into the game."

The Hawks close out 2015 with a Friday game in Winnipeg against the Wild and then head to Killarney Sunday to meet the Southwest Cougars.

They remain mired in 11th place with a record of 5-19-0-1 for 11 points—three up on Norman and three back of Interlake.

## Hawks hand Chiefs their first loss

By Lorne Stelmach

The Pembina Valley Hawks handed themselves the best Christmas present possible in taking down the only undefeated team remaining in the Manitoba Midget Female Hockey League.

Coach Dana Bell said it was a total team effort Saturday in knocking down the Yellowhead Chiefs 4-2.

"It was a great game for us," said Bell, who attributed their success to getting complete buy-in from the girls to the game plan. "Going into the game, just in the dressing room alone, you could tell before the game that the intensity level was very high. They knew what they had to do and

went out to perfect everything, and as coaches we felt that they did that. They wanted to win.

"Serving Yellowhead their first regulation time loss was pretty exciting for everybody," Bell added. "I think we played a full 60 minutes, which was what we had to do in that game. That's a team that you can't take five minutes off against them. If you do, they'll capitalize on that."

"We got pucks to the net. We were picking holes to the goal. And Taylor Reimer was phenomenal for us ... she made key saves when she had to, and that was big part of the game."

The Hawks broke open a 1-1 game after one period to lead 3-2 after two frames.

Chelsea Dearsley led the way with a pair of goals, while single markers came from Brooklyn Major and Makenzie MacCallum. Ginny Grenier contributed a pair of assists.

Reimer was solid in net, making 33 saves, while the Hawks had 35 shots on goal.

The victory moves the Hawks into third place at 11-3 for 22 points and within two of the Chiefs, who are at 11-1-2 for 24 points. Taking up the top spot is the Westman Wildcats at 27 points.

Pembina Valley faces two more key games before the Christmas break as they host Westman in Morden Friday night and then visit Central Plains in Portage Saturday.

## NPC Nighthawks post trio of wins

The Northlands Parkway Collegiate Nighthawks had a winning week in Zone 4 hockey, sweeping three games straight.

NPC downed the Carman Cougars 4-3 Dec. 8 and then went on to best the CNMP Tiger 3-1 last Friday and the GVC Zodiacs 2-0 on Saturday.

The Zodiacs also fell to the Prairie Mountain Mustangs 8-1 on Dec. 9.

Morden Thunder, meanwhile, handed the Portage Trojans a 5-3 loss on Dec. 10 and then crushed the Morris Mavericks 9-2 Monday night in front of a hometown crowd.

Off the ice and out on the court, the

GVC varsity basketball teams got off to a good pre-season start over the weekend.

The girls won the consolation final in a tournament in Portage la Prairie, while the boys were 3-2 at a Brandon tournament.

*The Winkler Morden*  
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# Agriculture

## 'Time we start looking at what we can do for the soil'

By Harry Siemens

At the recent Summit on Canadian Soil Health hosted by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada in Calgary, William Buckner, president of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, laid out his thoughts on soil health.

With more than one million organisms in a single teaspoon of Earth, soil is the starting point for plant, animal and human life. It is the foundation for society, providing the basis for food production, healthy families and economies.

"There was a time when we looked at what can that soil do for us—now it's time we start looking at what can we do for the soil," said Buckner.

Buckner, whose foundation is the largest private agricultural research organization in the U.S., says he believes things are about to change in agriculture.

"I think we'll see more diversity on farms and ranches," he says. "There is an upswell of kids that want to come back to the farm and I think they're looking at ways to do it and have different ideas about how to do it, and it is about biological diversity and it is doing things environmentally correct and sustainable.

"Getting back to thinking about soil differently than the way we thought about it before. People will be picking this ground up again and looking at it and feeling it and will be able to tell with their fingers whether they're on the right path or not."

Buckner equates soil health back to human health.

"Our bodies took good care of us as young men growing up. Now we are starting to look at how to take better care of our bodies because we want to live longer. The same thing with soil health. When we are developing metrics and moving them forward based on science, we're seeing new outcomes that are giving us more insight of what things we can do agro-nomically to improve the health. So we are going to think about it as that living organism that it is."

Buckner's eyes light up as the interview shifts to the newly announced Soil Health Institute, a non-profit entity that is bringing together passionate soil health agriculturalists and

funding soil health research in the United States.

"Leonardo DaVinci once mused 'We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot,'" says Buckner. "Hundreds of years later that sentiment is just as accurate.

"The Soil Health Institute will provide much needed research funding so we can better understand our soil. We will make that research publicly available so we can work together to provide solutions for improving our soil and protecting it for our children and grandchildren."

He says the foundation will resource research to the level that it needs to

be and not be looked at as a second class citizen to plant science.

"Secondarily, we will be a resource for everybody—whether consumers, scientists, farmers and ranchers—a resource anyone can come into and learn about soil health," he says.

"The Soil Health Institute wants to make sure the money invested brings the needed returns," Buckner adds. "And the way you do that is build credibility. People are tired of putting money into research where they don't get anything out of it. Or they put it in and don't know what has happened to it.

"Our foundation where we make grants to our own researchers we ask

for accountability at a high level. We want to know where it's going, what they're doing, and how that money is being applied."

He says today it isn't happening at the university or at the government level. Even though there are accountability measures put in place, they aren't really followed up on.

"Our message is this: we're building the system to allow transparency and accountability, but, more importantly, tangible outcomes where people can see the return on their invested dollars in the institute. If we don't, the institute will fold up tomorrow. That's our licence to operate."

## M-COOL tariffs will hurt everyone

By Harry Siemens

While the entire hog industry in Canada, Mexico, and mostly in the United States, too, is clamoring to have the U.S. government repeal Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling to avoid WTO-approved tariffs, one Canadian hog price analyst says the immediate impact won't be that great.

Perry Mohr, general manager of h@ms Marketing Services in Winnipeg, says the repeal of M-COOL is unlikely to have any immediate impact on

the number of Canadian market hogs moving south.

Mohr says that since the implementation of M-COOL, live market hog exports to the U.S. have virtually dried up and the number of weanlings going south has fallen significantly, prompting many weanling producers to shut down completely or convert their barns to finishing spaces.

"On the surface one would think that, if the COOL is repealed, it would change or open up the flow of those market hogs, the bacon hogs, to the U.S. and probably potentially

increase the flow of weanlings into the United States," he says. "The fact of the matter is, however, that at this particular juncture in time the U.S. packers are killing at or near capacity. They are expecting the U.S. producers to expand moderately into next year and, while there is some new packing capacity coming on the horizon, it's only coming on in 2017."

Mohr says on the surface it would give Canadians access to that market, but he's not sure the American

Continued on page 31



> HARRY SIEMENS

**T**his busy year is rapidly coming to an end. Yes, first Christmas, then New Years, and then on to 2016.

Looking back at 2015, with the change in government in Canada, terrorist attacks, oil prices finally

translating to lower gas prices at the pump, grain commodity prices slumping, land prices holding so far, COOL waiting for a resolution ... and on and on it goes.

When we finally turn the calendar on Jan. 1, ushering in a new set of farm meetings, we start with the St. Jean Farm Days, a good tune-up for what's to come in the year ahead. That is followed by my fourth year at the Banff Pork Seminar.

If I look back at 2015, it was another good year cropwise for most Mani-

toba farmers, and an excellent year for yours truly healthwise. Getting my energy back and the wherewithal to attend more meetings is certainly a big plus.

Spending three weeks in Paraguay with my wife, Judith, was a major highlight of the year.

We've had the chance to show our pictures and give reports several times, but please don't hesitate to invite us to speak to your organi-

Continued on page 31

## Merry Christmas to all my readers



## > M-COOL, FROM PG. 30

processors are looking for additional hogs to top off their kills right now.

While there are concerns going into next year about slaughter capacity limitations in the U.S., that isn't the case in Canada, especially in the west.

While he acknowledges open access to any market is a good thing, Mohr says since U.S. packers have supply chains established, a repeal of M-COOL is unlikely to significantly impact slaughter hog exports.

In fact, Mohr says the imposition of retaliatory tariffs on products imported into Canada from the U.S. will

actually hurt pork producers in both countries.

"Unfortunately it probably will have negative implications. As a matter of fact, the day that the announcement was made, we saw lean hog futures decrease in value and the explanation that we had at that particular time is this was the reaction to the WTO's decision on the \$1 million in tariffs. If Canada does start applying tariffs to pork, which is one of the things on the list, right now we've seen U.S. processors killing at capacity."

He knows, based on past experi-

ence, the U.S. has to export about 25 per cent of what they produce to clear the market, so if Canada puts a tariff on U.S. pork and that pork starts backing up into the U.S., it will in affect lower U.S. hog prices which will in cause lower Canadian hog prices because the Canadian industry uses the U.S. markets as the pricing point.

"Any tariffs collected by Canada will not benefit Canadian pork producers but rather will go into government general reserves," says Mohr. "The best case scenario for everybody concerned is that the U.S. government repeals M-COOL and nobody imposes any tariffs."

Dave Warner, director of communications with the National Pork Producers Council, agrees, saying that Canada and Mexico applying tariffs is something that could affect the entire U.S. economy across all sectors, which would reverberate outside America.

"We're talking about three countries that do an awful lot of trading with each other. Canada and Mexico are the United States' number one and number two export markets, so this is going to hurt everyone and we need to avoid this retaliation."

## > SIEMENS SAYS, FROM PG. 30

zation or group if you want to learn more about the Chaco and the Menonites there.

Continuing to have the privilege of writing for the award-winning *Voice* is also a highlight in my long career as a farm journalist. Of course, getting the feedback back from readers and referring to specific columns or articles is so rewarding and encouraging.

Yet, with lower and lower oil prices and other negative things impacting our economy, a lot of people will be facing layoffs, cutbacks, and losses in the new year.

This holds especially true in Alberta, where I was several weeks ago for another conference. The cutback in oil prices there is resulting in huge layoffs—in the hundreds if not thou-

sands—in the Canadian Oil Patch.

Calgary, with so many company head offices that have moved there in the last 10 to 15 years, I believe is still a stable city, except for those hinging on the oil and gas.

In thinking through all this and approaching what one could call the twilight years of my life, I think more often of the brevity of life and the prospects of heaven than I did 20-25 years ago.

Don't get me wrong, I'm feeling great and I will continue to transport my thoughts onto my computer and they will continue to appear here on paper as long as it works for everyone concerned.

This is indeed the season to be jolly, but not for the reasons the world says

so, but, in my case, the reason is plain and simple: God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

That for me is the reason for the season. Yes, life is brief. Yes, many think only about this life and not the hereafter. We need to spend more time preparing for eternity than amassing things on this earth where moth and rust will soon corrupt.

The Bible verse I just quoted, John 3:16, is what takes away the feeling of brevity and gives me the assurance of longevity and eternal life.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours and may the peace of God go with you into 2016.

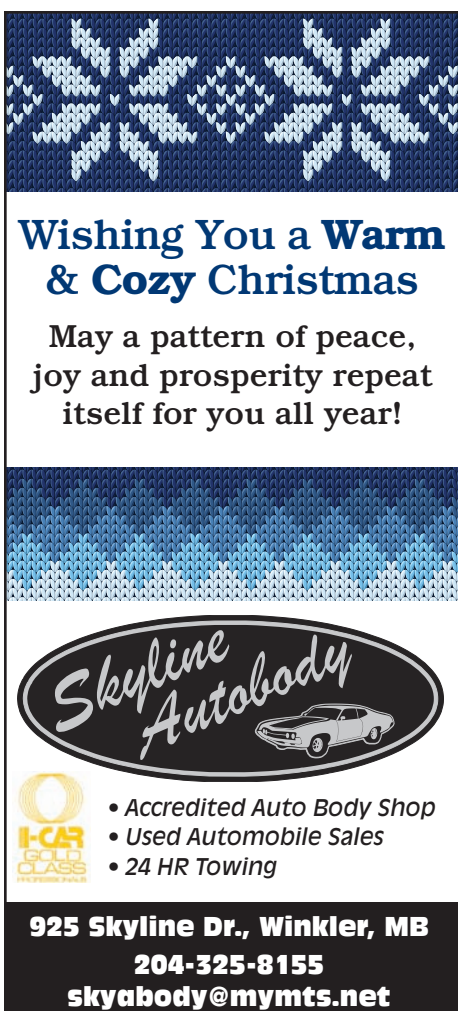
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 We send this prayer for peace on earth  
 And pray that every one of you  
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PHOTOS BY RICK HIEBERT

Above: Police "Do Not Cross" tape at the Guns 'n Hoses blue line didn't deter Thunder forward Keegan Fraser. Right: Fire Chief Andy Thiesen and Andrew Braun call for reinforcements. Below: When the Guns 'n Hoses needed a breather, Morden Minor Hockey took over and swarmed the net.

# Charity game raises nearly \$6,000

By Lorne Stelmach

A bit of friendly competition is helping spread some Christmas cheer in Morden.

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

Organizers were estimating Monday that the second annual benefit game brought in close to \$6,000—nearly \$1,000 more than last year.

"That's extremely good. The kids and the organizers did a great job," said Morden Fire Chief Andy Thiesen. "It's turning out to be a really good community event and we're sure happy to be part of it."

For the Guns 'N Hoses, Thiessen added it is fun for them to get on the ice with the younger Thunder players and show them they can give them a good game.

"We had a lot of fun," he said. "Us old guys felt like kids again ... that we could score a few goals and actually won ... you'd think we'd won the Stanley Cup."

"We had a good time with it ... and we didn't have to cheat as much as we thought to get a few goals. I'm think-

ing as the years go by, it might get a little more difficult, but for now we'll give it our best shot."

Thiessen said the game is a great opportunity to get kids involved in giving back to their community.

"They'll get the idea that they can help out in the community," he said, stressing the importance of an organization like Christmas Cheer that helps out people who find themselves in tough circumstances during the holidays. "They come into some tough times ... they may not be there all the time but one particular year they just need a helping hand, and that's what it's there for."

The Morden Thunder send out a big thank-you to everyone who brought in not just financial donations but also a mountain of food and toys for the Cheer Board hampers, said team manager Tom Baker.



## Rejoice....

On the very first Christmas Day,  
Three kings came to the place where the infant lay  
And bestowed onto him precious gifts which were,  
Frankincense and gold and myrrh –  
And so began the spirit of giving  
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## NOTICES

### CITY OF MORDEN NOTICE OF OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN

The City of Morden reminds motorists that the **OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN** takes effect upon the first snowfall of the season, and remains in effect until further notice (spring).

The City of Morden's first priority after a snowfall is to clear the snow from the streets as quickly as possible. To facilitate snow clearance, overnight parking on all streets in the City of Morden between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 8:00 A.M. is prohibited.

Leaving your vehicle on the street will leave you subject to a fine of \$20.00 and/or having your vehicle towed away. We also wish to remind citizens that the portion of your driveway within the boulevard area is not considered a "safe zone" for parking. Vehicles left in this area may impede with snow clearing as well as cause a safety issue for others by impairing visibility. A vehicle left within the boulevard section of the driveway may also be subject to a fine and/or being towed away.

For safety reasons, please do not push snow onto the streets after the snowplow has passed. Where this occurs, the City will charge the person responsible for cleanup costs.

We also ask residents to please make their overnight guests aware of the overnight parking ban, and provide appropriate parking for them.

Thank you for your cooperation, and safe driving.

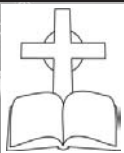
*Morden.* Les Wieler  
Director of Public Works  
In conjunction with the City of Morden  
Police Services and By-law Officer

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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**December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**  
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## CAREERS

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#### Responsibilities include:

Diagnose and complete service repairs on various equipment  
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Prepare all inspection, maintenance and work reports, and record details on prescribed forms.  
Assist with other duties as required

The ideal candidate will demonstrate good teamwork skills and be self-motivated. Strong organizational and time management skills are essential. Excellent computer skills with the ability to work with minimal supervision is required.

A Journeyman Diesel Mechanic is an asset but not required. We offer competitive wages, excellent working conditions in a new shop and flexible working hours. This is a full time position with longer working hours in spring and Harvest time.

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### Community Service Worker

Term/Full-Time  
Manitoba Family Services, Brandon, MB  
Advertisement Number: 31063  
Closing Date: December 29, 2015  
Salary Range: \$51,765 to \$71,794 per year

**Conditions of Employment:** Must be legally entitled to work in Canada. A satisfactory Criminal Records Check, Adult Abuse Registry Check and Child Abuse Registry Check is required. Must have a valid driver's licence and access to a vehicle, with the ability to travel within the Province of Manitoba. Must be available to work occasional evenings, weekends and statutory holidays.

Preference will be given to Aboriginal People, Persons with a Disability and Visible Minorities. Applicants are requested to indicate on their cover letter, resume and/or application if they are Aboriginal, a Person with a Disability or a Visible Minority.

An eligibility list may be created to fill similar regular, term, part-time and/or full-time positions within the Westman and Central Regions and will remain in effect for 12 months.

The Community Service Worker provides case management services to individuals and/or families who are accessing services in the Community Living disAbility Services and/or Children's disAbility Services programs.

#### Qualifications:

##### Essential:

- Post secondary degree in the Social Sciences (BSW Preferred).
- Related case management experience (including counselling, performing assessments, planning, risk assessment, protective services and service coordination) in a social service setting. Other combinations of education and experience may also be considered at a commensurate or underfill classification and salary level.
- Ability to assess and manage crisis situations.
- Effective interpersonal skills with an emphasis on mediation and conflict resolution.
- Ability to prioritize and organize work demands.
- Effective oral communication skills.
- Effective written communication skills.
- Ability to work with multi-disciplinary team members.
- Proficient in MS Office applications (Word, Excel, Outlook).

##### Desired:

- Knowledge of the Community Living disAbility Services Program.
- Knowledge of the Children's disAbility Services Program.

##### Duties:

The incumbent is expected to work as a member of an established service delivery team and use sound independent judgement. The incumbent uses the professional application of social work theory and methods to deliver discipline-based services and intervention strategies to individuals and families through the following steps of the case management process: referral and intake; crisis and/or protection services; assessment (including risk assessment); case planning, counseling and support services provision, including financial management; service monitoring and evaluation; service termination.

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Your cover letter, resumé and/or application must clearly indicate how you meet the qualifications.

We thank all who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration will be contacted.

Employment Equity is a factor in selection. Applicants are requested to indicate in their covering letter, resumé and/or application if they are from any of the following groups: women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities and persons with a disability.

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## CAREERS

### City Manager – City of Winkler

A growing community located on the western edge of Manitoba's Red River Valley, Winkler has a relaxed community lifestyle, a diverse economic base, and quality residential, educational, and cultural amenities. The City provides a full range of services to our community of approximately 12,000 residents.

#### CITY MANAGER

City Council is currently seeking a proven corporate manager as its new City Manager to lead the City administration and provide advice to Council in further implementing its strategic priorities. Reporting to City Council, you will provide leadership and direction to the City administration including direct responsibility for Finance, Planning & Engineering, Legal and Real Estate, Clerks and Human Resources.

You are able to deal with highly complex issues using your broad scope of knowledge and experience ideally obtained through increasing responsibility in municipal administration. You have a post-secondary education plus a professional designation. You have advanced knowledge of corporate management within the public sector and proven competence in strategic planning, finance, and budgeting together with senior-level communication and negotiating capabilities. You also have substantive experience in public policy development and its ongoing implementation towards achieving Council's strategic and corporate goals. The ability to work under pressure and meet stringent timelines is required. In return, the City offers a competitive remuneration package, including a generous employee benefit program. We are committed to offering our employees progressive opportunities with competitive wages in a safe and friendly work environment. If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, you are invited to send a detailed resume and cover letter by January 15, 2016 to the attention of Martin Harder, Mayor of the City of Winkler.

City of Winkler  
185 Main Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 1B4  
Attention: Martin Harder, Mayor  
Fax: (204)325-5915  
e-mail: [mayor@cityofwinkler.ca](mailto:mayor@cityofwinkler.ca)



Information gathered relative to this position will only be used for candidate selection. We thank each applicant for taking the time and effort to submit your resume; however, only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted. An equal opportunity employer. <http://www.cityofwinkler.ca>

## PUBLIC NOTICE



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## COMING EVENTS

**SANTA'S SCHEDULE** SOUTHLAND MALL

**Fri., Dec. 18**  
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Sat., Dec. 19**  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Mon., Dec. 21**  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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Box 1330, 750 Triple E Boulevard Winkler, MB R6W 4B3  
Tel: (204) 325-8335; Fax: (204) 325-4132; E-mail: [hr@gvds.ca](mailto:hr@gvds.ca)

## COMING EVENTS

Come and join us for our Christmas Services

**Winkler Bergthaler Mennonite Church**  
252-6th Street • WINKLER

**December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service at 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Enjoy carols, together with a choir (Winkler Bergthaler  
Mennonite & Pathway Community Churches combined),  
Biblical account of the Christmas story,  
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The Winkler Morden Voice

## BIRTHDAY



This young guy is the big 50  
December 17th  
If you know him  
wish him a Happy Birthday  
204-362-2981

## BIRTHDAY



On December 18  
this young man turns 75!  
And he's STILL young at heart.  
Happy Birthday to the best Dad!  
Wishing you a very blessed day.

-With love,  
the families of Aron Hamm



## OBITUARY

### Katharina Friesen (nee Thiessen) 1934 - 2015

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at Boundary Trails Health Centre Katharina Friesen, at the age of 81 years went to her eternal rest.

Mother was born in Mexico on the 29th day of July in 1934. She was one of 12 children. In May of 1954, at the age of 20, she and their family with a number of other Mennonite families arrived in Canada. They arrived in Port Rowan, ON and did field work for the summer. The family moved to B.C. for the winter to be with extended family. On July 1, 1956, Katharina married Peter Friesen. After approximately 1½ years, they and the extended family made yet another move to the Aylmer, ON area. Four children were born in Ontario. In 1963, their family moved to Rainy River, ON and from there moved to Manitoba where she lived until her death. Katharina Friesen reached the age of 81 years, 4 months and 9 days.

She was predeceased by two sisters and two brothers in early childhood; her father, Cornelius Thiessen in 1968; mother, Anna Peters Thiessen in 2002; sister and brother-in-law, Anne and Peter Dyck; brother and sister-in-law, John and Helen Thiessen; as well as her brother-in-law, Clifford Boyko.

Katharina leaves to mourn her passing two daughters, Agnes and Mary Ann; two sons, Peter and Cornie as well as 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; three brothers Cornelius (Kathy) Thiessen, Benjamin (Helen) Thiessen, Jake (Pauline) Thiessen; four sisters, Mary Boyko, Helen (John) Schroeder, Susan (Isaac) Schroeder, Sara (John) Rempel and their families.

Katharina's strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is what was central to her life. One of her favorite Bible verses was "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

Funeral service was held Monday, December 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at Grace Mennonite Church with Pastor Kevin Jamieson officiating. Interment followed at the Rosenbach Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the doctors and staff of Boundary Trails Health Centre for their faithful service and care of our mother, Katharina. Also, thank you to Pastor Kevin Jamieson, pianist, Sharon Jamieson, food committee for serving the lunch, Wiebe Funeral Home for arrangements and to our many friends and family for their prayers, support, cards and visits. Thank you, the family.

Wiebe Funeral Home, Winkler  
in care of arrangements  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## OBITUARY

### Frederick Hildebrand 1923 - 2015

On Monday, December 7, 2015 at his residence in Morden, MB Fred Hildebrand, aged 92 years formerly of the 1-6 district went to his eternal rest.

Fred was born on April 19, 1923 on his mother's birthday, one of ten children in the 1-6 district. He worked at Morden Nurseries as a young man. He also worked in bush camps in Ontario for six winters. Fred started farming with his brother, Charlie in 1947 and purchased his first farm in 1951. On September 13, 1952, Fred married Ella Staple and they farmed successfully for many years in the 1-6 district. He served on several boards; the most notable was the ACL board for over 35 years. Fred and Ella spent many weekends at Grand Forks and Miami at "Polka Parties" where they met

many great friends. After Ella's passing, he still enjoyed listening to Old Time music and could be seen tapping his toes at the Cottonwood Stage at the Corn & Apple Festival. Since moving to Morden, Fred spent countless hours at the Friendship Centre playing cards, floor shuffle and pool. Fred was the biggest Blue Jays baseball fan. He was even late for his 90th birthday party because the Jays were playing.

He leaves to mourn his passing his son, Brian (Norma) and daughters, Rhonda, Sandra (Bob); grandchildren, Kristen (Jared), Matt (Jen), Suzanne, Emma and great-grandchildren, Jenalyn, Tarren and Hayley. He is survived by one sister, two brothers and many extended family members. He was predeceased by his wife, Ella in 2003.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at St. Paul's United Church in Morden with interment at Chapel Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Fred's memory to Gateway Resources Box 1448 Winkler, MB R6W 4B4.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
in care of arrangements,  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



## OBITUARY

### Helena Kehler (nee Wieler) 1931 - 2015

On Sunday, December 6, 2015 at Boundary Trails Health Centre, Helen Kehler aged 84 years of Winkler, MB formerly of Horndean went to her eternal rest.

She leaves to mourn her passing her three daughters, Myrna and Lonnie Rietze, Lillian and Harvey Neufeld, Shirley and Clarence Schroeder; one son, Gord and Susan Kehler as well as 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and one sister, Mary Wiebe. She was predeceased by her husband Ed in 2004; daughter Laura Neufeld in 2007; grandson, Edwin in 2011 and four siblings.

Memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday December 11, 2015 at Christian Life Centre in Morden with a private interment prior at Chapel Cemetery.

If friends so desire, donations may be made in Helen's memory to the Gideon Memorial Bible Plan.

Wiebe Funeral Chapel, Morden  
in care of arrangements,  
[wiebefuneralhomes.com](http://wiebefuneralhomes.com)



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## NEW 2015 Escape Titanium 4WD

FSC160

- Push Button Start
- Automated Parking System
- Blind Spot Detection
- HID Headlamps
- Power Vista Roof
- Navigation
- And much much more!



**MSRP \$40,339**  
**Discount - 4,340**

Plus  
\$1,000 Costco  
Rebate &  
\$750 Holiday  
Bonus

**\$35,999**  
PLUS GST/PST

## NEW 2015 FOCUS SE HATCHBACK

FFC091



Well-Equipped for  
**\$22,713** PLUS GST/PST  
ONLY **\$141** Bi-Weekly  
Including Tax

**0% Financing for 84 months**

Amount Financed \$25,656.53 includes GST, PST,  
Tire Tax & PPSA Fee. Cost of borrowing - \$0

## NEW 2015 TRANSIT CONNECT XLT VAN

FTC065



Plus  
\$1,000 Costco  
Rebate &  
\$750 Holiday  
Bonus

Well-Equipped for  
**\$30,914** PLUS GST/PST  
ONLY **\$224** Bi-Weekly  
Including Tax

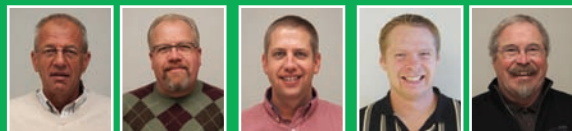
**0% Financing for 72 months**

Amount Financed \$34,928.48 includes GST, PST,  
Tire Tax & PPSA Fee. Cost of borrowing - \$0



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## New 2015 Chev Colorado WT

STK W5195



COME IN TO PLAY  
CONNECT & WIN  
DEC. 4 - JAN. 4

2.5 4 cyl., 6 Speed  
Manual Trans., Front Bucket  
Seats, A/C, Tilt, Power Windows  
& Locks, Rear Vision Camera etc.

Purchase Payment  
**\$133 Bi-Weekly**  
TAXES DOWN Freight Down  
84 mo. term 4.99% Interest

**\$20,395**

YEAR END DISCOUNT **-\$1000**

**\$19,395**

+ FREIGHT & TAX

\*\$1000 is Base Connect and Win Award

## New 2015 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Crew 4x4

STK W4641



COME IN TO PLAY  
CONNECT & WIN  
DEC. 4 - JAN. 4

6.0 V8, 6 Speed Auto, Front  
Bench Seat, (9500LB GVW) A/C,  
Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows &  
Locks, Keyless Entry, Tow Pkg., etc.

Purchase Payment  
**\$269 Bi-Weekly**  
TAXES DOWN Freight Down  
84 mo. term 4.99% Interest

**\$51,780**

YEAR END DISCOUNT **-\$10,250**

**-\$1000**

**\$40,530**

+ FREIGHT & TAX

\*\$1000 is Base Connect and Win Award

## New 2015 GMC Sierra SLE 2500 HD Ext. 4x4

STK W4086



COME IN TO PLAY  
CONNECT & WIN  
DEC. 4 - JAN. 4

6.6 Duramax Diesel, Allison  
6 Speed Auto (10,000 LB GVW)  
Front Bench Seat with Drivers Power,  
Auto Climate Control, Rear Vision Camera, Tow Pkg. etc.

Purchase Payment  
**\$369 Bi-Weekly**  
TAXES DOWN Freight Down  
84 mo. term 4.99% Interest

**\$65,215**

YEAR END DISCOUNT **-\$8,250**

**-\$1000**

**\$55,965**

+ FREIGHT & TAX

\*\$1000 is Base Connect and Win Award

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